



**UNODC**

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



**REGIONAL PROGRAMME**  
for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

UNODC's Regional Programme for Afghanistan  
and Neighbouring Countries





**2015**  
**Annual Report**

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# Abbreviations

<b>AD</b>	Alternative Development
<b>ADNA</b>	Asian Drug Demand Reduction/Harm Reduction NGOs Association
<b>AML</b>	Anti-money laundering
<b>AOTP</b>	Afghan Opiate Trade Project (UNODC)
<b>AKT</b>	Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (Initiative)
<b>CARICC</b>	Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre
<b>CASH</b>	Central Asia and Southern Hub (Initiative)
<b>COAFG</b>	Country Office for Afghanistan (UNODC)
<b>DCA</b>	Drug Control Agency
<b>DCHQ</b>	Drug Control Headquarters
<b>DLO</b>	Drug Liaison Officer
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUROJUST</b>	European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit
<b>EUROPOL</b>	European Union's Law Enforcement Agency
<b>INCB</b>	International Narcotics Control Board
<b>IRDCA</b>	Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach
<b>FAST</b>	Family and Schools Together
<b>FIU</b>	Financial Investigation Unit
<b>GCIC</b>	Gulf Criminal Intelligence Centre
<b>INCB</b>	International Narcotics Control Board
<b>INTERPOL</b>	International Police Force
<b>JPC</b>	Joint Planning Cell
<b>LE</b>	Law Enforcement
<b>MLA</b>	Mutual legal assistance
<b>MCN</b>	Ministry of Country Narcotics (Afghanistan)
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MVTS</b>	Money or Value Transfer Services
<b>OSCE</b>	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
<b>PLO</b>	Permanent Liaison Officer
<b>PPI</b>	Paris Pact Initiative
<b>RIWGP</b>	Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors
<b>RWGFD</b>	Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Drugs
<b>ROCA</b>	Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA)
<b>RP</b>	Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries
<b>SASS</b>	Statistics and Surveys Section (UNODC)
<b>SELEC</b>	Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
<b>SFTs</b>	Suspicious Financial Transactions
<b>SFP</b>	Strengthening Family Programme
<b>SOM</b>	Senior Officials Meeting
<b>SRSR</b>	Senior Representative of the Secretary General
<b>TI</b>	Triangular Initiative
<b>UNCAC</b>	United Nations Convention against Corruption
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNRCCA</b>	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia

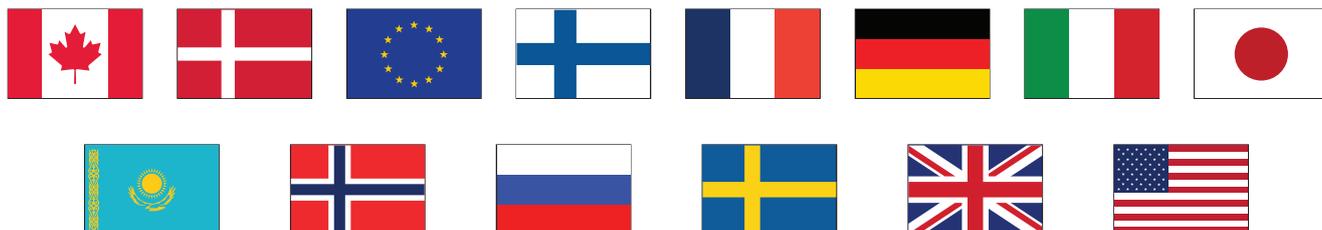
# Acknowledgments

The Regional Programme 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 Republic of Uzbekistan for their unwavering commitment, active engagement and continued partnership in making the Regional Programme. Our special thanks go to the Government of the Turkmenistan, which is co-chairing the Regional Programme's governance arrangements for the period May 2015 to May 2016.



In addition, we would also like to thank colleagues in the UNODC Country Offices in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and the Regional Office for Central Asia for their extensive support in the implementation of the Regional Programme during the 2015. 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 contributions.



Without the efforts and dedication of all the parties involved in the Regional Programme, 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.

**Total budget: \$24,812,000.00**

## From the Regional Representative

Regional cooperation continues to be recognized as the most viable way forward to effectively tackle illicit drug cultivation, trafficking, use and the related political, security, development and socio-economic harm in Afghanistan, West and Central Asia and the wider international community.

In this regard, the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (RP) was strongly supported by its Member States and donors to strengthen and deepen its recognized role as the primary forum to facilitate effective cooperation, partnerships and confidence-building between Afghanistan and its neighbours in the region.

The Programme Steering Committee and High-Level Partners of Afghanistan Meetings that took place in Ashgabat (May) and Vienna (December) respectively both witnessed the commitment of countries in the region and members of the international community to the Regional Programme continuing into a second phase covering 2016 – 2019.

To inform development of this Phase II, the Senior Management Team of the RP undertook extensive consultations with over 150 individuals from key partner ministries / agencies in all eight Member States as well donors based in Kabul. As such, the Phase II document is informed by priorities of Member States, reinforcing the RP's *raison d'être* of supporting the priority activities of countries in the region in line with international best practice and standards in tackling illicit drugs. This process served to outline the pivotal role the RP plays in promoting regional cooperation in the fight against illicit drugs in the region. I am extremely grateful to all those who engaged in this process, especially the Senior Management Team for their diligence in taking forward these consultations and producing the Phase II document.

The High-Level Partners of Afghanistan Meeting that took place in Vienna was co-chaired by UNODC Executive Director Mr. Yury Fedotov, Her Excellency Minister Ms. Azimi, Minister of Counter Narcotics, Afghanistan and the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan Mr. Nicholas Haysom. All RP Member States were in attendance as well as representatives of governments from all over the world. The meeting outlined the importance of continuing to build regional cooperation to counter narcotics and transnational crime in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries to support the 2030 Development Agenda in West and Central Asia.

Operationally, 2015 has been a year in which we have begun to witness green shoots of hope in the fight against the illegal cultivation of drugs in Afghanistan with the reduction in cultivation and production. Although it is too soon to view this as a trend, we nevertheless welcome it and will continue to support Afghan counterparts to deliver further reductions in the future.



**Andrey Avetisyan**

*Special Advisor to the SRSO on Counter Narcotics  
Regional Representative for Afghanistan and  
Neighbouring Countries*

I am extremely proud of the RP's work in 2015 to achieve closer cooperation between law enforcement agencies of RP countries and their partners in the international community. The RP has continued to promote the uptake of international best practice in criminal matters. It has also enhanced treatment capacity to reduce drug demand reduction and delivered treatment services to significant numbers of drug-dependent refugees. In addition, the RP has produced and published ground-breaking research on the illicit financial flows linked to the Balkan Route as well conducting advocacy and confidence building events between Afghanistan and its neighbours in the region.

The year 2015 has seen the stakeholders of the RP work tirelessly to deliver significant results and consolidate plans for the future.

As we look forward to 2016 and the launch of Phase II, the RP will continue to be an indispensable platform and crucial framework for regional cooperation to counter the production, trafficking and use of narcotics, not only in Afghanistan and West and Central Asia but also beyond the borders of this region.

We express our sincere gratitude to programme countries, donors and the RP Team for their dedication, support and hard work, without which the RP would not be the success it is.

# The RP's Senior Management Team

**Jeremy Milsom:** Senior Programme Coordinator

**Ali Hajigholam-Saryazdi:** Regional Cooperation Adviser

**Yusuf Mollaoglu:** Programme Coordinator – Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation (SP 1)

**Danilo Campisi:** Programme Coordinator - International / Regional Cooperation in Legal Matters (SP 2)

**Nadeem Rehman:** Programme Coordinator - Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence among Vulnerable Groups (SP 3)

**Senyo Agbohlah:** Programme Coordinator – Trends and Impacts (SP 4)

## Introduction

The RP was built on the recognition that the solution to the Afghan drug problem lies in an integrated regional response, with dedicated contributions by the international community and based on the principles of shared and mutual responsibility.

Implementation of the RP has focused on: strengthening regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms; expanding successful and launching new initiatives; supporting capacity development in countries of the RP to better address illicit narcotics and transnational organised crime; and, providing a platform for dialogue on different aspects of counter-narcotic and transitional organised crime in the wider region.

Regional law enforcement has been further strengthened through the Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors (RIWGP), the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Drugs (RWGFD), the Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative, Triangular Initiative (TI), and Central Asia and Southern Hub (CASH) Initiative. In legal cooperation, workshops have been held in a range of areas to build cooperation to counter illicit financial flows and build links between countries to better tackle transnational drug trafficking and crime. Cooperation has been boosted in drug demand reduction, with countries joining together to share experiences and practices in addressing the social harm caused by illicit drugs. In trends and analysis, the RP has worked with countries to better understand drug trafficking routes and illicit financial flows and to strengthen awareness of, and advocacy to address the issue.

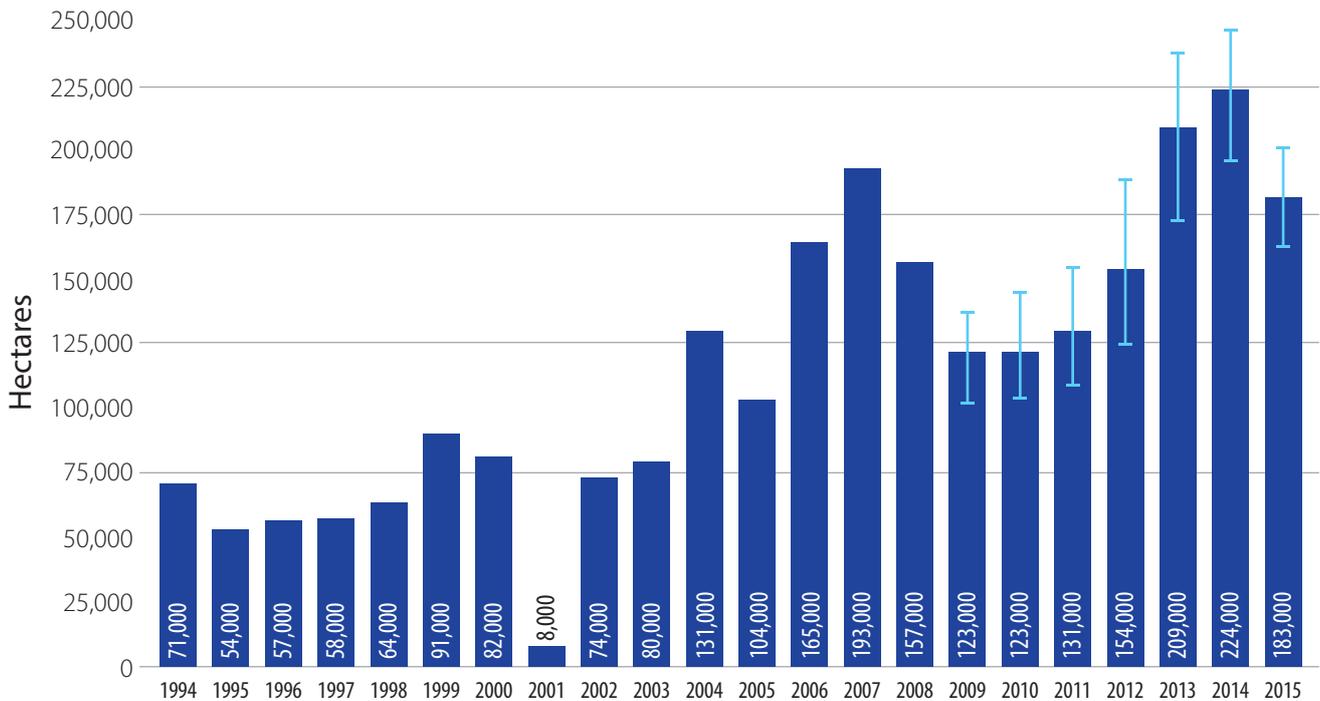
The RP is fully inscribed within UNODC's Inter-regional drug control approach, and as such, works in tandem with other UNODC Regional Programmes, global strategies and initiatives. The RP continues to tie together and consolidate past efforts and supports an integrated response to illicit drugs. It is also aligned with the various UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) that have been developed by the UN family in West and Central Asia.

# Drug Trends in West and Central Asia

West and Central Asia remains central to the global illicit opium economy due to illicit opium production in Afghanistan.

The year 2015 witnessed a 19% decrease in the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan to 183,000 hectares (163,000 – 202,000) from an estimate of 224,000 hectares in 2014. The area under opium cultivation has decreased for the first time since 2009 and is at its fourth highest level since the beginning of estimations in 1994 – higher levels have been estimated in 2007, 2013 and 2014.

A contributing factor to this decline of poppy cultivation levels (as reported by Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015 – observations from Nimroz province) included the lack of sufficient water for irrigation which may have also affected the decision of some farmers not to cultivate poppy as well as causing lower population density of plants and a resultant decline in yields. 2013 and 2014 editions of the Opium Survey also stated that farmers who had ceased poppy cultivation gave the major reason for their cessation as being insufficient yield and also crop diseases. As such, it can be argued that disease and decreasing yields were contributing factors to the decrease in cultivation (and related production) levels.



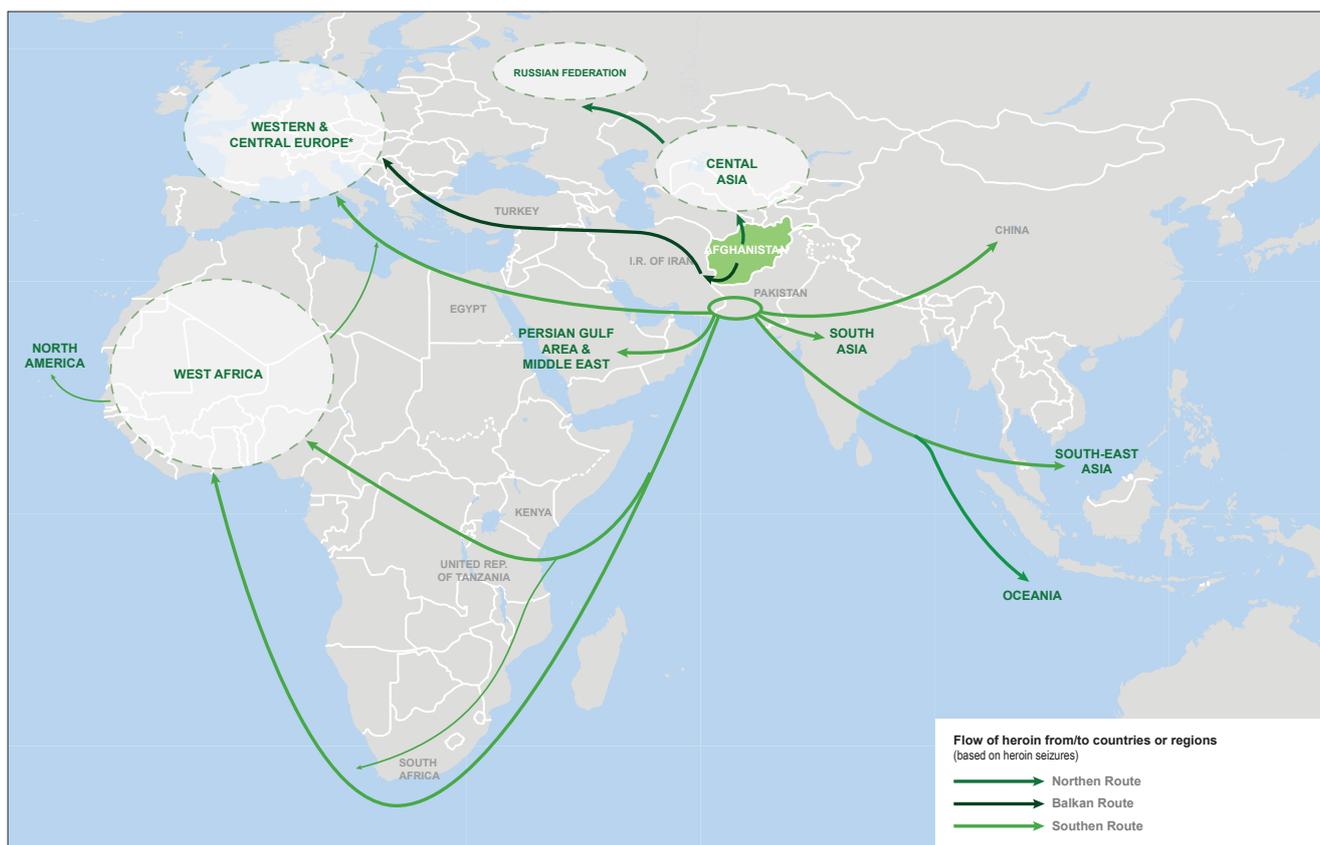
Source: MCN/UNODC Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015

Total opium production was 3300 tonnes in 2015, 48% lower than in 2014. However, prices of dry opium increased by 30% from \$133 per kg in 2014 to \$171 per kg in 2015. This is a relatively moderate reaction when compared to the increase from \$169 to \$241 per kg from 2010 to 2011 which followed two subsequent years of low production.

Although the Southern and Western regions of Afghanistan accounted for 90% (89% in 2014) of total poppy cultivation, this amounted to 80% of total production, which was 84.6% in 2014. The decrease in percentage of contribution to total opium yield is due to the drastic decline in per unit yield in the southern (45%) and western (20% regions). Overall, there was a 36% decrease in average weighted yields across the country as a whole.

Among the major poppy cultivating provinces, namely Helmand, Kandahar, Farah, Zabul, Nangarhar, Uruzgan, Badghis and Nimroz, (with the exception of Uruzgan – 22% increase and Badghis – 117% increase) there were significant reductions in poppy cultivation. However, eight out of the 12 minor poppy growing provinces, namely Kabul, Kunar, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Sar-i-pul, Ghor, and Kapisa, saw an increase in poppy cultivation with the largest single percentage increase being in Faryab – 452%. Daykundi, Herat, Laghman, and Badakhshan did not witness increases in poppy cultivation. Although the overall contribution of this increase in the minor poppy cultivating provinces is relatively minor, if not addressed, continued increase may well turn these provinces into poppy growing areas as all eight provinces have at one time been major areas of cultivation.<sup>1</sup>

**Map:** Opium production and global heroin flows



Opiates are trafficked through Afghanistan using 3 main routes, namely the Balkan, Northern and Southern Routes. Published in November 2015 by SASS, the RP and Programme for South-Eastern Europe, the report, entitled *Drug Money: the illicit proceeds of opiates trafficked on the Balkan route*, shows that the total value generated by Afghan heroin and opium trafficked in Europe and through the Balkan route (estimated at \$28 billion in 2014) is one third bigger than the entire GDP of Afghanistan. Other findings indicate that the negative economic impact of heroin and opium is actually greater in Europe and the Balkan route countries than in Afghanistan itself.

<sup>1</sup> MCN/UNODC Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015

## Key Achievements for 2015

### SP1 - Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation

- Substantial seizures of narcotics and related arrests as a result of capacity-building, information sharing and joint operations (see Annex A).
- Technical, expert-level meetings on forensics and precursors to enable participants to share experiences and plan, undertake and review joint operations.
- Advanced, technical training delivered to build operational capacity in interdiction techniques.

### SP2 – International / Regional Cooperation in Legal Matters

- Training on international standards in “Investigative Techniques of Transnational Corruption Offences” provided to RP countries to improve national capacity of the countries in the region with regard to better implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and harmonization of national legislations/legal frameworks in line with international standards/norms.
- Technical training provided to experts in the region to better address “Cross-Border Illicit Money Flows” and the legal obstacles and issues that prevent successful controlled delivery operations.
- Signing of a MoU on AML / CFT between Afghanistan and Tajikistan.
- Regional cooperation in criminal matters was promoted through reinforcing the network of contacts among relevant national counterparts (Financial Intelligence Units, Customs, General Prosecutors’ Offices and Drug Control Agencies).
- Comprehensive legal advisory services and mentorship provided to senior managers and operative-level staff of Financial Investigation Units, law enforcement, customs, prosecutors and other relevant national agencies of RP countries.

### SP3 – Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence among Vulnerable Groups

- Significant progress on implementation of the Family and Schools Together (FAST) Programme to include scaling up in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Pakistan and Uzbekistan.
- Continued provision of comprehensive harm reduction services to large numbers of male, female and adolescent Afghan returnees, and returnees and refugees in Iran and Pakistan.

**SP4 – Trends and Impacts**

- Commencement of the Youth Drug-Use Survey Project with week-long technical training for research professionals from RP countries in conducting national surveys. The Project will ultimately lead to the production of Youth Drug- Use Surveys in RP countries. In a number of countries, it will be the first ever such survey.
- Ground-breaking research undertaken on illicit financial flows and the Balkan Route.
- Enabled discussion and debate between Ministers from RP countries and 400 university students on public awareness, public perceptions and necessary steps to promote greater regional cooperation on countering narcotics in the region at the Regional Media Forum in Dushanbe.
- Undertook border communities' counter-narcotics awareness raising events in Tajikistan.

## High Level Partners of Afghanistan Meeting, Vienna, December 2015

The Regional Programme supported the High-Level Meeting of Partners for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, which took place in Vienna on the 14th of December.

The High-Level Meeting was jointly chaired by Salamat Azimi, Minister of Counter Narcotics, Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director, and Nicholas Haysom, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan and head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Also present were high-level representatives from the RP member countries, from Permanent Missions, as well as Ministry of Foreign Affairs' representatives, Special Envoys, and the heads of development agencies.



*H.E. Mrs. Salamat Azimi, Minister for Counter Narcotics, Government of Afghanistan, Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, and Mr. Nicholas Haysom, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.*

"Among the positives are the increased effectiveness of the counter-narcotics institutions and the intensified efforts we have seen on the part of the Government of Afghanistan as well as the international community," Mr. Fedotov said.

The conclusion of the Chairs, stressed (amongst others) the importance of supporting effective regional cooperation to address the threat posed by the illicit production and trafficking of drugs, and in this regard welcomed the UNODC Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach (IRDCA) and the Networking the Networks initiative as well as the extension for the period 2016-2019 of the UNODC Programme Portfolio for West and Central Asia, especially the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring countries which is also to support the existing regional initiatives and mechanisms in the Region such as the TI, AKT, CARICC and JPC, amongst others.

Participants discussed suitable strategies to counter narcotics and transnational organized crime for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, and work aimed at building regional cooperation to combat transnational organized crime and support the 2030 Development Agenda in West and Central Asia.

Afghanistan's National Drug Action Plan to counter the threat of illicit drugs, which balances confronting drug trafficking with plans for reducing drug demand and encouraging sustainable development in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries was also presented at the meeting. At the meeting, UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov, described the plan as a "blueprint for all partners" involved in the struggle against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the country. He acknowledged that the situation in Afghanistan remained challenging, but said there had been visible signs of progress which needed to be strengthened.

## Development of Phase II of the Regional Programme

Starting in Kabul in June and ending in Islamabad in September, the RP's Senior Management Team held meetings and discussions involving over 150 individuals representing key partner Ministries, agencies and counterparts in Member States to inform development of the programme document for Phase II of the RP (2016 – 2019). As well as reaffirming strong commitment of partners in the region to the continuation of the RP, these meetings identified new priority areas including the need for further joint operations, practical, case based training and capacity building on legal matters including responses to human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, expansion of the FAST scheme to include older children, the promotion of alternative development initiatives between Afghanistan and its neighbours and the need for further, detailed research into the illicit financial flows linked to Afghan opiate trafficking through the Northern Route.

The second phase of the RP builds and expands on successes from the first phase. It is a more ambitious programme that includes lessons learned and recommendations from the recent independent evaluation of the programme. The programme consultation and feedback process has ensured it aligns with the national priorities of the RP's partner countries. The RP further seeks to maximize efficient use of limited resources by building strategic partnerships and continues the consultative governance process, allowing it to respond and adapt to both continuing and emerging threats and priority areas for action.

# Independent Evaluation of the Regional Programme

The RP mid-term evaluation began in May 2014 and its report was published in May 2015. The Evaluation noted that there are challenges to cooperation on tackling narcotics due to considerable political and practical differences between Afghanistan and its neighbours and the subsequent lack of homogeneity in the region. That being noted, the RP was recognised as one of the very few, permanent platforms that provides mechanisms (forums), and means (staff and resources) to support cross-border initiatives and to bring together nations, fostering dialogue, exploring common ground and proposing joint solutions to counter the effects of narcotics.

The Evaluation stated that whilst still in relative early stages of implementation, the RP should be seen as a successful programme. Key strengths outlined included: (i) High relevance - as it is based on the need of the Member States and it sets priorities based on their inputs as articulated during Technical Working Groups and the Steering Committee; (ii) Flexibility - as it is responsive to Member State's needs, with activities naturally grouped under four Sub Programmes so as to provide a unifying purpose and a programmatic approach, as opposed to a collection of individual projects; and (iii) Complementarity - as it provides additional resources which can reinforce Country and Global level initiatives and transpose activities from one Member State to another across the region.

The key benefit and added value of the RP is that it provides a means of trust building through dialogue and participation in regional events, by networking individuals in an attempt to increase regional connectivity. The RP was noted as having the ability to create dialogue within the neutral space of UNODC. As a permanent platform, the RP promotes trust and is helping build regional cooperation networks. In addition, the fact that the RP can gain traction and reach beyond the ability of any single donor nation highlights UNODC's comparative advantage in tackling the cross border challenges of narcotics cultivation and trafficking. The mid-term evaluation report is available at:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/indepth-evaluations-2015.html>

## 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. Over the past six months, joint activities and sharing of expertise has taken place with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG), Interpol, Europol, the World Customs Organization and the European Union Heroin Route II Project. In addition, programme collaboration has been discussed with United Nations agencies, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Within UNODC, the RP has become the center piece of a new strategy to harmonize programmes at the country, regional and global levels. The RP aligns activities with the Country Programmes for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran and 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 Center (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.

## Special Initiatives



The Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative is aimed at strengthening cross-border cooperation in law enforcement and legal matters between these countries at the starting point of the Northern Route for trafficking narcotics from Afghanistan.



The Triangular Initiative (TI) is composed of three countries including the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. The overall objective of this initiative is to improve communication and strengthen cooperation against illicit trafficking of drugs and precursor chemicals. Under the TI, biannual meetings at Senior Officials level as well as Ministerial levels are held and the member states review the progress so as to take remedial actions.



The CASH Initiative was launched in January 2012 to enhance the capacity of countries in West and Central Asia to address cross-border illicit money flows and to facilitate exchange of experience and best practices on matters related to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). So far under the CASH Initiative, ten regional meetings of national financial intelligence units of RP countries have been organized along with several meetings of sub-regional financial intelligence units (among the TI and AKT countries). Moreover, the RP model bilateral MoU on AML/CFT was developed and shared with Programme countries. Some countries have already signed the MoU on AML / CFT which has helped them to establish a stronger legal basis for regional cooperation on AML / CFT as well as exchange requests / information on "Suspicious Financial Transactions".

# Programme Governance

## RP Steering Committee Meeting

6th May 2015, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

The annual Programme Steering Committee Meeting, held in Ashgabat on 6 May, was the first meeting of the Committee held in the region instead of at UNODC headquarters in Vienna. We express our gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for their hospitality in hosting this meeting.

Heads of drug control agencies of RP countries attended the meeting along with representatives from donor countries, including Finland, Japan and the Russian Federation. During the course of the meeting, representatives of the RP presented the key achievements of 2014, priorities for 2015 as well as initial thinking on Phase II of the Programme to run from 2016 till 2019.

All RP countries welcomed the programme's strong contributions and results-orientated approach to efforts to counter illicit drug production and trafficking and related socio-economic harm in the region and beyond, and formally adopted the strategic priorities outlined for 2015. Programme countries unanimously endorsed the continuation of the RP into Phase II, and expressed strong interest in continuing to actively participate in the Programme.



## Sub-Programme 1: Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation

Effective law enforcement remains the critical cornerstone to countering the production, trafficking and use of narcotics. The transnational nature of the illicit trafficking in Afghan opiates and related criminal activity requires cooperation between enforcement agencies of the region and wider international community.

The RP law enforcement Sub- programme (SP 1) continues to develop and strengthen regional law enforcement coordination mechanisms, as well as promoting cooperation in the wider region through the inter-regional drug control approach (IRDCA) for which the RP is a main implementing vehicle.

It promotes regional cooperation in areas including precursor control, drugs and forensics, through two vehicles including the Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors (RIWGP), and the newly launched Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Drugs (RWGFD). Both Working Groups provide platforms for information sharing, operational cooperation and joint operations in the region.

### Achievements

SP 1, in 2015 supported bilateral and multilateral coordination working meetings held with the AKT Initiative, RIWGP, RWGFD, High Level Ministerial Forums, and Networking the Networks with participation of CARICC, JPC, GCIC, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, OSCE and the EU Heroin II Project. SP 1 continued to support the placement of Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs) with three Afghan DLOs and one Kyrgyz DLO being seconded to Tajikistan. In addition, SP 1 also continued supporting the Permanent Liaison Officers (PLOs) network hosted by the Joint Planning Cell Team in Tehran.

- In 2015, SP1 and SP2 jointly continued to facilitate networking among the relevant institutions of the RP countries, including by supporting the organization of the AKT Ministerial Review Meeting in Dushanbe in May which was attended by representatives from the Drug Control Agencies, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, General Prosecutor's Offices and Financial Intelligence Units of the AKT countries. The participating delegations gave strong support to the participation of both law enforcement and judicial authorities at this workshop. Discussing both legal and law enforcement cooperation in tandem allows strategies to be formulated that support operations right through to prosecutions. Bringing together "law enforcement" and "judicial" authorities was seen by the participants as crucial to boosting the overall impact of counter narcotics efforts in the region.
- As a follow-up to the Ministerial Review Meeting, the sixth meeting of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) under the AKT initiative was held in Kabul, Afghanistan in November. The meeting was hosted by the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA). The goal of the meeting was to identify mechanisms to strengthen the 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 discussed the efficacy of the AKT platform with a view to expanding this cooperative process to engage with other countries in the region. The meeting was attended by senior officials from AKT countries and UNODC.
- The efforts to promote regional cooperation culminated in a number of joint operations along with seizures of 30 liters of precursors, 320 kgs of opium, 85 kgs of heroin and 117 kgs of hashish, which were based on information sharing between DLOs and application of advanced investigation measures in the region. Further to these seizures, through the RIWGP and operational case meetings, the countries continued to work on back tracking investigations on 10 major precursor investigation cases, which included seizures of 167 tons of precursor chemicals within the last two years. A breakdown is provided in Annex A

- An important development in 2015 was the launch of the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Drugs with the first workshop being conducted in April at CARICC. 27 participants (including investigators and forensic laboratory staff) from RP countries met to discuss the current situation in the region, learn from each other to develop investigation cases, and to establish a professional network for further cooperation. In the future, backtracking investigations on drug cases may be held under this initiative to complement the work conducted under the RIWGP.
- A plan for the new phase of regional operations was drafted at the eight RIWGP meeting which took place in Bishkek in April with participation of the law enforcement officers from Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, CARICC, and UNODC. Meeting participants also reviewed recent precursors trafficking trends as well as the latest precursor seizures in the region.
- A Precursor Case meeting was held in Dushanbe in March (following the decision taken at the 7th meeting of the RIWGP - Islamabad, November 2014) at which information was shared on backtracking investigations on the last 10 target investigation cases and developing backtracking investigations.
- Substantial progress was made in supporting development of an agreement between CARICC and JPC on information sharing. SP 1 supported an inter-governmental meeting at CARICC in October that was attended by senior officials from the participating countries, CARICC, UNODC and Permanent Liaison Officers (PLOs) of JPC. The objective of this meeting was to draft an intergovernmental document to establish means of communication and a legal basis for the exchange of information between CARICC and JPC so as to develop regional law enforcement cooperation in countering narcotics in West and Central Asia. A Memorandum of Understanding between CARICC and the JPC member countries was drafted at the meeting and shared for further comments with signature planned for the second quarter of 2016.
- SP 1 and SP 2, in collaboration with the EU Heroin II Project jointly organized the second regional workshop on “Promoting Regional Cooperation in Controlled Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams” at CARICC in April with participation from senior law enforcement and legal experts from the eight RP countries and the officials from CARICC, JPC, the Russian Federation, Interpol and EU.



*“Promoting Regional Cooperation in Controlled Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams” 13 - 17 April 2015, CARICC, Almaty*

- In conjunction with DEA Tashkent Office and UNODC's Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Afghan, and Central Asian and Pakistani Law Enforcement Personnel, SP 1 organized an "Instructor Development Course on Counter-Narcotics" at TADOC with the participation of 15 officials from Central Asian countries in May. SP 1 also supported a "Training of Trainers and Advanced Level Training Course in Precursor Control" for 21 officers from RP countries in Dushanbe in June at which French Police and Customs presented the latest interdiction techniques, and shared information on new synthetic drugs. More than 70% of the trainees indicated in their training evaluations that the training course improved their knowledge and skills.

- SP 1 and INCB held a workshop on "Use of Customs Data and also PICS and PEN online systems" at CARICC in October that was attended by officials from Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Pakistan. The workshop provided law enforcement and regulatory authorities of the participating countries with up-to-date information on the available tools for the monitoring of legitimate trade in precursor chemicals and for preventing their diversion into illicit channels.

### Priority activities for 2016

- AKT and TI Ministerial and Senior Officials Meetings (the latter to review and plan operations).
- The 9th and 10th Meetings of the Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors. Precursor case meetings will also be organised based on the results and decisions of the Working Group.
- 2nd and 3rd Meetings of the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Drugs (RWGFD). Drug case meetings will also be organised based on the results and decisions of the Working Group.
- Regional training courses on: Precursor Control (advanced level); New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and synthetic drugs; intelligence-led policing; risk assessments at airports and combatting drug couriers; advanced investigative techniques among others.
- Workshop on use of Customs Data, Profiling and Information Systems.
- Specialised training courses for selected counter-narcotics police officers from Afghanistan and Central Asian countries (special initiative supported by Russia and Japan).
- 3rd Regional Workshop on "Promoting regional cooperation in Control Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams".
- Training on CENCOMM2 and table-top exercise for Phase 2 of Operation Substitute.
- Phase 2 of Operation Substitute and subsequent post operation de-brief.
- Inter-Governmental Meeting on Memorandum of Understanding between CARICC and Triangular Initiative (TI) Countries.
- Regional Working Group Meeting on Networking the Information Sharing Mechanisms in West and Central Asia.

## Sub-Programme 2: International / Regional Cooperation in Legal Matters

SP 2 of the RP is working with countries in West and Central Asia with the aim of achieving two main outcomes: increasing regional cooperation in criminal cases and strengthening regional cooperation on illicit money flows related to narcotic cases. These are achieved through regional and sub regional workshop and training courses as well as by facilitating better contacts between relevant authorities in the region.

### Achievements

SP II successfully assisted the countries in the region to enhance regional cooperation in relevant legal areas to strengthen responses to narcotics-related criminal cases. SP II achieved this by enhancing the capacity of the countries in various technical areas including, controlled delivery and joint investigation as well as money-laundering and illicit financial flows. SP II also supported the harmonization of legislative frameworks to achieve closer compliance with international standards and norms, facilitated contacts between relevant judicial authorities (networking) and supported institutions responsible for international-regional cooperation in criminal justice to better address drug related threats and crimes.

SP II organized a range of regional events that provided significant support for regional cooperation and coordination to address criminal matters (drug related crimes) in the region.

A regional workshop on “Investigative Techniques of Transnational Corruption Offences” was organized in March 2015 in Tehran. The workshop provided training to over 50 participants from RP countries during which the effectiveness of UNCAC, its principles and the importance of full implementation were highlighted. This took place with technical support of the UNODC Corruption and Economic Crime Branch and resulted in the endorsement of an outcomes / follow-up document.

A second regional workshop on “Promoting regional cooperation in Control Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams” was held in April 2015 in Almaty in close cooperation with CARICC and with the technical support provided by the European Union Heroin Route II Project. More than 40 senior experts/practitioners from RP countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) as well as experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, the Russian Federation, the European Union, EUROJUST and Interpol attended the workshop. The workshop created a platform for participants to discuss legal tools, operational practices and material resources to carry out effective controlled delivery operations, ways to improve their ability to detect sources and destinations of drug shipments, and how to effectively dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking. The workshop addressed the strengthening of timely information exchange through existing regional and international structures including CARICC, JPC, World Customs Organization and Interpol.

An inter-regional workshop on “Supporting successful prosecutions and other disruptions by building, enhancing and networking financial investigation capacity in national Law Enforcement Agencies” was organized in May 2015 in Tashkent. The workshop provided a forum for 40 senior experts from RP countries to learn and share best practices as well as facilitating the identification and analysis of options for developing a financial investigation capability within law enforcement agencies and networking this capability with key stakeholders including prosecutors and FIUs. This Workshop was jointly organised with Global Programme on Money Laundering (GPML), the Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

An inter-regional workshop on “Strengthening Cooperation between Financial Intelligence Units and Law Enforcement Agencies in Combating Laundering of Illicit Drug Trafficking Proceeds”, took place in Moscow in September

2015. It brought together representatives of Financial Intelligence Units and law enforcement agencies of the RP countries in order to link their network with other existing networks and agencies beyond the region. The Workshop jointly organized with the Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG) and Russian International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM).

A regional workshop on "International and Regional Cooperation to Combat Cybercrime", took place in Dushanbe in August 2015. The event provided training to 20 representatives from RP countries on domestic legislation in combating the use of new technologies for illicit financial flows, sharing best practices in promoting international and regional cooperation as well as supporting the existing working groups in order to improve regional cooperation to counter cybercrime cases. The workshop was jointly organized with OSCE's Border Management Staff College.

A Regional workshop on "Illicit Use of Money or Value Transfer Services (MVTs): Enhancing Legislative, Regulatory and Investigative Frameworks and Inter-Agency Working" was held in Issyk Kul, in September 2015. The workshop provided training to over 35 senior experts from RP countries on identification and sharing current good practices, initiatives and typologies in detecting, investigating and disrupting criminal use of MVTs, regulation and community engagement with money and value transfer services providers, determination of critical information requirements, as well as collection methodologies and dissemination frameworks regarding criminal use of MVTs. Another major achievement during the above workshop was the formal signing by Afghanistan and Tajikistan of the RP model Memorandum of Understanding on Anti-Money Laundering / Counter Financing of Terrorism which will facilitate sharing of information on Suspicious Financial Transactions (SFTs) between the two countries.

SP II supported the organization of an AKT Ministerial Review Meeting (Dushanbe, May 2015). At this meeting participants gave their support to promoting "legal cooperation" between their countries. In this regard representatives from the ministries of foreign affairs, general prosecutor's offices and financial intelligence units of the AKT countries discussed ways to jointly counter the drug problem by supporting law enforcement agencies in the region. This event also facilitated better networking among law enforcement and judicial institutions/agencies of the AKT countries and made preliminary recommendations for the next biennial operational roadmap.

Additionally, Two Cash Courier courses under AKT – TI initiatives, were held in Istanbul in September and October 2015 respectively. These courses focused on currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments (BNIs), cash concealments, money laundering, international standards and the role of national agencies, intelligence and the preparation of intelligence reports, suspicious transaction reports and the regulated sector, cash forensics, tactical questioning and profiling and targeting for cash interdictions, practical interview techniques, and the financing of terrorism.

### Priority activities for 2016

Assistance to the countries of the region in the area of international/regional cooperation in legal matters is more pertinent than ever. SP II will continue to strengthen the capacity of relevant judicial institutions in the region to better cooperate across borders in criminal matters, among others, through organizing a range of regional and inter-regional events in 2016. One of the aims of organizing the planned activities will be to further support better inter-agency cooperation among the relevant agencies (at the national and regional level) to boost regional/ international cooperation in legal matters to better address transnational organized crime threats and challenges in RP countries. Priority activities will include Regional Workshops on:

- International Cooperation for the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners.
- Promoting Regional Cooperation in Controlled Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams.
- International and Regional Cooperation to Combat Cybercrime.

- Combating Illicit Use of Money or Value Transfer Services (MTVS) and FIU to FIU Meetings (under the CASH Initiative).
- Regional cooperation to combat Human Trafficking.
- Regional cooperation to combat Corruption (with a focus on asset recovery).

Furthermore, SP2 will continue providing to all countries in the region specialised support on AML/CFT by recruiting a mentor that would support regional authorities identifying their needs and the necessary measures to meet them.

## Sub-Programme 3: Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence among Vulnerable Groups

SP 3 undertakes a comprehensive programme of activities aimed at prevention and treatment of drug dependence among vulnerable groups through a focus on promotion of international best practice in diagnosis and treatment provision, training of health care professionals in such delivery, and provision of comprehensive harm reduction services to improve prevention and treatment modalities in the region.

During 2015, it provided support in a range of strategic areas across the three outcomes of (i) drug use prevention, (ii) drug treatment and rehabilitation, and (iii) HIV prevention. Regional policy meetings were convened under each outcome allowing officials from various backgrounds to meet together to share good practices and discuss methods and strategies being applied around the world. Through the various policy meetings and workshops, networking among government agencies, experts and official NGOs was also supported to maintain the sharing of advances in the drug demand reduction field.

### Achievements

#### Outcome 1: Drug use Prevention

SP 3 promotes common minimum standards to support professionals in delivering scientific evidence-based practices in drug prevention. A core programme supported by the RP has been the Families and Schools Together (FAST) Programme. The RP has continued to support the scaling up and expansion of the FAST initiative in the RP countries. In 2015, the scaling up of the FAST programme was supported in Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan. Notably in Uzbekistan, a Family Skills Training Programme Resource Centre was established at the request of the Ministry of Public Education. The Centre is to become a coordination unit for the scaling up and monitoring of FAST activities in Uzbekistan. FAST has been found to improve family functioning and the behaviour of children in short term. In the long term, scientific evidence shows that the programme prevents drug use as well as other high-risk behaviour.



*FAST graduation Ceremony, January 2015*

### **Strengthening Family Programme (SFP-10-14 years)**

As there has been quite strong interest in FAST and it is being more widely adopted, the RP will develop a programme for older children, the "Strengthening Family Programme" (SFP) in the new phase. In this regard, an introductory, regional consultation session on Strengthening Families Programme (SFP 10-14) consultation was held in Tehran in August. The main goal of the session was to inform and encourage governments, policymakers, and other partners to undertake necessary actions to implement gender-sensitive, evidence-based prevention strategies and treatment services for substance use disorders aiming to provide everyone, including girls and women, with the skills and opportunities to make healthy choices.



*Regional introductory workshop on SFP, Tehran, Iran, August 2015*

The ADNA (Asian Drug Demand Reduction NGO Association) participated in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) session of 2015 and organized a booth for the promotion of activities undertaken under the Regional Programme. ADNA also organized consultative meetings at the regional and national levels to collect feedback from the experts, NGOs and civil society for 2016 UNGASS.

The RP supported activities on World Drug Day (WDD) including using SMS to send out over 70,000 text messages with the WDD motto in Iran in partnership with Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) and support for WDD visibility materials in Uzbekistan through the FAST programme.

## **Outcome 2: Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation**

- A report on the rapid assessment of drug treatment services in RP countries has been finalized and will be published in 2016. The report will provide a clear snapshot of information, needs and resources with regards to drug dependence treatment and care services to support planning, development and implementation of cost effective interventions in the RP countries.
- An international study on alternatives to incarceration has been conducted with preliminary findings to be presented at a workshop in 2016.
- Two meetings were held in 2015 that aimed to strengthen networking and coordination in the drug treatment field. The first one, a consultative meeting on Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Coordination Centres was held in May 2015 in Almaty. The Republican Drug Addiction Studies Centre in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan was nominated as the regional coordination centre for 2015. The second meeting of this network was held in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan in October with participation from six countries. Participants discussed ways to build productive collaboration among the centres.
- A management training workshop on Regional Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) was held in Tehran. The workshop was jointly organised by the RP, the Asian Drug Demand Reduction NGOs Association (ADNA), Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) and the State Welfare Organisation (SWO) of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Experts

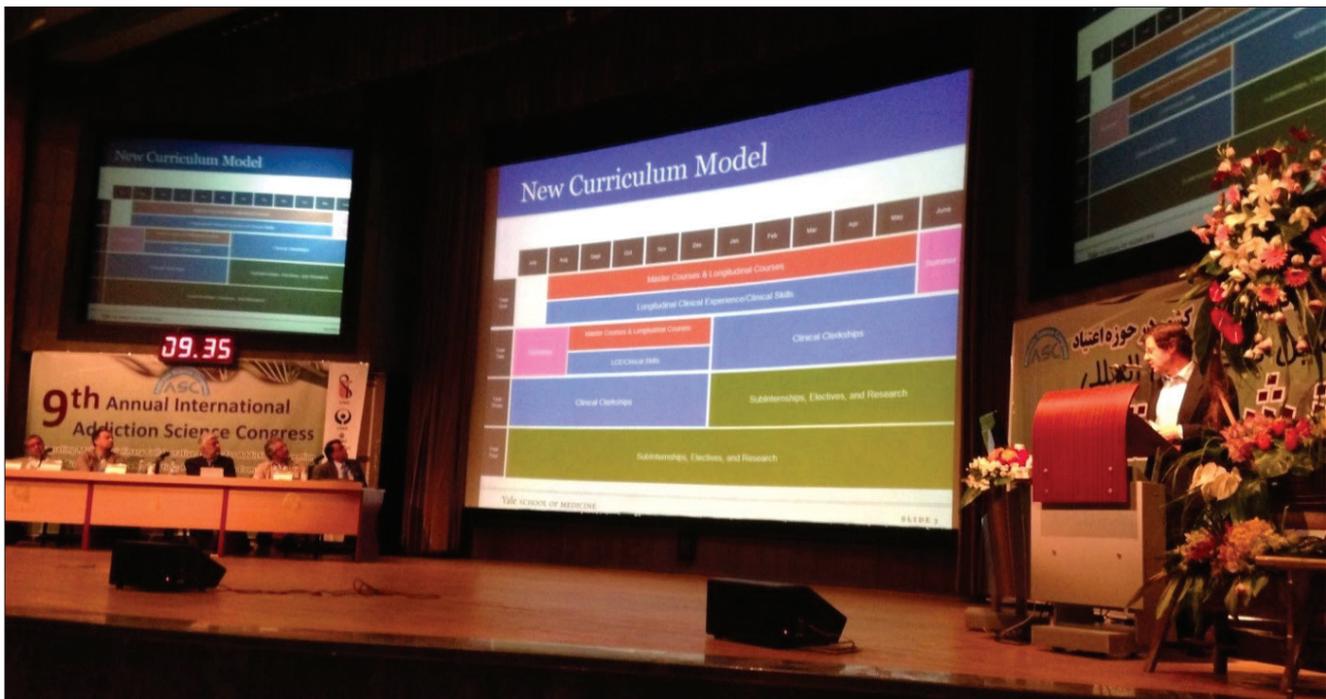
from governments and non-governmental organisations from the RP countries participated. The objective of this training was to professionally equip the treatment experts from the regional countries on the management of emerging problems related to ATS use.

- A regional consultative workshop on the adaptation of the UNODC Training Manual for Law Enforcement (LE) officers dealing with vulnerable populations and its integration into the national curricula was organized jointly with the programme for HIV/AIDS prevention and care among vulnerable groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe (XCEA01) and the Almaty Academy of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- Other training sessions conducted during the course of 2015 included: (i) a national training session, requested by the Government of Turkmenistan on the management of drug use treatment; (ii) a three days of national level training on oral substitution treatment management were conducted in Astana in collaboration with the programme for HIV/AIDS prevention and care among vulnerable groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe (XCEA01) ; (iii) training on the treatment of female drug users was organised in Astana with participants from four countries; (iv) two national training sessions on the clinical and managerial aspects of effective drug treatment were organised in the Pakistani provinces of Sindh and Baluchistan; and, (v) a provincial training session on the UNODC Training Manual for LE officers dealing with vulnerable populations was organised at the Police Training College in Lahore, Punjab Province, Pakistan.
- Other activities included: (i) an assessment of the health and social protection needs of returnees and refugees in selected RP countries is currently underway and will provide a platform for future planning in service provision for Afghan refugees and returnees (ii) a meeting of the tripartite expert group (including attendees from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan) was held in Tehran in order to review relevant medical curricula under the RP countries as they relate to drug treatment.

### **Outcome 3: HIV Prevention**

A three day regional conference was organized in collaboration with the programme for HIV/AIDS prevention and care among vulnerable groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe (XCEA01) , on *"Drug Use and HIV: addressing the specific needs of women who use drugs and people in prisons."* The conference looked at international guidelines and best practices in this field. All eight countries of the RP participated and discussed their regional experiences on drug treatment and HIV-related services in prison settings, and gender-sensitive approaches to drug treatment and prevention services.

In the framework of provision of comprehensive harm reduction services to Afghan refugees and returnees, the RP continued to support Drop-in-Centers (DIC) in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Afghanistan, provision of comprehensive harm reduction services was provided to Afghan returnees in Herat province through two NGOs - WADAN and KOR. In Iran, services were sustained through two DICs in Mashhad City. Three new DICs were identified for expansion of services. In Pakistan, provision of services at Kot Chandna in Mianwali was continued.



Regional Experts Consultation (Afghanistan, Pakistan and I.R. of Iran), Review of undergraduate medical curricula on drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation, Tehran, Iran



## Priority activities for 2016

- Implementation of FAST in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- In country training of trainers (ToT) and introducing the Strengthening Family Programme (SPF) 10-14 years in Iran and Kazakhstan.
- Regional ToT to build capacity of implementers of government institutions and civil society organizations to undertake scientific evaluation of drug prevention programmes.
- Support the established regional network of NGOs (ADNA) to allow greater sharing of experience in the region. Support may include study missions, targeted research and dissemination of findings, identification of drug demand reduction expertise in the region and its utilization of ToT.
- Regional ToT on UNODC's Treatment Volume D – Drug Treatment Managers.
- Support to the established regional network of centers of coordination for DDR.
- Regional meeting on voluntary drug dependence treatment.
- Regional ToT on drug use treatment for children.
- Updating teaching curricula for undergraduate medical students.
- Regional ToT for LE Officials on UNODC's Toolkit.
- ToT to train implementers on "WHO / UNAIDS / UNODC Nine Key Interventions of HIV" among People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) in prison settings and among refugee and returnee populations.

## Sub-Programme 4: Trends and Impacts

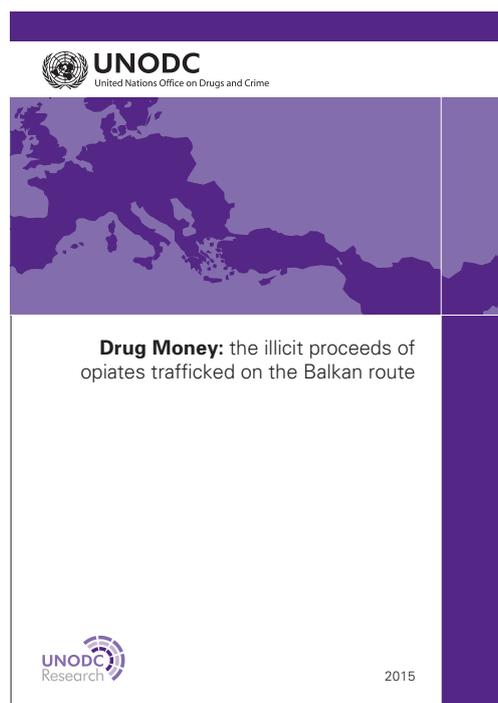
Accurate analysis of drug dynamics based on evidence-based data is essential for effective counter-narcotics interventions. However, drug and related crime insights and analysis at the regional level remain weak in West and Central Asia. Sub-Programme 4 on Trends and Impacts of the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries fills in critical gaps in trends analysis and impact monitoring capacity at the regional level, strengthening evidence-based policy making efforts. Working in tandem with partner governments, this Sub-Programme strengthens capacities in data generation, collection, management, analysis, reporting and 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, Sub-Programme 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.

### Key achievements

#### Technical Research

SP 4 supported SASS to finalize and launch a technical study titled "Drug Money: the illicit proceeds of opiates trafficked on the Balkan Route" ([http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/IFF\\_report\\_2015\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/IFF_report_2015_final_web.pdf)) in Vienna in November. The situational analysis outlined in the Report shows that the total value of illicit heroin and opium trafficked from Afghanistan to Western Europe through the Balkans amounts to some \$28 billion every year. Sixty-five per cent of this total (\$18 billion) is generated in Western and Central Europe. The four largest European markets for heroin - France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Italy - account for nearly half of the gross profits, as the major heroin benefits are made by traffickers on the retail markets. The report also shows the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey as the two countries which interdict the greater percentage of heroin and opium destined for Europe. Iran seizes about 30 per cent of the 155 tons of heroin and opium entering its territory every year, while Turkey seizes 17 per cent. Data show that the impact of illicit profits on the national licit economy across countries is significant, with heroin and opium traffickers gaining between 0.2 to 2 per cent of their country's GDP. For some countries this share is bigger than the public expenditures dedicated to drug policies - if all drugs, and not only heroin and opium, are considered.



With support from SP 4, the Afghan Opiate Trade Project (AOTP) published a technical study on Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route ([http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/Afghan\\_opiate\\_trafficking\\_southern\\_route\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/Afghan_opiate_trafficking_southern_route_web.pdf)) in June. The situation analysis outlined in the report notes a changing trend in the trafficking of Afghan opiates with the Southern Route gaining ground (on Northern and Balkan alternatives) in the supply of some European markets. Recent large opiate seizures further out in the Indian Ocean have highlighted the potential for traffickers to send sizeable shipments using boats departing from unofficial ports and jetties along the coast of Iran and Pakistan. Maritime trafficking is also facilitating the smuggling of large quantities of opium into developing countries. In addition, the prominence of African sub-regions as potentially important consumption and transit zones for the trafficking of Afghan heroin is a major finding of this study. Prior to the official launch, the methodology and scope of the study were presented at a side event at CND in March 2015.

The first draft of technical study titled "Smuggling Opium out of Afghanistan – the Regional Flows" was completed with publication due in mid-2016. This study will greatly enhance knowledge of the costs involved in smuggling of opium out of Afghanistan, the dynamics of smuggling including cost of opium / heroin on the open market, nature and extent of bribery, turnover / size of operations of small, medium and large smugglers, payments to the Taliban / Daesh / militias financial, as well as networks of smugglers in countries along major smuggling routes.

Detailed scoping and development was undertaken for the technical study on "A policy coherence approach to preventing and mitigating the risks for illicit financial flows, economic crime, corruption and narcotics production and trafficking: creating an enabling environment for economic growth and improved governance in Afghanistan". The study will outline the illicit sector, related financial flows, how they impede the country's development as well as outlining policy recommendations / interventions the international community can undertake to support the Afghan Government in negating the illicit economy and promoting the licit. The study is scheduled to begin in mid 2016 with a launch workshop in Kabul at which the terms of reference / methodology will be discussed and agreed with stakeholders including Afghan FIU, MFA, UNDP, the World Bank, as well as SASS and GPML from UNODC HQ.

## Capacity Building

The focus of work to standardize information collection and analysis has been undertaken through the joint SP4 / SASS project to support development and implementation of national surveys on drug use among youth in Member States which began with a technical workshop in Islamabad, Pakistan (26 – 30 May). This project is a first for the region as a number of countries have never conducted nation-wide surveys on youth drug use. The aims of the workshop were to:

- Outline methodology and special considerations for surveys on drug use within schools and for youth outside the school settings;
- Increase national capacity to design and implement surveys on youth drug use including developing questionnaires; and
- Develop relationships with focal points that will move forward with developing the methodology, questionnaire translation, adaptation, and testing in the months following the workshop and later implementation of youth surveys in selected places.

As an outcome of the workshop, participants from Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan presented their preliminary plans to conduct surveys among youth. Subsequent to the workshop, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan have requested to participate in the project.

Project implementation has begun in Afghanistan with the formation of a "Steering Committee" consisting of UNICEF, UNFPA, and Ministries of Education, Public Health and Counter Narcotics as well as Office of the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs to agree on the methodology, questionnaire and project implementation.

In conjunction with AOTP, SP 4 provided technical and financial support to the Drug Control Agency (DCA) of Tajikistan to publish its Annual Drug Report. This support will enable continued enhancement of DCA's research capacity to produce a robust report. The report is due for publication at CND in March 2016.

SP 4 also provided technical support to UNODC Country Office for Afghanistan Research Capacity Building based at the Ministry of Counter Narcotics Afghanistan to draft, finalize and publish the Afghanistan Drug Report 2015 which was published on 9th December 2015. The report includes situational analysis of efforts to Counter Narcotics in Afghanistan with regards to cultivation, eradication, pricing, arrests, seizures, prevalence of use, and treatment needs and capacity. The 2015 edition had a thematic focus on Alternative Development efforts to date in the country and international best practice in terms of policy coordination, delivery and monitoring and evaluation.

In conjunction with the Alternative Livelihood Project of UNODC Country Office for Afghanistan (COAFG), SP4 organized an Alternative Development (AD) study mission to Thailand for 25 Afghan and Tajik officials, academics and farmers to learn best practice principles from Thai officials and institutions at the world forefront of AD project management. Key lessons from this tour are being disseminated in both countries to aid future cooperation between the countries on AD.

## Advocacy

SP 4 organized a Regional Media Forum in Dushanbe (26 May) which for the first time, brought together counter narcotics authorities from Member States and over 400 university students to discuss current initiatives and future priorities tackling illicit drugs and strengthening regional cooperation on drug control. The event was successful in raising awareness of drug control issues amongst youth, sharing of individual and collective experiences between the participants, and allowing the authorities to describe policy priorities and decision making. The Regional Media Forum was widely broadcasted on Tajik and Afghan television.

In the last week of September, SP4 and the Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan organised counter narcotics awareness raising events for Tajik communities, namely Pyanj, Farkhor, Hamadoni, Vose, Darvaz and Shurabad on the Tajik side of the Afghan-Tajik Border. These events were aimed at drawing attention to on-going counter narcotics (CN) efforts to tackle the illicit drug trade, drug use, enforcement activities, as well as drug prevention and healthy lifestyles initiatives. Such events are important constituent parts of the holistic approach to countering narcotics in affected communities.

## Looking Forward

Establishment of a network / working group of drug data experts from the RP countries. This network will be responsible for coordinating the sharing of drug-related information and improving the quantity and quality of drug-related data in RP countries. It is anticipated that the establishment of this network / working group will be critical in concretely improving the quality of data collection and analysis and the exchange of data and information on fighting illegal trafficking and tackling drug use in the region.

Completion of the technical study on "A policy coherence approach to preventing and mitigating the risks for illicit financial flows, economic crime, corruption and narcotics production and trafficking: creating an enabling environment for economic growth and improved governance in Afghanistan".

Publication of the technical study titled "Smuggling Opium out of Afghanistan – the Regional Flows".

Completion of pilot youth drug use surveys in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan.

Undertake a technical study on the Smuggling of Migrants from Afghanistan.

*Hold the joint UNODC / UNRCCA Conference on "Promoting Development of the Licit Economy in Afghanistan" in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in the third quarter of 2016.*

*Hold the "Afghanistan-Tajikistan Conference: Challenges and Opportunities for Bordering Communities" Conference which is aimed at bringing together provincial level counter narcotics officials, communities and development practitioners together to discuss the challenges of illicit drugs and livelihoods along the Afghanistan – Tajikistan border. The Conference is scheduled to take place in thirdquarter of 2016 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.*

*Hold a Regional Alternative Development Conference in Tehran, Iran in fourth quarter of 2016.*

## Annex A – Selected Enforcement Successes

Joint Planning Cell (JPC) Liaison Officers as well as the application of special investigative measures, the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) have carried out the following operations:

- On 20 March 2015, in a joint operation of the Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan (DCA) and the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) of the Ministry of Interior of Afghanistan, one clandestine laboratory was destroyed, and 135 kg opium and 30 kg precursors were seized in the Badakhshan province of Afghanistan; and
- On 25 February and 9 June 2015, Law Enforcement (LE) officers from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan conducted joint patrols in the border area between the two countries. There were no seizures, but such exercises strengthen cooperation between the two countries and deter traffickers.

- On 27 January, in a joint operation of the DCA and CNPA, 59 kg of hashish was seized and two citizens of Afghanistan were detained in the Takhor province of Afghanistan;
- On 16 February, in a joint operation of the DCA and CNPA, 4 kg 273 g of opium was seized and 2 citizens of Afghanistan were detained in the Ishkashim region of the Gorno-Badakhshan province of Tajikistan;
- On 23 February, in a joint operation of the DCA and CNPA, 19 kg 815 g of heroin was seized and 1 citizen of Afghanistan was detained in the Takhor province of Afghanistan;
- On 10 March, in a joint operation of the DCA and CNPA, 15 kg of heroin was seized and 1 citizen of Afghanistan was detained in the Takhor province of Afghanistan;
- On 16 March, in a joint operation of the Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Interior of Afghanistan, 46 kg of opium was seized and 1 citizen of Afghanistan was detained in the Takhor province of Afghanistan;
- On 30 March, in a joint operation of the DCA and CNPA, 37 kg 800 g of opium was seized and 1 citizen of Afghanistan was detained in the Takhor province of Afghanistan;
- On 31 March, in a joint operation of the DCA and State Service on Drug control (SSDC) of Kyrgyzstan, 0,524 kg of heroin and 7 kg 720 g of heroin were seized, 2 citizens of Tajikistan and 1 citizen of Kyrgyzstan were detained in the Isfara, and Sugd province of Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, respectively;
- On 14 April, in a joint operation of the DCA and CNPA, 57 kg 900 g of opium was seized and 1 citizen of Afghanistan was detained in the Takhor province of Afghanistan; and
- On 17 May, in a joint operation of the DCA and CNPA, 32 kg of heroin was seized and 1 citizen of Afghanistan was detained in the Badakhshan province of Afghanistan.

As the outcome of capacity building activities including training courses and coordination meetings on intelligence information sharing, in 2015 the RP countries successfully carried out the following operations:

As the outcome of capacity building activities that included training courses, procurement of equipment and the coordination meetings on intelligence information sharing, in 2015 the RP countries successfully carried out the following operations:

- On 21 January, as a result of a controlled delivery operation conducted by the CNPA and DCA, 9 kg 770g of hashish was seized, and 1 citizen of Afghanistan and 1 citizen of Tajikistan were detained in the Kulyab, and Khatlon provinces of Tajikistan;
- On 23 February, as a result of a controlled delivery operation conducted by the CNPA and DCA, 48 kg 627g of hashish was seized in the Rudaki region of Tajikistan; and
- On 24 March, as a result of a controlled delivery operation conducted by the CNPA and DCA, 39 kg 733 g of opium and 961,6 g of heroin were seized and 1 citizen of Afghanistan was detained in the Kulyab, and Khatlon provinces of Tajikistan.









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**REGIONAL PROGRAMME**  
for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries