



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



REGIONAL PROGRAMME
for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

UNODC's Regional Programme for Afghanistan and
Neighbouring Countries

Contents



Abbreviations



Acknowledgements



Sub-Programme 1:
Regional Law Enforcement
Cooperation



Sub-Programme 2:
International/Regional
Cooperation in Criminal Matters



Sub-Programme 3: Prevention and
Treatment of Addiction Among
Vulnerable Groups



Sub-Programme 4:
Trends and Impacts



Partnerships



Programme
Governance

Abbreviations

AD	Alternative Development
AML	Anti-money laundering
AOTP	Afghan Opiate Trade Project (UNODC)
AKT	Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (Initiative)
CARICC	Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre
CASH	Central Asia and Southern Hub (Initiative)
DCA	Drug Control Agency
DLO	Drug Liaison Officer
EU	European Union
EUROPOL	European Union's Law Enforcement Agency
FAST	Family and Schools Together
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
GCIC	Gulf Criminal Intelligence Centre
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
JPC	Joint Planning Cell
LE	Law Enforcement
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
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
SFP	Strengthening Family Programme
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
TI	Triangular Initiative
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia

Acknowledgments

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. Our special thanks go to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, which hosted the Programme Steering Committee in Issyk-Kul in 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 in 2016. 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, 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.





THE RP'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

In the above picture, senior officials, donor representatives and UNODC officials at the launch of RP Phase II, Issyk-Kul, May 2016

- ▶ **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)

FROM THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Andrey Avetisyan

*Special Advisor to the SRSG
on Counter Narcotics*

*Regional Representative Afghanistan
and Neighbouring Countries*

International and regional cooperation remain proven cornerstones in the effort to counter illicit drugs and transnational organised crime. With drug traffickers constantly changing routes and methods, and the modus operandi and activities of criminal groups constantly evolving, building joint responses at the regional, inter-regional and global level continues to be critical to counter the threat.

The Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (RP) has been a timely and important platform to build and strengthen regional cooperation. The RP has allowed the states to work together to analyse problems and threats, to share best practices and to develop integrated multi-national responses to tackle illicit drug cultivation, trafficking, and abuse as well as address the related political, security, development and socio-economic harm in Afghanistan, West and Central Asia and the wider international community.

2016 marks the first year of the second four year phase of the RP (2016 to 2019). Phase II was officially launched at the annual Programme Steering Committee, which was hosted by the Kyrgyz Government at Issyk Kul in May 2016. The new phase of the RP builds on the successes and priorities established over the first four years. It is informed by priorities as determined by the RP Member states and incorporates lessons from a formal evaluation of the first phase activities. I most grateful to all those who gave their insights and support and helped build and launch the Phase II programme.

Operationally, 2016 was a very active year in which significant progress took place on many fronts seeing strengthened cooperation on countering illicit drugs and organised crime. The working groups, as well as the AKT and CASH initiatives of the RP were very active, with information on drug control challenges 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, the increasing use of the internet for criminal purposes and human trafficking to name a few.

The states 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. There was further development and expansion of the FAST and SFP prevention programmes,

which are helping protect children across the region and strengthen the capacity of families and schools to address potential risks.

There was an important conference conducted in partnership with UNRCCA to examine the intertwined issues of security and development in the region with senior officials discussing how to strengthen regional cooperation on security, drug control, countering illicit financial flows and financing of terrorism as well as strengthening economic cooperation to underpin alternative development efforts in Afghanistan.

This is an important area and the RP will continue to support regional engagement in this field in the years ahead starting with a regional Alternative Development (AD) conference in 2017. If farmers in Afghanistan have security and legal livelihoods other than opium poppy cultivation then it addresses the problem at the source and increasing opportunities for legal economic development can improve the security environment. For example, if illicit funds to drug traffickers and insurgents decline, economic growth and a stronger legal economy provides more revenue to the Government to strengthen security, and the capacity of the agencies targeting drugs, crime and corruption can be built. It is an area in which greater regional engagement can make a difference while also strengthening the capacity in Afghanistan to counter the drug problem.

Another very important element in our efforts is to continue to build partnerships and the regional programme works 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. 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 very proud of the achievements of the RP in 2016 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 Member 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.

SUB-PROGRAMME 1: REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION

RP Sub-programme1 (SP1) conducted numerous activities in 2016 to continue to promote and strengthen regional law enforcement cooperation. SP1 provided counterparts with technical assistance in law enforcement training, precursor control, countering narcotics and forensic capacity building activities in 2016. The SP1 framework was designed based on consultations with the Member States, and the activities were planned so as to meet the needs in the field.

The main vehicles of SP1 are the three regional working groups, which are specialized in different aspects of law enforcement, and 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.

Currently, three important working groups are run under SP1 of the Regional Programme - the Regional Working Group on Precursors (RWGP), the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Illicit Drugs (RWGFD), and a Regional Working Group on Law Enforcement Training (RWGT).

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 and target investigations cases are identified for further work-plans along with standardization of the law enforcement structures.

As a sub-group activity 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

As a sub-group activity 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. The investigators from different countries share information and prepare a plan for developing the investigations at the regional level.



On the operational side, an important development in 2016 was the approval of operation plans for two region-wide operations by the RP states aimed at the identification and interception of synthetic drugs along with new psychoactive substances and precursors including non-controlled chemicals. Through the working group meetings, SP1 provided technical assistance in drafting plans for two regional operations. These operations are planned to be coordinated by CARICC and JPC, which will promote the coordination role of these two centers, which are supported by the international community.

As a practical result of capacity building activities, advanced investigation techniques were applied by counterparts, and information sharing through the Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs) culminated in a number of successful joint counter-narcotics operations along the border lines of Afghanistan. Moreover, through utilizing RP information sharing and networking mechanisms such as the regional working group on precursors, and the operational case meetings, regional joint back tracking investigations on several major precursor seizure cases were promoted.

In addition to the regional working groups, the Triangular Initiative and also the AKT Initiative are supported by the RP. Through the ministerial level as well as senior officials meetings of these two initiatives, communication is enhanced among the countries and operation plans prepared through the expert group meetings.

RP SP1 also continued efforts to enhance counter-narcotics enforcement capacity through the delivery of several training courses across the region in 2016 including laboratory identification of illicit drugs, training on CENNCOM II, training for counter-narcotics law enforcement officers at Domodedovo and also for Afghan law enforcement officers at the Iranian Police University

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

In 2016, four regional working group, two expert group, and two operational case meetings were conducted through the Regional Working Group on Precursors, the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and illicit Drugs, the Regional Working Group on Law Enforcement Training, and the AKT initiative.

A highlight on 2016 was the establishment of a new regional working group on law enforcement training. The objectives of this new working group as established in the inaugural meeting by member countries are to: support law enforcement training systems through the standardization of training curricula, training systems, and operating procedures; and also to establish a database of training material. Regional training of trainees courses are also planned to be conducted under the regional working group on law enforcement training.



REGIONAL INFORMATION SHARING AND JOINT OPERATIONS

Supporting the exchange of DLOs between countries allows the exchange of real time information sharing and strengthens joint operations. In 2016, the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan each assigned 1 permanent liaison officer (PLO) to the JPC in Tehran, Iran. Furthermore, Afghanistan had 3 DLOs stationed in Tajikistan and 1 DLO stationed in CARICC, in addition to Kyrgyzstan having 1 DLO stationed in Tajikistan, and Tajikistan having 1 DLO stationed in Afghanistan. In total, six DLOs and three PLOs were supported by the international community through RP/SP1.

As a result of information sharing through the DLOs as well as the application of advanced investigation measures in the region, 10 joint operations were conducted in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran and Pakistan. During these operations, several types of illicit substances were seized including 45 liters of precursors, 24,5 kilograms (kgs) of opium, 67,7 kgs of heroin and 214 kgs of hashish. Further to these seizures, through the RWGP and operational case meetings, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan continued to work on back tracking investigations on 4 major precursor investigation cases that were agreed to during the Precursor Case Meeting held in November 2016 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and which included seizures of 56 tons of precursor chemicals.

In 2016, the working groups on precursors and illicit drugs devised and laid out operational plans for two operations to be conducted in 2017. The first, "Operation Substitute phase II" focuses on stopping the illicit movement of acetic anhydride as well as tracking the movement of three non-controlled substances (acetic acid, ammonium chloride and acetyl chloride), which are used in heroin production. The second operation, "Operation REFLEX", will focus on new psycho-active substances and synthetic drugs, with the REFLEX abbreviation standing for Regional Forensic and Law Enforcement Exercise. The briefings for these operations were conducted in November 2016 and the operations will be coordinated by CARICC and JPC during 2017.



TRAINING COURSES TO ENHANCE REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY

Eight training courses were conducted and a total of 150 officers from the law enforcement agencies and forensic laboratories in the region trained in 2016.

There was a continuation of the advanced training for the police forces of Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries under the Domodedovo training project supported by the Russian Federation and Japan. This long standing cooperation is helping the countries of the region strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officers to tackle drug trafficking and to counter the threat it poses to security, health and development. There was also training for Afghan police officers at the Iranian Police University supported by Iran and Italy.

Courses on laboratory identification of illicit drugs were also conducted jointly with the Laboratory and Scientific Section of UNODC in Vienna, Austria. The training was structured to be hands-on and included analysis of real drug samples with unspecified content. Feedback from the training was positive with additional specialized training requested. A regional training course on CENcomm II was also conducted in Almaty.



Plans for

2 regional operations

were approved: plans of the regional operation aimed at identification and interception of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances – operation “Reflex” as well as of operation “Substitute Phase II” on smuggled consignments of acetic anhydride and non-controlled chemicals were agreed during the briefings held in november 2016. Both operations will be conducted in 2017

8 training

courses were conducted for law enforcement officers and forensic laboratory experts, with over 150 officers and laboratory staff trained

SP1
FACTS AND
FIGURES

6 regional meetings

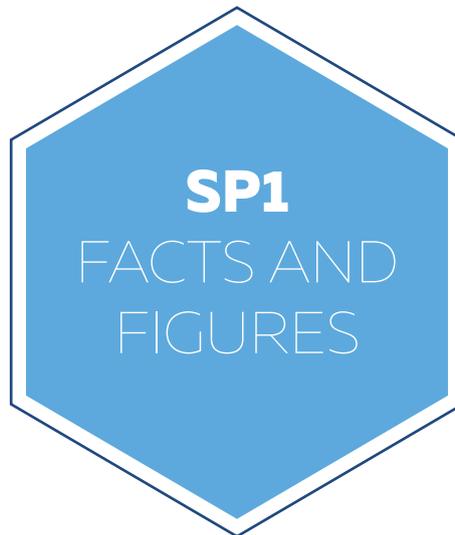
multilateral coordination working meetings of the AKT Initiative, RWGP, RWGFD, and a Precursor Case Meeting were held.

10 joint operations

As a result of information sharing through the DLOs as well as the application of advanced investigation measures in the region, 10 joint operations were conducted in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran and Pakistan.

6 Drug Liaison Officers

and 3 PLO were stationed through the support of the RP. Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan each had 1 PLO stationed at the JPC, while Afghanistan had 3 DLOs stationed in Tajikistan and 1 DLO stationed in CARICC. Additionally, Kyrgyzstan has 1 DLO stationed in Tajikistan and Tajikistan has 1 DLO stationed in Afghanistan.



1 new regional working group was launched

The Regional Working Group on Law Enforcement Training (RWGT) was launched with the first meeting being conducted on 14-15 November 2016 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. 28 participants from RP countries have discussed a standardized law enforcement training mechanism for West and Central Asia and new initiatives in the field of training for law enforcement agencies.

SUB-PROGRAMME 2: INTERNATIONAL/ REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

Momentum under Sub-programme (SP 2) of the RP was high in 2016. During the course of the year, SP2 organized or supported 12 regional and inter-regional events and trained more than 320 practitioners in support of its aim to increase regional cooperation in criminal cases and to strengthen regional cooperation on illicit money flows related to narcotic cases.

Following requests and recommendations received from regional countries, SP2 has expanded its area of engagement with the view to strengthen regional and international cooperation in additional fields such as transfer of sentenced prisoners, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and more in-depth work on countering the abuse of Money Value Transfer Services (MVTs) for illicit purposes.

In 2016, SP 2 has promoted different events at an inter-regional level in a many thematic areas. In particular, SP 2 has fueled close synergies with other UNODC regional programmes (including South Eastern Europe), global programmes, regional and country offices. While this cooperation demonstrated to be financially effective, it has also contributed to bridge the gap between relevant authorities in different regions.



Partnership with regional, sub-regional and international organizations has been scaled up. All events organized or supported by SP 2 in 2016 have been undertaken in partnership and collaboration with relevant stakeholders including the OSCE, EU, Interpol, CARICC, Council of EUROPE, the Heroin Route Programme and the Economic Co-operation Organisation.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2016

INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL COOPERATION IN LEGAL MATTERS



The workshops under SP2 addressed a number of critical areas where the modus operandi or methods of transnational crime groups are emerging or rapidly changing and include: cybercrime and the use of the internet for drug trafficking and criminal purposes; the abuse of MVTS and Hawala for illicit purposes; financial investigations and disruptions; corruption and asset recovery among others. Workshops also sought to strengthen capacity and build cooperation in key areas such as anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT); mutual legal assistance and extradition; transfer of foreign sentenced prisoners and on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

SP2 also continued to support the networking of financial investigators and AML/CFT experts through the various workshops and FIU to FIU meetings conducted in the margins. The SP2 team continued to provide support where requested for model MoUs on AML/CFT and two additional agreements were signed in 2016 allowing for the exchange of information on suspicious financial transactions. Additionally, SP2 provided specialized support and mentorship in different areas such as anti-money laundering, legislative reform and assessment.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Under Sub-Programme 2, a workshop on International and Regional Cooperation to address Trafficking in Persons was organized in partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Border Management Staff College Tajikistan, with the support of the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section at UNODC headquarters in Vienna and Sub-Programme 2 of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia.

The event took place on 26-27 October in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, with the participation of 30 representatives from RP member countries and the European Union as

well as representatives of civil society organizations and experts from OSCE, INTERPOL and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The event introduced the basic concepts of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, presenting the international instruments available and sharing best practices in the areas of prevention of trafficking, prosecution and apprehension of traffickers and protection of victims. The representatives of all participating states had the opportunity to present their respective legal frameworks and share the challenges they are facing at the national level to tackle this problem.

CYBERCRIME

As the world has become increasingly inter-connected and the internet has become ubiquitous in all aspects of society, unfortunately, so too the use of the internet for criminal purposes has now become a permanent problem that grows each year. It is not exceptional but rather common place for transnational organised crime groups to use the internet for, among others, drug trafficking, money laundering and dissemination of extremist and violent ideologies.

Countering this threat is a major challenge and high priority for the countries of West and Central Asia. UNODC is supporting countries in many aspects of the problem including: strengthening cyber police or developing specialised cybercrime units; strengthening regional cooperation between both law enforcement and judicial authorities to investigate and prosecute cyber criminals; conducting investigations within the DarkNet; addressing the abuse of virtual currencies; and collection and use of electronic evidence to name a few.

An inter-regional training workshop for law enforcement officers and prosecutors on the detection, investigation and prosecution of cybercrime took place in September 2016, in Almaty (Kazakhstan). More than 50 officials attended the event. Trainers from the National High Tech Crime Unit of the Dutch Police, the National Criminal Investigation Service of Norway and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation contributed to the training.



12 training courses/ workshops

organized and more than 320 practitioners trained

Inter-regional cooperation

The Regional Programme connects West and Central Asia with neighbouring regional programmes along key trafficking routes. Two inter-regional events were conducted in 2016.

SP2 FACTS AND FIGURES

ARIN

Foundations laid for an Asset Recovery Interagency Network (ARIN) in West and Central Asia at a regional Workshop on Corruption and Asset Recovery and return held in September in Iran. More than 50 participants contributed to the proceedings

Expanded area of engagement

Following the requests and recommendations received from regional countries, SP2 has expanded its area of engagement with the view to strengthen regional and international cooperation in additional fields such as transfer of sentenced prisoners, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and more in-depth work on countering the abuse of money value transfer services for illicit purposes.

Partnership platform

SP2 partnered with seven multilateral and bilateral organisations, as well as Customs Departments, Anti-Corruption Bodies, National Security Offices, Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Finance and FIUs in 2016.

CASH Initiative

• Two New Regional MoUs on AML/CFT

were concluded in 2016 allowing sharing of information on Suspicious Financial Transactions (SFTs). Since 2012, 8 bilateral MoUs on AML/CFT have been signed between member countries of the RP under the CASH Initiative.

• 3 FIU to FIU meetings held

allowing countries to share best practices and information on important investigations

• Regional Workshops held on Key Areas

Under the CASH Initiative, important regional workshops held on: reducing the risks from abuse of MVTs; financial disruptions of illicit financial flows; and, investigation of money laundering and terrorist financing

• Event reports launched

Under SP2, an initiative was launched to produce a more detailed evaluation of each event. Event reports have been developed assessing quality of events and workshops, including participation by gender.



SP2 Events 2016

30 May

4th Ministerial meeting of the Tripartite AKT Initiative

30 May

Workshop on “Investigation of money laundering and terrorism financing and building on effective AML/CFT compliance system”

17 June

7th session of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group

3 August

Regional Workshop on international transfer of prisoners

5 September

Regional Workshop on international transfer of prisoners

20 September

Inter-regional training workshop for law enforcement officers and prosecutors on detection, investigation and prosecution of cybercrime

5 October

Regional Workshop on “Financial Disruption of illicit financial flows associated with transnational organized crime and corruption”

25 October

Regional Workshop on “International and Regional Cooperation to address the Trafficking in Person”

15 November

MVTS Courses for TI and AKT countries

22 November

MVTS Courses for AKT countries

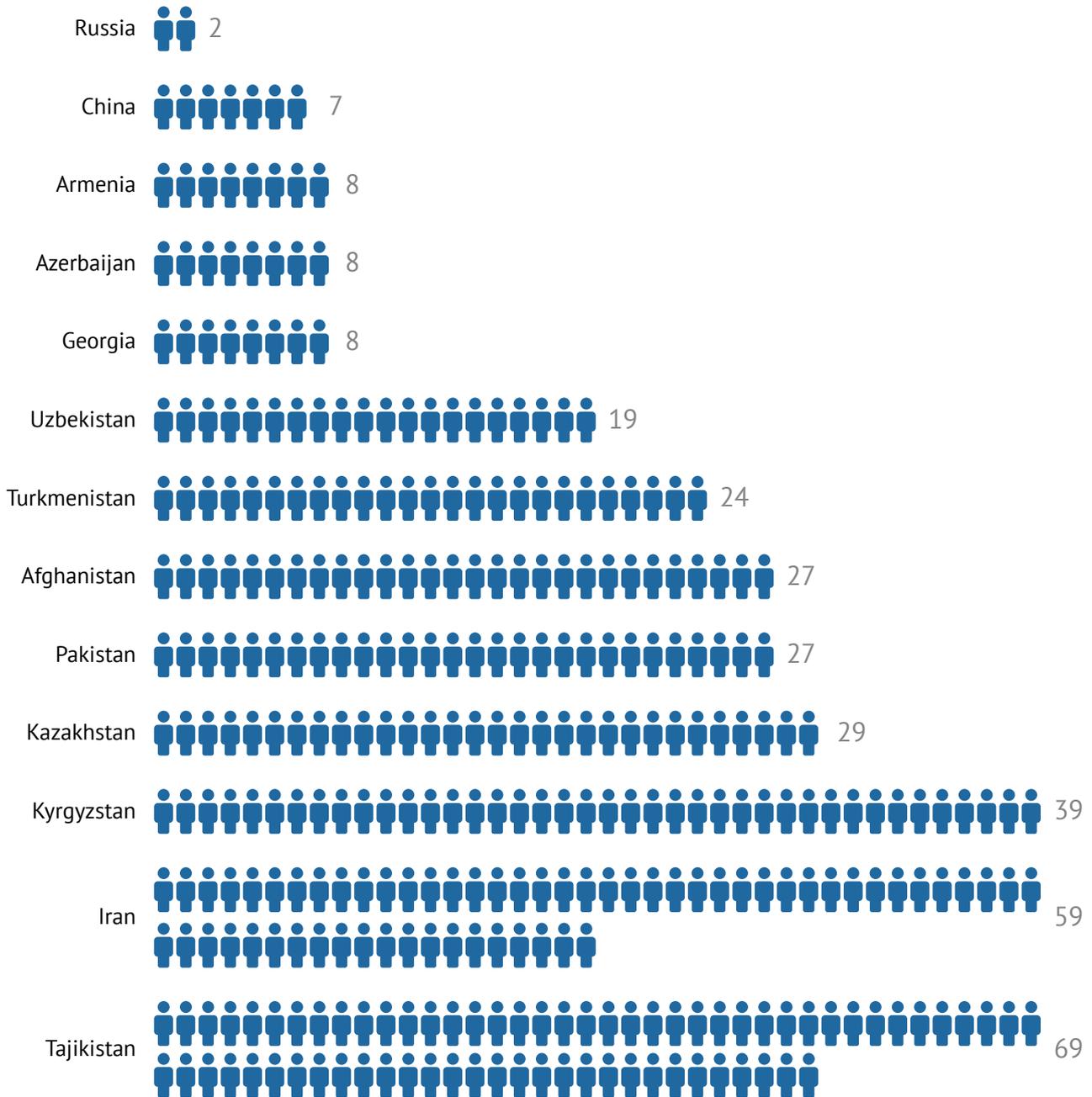
28 November

An inter-regional workshop on “Sharing Practices in Preventing and Combating the Use of Internet for Terrorist Purposes”

5 December

Regional Workshop on “Promoting regional cooperation in Control Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams”

Number of participants per country in SP2 workshops



SUB-PROGRAMME 3 - PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF ADDICTION AMONG VULNERABLE GROUPS

Sub-Programme 3 (SP 3) focuses on 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.

The results and feedback from the recently undertaken and ongoing efforts have been widely positive and encouraging, therefore justifying the expansion of many of these programmes.

- 1. Successful implementation of the Strengthening Family Programme**
- 2. Capacity building of drug treatment professionals in treatment of children with drug use problems and management of drug treatment services.**
- 3. Networking of civil society organizations and drug demand reduction institutions**
- 4. Capacity building of policy makers and professionals in the implementation of evidence based HIV prevention services in prison settings**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2016

DRUG USE PREVENTION

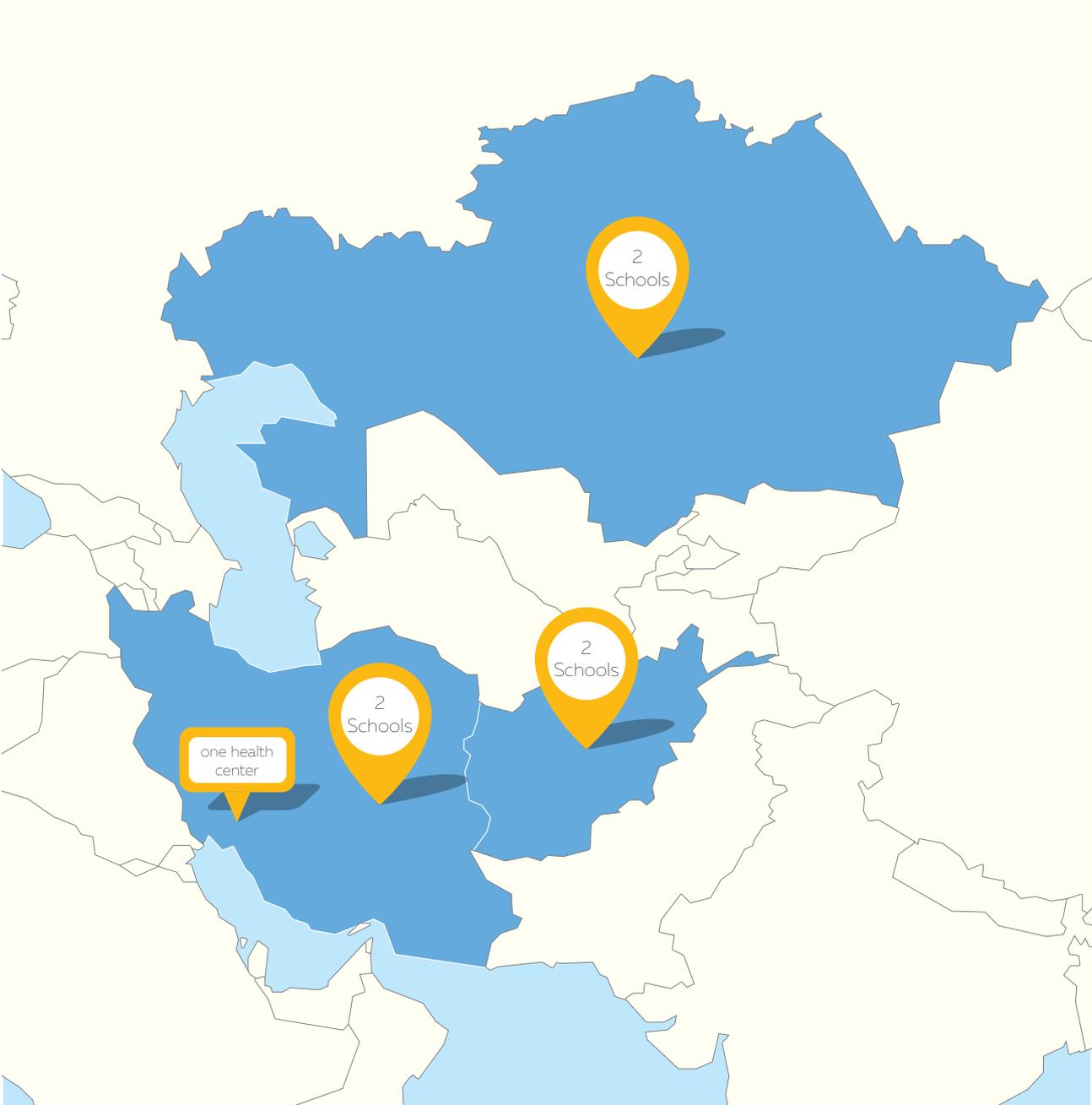
The Regional Programme works closely with the ROCA Programme and Country Programmes in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to support the piloting and roll out of evidence based prevention programmes. The goal of this work is to enable policy-makers and drug prevention professionals to strengthen prevention responses across the region. It has entailed significant engagement with both government officials and civil society organizations in each of the RP countries, and has included a series of training workshops/seminars in order to ensure the long-term viability of these efforts.

The flagship programmes of this outcome have been the “Families and Schools Together” programme (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.

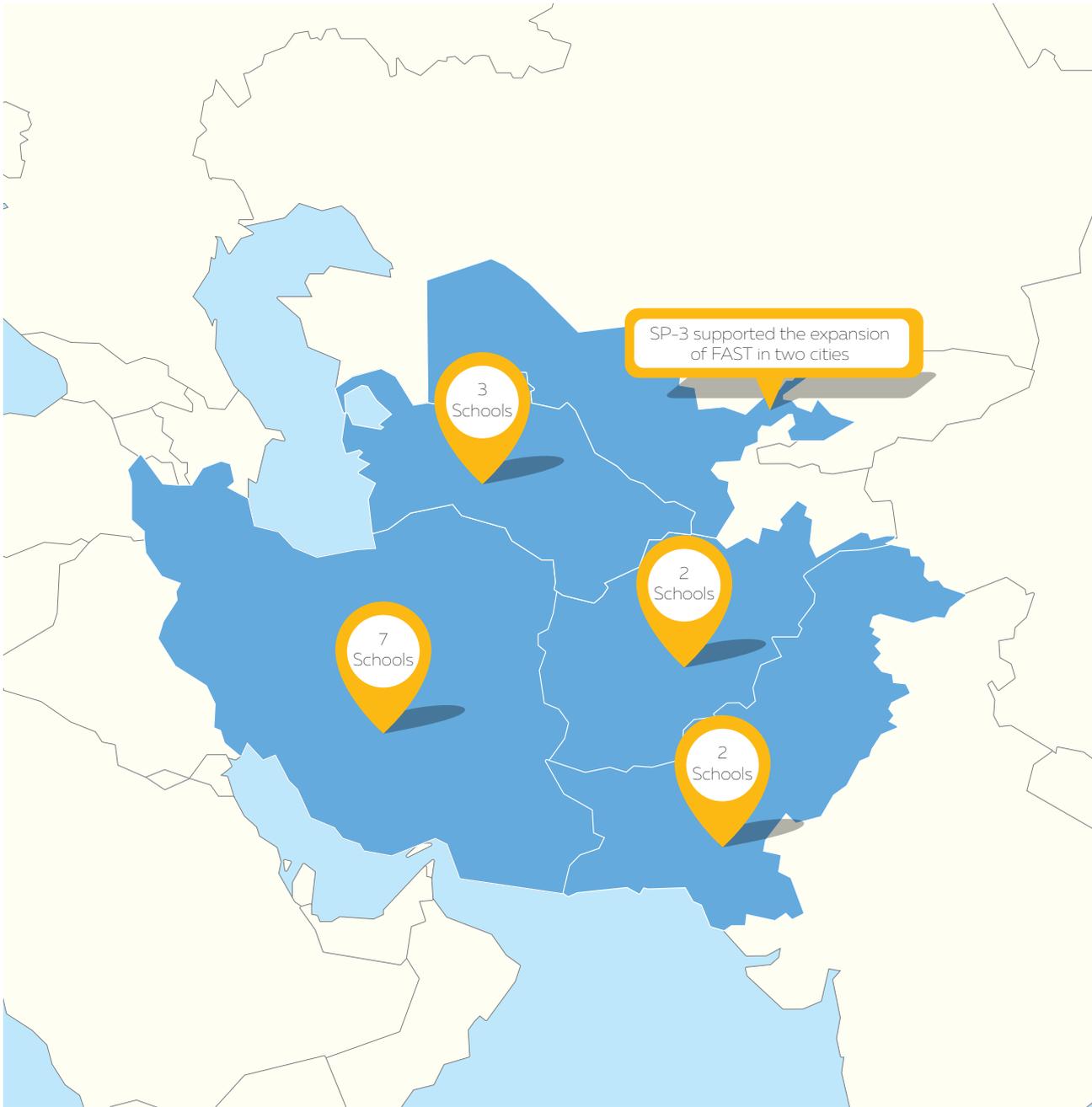
The FAST and SFP programmes were scaled up in many countries in the region in 2016.



SFP map



FAST map



DRUG DEPENDENCE TREATMENT AND CARE

The Regional Programme continued to work closely with Member States in 2016 to strengthen capacity and sharing of best practices in drug dependence treatment. Work has included encouraging the standardization of protocols, procedures and practices; supporting law enforcement agencies with guidelines and toolkits, exploring the issue of alternatives to incarceration for drug use; expanding the knowledge and skills of health managers and service providers, and lastly strengthening the infrastructure of drug treatment, social protection and auxiliary health services for vulnerable segments of the population.

During the year, there were also cross visits, including the visit of delegations from Afghanistan and Kazakhstan to the annual Addiction Science Conference in Tehran. Under a special RP/UNODC Country Office I.R. of Iran component, pilot programmes aimed at supporting women and children and also the use of sports in therapy were conducted in I.R. Iran.

2016 also witnessed considerable efforts to train local trainers on the best practices related to treatment and rehabilitation, with 75 drug treatment professionals receiving ToT training. Notably, a regional training of trainers (ToT) was organized for drug treatment professional on treatment of children with drug use problems and management of drug treatment services.



HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

The HIV/AIDS epidemic remains an acute challenge in many of the RP countries, and has had a particularly adverse impact upon vulnerable segments of the population, including people who inject drugs. As such, a considerable portion of this sub-programme is committed to equipping policy-makers and healthcare providers with the knowledge and tools necessary to combat the spread of HIV and provide necessary treatment to those who are living with the HIV/AIDS. With respect to the latter, a particular emphasis has been placed on including referrals for vulnerable groups (refugees and returnees, females, youth and prison populations).

Towards this goal, the RP supported a regional ToT course on the UNODC Toolkit for law enforcement officials in Islamabad, Pakistan. The training aimed to enhance the ability of the officers to communicate and engage with drug users and other marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population. A national ToT was held for instructors of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Internal Affairs in Almaty, with representatives from a local NGO, the Ministry of Interior's (MOI) training centres and law enforcement officers. A regional advocacy and capacity building workshop on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment in Prison Settings was also held, which was jointly organised by the RP, Drug Control Headquarters and Iranian State Prison Organisation.

The special component on provision of drug use prevention, treatment and HIV prevention assistance to vulnerable Afghan populations in the border regions continued in 2016 with hundreds of beneficiaries receiving information and support at several drop-in centres in Mashhad, I.R. Iran and centre staff receiving training.



The FAST programme

was implemented in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

A Regional Training Workshop

on Project Development for the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) from Central and West Asia was conducted.

SP3
FACTS AND
FIGURES

The Strengthening Families Programme (SFP)

was implemented in Afghanistan, Iran and Kazakhstan

Under the auspices of the Regional Network of the Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Coordination Centres, delegations of Kazakhstan and Afghanistan attended

the annual Addiction Science Congress held in Tehran, I.R. Iran

A regional advocacy and capacity building workshop

on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment in Prison Settings was jointly organized by the RP, the Drug Control Headquarters and the Iranian State Prison Organization

Health managers and service providers trained

through the training of trainers (ToT) on WHO training modules and UNODC Treat net Vol. A, B, C, D in RP countries

SUB-PROGRAMME 4: TRENDS AND IMPACTS

Accurate analysis of drug dynamics based on evidence-based data is essential for effective counter-narcotics interventions.

Sub-Programme 4 (SP 4) on Trends and Impacts of the RP addresses critical gaps in trends analysis and impact monitoring capacity at the regional level, while also supporting 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.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2016

STRENGTHENING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

SP4 is working in tandem with the Research, Trends and Analysis Branch (RTAB) at UNODC HQ in Vienna to support 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 under-

standing on youth drug use and understanding of drug risks among youth. Currently this work has been initiated in three countries: Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan with discussions ongoing with other RP states. The work is being conducted in partnership with UNICEF in Afghanistan, which has provided co-funding for the exercise.

The RP, in conjunction with AOTP, provided support to both Afghanistan and Tajikistan on drug reporting, specifically providing support to the Drug Control Agency (DCA) of Tajikistan to publish its National Annual Drug Report (March 2016). The provided support by SP 4 and AOTP enabled the continued enhancement of the DCA's research capacity to produce a robust report. Likewise, some technical support was provided to the Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan on its drug reporting system.

Furthermore, SP 4 supported research into opium smuggling in Afghanistan, which examined the dynamics of smuggling, including the cost of opium / heroin on the open market, the nature and extent of bribery, turnover / size of operations of small, medium and large smugglers as well as the payments to insurgent groups. The data gathered will support and reflected in future UNODC reports on opium production and trafficking.

HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCES

A high-level conference on “Identifying and Tackling Geo-Strategic Challenges to Promoting Development of the Licit Economy in Afghanistan in the Transformation Decade” was organized jointly with the UN Regional Centre for Preventative Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) and held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 21 - 22 September 2016. The conference built on an earlier event held in 2013. Discussions centred on areas including how best to promote regional cooperation on areas including security, economic integration, connectivity, drug control, tackling illicit financial flows and financing of terrorism and alternative development. The conference called for countries to support Afghanistan to meet its development and security challenges in a spirit of shared responsibility through continued engagement and cooperation.

A Ministerial level meeting of the Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative was held in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyz Republic to discuss issues related to cooperation in Counter Narcotics and Border Management in Drug Control. The countries agreed on a range of strategic and operational actions, reflected in a roadmap, to be undertaken through the course of 2016 and 2017.

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RAISING

SP 4 organised the second Regional Counter Narcotics Awareness Raising Seminar for Journalists in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in March. The Seminar was organized with the aim of building on networking and the promotion of greater, more holistic coverage of counter narcotics stories by the media of the region. It was attended by senior journalists from all eight RP countries. The key outcome of this Seminar was an agreement on core principles of the Media Toolkit for Journalists of the region on narcotics.

The Regional Programme now has its own website and detailed accounts of all work conducted in 2016 can be observed there (www.unodc.org/rpanc/).

In addition, under SP 2 for the RP, an event report initiative was started. At the end of every activity, an event report is produced and disseminated to the main donors and counterparts. The report contains the most relevant information about the conducted activity, outcomes and statistics in a reader friendly and graphical style. This new initiative, while increasing both UNODC and donors visibility, allows the RP to closely monitor how funds are spent, thus increasing accountability and transparency.

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries

Home About UNODC Quick Links Field Offices Site Map

Regional Programme

- Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation
- International/Regional Cooperation in Legal Matters
- Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence among Vulnerable Groups
- Trends and Impacts

Resources

- Upcoming Events
- Publications
- Newsletters
- Contact Us

The RP Team

RP Countries

Regional Representative

Stories from the Region

Inter-Regional Workshop on Understanding and Disrupting Illicit Financial Flows Associated with the Southern Route for Opiate Trafficking

Drug trafficking is a global business that generates huge profits. The illicit financial flows that sustain this business undermine the economies of the Member States, while also heightening the perceived and actual risks to direct foreign investment and the confidence of international development efforts. [\[Read More\]](#)

Regional workshop on "Promoting regional cooperation in Control Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams"

UNODC, under Sub-Programme 1 and 2 of its Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries, in cooperation with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (CARICC)... [\[Read More\]](#)

Press Releases

24/03/17 - UNODC Chief welcomes landmark resolution on protecting cultural heritage from terrorist groups, and during armed conflicts

17/03/17 - "Extraordinary" 60th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs closes with commitment to keep protecting people

17/03/17 - Remarks of UNODC Executive Director at the International Narcotics Control Board Side Event on "The need for proportionality: State responses to drug-related offences"

Executive Director

Vury Fedotov [\[More\]](#)

[Home](#) [Publications](#) [Walkbar](#)

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 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 (PPI) and also the Heart of Asia (Istanbul) Process. The PPI 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.

Finally, the RP is working with other UN agencies in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The sub-programmes contribute to SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, SDG17 on partnerships, SDG3 on Good Health and Well Being and SDG5 on gender equality. The RP has partnered directly with UNICEF and UNRCCA on some activities in 2016.

PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE

Phase II of the United Nation's Regional Programme (RP) for Afghanistan and Countries was launched at a Programme Steering Committee Meeting of Ministers / Heads of Drug Agencies of Member States and senior representatives from embassies of donor countries and was hosted by the Kyrgyz Republic at Issyk-Kul in May 2016. Phase II (which covers 2016 - 2019) builds on the successes on the first four years and will continue to promote regional cooperation in drug control in West and Central Asia and beyond across four thematic areas of law enforcement, international legal cooperation in criminal matters, prevention and treatment of drug dependence among vulnerable groups, and trends and impacts.



