

Regional Programme for Promoting Counter Narcotics Efforts in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries





REGIONAL PROGRAMME
for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries

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It would not have been possible for the Regional Programme to have implemented and delivered the outputs outlined in this report without the efforts and dedications of all the parties listed above. We look forward to your continued support and engagement to deliver additional successes in countering narcotics in the region and beyond.

Forward

Afghanistan remains the largest supplier of illicit opiates in the world. West and Central Asian countries continue to serve pivotal roles in countering the global drug and precursor trade. The destructive political, security, developmental and socio-economic impacts of this illicit trade are felt far beyond the borders of Afghanistan and the countries of the region.

As well as the need to better understand the illicit trade of Afghan opiates, developing, delivering and monitoring effective programmes to address the threat requires enhanced levels of regional and international cooperation.

The Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (Regional Programme) is a core part of UNODC's programme response in West and Central Asia. The Regional Programme complements ongoing assistance at country and global levels, adding a dedicated facility to support regional cooperation initiatives, with special significance given to confidence building measures and cooperation between Afghanistan and its West and Central Asian neighbours – namely Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The Regional Programme serves a key coordination function for UNODC assistance linking the work of the Country offices in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Central Asia, building linkages with neighbouring Regional Programmes through the Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach (IRDCA) and working with global projects such as the Global Programme on Money Laundering (GPML), the Afghan Opium Trade Project (AOTP) and the Container Control Programme (CCP). The Regional Programme is closely integrated with the Paris Pact Initiative (PPI) being the operational body supporting its work in the West and Central Asia region. The Regional Programme's approach to countering narcotics is addressed through four priority interventions: (i) Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation, (ii) Regional / International Cooperation in Criminal Matters, (iii) Prevention and Treatment of Addiction Among Vulnerable Groups, and (iv) Trends and Impacts Analysis to promote, support and enable evidence based policy making.

The Regional Programme's activities have not only improved technical capacity of the various counter narcotics bodies of Member States but have also enabled the forging of better working relationships between them that has, and continues to directly contribute to substantial drug seizures, arrests and prosecutions, improvements in treatment modalities and the greater understanding of the illicit trade and related illicit economy activities.

During 2014, the Regional Programme pushed forward with important initiatives including "CASH" and "AKT" which aim to strengthen responses to money laundering in the region and drug trafficking through the Northern Trafficking Route respectively. Furthermore, the Regional Anti-Money Laundering Group of Experts in West and Central Asia facilitated outcomes focused networking between relevant national counterparts in the region to better address illicit financial flows.

The Regional Programme also understands the importance of recognizing and publicizing the illicit harms related to drugs as well as the provision of services to dependent users. Its activities in the

areas of treatment and prevention, research, trends and analysis are helping Member States to better understand, tackle and treat drug use and addiction and other socio-economic harms. The promotion of advocacy by the media and better relations between border communities afflicted by cultivation and trafficking were key components of our programme of work during the year. In particular, in the area of prevention, with the support of the RP, Family and School Together (FAST) continued to thrive and be welcomed by the governments, building a solid ground for RP to achieve its set target for availability of a comprehensive science-based prevention programme supported by the national governments. Furthermore, addressing the Security Council statement on the need to enhance existing interregional and international cooperation and coordination mechanisms in order to develop an integrated, comprehensive and balanced response to the drug problem in Afghanistan, with the support of the RP, Asian Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) NGOs Association (ADNA) established in 2014 to link active DDR NGOs in Afghanistan to dynamic NGOs in neighboring countries for knowledge sharing and capacity building. In addition, the RP took primary steps for establishing the network of the DDR center of Excellence to boost research capacity and assist data collection at the regional level. Moreover in 2014, RP provided a window of opportunity by introducing international best practices in treatment through regional training to national expert which will lead to localization of the introduced standards in RP countries in 2015.

I am extremely pleased and proud that not only did the annual RP Steering Committee endorse the Programme's strategic priorities in 2014 but that the Independent Mid-Term Evaluation recognized and praised the importance, efficacy and added value of the Programme.

As we move into the Transformation Decade, the Regional Programme is even better placed to continue playing the critical interlocutor role in promoting regional cooperation and joint cooperation in countering illicit drugs and related harms in Afghanistan, West and Central Asia and beyond. It will continue to listen to the needs of Members States and wider international community and design effective interventions to counter the illicit trade in opiates stemming from Afghanistan.

We are extremely thankful to significant on-going support from Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, United States, European Union, Finland and Germany. This support enables the on-going impact and outcomes focused delivery of the Regional Programme and production of this Annual Report for 2014.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADNA	Asian Drug Demand Reduction NGOs Association
AKT	Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan (initiative)
AML	Anti-money laundering
AOTP	Afghan Opiate Trade Programme
CARICC	Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre
CTF	Counter Terrorism Funding
GLOR35	UNODC's Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime Against Terrorism
CASH	Criminal Assets Southern Hub
CND	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
DiC	Drop in Center
DLO	Drug Liaison Officer
EU	European Union
EUROPOL	European Police Office
FAST	Family and School Together
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
IRDCA	Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach
INTERPOL	International Police Organization
JPC	Joint Planning Cell
MaReS	Maritime Regional Security (initiative)
MLA	Mutual Legal Assistance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

PPI	Paris Pact Initiative
RIWGP	Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
SOM	Senior Officials Meeting
TI	Triangular Initiative
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA	United Nations Center for Preventative Diplomacy for Central Asia
WCO	World Customs Organization

1. Overview

1.1 Political Context

Afghanistan faced significant political and security changes in 2014. The gradual draw down of international forces saw Afghan counterparts taking command of security operations. This handover phase saw the end of President Karzai's years in office, the undertaking of Presidential elections, a disputed run-off, and protracted negotiations which ultimately resulted in the formation of a Government of Unity headed by President Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah as Chief Executive Officer. Although the process for election and inauguration of the new President and Government was severely delayed and often fraught, the first-ever peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan's recent history took place is a significant and positive development for the country. The National Unity Government's clear commitment to reform, tackling corruption, and sustainable economic growth has given rise to a sense of hope and expectation for a positive future. The new Government also recognizes the importance of strengthening relations with its neighbours.

However, insurgent activity increased during the year, with numerous, deadly attacks carried out. This insurgency continues to have the capability to injure and kill military personnel and civilians (both Afghan and international), posing significant security challenges to Afghan and residual international forces. UNAMA recorded more civilian deaths and injuries in 2014 than any other full years since its records began in 2008. This insecurity also negatively impacts political, economic and social development efforts and related counter narcotics programmes in the country.

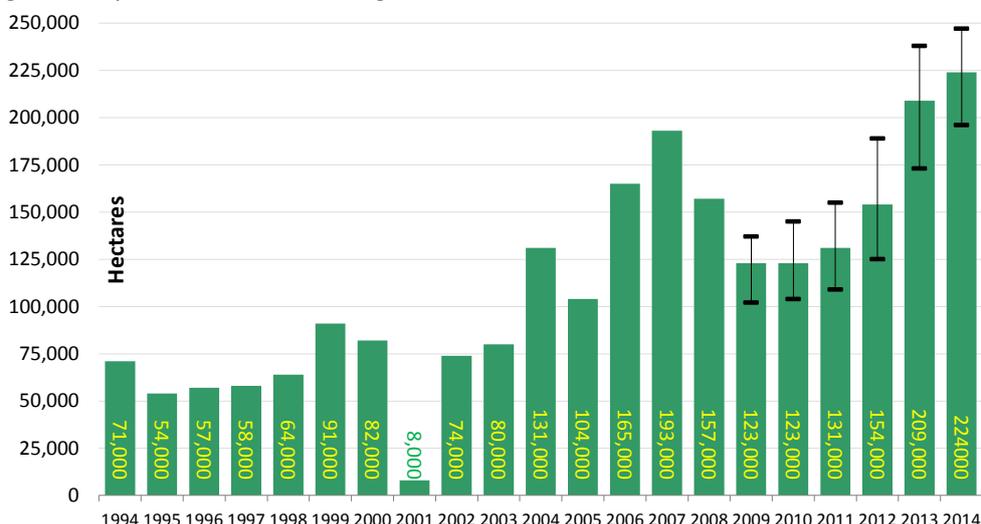
There have been a number of major international conferences on Afghanistan during 2014. The London Conference on Afghanistan provided a platform for the government of Afghanistan to set out its vision for reform (entitled "*Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to Reforms and Renewed Partnership*") and for the international community to demonstrate enduring solidarity and support for the country. It resulted in renewal of the commitment to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and consensus on refreshing it at the 2015 Senior Officials Meeting to support Afghanistan's social and economic development priorities. The London and Beijing Conferences, together with the earlier NATO Wales Summit solidified a strong foundation of military and development support to Afghanistan throughout the Transformation Decade.

The last 13 years have seen unprecedented military, financial and political support to Afghanistan from the international community, resulting in real, tangible development and security gains in the country. The country faces challenges with regards to building sustainable and inclusive growth, combating terrorism and strengthening good governance and the rule of law, tackling corruption, the illicit drug trade, promoting human rights and gender mainstreaming, and enhancing regional cooperation. It will require a holistic, broad based regional and international approach to tackle the illicit drug trade and illicit financial flows arising from the illicit economy, as well as providing the enabling environments for the licit economy to flourish.

1.2 Opium Cultivation in Afghanistan

Despite significant efforts to tackle opium cultivation in Afghanistan, it reached a new record of 224,000 hectares in 2014 – an increase of 7% from 2013

Figure 1: Opium Cultivation in Afghanistan 1994 – 2014, (Hectares)



Source: Afghanistan Opium Survey 2014

The vast majority (89%) of opium cultivation took place in nine provinces in Afghanistan's Southern and Western regions, which include the country's most insecure provinces. In addition, there were increases in the opium yield and production:

- Average opium yield amounted to 28.7 kilograms per hectare – an increase of 7% from 26.3 in 2013.
- Potential opium production was estimated 6,400 tons – an increase of 17% from 5,500 tons in 2013.

In contrast, total eradication of opium poppies decreased by 63% to 2,292 hectares in 2014.

The farm-gate value of opium production decreased by 13% to \$0.85 billion (which is equivalent to 4% of the country's estimated GDP). One reason for this decrease is the increased supply due to an increase in production.

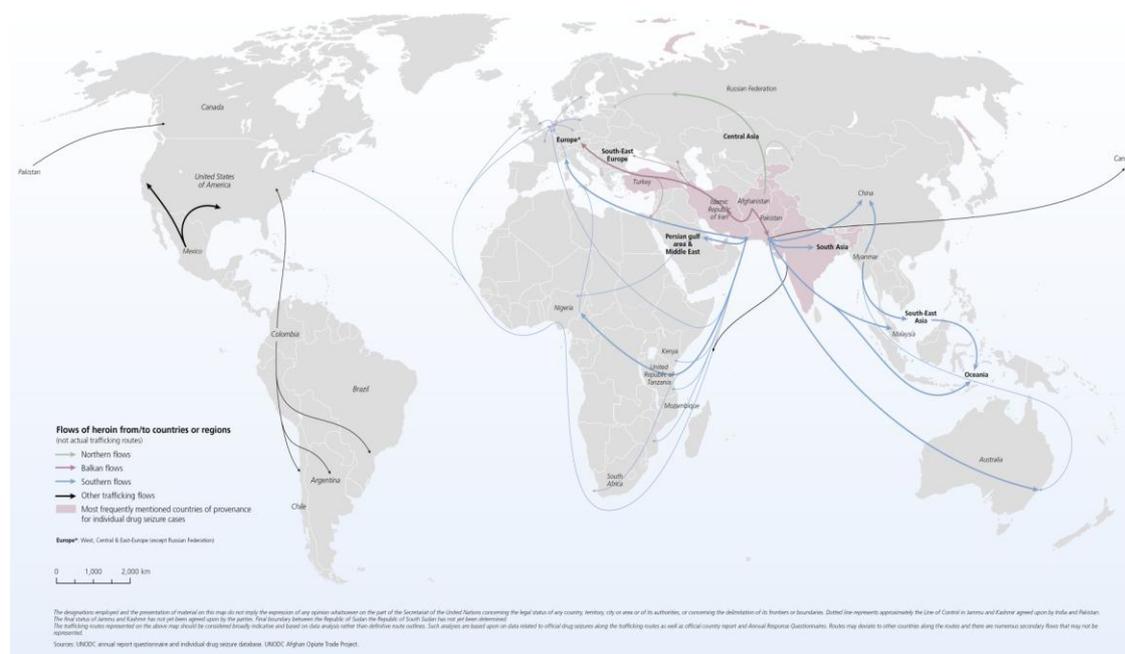
Seizures in Central Asia (2009 – 2014)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Heroin	3,379.9	2,602.9	1,810.2	1,340.3	1,619.0	1,293.7
Opium	3,473.5	2,298.2	2,309.3	2,259.0	2,154.2	2,260.0
Morphine	1	0	7.6	3.9	0	0

Source: UNODC Drug Monitoring Platform, 2014

Whilst cultivation has increased, there has been a continuing pattern of reductions in seizures in the region over the last five years with a 75% decrease in seizures of heroin from 3,379.9 kgs seized in 2009 to 1,293.7 in 2014. Seizures of opium also declined by over 40% over the same time period.

Primary trajectories of Afghan opiates



Source: UNODC, 2014

Although Afghan opiates are primarily trafficked through the Northern (through Central Asia to the Russian Federation), Balkan (through Iran the Balkans to Western and Central Europe) and Southern routes, Pakistan and Iran remain the primary routes accounting for 40 and 35 per cent respectively.¹ In addition, trafficking routes from Afghanistan to less well established destinations in Africa and the Pacific through the Southern route continues to become more prominent.

1.3 Continued relevance of the Regional Programme

In its third year, the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring continued to build momentum and implemented a range of activities based on the strategic priorities endorsed at the 2014 Programme Steering Committee. These activities were part of a larger strategic framework coordinated by the Regional Programme that integrates the work of country, regional and global efforts of UNODC in a single, unified response.

Through its four Sub-Programmes (Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation - SP1 / International-Regional Cooperation in Criminal Matters - SP2 / Prevention and Treatment of Addiction Among Vulnerable Groups - SP3 / Trends and Analysis - SP4), the Regional Programme is the platform for coordination and facilitation of counter narcotics efforts across the region by UNODC, the eight Member States and international partners.

¹ UNODC, World Drug Report 2013

With regards to countering narcotics and drug demand reduction at the national, regional and international level, the Regional Programme:

- Successfully scaled up efforts to help regional and national counterparts to apply international legal obligations, standards and norms;
- Promoted the rule of law through support for key initiatives that enhanced regional cooperation on transnational drug precursor investigations and prosecutions;
- Enabled UNODC engagement in policy dialogue in the region to act as an interlocutor for regional entities, partner countries and civil society organisations;
- Introduced and scaled up support to implementation of the evidence-based prevention programmes at the regional level – the Family and School Together (FAST) programme was scaled up at country level in Iran, moved to Phase III in Uzbekistan, introduced in Afghanistan and Pakistan and planned to be expanded in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan;
- Utilized key policy guidance / tools / manuals based on international best practice to inform capacity building at the national level; and
- Promoted the advancement and protection of Human Rights and Gender Mainstreaming through implementation of various conventions, legal instruments, international standards and best practices.

These have directly resulted in:

Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation

- Seizures of 655kgs of opium, 1060 kgs of hashis, 6500 of acetic anhydride, 4500 liters of ammonia and 167 tonnes of precursor chemicals as a result of regional cooperation and information sharing between DLOs;
- Agreement on an AKT road map of action to improve planning and operations; and
- Launching of "Operation Substitute" to replace "Operation TARCET" to improve regional operational response to trafficking through enhanced interagency collaboration.

International / Regional Cooperation in Criminal Matters

- The signing of bilateral MoUs on AML / CFT between FIUs of several RP member states including a general counter narcotics cooperation agreement (with an emphasis on AML) between Iran and Pakistan and an MoU on AML between Iran and Tajikistan.

Prevention and Treatment of Addiction Among Vulnerable Groups

- Scaling up and expansion of the FAST Programme across RP member states; and

- Funding to Drop-in-Centers to provide sustained services to drug using Afghan Refugees in border cities / areas in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Trends and Analysis

- Training on and procurement of sophisticated software for law enforcement professionals from RP member states to enable better collection and analysis of data to tackle trafficking of illicit narcotics and related criminal activity;
- Commencement of technical studies on Illicit Financial Flows along the Balkan Route and Smalls Arms Trafficking between Afghanistan and Pakistan;
- Preparatory work to inform the development and roll-out of a survey protocol to measure drug use among the youth; and
- Advocacy and awareness raising events to enable greater understanding of the health and social harms of the illicit drug trade.

1.4 Political Direction

The RP Steering Committee (the premier governance body of the Programme) met in the margins of the CND in Vienna in March 2014 and endorsed the strategic vision and plan of future activities.

The Regional Programme also underwent an in-depth, mid-term evaluation by the Independent Evaluation Unit of the United Nations. The Evaluation outlined the Regional Programme's relevance (internationally and regionally) with regards to generating regional dialogue and promoting an integrated programming approach. Whilst recognizing the sometimes challenging political environment in which the Regional Programme operates, it further stated that the Regional Programme was well designed and flexible in response to Member States' needs. The Independent Evaluation also outlined areas which could be improved including improved staffing levels, the need for longer term guidance on possible future achievements and equity of support to all aspects of the Programme.

This Independent Evaluation was informed by the Regional Programme's annual retreat that took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in June and will be published in early 2015.

Going forward, major governance actions for the Regional Programme for 2015 include:

- Developing Phase II (2016 – 2019) of the Regional Programm, which will be informed by stakeholder consultations, endorsed strategic priorities, and the mid-term evaluation; and
- Holding of the Programme Steering Committee in Ashgabat in May to seek endorsement of Phase II.

The Regional Programme stands ready to assist the new Government of Afghanistan and its neighbours to counter the harmful political, security, social and development effects of illicit narcotics as the country enters prepares for the “Transformation Decade” (2015 – 2024). The Transformation Decade offers Afghanistan, the region and wider international community the opportunity to design and deliver holistic programmes and policies that will counter narcotics, meet security challenges, tackle corruption, and build an enabling environment to promote investment and alternative development to meet the economic, social and political aspirations of the people of Afghanistan and region.

2. Sub-Programme 1: Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation

In 2014, the Regional Programme continued developing 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 Regional Programme is one of the major implementing vehicles.

2.1 Outcome 1: Enhanced regional cooperation and coordination to address transnational drug-related crimes

Throughout the year, the Regional Programme supported bilateral and multilateral coordination working meetings of the **Triangular Initiative (TI)**, the **Maritime Regional Security Initiative (MaReS)**, the **Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative**, the **Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors (RIWGP)**, High level ministerial forums, and Networking the Networks with participation of CARICC, JPC, GCCI, SELEC as well as INTERPOL, EUROPOL, OSCE, EU Heroin II Project and WCO. Box 1 below outlines the operational successes that this support has delivered.



Third AKT Ministerial Meeting - Dushanbe, 30 May 2014

TI member countries conducted successful operations based on intelligence information sharing through the JPC Liaison Officers² and the application of special investigative measures.

² The Regional Programme is supporting the stationing of Afghan and Pakistani Permanent Liaison Officers to the JPC in Tehran and the secondment of three Afghan DLOs and Kyrgyz DLO to Tajikistan.

AKT gained great momentum in 2014 with two high-level meetings taking place in the early part of the year:

- The Fourth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) took place in May in Dushanbe and was the first to be attended by General Prosecutors' Office and Financial Intelligence Unit representatives of RP Member States. At this meeting, significant results in counter-narcotics operations and legal cooperation between the countries to address drug related crimes were reviewed as well as the drafting of an AKT road map of action to improve planning and operations under the initiative.
- The Third Tripartite AKT Ministerial Meeting followed the SOM. It reiterated ongoing Ministerial support for the Initiative and its raison d'être of strengthening cooperation between Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, building institutional capacity and timely sharing of drug information and intelligence. Ministers also agreed on the need to further implement Asset Forfeiture Legislation in AKT countries as well as endorsing the AKT Road Map / Plan of Action for 2014-2015.

The Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors continued to bring together law enforcement authorities of the eight RP Member States to review recent precursor trafficking trends in the region, and, where required, identify remedial actions.

The Fifth and Sixth meetings of the RIWGP took place in the first half of the year. At the Fifth meeting of the RIGWP in January 2014, in addition to sharing of information on recent precursor seizures and new methods in trafficking, participants drafted a plan for "Operation Substitute". The Sixth meeting of RIWGP took place in April at which the working group continued to build on regional cooperation on precursor cases as well as finalizing the plan for "Operation Substitute" by the participating countries.

"Operation Substitute" was launched under the RIGWP in June 2014 with the aim of improving regional operational response through enhanced interagency collaboration on precursors. It replaced "Operation TARCET" which took place between 2008 and 2011 and focused on identification and interception of smuggled consignments of acetic anhydride. Building on the experience gained through Operation TARCET, Operation Substitute targeted not only acetic anhydride but also sought to identify shipments of non-controlled chemicals that are either directly used in the illicit manufacture of heroin or which may also serve as a cover for smuggled consignments of acetic anhydride.

During Operation Substitute, more than 150 checkpoints in the seven participating countries were assigned to be on high alert during the operation resulting in almost 2000 consignments being stopped at these checkpoints. In Central Asian countries, 12 official shipments of chemicals weighing a total of 215 metric tons were placed under surveillance by law enforcement agencies. Although the operation did not result in seizures of illicit consignments, significant enforcement resources were set aside to ensure a successful operation. The operation also served as a good tool to identify gaps and shortcomings including real time exchange of intelligence, lack of cross-border and joint operations, lack of specialized equipment in the checkpoints and limited communication between the

national focal points. During the operation de-brief which took place on 12 November in Pakistan, participating countries acknowledged lessons learned during the operation and requested to conduct the second phase of Operation Substitute in 2015.

In partnership with the OSCE and support from the EU's Heroin II Project, a regional workshop on "Control delivery and joint investigative teams" was conducted in August 2014 in Dushanbe. These workshops were jointly organised by SP1 and SP2 in order to strengthen collaboration between law enforcement and judicial authorities on counter narcotics operations.

Looking Forward

- Afghanistan – Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan Initiative (AKT) Ministerial meeting to develop and promote counter-narcotics efforts and cooperation in the region – Q2 / Q3 2015.
- Second Regional Workshop on "Promoting regional cooperation in Control Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams" to provide training on controlled delivery and promote regional cooperation against illicit trafficking of any sort – Q2 2015.
- Operational Case Meeting on Opiate Seizures to gather law enforcement officers to review recent major opiate seizures and how to develop investigations as well as use of forensic information at regional level – Q2 / Q3 2015.
- Phase II of Operation Substitute – Q2 / Q3 2015.

The various coordination initiatives, training courses and support for the exchange of intelligence and personnel promoted by the Regional Programme have delivered concrete results.

Box 1: Outcomes of Joint Operations

The efforts to promote regional cooperation and subsequent information sharing between DLOs and application of advanced investigation measures in the region culminated in seizures of:

- ♦ 655 kgs of opium;
- ♦ 1,060 kgs of hashish;
- ♦ 6,500 liters of acetic anhydride;
- ♦ 4,500 liters of ammonia; and
- ♦ 167 tons of precursor chemicals.

Further to these seizures, through the RIWGP and operational case meetings, the countries joined in back tracking investigations on 10 major precursor investigation cases.

Note: Investigations and seizures took place over 2013 – 2014

2.2 Outcome 2: Enhanced counter-narcotics enforcement activity through delivery of better coordinated training programmes across the region

This year saw further consolidation of the Regional Programme's initiative to enhance the quality of narcotics training programmes across the region. This was undertaken by linking existing databases and tracking courses, materials and recipients, including training databases developed by the Coordination and Analysis Unit (CAU) of UNODC's Regional Office for Office for Central Asia and those currently used by UNODC's Country Office for Pakistan. The aim of this work is to have a centralized repository of data that would allow the monitoring of training conducted and results achieved as well as providing more detailed information about training courses organized by UNODC in the region. Currently, only training courses organized by CAU itself are available on the <http://drugsmonitoring.unodc.org> site where access is provided after registration. The main users of the database are law enforcement agencies. However, information on the site can be used by donors for assessment and by law enforcement agencies for familiarization with UNODC's training courses / activities.

With regards to training of law enforcement bodies, two sessions were conducted in 2014. One of these was on CENNCOM2 for participants of Operations Substitute with the other for Afghan Law Enforcement Officers at Domodedovo in Russia, with additional participation of Japanese experts.

Looking Forward

- Meeting on Operational Agreement between CARICC and JPC to support and link the existing sub-regional operational mechanisms and develop regional law enforcement coordination mechanisms and promote cooperation in the region – Q2 2015.

2.3 Outcome 3: Increased use of forensic evidence in investigating and prosecuting transnational crimes

Progress in forensics was limited in 2014 due to the late arrival of funds for this part of the programme and the protracted process to recruit a Sub-Programme Coordinator. These issues were resolved towards the end of the year and planning is underway for work on this part of the programme in 2015.

However, the Regional Programme was able to continue supporting the participation of Member States in the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section International Collaborative Exercise (ICE) to enable on-going networking, exchange of ideas and building of partnerships.

Looking Forward

- On-going planning discussions with ECO, DOCCU and the EU Heroin II Project on future collaboration on forensics – Q1 / Q2 / Q3 / Q4 – 2015.
- Establishment of Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Drugs – Q2 2015.

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

Criminal justice co-operation is crucial for the development and implementation of robust counter narcotics policies in the region. However, this is hindered by different legal systems and a lack of appropriate national legal provisions in some countries across West and Central Asia.

To this end, the Regional Programme seeks to advance regional cooperation in “legal matters” to better address narcotics-related criminal cases. The Regional Programme addresses this by building the capacity of RP countries in the various technical areas related to such cases as well as supporting the harmonization of their legislative frameworks in closer compliance with the UN Standards and Norms and the building of networks among judicial institutions. It also facilitates regional agreements and technical workshops to exchange information / best practices among the RP countries to better address narcotics-related criminal cases.

Interventions include promoting the use of UN standard manuals and guidelines, provision of training on judicial cooperation, support to enhance cooperation on Mutual Legal Assistance extradition and Anti-Money Laundering related matters, and support to the establishment / functioning of Central Authorities.

To build technical capacity, the Regional Programme has supported a range of training workshops and meetings in order to increase cooperation and trust between the countries of the region to work together in these areas and build knowledge and capacity of current systems and their compliance with UN Drugs and Crime Conventions.

During 2014, more than 100 national officials / senior experts from RP Member States participated in different SP-2 regional training sessions which were organized, amongst others, to facilitate the establishment of a network of contacts among judicial institutions of the countries in the region.

3.1 Outcome 4: Increased regional cooperation in narcotics-related criminal cases

In 2014, the Regional Programme continued to support the fostering of stronger linkages and networks among Financial Intelligence Units, judiciary, relevant law enforcement agencies and other competent authorities of Member States. It assisted with capacity building and institutional development, promoted confidence building as well as better inter-agency cooperation amongst 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.

As previously outlined in this report, SP1 and SP2 jointly supported the convening of the 3rd AKT Ministerial meetings in close collaboration with the Tajik Drug Control Agency (DCA). This was the first time that General Prosecutors’ Offices (GPOs) and FIU officials attended the AKT Ministerial meeting where the parties agreed, amongst others, to promote cooperation

in legal matters. Outcomes from this meeting included establishment of an Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Unit within the Tajik Drug Control Agency. The Regional Programme helped establish and train the personnel of this new unit. AML software and computers were provided to the Tajik and Kyrgyz FIUs.

In addition to the above, the Regional Programme, in order to enhance the capacities of Member States to better address the narcotics-related criminal cases, organized several other regional meetings / training workshops in 2014 including:

- The First Regional Workshop on “Promoting Regional Cooperation in Control Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams” (Dushanbe, August 2014);
- The First meeting among the senior officials of the GPOs of the AKT countries (Bishkek, September 2014) which was organized to better address drug related crimes at the sub-regional level (with a focus on the “Northern Trafficking Route”); and



Meeting of Senior Officials of GPOs of AKT countries

- The Second Regional Workshop on "International and Regional Cooperation to Combat Cybercrime" (Tehran, September 2014).

The above mentioned regional workshops were significant in that they brought both “law enforcement” and “legal” experts together to review processes from operations through to prosecutions.

In 2014, the Regional Programme also supported the Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat (transnational) Organised Crime and Serious Crimes (GLOT32) to hold the first inter-regional workshop on “Establishing / Reinforcing the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from source, transit and destination countries located along the Northern Afghan drug trafficking routes”. This workshop brought together heads / deputies of Mutual Legal Assistance Central Authorities

and prosecutorial departments with the mandate to investigate or supervise investigations of transnational organized drug trafficking from Central Asian (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and Southern Caucasus countries (including Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia) as well as Afghanistan, Iran, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Kingdom and United States of America to (i) improve knowledge of legislation, methods of working, challenges, and sharing of best practice by participating countries, (ii) establish working relationships with a view to facilitating MLA requests, and (iii) enhance cooperation among prosecutors to enable information exchange on investigation methodologies to conduct joint transnational investigations of organized drug crime.

In addition, the Regional Programme developed and shared two Model Agreements on “Extradition” and “Mutual Legal Assistance” with Member Countries to facilitate regional cooperation to better address transnational organized crime / cases.

Looking Forward

- Regional Workshop on “*Investigation of Transnational Corruption Offences*” to further develop RP countries’ capacity to conduct investigation of corruption offences, particularly, in the international context, as well as to share lessons learned on UNCAC’s implementation process and practical country experiences – Q1 2015.
- Second Regional Workshop on “Promoting regional cooperation in Control Delivery and Joint Investigative Teams” – Q2 2015.
- Regional Workshop on “Supporting successful prosecutions and other disruptions by building, enhancing and networking financial investigation capacity in national Law Enforcement Agencies” - Q2 2015.
- Fourth Afghanistan – Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan (AKT) Ministerial meeting (a joint SP1-SP2 activity) – Q2 2015.
- Regional Workshop on “Harmonization of legislative frameworks to enable international/regional cooperation in Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) and extradition” – Q3 2015.
- Second Regional Meeting among the General Prosecutors/Attorney Generals of the Countries in West and Central Asia – Q3 2015.
- The third Regional Workshop on "International and regional cooperation to combat Cybercrime" – Q4 2015.

3.2 Outcome 5: Enhanced regional cooperation on illicit money flows related to narcotics cases

UNODC under the Regional Programme works to enhance regional cooperation on “Cross-Border Illicit Money Flows” as well as to facilitate exchange of experiences and best practices to better address Money Laundering related issues in West and Central Asia. In this regard, the Regional Programme launched the “CASH Initiative (Central Asia and Southern Hub) in 2012 order to strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms for countering illicit financial flows, facilitate information sharing on Suspicious Financial Transactions, exchange of best practices as well as harmonization of legislative frameworks to enable regional / international cooperation to better address Money Laundering related issues and cases. Under the CASH Initiative in 2014, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have exchanged requests and information on Suspicious Financial Transactions (SFTs) to better address illicit financial flows in the region.

In addition to the above, the Regional Programme, in order to enhance the capacities of Member States to better address “Cross-Border Illicit Money Flows”, organized several regional meetings/trainings in 2014. These included:

- The Regional workshop on “*Illicit use of Money or Value Transfer Services (MVTs): Enhancing legislative, regulatory and investigative frameworks*”, which was held in March 2015 in Tehran with the support of UNODC’s Global Programme against Money-Laundering (GPML). 52 officials and senior experts from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan as well as the Russian Federation and Norway (as observers) attended the workshop. It was targeted at senior policy makers in legislative, regulatory and investigative departments from West and Central Asian countries and was successful in highlighting different approaches to money and value transfer services as well as enabling the identification of areas for development which will enhance each country’s ability to mitigate current and / or future threats from illicit use of money and value transfer services. The workshop concluded with the adoption of a set of recommendations for promoting regional and international cooperation to better address money laundering in the region.



Regional workshop on “Illicit use of Money or Value Transfer Services (MVTs): Enhancing legislative, regulatory and investigative frameworks”

- Following the above mentioned workshop, the Regional Programme organized the Second MVTs Regional Workshop in Bishkek in June in order to provide a clear and useable framework for developing intelligence collection and disruption of criminal networks / threats (where finance is a key element of the criminal business). This Regional Workshop was attended by 40 senior experts from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan as well as the Russian Federation, the European Union and United States of America (as observers).
- The Ninth Regional “FIU to FIU” meeting among the RP countries took place in Tehran, in March under the CASH Initiative to enhance harmonization of national legislative frameworks in AML related matters, facilitate the exchange of information on Suspicious Financial Transactions (SFT), and support the review and signing of an RP model MOU on AML/CFT. Sub-regional “FIU to FIU” meetings such as the Triangular FIU meeting among Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan and the AKT FIU meeting among Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan were also organized to discuss issues including those related to improving operational capacity, intelligence exchange and strengthening the network for effective operations as well as agreeing on tangible next steps.
- The Tenth Regional “FIU to FIU” meeting which took place in the margins of the second Regional workshop on “*Illicit use of Money or Value Transfer Services (MVTs): Enhancing Inter-Agency working and Financial Intelligence*” in Bishkek, in July 2014. The main objectives of this meeting were to discuss, amongst others, issues related to the Model bilateral MoU on Anti-Money Laundering / Countering Financing of Terrorism, support the work of the Regional AML Group of Experts in West and Central Asia and facilitate better exchange of information and best practices among the FIUs of the countries in the region. Sub-regional FIU to FIU meetings between TI and AKT countries were also

organized by the Regional Programme to allow for discussions of specific sub-regional issues.

- With a view to better addressing all aspects of the illicit economy, the Regional Programme, OSCE, INL and WCO organized a joint Regional workshop on “Countering the Illicit Trade of Consumer Goods” to enhance understanding of linkages with the broader illicit economy including from drug trafficking and cross-border money flows (Astana, September 2014).
- To further strengthen the capacities of and coordination between Regional Programme countries in the areas of AML / CFT, two meetings of the Regional Anti-Money Laundering Group of Experts in West and Central Asia³ were organized during the course of the year. The first such meeting took place in March 2014 in Tehran and the second meeting in Bishkek in July 2014 (in the margin of the MVTS Regional workshops). During both meetings, experts discussed key priorities and challenges with regard to illicit financial flows as well as possible mechanisms for information sharing on AML / CFT. Both meetings also contributed to an increased level of information-sharing and networking among the RP countries.

In addition to the above, the Regional Programme also continued to assist countries in West and Central Asia to better address money laundering and illicit financial flows at the national level. Some of the assistance provided in this regard included:

- Supporting the establishment of an AML Unit within the Tajik Drug Control Agency in October 2014. This is the first AML Unit established in a Drug Control Agency in the region and can be used as a model for other RP countries. A national workshop / training on “Supporting successful prosecutions and other disruptions by building, enhancing and networking financial investigation capacity in national Law Enforcement Agencies” was also organized (with the support provided by GPML) in order to train personnel of the newly established AML Unit at the Tajik Drug Control Agency in October 2014 (with the support of the GPML’s senior expert). Relevant equipment (computers and software) was also provided to the above AML Unit in December 2014.
- Supporting the installation of AML Software at the Tajik and Kyrgyz FIUs as well as provision of computers and relevant training to enhance their functions / activities in future.
- Recruitment of an international AML Mentor for West and Central Asia to better assist the RP countries in addressing money laundering and financing of terrorism at the national and regional level.

³ The Regional Anti-Money Laundering Group of Experts in West and Central Asia was formally established in 2014 and it includes representatives of relevant national agencies of the RP countries including FIUs, drug control agencies, MFAs, General Prosecutors’ Offices and customs services.

In addition to the bilateral model MoUs on AML / CFT that were signed between FIUs of several RP Member States in the past three years (since the launch of the Regional Programme), the Regional Programme has also supported the signing of two additional bilateral agreements / MoUs. The first of which was a general counter narcotics cooperation agreement (with an emphasis on AML) signed between Iran and Pakistan and the second, an MoU focused on AML between Iran and Tajikistan.

Looking Forward

- The Third and Fourth Meetings of the “Regional AML Group of Experts in West and Central Asia” with the aim to facilitate international/regional cooperation in addressing money laundering related matters – Q2/Q3 2015.
- The 11th and 12th Regional FIU to FIU Meeting (under the CASH Initiative) – Q2/Q3 2015.
- The Inter-Regional Workshop on “Enhancing the effectiveness of AML framework to support counter narcotics investigations”– Q3 2015.
- Two separate training workshops on “Cash Couriers” for the TI and AKT countries with a focus on profiling and the identification of cash smugglers and better understanding of the procedures used in the declaration / disclosure of cash and BNIs – Q3 / Q4 2015.

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

The Regional Programme focuses attention on countering the overwhelmingly negative effects of illicit drug use on individuals, families and society in general.

Sub-programme 3 of the Regional Programme seeks to facilitate regional cooperation and action on the prevention and treatment of addiction and to reduce the spread of HIV among high risk populations by building the capacities of countries to address these issues through providing training in international standards and providing countries the opportunity to share experiences and best practices. Evidence-based methods (such as FAST training) are then rolled out in the Member States if requested. The Regional Programme also supports regional networking to strengthen drug and related HIV prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.

Throughout the year, implementation of activities was challenging due to divergent levels of capacity with regards to understanding and implementing of international best practices in RP member countries. Networking of NGOs and research organizations helps to bridge this gap. The other challenge is drug use and treatment outcome data collection and sharing. Because of national policies and plans, some RP Member States are cautious in involving international organizations and bodies in drug use assessment and surveys. The RP provided a platform to share drug use data and enhance capacities of Member States to undertake focused assessments, studies and surveys.

4.1 Outcome 6: Increased capacities to implement comprehensive scientific evidence-based drug prevention programmes

The Regional Programme has continued to support the scaling up and expansion of Family and Schools Together (FAST) training across the region that was piloted by GLOK01 - UNODC's Global Programme devoted to promoting evidence-based programme, particularly family-skills training. A third phase of the programme (involving sixty families and two schools) was completed and evaluated in Uzbekistan. The evaluation demonstrated significant positive changes among children and their families. The next stage will involve further scale up and establishment of a FAST resource center in order to institutionalize and sustain the programme. In addition, meetings were held in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan for scaling up and the possible development of resource centers in these countries. Furthermore, a five-day training of trainers course on FAST was conducted in Iran to scale up the previously piloted programme, at country level. UNODC staff from Afghanistan and Pakistan also joined the training course in Iran with a view to initiating FAST in their respective countries in 2015.



FAST - Iran

An online questionnaire was used to follow-up on the regional workshop on International Standards of Drug Use Prevention conducted in 2013. The questionnaire allowed for assessment of how the training from the original workshop had been applied with a view to developing monitoring and evaluation tools

Looking Forward

- Enhanced capacity of the policy makers on evaluation of the effectiveness of drug use prevention programmes - Q2 2015.
- Support of the implementation of Family skills training (FAST programme) in Afghanistan, Pakistan and expansion in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Iran for sustainable continuance at national level in future - Q1 / Q2 / Q3 / Q4 2015.
- Enhanced capacity of service providers on an evidence-based prevention programme and piloting in selected schools among RP countries - Q3 2015.

4.2 Outcome 7: Increased capacity to deliver scientific evidence-based drug dependence treatment and care services

In cooperation with the Rebirth Society and the Iran Drug Control Headquarters, the Regional Programme held the second regional consultative meeting on Networking of Drug Demand and Harm Reduction NGOs. The consultative meeting served to promote and provide technical support to networking drug demand and harm NGOs in the region, share knowledge in the field of Drug Demand Reduction and Harm Reduction, and highlight the need for raising regional cooperation. This meeting resulted in endorsement of the

constitution of the Regional Network of Drug Demand and Harm Reduction NGOs, selection of the Executive Committee Members and establishment of the Asian Drug Demand Reduction NGOs Association (ADNA) Network. At the same time, a one-day consultative meeting was also held on networking of Drug Demand Reduction Resource Centers. It is expected that this network will support national drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation as well as related-HIV services and promote exchange of information, expertise and best practices on drug prevention and treatment among the regional countries.



Meeting of Asian Drug Demand Reduction NGOs Association (ADNA network)

The Regional Programme carried out a rapid assessment of drug treatment services in Member States. This assessment provided an in-depth analysis of the drug use problems in each country, services available for drug treatment and rehabilitation, and outlined practical recommendations for future planning. A regional assessment on alternatives to incarceration is also underway. National consultants from each of the RP Member States were trained on data gathering and research on alternatives to imprisonment for drug related offences at a special course in Almaty in November. The purpose of the study is to review the spectrum of crimes committed by drug users, the nature of punishments, existing alternatives to incarceration and their actual / practical application in all countries covered by the RP, and the development of recommendations for improving the existing system and or devising of alternatives to incarceration.

The Regional Programme provided inputs on drug dependence treatment to the 8th International Congress on Addiction that was held in Tehran in September and initiated the updating of undergraduate medical teaching curricula in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

With regards to law enforcement and drug demand reduction, the Regional Programme supported the development of a toolkit for law enforcement officials to enhance

communications and engagement with drug users and other marginalized, and diverse populations. The toolkit was subsequently translated into Russian, Farsi and Urdu and disseminated following a regional training workshop for senior law enforcement officials from Member States on its use.

In November, a regional training workshop was organized for drug treatment, health managers and policy makers in areas including principles of drug treatment, strategic frameworks for drug treatment programmes, assessment of drug treatment services, outcome and cost evaluation of drug treatment, and management of overdose and of amphetamine type stimulant among others.

Looking forward

- Support standardization of the drug dependence treatment systems / services in the region in accordance with WHO and UNODC guidelines through In-country trainings - Q1 / Q2 2014.
- Promotion of the use of good policing principles and expansion of the use of alternatives to incarceration as it related to the drug use via development and implementation of the respective guidelines and toolkits for criminal justice systems - Q1 /Q2 / Q3 2015.
- Capacity building and strengthening the newly established Asian Drug Demand Reduction NGOs Association (ADNA network) and the network of coordination centers of drug treatment and rehabilitation - Q1 / Q2 / Q3 / Q4 2015.
- Introducing improvements to teaching curricula and training modules on drug dependence treatment at schools of medicine in select RP countries - Q3 / Q4, 2015.
- Enhance understanding of drug dependence treatment and auxiliary health and social protection services for most vulnerable populations (returnees in Afghanistan and refugees in Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan) for further elaboration of model of services for them - Q2 /Q3 / Q4 2015.
- Enhance the capacity of Law Enforcement bodies on HIV prevention at the national level - Q1/ Q2/ Q3, 2015.

4.3 Outcome 8: Increased capacity to respond to and reduce the spread of drug related HIV/AIDS among high-risk populations

In conjunction with Project XCEA01 on HIV/AIDS prevention and care among vulnerable groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, the Regional Programme organized a two-day regional conference titled "From Policy to Practice: Responding comprehensively to drugs and HIV for West and Central Asian countries" which provided a platform for international debate on drugs policies and public health-centered responses to the HIV epidemic driven

by unsafe injecting drug use. A Sub-Programme 3 Task Force (TF) meeting was held in the margins of the event to discuss the needs and priorities of the eight countries to promote regional cooperation.

With the aim of providing comprehensive harm reduction services to Afghan refugees and returnees, the Regional Programme funded three Drop-in-Centers (DIC) in Mashhad and Varamin in Iran to provide sustained services to Afghan drug users. The Regional Programme also funded a DIC in Kot Chandna Mianwali, Pakistan to provide services to drug using Afghan refugees. In Afghanistan itself, the Regional Programme provided comprehensive harm reduction services to Afghan returnees in two bordering provinces of Nangarhar and Herat in May and June of the year.



Food being provided for drug-using Afghan refugees in Nangahar, Afghanistan

Looking Forward

- Enhance knowledge of the service providers and experts on integrated HIV-related services and referral – Q1 / Q2 / Q3 / Q4 2015.
- Support of the implementation of HIV prevention and care services to Afghan refugees / returnees with emphasis on Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran in sites – Q1 / Q2 / Q3 / Q4 2015.

5. Sub-Programme 4: Trends and Analysis

The capacity for drug and crime-related analysis to inform evidence-based policy making remains weak in the region. Sub-Programme 4 of the Regional Programme seeks to fill critical gaps in trends, analysis and impact monitoring capacity of Member States to strengthen evidence-based policy making efforts. Working closely with partner governments, the Regional Programme strengthens capacities in data generation, collection, management, research, analysis, reporting and use in the region as well as supporting studies into under-researched areas such as linkages between narcotics, socio-economic factors and wider concerns of human security.

Key activities 2014 focused on technical capacity building of law enforcement bodies as well as the undertaking of critical, ground-breaking research on the illicit financial flows linked to Afghan opiates and the trafficking of arms between Afghanistan and Pakistan, advocacy and alternative livelihoods related projects.

5.1 Outcome 9: Improved availability and use of counter narcotics law enforcement, criminal justice and drug use information / data

With regard to improving drug-related crime data generation and management, the Regional Programme supported the enhancement of analytical technical capacity of enforcement bodies of RP countries through the provision of technical training and procurement of materials. These included initial introductory then advanced training on the use of ArcGIS, SPSS, MS EXCEL for analyzing statistical data and creating digital thematic maps for (i) Research Directorate Staff from Pakistan and Afghanistan, (ii) staff of analytical units of law enforcement agencies from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Caucasus, (iii) Customs officials from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, and (iv) staff of the State Committee on National Security in Kyrgyzstan.

As well as the training work outlined above, the Regional Programme also procured and installed ArcGIS and SPSS software in law enforcement agencies of Member States to ensure that the trainings and skills received were actively used to inform intelligence gathering and counter-narcotics operations.

In total, 124 research and law enforcement professionals received 38 days of technical, skills based training with the procured software now being used by agencies across the region.

There remains a lack of accurate data, analysis and understanding in the region on the dynamics of narcotics trafficking, the illicit economy and socio-economic harm linked to narcotics. In response to the priorities of Member States, the Regional Programme supported a number of implementing partners to undertake research and research related activities to address gaps in knowledge and capacity previously highlighted. This included supporting the Afghanistan Opiate Trade Project's (AOTP) workshop to launch the drafting of a report on Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route (due for publication in

mid-2015) and a further workshop to inform future planned research on Opiate Trafficking through the Northern Route.

Looking forward

- Publication of Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route Report – Q2 / Q3 2015.

5.2 Outcome 10: Enhanced understanding in the region of the linkages between narcotics and socio-economic development

The Regional Programme began the first ever analytical, geographical and sectoral mapping of types and dimensions of organized crime through the study on “The Balkan Route and Illicit Financial Flows” being led by the Statistics and Survey Section’s (SASS) of UNODC HQ. This is being carried out in partnership with SELEC, thereby promoting the forging of working relationships between research bodies, financial intelligence and enforcement bodies of SELEC members and RP countries. The Regional Programme supported SASS and GPML to organize technical meeting to present and agree on the methodology and scope of the study in Bucharest in November at which financial intelligence and enforcement experts from SELEC countries and Iran (with observers from Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America) shared operating procedures, case details and experiences.



Technical Working Group meeting on the Balkan Route and Illicit Financial Flows Report, Bucharest

Preparatory work was also undertaken for the “Development and roll-out of a survey protocol and instrument to measure drug use among the youth”. This work will not only enable a number of RP Member States to undertake their first ever assessments of youth drug use but also promote and enable standardized data collection and networking of

research leads from the health, narcotics and enforcement bodies of Regional Programme countries.

The Regional Programme supported UNODC's Research Trends Analysis Branch's (RTAB) technical study on "Small Arms Trafficking between Afghanistan and Pakistan" which is the first comprehensive mapping and assessment of small arms trafficking between and includes routes, market characteristics and prices. It also includes first hand interviews with traffickers and will be an invaluable insight into the illicit economy of small arms trafficking in the region.

The Regional Programme also recognizes the importance of engagement with the media, communities, and civil communities in raising awareness of narcotics related harm and on-going efforts to tackle the issue.

In recognizing the vibrancy, growing popularity and influence of the media in the region alongside the aim of promoting advocacy of counter-narcotics efforts, the Regional Programme held a "Drugs and the Media – Regional Counter Narcotics Awareness Raising Seminar" that brought together journalists and government bodies to raise awareness of the complexity of the illicit drug issue, promote networking, greater cooperation and coverage of counter narcotics efforts. It resulted in the formation of a Virtual Group of Counter Narcotics Journalists, commitment to produce a media handbook and follow-up activities involving Counter-Narcotics Ministers and heads of media agencies of countries in the region.



Drugs and the Media – Regional Counter Narcotics Awareness Raising Seminar, Bhurban, Pakistan

In conjunction with the Alternative Livelihood Project of COAFG, the Regional Programme began necessary planning for a study visit and training programme of officials from the Ministry of Counter Narcotics and line Ministries in Afghanistan and Tajikistan to Thailand

with the aim of exposing Afghan and Tajik officials to new innovations in agriculture and alternative which are relevant, applicable and can be used in their own countries to diversity and strengthen licit sources of rural incomes for farmers.

UNODC's Inter-Divisional Task Force meeting on Afghan-related drug research took place towards the end of the year and resulted in agreement for future research to focus on the illicit economy in Afghanistan, its impact on the licit economy and linkages to security and development in the country and beyond.

Looking Forward

- Completion and publication of The Balkan Route and Illicit Financial Flows: An Analysis Report – Q2 2015.
- Completion and publication of Trafficking of Small Arms between Afghanistan and Pakistan report – Q2 2015.
- Development and roll-out of a survey protocol and instrument to measure drug use among the youth. This will be informed by four pilot surveys on drug use by out-of-school youth in Tashkent, Kabul, Lahore, and Bishkek in advance of the commencement of comprehensive youth drug use surveys in all Member States - Q2 / Q3 / Q4 2015 – Q4 2016.
- Afghanistan and Pakistan Cooperation in Drug Control and Livelihood Conference to bring together provincial level government CN officials, communities and aid providers to discuss the challenges of illicit drug control and livelihoods along the Tajikistan - Afghanistan border and come up with tangible proposals on closer cooperation – Q2 2015.
- API (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran) Corner Conference to bring together the community elders, provincial government officials and officials from the counter narcotics agencies from the three countries focused on Herat, Farah, Nimruz, Helmand and Kandahar to discuss the challenges of illicit drugs control and livelihoods along the three countries' borders and undertake awareness raising among community elders – Q3 2015.
- The follow-up Regional Counter Narcotics Awareness Workshop for Journalists which will bring together heads of news sections of media and CN officials to agree on a UNODC Media Handbook for CN-related reporting – Q3 2015.
- Joint Public Awareness Events for Afghanistan and Tajikistan Bordering Communities on illicit drugs, addiction, and related development, security and socio-economic impacts – Q3 2015.

- Joint UNODC-UNRCCA Conference on “Supporting Licit Economy Development” as part of initiatives to support the Transformation Decade – Q4 2015.
- A Regional Alternative Development Conference – Q4 2015.

5.3 Outcome 10: Effective programme monitoring, reporting and evaluation

Monitoring of the Regional Programme is conducted on the basis of work-plans prepared by the Sub-Programme Coordinators. Monitoring is conducted against programme indicators set for the Regional Programme. Specific log-frames for individual Sub-Programmes have been set (with expert inputs) and form the basis of on-going monitoring. This amended and intensified monitoring system also supports the Regional Programme’s risk management strategy. Furthermore, it monitors on-going activities in the achievement of outputs and outcomes as well as supporting evaluation needs and establishing linkages between the Regional Programme and Country Programmes. The information management and activity tracking system manages implementation, and enables production of reports and information sharing.

The Annual and Semi-Annual Project Progress Reports are the primary vehicles for results orientated monitoring of the Regional Programme. The Semi-Annual Annual Report was published in late 2014. It was then presented to key stakeholders at a donor briefing in Kabul in December 2014 that updated on progress of the Programme as well as outlining priorities for 2015.

A mid-term evaluation of the Regional Programme was undertaken by a team of international evaluation experts and UNODC’s Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU). The evaluation consisted of desk reviews as well as interviews with UNODC staff in Vienna, Dushanbe, Astana, Tashkent and Bishkek over a period of three weeks in May and June. It is due for publication in early 2015.



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