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Without the efforts and dedication of all the parties involved in the Regional Programme implementation the achievements presented in the report would not have been possible. We look forward to your continued engagement next year and jointly-achieved additional successes.

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Programme for Promoting Counter Narcotics Efforts in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (“Regional Programme”) offers a strategic framework for drug control initiatives and provides a platform for coordination and facilitation of counter-narcotics efforts across the region, while bringing coherence to activities conducted by UNODC and partners. The aim is that by 2014, the countries of the region and their institutions have a better common response to countering the destabilizing impact of illicit drugs and crime.



Figure 1 - High-level government officials from Afghanistan and neighbouring countries launching the Regional Programme on Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, Vienna, 7 December 2011.

Following the launch of the Regional Programme in December 2011, the first year of implementation of the Regional Programme produced numerous key deliverables and substantive progress involving close work between Regional Programme countries’ national experts and UNODC experts. A number of governance meetings (Steering Committee and Sub-Programme Task Forces) were also held.

Support to substantive outcomes with focus on concrete results is the definitive focus of the Regional Programme’s work. In order to enable such support reflecting a programmatic and regional approach, the Regional Programme management team also focused its attention to assess and devise internal programme management modalities that are better aligned to support integrated programming across multiple field offices and thematic areas of focus.

TRENDS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Afghanistan continues to overwhelmingly dominate the world drug market and opium poppy cultivation rose substantially by 18 percent in 2012 in an alarming trend, despite a major opium eradication effort by Afghan governors. While cultivation rose, the actual production of opium dropped by about a third in 2012 compared with 2011 because of a plant blight that reduced its yield and poor weather conditions. This reduced production resulted in soaring prices for opium - another factor likely to spur planting next season.

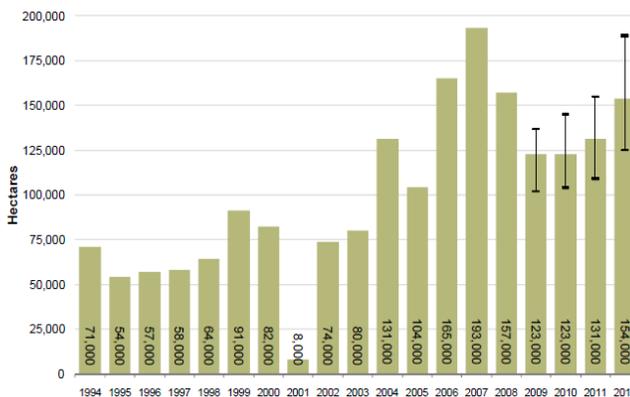


Figure 2 - Opium Cultivation in Afghanistan, 1994-2012 (ha).
Source: Afghanistan Opium Survey 2012 – Summary of Findings.

Afghan production has largely exceeded estimated global demand for the past several years. Afghan heroin is trafficked in almost all directions worldwide.¹ Although there has been no significant change in the global status quo regarding the use, production and health consequences of illicit drugs, there has been a return to high levels of opium production in Afghanistan since the 2010

¹ Opiates originating in Afghanistan. Hereafter referred to as ‘opiates’. (Vienna Declaration, paragraph. 1).

crop failures.² Shifts occurring below the surface in the world drug markets are proof of the resilience and adaptability of illicit drug suppliers and users and are a sign of potential future repercussions.³ Globally, around 16.5 million people use illicit opiates annually, generating a US\$68 billion global opiate market in 2009.⁴ Such sums are enough to undermine legal economies and the rule of law in many countries. A general decrease in seizures in 2010 occurred in most of the countries supplied by Afghan opiates.⁵

The opiate market continues to be extremely flexible and adaptable.⁶ The diversification of routes from Afghanistan to less well-established destinations in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific is likely to continue and become more prominent.⁷ The largest income for transnational organized crime comes from illicit drugs which account for some 20 per cent of all crime proceeds, equivalent to around 0.5 per cent of global GDP.⁸ There is also a strong link between insecurity and opium poppy cultivation and trafficking in Afghanistan. This year also saw 95 per cent of cultivation concentrated in the southern and western provinces where insecurity and organized crime are present.⁹

The drug challenge is augmented by the unique and challenging political and security environment with tensions running high along some regional borders. The overall context is expected to become more complicated nearing the Transition of 2014, and increasingly the consensus is that the solution to the drug problem lies in a regional approach. This has been evidenced by the increase in bilateral, trilateral and multilateral initiatives over the last few years. These include the Quadrilateral Initiative (Sochi Process), the Heart of Asia/Istanbul Process and the recent Regional Narcotics Ministerial Conference, which took place in Islamabad on 12-13 November. Regional cooperation is considered as one of the most viable options to provide solutions for drug control where mutual confidence building among the participating countries has a chance to succeed.

These developments necessitate an incremental but persistent approach of UNODC's regional interventions. UNODC is perceived as a neutral and effective broker in the region with experience in facilitating similar interventions in the past – for instance, through the Triangular Initiative. As an umbrella framework for such work, the Regional Programme is timely and receiving growing international political support, for instance, as a potential vehicle to promote the implementation of the Counter Narcotics Confidence Building Measure (CBM) of the Heart of Asia/Istanbul Process.

SUB-PROGRAMME 1: REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION

During the first year of the implementation of the Regional Programme, the focus of Sub-Programme 1 on Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation has been on: strengthening existing regional cooperation mechanisms; laying the groundwork for new areas of regional coordination and cooperation; and providing support to bilateral and trilateral cooperation efforts, which form the basis of wider regional progress.

² UNODC World Drug Report 2012, p.30.

³ UNODC World Drug Report 2012, p.11.

⁴ UNODC The Global Afghan Opium Trade: A Threat Assessment, 2011, p.5.

⁵ UNODC World Drug Report 2012, p.2.

⁶ UNODC World Drug Report 2012, pp. 1-2.

⁷ UNODC World Drug Report, 2012, pp. 26-34.

⁸ UNODC World Drug Report 2012 and UNODC Estimating illicit financial flows resulting from drug trafficking and other transnational organized crimes: Research Report, October 2011, p.7.

⁹ 72 per cent in Hilmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Day Kundi and Zabul provinces in the south, and 23 per cent in Farah, Hirat, and Nimroz provinces to the west.

The first pilot Task Force Meeting on Sub Programme 1 was held on 8 February 2012 in Almaty, serving as an initial gathering of related experts to guide the interventions under Sub-Programme 1 on law enforcement by identifying priorities and needs for the region. This was followed by the second Sub-Programme 1 Task Force Meeting on 28 September 2012, which provided an opportunity to translate the detailed discussion held among experts during the Ashgabat regional workshop into concrete guidance on priority actions to be conducted under the Regional Programme.

The Regional Programme has also been effective in advancing the dialogue on counter narcotics cooperation with the eight countries, and is in an ideal position to contribute to the concretization of the wider political support to regional efforts under the Istanbul Process. Counter narcotics (CN) has been identified as one of the seven priority Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) of the Istanbul Process. Many of the implementation areas under the CN CBM are directly related to the interventions of Sub-Programme 1.

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

1. Linking and strengthening existing sub-regional mechanisms

A first regional working meeting was convened bringing members of Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) together on 6-8 February. This meeting was the first of its kind and oriented to confidence building by discussing new drug trafficking routes and operations of mutual interest such as Black Tulip and Operation TARCET (Targeted Anti-Trafficking Regional Communication Expertise and Training). In the meantime, a secure communication channel between CARICC and JPC has been agreed upon.

UNODC and OSCE jointly organized a workshop on International Co-operation in Criminal Matters: Information Exchange in the Fight against Organized Crime and Terrorism in Almaty on 6-7 June at CARICC. The objective of this workshop was to contribute to strengthening the existing information exchange mechanisms in the fight against organized crime and terrorism in Central Asia through a better mutual understanding of the legislation, regulations, systems, structures and best practices as well as challenges. Over 40 experts from security, judiciary and financial intelligence departments from eight countries in the region reviewed ways and means to improve information exchange tools and mechanisms in organized crime and terrorism investigations.

The technical capacity of selected and trained specialists was strengthened through supporting the exchange of Permanent Liaison Officers (PLO)/Drug Liaison Officers (DLO) to key institutions in the region. The Afghan PLO to JPC was re-appointed on 1 May 2012 and the nomination for the placement of Afghan DLO to Tajikistan is presently being awaited from the Government of Afghanistan. The Pakistan PLO to JPC has been stationed in Tehran as of 1 November 2012 and will be coordinating the sharing of drug-related information and intelligence and the planning of future joint operations.



Figure 3 - From left to right the Permanent Liaison Officers of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan to the JPC, TI Counter-Narcotics Intelligence Meeting, Islamabad, 5 September 2012.

Next steps:

Assistance will continue to support the linking of these sub-regional mechanisms prioritizing CARICC and JPC, but also extending to include the establishment of specialized counter narcotic units (SCUs) and developing standard operating procedures to support their functioning and operation. Further practical agreements and developments in ensuring the linkages between CARICC and JPC are expected during the visit of the CARICC director to JPC. It is hoped that these incremental steps will result, at the appropriate time, in a MoU between the JPC and CARICC enabling a broader geographical scope of intelligence-led interventions. In addition, focus will continue to be placed on facilitating effective drug related intelligence and information coordination leading to concrete operations through the JPC, including through the placement of PLOs.

2. Enhanced sub-regional coordination through the Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan and The Triangular Initiatives.

The Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative was launched under the Regional Programme with the first AKT Senior Officials Meeting at the Drug Control Agency (DCA) of Tajikistan on 20th January 2012 with the participation of high-ranking delegations from the three countries as well as UNODC and CARICC. This was subsequently followed by the First Tripartite AKT Ministerial Meeting, which took place on 31 May in Dushanbe and concluded with the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation in Counter Narcotics and Border Management in Drug Control.



Figure 4- First AKT Senior Officials Meeting in Dushanbe, 20 January 2012.

The Second Tripartite AKT Senior Officials Meeting took place in Bishkek on 17 October. A number of agreements were reached including on: prioritizing joint efforts to improve the drugs legal framework; organizing a meeting of experts from AKT forensics laboratories; supporting the establishment of Border Liaison Offices at Karamyk/Karamyk and Bordoba/Kizil; implementing joint/simultaneous operations; and employing CARICC as a regional communications hub.

The AKT Initiative has already resulted in concrete outcomes. The DCA of Tajikistan has conducted 28 successful joint operations with Afghan law enforcement agencies in 2012, as a result of which 3552 kg of drugs (including 229 kg of heroin, 2807 kg of opium, 517 kg of hashish) were seized. DCA conducted two joint operations with the State Service on Drug Control (SSDC) of Kyrgyzstan, as a result 11 kg of drugs were seized (including 4 kg of heroin, 7 kg of hashish).

Within the objectives set under the Maritime Regional Security Initiative (MaReS), the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries supported the implementation of several activities aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, reinforcing container control at the seaports of Karachi and Bandar Abbas, and developing effective coordination mechanisms. In this context, the Triangular Initiative (TI) Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) was held between Afghanistan, Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan in Islamabad on 19-20 June. Participants discussed drug trafficking and law enforcement challenges and reiterated their commitment to strengthen regional cooperation. The three delegations agreed on strategies to promote regional cooperation, specifically related to the JPC, joint operations, Border Liaison Offices



Figure 5 - TI SOM, Islamabad, 19-20 June 2012.

(BLOs) and border management. Participants planned new initiatives including a dedicated maritime drug trafficking meeting, a first-ever meeting of counter narcotics intelligence officials, as well as a TI round table on drug demand reduction. The latter is an example of active efforts to develop inter-linkages between the different Regional Programme sub-programmes. Importantly, the TI countries have agreed on a set of concrete deliverables to be endorsed by the Ministerial Meeting in Tehran.

Pakistan hosted a TI Counter Narcotics Intelligence Meeting in Islamabad on 4-5 September, with the aim of bringing together the concerned CN intelligence authorities of the three countries and building trust and networking between the three JPC Permanent Liaison Officers (PLOs) - and Country Focal Points (CFPs) on intelligence. The scope of the meeting was related to the functioning and operations of the JPC, the sharing of real-time information, its processing into actionable drug-related intelligence and its outcome in the form of planning and execution of joint counter narcotics operations. Agreements were reached on incorporating suggested changes and additions to the draft JPC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and its circulation to the three sides for final approval/adaptation before the next TI SOM, the formal appointment of Pakistan's PLO and his placement in the JPC Tehran, the regular passage of regional information between the JPC PLOs and bilateral sharing of sensitive information between the counterpart headquarters.



Figure 6 - Visit to Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Academy by Regional Training Commandants, September 2012.



Figure 7 - 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Triangular Initiative, Tehran, December 2012

The TI Ministerial Meeting attended as well by UNODC Executive Director, concluded on 18 December in Tehran and provided the opportunity to further develop the cooperation and expand the scope of the initiative. It was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and separate dedicated meetings on intelligence and maritime security. The Ministerial Meeting endorsed SOM's recommendations, which included, inter alia, a) Expend JPC's role to include tactical level counter narcotics operations coordination centre, as well as repository of information and intelligence for

the TI countries; b) Enhance real-time information/intelligence exchange between PLOs and CFPs; c) Expand the scope of operations, conducting the first bilateral operations between Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as considering possibility of controlled delivery operations with involvement of transit and destination countries; d) Fully operationalise Pilot Border Liaison Offices; e) Promote alternative livelihood and job creation at the border provinces; and f) further increase exchange and technical cooperation in the areas of drug demand reduction and HIV control.

As part of the Southern Trafficking Operational Plan (STOP) aimed at maximizing law enforcement and interdiction efforts, series of joint operations, coordinated by the JPC, were carried out by Iranian and Afghan forces between 1 and 7 February 2012 (along the borders of Herat and Farah, as well as Khorasan Razavi and South Khorasan provinces) with seizures amounting to 274 kg of opium and 7 kg of crack heroin. One operation was conducted by the Iranian and Afghan forces on 14 February 2012 along the borders of Farah province and South Khorasan province with seizures amounting to 106 kg of opium and 500 litres of illicit chemicals. There is a revived commitment by the TI countries to engage in a Southern Trafficking Operational Plan, which UNODC is brokering. Discussions at the TI SOM also focused on possible future controlled delivery operations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Lastly, as envisaged under the STOP Initiative, the Regional Programme seeks to link law enforcement interventions with a sustainable and socially oriented methodology through efforts to broaden on-ground collaboration with other agencies active in development/alternative livelihoods assistance in Regional Programme countries. These efforts, currently in the inception stage, will be pursued in 2013, focusing on the Afghan-Tajik border with the Aga Khan Foundation.

Next steps:

Through sub-regional initiatives such as AKT and the TI, the Regional Programme is continuing to ensure that the exchange of data and information is prioritized and facilitated, especially through CARICC and JPC. For instance, one of the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis Capacities held in Tashkent between 16 and 18 July (under Sub-Programme 4) was to coordinate the sharing of drug-related information in the region including by linking up better with CARICC and JPC.

Meetings and operational engagement will continue under the TI and AKT initiatives to deepen cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking. The next senior officials meeting of AKT is scheduled for early 2013 in Kabul.

The next TI senior officials meeting will be convened in Kabul in May 2013. Following this, senior officials and Ministerial meetings will be held in Islamabad in November 2013. The counter-narcotics intelligence officials meetings will take place twice a year prior to the senior officials meetings.

3. Re-directing Operation TARCET towards intelligence-led operations

In order to improve the regional operational response through enhanced inter-agency collaboration on precursors, the Regional Programme worked to develop a revised model for the region, which would replace Operation TARCET. This is the establishment of the Regional and National Intelligence Working Groups that aim at linking up the different levels of interdiction and strengthening coordination nationally and regionally. To take this forward on May 1-2, a Meeting of the Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursor (RIWGP) was organized in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The meeting was chaired by UNODC and INCB with the participation of 8 countries of

the Regional Programme and representatives from Germany, Italy, Turkey, United Kingdom, United State of America and INCB. The participants discussed the challenges of Operation TARCET, the strengths of other precursor control initiatives, intelligence handling procedures at the national and regional levels, intelligence sharing mechanisms, and developing intelligence-led investigations. The working group meeting led to the establishment of Regional and National Intelligence Working Groups, replacing Operation TARCET, but building upon its successes, best-practices and lessons learnt.



Figure 8 - Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors, Tashkent, 1-2 May 2012.

The second meeting of the RIWGP took place on 5-6 November in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The meeting brought together Law Enforcement officers working in the area of precursor control and interdiction from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. CARICC was represented by officers from the analytical division as well as from the Division on Support and Coordination of Operations. The participants shared information on the current status of precursor control, including the latest seizures of controlled substances, and provided recommendations for further action.

Next steps:

The establishment of the Regional and National Intelligence Working Groups on Precursors is an important step forward in linking up the different levels of interdiction and strengthening coordination nationally and regionally. To take this forward, the next meeting of the RIWGP is planned for the first half of 2013 and will be preceded by meetings at the national level. At this point, the countries of the region are working out the operational modalities and composition of the national working groups. Afghanistan is to serve as a test case for the establishment of National Intelligence Working Groups on Precursors. A progress report on this will be made to the next RIWGP meeting.

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

The Regional Programme is aiming to enhance the quality of counter-narcotics training programmes across the region. As a first step, an assessment of current counter-narcotics training capacities in the region is under-way profiling curricula, training materials and student management. The findings will form part of a report, which is to be finalized in 2013.

The Counter Narcotics Training Commandants' Meeting among TI countries was held in Islamabad on 21 May as a result of the recommendations of the TI Senior Officials Meeting held in Tehran on 31 May 2011. The meeting explored ways to integrate existing training resources through the harmonization of interventions and activities, starting with the TI countries. The three countries presented their areas of training expertise and offered support to each other in terms of counter-narcotics specialist training - for instance Iran offered specialist training in identification of drugs/precursors, Afghanistan proposed training on clandestine laboratories and Pakistan offered to provide specialist training in terms of methods of concealment.

The Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Coordination and Quality of Counter-Narcotics Training Programmes Across the Region took place on 27-28 September in Ashgabat involving all the eight Regional Programme member countries as well as regional training academies such as the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Crime (TADOC) and the Domodedovo Training Institute. A Task Force meeting for Sub Programme 1 of the Regional Programme was held on 28 September 2012 and provided an opportunity to translate the detailed discussion held among experts during the Ashgabat regional workshop into concrete guidance on priority actions to be conducted under the Regional Programme.



Figure 9 - The Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Coordination and Quality of Counter-Narcotics Training Programmes Across the Region, Ashgabat, 27-28 September 2012.

A dedicated training component to be administered in cooperation with the Domodedovo Training Institute was launched following technical consultations. This component entailed another important step forward in strengthening counter-narcotics capacities in Afghanistan as law enforcement officers received training at one of the best regional training institutes. Under this component, three individual training sessions took place in 2012 starting with the first training session in Domodedovo Training Institute in September followed by the second in November and the last in December. In total, 51 Afghan CNPA officers participated in the three training sessions.



Figure 10 - Training in Domodedovo Training Institute, September 2012.

Next steps:

Building upon the results of the Commandants' Meeting (above) and the Regional Workshop on Strengthening the Coordination and Quality of Counter-Narcotics Training Programmes Across the Region, UNODC will be: (i) conducting a survey of existing national curriculum, including that provided by international partners, with a view to developing standardized curriculum for basic, intermediate and advanced training based on constant evaluation & monitoring of the counter narcotics environment; (ii) analyzing current training capacities, including availability of required equipment, in each Regional Programme country and presenting the results to the next regional training experts meeting; and (iii) developing a database of training events and participants.

The cynology ("sniffer" dogs) training component for relevant law enforcement in the region (at the specialized institute of the Russian Federation in Rostov-on-Don) will be initiated in the coming months. In total three training sessions are planned to be conducted with participation of officers from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asian States.

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

A region-wide assessment has been conducted in all Regional Programme countries to obtain an accurate understanding of the forensic laboratory capacity in the region for evidence-based investigations and generation of accurate data for production and trafficking trends, including product profiles. Early findings, which are currently being analyzed, will help identify areas requiring development, potentially ranging from forensic quality assurance requirements to regional cooperation, in order to enable the generation of accurate and reliable laboratory data using internationally accepted methods and standards. These issues, when addressed, would contribute to a better understanding of distribution routes for heroin and precursor chemicals and feed into improved forensic evidence-based regional investigations.

A Regional Laboratory Meeting on Forensics took place on 3-4 October 2012 in Almaty. The purpose of the meeting was to: review the current situation with regard to drug analysis and forensics in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries; enhance information exchange between forensic experts in the region and beyond, including on analysis of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors; promote participation of Regional Programme countries in the International Collaborative Exercise (ICE)¹⁰; and define technical assistance required to further enhance forensic capacity in the region. The meeting further expanded and reinforced the network of forensic experts in the region. Forensic Experts from Regional Programme Member States exchanged their experience, challenges and achievements in drug analysis, including new methods of drug analysis, and emerging trends in drug trafficking (type of drugs, type of cutting agents, purity levels etc.).



Figure 12 - Regional Laboratory Meeting on Forensics, Almaty, 3-4 October 2012.



Figure 12 - Poppy Straw for Analysis at the National Institute of Health Laboratory in Pakistan (part of a 3200 kg seizure).

¹⁰ The ICE programme is aimed at helping drug testing laboratories worldwide to assess their own performance and take corrective actions, when appropriate. As part of the programme, UNODC provides unknown test samples to participating laboratories for identification and analysis, authenticated reference samples to assist them in the performance of the analysis, and an overall evaluation of results.

Next steps:

UNODC is now looking to further expand ICE participation in the Regional Programme Member States, support the networking of forensic experts in the region through provision of platform/forums for cooperation and continue providing guidance and technical assistance in the field of drug analysis.

A training workshop is planned in the second quarter of 2013 with the participation of forensic experts / laboratory analysts from the eight countries of the Regional Programme. The overall subject of the training will be practical laboratory work with focus on methods for the analysis of the main groups of drugs of concern to the region and practical application of quality assurance requirements.

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

Sub-Programme 2 on International/Regional Cooperation in Legal Matters has contributed to the programme's overall objective including by: a) building trust and confidence among the judicial authorities/institutions of the countries in the region and b) providing relevant assistance and training to senior experts from the eight regional countries to build their capacities in strengthening international/regional cooperation in criminal matters. This latter is focused on the harmonization of legal systems in addressing mutual legal assistance (MLA), extradition and Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) related matters. The pace of activities has been high with a number of assessment missions, five regional Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) to FIU meetings, two regional AML Computer-Based Training (CBT) sessions, a Regional Workshop on Cash Smuggling on 25-27 January, an Asset Recovery meeting in Tehran on 10-11 October and a General Prosecutors Meeting in Vienna on 3-4 December. It should be highlighted that through the launch of the Criminal Assets Southern Hub (CASH) Initiative, a significant step forward has been taken in the fight against the illegal drug trade by strengthening regional countries' enforcement capacities in countering illicit money flows and confiscating the assets of drug trafficking networks as well as enhancing regional cooperation among relevant enforcement stakeholders including FIUs.

The Regional Programme has been effective in 2012 in advancing the dialogue on regional cooperation in legal matters and this has yielded immediate results, which can be illustrated, for instance, by the signature of the first Memorandum of Understanding on AML/CFT between the heads of the FIUs of Iran and Tajikistan on 17 May. Importantly, under Sub-Programme 2, three Task Force meetings have already been held. The first was held on 27 January in Dushanbe, where several concrete priority actions were identified and later endorsed at the 14 March Regional Programme Steering Committee meeting. The second Task Force meeting took place in Vienna on 18 May to further discuss progress made under Sub-Programme 2 and identify challenges and priorities for the remainder of the year. The third and last Task Force meeting was held on 4th December 2012 in Vienna where the participating countries adopted a set of recommendations and provided UNODC with their inputs/comments on priorities to be conducted under Sub-Programme 2 in 2013.

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

A Regional Workshop on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters was held between 16 and 18 May at the UNODC Headquarters in Vienna. The workshop brought together senior experts from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan to exchange information and discuss the harmonization of national criminal legislation under the various United Nations Drugs and Crime Conventions to enable and facilitate international/regional

cooperation in criminal matters. A dedicated Sub-Programme 2 Task Force meeting, a meeting of the Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) of the 8 countries as well as, trilateral and bilateral meetings between judicial and anti-money laundering officials took place alongside the regional workshop.



Figure 13 - Regional Workshop on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters, Vienna, 16-18 May 2012.

The UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch drafted an internal summary report of available information and data on the implementation of articles related to international cooperation in criminal matters under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). This summary report was used to inform all the countries of the region on the importance of this issue and to illustrate some gaps in their implementation. This summary report (produced under Sub-Programme 4 of the Regional Programme on Trends and Analysis) was also used to inform interventions under Sub-Programme 2 and is an example of the integrated nature of work conducted under the Regional Programme.

To assist the countries in the region in acceding to/implementing the UN drugs and crime conventions, a mission was conducted to the I.R of Iran in January 2012 (by the Regional Cooperation Adviser) in order to meet with the relevant Iranian national agencies/ministries to encourage and assist them to ratify the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

In order to identify the priority needs of the Regional Programme countries on international/regional cooperation in criminal matters, a legal assessment mission to Kyrgyzstan was conducted successfully from 27 to 29 June. Through the mission, UNODC experts met with relevant Kyrgyz national counterparts with the purpose of collecting information and data on Kyrgyz national legislation/institutional frameworks (with a focus on UNTOC and UNCAC as well as the drug and terrorism conventions) and understanding Kyrgyzstan's priority needs and challenges towards international and regional cooperation in legal matters. Guidance/assistance on the implementation of the relevant articles of the UN drugs, crime and terrorism legal instruments was provided.

Through consultations with Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and based on the outcomes of the assessment mission to Kyrgyzstan, the Regional Programme was able to advance discussions in order to assist the countries with the establishment of a Central Authority based on Article 18 of UNTOC and article 46 of UNCAC (which request Member States to designate a Central Authority that has the responsibility and power to receive requests for mutual legal assistance and either to execute them or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution). This is another instance of the linkages and integration between Sub-Programme 1 and Sub-Programme 2, as this work would cover the AKT Initiative countries.

Another assessment mission took place to Turkmenistan between 4 and 7 September to bridge direct contacts with the relevant Turkmen senior officials in order to discuss issues related to international/regional cooperation in criminal matters. The mission resulted in the exchange of information, the identification of Turkmenistan's priority needs and challenges towards promoting regional/international cooperation in criminal matters, discussion on issues related to concluding bilateral/multilateral agreements/MoUs on extradition, MLA and AML/CFT, as well as

guidance/assistance on implementation of the relevant articles of the UN drugs, crime and terrorism legal instruments (on MLA, extradition, AML/CFT, etc.).

An information resource tool containing relevant laws of the Regional Programme countries as well as available UN handbooks/guidelines for international cooperation (on MLA, extradition, and exchange of AML/CFT information) has been prepared and distributed among the Regional Programme countries' relevant judicial institutions in order to facilitate information exchange and awareness raising.

The First Regional Workshop on International Cooperation in Asset Recovery was held in Tehran from 10-11 October 2012 with the objective of building the capacity of the national criminal justice systems for strengthening regional and international cooperation on asset recovery issues. The meeting was co-organized with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and senior experts from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan as well as Turkey as a member of ECO. The Regional Workshop was specifically dedicated to International Cooperation in Asset Recovery with a focus on Chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The meeting was concluded by adopting a set of recommendations and requests for promoting future international/regional cooperation among the countries in West and Central Asia.



Figure 14 - Regional Workshop on International Cooperation in Asset Recovery, Tehran, 10-11 October 2012.

The first meeting amongst the General Prosecutors/Attorney Generals of the countries in West and Central Asia was organized on 3-4 December 2012 in Vienna. The main objective of the meeting was to: i) facilitate capacity building of the national criminal justice systems of the countries in the region; and ii) improve international/regional legal cooperation and exchange of information among investigative agencies and competent authorities of the countries in West and Central Asia, with the aim to facilitate harmonization of legislative frameworks to enable international/regional cooperation in criminal matters. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a set of conclusions for promoting international/regional cooperation among the countries in West and Central Asia.

Next steps:

The momentum of activities taking place under Sub-Programme 2 will remain high in 2013. The focus is on building links, enhancing awareness and understanding on legal matters as well as improving the exchange of information between the investigative agencies and competent and central authorities of the Regional Programme Countries. The Regional Programme Team is planning to organize the second Regional Workshop on International Cooperation in Asset Recovery as well as the second Regional Meeting amongst the General Prosecutors of the countries in the region in 2013.

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

The Regional Workshop on Preventing and Combating Cross-border Cash Smuggling was held in Dushanbe on 25-27 January 2012. This Regional Workshop was followed by the First FIU to FIU meeting and served to launch the CASH Initiative. The CASH Initiative aims to: strengthen FIUs in the TI and Central Asian countries; establish Financial Intelligence Task Forces at the country level to

address the identification and tracking of financial flows and assets deriving from drug trafficking; establish a mechanism for regular exchange of information and trend analysis on money laundering and asset recovery among the regional countries; develop joint plan of actions for the finalization of operations for the confiscation and seizure of financial and other criminal assets; and promote bilateral/multilateral cooperation among the regional countries for the planning of wider/international police operations.

The first Regional Computer Based Training (CBT) on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism, as part of the CASH initiative, was conducted on 12-15 February 2012 in Tehran to increase the momentum for regional cooperation on tackling illicit money flows created in Dushanbe. In conjunction with this training, a second regional FIU to FIU meeting was held in Tehran, with the exchange of concrete cases of suspicious financial transaction (SFT) among some of the Regional Programme countries. This meeting was mainly aimed at examining international standards and practices in preventing and investigating money laundering cases, improving regional knowledge and awareness on the work of other FIUs, and providing recommendations for future activities.



Figure 16 - Regional Computer Based Training, Tehran, 12-15 Feb 2012.



Figure 16 - 2nd FIU to FIU meeting, Tehran, 15 February 2012.

A significant achievement under the CASH Initiative took place on 17 May at the third Regional FIU to FIU Meeting with the signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on AML/CFT between the heads of the FIUs of Iran and Tajikistan. The first draft of the MoU was circulated to the Regional Programme countries at the Dushanbe Regional Workshop on Cash Smuggling.

An assessment mission was conducted by the Regional AML/CFT Expert to Afghanistan on 19-20 June to organize a mentorship mission to Kabul and to identify a number of thematic areas of work. In addition, a Regional Rapid Assessment has been drafted to address: (i) the problem of regional illicit financial flows and money laundering originating through the production and trafficking of opiates in Afghanistan, (ii) the improvement of cooperation and sharing of information amongst FIUs and relevant AML/CFT bodies including Justice and General Prosecutor Offices, and (iii) the provision of ad-hoc mentorship and technical assistance to FIUs aimed at improving national AML/CFT capacity.

An assessment mission to Kyrgyzstan was conducted successfully from 27 to 29 June where UNODC experts met with relevant Kyrgyz national counterparts with the purpose of collecting information and data on the Kyrgyz national legislation/institutional frameworks on anti-money laundering and the counter financing of terrorism. This resulted in the completion of a technical Rapid Assessment Report on anti-money laundering and the counter financing of terrorism with the help of the Kyrgyz FIU.

Another assessment mission took place to Turkmenistan between 4 and 7 September resulting in the provision of expert guidance and assistance to Turkmen authorities on implementation of the relevant articles of the UN drugs, crime and terrorism legal instruments (on MLA, extradition, anti-money laundering and the counter financing of terrorism etc.) as well as the completion of a Rapid Assessment Report on anti-money laundering and the counter financing of terrorism with the help of the Turkmen FIU.

The Fourth Regional FIU to FIU Meeting was organized under the CASH Initiative on 11th October 2012 in Tehran with the participation of relevant focal points from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan. During the meeting a number of issues were discussed including the priority needs and challenges faced by the Regional Programme countries in promoting international/regional cooperation in AML/CFT, updates on the Regional/Bilateral AML/CFT MoUs, and the establishment of a Regional AML group of experts.

The Second Regional Computer Based Training (CBT) on Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Illegal Financial Flows and Suspected Cash Transactions was held on 18-21 November 2012 in Tehran. The training was aimed at examining international standards and practices in preventing and investigating money laundering cases, improving regional knowledge and awareness on the work of other Financial Intelligence Units, and providing recommendations on carrying out future relevant activities in the region. The second CBT meeting on AML/CFT was followed by the fifth regional FIU to FIU Meeting, where the following issues were discussed in details: (i) Priority needs and challenges that Regional Programme countries are facing in promoting international/regional cooperation in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, (ii) Updates on the Regional and Bilateral Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Financing of Terrorism MoUs, (iii) Establishment of a regional Anti-Money Laundering network, and (iv) Facilitation of exchange of information among FIUs in West and Central Asia including through the organization of relevant regional meetings/workshops. The meeting concluded with adopting a set of recommendations by participating delegations for future activities to be conducted by UNODC under Sub-Programme 2 in 2013.

To further strengthen the role of the Triangular Initiative countries in the area of AMF/CFT, two Triangular AML Expert Meetings were held - the first in Dushanbe on 27 January and the second in Vienna on 17 May. Both expert meetings contributed to an increased level of information-sharing and networking between the TI countries.

Next steps:

The CASH Initiative remains a priority for Sub-Programme 2 interventions. Having more countries of the region sign the model regional and bilateral MoU on AML/CFT is a key focus. The MOU has been disseminated among the Regional Programme countries in order to enhance their cooperation on the subject matter and provide a common instrument to facilitate the exchange of suspicious transaction reports (STR) amongst the FIUs of the RP countries. Tajikistan and Afghanistan have expressed their interest (in the end of 2012) to sign the above Model MoU (the bilateral Model), which has also already been signed between Tajikistan and Iran (in May 2012 in Vienna).

Additional regional FIU-to-FIU meetings are planned in 2013 to improve operational cooperation and exchange of information between the Regional Programme countries, as well as build networks with the overall aim of countering money flows and confiscating the assets of drug trafficking networks.

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

Work under Sub-Programme 3 on Prevention and Treatment of Addiction Among Vulnerable Groups has prioritized a balanced approach, with a focus on facilitating regional cooperation to prevent and mitigate human suffering caused by illicit drugs. This has resulted in some notable progress especially in the area of drug prevention with the regional family skills workshop held in Istanbul, June 2012. In addition, recognizing the increasing drug use among migrant populations such as Afghan refugees in the region and returnees to Afghanistan, assistance to these vulnerable groups has been prioritized and tailored by building on a series of pilot activities of comprehensive HIV prevention and care services to Afghan refugee injecting and non-injecting drug users and expanded to include drug treatment and prevention services in Iran and Pakistan and returnees in Afghanistan.

Initial work has also taken place in some innovative areas such as the development of toolkits/guidelines/protocols for law enforcement agencies to enable early identification of drug users, ethical engagement, human rights of drug users and referral pathways to treatment, and regional guidelines/protocols for effective systems of alternatives to incarceration for drug using offenders. These will be completed in 2013.

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

A first-ever regional family skills-based training was held in Istanbul on 19-20 June with participation of all eight Regional Programme countries. The goal of the meeting was to enhance the exchange of regional expertise between trainers, and policy makers of the concerned countries, review the implementation of family skills training programmes in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan and to advocate for adoption of evidence based family skills programmes in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The training element was useful in the transfer of expert knowledge to the participants. Discussions resulted in concrete commitments to develop regional activities to improve exchange of expertise between the eight Regional Programme countries with a view for scaling – up and ensuring the sustainability of family skills training programmes.



Figure 17 - Regional Family Skills-Based Training, Istanbul, 19-20 June 2012.

An expert working group on drug prevention met in Vienna on 8-9 October bringing together experts from the region and beyond to discuss and finalize UNODC’s international standards on drug prevention. These standards will be launched in 2013 for use by practitioners globally.

As part of overall efforts being put into place to promote the prevention approach in the region, the work on the development of a generic drug prevention training curriculum package for health practitioners is at its initial stages with the draft package likely to be available in the first half of 2013. Conceptually, the training package will incorporate international standards of drug use prevention developed with UNODC support. The process of the development of the training curriculum was catalyzed by advocacy for introducing family skills programmes in countries of the region through the regional meeting held in Istanbul in June 2012 (see above). Following the development of the generic curriculum package, a series of training workshops will be conducted for regional countries on the curriculum, targeting policy-makers and practitioners.

Next steps:

It is anticipated that this training will result in concrete prevention and family-skills activities to improve exchange of expertise between the eight Regional Programme countries for scaling-up and ensuring the sustainability of family skills training programmes. As a follow-up to this training, preparatory consultations are taking place to advance work in the area of prevention to develop master trainers to train national trainers in each country on family skills-based training. As part of overall efforts to promote the prevention approach in the region, the work on the development of a generic drug prevention training curriculum package is underway and the draft package is likely to be available in middle of 2013. In second half of 2013, a series of training workshop will be conducted for the regional countries.

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

The creation of a first-ever directory at the regional level of providers of expertise in drug demand reduction to facilitate contacts in the region and provide an overview of facilities and services available to vulnerable populations was prioritized as an initial deliverable under this outcome to inform subsequent interventions. A desk review to assess drug dependence systems (availability, accessibility and quality) planned and coordinated by UNODC Country Office in Iran with geographical mapping of relevant health care facilities as part of the review. Partially, the geographical mapping is done for specialized drug dependence services in some countries of Central Asia.

Furthermore, a regional network of drug demand reduction experts, which would assist efforts in standardization and enable the exchange of best practices has been facilitated. As evidence for treatment methods and outcomes are not easily accessible to practitioners and often not disseminated throughout the region, this network would also provide better treatment service delivery information and ultimately lead to better allocation of resources and improved effectiveness.

Work has also advanced on the identification and eventual linking of “centres of excellence” and specialized NGOs in the region. The focus in 2013 will be on delivering specialized training and exchange of best-practices by taking advantage of the expertise available in the region.

A meeting on quality standards of drug treatment was held in Istanbul on 15-16 November with participation of 26 senior health managers representing drug dependence treatment services of the eight countries of the region. This meeting brought together experts from the region to enhance regional exchange of expertise among professionals involved in drug treatment and increase the quality of, and harmonize, drug treatment practice. UNODC will now prioritize the development of drug treatment standards in the coming months and will also undertake additional capacity building exercises.

A desk review of the drug dependence treatment systems in the programme countries is underway.

Preparatory work has started on the reorientation of current law enforcement practices in the region as it relates to drug demand reduction. A toolkit for police officers is being developed to enhance law enforcement knowledge and skills to allow for their constructive engagement with drug users. This will also contribute to increased coverage of drug dependence treatment by providing relevant information and referral of drug users to health services.

Another set of activities aims at improving the capacity of the criminal justice system in the Regional Programme countries, to uphold international human rights standards, by developing efficient and appropriately enforced system of alternatives to incarceration to be applied in cases of non-violent crimes committed by drug users. By the end of 2012, the concept of a complex study consisting of country desk reviews (an assessment of the spectrum of crimes committed by drug users, legal frameworks and judicial practices in relation to those crimes) and the field research (actual realization/features and effectiveness of the current system of alternatives to incarceration) to be conducted in SP3 partner-countries developed; the process of recruitment of international consultant and the establishment of national expert groups for implementation of the activity started.

Next steps:

Illustrating the integrated nature of work conducted under the Regional Programme, at the TI meeting on 19-20 June in Islamabad, the three delegations agreed to organize the first-ever TI round table on drug demand reduction in Tehran on 10-12 January. In addition, a regional meeting for the review and adaptation of minimum quality standards on drug dependence treatment for the region will also be organized in Tehran in the first half of 2013. Both of these activities will involve the regional network of drug demand reduction experts.

Innovative work will also be carried out to develop toolkit/guidelines/protocols for law enforcement agencies to enable early identification of drug users, ethical engagement, human rights of drug users and referral pathways to treatment led by Pakistan. The development of regional guidelines/protocols for effective systems of alternatives to incarceration for drug using offenders will be led by UNODC in the coming months.

Also, related to the activity on model guidelines/protocols for effective systems of alternatives to incarceration for drug using offenders, a regional meeting will be conducted in 2013 on "forced" treatment, identifying individual countries policies towards it and also providing guidelines to treatment accessibility.

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

Recognizing the increasing drug use among migrant populations such as Afghan refugees in the region and returnees to Afghanistan, assistance to these vulnerable groups has been prioritized and tailored by building on a series of pilot activities of comprehensive HIV prevention and care as well as drug prevention and treatment services to Afghan refugee injecting and non-injecting drug users in Iran and Pakistan and returnees in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Two teams regularly provided drug prevention, treatment and care services (outreach, outpatient and residential) through qualified



Figure 18 - Drug prevention treatment and care among returnee's drug users. Outreach worker is providing drug awareness to Afghan returnees from Pakistan in Marco UNHCR catchment area.

medical professionals expert in social work in two bordering provinces of Afghanistan (Herat and Nangarhar) to almost 3,000 drug users, which included 43 male injecting and 465 female non-injecting drug users (newly registered with project implementers). All registered drug users were provided counselling services on the social, family, physical and economic consequences of drug use. Beside this, registered drug users were briefed on symptoms of STIs, safe sex/condom use, HIV and STIs testing centres (VCT), TB and benefits of drug treatment. Around 16,000 individual, family and group counselling sessions were held with returnee drug users in community sites on safe injecting practice, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B&C and the adverse consequences of drug use.



Figure 19 - Drug prevention treatment and care among returnee's drug users. Outreach worker is providing drug awareness to female Afghan returnees from Pakistan in Marco UNHCR catchment area.

Around 600 male drug users that were suffering from STI, were treated for their disease according to World Health Organization Syndromic case management. 370 high risk clients were screened for HIV, HBV, HCV and syphilis in project implementation sites. Primary health care services were provided to registered drug users. More than 100 returnee drug users received detoxification services from the centres and almost 148 suspected male drug users were referred for TB screening.



Figure 20 - Drug prevention treatment and care among returnee's drug users. Workers are providing group counselling on drug prevention to returnees drug users in Marco district of Nangarhar Province.

I. R. of Iran: Four Drop-in Centres (DIC) were contracted in the cities of Mashhad, Varamin, and Shahr-e-Rey for 2012. These already operational DICs provided HIV prevention services to Afghan refugees. The services include needle and syringe distribution, condom promotion and distribution, methadone maintenance treatment, first-aid, wound dressing and care, provision of food and tea, basic counselling, training on HIV and Drugs, referral for HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing and other needed services (like psychiatric counselling, dentistry and hospitals). The activity of the contracted centres is monitored through the receipt of reports as well as regular field visits. Two training sessions were also held (one for the service providers of the DIC in Tehran and one for the service providers of the DIC in Khorasan Razavi province) to increase the technical capacity of the centres in various aspects of service provision and specifically on safer sex, safer injection and overdose management.

Pakistan: Two Drop-in Centres were established to provide comprehensive HIV prevention and care services to Afghan refugee drug users in Kot Chandana refugee camp, Mianwali, province Punjab and in Mera Kachori refugee camp, Peshawar, province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Outreach

services being provided include motivational counselling, awareness on HIV, harmful effects of drug use, Hepatitis B and C and TB, condoms and follow up of the clients. Services provided at the DICs include primary health care for minor ailments (1,090 cases), STIs syndromic management, testing for HIV, Hepatitis B & C (504 tested), detoxification services (69 cases) and referral for drug treatment. Drug use and HIV/AIDS awareness raising activities targeting youth and community were organized (41 in total). Cricket matches were organized for youth, banners with messages on drug and HIV/AIDS prevention were displayed in the ground and announcements of drugs and HIV/AIDS prevention messages were made on the loud speakers. IEC material including posters, brochures, and T-shirts were developed and distributed. Blackboards with drug use prevention messages were provided to schools. To encourage healthy activities among youth, cricket kits were distributed to youth that performed well in matches.

Next steps:

The delivery services to Afghan refugee injecting and non-injecting drug users in Iran and Pakistan and returnees in Afghanistan will be continued into the next year, but the focus will be adapted to prioritize drug treatment and rehabilitation services. Expansion of these services to other border locations in the region with vulnerable refugees and migrant populations such as Tajikistan are being explored and assessed and will be implemented in 2013, subject to funding.

SUB-PROGRAMME 4: TRENDS AND IMPACTS

Sub-Programme 4 on Trends and Impacts is designed to enhance trends analysis and impact monitoring capacity at the regional level, focusing on Afghanistan and the seven countries most immediately affected by the Afghan drug flow dynamics (i.e. the partner countries of the UNODC Regional Programme). In the first year of implementation, UNODC has focused on preparatory work for the launch of substantive interventions such as, baseline assessments and consultations, - most importantly through the Regional Workshop on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis Capacities in Tashkent on 16-18 July. The first Sub-Programme 4 Task Force meeting also took place at the event and resulted in the consensus identification of priority areas of assistance and support by the Regional Programme for 2013. Presently, efforts are ongoing to carry out an assessment of national capacities and practices for statistical data collection, management and analysis in order to orient and prioritize supporting assistance to the countries falling under the Regional Programme.



Figure 21 - Regional Workshop on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis Capacities, Tashkent, 16-18 July 2012 .

Sub-Programme 4 has also initiated efforts in some pilot areas for regional programming. The Kabul Regional Event in December 2012 provided an opportunity to bring together over 130 individuals - not only the technically specialized policy makers and counter-narcotics officials, but also opinion leaders, tribal elders, religious leaders, sports heroes and cultural figures at the national and community levels from Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries. The overall aim was to promote a stronger interest and commitment by the wider non-specialized public, in the development of a collaborative approach and community-based solutions in drug control. This event

- the first of its kind conducted under the Regional Programme - concluded successfully with the adoption of a civic communique and announcement (by the Afghan Counter Narcotics Minister) of 12 December as the civic day for the people of the region uniting against drugs. There are several recommendations for follow-up action, which will be pursued subject to funding, including sister villages (regional cross-border cooperation at the community level) as well as a regional drug awareness celebrity network.



Figure 22 - Kabul Regional Event - Group discussions on illicit drugs and regional stability.

Lastly, considerable work has taken place in the area of setting up programme management structures and processes to facilitate programme management and implementation of the Regional Programme. The flexibility of the Regional Programme in identifying outcomes and outputs and allowing room for manoeuvring when it comes to the identification of activities, has been instrumental in delivering cost-effective technical assistance adapting to developments in politically fast-paced environment. Over the course of the next year, the Regional Programme is expected to yield sustained results over the projected outcomes.

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

The UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch compiled a first Regional Rapid Assessment of trends in drugs and related crimes to serve as a baseline for monitoring and programming. The assessment report takes a snap shot of the region in regards to illicit drug cultivation, markets and counter narcotics, which can be used to monitor the impact of the Regional Programme in coming years. UNODC has also drafted a summary report of available information and data on the implementation of articles related to international cooperation in criminal matters under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) for the countries of the region and to illustrate some gaps in their implementation. This summary report was used to inform interventions under Sub-Programme 2 and is another example of the integrated nature of work conducted under the Regional Programme.

An assessment of Afghanistan's current capacities to engage effectively in counter narcotics regional cooperation was drafted to orient Afghanistan's expectation for a greater regional coordination role. The international consensus is that a viable and long-term solution has to be based on regional counter-narcotics coordination and cooperation with active engagement by Afghanistan. The assessment identifies areas where assistance is necessary and proposes concrete recommendations to help Afghanistan achieve this goal.

On 26 June, and within the context of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the UNODC Executive Director launched the 2012 World Drug Report. The UN General Assembly (GA) convened on that UN International Day the thematic debate on "Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development". The session was attended by the Afghan Minister for Counter Narcotics who addressed the current state drug control in Afghanistan and highlighted progress made and the importance of multilateralism and regional approaches, including in mainstreaming drug control into development initiatives.

Taking the momentum created by the GA thematic debate on the impact of illicit drugs on development, the Regional Programme supported the organization of a briefing session on “Counter-Narcotics Regional Cooperation”, in New York, on 27 June. The briefing session was part of the overall efforts deployed to intensify support to Afghan and neighbouring governments in translating the agreed objectives of the regional cooperation into concrete action. Capitalizing on the momentum generated by the Kabul Conference on 14 June, discussions focused on concrete ways to further expand regional cooperation (including under the Regional Programme) as well as possibilities to enhance Afghanistan’s capacities to engage effectively in the region.

The first Regional Workshop on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis Capacities was convened in Tashkent on 16-18 July. The meeting was attended by experts from analytical and statistical units of drug control agencies and relevant ministries in charge of data collection related to drug demand and supply. The workshop provided an opportunity for the Regional Programme countries to share experiences on the collection and analysis of data related to illicit drugs and to present international standards and best practices.

Taking into account the relevance of the above regional workshop, at its margins, a Sub-Programme 4 Task Force meeting was convened that resulted in the consensus identification of priority areas of assistance and support by the Regional Programme for 2013. The workshop led to the establishment of the Sub-Programme 4 Expert Group, which will be responsible for coordinating and prioritizing research work in the region.



Figure 23 - The Kabul Regional Event on the Impact of Illicit Drugs on the Society and Communities in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, Kabul, 10-12 December 2012.

A regional public awareness-raising event was hosted in collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. “The Kabul Regional Event on the Impact of Illicit Drugs on the Society and Communities in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries – Seeking Societal Solutions to Counter the Drugs Problem” was held between 10 and 12 December 2012 in Kabul. This illicit drug-related regional policy dialogue and public awareness raising event provided an opportunity to bring together over 130 individuals - not only the technically specialized policy makers and counter-narcotics officials, but also opinion leaders, tribal elders, religious leaders, sports heroes and cultural figures at the national and community levels from Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries. The overall aim was to promote a stronger interest and commitment by the wider non-specialized public, in the development of a collaborative approach and community-based solutions in drug control. This event - the first of its kind conducted under the Regional Programme - concluded successfully with the adoption of a civic communique and announcement (by the Afghan Counter Narcotics Minister) of 12 December as the civic day for the people of the region uniting against drugs. There are several recommendations for follow-up action, which will be pursued subject to funding, including sister villages as well as a regional drug awareness celebrity network.

Next steps:

An assessment of national capacities and practices for statistical data collection, management and analysis in order to orient and prioritize supporting assistance and efforts will be undertaken by UNODC in close consultation with the countries falling under the Regional Programme.

A regional database for sharing of drug-related information will be facilitated by UNODC taking advantage and building upon existing mechanisms like the recently developed online database presented to the Tashkent meeting. Active efforts will be made to coordinate the work of the Sub-Programme 4 Expert Group along with activities carried out under CARICC and JPC.

Furthermore, subject to funding, specialized research looking into specific areas of drugs related regional trends will be conducted – with areas of focus including trafficking along the Southern Route, with an emphasis on maritime trafficking, and the illegal economy of drugs, among others.

Outcome 10: Enhanced understanding in the region of the linkages between narcotics and socioeconomic development

A concept paper has been developed for a study to assess the extent and scale of the macroeconomic impact of the drug trade in Afghanistan and its interconnections with the region. The study will provide an understanding how the licit economy, particularly macroeconomic variables, are influenced by the illicit economy, including post-2014 concerns and opportunities. This will be a significant step forward in the attempt to mainstream counter-narcotics issues into socio-economic development approaches and a unique value-add of the Regional Programme. If funding is made available, this study is expected to be completed by May 2014.

Next steps:

Consultations are continuing on the study focusing on the macroeconomic impact of the drug trade and if funding is formalized, work should commence in the coming months. Subject to funding, a regional alternative livelihoods forum will be convened in 2013 to promote related socio-economic development with a view to developing a pilot assistance project. In addition, it is anticipated that the regional public awareness event in Kabul on 10-12 December will be quite useful through the established network of relevant expertise in advancing the discussion on the linkages between narcotics and socioeconomic development with concrete recommendations and outcomes.

Outcome 11: Effective programme monitoring and reporting

Regional Programme performance indicators were developed with UNODC expert inputs. Workplans and logframes (including assumptions and risks) were developed and are monitored regularly for each Sub-Programme of the Regional Programme. An internal web-based project management tool was developed in order to establish an effective working monitoring and reporting mechanism across the geographically dispersed Regional Programme team. The Regional Programme Portal monitors activities and tasks in the achievements of outputs and outcomes. It also supports evaluation needs and establishes linkages between the Regional Programme and country programmes and projects. This information management and activities tracking system manages implementation, produces internal reports, and provides for the sharing of information. This is the tool used by the Regional Programme team to channel activity information and lessen email communication load through centralised information sharing system.

The first programme management workshop was organized in Kabul between 22 and 24 May. Participants from the UNODC network of field offices directly involved with Regional Programme development and implementation, as well as Headquarters, discussed programme management structures and processes as well as ways of working more effectively together in a geographically dispersed team. The workshop concluded with greater clarity on roles and responsibilities, key responsibilities and milestone timelines.

A Programme Implementation Strategy was drafted in October 2012 clarifying roles and responsibilities, workflows, financial management, monitoring and reporting and advocacy. The purpose of the Programme Implementation Strategy is to guide and orient discussion on programme management by clarifying the work processes to enable collective attainment of the overall objectives of the Regional Programme, and present the drivers of change and introduce a plan of action for Regional Programme implementation in 2012/13.

The programme management structures are defined to allow the Regional Programme team to deliver the 2012 strategic priorities, which have been agreed upon with the Governmental authorities, encompassed under the Regional Programme, following the Steering Committee meeting in Vienna on 14 March 2012.

UNODC fielded an Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) mission to the region (the first of its kind) in order to ensure effective synchronization and results-based management of the Regional Programme. It resulted in an “Evaluability - and Results Orientation Study”, which helps ensure the appropriateness of the Regional Programme’s (i) logical framework, (ii) monitoring system, (iii) results framework, (iv) reporting framework, and (v) evaluation needs. The Regional Programme design has been adjusted through the Sub-Programme Logical Framework (with the support of the IEU) in line with these findings.

Next steps:

Lessons learnt from Regional Programme implementation are regularly assessed and adapted to improve programme management structure and practices. Such a dynamic approach is necessary to fulfill the corporate directive to pursue delivery and accountability in the work of UNODC. The versatility of the Regional Programme in identifying activities to promote the defined outcomes and outputs has been instrumental in delivering cost-effective technical assistance adapting to developments in politically fast-paced environment.

All Sub-Programmes of the Regional Programme will be evaluated as part of the Regional Programme In-depth Evaluation, which will be undertaken as a midterm as well as final evaluation to determine the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the Regional Programme and to identify lessons to be learned. The mid-term evaluation is scheduled for mid-2013.

The Regional Programme, with involvement of the UNODC Information and Technology Section, is piloting a new computer-based programme management and monitoring system that is tailored to the complex requirements of the eight countries. This system, which links dynamic costed workplans, programme budgets and sub-programme activities, provides real time monitoring of finances, expenditure against pledges and implementation progress. The system is a pilot that may be extended to other UNODC Regional Programmes worldwide.