PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION - DELIVERING CHANGE

Success Stories and Future Outlook of UNODC's Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries
UNODC has worked actively in the countries of West and Central Asia for many years with field level activities supported through country, sub-regional and global mechanisms. Activities conducted in Afghanistan and its immediate neighbours represent the strategic forefront in tackling the Afghan drug problem. The Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries was built on the recognition that the solution to the Afghan drug problem lay in an integrated regional response, with dedicated contributions by the international community and based on the principles of common and shared responsibilities.

UN Security Council Resolution 2210 of 16th March 2015 encourages the international community and regional partners to support Afghan-led efforts to address drug production and trafficking in a balanced and integrated approach including through regional initiatives.

“Operationally, UNODC remains committed to supporting an integrated approach to illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism in Afghanistan, West and Central Asia and the wider region, through our Inter-regional Drug Control Approach and Networking the Networks initiative.” Mr. Yury Fedetov, Director General / Executive Director of UNODC speaking at the High Level Meeting of Partners for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, Vienna, Austria, 14th December 2015
RP Member States:
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan

Central Asia Programme
Pakistan
Country Programme
Iran
Country Programme
Afghanistan
Country Programme
Central Asia Programme
Regional Programme, ANC
Concrete Achievements in Phase I

2011 – 2015

- Regional law enforcement cooperation strengthened through initiatives such as the Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors, the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Drugs, the Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan Initiative (AKT) and Triangular Initiative (TI).

- In legal cooperation, the building of cooperation to counter illicit financial flows and to build links between countries to better tackle transnational drug trafficking and crime has resulted in a number of ground-breaking MoUs being signed between countries in West and Central Asia.

- Cooperation has been boosted in drug demand reduction with countries joining together to share experiences and practices in addressing social harms caused by illicit drugs.

- In trends and analysis, the RP has worked with countries to better understand drug trafficking routes and illicit financial flows and to strengthen awareness of, and advocacy to address related issues.

- The RP is a key platform for UNODC's Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach to stem illicit drug trafficking from Afghanistan.

- Support to the Paris Pact Initiative and Heart of Asia (Istanbul Process).
Complementarity Between the Three Levels of UNODC Programming in West and Central Asia

**Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach (Connecting with other Regional and Global Programmes)**
- Targeting Drug Trafficking / Transnational Organised Crime Networks
- Regional Intelligence Sharing (JPC / CARICC)
- Strengthened LEF Cooperation (AKT, TI, RIWGP, RWGFD, Operation Substitute)
- Money Laundering / Illicit Financial Flows (Cash)

**Regional Programme Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries**
- Integrated Single UNODC Response Joint Planning and Monitoring

**Country Programmes**
- National Capacity Building

**Programme for Central Asia**
- Promotion of International Standards and Sharing Best Practices in DDR and HIV Prevention
- Research, Policy and Advocacy
- Alternative Development and Regional Support for Licit Economic Development in Afghanistan
AKT
The Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative is aimed at strengthening cross-border cooperation in law enforcement and legal matters between these countries at the starting point of the Northern Route for trafficking narcotics from Afghanistan.

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

RIGWP
The Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors (RIWGP) is a regular activity under the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (Regional Programme). The purpose of the RIWGP is to bring together the law enforcement authorities of the eight countries in the region to review recent developments relating to precursor trafficking, seizures and, where required, to identify remedial actions in addition drafting operation plans for the second phase of the UNODC-led Operation Substitute. Precursor case meetings are also held under this initiative, and resultant backtracking investigations have led to major seizures.

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

Operational Successes

In order to improve the regional operational response through enhanced interagency collaboration on precursors, the Regional Programme worked to develop the Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors (RIWGP). This is a revised model for the region targeting illicit precursors, which replaced Operation TARCET with extended operational objectives. RIWGP aims to link-up the different levels of interdiction and strengthen coordination nationally and regionally.

Operation Substitute

- Launched in June 2014 with the aim of improving operational responses through enhanced interagency collaboration on precursors. It focused on identification and interception of smuggled assignments of acetic anhydride.

- It 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 to smuggle consignments of acetic anhydride.

- During Operation Substitute, more than 150 check-points in the seven participating RP countries were assigned to be on high alert during the operation resulting in almost 2000 consignments being stopped at these check points in Central Asian countries, 12 official shipments of chemicals weighing a total of 215 metric tonnes were placed under surveillance by law enforcement.
Seizure of 150 liters of acetic anhydride on 20 January 2015 in Helmand Province – intended to be smuggled to Nangarhar province
Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation

Priorities

- Promoting information sharing and operation;
- Provision of technical training to law enforcement officials;
- Provision of materials to support operational activity; and
- Support to stationing of Drug and Liaison Officers in selected countries.

Operational Successes have been a feature of the RP

2012

- Supported by special meetings under the AKT, DCA of Tajikistan conducted 28 successful joint operations with Afghan law enforcement agencies resulting in 3552 kg of seizures of drugs (including 229 kg of heroin, 2807 kg of opium, 517 kg of hashish).
- DCA also conducted two joint operations with the State Service on Drug Control (SSDC) of Kyrgyzstan resulting in seizures of 11 kg of drugs (including 4 kg of heroin, 7 kg of hashish).
- Under support provided to the JPC, which aims to maximize law enforcement and interdiction efforts, a series of joint operations, coordinated by the JPC, were carried out by Iranian and Afghan forces.

2013

- Simultaneous patrols under the framework of the Triangular Initiative along the Iran-Afghan and Iran-Pakistan borders.
Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation

- AKT enjoyed similar successes - DCA of Tajikistan conducted a number of joint operations including:
  - six simultaneous operations with Afghan law enforcement agencies resulting in the seizure of 261kg of drugs (238kg of opium, 20kg of hashish and 3kg of heroin).
  - one (each) with the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic, China and the Russian Federation – the simultaneous operations resulted in the seizure of 450 kg of different type of drugs including 405.5kg of opium, 23.7 kg of heroin and 20.4 kg of cannabis.

2014
Support to the TI, JPC, AKT, RIWGP and CARICC contributed to seizures of:

- 655kgs of opium, 1060 kgs of hashish, 6500 litres of acetic andydrde, 4500 litres of ammonia and 167 tones of precursor chemicals.

2015
The efforts to promote regional cooperation culminated in a number of joint operations along with seizures of 30 liters of precursors, 320 kgs of opium, 85 kgs of heroin and 117 kgs of hashish, which were based on information sharing between DLOs and application of advanced investigation measures in the region.

- Further to these seizures, through the RIWGP and operational case meetings, the countries continued to work on back tracking investigations on 10 major precursor investigation cases, which included seizures of 167 tons of precursor chemicals within the last two years.
2015 Seizures and Arrests

27 January
- 59 kg of hashish was seized and two citizens of Afghanistan were detained in Takhor province of Afghanistan.

16 February
- 4.273 kg of opium was seized and two citizens of Afghanistan were detained in Ishkashim region of Gorno-Badakhshan province of Tajikistan.

23 February
- 19.815 kg of heroin was seized and one citizen of Afghanistan was detained in Takhor province of Afghanistan.

10 March
- 15 kg of heroin was seized and one citizen of Afghanistan was detained in Takhor province of Afghanistan.

30 March
- 37.8 kg of opium was seized and one citizen of Afghanistan was detained in Takhor province of Afghanistan.

14 April
- 57.9 kg of opium was seized and one citizen of Afghanistan was detained in Takhor province of Afghanistan.

17 May
- 32 kg of heroin was seized and one citizen of Afghanistan was detained in Badakhshan province of Afghanistan.
Other Joint Operations

16 March
- The DCA of Tajikistan and Ministry of Interior of Afghanistan seized 46 kg of opium and one citizen of Afghanistan was detained in Takhor province of Afghanistan.

31 March
- The DCA and State Service on Drug control (SSDC) of Kyrgyzstan seized 0.524 g of heroin and 7.72 kg of heroin, two citizens of Tajikistan and one citizen of Kyrgyzstan were detained in Isfara, Sughd province of Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, respectively.

21 January
- As a result of a controlled delivery operation conducted by the CNPA and DCA; 9.77 kg of hashish was seized, and one citizen of Afghanistan and one citizen of Tajikistan were detained in Kulyab, Khatlon province of Tajikistan.

23 February
- As a result of a controlled delivery operation conducted by the CNPA and DCA; 48.627 kg of hashish was seized in Rudaki region of Tajikistan.

24 March
- As a result of a controlled delivery operation conducted by the CNPA and DCA; 39.733 kg of opium and 961.6 g of heroin were seized and one citizen of Afghanistan was detained in Kulyab, Khatlon province of Tajikistan.
Legal Cooperation

Priority focus on:

- Support to fostering stronger linkages and networks among Financial Intelligence Units, judiciary, relevant law enforcement agencies and other competent authorities of RP Member States.
- Capacity building and institutional development to improve knowledge of legislation, methods of working, and challenges.
- Promoting harmonization of legal systems/legislative frameworks in addressing Mutual Legal Assistance, extradition and Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), etc.
- Promotion of confidence building as well as better inter-agency cooperation to facilitate information sharing on criminal justice related matters.

Sub-Programme 2's activities on promoting international cooperation in criminal matters have yielded results since the RP's inception. Since 2012 and under the CASH Initiative, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have exchanged requests/information on Suspicious Financial Transactions (SFTs) to better address illicit financial flows in the region.
To date, 6 bilateral MoUs on AML/CFT have been signed between the following countries:

- Iran – Tajikistan (2012)
- Kyrgyzstan – Kazakhstan (2013)
- Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan (2013)
- Tajikistan – Kazakhstan (2013)
- Tajikistan – Turkmenistan (2013)
Success Stories:

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

- **May 2015** - Inter-regional workshop on Supporting Successful Prosecutions and Other Disruptions by Building, Enhancing and Networking Financial Investigation Capacity in National Law Enforcement Agencies – provided a forum for 40 senior experts from RP countries to learn and share best practices as well as facilitating the identification and analysis of options for developing a financial investigation capability within law enforcement agencies and networking this capability with key stakeholders including prosecutors and FIUs. This Workshop was jointly organised with GPML, the Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and took place in Uzbekistan.

- **September 2015** - Inter-regional workshop on Strengthening Cooperation between Financial Intelligence Units and Law Enforcement Agencies in Combating Laundering of Illicit Drug Trafficking Proceeds – brought together representatives of Financial Intelligence Units and law enforcement agencies of the RP countries in order to link their network with other existing networks and agencies beyond the region. The Workshop jointly organized with the Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG) and Russian International Training and Methodology Center for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM) and took place in Russia.

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

- **September 2015** - Regional workshop on Illicit Use of Money or Value Transfer Services (MVTS): Enhancing Legislative, Regulatory and Investigative Frameworks and Inter-Agency Working – provided training to over 35 senior experts from RP countries on identification and sharing current good practices, initiatives and typologies in detecting, investigating and disrupting criminal use of MVTS, regulation and community engagement with money and value transfer services providers, determination of critical information requirements, as well as collection methodologies and dissemination frameworks regarding criminal use of MVTS. This Workshop was held in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Another major achievement during the above workshop was the formal signing by Afghanistan and Tajikistan of the RP model Memorandum of Understanding on Anti-Money Laundering / Counter Financing of Terrorism which will facilitate sharing of information on Suspicious Financial Transactions (SFTs) between the two countries.

- **September / October 2015** – Two Cash Courier courses under AKT – TI initiatives respectively – focused on currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments (BNIs), cash concealments, money laundering, international standards and the role of national agencies, intelligence and the preparation of intelligence reports, suspicious transaction reports and the regulated sector, cash forensics, tactical questioning and profiling and targeting for cash interdictions, practical interview techniques, and the financing of terrorism. These courses were carried out in Turkey.
Prevention and Treatment of Addiction Among Vulnerable Groups

Support the scaling up and expansion of the FAST (Families and Schools Together) initiative in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Initiated Strengthening Families Programme (SFP), a prevention programme targeting older children (10 to 14 years age group).

Strengthened established regional network of Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Coordination Centres for undertaking joint research, assessment, drug treatment data sharing and data base of drug demand reduction experts from the region.

Trained drug treatment policy makers and professionals in scientific evidence based drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes.

Finalized Rapid Assessment of drug dependence treatment systems and services, assessment on non-voluntary drug treatment and rehabilitation and initiated assessment of the health and social protection needs of returnees and refugees in selected RP countries.

Provision of comprehensive HIV prevention services through support to Drop-In-Centres in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan for large numbers of male, female and adolescent Afghan refugees and returnees.
Drop In Center – Mashhad, Iran for Afghan refugees

FAST Turkmenistan

FAST – Family and Schools Together in all RP countries

FAST Iran

FAST Pakistan

Drop In Center – Mashhad, Iran for Afghan refugees drug users – April 2015
Treatment Services to Afghan Returnees

In Afghanistan, two teams provided services to almost 3,000 drug users (including 43 male injecting and 465 female non-injecting). Around 16,000 individual and family group counselling sessions were held for returnee drug users in communities. 600 male drug users suffering from STI treated according to WHO Syndromic case management.

In Iran, four drop in centers contracted to provide HIV prevention services to Afghan refugees.

In Pakistan, two DICs established to provide comprehensive HIV prevention and care services to Afghan refugees in Kot Changi refugee camp, Peshawar, province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
Trends and Analysis

Priority areas of focus:

- Filling critical gaps in trend analysis and impact monitoring of RP Member States to strengthen evidence-based policy making efforts.
- Undertaking ground-breaking technical studies into under-researched areas such as linkages between narcotics, socio-economic factors and wider concerns of human security.
- The provision of technical, skills-based training to law enforcement and criminal justice officers on use of state of the art data collection and analysis tools.
- Where applicable, procuring necessary technical software and hardware to facilitate better data analysis.
- Supporting engagement between government bodies, civil society organisations, community groups and the media to promote confidence building, discourse and problem-solving to deliver holistic responses to countering narcotics.
- Supporting high level policy meetings and creating a platform for ongoing policy dialogue in the region.

Key Research Outputs

Sub-Programme 4 has led, worked with and supported the Afghan Opiate Trade Project, the Surveys and Statistics Section of UNODC’s HQ and Paris Pact Initiative to deliver a number of technical reports on the major trafficking routes for Afghan opiates.
Policy Dialogue, Advocacy and Confidence Building

SP 4 has supported a number of high-level meetings that have allowed key representatives from RP Member States and the wider international community to get together to discuss policies, cooperation and courses of action to counter illicit drug cultivation, production, trafficking and related development, security and socio-economic harms.

- Seminar on “Challenges in addressing the illicit drugs problem in the region in the context of withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan in 2014” co-hosted with UNRCCA - 2013.
- The Kabul Regional Event on the Impact of Illicit Drugs on the Society and Communities in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries - 2014.
- High-level International Conference on Consolidation of Efforts of International Anti-Drug Cooperation - 2014.
- SP4 has supported workshops for heads of media agencies to raise awareness on efforts to counter narcotics, and promote greater, more informed coverage – 2014 and 2015.
- The Regional Media Forum brought together hundreds of students and Heads of Drug Agencies of RP Member States to discuss current and future possible interventions in countering narcotics - 2015.
- To promote best practice in the implementation of Alternative Development interventions, SP4 has facilitated study tours for Afghan and Tajik farmers to Thailand to learn from experiences and disseminate in the region - 2015.
- SP4 has supported a number of confidence building events between border communities of Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan and Pakistan that are the forefront of illicit drug smuggling – 2013 till 2015.
- The High-level meeting of Partners for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries brought together key actors to discuss suitable strategies to counter narcotics and transnational organized crime for the region, and work aimed at building regional cooperation to combat transnational organized crime and support the 2030 Development Agenda in West and Central Asia - 2015.
"The European Union strongly supports the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Programme as a primary platform for regional cooperation in countering illicit drug production, trafficking and use emanating from Afghanistan and its harmful impact on neighbours and the wider international community. The principle of shared responsibility for problem solving with regards to illicit drugs in the region is one that the EU supports and works to embed. The RP continues to deliver tangible results in a challenging environment that are helping to counter illicit drugs and related security, development and socio-economic harms."

H.E. Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin
EU Ambassador
Special Representative to Afghanistan
Human Rights

Together with promotion of peace, security and development, human rights is at the core of all United Nations work. Through its work with countries in strengthening their national criminal justice systems with a view to ensuring compliance with the UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, and through its support for a health-based approach to drug demand reduction, the Regional Programme aims to maximise the positive human rights impact of its work.

UNODC follows a Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), which includes guidance on communications, risk assessment and mitigation, and monitoring. The use of a UNODC Human Rights Assessment Tool in preliminary assessments and on-going mainstreaming initiatives further guides the Regional Programme in its work. Furthermore, UNODC has developed a number of tools, in particular the Guidance Note on UNODC and the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2012), in order to provide practical guidance to managers on how to mainstream human rights standards into their programmes. The promotion and protection of Human Rights begins at the planning stage and runs through to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
Coordination and Partnership

The Regional Programme has, and continues to work with partners including:

- The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- The EU Heroin II Project
- The Economic Cooperation Organization
- The Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre – CARICC
- The Gulf Criminal Intelligence Centre – GCIC
- Drug Crimes
- The Southeast Europe Law Enforcement Center – SELEC
- EUROPOL
- EUROJUST
- INTERPOL
- UNRCCA
- UNHCR
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- The Collective Security Treaty Organization
- Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Crime (TADOC)
- Domodedovo Training Institute
- UNICEF
- WCO
Looking Forward

“Going forward to UNGASS 2016, we need to continue addressing the challenges of illicit drugs as a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international and regional cooperation, with a focus on an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approaches, addressing both supply and demand reduction.”

Yuri Fedotov, UNODC
Executive Director
Partners of Afghanistan Meeting, Vienna, 14 December 2015
As the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries moves into its second phase, this “Success Stories and Future Outlook” is designed to be a brief synopsis of key highlights and tangible added value since the Programme’s inception.

What is undoubted is the magnitude of the challenge we face in designing and delivering effective interventions to counter the illicit trade in opiates stemming from Afghanistan.

The Regional Programme has and continues to be the critical interlocutor in promoting regional cooperation and joint cooperation in countering illicit drugs and related harms in Afghanistan, West and Central Asia and beyond.

My sincere gratitude to Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the European Union, United Kingdom, and United States for their significant on-going support to the Regional Programme that has and continues to enable impact outcomes focused delivery.

Andrey Avetisyan
Regional Representative for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries
Special Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Counter Narcotics
Donors

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