

UNODC helps countries and its people to reduce illegal drugs and crime throughout the world and to address justice and human security. It helps Member States with technical assistance, legal advice and research within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the three United Nations Conventions on Drugs.

UNODC South Asia is present in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Nepal: Indo – Nepal Training Workshop on Countering Trafficking for Forced Labour



Human Trafficking is an organized crime and is seen as one of the most profitable criminal activities worldwide. India and Nepal share an open border and while this makes travel between the two countries easier, it also allows for human trafficking. Many Nepali girls are trafficked to India as forced labour. In order to combat this issue, a major step forward was taken to prevent and control human trafficking with both India and Nepal having ratified the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), while India also ratified the Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the UNTOC.

In this backdrop, the first ever bilateral meeting was organized on 3 and 4 May 2012 in Kathmandu, to train law enforcement officials from India and Nepal on countering trafficking for forced labour. The workshop was organized by UNODC in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), under a project titled 'Reducing trafficking of women and girls for domestic work in Nepal and India,' supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Development (DFID). The workshop sought to promote the sharing of national practices and strengthen responses to tackle trafficking (both internal and cross-border) for forced labour, including for domestic work. Over 35 participants from the government, police, border control agencies, civil society organizations and development agencies from both countries attended the workshop.

One of the key points that came up during the sessions was the need to effectively implement the laws that are already in place to address human trafficking. Discussions also focused on the role of government in rehabilitating the rescued victims, collaborations between the police and NGOs to provide justice to the victims, effectiveness of inter-state coordination among the police and the importance of effective government schemes to rehabilitate the survivors.

North East India: Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT)

Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) for drug users was launched for the first time in North East India at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal on 14th April 2012. This is part of the initiative being implemented by UNODC, together with the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

Three methadone dispensing sites have already been established in Kapurthala and Bhatinda, Punjab and Mumbai, Maharashtra as part of the MMT Programme, which is reaching out to nearly 100 clients. The centre in RIMS will further reach out to 50 clients.

Upcoming Events

India

Prevention of HIV and Drug Use

- **21 – 23 May 2012, New Delhi:** Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on 'Management of co-morbid conditions among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs)'
- **28 – 30 May 2012, New Delhi:** ToT workshop on 'Advocacy, Community Mobilization and Referral Networking'

Anti Corruption

- **25 May, Bangalore, Karnataka:** First state level consultation on anti-corruption legislative review in India
- **29 May 2012, New Delhi:** First national level consultation on anti-corruption legislative review in India

Meetings and Events in South Asia



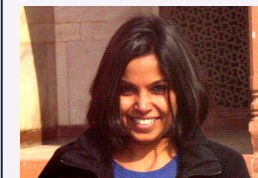
India: PVR Nest, the social wing of PVR Cinemas, organised an event on 5th April 2012, where they launched their ADAPT Program, which will reach out to street children affected by drug use. Ms Cristina Albertin, UNODC Representative for South Asia, was the Chief Guest for the occasion. She felicitated children from PVR Nest's programs who have excelled in academics, become peer leaders after rehabilitation and have championed promotion of health in their communities. She also stressed on the importance of recognizing street children as a group that is extremely vulnerable to drug use and reaching out to them with timely and focussed prevention and treatment services.

Maldives: As part of the country's ongoing first ever national drug use survey, UNODC in collaboration with National Drug Agency (NDA), Government of Maldives organized the 5th Survey Steering Group (SSG) meeting on 5th April 2012 at the Ministry of Health and Family (MoHF). The objective of the meeting was to give all stakeholders an update of the progress made under the survey and seek their feedback. The survey is being carried out under UNODC's project 'Strengthening the national response to combat drug abuse in the Maldives', supported by the European Union. The final survey report is expected to be launched in June 2012.

Nepal: UNODC participated as an observer at the Drug Control Executive Committee Meeting on 13 March 2012. This committee, which has been prescribed under the country's Drug Control Policy, is chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA). Members of the Committee include the Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health and Population, Department of Drug Administration (DDA), Drug Control Programme, the Nepal Police, Federation of Journalists, Injecting Drug Users (IDU) Network and NGOs. Discussions focussed on the merits of OST and the need to scale it up in the country. The participants emphasized the need for overall coordination of activities to bring down drug use in the country and the need to develop a National Action Plan on drugs.

INTERNAL NEWS CORNER

Our Office bids farewell to our colleague, Ms. Madhyama Subramanian.



Madhyama joined UNODC in 2010 as the Communications Officer. She was responsible for handling external communications and events in the Office. She leaves UNODC to pursue higher studies. We thank Madhyama for her dedicated work and wish her all the best for her future!

We welcome on board our new colleagues, Ms. Isheetta Sumra and Ms. Ramdinpuii Ralte.



Isheetta has joined UNODC as the Communications Officer. With a Masters in Media Practice from the University of Sydney, she has previously worked as a journalist with media houses such as NDTV and COSMOS magazine.



Ramdinpuii joined UNODC in April as a Project Assistant. She will provide operational, financial and administrative support to UNODC's work in North East India. With a Masters in Social Work, Ramdinpuii has previously worked with drug users and their partners, especially those who inject drugs.

We also welcome Mr. Alexander Panewsky and Ms. Amrit Minhas who have joined as interns in New Delhi.



Presently studying Political Science in Pune, India, Alexander is helping UNODC in its regional programme.



Currently pursuing an M.A. in Clinical Social Work, Amrit is supporting UNODC's projects on HIV prevention among drug users.