

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.

Every year, 26th June is observed as the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' or 'World Drug Day'. The theme for this year's celebrations was 'Global Action for Healthy Communities without Drugs'. We are pleased to share with you some of the main activities that were supported by UNODC in India, Maldives, Bangladesh and Nepal to commemorate World Drug Day 2012.

INDIA



New Delhi: UNODC organized an evening of 'Films, dialogue and music' on the eve of World Drug Day. UNODC showcased three films on drug abuse, prevention, treatment and care. In addition, UNODC launched 12 publications including Standard Operating Procedures, Training Manuals and research studies on interventions for Injecting Drug Users (IDUs). The publications and movies were developed to support service providers in their daily work with

drug users. The evening ended with a lively performance by the Sahara Band founded by recovering drug users.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organized an official function on 26 June with the support of a variety of stakeholders. UNODC also participated in the function and read out the Secretary General's message.

North East: NGOs and Government departments joined hands with UNODC in commemorating World Drug Day in Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya where UNODC supports HIV prevention among female injecting drug users (FIDUs) and female partners of male injecting drug users.

The Social Welfare Department in collaboration with government departments, NGOs and UNODC organized a state level programme in Aizawl, Mizoram. As part of this programme, 250 Young Mizo Association (YMA) members joined the 'Walk for Health'. In collaboration with the Aizawl Thunder Club, a bike rally was also organized to generate awareness on substance abuse amongst the youth. 100 bikers drove through Aizawl city carrying with them messages on 'Global Health starts with drug free communities'. The commemoration ended with an official event organized at Vanapa hall.

BANGLADESH

UNODC in Bangladesh joined hands with the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and partner NGOs to commemorate World Drug Day. A human chain and procession led up to the main event which was attended by the Government, NGOs and civil society. Various stakeholders participated in discussion meetings and an award ceremony was organized to recognize the contribution made by NGOs in drug treatment service. In addition, discussions were held with general inmates at Rajshahi Jail and Dhaka Central Jail to update them about the importance of the day for drug abuse and HIV prevention.

MALDIVES



On 25 June, commemorating World Drug Day, the Vice President of Maldives, His Excellency Mohamed Waheed Deen launched a parental guide book titled "Kaamiyaabu Beleniveriya" (Successful Parenting). The book issued by 'Journey' - a Maldivian NGO working against drug abuse and trafficking - provides guidance to parents and guardians on how to protect their children from substance abuse.

On 26 June, an official function commemorating World Drug Day was organized by the National Drug Agency, UNODC's project partner.

On the occasion, the Government presented key findings of the National Drug Use Survey. At the function, the Vice President of Maldives stressed the importance of rehabilitating drug users. He said that a rehab centre could not be considered fully functional if it did not bring back into the community productive individuals.

Outreach and awareness sessions are also underway in Himmafushi, Addu and Fuvahmulah islands, in collaboration with the National Drug Agency treatment centres and UNODC.

All the activities were possible thanks to the support of the European Union (EU), as part of UNODC's project 'Strengthening the National Response to Combat Drug Abuse in the Maldives.'

NEPAL



Marking World Drug Day, UNODC supported an event organized by the partner NGO, Dristi Nepal on 25 June. The event focused on Female Drug Users and aimed at sensitizing the community about the challenges that they face, like living with HIV.

A UNODC report titled 'Profile, Drug Use Pattern, Risk Behaviour and selected bio-markers of women drug users from seven sites in Nepal' about women drug users in Nepal was officially launched at the event.

The event coordinated by USAID and UNODC was attended by Ministers, Government officials, NGO partners, media, the UN family and community members.

On 26 June, an official ceremony was organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal in Kathmandu. The Deputy Prime Minister Mr Bijaya Kumar Gachhedhar was the Chief Guest and UNODC also participated in the event.