

Turkey programme

Situation analysis

Due to its geographical location, Turkey forms a key link between Afghanistan, which was a major opium-producing country until 2000, and heroin-consuming countries in western Europe. The Taliban ban on opium poppy cultivation was largely effective as of 2001. However, data on seizures of opiates in the countries neighbouring Afghanistan are still high because of the substantial stock of opium and heroin available in Afghanistan. Afghan drugs are trafficked into Turkey across the land borders with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Georgia and, to a lesser extent, the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as through numerous seaports of the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara. From Turkey, the drugs are then trafficked across the Balkan route to the western European markets. Reports have been received that some of the opium and morphine base entering Turkey is converted into heroin in clandestine laboratories within the country. Apart from the trafficking of illicit drugs, mainly opiates, into Turkey from the producing countries in the east, the country is also facing an increasing problem of illicit trafficking of precursor chemicals. In addition, there is an emerging problem of cocaine and synthetic drugs, trafficked to Turkey from western countries.

Drug abuse is still viewed as a relatively small problem in Turkey, but health officials acknowledge that heroin and cocaine addiction are increasing steadily and that there is a potential of further growth. In the absence of epidemiological data and statistics, estimates by the local drug control and health experts on the real number vary between a few thousand abusers for the entire country up to half a million for the Istanbul population alone.

Turkey is a major producer of licit opium. The production of poppy straw is being efficiently controlled by a licensing system and penal sanctions limiting the diversion and misuse of the poppy straw. From the date the system was put into place in 1974 until now, no seizures of opium derived from Turkish poppies have been reported either in the country or abroad.

Objective

The objective is to support the Government of Turkey in optimizing the national drug control capacities of the country and in promoting regional cooperation.

Strategy

The programme for Turkey was developed on the basis of a strategy of strengthening interdiction capabilities adopted by the "Six plus Two" group, taking into account the record opium production in Afghanistan during 1999 and 2000. The situation changed with the July 2000 ban on opium cultivation issued by the Taliban. If the ban is implemented with the same vigour in the coming years after exhaustion of the available stocks, there is a threat of displacement of opium cultivation to countries in the region, in particular in central Asia, and the strategies for countering narcotics in central Asia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey would need to be revisited. UNODC and Governments need to monitor the situation and establish an early warning system to identify any displacement. If the ban is sustained, and no displacement of cultivation takes place, there is the possibility of the introduction of other illicit drugs into the region, such as amphetamine-type stimulants. Proper strategies would then need to be in place to counter such possibility.

Over the years, Turkey has accumulated considerable expertise in countering the problem of illicit drugs, making it one of the most advanced countries in the region in terms of drug control. Turkey's strong role and expertise in the drug law enforcement and licit control sectors and its training capacity are well documented.

255. The UNODC strategy for the biennium 2002-2003 mainly aims at further strengthening the existing capacities and promoting the leading role of Turkey in the region, in particular in the field of law enforcement training. To that end, the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) in Ankara, inaugurated in June 2000, will continue to be supported. Activities will mainly focus on gradually developing the quality and number of training courses available within the region, and on building up the required expertise and regional cooperation mechanisms. Moreover,

computer-based training will be introduced at TADOC and eventually spread to the countries of the region.

Turkey is also among the countries that will cooperate with UNODC under GAP, developed as a result of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. A regional epidemiological adviser will be posted in Ankara who, apart from overseeing activities in the countries of western and central Asia, will also supervise the implementation of an assessment of drug abuse to be carried out in Turkey. On the basis of the results of that assessment, and depending on the availability of funding, it is envisaged to design targeted interventions in the field of drug demand reduction in Turkey.

Results

Outcome: national and regional training capacity in TADOC improved. Objectively verifiable indicators: International training adviser recruited; number of law enforcement officers from various national law enforcement agencies and from the countries of the region trained; needs assessment in the countries of the region carried out; training courses evaluated.

Outcome: national and regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms in the fields of drugs and related crimes strengthened. Objectively verifiable indicators: Regional Advisory Committee and regional operational meetings held regularly; National Advisory Board meetings involving all relevant agencies held regularly.

Outcome: computer-based training capability established at TADOC and in learning resource centres across Turkey. Objectively verifiable indicators: training CD-ROM available in Turkish; workshops held to introduce computer-based training at TADOC and other law enforcement agencies; number of persons trained at TADOC and learning resource centres using computer-based training.

Outcome: drug abuse situation in Turkey assessed. Objectively verifiable indicators: report of assessment available; epidemiology network in Turkey involving all relevant agencies established and operational.

Budget and funding

An analysis of the likelihood of funding priority activities under the programme results in a biennial budget for 2002-2003 of \$1.2 million. The table below provides a breakdown of that budget by thematic area, ongoing and pipeline activities and general- and special-purpose resources.

Turkey programme budget for 2002-2003

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Thematic area	Activities		Resources		Total
	Ongoing	Pipeline	General-purpose	Special-purpose	
Prevention and reduction of drug abuse	--	100	--	100	100
Suppression of illicit drug trafficking	--	1 060	--	1 060	1 060
Total	--	1 160	--	1 160	1 160