



- Promote rule of law, good governance, adherence to international standards & obligations;
- Strengthen national policies, institutions and practices in response to drugs, crime and terrorism;
- Strengthen capacity to combat transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking of drugs, arms, persons, and goods;
- Promote regional and international cooperation and partnerships to respond more effectively to shared problems in crime, drugs and terrorism;
- Promote best practices and evidenced-based policies and practices in drug prevention and reduction, through education and treatment, particularly among the youth;
- Provide research, data analysis and expertise on global, regional and national trends on crime, drugs and terrorism.

Quarterly Newsletter from the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa

April – June 2016

Word of the Regional Representative



Masood Karimipour

UNODC partnership with Member States and the League of Arab States took another major step forward recently with the official launch of the new Regional Programme for the Arab States (2016-2021). UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov, traveled to Cairo in May to launch the RP together with then Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Nabil Al-Araby. The RP is the culmination of extensive consultations, both technical and political, with partners, governments and civil society. It reflects the national priorities, emerging threats in the region and recommendations of the independent in-depth evaluation of our last RP. It is geared to help people of the region achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, while overcoming challenges unique to the region. We are proud of the achievements to date, laws enacted, thousands of professionals trained, and justice and security improved (recent highlights here). But threats to rule of law and human rights continue to evolve and undermine security, peace & development. We have to continue to confront them together. Partnership is the only way to succeed. Stay tuned.

Regional: World Drug Report

ROMENA Launches the World Drug Report

The UNODC 2016 [World Drug Report](#) (WDR) was launched in Cairo at a press conference at the United Nations Information Centre by the Regional Representative, Masood Karimipour, and in Tunisia by the Head of the UNODC Programme Office. The WDR offers insight into the impact of drugs not only on the health and well-being of users, but also on the people around them, including harms such as HIV, as well as the threat of violence, faced in particular by women and children. It cited cannabis as the number one most-used drug globally. The trend appears to show that “Europe, North Africa and the Near and Middle East remain the principal markets for cannabis resin, the majority of which continues to be produced in Morocco and Afghanistan”. Mr. Karimipour urged that action be taken in order to reverse the dangerous trend in drug abuse in the MENA region. He underscored that conflicts and weak governance lead to increased organized crime activity, including drug trafficking, and increased availability of drugs. One example is the large captagon quantities trafficked in the Levant, which has been besieged by multiple security threats. The launch was widely covered by the press which helped raise awareness of drug issues in the region.



Yemen: Terrorism Prevention

Specialized Counter Terrorism Unit Created

UNODC held four events for Yemeni criminal justice and law enforcement officers. The first three were held in Jordan in May for 18 criminal justice officials (judges and prosecutors). They focused on investigation of terrorism-related cases. Two of the activities included case studies and simulated court proceedings, focusing on the financing of terrorism and elements conducive to terrorism, such as its glorification and incitement. The third one focused on emerging threats linked to terrorism financing. The fourth one involved specialized training in countering the use of internet for terrorism purposes. This included a study visit to the Information Department of the Spanish Guardia Civil in June to introduce the latest technologies and methods applied to conducting online investigations and analyzing digital evidence. As a result, a specialized unit to counter the use of internet for terrorism purposes was established. *This project is funded by Japan.*



Yemeni experts trained

Iraq: Terrorism Prevention

New Counter-terrorism Legislation Discussed



Regional Legal Advisors

In April, UNODC organized a three-day workshop on “The Revision of the Counter Terrorism draft law as per the International Legal Instruments against Terrorism and Relevant Resolutions of UN Security Council” in Amman, Jordan. The workshop witnessed a high level group of professionals from Iraq, including the legal advisors to the President and the Prime Minister, judges, and members of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies. Regional and international experts from different countries, such as Egypt, Lebanon and the UK also participated in the event. The draft law was thoroughly analyzed by participants, and expert advice was provided regarding related issues such as human rights, penalties, requirements of criminalization as per international counter terrorism instruments and relevant Security Council resolutions. At the end of the workshop, a detailed report was prepared by experts with all recommendations to be used as a guide to the Iraqi Parliament while drafting the new law. *This project is funded by Japan.*

Tunisia: HIV/AIDS

Improving Prison Health Services



UNODC Team and Minister of Justice

UNODC presented to the Tunisian Minister of Justice, H.E. Mr. Omar Mansour, and other major stakeholders from the Tunisian prison authorities a new UNODC initiative to improve health services in prison settings. The initiative aims at enhancing access of Tunisian inmates to drug addiction and HIV prevention, treatment and care in detention facilities. To this end, UNODC will focus on promoting best practices to reduce demand and harm from drugs, including HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases, while supporting rehabilitation and community reintegration. In addition, the establishment of sustainable partnerships between Tunisian civil society organisations and the prison authorities will be supported to provide training and awareness-raising to prison staff, and sensitize inmates to harm reduction practices. The initiative principle was approved by the Tunisian side. *This initiative is funded by the Drosos Foundation.*

Egypt: Anti-Corruption

“Corruption is a Loss” Media Campaign Launched



on left: Actor Bayumi Fouad

UNODC, in cooperation with the National Coordinating Committee for Combating Corruption, launched Egypt's national anti-Corruption media campaign, with the slogan “Intended or Not, Corruption is a Loss!” The campaign, which began airing during the peak TV viewing month of Ramadan runs for two months and is part of a wider UNODC anti-corruption project in Egypt that started in July 2011. The campaign targets citizens at large and public officials, and aims at increasing awareness of, and preventing, the various forms of corruption and their negative impact on society. The campaign includes a series of TV public service announcements, each PSA tackling a different form of corruption that needs to be widely addressed, such as nepotism and bribery. *This project is funded by the European Union.*

Tunisia: Combating Drugs

Container Control Programme Launched

Tunisia: Improving Border Security

Multilateral Cooperation to Improve Safety

On 26 May, UNODC joined the Tunisian Customs for a field visit to the two border crossing points of Babbouche and Melloula, on the Algerian-Tunisian border. The visit was organised by the Customs General Directorate as part of the cooperation between the Tunisian authorities, the World Customs Organization, the Chinese Customs and UNODC. The visit provided insight on law enforcement and customs operations at the Algerian border and provided a complete picture over existing capacities and challenges faced by the national authorities in securing the borders while facilitating licit cross-border flows.



Border Security Field Visit

UNODC, World Customs Organization and the Government of Tunisia, launched the Container Control Programme (CCP) in Tunisia in June. The CCP will focus on the Port of Radès, where an inter-agency port control unit will be established to profile, target and examine high-risk containers being used for the transport of illicit goods, while at the same time facilitating shipping and trade. The launching of the CCP in Tunisia comes at a crucial time in light of the country's strategic geographical and trade location and current security threats and heightened risks for illicit trafficking in the region. *This project is funded by Japan.*



Opening Ceremony

Jordan: Trafficking and Exploitation

UNODC Collaboration to End Trafficking

UNODC, in cooperation with Tamkeen and the [Jordan's] Business and Human rights Resource Centre, held a workshop in April on “Migrant Workers and the Risk of Exploitation and Trafficking in Jordan”. The workshop provided a platform for stakeholders and experts to discuss the national and international challenges of the influx of migrants and refugees in Jordan. Participants included workers from different industries, civil society organizations, government and businesses who exchanged ideas on how they can work together to reduce exploitation. Over 30 participants took part in the event, with representatives from the Jordanian civil society working on migrant workers' rights through legal aid, advocacy and legal and institutional reform, and government officials, in particular from the Human Rights Bureau at the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministries of Justice and Labor and the Counter-Trafficking Unit. *This Workshop is co-funded by Norway and the European Union.*



Partners & Experts Meeting

Upcoming Events

- * Regional workshop on **Trafficking in Persons for Syrian and Iraqis Refugees and Displaced Persons**, Amman, Jordan, 25 - 27 July
- * **Libya Harm Reduction Training**, Beirut, Lebanon, 25 July - 3 August
- * **Crime Intelligence Analysis for Advanced Trainees (Ministry of Interior)** Tunisia, 29 August - 2 September
- * **Operational Crime and Intelligence Analysis Based on iBase and iDesigner software (Ministry of Interior)**, Tunisia, 5 September - 9 September
- * Two trainings on **Provision of Comprehensive Health Services for Prisoners**, Rabat, Tunis, September
- * Workshop on “**Legal and institutional measures to support victims of acts of terrorism**” for Yemenis, Cairo, 30 July - 02 August 2016
- * **Violence against Women Case Management** Training for NCW, Egypt, September
- * Training on the **Use of the Electronic Asset Declaration System**, Cairo, August
- * **Basic Criminal Intelligence Analysis** training course, Cairo, 14-18 August
- * Training **Social Workers on the Upgraded Literacy Curriculum**, Cairo, August
- * 4 workshops to **Raise Awareness on Crime Scene Specificities and Referral to CSI services**, Tunis, Kef, Gabes, Kairouan, August