



UZBEKISTAN ADOPTS AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE

In September, Uzbekistan adopted amendments to the Code on Criminal Procedure related to international cooperation. This was in line with UNODC ROCA recommendations.

In September, Uzbekistan adopted amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure with a new section entitled "International cooperation in criminal matters". The amendments established the grounds and procedure for mutual legal assistance (MLA) and

extradition that up to now had not been regulated by law. The amendments were drafted in line with UNODC ROCA recommendations that had been submitted to the relevant Uzbek authorities and, in particular, to the International Department of the General Prosecutor Office. This department was responsible for initiating the draft amendments. The new provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code allow extradition and MLA on the basis of reciprocity (previously, the only

legal grounds for MLA and extradition were bilateral and multi-lateral treaties). The amendments also introduce a new article on the admissibility of evidence and, in accordance with the UN conventions against crime and corruption, simplify the evidentiary requirements. Moreover, the amendments provide for judicial review of the decision on extradition and its simplified procedure as was recommended by the UNODC Expert Working Group on best practices in extradition.

Success Story



NEW HIV LAW IN AZERBAIJAN

A new law on HIV/AIDS was adopted by the Azerbaijan Parliament (Milli Meclis) with unanimous support from parliamentarians in May 2010. The law was elaborated by a parliamentary working group based on country

specific recommendations for updating national legislation on drug control and HIV. These recommendations had been developed by national experts and supported by UNODC. The new law is human rights-based and focused on the

universal accessibility of HIV related services. It ensures the implementation of evidence-based, large-scale and comprehensively targeted HIV interventions, including those aimed at drug users in the public sector and at persons held in custody.

Mr Ali Hassanov
Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Chair of State Drug Control Committee



“Legislation and policies need to be balanced with effective and evidence-based measures in order to protect the healthcare of drug users and general society, including harm reduction interventions. National legislation and policy have to take into account the interests and needs of

injecting drugs users and prison population and ensure access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care services and evidence-based information. Support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in development of new law on HIV/AIDS was very valid. The challenge for HIV policy is to recognize the need to address not only HIV education and research into new methods preventing HIV transmission, but also to identify the social and economic factors that deprive individuals of the power to protect themselves against HIV infection. Efforts to address the socio-economic risk factors for HIV infection are a critical part of an effective strategy to reduce the spread of HIV in the years to

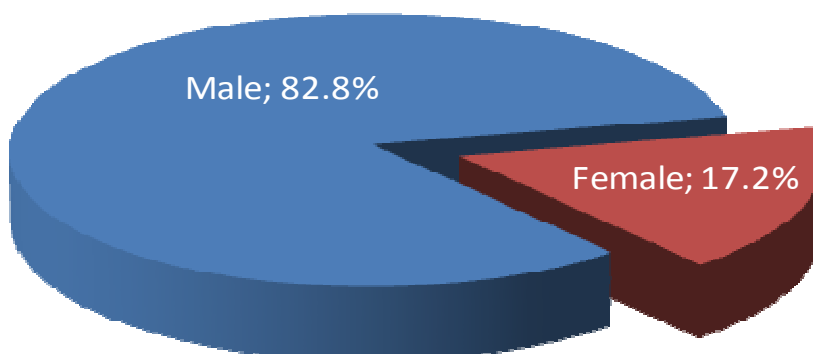
come. We must take full advantage of the law and ensure its implementation by all concerned ministries and state institutions.”

Ms Elmira Suleymanova
Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman)



“One of the achievements from the standpoint of developing a legal framework is the approval by Presidential Decree of a National Action Plan on Human Rights Protection in the Republic of Azerbaijan. It contains provisions on safeguarding human rights and legal education, the rights of HIV positive people. In the course of developing the new law on control of HIV-related disease, the Commissioner made proposals supporting the provisions of UN conventions and international legal instruments. The new law of the Republic of Azerbaijan assumes importance for realization of the Commissioner’s action plan in this direction.”

PLWHA in Azerbaijan, by gender (as of 1st January 2010)



Source: UNGASS Report, Azerbaijan, 2009-2010



Success Story

*Mr Elsevar Aghayev
Deputy Minister of Health*



“Measures on preventing the spread of HIV have been especially noted in the new law. This law includes special chapters on preventive work among the youth, migrants and high risk population group. Stigma and discrimination against HIV-infected people, prevention of mother-to-child

HIV transmission, prevention of HIV among groups with risky behaviour, drug users, ensuring medical safety and other procedures have a special place in the new law.”

*Mr Hadi Rajabli
Chair of Social Policy Committee
of the Parliament of the Republic
of Azerbaijan*

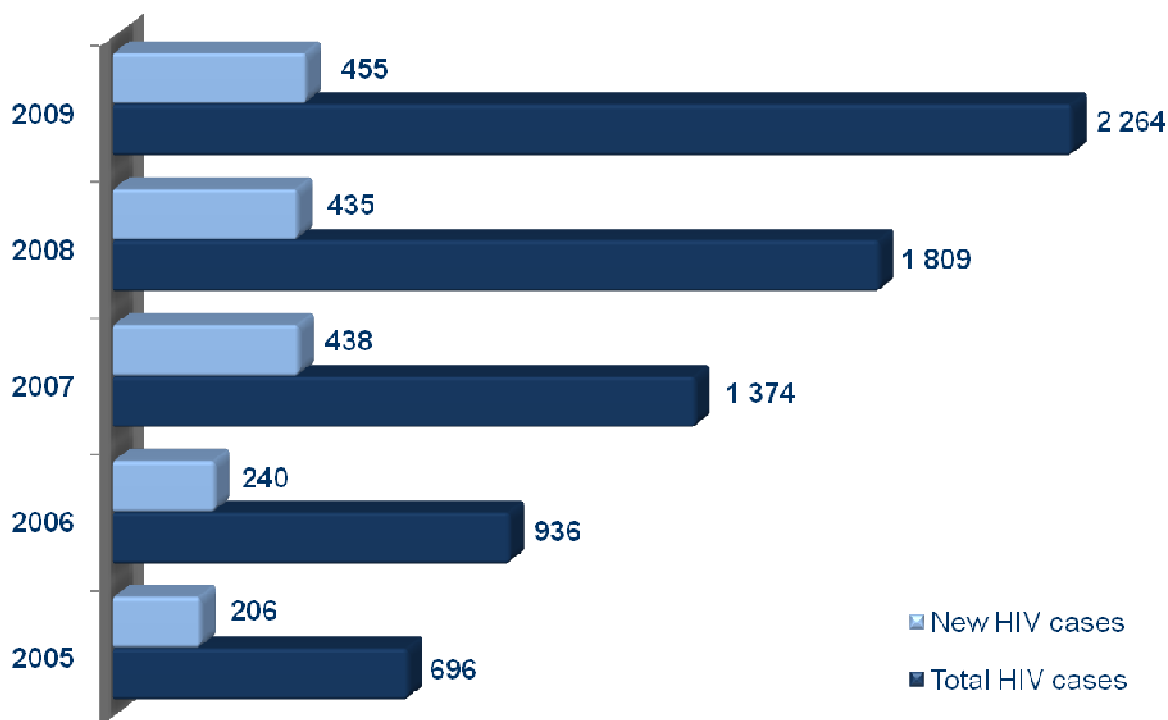


“Based on closer cooperation with UNODC in the last three years, the Committee has begun to work on drafting a new law and has created a working group consisting of representatives from respective ministries, medical clinics and NGOs. The new law contains for the first time prohibition of discrimination and stig-

matization; programmes for harm reduction on prevention of HIV infection; prevention of HIV among risk groups and prison inmates; social protection of people living with HIV.

As a whole, I think that this legal act will play a very important role in controlling HIV/AIDS and a special role in society.”

HIV Cases registered in Azerbaijan, 2005-2009



Source: UNGASS Report, Azerbaijan, 2009-2010



FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER

To prevent children and adolescents from using drugs, getting involved in crime and becoming vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, it is important to focus on families and family relationships. Research has shown that families can act both as a powerful risk and as a protective factor for healthy child and youth development. Family factors, together with peer influence, have a central position in all models attempting to explain the path that may lead children and young people to use drugs. A number of characteristics that increase the risk of children and youth to initiate drug use, delinquent or violent behaviour or engage in early or unprotected sex. These include relationships between children and parents characterized by indifference, non-



responsiveness, emotional insecurity; poor management of children's behaviour and discipline; lack of opportunities to learn social skills; a chaotic home environment and lack of structure in family life. These factors further increase their risk of becoming infected with HIV/AIDS

In order to strengthen relationships between children and parents, as well as to support parents in taking better care of their children, UNODC has initiated a global project called: "Prevention of drug use, HIV/



AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries". This project provides evidence-based training in family skills. It strengthens and improves the capacity of families in regions where high level of drug use has been noted to take better care of children. Under the supervision of Ms. Lynn McDonald, Professor of Social Work Research at Middlesex University, Great Britain, training at two pilot schools (one in Dushanbe, Tajikistan and the



other in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) was conducted for school teachers, school psychologists and parents on "Families and Schools Together (FAST)". In order to adapt the training manual to local cultural norms, language and traditions, a national cultural adapta-

tion team was formed in each country. This consisted of representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Institute for Advanced Studies of Teachers, the Academy of Science and the Scientific Centre on medico-social problems of drug addiction. Trained specialists are now in the process of conducting 8 practical training sessions (one session per week) for 40 families with children of 7-8 years old in each country. These sessions consist of various games and competitions.

Teachers and parents evaluated the training and practical sessions as helpful in creating a positive family environment, decreasing child depression and aggression, decreasing family conflicts and improving relationships between children, family members and school.





INCREASED ACCESS TO QUALITY DRUG DEPENDENCY TREATMENT



Total of 630 narcological service providers will be trained in modern evidence-based comprehensive prevention and treatment approaches in Kazakhstan, 250 specialists in Kyrgyzstan, about 1000 in Tajikistan, 180 in Turkmenistan and 300 service providers in Uzbekistan within the framework of the global TREATNET II project.

During the last 10 years Central Asian countries have been faced with a high level of drug abuse, including a lack of health care facilities and low capacity of narcological service providers. How can narcological treatment services in these countries be improved and expanded and how can governments be assisted in re-socializing drug users?

In order to increase access to quality, affordable drug dependence treatment services, UNODC's global project "TREATNET II: Treating drug dependence and its health con-

sequences" was initiated in all Central Asian countries in 2008. A capacity development grant of 50,000 USD and a service delivery grant of 150,000 USD were given to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

It is expected that, through the capacity development grant, 630 service providers will be trained in modern evidence-based comprehensive prevention and treatment approaches in Kazakhstan, 250 in Kyrgyzstan and about 1000 in Tajikistan.

From the service delivery grant it is expected that 2,540 people will be trained in Kazakhstan, 1,800 in Kyrgyzstan and 700 in Tajikistan.

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan requested UNODC to retain control of the financial implementation of their grant proposals.

Recently, a series of individual courses were held in the workplaces and a number of national training sessions on "Drug Dependence Treatment and Care" were conducted in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan for narcologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and general practitioners on two thematic areas: "Initial Screening, Assessment & Treatment Planning" and "Elements of Psychosocial Treatment".

National TREATNET certified trainers led instruction in their respective areas of expertise. About 180 narcologists will be trained in Turkmenistan and 300 narcological service providers in Uzbekistan.



Money Laundering



TRYING MONEY LAUNDERING CASES IN COURT

A regional workshop was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on “Trying Money Laundering Cases in Court” on 14-19 August. It was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Central Asia (UNODC ROCA), within the framework of its Global Legal Advisory Programme, in cooperation with the “Research Centre on Democratization and Liberalization of Judicial Legislation and Ensuring Independence of Judicial System within the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan”. Forty judges and prosecutors attended the seminar representing the judiciary and law enforcement agencies: Financial Investigation Units from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the United Arab Emir-

ates and Ukraine; the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan and OSCE. Participants discussed international Anti Money Laundering standards and good practice; exchanged their legislative and casework experience related to trying money laundering cases; and considered how best to strengthen international cooperation in this field.

Two and a half days of productive discussion and interactive exchange allowed them to identify the challenges in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating money laundering cases and to share recommendations on each other's legislation and enforcement practice. This seminar also provided an important forum for participants to develop a network for future communication and collaboration.



MOCK TRIAL IN ALMATY

The Global Programme against Money-Laundering (GPML) jointly with the UNODC/ROCA Senior Regional Legal Adviser conducted a four-day Anti-Money Laundering Mock Trial on 6-9 September in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The training event was attended by 30 prosecutors, judges, law enforcement and Financial Investigation Unit officers from Astana, Almaty and other provinces. This exercise aimed to give participants practical experience in the investigation and ultimate prosecution of a money-laundering offence with corruption as the predicate offences. The mock trial gave an opportunity to senior officials from the judiciary and law-enforcement to become acquainted with many of the issues and evidential arguments that would arise in a genuine case. It helped participants get a better understanding of the pressures and influences that investigators, judges and prosecutors are under when dealing with genuine money laundering cases and offered advice on how to cope (including through effective team work, sharing information and the use of relevant evidence).



LAW ENFORCEMENT SHARE EXPERIENCE IN COUNTER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

On 13-25 September UNODC Programme Office in Almaty and CARICC jointly hosted the first session of the Counter Trafficking Executive Institute (CTEI), a two-week course for the high ranking law enforcement executives.

The courses brought together executive officers from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan with speakers from various countries, such as US, UK, Russia, Ghana and Ireland.

The speakers represented a wide range of law enforcement agencies with an enormous breadth of experience domestic and international crime fighting and received a lot of praise from the participants. National representatives provided presentations and raised issues about ongoing drug control problems in their states.



PROTOCOL OF COOPERATION WAS SIGNED BETWEEN CARICC AND SCO

A protocol on cooperation between The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO) and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) was signed

on 27 September. The protocol was signed by Mr. D. Djumanbekov, Director of the Executive Committee of the RATS SCO, and by Mr. B. Sarsekov, Director of CARICC. It outlines methods of cooperation in the field of

combating the financing of terrorism through proceeds from illicit drug trafficking. The protocol promotes interaction between these two international institutions aimed at counter-ing terrorism and trans-border drug crime.

Office Retreat



ASSESSING ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD



The end of September is the time for the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia team to

come together and brainstorm. Why do we bring together staff from six sub-offices

from Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan to Tashkent? Our team would like to look back, review achievements, share experience and challenges faced, and discuss the way forward. The agenda of this year's retreat was very intensive: the regional programme, the project cycle, the project portfolio, fund-raising, communication, administrative issues, as well as future plans. The most important issues facing the office went under the microscope. The day was full of business, discussions and the evening was interactive, creative and promoted team-building.

