

**UNODC**

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Milestones

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Regional Office for Central Asia



STRENGTHENING COOPERATION TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING

THE UNODC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS KAZAKHSTAN AND TAJIKISTAN

On 29-30 November 2010 the new UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov, visited Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. He was accompanied by Mr. Masood Karimipour, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia. In Kazakhstan Mr. Fedotov visited the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC).

The Centre, which began operations in 2007, was established with the support of UNODC to improve cooperation in counter-narcotics between national and regional law enforcement agencies.

According to UNODC estimates, 95 tons of heroin are trafficked annually from Afghanistan via Central Asia. Only around 5 per cent is

seized in the region and another 7 tons is locally intercepted. CARICC is a part of efforts to strengthen law enforcement cooperation among countries on the front line of drug trafficking from Afghanistan - the five Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan. CARICC also plays a significant role in strengthening operational cooperation with countries beyond the region, and with international organizations such as Interpol, Euro-pol and the World Customs Organization.

Mr. Fedotov acknowledged the results achieved since the Centre's official opening last year - the cooperation enabled by CARICC has

already disrupted more than 20 trafficking channels, and resulted in seizures of more than 250 kg of heroin and over 115 kg of opium. The Centre facilitates information and intelligence exchange and analysis, and also helps to coordinate operations against the trafficking in chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin. Mr. Fedotov underlined the need for closer ties with other regional initiatives, saying: "UNODC would like to help CARICC play a more active role in the intelligence-led approach to tackling drug trafficking. We would also like to see CARICC cooperating more closely with the Tehran-based Joint Planning Cell of the Triangular Initiative created by Iran, Afghanistan

High level visit



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and Pakistan. Working together would exponentially increase their ability to support operations against the illicit drug trade.”

Announcing that UNODC would launch a new Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries in early 2011, Mr. Fedotov urged CARICC to share knowledge with the new programme, which would enable more effective, integrated actions to counter transnational threats.

In Tajikistan the Executive Director met with a number of key stakeholders to discuss the need for increased cooperation to tackle drug trafficking.

He thanked the President of Tajikistan, Emomaliy Rahmon, for the efforts taken by the Tajik national authorities to address the treats of drug trafficking. The meetings of Mr. Fedotov covered the collaboration between UNODC and Tajikistan on border management, drug control, terrorism and corruption at the local and regional levels.

Speaking on these issues, and the position of Tajikistan within the region, Mr. Fedotov stated: *“The flow of drugs from Afghanistan poses a serious threat to security and development throughout Central Asia*

and beyond, and Tajikistan is the first line of defense. We appreciate the difficulties Tajikistan faces in carrying out this dangerous and daunting task.”

The UNODC relationship with Tajikistan stretches back to the late 1990’s with collaboration on the establishment of the National Drug Control Agency, and through furthering the operational capacity of the Tajik Border Forces. The current relationship largely focuses on these linked issues and aims at strengthening law enforcement capacities, providing policy and legislation advice to Government institutions and reducing the spread of drugs.

Mr. Fedotov said: *“We also encourage Tajikistan to become more deeply engaged in regional counter-narcotic initiatives, particularly the Central Asian Regional Information and Co-ordination Centre (CARICC) and support intelligence-led policing and Operation Tarcet.”*

Since the establishment of the Drug Control Agency, UNODC has worked with the Tajikistan Government to enhance national and international cooperation. In the 11 years since the Drug Control



Agency was formed 900 drug-related cases have been investigated and 10 tons of drugs have been intercepted and seized. Also, the Agency has been instrumental in providing the information that led to many regional actions which removed even more drugs from the international market.

At the conclusion of the meetings, Mr. Fedotov stated about the UNODC commitment to work even closer with the Tajik Government to improve the safety of people in Tajikistan and across the region: *“Security ultimately means the ability to ensure the safety of citizens in every city, every village and every street. It is also based on people’s confidence that they can live without fear of becoming victims of criminals and drug dealers. Tajikistan’s counter-narcotic efforts have the potential to improve life for its own citizens, as well as for people throughout Central Asia and beyond.”*

Following the meetings in Dushanbe, Mr. Fedotov flew to the Panji Rayon Bridge at the Tajik-Afghan border. He met with the authorities of Kunduz Province in Afghanistan to discuss successes and challenges related to drug trafficking in the area.





SUPPORT TO PRISON REFORM IN KYRGYZSTAN

JOINT EU / UNODC PROJECT ASSISTS GOVERNMENT IN IMPROVEMENT OF PENITENTIARY SYSTEM



Public Hearing of the draft National Strategy of Penitentiary System Development of the Kyrgyz Republic for the period of 2011-2015 “Umut-2” was conducted on December 16-17. The event was organized by the UNODC Programme Office in the Kyrgyz Republic, the European Union, the State Service of Execution of Punishment and the Kyrgyz National University within the framework of the EU and UNODC project “Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic”.

Within two days, participants reviewed and discussed a wide range of issues, including results of implementation of the National Program on Penitentiary System Reform of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2010, “Umut”. They also assessed current situation, identified challenges, discussed living conditions for prisoners and their compliance with international standards, including medical service provision in penal system; possibilities of cooperation with international, governmental and religious organizations as well as mass media. Participants discussed perspectives for

development of small scale income generating activities and vocational training for prisoners as part of their social rehabilitation.

The main objective of the hearing was to make the process of prison reform strategy development over the next five years transparent and inclusive. Participants emphasized importance of close co-operation between different stakeholders from state structures and civil society. Mr. Sheyshenbek Baizakov, Chairperson of the State Service of Execution of Punishment under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic noted: *“It is very critical to include suggestions from all partners, both government agencies and civil society representatives, at the early stage of strategy development of penitentiary system of Kyrgyzstan. This will allow us to develop a well balanced and comprehensive national development strategy for the prison system which meets international standards”.*

The prison system of Kyrgyzstan faces many of the challenges, which include very poor material conditions, difficulties faced in separat-

ing and controlling the prison population, inadequate use of alternatives to imprisonment, breakdown of prison industries and lack of professional prison staff training which corresponds to the needs of modern civil prison system.

During the year of 2010, prison reform discussion was enhanced through launching and drafting of prison reform strategy and policy, as well as through the revision of criminal legislation related to penal reform and alternatives to imprisonment. Senior prison management and general staff had an opportunity to improve their professional skills through a comprehensive training sessions on prison management practices. Specific needs and priorities for the refurbishment programme to improve prison sanitary infrastructure were identified. The Working Group on the Prison Reform was established to promote ownership, harness the commitment of key stakeholders to the proposed reform and monitor the progress.

This is the first joint prison reform project financed by the European Union and implemented by the UNODC Programme Office in Kyrgyzstan.





EFFECTIVE COORDINATION

In December 2010, the ROCA hosted a mid-term review meeting of the project “Strengthening anti-corruption measures in Uzbekistan”. The meeting was attended by the project team, Prosecutor General's Office of Uzbekistan-national focal point designated by the Government, and one of the project donor's – a representative of the Embassy of the United Kingdom. Participants discussed main project outcomes since its beginning in March 2010 such as the workshops for the drafters of the National Anti-corruption Action Plan and for the members of Parliament, as well as a training course for 45 judges on judicial ethics delivered by the ROCA Senior Legal Adviser and Supreme Court judges from the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan and the USA. The training course led to review and improvement of the draft Code on Judicial Ethics of Uzbekistan. Mr. Evgeniy Kolenko, Deputy Head of Department of Combating Corruption and Economic Crimes of the Prosecutor General's Office of Uzbekistan emphasized the importance of cooperation between UNODC and the Government of Uzbekistan in preventing and combating corruption and noted: *"I would like to express the gratitude to UNODC ROCA for conducting all the project activities in a very professional and result-oriented manner. So far, the cooperation with UNODC was the most productive and efficient"*.

COMMITMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STANDARDS

Uzbekistan joined the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) in March 2010. The ACN is a regional forum for exchanging of experiences and elaboration of best anti-corruption practices for countries of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. It is one of the outreach programmes of the OECD Working Group on Bribery. The membership of Uzbekistan in Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan was facilitated by UNODC ROCA through holding negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and anti-corruption focal point of the General Prosecutor Office of Uzbekistan. Subsequently, in September 2010, as an integral part of implementation of the Istanbul Action Plan, Uzbekistan submitted to the peer review expert team the completed questionnaire to allow the experts to assess the national anti-corruption legal and institutional frameworks in terms of their compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption and other international legal instruments and standards. The UNODC ROCA Senior Legal Adviser jointly with other members of the monitoring expert team reviewed the anti-corruption legal and institutional frameworks of Uzbekistan and nego-

tiated the report with the delegation of Uzbekistan. After the negotiations, the review report was adopted at the 9th Monitoring Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan that took place at the OECD HQs in Paris on 6-7 December 2010.

Mr. Rustam Sayfulov, the Head of the delegation of Uzbekistan who represented the National Security Service, when speaking at the Monitoring Meeting, acknowledged with appreciation the productive cooperation between UNODC ROCA and the Uzbek national authorities in the legal and anti-corruption areas.

This case was dismissed

Because the judge accepted a bribe and set a known criminal free.

Corruption. A crime against justice.

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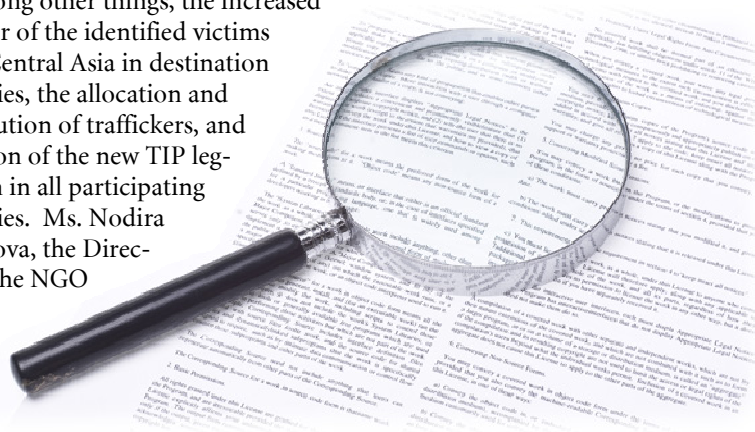
Success Story

PROMOTING COOPERATION AMONG SOURCE, TRANSIT AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ROCA, in the framework of the Legal Advisory Programme, launched the initiative on promoting law enforcement and judicial cooperation among source, transit and destination countries in response to human trafficking in Central Asia in 2008. The initiative aimed at establishing a mechanism of regular contacts among senior practitioners involved in investigation, prosecution, adjudication of transnational TIP offences, and assistance/protection of victims from Central Asia and their counterparts from main transit and destination countries so that they could solve casework problems, learn from each other practices and establish personal contacts. Also, the implementation of the initiative expected to bring domestic legal frameworks into closer compliance with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its TIP and SM protocols. The initiative has been realized through holding annually - in cooperation with IOM, OSCE and other international organization - inter-regional workshops that brought together Central

Asian authorities, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and NGOs from five Central Asian countries and main transit and destination countries such as the Russian Federation, Turkey, Thailand, UAE, USA, and others. First, second and third annual workshops took place in Tashkent, Ashgabat and Abu Dhabi in May 2008, November 2009 and October 2010 respectively. They were attended by 180 practitioners from 16 countries. Establishment of the practitioners' network and exchange of good practices and lessons learned led to, among other things, the increased number of the identified victims from Central Asia in destination countries, the allocation and prosecution of traffickers, and adoption of the new TIP legislation in all participating countries. Ms. Nodira Karimova, the Director of the NGO

"Istiqbolli Avlod" of Uzbekistan, noted at the workshop in Abu Dhabi: *"This UNODC initiative allowed to start and develop the cooperation among Dubai Police, from one side, and Anti-human Trafficking Unit of the Ministry of Interior of Uzbekistan and our NGO, from another side. This cooperation allowed us to identify in UAE and repatriate to Uzbekistan 154 victims (in 2008, 2009 and 6 months of 2010) 40% of whom were provided with the shelter by NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod".*



LAW ENFORCEMENT ROUNDTABLE IN ASHGABAT

The Government of Turkmenistan conducted the second session of the Law Enforcement Roundtable on 16 December 2010. The event was organized in line with Turkmenistan "National Drug Action Programme for 2006-2010" and was supported by the UNODC and EU-UNDP Border Management Programme for Central Asia (BOMCA).

The meeting brought together

more than 50 representatives from the Government of Turkmenistan including senior level officials from the State Drug Control Service, the State Drug Control Coordination Commission, the State Border Service, the State Customs Service, the State Migration Service, the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Healthcare, the Supreme Court, the Gen-

eral Prosecutor's Office as well as members of international community working in Turkmenistan such as UNDP, UNRCCA, TACIS, Europa House, IOM, OSCE, TIKa and USAID.

Chairman of the State Drug Control Service Mr. Aman Garayev emphasized the importance of the event that helped to consolidate drug counter efforts and strengthen sharing information.

Meetings



ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REVIEW

The NATO-Russia Council (NRC) Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Central Asian, Afghan and Pakistani Law Enforcement Personnel summarized its activities implemented in 2010 during the Annual High Level Steering Committee meeting conducted on 14-15 December 2010 in Brussels, Belgium. During the NRC Summit in Lisbon Heads of States and Governments approved the extension of the project.

Depending on the available funding, the project will consider the possibility of assistance to Canine Units and Forensic Laboratories of the national law enforcement bodies through the organization of basic and advanced training courses for their officers. In November 2010 Pakistan was included in the project as a beneficiary country, and training courses for Pakistani counter-narcotics officers at TADOC and in the training institutions of the Russian Federation were organized in November-December.

Besides, the participants of the meeting emphasized that the law enforcement officers trained by the project achieved significant results in their capacities to intercept drug smuggling channels and seized significant amount of drugs in 2010.

Mr. Nazarov, Director of Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan, mentioned that three officers of DCA had been awarded to the highest governmental awards for their achievements in combating illicit drugs.

According to Mr. R. Mukhamedov, Director of the National Drug Control Centre of Uzbekistan, the Uzbek law enforcement officers trained under the project successfully per-

ECSTASY SEIZURES IN DUSHANBE



On November 13, Mobile Deployment Team of the Anti-Drug Smuggling Department, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan (MDT) had reported on seizure of 1880 units of amphetamine type pills (ecstasy, brolamphetamine group) in Dushanbe. It was the biggest seizure of ecstasy in Tajikistan.

The MDT has investigated the case and as a result, Mr. Bakhrom Sattorov (national of the Republic of Tajikistan, 1986 year of birth), who was involved in smuggling and selling of ecstasy pills, was detained. Two other Tajik citizens are still under investigation. According to the MDT, the pills were smuggled from the Baltic States through Russia to Tajikistan using the road transportation.

form assigned tasks and were directly involved into the largest seizures of drugs. Total 34 officers have been shifted to executive positions for their professional achievements and 13 are taking up the commanding posts. Similar achievements and progress have been reported by the delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

Considering successful cooperation between the project and the All-Russian Advanced Training Institute of Ministry of Interior (Russia) where 8 two-week training sessions for the law enforcement officers from Central Asia and Afghanistan were organized annually, the Russian Federation, in

MDT was established within the framework of the UNODC project "Strengthening control along Tajik-Afghan Border" in May 2007 with the objective to identify, investigate, interdict and eliminate those groups involved in illicit narcotics drug trafficking.

The MDT has become operational in January 2008. The fifteen officers of MDT were selected on a competitive basis. They went through basic and specialized training courses regarding informant's handling, basics of undercover operations, risk analysis and search techniques, as well as intelligence analysis.

From January 2008 to November 2010, MDT has carried out over 57 operations, including joint operations with other law enforcement agencies in the region. As a result, 69 persons were detained, including 57 Tajik, 10 Afghan and 2 Russian nationals. Total amount of drugs seized by MDT for the mentioned period was 1 ton 509 kg 620 g, of which 312 kg 630 g being heroin and 315 kg 880 g of opium.

addition, has offered facilities of the North-Western Training Centre of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service in St. Petersburg for training. For 2011 Russian delegation has offered 6 training courses for 96 trainees from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan at this training centre. Thus, the North-Western Training Centre in St. Petersburg has become the third fixed training facility along with TADOC and the All-Russian Advanced Training Institute of Ministry of Interior.

The plan of activities for 2011 was developed during the meeting.



HIV in Prisons



victed of non-violent drug-related criminal offences and limit the use of pre-trial detention.

Arzu Guliyeva, the NPO of the UNODC Programme Office in Azerbaijan, shared international experience, scientific findings on HIV effective prevention approaches.

International recommendations on alternatives for imprisonment and access for health care in penitentiary system were presented to participants as well.

Elmira Alekperova, the NGO representative, mentioned the role of civil society organizations in promoting of HIV prevention and improvement of health care in prisons.

She emphasized the role of community participation in prevention of spreading HIV/AIDS, STD, TB and other concomitant diseases. Participants emphasized the importance of acknowledgment of HIV/AIDS and drug use problem, creation a favorable social environment for improving access to HIV/AIDS prevention, care services for injecting drug users and inmates in prisons though non-governmental organizations. Event has been continued in the women's prison. 350 women took part in it.

WORLD AIDS DAY IN AZERBAIJAN

Conference "HIV in prisons" was organized jointly by UNODC and Ombudsman office in Azerbaijan on 1 December 2010. Members of Parliament, Ombudsman, representatives from ministries of Health, Justice, Internal Affairs, Education, international organizations such as WHO, GFATM, OSI as well as NGOs took part in it. Main goal was to advocate HIV prevention with focus on vulnerable groups.

Official opening was facilitated jointly by the Parliament of Azerbaijan, Ombudsmen Apparatus and UNODC Programme Office.

Elmira Suleymanova, Ombudsman, emphasized necessity to ensure drug users and prisoner's rights and eliminate discrimination and negative attitude to vulnerable groups. This is the only way to improve access to health and social care for vulnerable population. Intolerance to the IDUs isolation from the society also was discussed.

Hagigat Gadyrova, Director of National AIDS Center, presented data on HIV/AIDS in Azerbaijan. It has been

pointed out that the main driven factor of HIV epidemic is the injecting drug users. However, the rate of heterosexual spreading of HIV is increasing, that is very alarming and can lead to worsening of the situation. Representative of the Ministry of Justice proposed to bring national laws in compliance with international standards and norms in order to decrease the number of drug users sentenced to imprisonment, to consider alternatives to imprisonment for those con-



Workshop



DRUG DEPENDENCE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



Two weeks of Training of Trainers courses (ToT) “Drug Dependence Treatment and Care” for narcologists, psychiatrists, psychologists,

treatment planning, elements of psychosocial treatment including cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), addiction medications including use of long acting opioid agonists and needs of categories with special needs (treatment of women, young people and those with psychiatric and other medical co-morbidities (HIV, HCV, etc) and administrative issues on client retention and other administrative issues concerning drug dependence

stan. Trained trainers will be involved in conducting the series of snowball training throughout the country, share modern skills with colleagues and effectively use them in their treatment practices.

It is expected that within the frame of TREATNET II about 2000 narcological service providers from Central Asian countries will enhance their professional capacity for the provision of diversified and effective drug dependency treatment and rehabilitation services.

UNODC project “TREATNET II: Treating drug dependence and its



social workers, and general practitioners were held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in October-November 2010. The ToT is a part of the UNODC global initiative aimed at enhancing the capacity of service providers for provision of evidence based interventions for treatment and care of drug dependence and its health and social consequences. UNODC conducted the series of national training courses in the following areas: screening, referral, assessment and

treatment. Total 60 specialists from different regions of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan were trained and certified as trainers. *“Discussion on prevention of burning syndrome, opportunity to reconsider the view to drug prevention and treatment problems, as well as getting information on evidence based interventions for prevention and treatment of drug dependency will be very helpful in daily work of narcologists”*, - said Ms. Luiza Baymirova, the representative of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbeki-

health consequences” has been implemented in five Central Asian countries since 2008.

