



Milestones

April 2012

Regional Office for Central Asia



COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL DRUG RELATED CRIME

WORKING MEETING OF HEADS OF COUNTER-NARCOTICS OPERATIONAL UNITS CO-ORGANISED BY UNODC AND CARICC

On 6-7 February, 2012 a working meeting of the heads of counter-narcotics operational units aimed at coordinating efforts in combating transnational drug-related crime, was held in Almaty. The meeting was attended by more than 130 representatives of the competent authorities of the Central and West Asian countries, including member states of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) for combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) of Triangular Initiative (TI), their partners, as well as representatives of relevant regional and international organizations including Belgium, Canada, China, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Poland, Rumania, South Korea, Swe-

den, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, USA, Interpol, World Customs Organization (WCO), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Antiterrorist Centre of CIS (ATC CIS), Bureau of the Coordination of the fight against organized crime and other serious crime CIS (BCFOC CIS), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), European Commission Taxation and Customs Directorate (TAXUD), Border Management in Central Asia (BOMCA), European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), ISAF. This was the first meeting bringing together the law enforcement authorities of Afghanistan, its

neighbours and partners, following the launch of the "Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (RP)" among the eight countries of West and Central Asia facilitated by UNODC. Through the RP and the Joint Declaration of Intent (7 December 2011, Vienna) importance of regional cooperation in drug control efforts was recognized and countries of the region resolved to enhance their counter narcotics cooperation. The meeting co-organized by UNODC and CARICC was aimed to provide an opportunity for CN LE authorities of the RP countries and the partners of CARICC and JPC to review current state of multilateral operations, focus discussion on op-

Project Activity



eration “Black Tulip” (Afghan opiates trafficking that involves West African traffickers) and on the growing trend of synthetic drugs trafficking.

The meeting provided an opportunity for sharing information on identified transnational drug trafficking groups and determining potential targets, on which coordinated or joint actions could be launched. The participants identified ways of tackling problems in conducting joint operations, in particular, controlled deliveries.

The efforts made to date on regional cooperation related to precursor control were reviewed. Taking the discussion forward from the Delhi and Beijing recommendations from autumn 2011, counter-narcotics law enforcement authorities of the RP countries and the partners of CARICC and JPC identified next steps to enhance precursor control. Participants of the meeting also discussed other initiatives of the regional and international organizations, including UNODC, on promoting operations to combat illicit trafficking of precursors, in particular: utilization of container shipping in smuggling of narcotic drugs and precursors (Container Control Programme); international operation “Global Shield” to combat illicit traf-

ficking of precursors utilized in the production of drugs and improvised explosive devices.

Representatives of UNODC, JPC, and CARICC spoke on the topic “Practical implementation of UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring countries and the recommendations of the expert working groups of the Paris Pact Initiative” (Islamabad - June 2011, New Delhi - November 2011).

Throughout the working meeting special emphasis was placed on the organization of joint operations and investigations, or long-term operations to interdict illicit drug trafficking and their precursors.

The participant agreed that capacities and the platform of the regional entities including CARICC and JPC should be actively and effectively used for sharing of information and coordination of operations.

In the course of two days of the Working Meeting more than 20 separate bilateral and other restricted group meetings were held with the purpose of agreeing on suspects from transnational drug trafficking groups for potential joint or coordinated operations and investigations. The mechanisms of interaction and channels for communicating information among the interested parties were addressed.

ENHANCE CAPACITY OF BORDER CROSSING POINTS

The hand over ceremony of 10 computers aimed at strengthening the existing capacities of the Faculty for Advanced Training under the High Military Customs of the Republic of Uzbekistan was held on the 25th of January. The new computers were connected to local area network having 11 nodes provided by UNODC previously. Together, these computers already allowed the training of about 225 officers.

Since 2005, the project “Computer-based drug law enforcement training in the countries of Central Asia, Caucasus and Afghanistan” successfully cooperates with law enforcement bodies in the field of interactive, computer-based training. The project aims at enhancement of governments’ capacities to develop and implement self-sustaining training programs to counter drug trafficking, money laundering and related cross-border criminal activity through the application of a computer-based training program. Thus, computer training classes were established at the Higher Military Customs Institute of the State Customs Committee in Uzbekistan. A number of training courses were organized for customs staff, aimed at strengthening detection capacities of drug trafficking, drug smuggling and money laundering. In total, more than 3000 students were trained since the beginning of the project. Future project activities will involve the translation of training modules into Uzbek.

A recent assessment of interactive computer-based class activities show that the Higher Military Customs Institute of the Republic of Uzbekistan was the most effective and successful in the utilization of the computer-based classes. Therefore, it was decided to further enhance the training capacity by providing 10 additional PCs.



INCREASE EFFICIENCY OF THE STATE SERVICE OF DRUG CONTROL



In January 2012, UNODC Programme Office in Kyrgyzstan handed over a modern office and other special equipment (computers, vehicles, contraband team kits, GPS devices, means of chemical protection, first-aid kits, etc.) to the State

Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic (SSDC). The ceremony took place at the premises of SSDC in Bishkek, in the presence of donors, the UN Resident Coordinator, Kyrgyz government officials and representatives of international organizations.

Technical assistance was provided in the framework of two UNODC projects, "Precursor control in Central Asia" and "Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic". Both projects are focused on strengthening Kyrgyzstan's capacity on countering illicit drug trafficking and precursor control. The support provided by the projects includes training and equipment as well as necessary developments of legal, administrative and physical infrastructure.

"I am convinced that the support provided by UNODC over the last year, - said Mr. Vitaly Orozaliyev, Director of SSDC, - is a remarkable step towards increased efficiency and potential of the State Service on Drug Control, which serves as the lead operational and coordinating agency for counter-narcotics activities in Kyrgyzstan, as well as promoting cooperation with our counterparts in the region".

COUNTERING THE TRAFFICKING OF AFGHAN OPIATES

Between the 20th and 24th of February, Basic Level Computer Based Training Courses to enhance drug interception capacities of border guards serving at four selected border crossing points along the Tajik - Uzbek border were successfully conducted. These daylong trainings took place according to the framework of the project XAC/K22 on "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)". These training courses were implemented in cooperation with UNODC project TD/RER/F60 on "Computer based drug law en-

forcement training in the countries of Central Asia, Caucasus and Afghanistan". A total of 37 officers from customs, border guards, Tajik Drug Control Agency and the Ministries of Interior of the Republics of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan participated in training. The trainees went through interactive modules on "selection methods for land controls", "preliminary observation for land controls" and "document review for land controls". Being conducted right at the border line, this

CBT course has been the first of its sort in Central Asia. An advanced level Computer Based Training course is planned to be conducted in April 2012 involving the same two countries.



Workshop



PRECURSOR CONTROL TRAINING IN TEXAS

From 2009 to 2011, UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia in the framework of its Precursor Control Project for Central Asia, procured and handed over equipment for mobile precursor teams (MPT), established within Law Enforcement Agencies of Central Asian states. The total cost of equipment procured from funds provided by the Government of Canada exceeded 250'000 USD.

In order to ensure maximum effectiveness of the equipment provided, UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia within its Precursor Control Project organized a precursor con-

parts on the use of, inter alia, 'Buster K910B' contraband detectors, fiber optics inspection sets and handheld inspection devices. The experts have also introduced newly developed equipment, including a one-piece



reparable 'Ultimate Fiberscope' set. The training was not limited to classroom-training and included practical exercises such as road inspections, border checkpoint control measures (including a visit to US-Mexican border) and concealment methods (including a visit to a parking lot full of seized vehicles).

A total of nine officers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were trained as trainers and will participate in similar training-activities conducted for their colleagues in the region.

trol training in Kingsville, Texas, USA, where one of the main emphasis was made on the use of search and rummaging sets – so called 'CT30' kits. Officers of the Kingsville Specialized Crimes and Drugs Task Force provided trainings and shared experiences with their Central Asian counter-





Partnership

UNODC HELPS JUDGES AND DEFENSE LAWYERS TO UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS



With a view to contribute to enhancing efficiency of the criminal justice system to promote the rule of law in the Republic of Uzbekistan and in implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the UNODC ROCA and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Global Legal Advisory Programme conducted two training courses for judges and lawyers from Tashkent and the regions.

The first training course “Application of international instruments/standards and national legislation related to the procedure of *habeas corpus*” held in February, aimed at increasing the skills of judges and lawyers to effectively implement the international standards and domestic legislations related to the procedure of *habeas corpus* in day-to-day practice with due respect to the rights of detained suspects or

accused. Demonstrating its commitment to international standards, Uzbekistan has introduced the measures of judicial control over decisions of custody (*habeas corpus*) in January 2008. However, while a new legislation has been introduced on judicial control of detention, the full effect of its implementation has yet to be seen and criminal justice practitioners need to be trained.

The second training on “International legal instruments, national legislation and casework practice with regard to prevention and suppression of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of suspects and accused”, held in March, built on the outcomes of the first and was designed to strengthen capacities of judges and lawyers to prevent and respond to torture and ill-treatment at pre-trial stage. Of the nearly ten million peo-

ple detained globally, those held in pretrial detention face the most significant risk of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. While detained for investigation, suspects and accused are in danger of being ill-treated in an attempt to make them incriminate themselves.

Both training courses were conducted in cooperation with the Research Centre under the Supreme Court,

Training Centre of the Ministry of Justice and Chamber of Lawyers of Uzbekistan with financial support of the UK. The training courses were delivered at the Law Training Centre of the Ministry of Justice separately for each target group, and were conducted by prominent practicing judges and defense lawyers from the Russian Federation, France, the UK and Ireland as well as UNODC and UNICEF experts. The training programmes were designed in such a way to combine both theoretical and practical aspects including case studies. Overall 26 professors of the MoJ Training Centre, 14 professors of the GPO Training Centre, 39 judges and 68 trial lawyers were trained on *habeas corpus*; and 20 professors of the Ministry of Justice Training Centre, 15 professors of the GPO Training Centre, 25 judges, and 60 trial lawyers were trained on torture and ill-treatment, respectively.



“I STARTED TREATING MY CHILDREN DIFFERENTLY...”

Regardless of the nationality, no mother wants her child to grow up as a thief, drug addict or an alcoholic...

Principal of a school in Tajikistan



372 families benefitted from the UNODC project “Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries” (FAST) implemented in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan since 2010. 148 national trainers were prepared, out of whom 38 trainers passed regional training of trainers suc-

“I started treating my child differently. I try to spend 15-20 minutes with my daughter every day: we read books together, watch movies and discuss them. Now, she tells me about her personal problems and concerns. Before the programme she was shy, she could not speak on public or read poems in the class. Now she is asked to lead all school events.” (parent, Tajikistan)

cessfully and got the status of

“intern trainers.”

The main goal of the project is a capacity building exercise to embrace and implement family skills programs. By providing the necessary tools, human resources and evaluation advocacy material, this project launched the drug prevention programs nationally in the respective countries.

The evaluation of the second cycle of project implementation demonstrated statistically significant positive changes in family relationships, parent-child bond, child’s behavior at home and at school, parents’ involvement in school, and parents’ social support. In addition to that, 16% of parents reported to have stopped smoking tobacco, 18.5% reported to have stopped drinking alcohol and 18% reported to have not been drunk from consuming alcoholic beverages. These dramatic changes demonstrate the effective-

ness of the FAST Programme. A series of national round tables covering the trained facilitators, the

“I was very shy and did not want to go to the blackboard. After participating in the project, I became confident, an excellent student and the president of the class. I made a lot of new friends.” (child, Kyrgyzstan)

“There was a family involved in the project with us, whose 2 year old daughter became ill and died during the programme. The national FAST team and other FAST families helped this family to overcome a psychological challenge and brought this girl’s parents back to life again.” (parent, Tajikistan)

cultural adaptation teams, FAST families and high level officials from local partner institutions (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, other relevant organizations) were conducted in all concerned countries. The main goal of the round tables was to discuss results of the project implementation in 2010-2011 and develop sustainability mechanisms for FAST Programme in the countries. At the round tables UNODC ROCA representatives presented an overview of the regional project activities in 2010-2011 and the project evaluation results, while national FAST team members made

“When we participated in the FAST Programme, my oldest son was in fifth grade. He made a conclusion for himself that smoking and drinking alcohol is bad. Since then, two years have passed. My son is actively involved in sports, he never smoked, and claims that he will never drink alcohol.” (parent, the Kyrgyz Republic)

presentations on activities related to

adaptation of the manual to the local culture and national peculiarities of the project implementation. Parents shared their success stories and children demonstrated new skills they developed as a result of the project. Presentations by national trainers and parents as well as children's performances did not leave anyone indifferent to the programme. Even those guests who have recently learned about it were inspired by the achievements and expressed their willingness to participate in the future work of the project. At the round-tables, national results of the pilot implementation of the project in 2010-2011 were recognized as effective and successful, and it was decided to establish a working group in each country to develop a national sustainability concept for the programme. During the round table meeting



held in the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Kojakhmet, head of the department for youth politics of the Ministry of Education and Science, mentioned that the government has included the FAST Programme to the sectoral program to combat drug abuse and drug

trafficking in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the years 2012-2016. The FAST program will be used as a drug abuse prevention programme among primary school students. More detailed plans on the integration of the programme into the education system will be prepared by the working group.



"Initially, our family did not want to participate in the programme. But eventually, when we found out that the main goal is the development of the child, we agreed. After these sessions, we started to communicate with our son's school teacher, while before that we did not go to any parents' meetings at school. Neighbors heard that we were participants of the FAST Programme and they started coming to our home and ask about FAST and how they could get into the programme. It even felt as if our family became more respected among the neighbors. This programme should be scaled-up, so more families can benefit from it".
(parent, Tajikistan)

ROCA Team



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DAYS AT ROCA

As Men's Day (February 23) was approaching, female colleagues were figuring out how to properly surprise our ROCA male counterparts. There were many suggestions and ideas, and, finally, we decided to organize a Paintball game. Taking the roots of the holiday into account (previously, the 23rd of February was the day of the Soviet Army), we thought that paintball would be the best choice to remind men how to be men, to vindicate the honor of the team and to survive. We kept this adventure secret until the very date and organized necessary logistics. After work, the whole office gathered at a Park named after Mirzo Ulugbek to celebrate the Men's Day. ROCA men were surprised and excited. Unexpected transformations of men from office employees in conventional suits to soldiers in camouflage made this game even more exciting and fun. While the men were having a battle, we - this time deciding to stick to some gender stereotypes - as loyal women during the war, set the table with delicious refreshments. At the end of the day, everyone was happy: the men had gotten their portion of adrenalin while the women were glad that the men returned from the battlefield safely and enjoyed the surprise. "I've never had such an exciting Men's Day in my life!", "Most

wonderful men's day I have ever had!" were some of the comments of ROCA men. Two weeks later, ROCA men had the difficult task to outperform us and come up with a creative way of celebrating the International Women's Day on the 8th of March. All women were lost in conjectures about what they were going to get. We had a feeling that it would be some active game like paintball, but no one among the ladies knew what exactly was being preparing for us. So, the 8th of March was here. To tell you the truth, it was the most creative celebration of this holiday in our life. Every woman at the office discovered a menu with an unusual list of items on their table, complemented with a piece of chocolate. The menu included services as "Tea or coffee from any ROCA man with love", "Coffee from the Officer in Charge with love (if you dare)" or "A song from ROCA Romeo", etc. Mario Trutmann and



Enrico Boninsegna, as true Romeos, wonderfully

played the guitar and sang love songs in different languages for each lady at ROCA. That was amazing. All gentlemen wore suits and ties and were ready to comply with almost any request we could have for them, including translation of any document into English or Russian, and even a small punishment of an offender (if we had any). Isn't it a dream of any woman to have her wishes fulfilled by good-looking men? Yes, the surprise was a success. However, this was not the end! In the evening, we were taken to the skating rink. First, we had a feast, and then we tried our luck on the ice rink. Even those women who had never done so before, tried to skate that day and fell in love with this sport. That was a good ending of a wonderful day. What a pity that the Women's Day is celebrated only once a year. However, with our ROCA men, we feel special every day.



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