



- Promote rule of law and good governance as foundations of peace, security and sustainable development
- Strengthen national policies and practices consistent with international norms, standards, convention obligations and evidence-based best practices
- Strengthen institutional and individual capacities to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, violent extremism and terrorism
- Promote regional and international cooperation and partnerships against shared threats of crime and terrorism
- Provide research, data analysis and expertise on global, regional and national trends on crime and terrorism

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

October-December 2017

Word of the Regional Representative



I look back to a productive and eventful year 2017. Our ongoing engagement with national and regional partners in Arab states in such critical areas as are justice and health, rule of law and border control, countering corruption, migrant smuggling and human trafficking, cybercrime and terrorism produced tangible results in terms of enhanced capacities and services for many institutions and thousands of officials and clients across the region. However, the manifold training workshops and conferences held also brought to light the complexity and difficulty of the matters at hand and the imperative need for continued long-term cooperation to tackle them effectively and sustainably as outlined in the UN Conventions and instruments on drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism balancing prevention and protection with control through penalization and prosecution. UNODC would like to thank all its partners for their engagement in 2017 and looks forward to deepening our partnership in 2018 for the well-being and security of the people in the Arab region.

Palestine: Drug Prevention and Health

Study on Illicit Drug Use in Palestine Disseminated



Minister of Health (middle) with UNODC (first left)

UNODC supported the Palestinian Ministry of Health in the development of a comprehensive [study on Illicit Drug Use in Palestine](#). The study covered trends and prevalence of illicit drug use, including a [size estimation study](#), drug dependence treatment, and demand and service delivery gaps. This study has updated the 11-year-old drug use data in Palestine. The document was disseminated in November at an event attended by more than 160 persons, including UNODC national counterparts, donors, and civil society organizations. These results established a road map for future interventions in Palestine from prevention to aftercare services provided to drug users. *Project Funded by KOICA (Korea)*

Jordan: Human Trafficking

The First Trafficking in Persons Mock Trial

UNODC held the first mock trial on trafficking in persons in the region, at the Dead Sea in September and October. The four-day mock trial simulated a case of human trafficking, with the story of a 25-year-old Ethiopian woman who traveled to Amman thinking she had accepted an offer at a hotel. Upon arrival, her 'employer' told her she would work as a domestic worker in a private home instead. She decided to turn to the police. Jordanian criminal justice practitioners (prosecutors, judges, police officers, etc.) were then asked to identify, investigate and refer the case to court. *Project Funded by Austria & Norway*



Mock trial underway

Tunisia: HIV Prevention

Training Health Care Staff in Closed Settings

UNODC organized two rounds of five-day training on the provision of a comprehensive package of health interventions in closed settings in December. The training focused on the delivery of key prevention, treatment and care of HIV, hepatitis, sexually-transmitted infections and tuberculosis, as well as on drug-related harm reduction services in prisons, in compliance with principles of international law and standards governing prison health. Around 45 medical and paramedical prison staff from the Ministry of Health and national NGOs participated in the trainings. *Project funded by Drosos Foundation*



Prison staff training

Egypt: Combating Terrorism

Countering the Use of Internet for Recruitment Purposes

In December, UNODC, in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Justice and the National Committee for International Cooperation on Counter Terrorism Matters, held a workshop to support the national efforts to prevent and combat the threat of terrorism, in particular to counter the use of internet for recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters and the incitement to terrorism. The workshop addressed each phase of the criminal justice response, from identification, through investigations and prosecution of relevant cases, to international cooperation. *Project funded by the European Union*



Trainees in session

Regional: Steering Committee Meeting

Arab States and UNODC agree on 2018 Priorities



Meeting opened by Regional Representative (left) & League's Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

UNODC, the League of Arab States (LAS) and 18 Arab countries met in November at the annual Steering and Follow-up Committee Meeting. Sixty-five representatives of Ministries of Interior, Health, Justice and Foreign Affairs, constituting the Committee, met to review the progress in the

implementation in 2017 of the UNODC Regional Programme for the Arab States to Prevent and Combat Crime, Terrorism and Health Threats, and to Strengthen Criminal Justice Systems, in Line with International Human Rights Standards (2016-2021). The meeting also agreed on the priorities to be implemented in 2018. The meeting culminated with a set of recommendations.

Egypt: Migrant Smuggling

Prosecutors Trained on Migrant Smuggling



An Egyptian Prosecutor discussing challenges

Two workshops on migrant smuggling for Egyptian prosecutors were held in December in Hurgada and Fayoum. The objective was to train Egyptian prosecutors on specific investigation skills, including an interactive mock trial. Discussions of the challenges faced by prosecutors when investigating and

prosecuting migrant smuggling cases highlighted the complexity and multi-dimensional nature of migration and migrant smuggling. *Project funded by the European Union*

Upcoming Events

- * Mock trial on **Trafficking in Persons Cases**, Jordan, March
- * Training on **Trafficking in Persons' Indicators and Crime Scene Investigation**, Jordan, February
- * Training on **Trafficking in Persons Crime Sentencing**, Jordan, February
- * Launch of the new **Investigation Unit in General Directorate of the General Security** in Rayak (Bekaa area), Lebanon, February
- * Training on **Healthcare System Management with a Specific Focus on the Management of Voluntary Drug Dependence Treatment Services**, Palestine, February
- * Training on the **Medical Management of Drug Dependence Treatment for the Healthcare Service Providers**, Palestine, March
- * Seminar for **Judges on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants**, Egypt, February
- * Training for **Prosecutors on Migrant Smuggling**, Egypt, February
- * Training for **Journalists on Trafficking in Persons**, Sudan, February
- * Training for **Prosecutors on Migrant Smuggling**, Egypt, March
- * Launching of the EU-funded project "**Strengthening the Rule of Law through an Improved Human Rights-Based Criminal Justice System in Lebanon**", Lebanon, March

Regional: Container Control

Expanded Container Control Activities in the Region



Port Control Unit inauguration Ceremony

Between October and December, the Container Control Programme (CCP) organized a chemical and drug precursor training for the Sohar seaport in Oman; a practical training for the seaports of Tanger-Med and Casa-

blanca in Morocco; and a mentorship as well as a study trip to Rotterdam, the Netherlands, for the seaport in Aqaba, Jordan. CCP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tunisia and launched a Port Control Unit at the Port of Rades that also received a mentorship. CCP received new funds to expand cooperation in Jordan, Oman and Yemen. *CCP funded by US, Japan and Norway*

Jordan: Legal Matters

International Cooperation in Criminal Matters



Law practitioners in training workshop

UNODC completed a series of seven training workshops on Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) for law practitioners in Jordan. The last workshop was conducted in December. The series of the two-day workshops, which started in March 2017, was based on

the "*Practical Guideline for Law Enforcement Officers and Law Practitioners on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters*". More than 140 officials received this training, representing the main stakeholders of the MLA process within the relevant national institutions. *Project funded by Japan*

Lebanon: Prison Reform

Income-Generating Christmas Activity



Christmas decorations crafted by prisoners

On the occasion of Christmas and as a pilot exercise for the wood workshop before its official launch in the Roumieh prison in early 2018, UNODC initiated an income-generating activity for prisoners. In two different workshops (one for adults and one for children), around 20 children and 2 adult

prisoners participated in the production of small decorative Christmas trees made of wood. 180 Christmas trees were produced and were sold out in less than one week. This activity served to advocate towards national counterparts the importance of rehabilitation and its progress in prison. *Project funded by Italy and Canada*