



# Milestones

October, 2009

Regional Office for Central Asia



## DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE PRISON REFORM

*The UN Office on Drugs and Crime recently published a guidance note "Prison Reform and Alternatives to Imprisonment" aimed at assisting countries in developing more effective penal systems which respect human rights.*

The need for prison reform in many countries is well known. The rate of imprisonment is increasing in most countries worldwide, exacerbating the acute problem of overcrowding in many prisons. In many countries, the majority of the people held in detention are awaiting trial. A large number of detainees do not have access to legal counsel and face unfair trial procedures. In addition, in many countries a large proportion of the prison population has been sentenced for minor offences. Harsh laws relating to drug offences, for example, have led to the rapid rise of the prison populations. Overcrowding leads to the deterioration of prison conditions, generates prison violence, spreads disease and fuels human rights violations. Technical assistance provided by UNODC in the field of prison reform is based on the premise that penal

reform and health in prisons are interrelated, and that an integrated strategy needs to be adopted in addressing the enormous challenge of HIV/AIDS and other transmissible diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) in prison settings. Prevention and treatment of drug dependence and the health consequences of drug use are key interventions within the scope of prison reform programmes. Improved prison management and prison conditions are fundamental to developing a sustainable health strategy in prisons. In addition, prison health is an integral part of public health, and improving prison health is crucial for the success of public health policies.

UNODC also recognizes that prison reform cannot be considered in isolation from broader criminal justice reform. Effective prison reform is dependent on the improvement and rationalisation of criminal justice policies, including crime prevention and sentencing policies, and on the care and treatment made available to vulnerable groups in the community. Reform of the prison system should therefore always take into account the

needs of the criminal justice system as a whole and employ an integrated, multi-disciplinary strategy to achieve sustainable impact. Thus, reform initiatives will usually need to encompass criminal justice institutions other than the prison service, such as the judiciary prosecution and police service.

The most obvious example for an integrated strategy is the combination of legislative and practical measures to reduce imprisonment rates and overcrowding in prisons, with training and capacity building in prison management to improve conditions and services in prisons. Other elements that could complement such activities would be technical assistance to improve access to justice for the poor and vulnerable, to ensure the fair treatment of disadvantaged groups in the criminal justice system, while also preventing overcrowding in prisons, as well as crime prevention measures which can reduce offending and re-offending.

UNODC is in the process of developing regional programmes, covering all thematic areas included in its

## Hand-over ceremony



mandate, with strong criminal justice components, based on needs and objectives identified in each region.

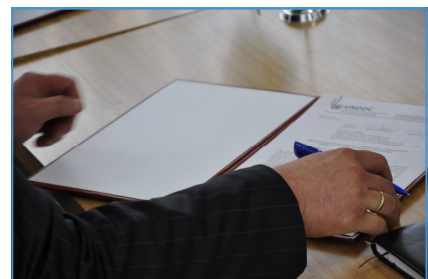
Prison reform programmes currently being planned and developed in each region/country will correspond to the broad objectives and priorities outlined in the regional programmes, in order to ensure that they harmonize with the overall regional strategy and complement other initiatives undertaken by UNODC in the region.

Programmes focusing on other areas of UNODC's mandate will be expanded to include prison related interventions where needed. For example, programmes on drug demand reduction and treatment in the community may be expanded to include vulnerable groups in prisons. There may be training programmes for judges and prosecutors, which can be developed to encompass prison officials, with a view to further more comprehensive interventions to improve the situation in prisons. Programmes focusing on violence against women may include women and girls in prison. Crime prevention measures in the community could be expanded to include post-release support to former prisoners, to assist them with their social reintegration, thereby reducing their risk of re-offending. Juvenile justice reform programmes often have components focusing on alternatives to imprisonment and treatment of children in detention, which can be expanded to include adults, especially vulnerable groups.

For UNODC a model prison is a prison managed on the basis of justice and humanity in which prisoners spend their time engaged in purposeful activities, such as education and vocational training, which will help them with their social reintegration following release. It is a place where vulnerable groups are not discriminated against or abused; where prison staff perform their duties professionally, in line with UN Standards and Norms; where healthcare services meet the needs of those incarcerated and where prisoners have adequate contact with the outside world.

## LAUNCH OF THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING DATABASE IN UZBEKISTAN

The UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia has provided the Ministry of Interior with equipment for the establishment of a national anti-human trafficking database in the framework of the UNODC project "Strengthening criminal justice response to human trafficking in Uzbekistan." The equipment includes software, computers, printers, scanners and a server with a total value of USD 200,000. The official handover ceremony was held on 22 September in the premises of the Ministry of Interior. At the event, Mr. Callahan, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, expressed the hope that close cooperation with the national counterparts will be successfully continued and will lead to achievement of the common goals in the field of combating organized crime. Mr. Mukhammadiev, who represented the Ministry of Interior, welcomed the head of UNODC ROCA, expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by the organization to Uzbekistan and provided assurance that such cooperation will have a positive impact on fighting organized crime, in particular, human trafficking.







## CARICC: STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

UNODC continues to support cooperation to increase information exchange among law enforcement agencies in Central Asia, particularly through the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) which will provide the legal framework and mechanism for information sharing. The necessary legal and institutional instruments have been developed, finalized and signed by all seven Member States.

Turkmenistan was the first Member State to ratify the Agreement on 28 December 2007, followed by Kyrgyzstan on 19 September 2008. According to a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kazakhstan dated 1 July 2008, the CARICC Agreement was endorsed and submitted to the Parliament. CARICC's strategic plan provides the basis for it to become a fully operational agency at the earliest opportunity once the ratification process has been successfully concluded. While not yet fully opera-

tional, in 2007, the heads of the legal departments of the ministries of foreign affairs and high-ranking officers of the law enforcement agencies of the participating countries endorsed the pilot phase of CARICC and recommended its initiation by 1 November 2007.

During this pilot phase, CARICC served as the operational and coordination role for a number of law enforcement projects and initiatives in the region, the prime example being Operation TARCET. In addition, a number of foreign liaison officers have already established operational contact with CARICC and a number of operations have been conducted based on the information provided through the liaison officers' network. Measures are being taken to ensure cooperation with Afghan authorities which are expected to result in observer status in CARICC being granted to Afghanistan and the posting of an Afghan liaison officer. Links are also being established with Chi-

nese counterparts.

On 22 March 2009, following the ratification by five Member States, the Framework Agreement entered into force, thus opening a new page in the process of the establishment of the Centre. Since commencing full functionality, Russia signed the CARICC Framework Agreement (4 September 2009) and Kazakhstan signed the Host Country Agreement (16 September 2009) completing all the requirements for CARICC.

There is strong support for the project from Europol, Interpol, and World Customs Organisation (WCO). Interpol will have an office within the Centre and the Interpol I-24/7 system was installed in

December 2007, with training provided to CARICC staff by Interpol officers. Work is underway to complete testing of WCO's CEN-COMM secure communication environment provided to CARICC by WCO.

## SECOND PHASE OF CONTROLLED DELIVERY EXERCISE

The second phase of the regional controlled delivery field exercises with the participation of law enforcement agencies from Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan was successfully organized in the framework of the UNODC project "Assistance in Developing Controlled Delivery Techniques" in close coordination with CARICC. The first phase of the exercises was conducted in October 2008 with participation of Tajik, Uzbek, Kazakh and Kyrgyz law enforcement agencies. With the initiative of CARICC, a trafficking scenario was developed along the route Iran-Azerbaijan border-Baku-Aktau (via Caspian Sea). In order to make the exercises more realistic, a commercial track was the subject of surveillance. Participating parties provided staff, technical equipment, vehicles as well as specialized equipment necessary for



the operation which was conducted from 24 to 28 August 2009.

The exercise aimed to uncover an international route of illicit drug trafficking from Iran through CIS countries to Europe or China and intercept the transnational criminal group operating on this route. This was accom-

plished through the organization of undercover surveillance using the technical and human resources of competent bodies of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan and conducting operational analysis of received materials during the operation for further joint development of the case.



## UNODC SUPPORTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-TERRORISM INSTRUMENTS

A legislative drafting workshop on the implementation of anti-terrorism instruments in the domestic law of the Republic of Kazakhstan took place in Astana on 29 September-1 October 2009. The seminar was organized in cooperation with the US State Department, NSOI and the US Department of Justice, who have contributed to the nuclear smuggling issues part of the seminar.

The participants came from the Gen-

eral Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of International Affairs, Legislative Institute of the Ministry of Justice, Parliament and Customs Service.

The seminar provided a form for discussing the analysis of Kazakh legislation in terms of its compliance with the universal anti-terrorism instruments together with amendments and proposals on how to bring domestic legislation into compliance

with anti-terrorism instruments.

There was productive, item by item discussions of the proposals among the participants of the seminar, during which changes and amendments to the working paper were agreed upon.

At the end of the seminar, an action plan was adopted by the Kazakh Government together with representatives of Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC.

## STRENGTHENING BORDER SECURITY

The eighth conference of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI) was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 30 September to 1 October 2009. Sponsored by the Government of Austria and the European Union, the conference brought together members of the international donor community, national counterparts and agencies involved in border security technical assistance to share best practice and coordinate efforts.

Three workshops were held in the framework of the conference on Integrated Border Management (IBM)

strategies, training standards and cross-border cooperation. Mr. James Callahan, UNODC Regional Representative, gave a keynote speech highlighting the challenges and success in cross-border cooperation in Central Asia. The conference also provided an opportunity to increase the participants' knowledge of the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM) and to encourage them to make greater use of this tool for information sharing and coordination. Participants were also given the opportunity to tour the Customs Dog



Training Centre in Tashkent.

The aim of annual CABSI gatherings is to progressively develop a comprehensive and sustainable integrated border management approach in Central Asia in order to improve border security, facilitate trade and promote economic development. The conference concluded with the adoption of consolidated recommendations which included, among other things, recommendations for the continued support for the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and the increased use of ADAM.

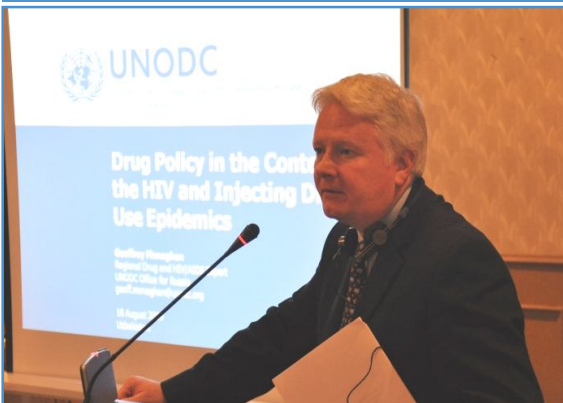






## Project activities

## FACILITATING DEBATES ON DRUG POLICY AND PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES IN UZBEKISTAN



On 18 August 2009, the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia conducted a consultative meeting “Drug Policy and Public Health” with national stakeholders of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate a debate and a process of reviewing the national drug control policy, programme and strategy regarding their effectiveness and impact on public health with focus on drug use, HIV and related conditions among drug users and prison inmates. This meeting was the first of four planned meetings as agreed between representatives of the Government of Uzbekistan, UNODC and UNAIDS. The series of consultative meetings will provide a platform for the discussion of international and national

drug control policies and policies on HIV prevention and treatment among vulnerable groups. More than 30 participants representing the Parliament, Ministries of Health, Justice, Interior, and the Prosecutor General’s Office, national and international NGOs, UN and other international and bilateral organizations

took part in the meeting. The meeting was chaired and facilitated by Dr. Nina Kerimi, UNODC Regional Project Coordinator with support of Dr. Tatiana Shoumilina, UNAIDS Country Coordinator in Uzbekistan. There were a number of presentations including those made by Dr. Maysara Gazieva, National AIDS Centre, Ms. Saodat Jumanova, National Information and Analytical Centre on Drugs Control, Dr. Tatiana Shoumilina, UNAIDS Country Coordinator, Mr. Geoffrey Monaghan, HIV/AIDS Advisor from UNODC Russia Country Office, Dr. Sergii Dvoryak, Director of Ukrainian Institute for Public Health Policy Research, and Dr. Kamran Niaz, UNODC Regional Advisor

on Epidemiology and Treatment of Drug Dependence.

While general issues in international and national drug control policies were discussed and experiences of industrialized and developing countries exchanged, the focus of the debate inevitably revolved around IDUs’ access to opioid substitution treatment. Despite convincing evidence of OST’s effectiveness in HIV prevention and as a treatment method of drug dependence, national counterparts were reluctant to accept the necessity of resuming an OST programme in Uzbekistan. Their principal argument was that the Government’ decision to halt the OST pilot project in Tashkent was taken only a short time ago and it is too early to start discussing OST’s re-introduction.

On a more positive note, national counterparts were quite attentive to the substance of presentations made by the UN and agreed that evaluation techniques for the national drug control programme should be further elaborated. Additionally, an idea for updating the legal framework for the access of drug dependent people to evidence-based treatment including OST was expressed by some participants with UNODC providing technical support in drafting the national law on narcological assistance. The meeting concluded with the decision to follow the previously agreed pattern, namely, to disseminate the country report on legislation analysis among ministries and other interested parties and discuss it topic by topic, to decide which amendments to the law should be considered as a matter of priority. This is not to preclude carrying on technical meetings/workshops that would cover some of the issues related to drugs-prisons-HIV.



## Study tour



## SENIOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FROM TURKMENISTAN LEARNING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THAILAND

Senior law enforcement officials from Turkmenistan's State Drug Control Service, State Customs Service, State Migration Service and Presidential Apparatus went on a study tour to be trained on cross-border cooperation in the fight against illegal drug trafficking to Thailand. The mission was organized jointly by the UNODC Project Office in Turkmenistan and the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific in Thailand.

The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific has significant experience implementing projects aimed at strengthening cross border cooperation through creating liaison structures and facilitating ongoing cooperation with 6 participating countries including Cambodia, China, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam. Additionally, the Regional Centre has successfully establishment of about 70

Border Liaison Offices (BLOs). The purpose of the study tour was to introduce the participants to the experiences and best practices in creating cross-border cooperation mechanisms and Border Liaison Office system (BLO) between Thailand and neighboring countries. It is believed Turkmenistan delegation will leave South East Asia carrying with them new ideas on how to improve border cooperation mechanisms between Turkmenistan and its neighboring countries.

The mission was carried out un-

der the UNODC project "Strengthening Turkmen-Afghan border of Turkmenistan, particularly "Imam Nazar" checkpoint". One of the main objectives of the project is to promote cross-border cooperation between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan's border control agencies.



## ...AND FROM UZBEKISTAN ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN INDIA

The knowledge of governmental institutions (the Ministry of Interior, National Security Service, Prosecutor General's Office, Supreme Court and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and law enforcement officers of Uzbekistan on international experience and best practices in the field of fighting human trafficking was further strengthened through a study tour to India organized in August 2009. During the tour, participants were familiarized with the experiences and operations of Indian governmental and non-governmental organizations including practical aspects of countering human trafficking, state programs and activities targeted at rescuing, rehabilitating, and supporting survivors of human trafficking as well as best practices in cooperation between law enforcement and NGOs. Additionally, the study tour provided

an excellent opportunity for the officers of Uzbek law enforcement agencies to learn about specialized academic training courses for police officers and data collection techniques employed by their Indian counterparts aimed at increasing the efficiency of law enforcement efforts in tackling human trafficking in the region.

The knowledge of governmental institutions (the Ministry of Interior, National Security Service, Prosecutor General's Office, Supreme Court and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and law enforcement officers of Uzbekistan on international experience and best practices in the field of fighting human trafficking was further strengthened through a study tour to India organized in August 2009. During the

tour, participants were familiarized with the experiences and operations of Indian governmental and non-governmental organizations including practical aspects of countering human trafficking, state programs and activities targeted at rescuing, rehabilitating, and supporting survivors of human trafficking as well as best practices in cooperation between law enforcement and NGOs. Additionally, the study tour provided an excellent opportunity for the officers of Uzbek law enforcement agencies to learn about specialized academic training courses for police officers and data collection techniques employed by their Indian counterparts aimed at increasing the efficiency of law enforcement efforts in tackling human trafficking in the region.





In the field  
Tajikistan

## REPAIRED BORDER OUTSPORTS ON TAJIK-AFGHAN BORDER HANDED-OVER TO BORDER FORCES

In August 2009 refurbishment of “Shogun” border outpost on the Tajik border was completed and handed-over to the Tajik Border Forces in the framework of UNODC project on strengthening border control along the Tajik Afghan border. The hand-over ceremony was conducted with the participation of the Tajik Border Guards, the US Embassy as the main donor and UNODC representatives. Rehabilitation of the outpost was carried out through the delivery and installation of modular buildings from sandwich panels, which was a pilot experience for further implementation for Tajik Border Outposts at the Afghan border.

Reparation of the “Shogun” border outpost included the construction of modular buildings as soldiers’ barracks and officers’ houses complete with furnishings, water supply, heating and ventilation systems. The outpost territory has been developed including the construction of sidewalks, a water delivery system, an evacuation system and adequate fencing.



For the past three years, the UNODC project has primarily focused on upgrading of the border outposts in the most vulnerable areas and developing intelligence analysis and information sharing capabilities along the Tajik-Afghan border. By September 2009, four border outposts in the Shurabad area of Tajik-Afghan border were

refurbished, furnished and equipped with vehicles, power generators, computers and specialized search and investigation related equipment.

The project plans to improve the infrastructure of two more border outposts on the Tajik-Afghan border with renovated soldiers’ barracks, officers’ houses and other facilities, furniture and specialized equipment (night vision devices, binoculars, search and inspection and drug testing equipment). Moreover, the project envisages a series of additional trainings to improve investigative and analytical capacities of agencies involved in border control.





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### *4 - 5 November 2009, Kyrgyzstan*

Workshop with the OSCE on the implementation of the universal regime against terrorism

### *30 November – 4 December, Turkmenistan*

Workshop for Central Asian Countries on the Non-Proliferation of Biological, Chemical and Nuclear Weapons and International Legal Cooperation against Biological, Chemical and Nuclear Terrorism

### *9- 20 November, Tajikistan*

Training course on operational activities in the field of countering illicit drugs for law enforcement officers of Tajikistan

### *2-3 November, Uzbekistan*

Technical working group meeting on the Financial Flows linked to Afghan opiates production and trafficking

### *26-27 November, Austria*

Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group Meeting

### *17-18 November, Afghanistan*

Paris Pact Round Table on Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries

### *17 November- 2 December, Russia.*

Training session at Domodedovo TC for law enforcement officers from Afghanistan and Central Asia

### *9-10 December, Kazakhstan*

Expert group meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding

### *8 -23 December, Russia*

Train-the-trainer course for Afghan law enforcement officers at Domodedovo TC.

## TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON DRUG DEPENDENCE TREATMENT



As part of the capacity developing component of the global project “TREATNET II: Treating drug dependence and its health consequences”, the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organized the regional “Training of Trainers on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care” from 24 August to 11 September in Tashkent. The three weeks training comprised simultaneous instruction in 3 thematic areas: a) initial screening, assessment and treatment planning; b) elements of psychosocial treatment; and c) addiction medications and special populations. Seven Master Trainers from Belorussia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Lithuania, Pakistan and Sweden lead the training in their respective areas of expertise.

Thirty seven potential trainers from the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) attended the training to be trained in one of three thematic areas. These participants included experts with varied backgrounds such as psychiatry, drug dependence treatment experts, psychologists and counsellors, teachers especially from medical institutes and medical universities and service providers working in NGOs and other settings.

The training had two main objectives: to improve the participants’ own knowledge and skills in the technical aspects of drug dependence treatment and to enhance their skills in conducting interactive training sessions. To build these

skills, particular attention was given to role plays and practice sessions for participants’ presentations during the training. Participants learned what different categories of psychoactive substances do to the body

and brain; how to screen individuals with substance use disorders and conduct brief interventions to address the individual’s drug use; and contemporary concepts and guidelines for addiction medication for a range of substances of abuse including stimulants, cannabis, benzodiazepines and opioids. Participants developed the knowledge and skills required to conduct a comprehensive psychosocial assessment of a substance abusing individual at the initiation of treatment and to develop comprehensive treatment plans using the Addiction severity index. Additional topics covered included concepts and skills in basic counselling skills, cognitive behavioural therapy for relapse prevention, and motivational interviewing for people to change behaviour, treatment of people with co-occurring substance abuse, medical and mental health disorders, as well as special considerations for treatment of women and young people with substance use disorders.

After the training, the participants were certified as National Trainers and became part of the international network of trainers under TREATNET. As a next step, the participants will form national training teams, prepare a grant proposal for a National Training Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment to be supported by UNODC, and conduct nine individual and national level training sessions in their thematic areas. The participants will continue to receive mentoring support and advice by the Master Trainers and UNODC regional office.