



Milestones

April-June 2013

Regional Office for Central Asia



“MAKE HEALTH YOUR ‘NEW HIGH’ IN LIFE, NOT DRUGS”

June 26 is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1987, this day serves as a reminder of the goals agreed to by Member States to create an international society free of drug abuse.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) selects themes for the International Day and launches campaigns to raise awareness about the global drug problem. Health is the ongoing theme of the world drug campaign - "Make health your 'new high' in life, not drugs" Yesterday the Uzbek National Security Service (NSS) destroyed 1,537 kg of drugs. The destroyed drugs were seized by the law-enforcement agencies during activities to fight drug trafficking and were used as material evidence in criminal cases, court rulings of which already became effective. The burnt narcotics included 198.2 kg of heroin, 760 kg of opium, 140.7 kg of hashish, 411 kg of marijuana as well as a large amount of cannabis and psychotropic medicines in the form of pills and solutions.

Drugs were burnt in Tashkent in the presence of the UN, other international organizations and media representatives.



Success story



EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT PRISON SERVICE IN KYRGYZSTAN



On 22 and 23 May the final conference of the EU/UNODC project ‘**Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic**’ was held in Bishkek. The project is funded by the European Union and co-financed by the governments of the United States of America, Sweden and Turkey. The conference was attended by 92 participants representing state institutions, civil society, international organizations and the media. Project staff and national partners presented project results. Subsequently, 4 working groups were formed to discuss the sustainability of the project’s results, and draft recommendations for further reform of the Kyrgyz penitentiary system. These were discussed and included in a communiqué on the results of the final project conference. The communiqué reflects the positive evaluation of the project by national and international counterparts, both in terms of alignment with national priorities, sustainability of results and strength of partnerships and coordination mechanisms established within the framework of the project. Mr. Atakhanov, Deputy Prime Minister recognized the efforts made within the framework of the project to improve the legislative framework for prison reform, to develop professional skills of prison staff, to improve prison conditions and to develop income generating activities.

As a result, new bath and laundry facilities have been opened in four prisons, and new production facilities have been created, such as a sewing workshop, bakery and soya milk production line. Prison staff has benefited from training provided by the project and the work of vocational training schools in prisons has been strengthened. With expertise provided by the project, new legislative and normative documents have been adopted. The project has been implemented in line with national priorities and with tangible results. The main beneficiary of the project is the State Service on Execution of Punishments under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (Prison Service). *“This project has provided valuable support to the Prison Service”*, said Zarylbek Rysaliev, Chairperson of the Prison Service. *“Living conditions of more than 3000 detainees have been improved and employment opportunities provided to more than 160 prisoners through the establishment of new production facilities”*, he added. Mr. Rysaliev noted that more than 36 normative acts and 100 internal prison service orders have been prepared with the support of the project during the past 2 years, including the National Strategy for the Development of the Penitentiary System 2012-2016. With the project’s facilitation, the prison system has also benefited from tax cuts. For example, the prison system no longer has to devolve 50% of profits made by productive facilities in prisons to the state budget. *“The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Prison Service and civil society, and serves as an example of effective partnership and cooperation”*, noted Ambassador

Chantal Hebberecht, Head of the EU Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic. The conference participants formulated recommendations on follow up actions needed to advance prison reform in line with the National Strategy for the Development of the Prison System of the Kyrgyz Republic for the years 2012-2016.

Letter of Appreciation

To: UNODC Executive Director

Dear Yury Viktorovich,

On behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, let me express our sincere gratitude to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the technical assistance provided to the penitentiary system of the Kyrgyz Republic within the framework of the UNODC project “Support to prison reform of the Kyrgyz Republic” funded by the European Union, and co-funded by the Governments of the United States of America, Sweden and Turkey. The Government recognizes the project’s achievements as a best practice of cooperation with UNODC on prison reform during the last few years. I would like to specifically acknowledge the professionalism shown by the project team, which ensured implementation of all activities, including construction and refurbishment of key infrastructure in pilot prisons, in a satisfactory and timely manner. Thanks to the project, the legislative framework governing the penitentiary system has been significantly improved. Particularly noteworthy is the establishment of prison income generating activities, which has contributed to the employment of over 160 prisoners. Successful project implementation has also encouraged the Government of the



Workshop

Kyrgyz Republic to allocate significant funding for the further development of income generating activities within prison system.

The project's efforts have considerably helped advance prison reform in the country, to improve sanitary conditions for over 3000 prisoners, and to bring prison conditions more in line with the requirements of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Moreover, the project supported the drafting of a National Strategy for Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2012-2016, which has been approved by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and outlines the main objectives and priorities for further prison reform.

Based on the achievements of the project in providing technical assistance to the prison system, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic kindly requests UNODC to consider continuing its fruitful cooperation with a possible new project and would like to recommend the further dissemination of the project's results as a best practice.

**Yours sincerely,
Mr. Sh. Atakhanov
Vice Prime Minister
Kyrgyz Republic**

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF SERVICES TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On 28-29 May 2013, UNFPA Sub-regional Office in Central Asia and UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia conducted the joint national workshop **"International standards to ensure the availability and quality of services to protect and support victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants"** in Dushanbe, the Republic of Tajikistan. This event was organized in the framework of the project "Strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian Republics to protect and assist victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants, especially women and children, in partnership with NGO and civil society actors" which is funded by the European Union and co-funded by the United States.

The main goal of the workshop was to improve the quality and accessibility of social services for victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants. According to the assessment conducted by the international experts of UNFPA in Central Asian countries, the absence of well-functioning identification systems and referral mechanisms represent



one of the reasons why victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants are not always adequately assisted and protected in the region. The assessment findings laid the groundwork for developing measures on improving shelters and their quality of services by building the capacity of social workers and shelter staff, and by raising theirs and other beneficiaries' awareness on the issues at stake.

Participants strengthened their skills in the area of assistance to victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants, as well as in human rights based international and national anti-trafficking policy. The facilitation provided by the international experts from Moldova brought an exchange of good practices in the area of victims' assistance and protection, on the international level.

The participants expressed great interest on issues related to the "burnout" syndrome and rehabilitation measures of service providers that would enable them to continue their work. Referral mechanisms and interagency cooperation and partnership with civil society were also highlighted by the participants as other critical points to be addressed and strengthened in the near future. Similar workshops are planned to be held in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the period of July-September 2013.





NORTHERN ROUTE OF AFGHAN OPIATES TRAFFICKING



The working meeting on the Northern Route of Afghan opiates trafficking was held on 27-28 June 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The meeting was organized by UNODC and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (CARICC) within the framework of the Afghan Opiate Trade Monitoring Project with the support of the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and neighboring countries. Heads of analytical units of the competent authorities of the Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, as well as representatives of the competent authorities of China, France, Germany, Turkey, UK, USA, and such regional and international organizations as EU/ UNDP BOMCA Project, CSTO, OSCE and RATS of SCO attended the meeting. The meeting was organized in an informal format and presented an opportunity for the participants to discuss the latest

analytical developments and most recent trends in combating illegal trafficking of Afghan opiates, in particular, the current drug situation in the countries located on the Northern Route, post-2014 scenarios and implications for the Central Asian counter-narcotics community as well as issues of the regional cooperation, reports and findings of the Afghan Opiate Trade Monitoring Project of UNODC.

The participants noted the importance of the closer interaction and cooperation among the law enforcement agencies by timely exchanging information, conducting international controlled delivery operations and other joint actions to combat illegal drug trafficking. The workshop participants also agreed on conducting further expert researches by UNODC and CARICC.





Cooperation



REGIONAL WORKING MEETING ON “ICE TRAIL” OPERATION IN CARICC

On 11-12 June 2013, CARICC and Interpol with the support of UNODC held a regional working meeting “Ice Trail”, the aim of which was to discuss and share best practices on coordination efforts of the law-enforcement agencies of Central and South-East Asia in interception of synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine trafficked from Iran. Law-enforcement officers from the operational divisions of the CARICC member states, Australia, Belarus, Indonesia, Iran, Thailand and other interested countries took part in the meeting. Operation “ICE TRAIL” had been conducted during almost 3 years by INTERPOL with the support of UNODC and World Customs Organization. Due to the substantial cooperation among the participating countries significant results were achieved. In consideration of the spreading of the threat of methamphetamine trafficking, including to

the Central Asian region, it was proposed to CARICC to explore the possibility of taking a role in the coordination and development of measures on overcoming this issue at the regional level. In its turn, the INTERPOL General Secretariat and INTERPOL National Central Bureau’s network (also in the light of the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between CARICC and INTERPOL) are willing to provide full support to combat methamphetamine trafficking. Thereby, CARICC will play a coordinating role in the region in counteracting illicit synthetic drugs trafficking, including methamphetamine smuggled from Iran. For this purpose an analytical work file will be created for collecting and analysis of information on this issue and for organisation of joint operations in interception of illicit synthetic drugs and psychotropic substances.

IMPROVING LEGAL ASSISTANCE PRACTICES IN MONEY LAUNDERING INVESTIGATIONS

On 25-27 June, UNODC conducted the regional workshop “Improving Mutual Legal Assistance Practices in Money-Laundering Investigations and Asset Forfeiture/Recovery” in Batumi, Georgia in the framework of the project “Strengthening capacities of the GUAM Member States to cooperate at the national and regional levels in combating money-laundering as well as in seizing and confiscating crime proceeds”. It gathered representatives/ heads of the Central Authorities, judges, prosecutors and investigators from the GUAM Member States (Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Moldova), AML/MLA practitioners from Israel, Poland, Switzerland and USA as well as experts from Interpol and SELEC/SEEPAG. The workshop benefitted a lot from the contributions provided by some prominent AML/MLA practitioners including Mr. Yehuda Shaffer, Deputy State Attorney of Israel, Mr. Pascal Gossin, Head of MLA Department of Federal Office of Justice of Switzerland and Mr. Rafal Wozniak, Head of Asset Recovery Office of Poland.

The participants of the workshop highly appreciated its good practical value that allowed to establish useful personal contacts for future professional cooperation and to receive practical tips on the ways to overcome obstacles to the effective MLA in AML investigations and asset recovery.



EXTRADITION: FACILITATING PROSECUTION, PROTECTING FROM PERSECUTION



Transnational organized crime transcends cultural, social, linguistic and geographical borders. The criminal networks forge bonds across borders as well as overcome cultural and linguistic differences. The criminals in one state flee to another to escape prosecution, exploiting domestic variations in the substantive and procedural laws of the states.

In response, nations historically designed extradition as one form of international cooperation. Extradition is an instrument that enables a state (Requesting State) to obtain custody of, and prosecute, a person who is accused or convicted of one or more criminal offences against the law of this state and who is located in another state (Requested State). International standards require the extradition process to be just but also efficient. Extradition must take place in strict accordance with the law.

To strengthen the skills of judges and lawyers in Uzbekistan in applying the provisions of the domestic law regarding judicial review and appeal of the decision/resolution on extradition taken by the General Prosecutor or his deputy, the Regional Office for Central Asia of the United Na-

Ministry of Justice and the General Prosecutor Office of Uzbekistan conducted two national training courses entitled “*Implementation of International Legal Instruments on Extradition into National Legislation and Practice*”. The training courses were held consecutively from 21 through 23 May 2013 at the Training Centre of the Ministry of Justice in Tashkent.

The training programmes were designed to familiarize the trainees with both international, regional and national legal instruments, initiatives and tools in the area of extradition. The extradition casework practice was presented to the trainees from the standpoints of the criminal justice practitioners involved in the process: prosecutors (UK, Ukraine, and France), judges (Russian Federation, Uzbekistan) and lawyers (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and ECHR).

The trainees were provided with an opportunity to learn best practices and lessons learned in dealing effectively with extradition requests to ensure swift and effective prosecutions overcoming geographic and legal boundaries, on one hand, and protection of human rights of those

subject to extradition, on the other. With a view to solidify the knowledge acquired and improve application skills, the trainees were asked to solve a practical case in the last session of the training courses. Overall, 113 trainees completed the courses, including 53 candidates for judges, 30 lawyers (from Tashkent and the regions), and 25 professors of the Training Centre. The prosecutors from the General Prosecutor Office’s International Department (including its Head) also attended the course. This gave them an opportunity to discuss concrete cases with their counterparts from Russia, Ukraine, and the UK, as well as experts from Interpol and the European Court on Human Rights, who acted as trainers.

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Note: In September 2010, Uzbekistan adopted amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure. A new section entitled “International cooperation in criminal matters” was introduced. The amendments established the grounds and procedure for mutual legal assistance and extradition that previously had not been regulated by the law. Specifically, the Code has been supplemented with article 602 providing for judicial review and appeal of the decision/resolution on extradition taken by the General Prosecutor or his deputy. Moreover, in May 2012, the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan issued the Ruling “On certain issues of international cooperation in civil and criminal matters” to interpret, among others, the abovementioned provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and facilitate their application.



INTRODUCING GEOINFORMATION SYSTEMS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT ANALYTICAL ACTIVITIES



As part of the capacity building component of law enforcement bodies, analysts of Coordination and Analysis Unit (CAU) of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) delivered a specialized training on “ArcGIS 10.0: Basics in Working with Geoinformation Systems” for the staff of law enforcement training centres/academies and agencies of Tajikistan. The training included participants from the Drug Control Agency, MoI Academy, MoI, Institute for Qualification im-

provement of State Customs Service and State Customs Service. The training aimed at strengthening skills in data handling and introduction of GIS system in a day-to-day activity of law enforcement bodies. During the interactive training participants expanded their knowledge on the main ArcGIS tools needed for mapping of situational factors and applied the gained skills for mapping of crime rate, heroin seizures and pointing individual seizures. Moreover, CAU analysts shared experience with the participants on the quick ways of data processing and analysis of drug-related data, the use of GIS application in law enforcement activities.

As a result of the training, participants have improved their skills on quick processing of drug-related data in MS Excel, learnt the basics of ArcGIS 10, and became able to create simple thematic maps of drug sei-

zures/prices.

In order to reinforce the skills in displaying data in maps, participants were recommended to continue self-exercising on ArcGIS. Participants were also informed that during the next advanced GIS training, planned for August 2013, they would be examined to check their skills and would learn more advanced GIS mapping tools and teaching methods for training of their fellow colleagues.

All training materials were distributed among participants, including ROCA geo databases that would allow them to do self-mapping exercises.

Upon completion of the training all participants were presented with certificates in a special closing ceremony attended by the Deputy Director of the Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan.



Project activity



SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN UNODC AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE OF AFGHANISTAN

The Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) was established in January 2005 by the government of Afghanistan, with support from UNODC and donor countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada and Belgium. The aim was to bring offenders of drug related crimes to justice quickly. It was created to fast-track major drug cases within Afghanistan. The Task Force is made up of key investigators, prosecutors and judges. It is based in Kabul but is also operative in the provinces. The purpose is to strengthen the institutional capacity to arrest, investigate and detain criminal offenders suspected and convicted of drug related crimes. In 2012 the CJTF Prosecution Directorate successfully completed the investigation and prosecution of 588 serious narcotics and intoxicating drinks cases based on

the Law Against Intoxicating Drinks and Narcotics, which they received from CJTF Investigation and Laboratory Department. Over the last few years the CJTF has worked in close cooperation with UNODC's project "**Drug law enforcement systems for criminal intelligence collection, analysis and exchange**", funded by the Canadian government. A number of intelligence analysis training courses of different levels for Task Forces staff were conducted by International Experts. IT equipment, including hardware, software and local area network were procured and installed. The project also provides continuous support and guidance to the Task Force members through a mentorship mechanism, which facilitates advisory services. The Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan is the main governmental

coordinating body for the CJTF program, and is implementing activities in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court and Office of the Attorney General. One of the biggest challenges that the Ministry of Counter Narcotics has in developing the report is getting current and reliable data.

The Ministry of Counter Narcotics currently recognizes that the CJTF is one of the best Afghan entities for providing reliable data/statistics that are coherent, current and useful for the Drug Report. Through this project, the CJTF's capacity is reinforced.

It is encouraging that UNODC, with Canada's financial support, is reinforcing the work that is carried out under different activities of the CJTF.

EFFECTIVE DRUG DEPENDENCE TREATMENT

From March 5 through May 22, 2013 a series of drug dependence treatment trainings were conducted by UNODC in all the regions of Uzbekistan. The main goal was to introduce an effective model of drug dependence treatment based on a holistic approach to reach the needs of drug users on a medical, psychological and social level. A significant improvement in the quality of services was achieved as a result of these trainings. The resource center for this project (Tashkent city narcological dispensary) provided positive feedback, and the plan is to implement these trainings throughout the country. In total, 130 addiction professionals, including staff from the regional narcological dispensaries and district narcological cabinets serving rural population attended the 2 day training. The holistic model of narcological aid was pre-

sented to a wide range of addiction professionals. This model is based on the concept of continuity between the different treatment service components. Individual narcological aid planning was touched upon. This approach is gradual, multilevel, continuous and long-term. Therapeutic interventions aim at readapting and resocializing drug dependants. The training's participants learned about providing assistance to co-dependant family members in outpatient settings, including district narcological cabinets. An assessment of needs of the patients was used, as well as the "Addiction Severity Index", in order to focus the trainings and maximise their potential.

Bases on the analysis of local conditions and functioning

narcological services, the national trainers provided the administration of these regional dispensaries with concrete recommendations. These included the expansion of types of medical and psychological services to drug users. A detailed plan covering the holistic model of narcological services was developed, discussed and approved by the chief narcologists for each region.



UZBEKISTAN JOINED UNODC'S FAMILY SKILLS TRAINING INITIATIVE

At the beginning of the year, UNODC's global project **"Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries"** was endorsed by the government of Uzbekistan for implementation in 2013. According to the project workplan, approved by the government, the project will be implemented in two cycles.

In April-June 2013 the first implementation cycle of the programme "Families and Schools Together" (FAST) was conducted in two pilot schools within the framework of the project. At the beginning of this cycle, 17 local trainers from pilot schools in the Tashkent city area (School №64 and School №324) were trained by international experts from Great Britain on conducting FAST sessions among families. After completing the training, local trainers held eight FAST sessions for pupils in 1st-2nd grade in pilot schools and their parents. In total, 40 families benefitted from the first cycle. Trainers, parents and children involved in the programme were eager to participate in FAST and provided positive feedback.



"One of the parents in our group had tears of happiness in her eyes when her son served her a meal. She said that he would never do it at home. FAST helped all participants, including trainers, to revalue relationships with family members and bring positive changes".
(Trainer, School №324)



"My son was disobedient before the programme. Now he listens to me and he has become more respectful to family members".
(Parent, School №64)





“FAST sessions were conducted with insight and enthusiasm in almost all the groups from the selected pilot schools. Both children and their parents expressed interest in FAST. This programme can be implemented in Uzbekistan with special consideration for our mentality, traditions, rich culture and the history of our nation”.

(National expert, observer of the programme’s implementation)

“I liked FAST very much. I met new friends here. I don’t want FAST to end”.

(Child, School №324)

During the 5th session (May 18th), two specialists on drug use prevention from the Tashkent Narcological Dispensary were invited to the pilot schools to discuss issues related to drug use with the parents. They asked questions related to drug and alcohol use and prevention methods for children and adolescents. On June 8th, the final 8th session (the graduation ceremony) was conducted in both pilot schools. Families in each school prepared a concert with children singing, dancing and giving small performances. The Deputy Minister of Public Education Mr. Abdugani Kholbekov awarded certificates of completion for FAST programmes to the families. Some families expressed regret that FAST had ended so quickly.

DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICE STANDARDS ON HIV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Over the past decades, access to the HIV prevention and care service for injecting drug users has improved in the Central Asian countries. However, the poor quality of service and unfavorable tendencies of generalization of the epidemic, such as the increasing rate of sexual transmission of HIV and HVB transmission through drug injection among males, are still the subjects for concern. Standardization of HIV-related services through the development and updating of the national guidelines and protocols/instructions/manuals/orders as well as the introduction of a complex/integrated service package are the priority areas in solving foregoing problems.

The UNODC project **“Effective HIV prevention and care among vulnerable groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe”** funded by US government through CDC/PEPFAR, USAID

and OFID/OPEC is currently providing technical assistance in the development and modernization of service standards on HIV prevention and treatment for drug users. Within the framework of this project, a regional tool (set of checklists) for public health service and social protection for drug users has been developed. This tool focuses on the HIV prevention and care and covers all levels of public health services from low-threshold services to specialized ones which are based on WHO/ UN documents. A multi-disciplinary national expert group used this tool while working on the standardization of the regulatory/protocol field in public health and social protection for target groups of the population.

In turn, the Technical Working Group on HIV prevention among injecting drug users led by UNODC has actively participated in reviewing and discussing the prepared materials for low-threshold services (syringes exchange program and Trust Points). After that, the materials were submitted to the National AIDS Center/ Ministry of Health for further consideration and integration into the national documents and standards.



UNODC

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