

The first UNODC - South Asia newsletter for 2014 reflects on the Office's major achievements in 2013 and also brings you our usual update. We look forward to another year of continued support and interest from our readers.

## South Asia: Regional Programme for 2013-2015



In May 2013, UNODC, Regional Office for South Asia launched its Regional Programme for South Asia (2013-2015). The Regional Programme was developed under a consultative process with the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The programme sets out UNODC's strategic priorities in its mandated areas of work for the next three years and comprises five sub-programmes: (i) Countering Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit trafficking, including Drug Trafficking, (ii) Countering Corruption, (iii) Terrorism Prevention, (iv) Promoting efficient, fair and humane criminal justice systems

and (iv) Drug use prevention and treatment and HIV and AIDS prevention and care. During its implementation period, the Regional Programme addresses three inter-linked areas of concern: (i) generation of data and strategic analysis, (ii) adoption of legislation and policies in line with relevant UN Conventions and international standards and (iii) capacity-building and training of public officials and practitioners by bringing to the region global knowledge products and best international practices. Six months after the launch, the Office hosted the first Project Steering and Policy Coordination Committee Meeting which reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Regional Programme. The two day meeting brought together delegations from the six countries that the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia covers to discuss future priorities in keeping with the Regional Programme.



## South Asia: Regional workshop on witness protection in terrorist cases



In October 2013, UNODC through its Terrorism Prevention Branch and its Regional Office for South Asia, in cooperation with the Counter - Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate (CTED), organized a regional workshop on "Strengthening Criminal Justice Responses for the Protection and Support of Witnesses and Victims in Criminal proceedings related to Terrorism" in Kathmandu, Nepal. Participating countries provided an overview of how each country is dealing with terrorism, organized crime and witness protection, while UNODC and CTED provided information on their on-going work related to the implementation of various Conventions and Security Council Resolutions relevant to countering and prosecuting acts of terrorism. During the course of the workshop, the role of victims in criminal proceedings, as well as their need for support and protection emerged as an important, but often neglected aspect that needs increased attention. Responding to this need, UNODC and CTED are now including protection of witnesses and victims as part of their ongoing work with SAARC countries in South Asia.

In Bangladesh, UNODC, together with the Department of Forest, Government of Bangladesh initiated the implementation of the **'Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytical Toolkit'** developed by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime.

## South Asia: Container Control Programme



UNODC introduced the Container Control Programme in South Asia in 2013. The programme is aimed at assisting Governments to establish effective container controls that will help prevent drug trafficking and other illicit activity whilst facilitating legal trade. As part of this programme, joint port control units (JPCU) have been set up in the ports of Colombo - Sri Lanka and Male - Maldives. Staffed by front line officers from different law enforcement agencies, these units will receive extensive training over a period of three years in profiling techniques targeting illegal drugs and precursor chemicals.

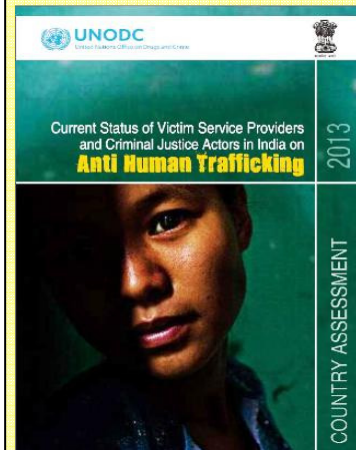
In 2013, UNODC set up nine **computer-based training centres** in South Asia. The region currently has 24 such centres running, where law enforcement officers are trained on topics like interdiction techniques for land controls, airports and sea ports.



## Highlights - Anti human trafficking

**Bangladesh:** In Bangladesh, men, women and children are increasingly being trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor etc. In light of these developments, UNODC launched its first country specific anti - human trafficking project in 2013, with the aim to strengthen the government and civil society response to counter trafficking in persons. Under this initiative, UNODC developed a comprehensive training module on anti-human trafficking for law enforcement officials and public prosecutors. Rehabilitation services reached out to 60 adult male trafficked survivors. These services include rescue and repatriation of survivors, shelter home services, medical support, counseling and legal aid.

**Bhutan:** In 2013, UNODC in collaboration with the Royal Government of Bhutan and Nedan Foundation organized its first anti human trafficking workshop for law enforcement officers and other stakeholders in Phuentsholing, Bhutan. The workshop paved the way for future initiatives on anti human trafficking in Bhutan.



**India:** UNODC commissioned a country assessment on the "Status of victim service providers and criminal justice actors in India". This assessment captures a brief situational analysis of 13 forms of human trafficking and highlights broad trends in the country. The assessment will aid service providers and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive response to human trafficking in the country.

**South Asia:** In 2013, UNODC secured funding for three new anti-human trafficking projects in the region.

## India: Addressing corruption in the private sector

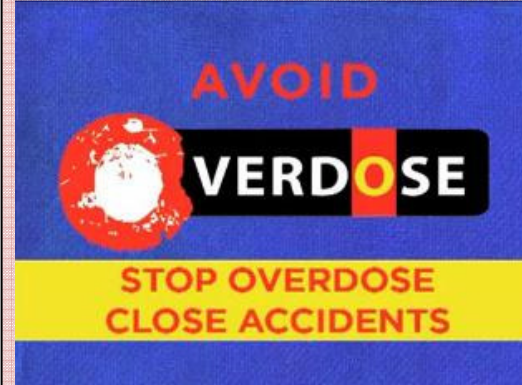


UNODC in India has been implementing two anti-corruption projects that encourage the involvement of government, private sector and civil society partners in anti-corruption efforts. In 2013, UNODC presented two studies titled: (i) *Incentives for corporate integrity in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)* and (ii) *Transparency, objectivity and competition in private-public partnership projects*. Both studies identified current practices and challenges at the grass-root level for both corporate integrity and probity in procurement as perceived by the public and private sector as well as by law enforcement officials. Based on the findings of these studies training programmes are being developed to address corruption. Additionally, the Office also developed a pictorial guide to the UNCAC. This guide simplifies the Convention and makes it more accessible to the reader.

Additionally, in 2013, UNODC reached out to more than 1000 youth through sensitization programmes and quiz competitions.

## Highlights – Drug use prevention, treatment and care

In 2013 UNODC conducted a number of activities on drug use prevention, treatment and care across the region.



**India:** Amongst injecting drug users who use opioids, drug overdose is one of the most common causes of death. However, deaths caused by overdose can be prevented through the use of Naloxone. In order to increase awareness on this issue and reduce overdose related deaths, in 2013, UNODC undertook a number of activities on overdose management and prevention. In collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Mizoram, UNODC organized a training for medical officers from government hospitals as well as private institutions in Mizoram. UNODC also developed and disseminated IEC material on drug overdose and advocated with the state health department in Mizoram for the availability of Naloxone at hospitals.

**India:** The emergence of amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) as drugs of abuse, especially amongst the youth is a cause for growing concern. However, the problem in India is not yet understood and data for treatment is scarce. In light of this, UNODC conducted the first-ever exploratory study on ATS use in India. The study documented drug use patterns and trends in the five states of Manipur, Mizoram, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and also assessed the adverse health consequences related to the use of ATS. Following this study, UNODC will set up two regional centers, one in South India and one in North East India, to look into developing comprehensive treatment models and treatment guidelines for health-care providers.

**Maldives:** In 2013, UNODC released the first 'National Drug Use Survey' for Maldives. Apart from estimating the drug use prevalence and patterns of abuse in the country, the survey also identified a number of measures that need to be taken to address the drug situation in Maldives. These include (i) strengthening of law enforcement to reduce the supply of illicit drugs, (ii) awareness raising activities in schools and colleges, (iii) mainstreaming drug use issues in programs of other sectors like public health (mental health), children and youth, education, human resources etc. The results from the survey have helped decision makers in framing policy in keeping with current needs and trends.

**Nepal:** UNODC in Nepal has been working with women drug users providing them gender-sensitive, comprehensive drug prevention and care responses. The initiatives have incorporated previously established as well as new and innovative work approaches with women who use drugs, women who inject drugs, female prisoners (many of whom are also using drugs), and women living with HIV and AIDS. In 2013, UNODC under took the task of formulating a good practices guide for service providers working with women drug users. Building on experience and lessons learnt in the field, the guide explains eight essential principles of effective programming for women drug users. It forms part of UNODC's overall research work to develop a clear understanding of the drug problem in Nepal and put into place informed and specialized programmes that work best to meet the needs of women drug users.



UNODC partnered with the International Center for Journalists over a six-week online course titled: 'South Asia's Youth at Risk – Multimedia Storytelling by Young Journalists'. UNODC offered its expertise in the areas of human trafficking, transnational organized crime and drug use prevention, treatment and care.

### UNODC On Social Media



<https://www.facebook.com/unodc>



<https://twitter.com/UNODC>



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/unodcrosa>



## South Asia: Commemorating international days

### International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – June 26<sup>th</sup>

**New Delhi, India:** UNODC participated in a national award ceremony organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. On the occasion, individuals and organizations that have made significant contribution in the area of prevention of alcohol and substance abuse were awarded by the President of India. The message of the Secretary General of the United Nations was read out at the event.

**Meghalaya, India:** The department of Social Welfare, Government of Meghalaya in co-ordination with the Regional Resource Training Centre Kohima, Nagaland and NGO partners organized a meeting to commemorate the day. The meeting focused on drug abuse amongst women and children.

**Nagaland, India:** The day was observed by Bethesda, an NGO implementing the UNODC female injecting drug user project in Nagaland. Over 40 women with their children attended the programme. Besides a technical session, a quiz competition was also organized to generate awareness.

**Khulna and Jessore, Bangladesh:** Khulna Mukti Seba Sangstha (KMSS), one of UNODC's implementing partners in Bangladesh organized rallies in the cities of Khulna and Jessore. The rallies helped generate awareness on illicit drugs and their harmful effects. The rallies were followed by discussion sessions at the two locations.

**Kathmandu, Nepal:** UNODC participated in an event organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal. On the occasion, the Ministry of Home Affairs presented the official Drug Survey Report 2013. UNODC supported the Ministry of Home Affairs in the publication of the Drug Survey Report and also the printing of IEC material on drug abuse for students and parents.



### International Anti-Corruption Day – December 9<sup>th</sup>

To mark the International Day against Corruption and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, UNODC in collaboration with KPMG and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized an *Anti-corruption consultation with Indian B20 companies and Indian industry* in Mumbai, India. The consultation provided a platform for Indian companies represented at the B20 to share their practices with regard to countering corruption and to debate ideas for possible solutions.



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[www.unodc.org/southasia](http://www.unodc.org/southasia)

## UNODC Internal News

### The Office bids farewell to:



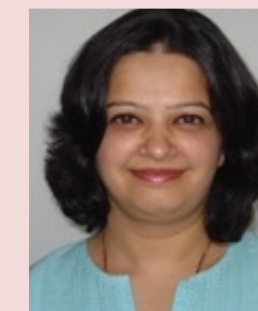
**Mr. R Gunashekar** leaves UNODC, New Delhi to join the UNODC Country Office in Nigeria as a Regional Advisor, HIV and AIDS, West Africa. He served in New Delhi for seven years and we look forward to working with him in his new capacity in the future.



**Ms. Ramdinpui Ralte** had been with UNODC since April 2012 as a Project Assistant for the HIV/AIDS project under the Joint UN programme. We thank her for her work at the Office and wish her all the best for the future.



**Ms. Lalhlupui Sailo** worked with UNODC for 10 years in the Northeast India Office as a Project Officer. She managed the implementation of the HIV/AIDS project under the Joint UN Programme. We thank her for 10 years of commitment and wish her every success in the future.



**Ms. Shveta Aima** served UNODC for 10 years as a Project Associate in the New Delhi, India Office. She has left UNODC to take up her new assignment with UNDP, India. We thank her for her long and memorable association with UNODC and wish her all the very best in her new position.

### The Office welcomes on board:



**Ms. Arushi Singh** joined UNODC in January 2014 as an Administrative and Finance Assistant supporting UNODC's Container Control Programme.



**Mr. Kamal Gupta** joined UNODC in December 2013 as an Administrative and Finance Associate supporting the regional project on the prevention of HIV and AIDS among drug users in SAARC countries. This is his second tenure at UNODC. Prior to this Kamal served at UNODC from 1999 to 2009.