

UNODC helps countries and its people to reduce illegal drugs and crime throughout the world and to address justice and human security. It helps Member States with technical assistance, legal advice and research within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the three United Nations Conventions on Drugs.

UNODC South Asia is present in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

South Asia: Human trafficking prevention strategy



As part of its work on countering trafficking in persons, UNODC is developing a regional human trafficking prevention strategy in South Asia. As a first step, a mapping of prevention initiatives (both governmental and non-governmental) that have existed in the region is underway.

To deliberate upon these initiatives and discuss priorities for the upcoming prevention strategy, UNODC organized national-level stakeholder consultations in Kolkata, India and in Kathmandu, Nepal. The consultations saw participation from government counterparts as well as NGOs. Representatives from the governments shared the recent initiatives undertaken to address human trafficking. Key issues that emerged in the region included the need for strengthening education and livelihood options in vulnerable areas and the importance of law enforcement and NGO cooperation. Key recommendations for the prevention strategy included targeted awareness campaigns, scaling up of existing successful micro models on prevention actions, improving data and information management and strengthening access to legal services for victims.

Nepal: Strengthening cooperation in criminal matters



UNODC and the Government of Nepal organized a national workshop on 'Strengthening domestic cooperation in criminal matters with a focus on terrorism cases,' in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop aimed at enhancing the knowledge of good practices to

strengthen the internal coordination and communication between different criminal justice agencies to cooperate nationally in criminal matters, including terrorism cases, at both the investigation and prosecutorial level. During the workshop, representatives from Nepal presented the legislative and structural framework on inter-agency cooperation, mutual legal assistance and extradition. Participants identified the existing practical challenges in inter-agency cooperation, e.g. lack of central information database on predicate offence accessible to all agencies, lack of clear role / responsibility of different agencies under the national coordination mechanism. The workshop was particularly appreciated by the participants who felt that through this workshop they were able to establish contacts with their counterparts in other agencies, which is vital to speedy and effective inter-agency cooperation.

Testimonial by former UNODC volunteer



I am currently a student in New Jersey, USA. During my volunteer experience at the UNODC office in New Delhi, I researched and documented drug use in India, listened to important issues and discussions at UNODC meetings, and read countless publications. I summarized my learning and findings in the form of a comprehensive presentation. This experience prompted me

to become an active volunteer for the Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction in New Jersey and be a youth representative at the Prevention Coalition of Mercer County. I regularly volunteer at events organized for children and their parents to create awareness and prevent substance abuse. Communicating with children and parents who have lost their loved ones to drugs, on a personal level, made me realize that educating the youth is one of the most important steps. At the 'Let's Talk' event held at the University Medical Center of Princeton, I spoke to the audience about how teenagers can deal with peer pressure and stay 'above the influence'. Lack of knowledge of the harmful effects of drug use and the severity of prescription drug abuse are problems that are prevalent not only in India but in America too. Last year, I was given a scholarship to attend a four day event of CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) in Washington DC, where I learnt a lot from their National Youth Leadership Initiative training program. I feel inspired by my experience at UNODC and it has been a privilege to volunteer with an organization that brings extraordinary change to the lives of so many around the world. – Ms. Shelby Walia

India: Training for service providers working with young people who use drugs



In Sikkim, anecdotal evidence and media reports indicate that drug use is rising and it is primarily affecting the youth. In an effort to address this concern, UNODC, together with Sikkim Against Addiction and Towards Healthy India (SAATHI), launched under the Chief Minister's Youth Empowerment and Self Reliant Mission 2013 organized a 5 day training of trainers on counselling skills for drug use prevention, treatment & care for NGOs and school based service providers. The training aimed at building capacities of people working with youth who are at risk, and also at developing trainers who can continue the capacity building process in keeping with the growing need of the state. Through group activities, role play and field visits, the training gave the participants an understanding of the various issues related to drug use including injecting drug use, spread of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and drug overdose. Counselling techniques including family counselling in the context of drug users was also outlined.

India: Expansion of e-learning facility

At the request of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Government of India, UNODC has set up an e-learning facility on drug law enforcement in the Delhi Zonal Unit of DRI. DRI is an intelligence agency working under the Department of Revenue and is one of the leading agencies for drug control. The e-learning facility will strengthen the capacities of its officers in the area of illicit drugs and related crime.