

Maldives: Outpatient drug rehabilitation centre set up in Fuvahmulah Island



The Department of Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Services (DDPRS) in collaboration with Open Hand (an NGO), UNODC, UNDP and the Global Fund HIV prevention project set up an outpatient drug rehabilitation centre in Fuvahmulah Island in the South of Maldives. This is the first such centre in the Southern Atolls which faces a high prevalence of drug use with a large number of clients seeking treatment.

The centre will provide detoxification services and conduct outpatient rehabilitation programmes with an aftercare component. It will be operated jointly by the DDPRS and Open Hand. Dr Mohamed Waheed, the President of Maldives, inaugurated the centre on 27th February 2012, where he acknowledged the various efforts going into rehabilitating drug users and pledged the Government's support for such initiatives. He also shared his vision of developing a well established rehabilitation and reintegration programme for drug users in the country.

UNODC provided technical support for the centre's programmes and helped with the procurement of medical equipment, as part of its project 'Strengthening the national response to combat drug abuse in the Maldives'. The project is funded by the European Union.

India: Afghan delegation study tour to observe a National Drug Abuse Monitoring System



An eight member team including Government representatives and UNODC experts from Afghanistan visited New Delhi from 14 to 16 March 2012, to study the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) operational in India and explore the feasibility of setting up a similar system in Afghanistan. A Drug Abuse Monitoring System is used to collect country wide data about drug and alcohol dependents seeking treatment services from government and non-government institutions. The data can be analysed to map out the extent and pattern of drug abuse in a country, understand the profile of drug users and the effectiveness of treatment provisions available and publish reports on a regular basis.

Currently there is no comprehensive DAMS operational in Afghanistan. India was chosen for the study as it is the only neighbouring country having long term experience in operating DAMS. Along with meeting UNODC colleagues in India, the delegates interacted with the representatives from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the National Institute of Social Defense, which manages DAMS. At the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, they learnt about the history of DAMS in India, the systems followed, its scope and achievements. They also interacted with staff managing drug treatment projects to discuss their experiences of using the system. At the end of the study tour, the delegates appreciated the inputs they received and agreed that they were useful for creating DAMS in Afghanistan.

Upcoming events

Manipur, India: 14 April 2012

Launch of the Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) Programme at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal

New Delhi, India: April 18 - 19, 2012 -

National Consultation on 'Transparency and Anti-Corruption Measures in Procurement in India', in collaboration with the UN Global Compact under the Siemens Integrity Initiative.

Meetings and Events in South Asia



Sri Lanka: UNODC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms, Government of Sri Lanka organized a high level meeting on March 21, 2012 in Colombo to present the outcomes of UNODC's initiatives on HIV prevention in prisons in South Asia to key stakeholders. The aim was to highlight the need for HIV prevention in prisons and share good practices, elicit greater involvement from the Government to implement such interventions and also to include a prison HIV component in the country's upcoming National Strategy on HIV and AIDS. Representatives from the National Dangerous Drug Control Board, the Prisons Department, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms, UNODC and UNAIDS attended the meeting.

India: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized a seminar on "New Age Risks" on March 21, 2012 in New Delhi where the **FICCI - Pinkerton's "India Risk Survey"** was released. The survey gathered perceptions from different stakeholders, mainly from the industry, on emerging risks to businesses. Information and cyber insecurity, terrorism, fire and crime have been ranked as the highest risks in the report. Ms. Cristina Albertin, UNODC Representative for South Asia, participated in the seminar as a panelist and spoke about the threats of transnational organized crime and international action to counter the same.

India: As part of UNODC's Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) programme, two new methadone dispensing sites were set up at the Civil Hospital in Bhatinda, Punjab and the KEM Hospital in Mumbai, Maharashtra on 15 February 2012 and 16 March 2012 respectively. Implemented in partnership with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the initiative will document the processes of implementation of MMT, develop practice guidelines and an action-plan for rolling-out MMT in India.

Nepal: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) - Government of Nepal organized a meeting on methadone procurement in Kathmandu on 23rd February 2012. Based on its experience, UNODC explained the process of methadone procurement to the Government and other stakeholders, so that a smooth supply of methadone can be ensured in the country.

UNODC INTERNAL NEWS CORNER



We bid farewell to our colleague, Ms Sarah Waller.

Sarah was the Project Coordinator for UNODC's first country specific initiative on combating drug abuse in the Maldives. In a short span of one year, the project made remarkable progress under Sarah's leadership. We thank Sarah for all her hard work and unwavering commitment and wish her all the best for her future!

We welcome on board our new colleagues in India and Maldives!



Ms. Shahula Ahmed, our new Project Coordinator in Maldives, was working earlier with UNFPA, Maldives and brings to UNODC solid working experience in programme management, HIV and youth. She looks forward to working with the team and stakeholders to achieve set outcomes and learning from colleagues in the region.



Mr. Ahmed Rabeu joins UNODC in Maldives as Programme and Administrative Associate. With prior work experience in UNFPA and Maldives Tourism, Ahmed looks forward to contributing to UNODC's work and building on his project management skills.



Ms Geeta Bhaskar has joined UNODC in New Delhi as Administrative & Finance Assistant. She was working earlier in UNDP as a UN Volunteer in support to Common Services.