

The Regional Programme for Arab States



- Promote rule of law, good governance, adherence to international standards & obligations;
- Strengthen national policies, institutions and practices in response to drugs, crime and terrorism;
- Strengthen capacity to combat transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking of drugs, arms, persons, and goods;
- Promote regional and international cooperation and partnerships to respond more effectively to shared problems in crime, drugs and terrorism;
- Promote best practices and evidenced-based policies and practices in drug prevention and reduction, through education and treatment, particularly among the youth;
- Provide research, data analysis and expertise on global, regional and national trends on crime, drugs and terrorism.

Quarterly Newsletter from the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa

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A Word from the Regional Representative:

Rule of Law Progress in the MENA Region



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The rule of law is a fundamental requirement for human rights, security, peace and sustainable development. UNODC supports the advancement of rule of law through cooperation with Member States in MENA under the framework of a Regional Programme (2011-2015) that is wide-ranging in its thematic and geographic coverage. Despite the enormous challenges during a period marked by historic political transitions and security upheaval across most of the region, UNODC and partner States have achieved significant progress toward strengthening rule of law. I am pleased to share, through these newsletters, a sample of the progress being made by UNODC and partners through national and regional projects, to confront shared threats of transnational organised crime, illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons and human beings, and terrorism. National laws and capacities are being strengthened to make citizens' lives more secure and just. Regional cooperation is being facilitated through multiple platforms in which experiences and lessons learned are being shared among States and international experts. While the needs are as vast as the region, the conditions very challenging, and the resources limited, I am pleased to report that this partnership is indeed producing positive and encouraging results, with both countries and citizens moving progressively toward experiencing stronger rule of law. This trend merits greater support by the international community. Stay tuned.

MENA Region: Container Control Programme

More Robust Border Control

In light of the need to strengthen responses against the exploitation of the international containerized trade supply chain and borders for the purposes of illicit trafficking, organized crime and terrorism, the World Customs Organization and UNODC have expanded the [Global Container Control Programme](#) to the MENA region. The Programme establishes national inter-agency responses and capacities to improve trade security, facilitate standards and controls at borders. Regional and international cooperation between the countries involved in the Programme is also a key component for sustainable results. Jordan is the first country to join in the MENA region.



MENA Region: Human Trafficking & Migrant Smuggling

Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacities

In partnership with the League of Arab States, UNODC is implementing a human trafficking programme. Under the Regional Programme, UNODC provides support to the development of strategic, legal and institutional anti-human trafficking frameworks, promotes regional and international co-operation to combat this crime and strengthens criminal justice responses of the countries of the region. UNODC places particular emphasis on the identification, investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, while protecting the rights the victims, when strengthening national criminal justice responses.



Trafficking in Persons

Most recently, as part of these efforts, and to strengthen national law enforcement capacities to combat these two crimes, UNODC held in March 2015, a three-day training workshop for 30 mid- and high-ranking Egyptian law enforcement officers from across the country. The workshop was closely coordinated with Egypt's Homeland Security, Ministry of Interior.



Migrant Smuggling

Additional activities, including capacity building and training law enforcement officers is currently being planned for 2015 across the region.

JORDAN: Juvenile Justice

Two Juvenile Police Branches Established

Two child-friendly Juvenile police branches were established in Mafraq City and Amman, in January and February 2015, respectively. Advanced Training in the field of juvenile justice was also provided to the staff of the two branches on dealing more effectively with juvenile cases, including Juvenile Syrian Refugees, in line with international standards. This was undertaken under UNODC "Strengthening the Working Methodologies of the Public Security Directorate" Project, funded by the European Union, which aims at increasing the investigation capacity of police officers in the Criminal Investigation and Juvenile Police Departments, to tackle different types of crime in accordance with UN standards.

EGYPT: Harm Reduction

OST Study Report Disseminated

UNODC in collaboration with the General Secretariat of Mental Health and Addiction Treatment, of the Egyptian Ministry of Health, held in March in Cairo a workshop to disseminate an Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) Feasibility Study



Report. OST supplies illicit drug users with a replacement drug, a prescribed medicine such as methadone or buprenorphine, which is usually administered orally in a supervised clinical setting. OST is one of the most effective types of treatment of opioid dependence. Evidence shows that OST is

associated with substantial reductions in illicit opioid use, criminal activity, deaths from overdose, and behaviours with a high risk of HIV transmission as well as financial and other stresses on drug users and their families.

Five countries in the MENA Region have an OST Programme: Bahrain, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and UAE. OST Feasibility Study in Egypt is of particular importance as it opens windows for the initiation of evidence-based drug treatment/harm reduction services in Egypt. The Study is a core element of the WHO/UNAIDS/UNODC Comprehensive Package to prevent HIV transmission among people who inject drugs. All key stakeholders, partners and civil society organisations, agencies who attended the Workshop, endorsed OST as one of the most effective treatment options for opioid dependence and prevention of HIV and viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Workshop to support the development of Sudan's national anti-human trafficking strategy**
(Khartoum, 5–8 April 2015)
- ◆ **Official Inauguration of the training center for the Criminal Investigation Department**
(Amman, 6 April 2015)
- ◆ **Population Size Estimation for Key At Risk Populations in Egypt Dissemination Workshop**
(Cairo, 10 April 2015)
- ◆ **Training workshop on Smuggling of migrants**
(Algiers, 21–23 April 2015)
- ◆ **Training workshop for law enforcement officers in Sudan, Trafficking in Persons**
(Khartoum, May 2015)
- ◆ **Container Control Training on risk profiling for Morocco**
(Casablanca, 11-16 May 2015)
- ◆ **Container Control Training on risk profiling for Jordan**
(Amman, 1-12 June 2015)

TUNISIA: Criminal Justice

Support to Law Enforcement & Judiciary

With the goal of supporting the Tunisian judiciary and law enforcement agencies, UNODC held in January two workshops. The first, jointly organised with the Ministry of Interior, was a basic training session on the use of IMB i2 crime analysis software for the different criminal identification and investigation units. This professional software offers a rich visual analysis environment designed to help analysts and their organizations turn large sets of disparate information into high-quality, actionable intelligence to help identify, predict and prevent criminal, terrorist and fraudulent activities. UNODC also delivered 14 user licences to the Tunisian Interior Security Forces.

The second workshop, jointly organized with Ministry of Justice, was on the draft law governing the High Judicial Council. The workshop was opened by the Justice Minister, the Supreme Court Chief Justice, and the Presidents of the Court of Auditors & the High Judicial Council Commission.



Information Session-draft law on High Judicial Council

The Workshop provided the participating judges, barristers, academics and CSO members with the opportunity to present their feedback to the High Judicial Council Commission in charge of drafting. It also marked the beginning of UNODC support in this area. Further to a review of the Tunisian National Legal Framework for Magistrate's Integrity, UNODC will work with the Commission and produce recommendations on the draft law to strengthen the independence and integrity of magistrates in the Tunisian Justice system.

PALESTINE: Forensic Services

Forensic Nursing Training Programme launched



The “*Forensic Human Resource and Governance Development Assistance for the Palestinian Authority*” project strengthens the Palestinian criminal justice system by providing reliable and credible forensic evidence and improved capacity to manage forensic services.

In March 2015, a forensic nursing training programme and a manual on Gender-Based Violence were launched. Under this training programme, 20 hospital nurses will develop the skills and knowledge to assist in the management and examination of victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and will assist in the development of aftercare procedures, communication tools, advocacy, policies and protocols aimed at improving the delivery of health, social and legal services to victims of gender-based violence. The presence of trained forensic nurses will assist the Government of Palestine and forensic doctors in ensuring that victims of gender-based violence have improved access to high quality, confidential treatment and support. The training programme will run from 9 March to 30 May 2015.