

- 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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## Word of the Regional Representative



Masood Karimipour

UNODC's Regional Programme continues to strengthen national and regional responses to shared threats and challenges in rule of law, justice, human rights and security. We are pleased to highlight a few recent examples here. Of particular significance to the MENA region, are the threats of transnational organised crime and violent extremism linked to terrorism. Among countries whose peace, stability, borders, rule of law and human rights are most undermined by these threats, more are located in MENA than other regions. Most victims of terrorism are Muslims. These shared threats undermine regional stability, peace and sustainable development. Meanwhile, ordinary people are paying with their lives, security and economic well-being. Millions in MENA now suffer from insecurity, either trying to cope with it at home or fleeing out of fear. This calls for more effective and comprehensive international cooperation. A military response is not enough. We must work together to strengthen prevention, address drivers and conditions that enable these threats, offer inclusive conflict prevention, human rights-based engagements with whole of society, and particularly the youth. Our partnerships offer such opportunities and have already produced promising results worth your continued attention and support. Stay tuned.

## Tunisia: Human Trafficking

### National Strategy against Human Trafficking



Members of Commission trained

In coordination with the Tunisian Ministry of Justice, UNODC held the Workshop on "The development of a National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons" in March in Tunisia for 19 members of the Temporary National Commission against Trafficking in Persons. The aim was to support the institution in drafting a National Strategy. Organized at the request of the Tunisian authorities, the workshop was attended by the members of the Commission alongside representatives from Tunisian civil society organizations and the International Organization for Migration.

The participants agreed on six strategic areas of intervention to be covered by the Strategy. Following the creation of a methodology, participants worked in groups to develop strategic goals, strategic objectives and indicators for each of the areas identified. The task ended with a debriefing and the refining of the proposed strategic goals and objectives in plenary, which ultimately led to the production of a solid first draft of the Strategy. *The project is funded by Norway.*

## Egypt: Criminal Justice

### Improving Response to Violence Against Women



Hands-on training provided

Six female forensic doctors from the Forensic Authority at the Ministry of Justice in Egypt participated in a study programme at St. Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in the United Kingdom, a centre that provides comprehensive and coordinated forensic, counseling and aftercare services to men, women and children who have experienced rape or sexual assault. The doctors had the opportunity to observe forensic medical examinations by shadowing British doctors as well as crisis workers. The major outcome of this study tour was that the participants came back with a more humane and non-judgmental attitude towards victims and presented a set of recommendations to their management in order to improve services to women and children victims of violence. UNODC is presently supporting the establishment of a specialized clinic where these same doctors will be working.

In addition, two training sessions for 50 Egyptian prosecutors from Cairo, Giza, Tanta, Menya, Damanhour, Dakahlia took place in March. The training helped prosecutors further understand the situation of women victim of violence and the difficulties they experience when in contact with the criminal justice system. The training also highlighted the necessity of a coordination mechanism among criminal justice practitioners as well as a good referral system that would help provide victims with the psychological and social support they needed during the process. *This project is funded by the United States of America.*

## Regional: Financing of Terrorism

### Combating the Financing of Terrorism



Hands-on training provided

Because terrorism funding is a main concern for authorities, UNODC organized In February, in Algiers, the third regional seminar on "Effective Investigation and Prosecution of the Financing of Terrorism". The Seminar is part of the four-year joint UNODC-the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate' initiative. The event was attended by around 60 persons from the beneficiary countries and international

and regional organizations. Participants engaged in discussions sharing their experiences by assessing challenges and presenting good practices to address those. Regional and international organizations, such as the Arab Maghreb Union, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, INTERPOL, League of Arab States, African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism and the Ombudsperson provided a broader overview of the topic and shared good approaches.

The Seminar stressed the importance of including a financial investigation component in any counter-terrorism investigation, and its benefits and challenges. In addition, the effective use of financial intelligence units in counter-terrorism investigations, including their powers to block financial transactions was discussed. To enhance the participants' knowledge and understanding of the issues, case studies and practical cases were used for simulations. *The initiative is funded by the European Union.*

## Jordan: Inter-agency Cooperation

### Criminal Justice and Combating Trafficking



Coordination Workshop

UNODC efforts to support the criminal justice system in Jordan recently focused on strengthening criminal investigation skills of law enforcement officials through a participatory approach ensuring better inter-agency collaboration between the Prosecution's Office and the Public Security Directorate. UNODC organized a two-day event on April focusing on the legal framework and human rights standards of the operational procedures followed by the Criminal Investigation Department during the preliminary investigation phase. The event was organized in cooperation with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the Prosecution's Office and the Forensics Department, based on the standard operating procedures that have been developed under the current *EU-funded* UNODC project in Jordan.

In line with the national efforts to counter trafficking in persons, UNODC organized a three-day awareness-raising workshop on that crime, in cooperation with Counter Trafficking Unit, the Ministry of Labor, the International Organization for Migration, the Jordanian Women's Union, and Tamkeen (local NGO). The workshop took place on 18-20 March and involved 20 officers from the Border Police, Tourism Police, Correction and Rehabilitation Department and the Special Branch. The workshop focused on identification and indicators of trafficking in persons, protection and services to be provided to victims, as well as on international cooperation in countering this crime.

### Upcoming Events

- \* **Training with the Tunisian Magistrates' Training Institute (MTI) on human trafficking and migrant smuggling**, Tunisia, 19 May
- \* **Training with the Tunisian MTI on mutual legal assistance**, Tunisia, 20 May
- \* **Advanced crime analysis training for the Ministry of Interior**, Tunisia, 23-27 May
- \* **Theoretical training under the Container Control Programme, Amman**, Jordan from 23 May-2 June
- \* **Training Workshop with the Tunisian MTI on cybercrime**, Tunisia, 27 May
- \* **Training Workshop with the Tunisian MTI on ethics and integrity**, Tunisia, May
- \* **Drafting of standard operating procedures for new forensic medicine clinics**, Palestine, May
- \* **Training of Palestinian Civil Police document examiners on passport examination**, Palestine, May
- \* **Training of Palestinian Civil Police Firearm and Toolmark Examiners in shooting scene reconstruction**, Palestine, May
- \* **Internal Auditor Training of selected Palestinian Civil Police Forensic Laboratory Staff**, May
- \* **Palestinian Civil Police training and final examination on passport examination**, Palestine, May
- \* **Technical audit of Palestinian Civil Police Forensic Science Laboratory technical sections**, Palestine, May
- \* **Joint training workshop with the Juvenile Police Department, Judiciary Council, National Council for Family Affairs and the Counter Trafficking Unit on the prevention of trafficking in persons, specifically juvenile victims**, Jordan, May
- \* **Two workshops organized by UNODC, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the Prosecution's office and the Forensics**, Jordan, May-June

## Egypt: HIV Prevention

### HIV Prevention Project Comes to a Close



Closing Ceremony

UNODC held the closing ceremony of its "HIV Prevention among At-Risk Populations" project, implemented over the past two years. The project aimed at supporting the national HIV prevention strategies in Egypt through the provision of outreach and free, anonymous quality HIV prevention, treatment and care services

for people who inject drugs (PWID), men who have sex with men (MSM), and people living with HIV as well as their partners and caregivers. During the life of this project, the implementers reached out to around 533 PWID (480 males and 53 females) and 418 MSM in Alexandria, and around 496 MSM and 130 PWID in Luxor, providing them with appropriate health services.

Registered patients were counseled on prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, adverse consequence of drug use, symptoms of sexually-transmitted infections, HIV testing, tuberculosis and drug dependence treatment. During the reporting period, the project screened around 1,577 PWID and MSM for HIV, around 1,078 for hepatitis B and C viruses. *This Project was funded by USAID Egypt.*

## Palestine: Mission to Combat Crimes

### Building Partnership



Brig. Ozreil and Mr. Karimipour Press Event

UNODC Regional Representative undertook a five-day official mission in April to the State of Palestine to promote partnerships in support of the National Programme on Combating Drugs, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform. Donor briefings were followed by a press conference at the Government Press Center, held jointly with Brigadier Yousef Ozreil, the chairperson of the National Programme. Mr. Karimipour also met with high-level officials from the Ministries of Justice and Health, the Prime Minister's Consultant of the Arab Fund Affairs, and potential donors such as USA, Korea, Turkey and Canada. Mr. Karimipour stressed the importance of the National Programme and pledged full support to its implementation, so as to serve Palestinian people's urgent needs.

## Tunisia: Justice Reform

### Partnership with Magistrates' Training Institute



Training on Justice

UNODC has entered into a partnership with the Tunisian Magistrates' Training Institute. The objective of this partnership is to enhance the specialized training programmes for judges and prosecutors that was developed jointly in 2015. The training programmes are to include six modules covering terrorism and the financing of terrorism, ethics and integrity, mutual legal assistance, financial investigations, cybercrime, and human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Together with the instructors trained during the first phase of this initiative, UNODC continued to support the 2015-2016 academic cycle with six training during the first quarter of 2016 for over 120 acting magistrates per session, as part of their mandatory annual training.