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UNODC in West and Central Asia. Newsletter Quarterly, Vol 3, February 2016-April 2016.

This Newsletter provides information about key UNODC actions, events and partnerships in the region of West and Central Asia (Afghanistan, (I.R. of) Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan). The UNODC strategy for West and Central Asia maximizes synergies with existing programmes in the region, primarily the Country Partnership Programme for (I.R. of) Iran, the Country Programmes for Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Programme for Central Asia and the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. This approach enables an integrated and concerted “one-UNODC” response in West and Central Asia focusing on Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice and Legal Cooperation, and Social and Health Aspects, and therefore supports national and regional efforts deployed for international peace, stability and development. UNODC is also promoting the drug control and cooperation platform set-up through the Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach and ensures effective linkages with other UNODC Regional Programmes operating in regions affected by Afghan opiates traffic including the trafficking of precursors, notably along the Balkan, Northern and Southern routes.

Special Column

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2274

The Security Council at its 7645th meeting, adopted Resolution 2274, which reaffirmed the outcome document of the Afghan Government reform agenda and of the National Drugs Control Strategy, as part of the comprehensive implementation strategy to be taken forward by the Government of Afghanistan with the support of the region and the international community, and with a coordinating role for the United Nations as facilitator and co-convenor of donors.

The Security Council welcomed the Afghan government reform programme entitled “Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to Reforms and Renewed Partnership” that contains strategic policy priorities for Afghanistan towards realizing self-reliance for improving security, political stability, economic and fiscal stabilization, advancing good governance, including electoral reform and strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights, particularly in relation to women and girls, fighting corruption and the illicit economy, including narcotics.

The UNSCR 2274 encouraged the international community and regional partners to further effectively support Afghan-led sustained efforts to



address drug production and trafficking in a balanced and integrated approach, including through the JCMB’s working group on counter-narcotics as well as regional initiatives, and recognizing the threat posed by the production, trade and trafficking of illicit drugs to international peace and stability in different regions of the world, and the important role played by the UNODC in this regard.

The UNSC noted the recent decrease in production and cultivation of drugs recorded by the 2015 UNODC Afghanistan Opium Survey, reiterating the



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serious harm that opium cultivation, production and trafficking and consumption continue to cause to the stability, security, public health, social and economic development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally.

The Security Council mentioned the support for the Government of Afghanistan, and in particular to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, in their task of securing their country and their fight against terrorism and violent extremism, and calls upon the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs.

The UNSC welcomed the launch, in September 2015, of the National Drug Action Plan. It calls on the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the

international community, to accelerate its implementation, including through alternative livelihood programmes, and to mainstream counter-narcotics throughout national programmes.

The UNSC welcomes the continued efforts of the UNODC in empowering the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics-led implementation of the Afghan National Drug Action Plan. The UNSC called upon States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the production, trafficking, and consumption of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan; strengthening the law enforcement capacity and cooperation against the trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals and money-laundering and corruption linked to such trafficking, and calls for full implementation of its resolution 1817 (related to production and trafficking of drugs in Afghanistan).

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Port Control Units opened in Chukursay and Angren in Uzbekistan

15 March 2016, Chukursay. Two Port Control Units (PCUs) were opened in Chukursay and Angren Customs posts in Uzbekistan on 15 March 2016 in the framework of "UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme (CCP) - Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan". Premises for both PCUs were provided by the Uzbekistan which joined the Container Control Programme in December 2013. Port Control Units were equipped with computers and office equipment in addition to the ContainerComm secure communication system with the State Customs Committee's officers trained.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia stated that CCP is uniquely placed to assist Government to create sustainable enforcement structures in selected sea and dry ports in order to minimize the risk of shipping containers being exploited for illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime.

The CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan is funded by the US Department of State Bureau of INL and the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program.



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Capacity-Building for Effective Law Enforcement – Pakistan’s Side Event At 59th Session Of The Commission On Narcotics Drugs (CND)

17 March 2016, Vienna. A special event entitled 'Capacity-Building for Effective Law Enforcement' was jointly hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the UNODC Country Office Pakistan, on the margins of the 59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Mr. Yury Fedotov, Under Secretary General and Executive Director UNODC and Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan, Secretary Narcotics Control Division, Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, Government of Pakistan, co-chaired. Mr. Fedotov emphasized the importance of raising Pakistan's operational capacity to effectively address the challenges of drug trafficking emanating from the region, saying that 'We need to continue building effective international and regional cooperation, with a focus on integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, and balanced approaches addressing both supply and demand reduction.'



This special event has highlighted the ongoing partnership between UNODC and the Government of Pakistan.

Operation Against Human Traffickers Intensified in Gujranwala Region: Federal Investigation Agency

10 March 2016, Gujranwala. The FIA and the UNODC Pakistan are together organizing a series of sessions for police and civil society representatives across Pakistan. These sessions are intended to raise awareness among the most important segments of society regarding the undesirable impacts of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Gujranwala region has become the hub of human trafficking across Punjab, with 36 most wanted human traffickers named in the FIA Red Book belonging to the region, stated Mr Sajid Akram, Deputy Director FIA Punjab Zone. The early arrest of these fugitive human traffickers has become a major challenge for the Agency, he added.

In his presentation, Major Amir described UNODC's role and collaboration with FIA, police, and other LEAs. FIA has a continuous and long term cooperation with the UNODC Country Office in Pakistan, including the Research and Analysis Centre, a joint venture of UNODC and FIA, wherein



research is being undertaken to identify gaps and provide tenable solutions.

In the community awareness session, a large number of representatives from civil society and NGOs, opinion makers, judges, legal experts, and journalists attended and actively participated.



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Government of Japan Signs UNODC’s Project for “Strengthening Border Security against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Transnational Organised Crime”

10 March 2016, Islamabad. The UNODC Country Office in Pakistan and the Embassy of Japan signed a project proposed by the UNODC, which is aimed at strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and related transnational organised crime at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad. The envisaged project is to be implemented under the UNODC Country Programme for Pakistan (2016-2019) through the financial support of the Government of Japan.

His Excellency, Mr. Junya Matsuura, Charge d’Affaires and Interim Minister of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to help Pakistan eradicate all types of transnational organised crime including illicit drug trafficking. He added that Japan is also funding other UN agencies assisting FATA returnees and with the rehabilitation of FATA, complementing the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to bring peace and stability to the border region.

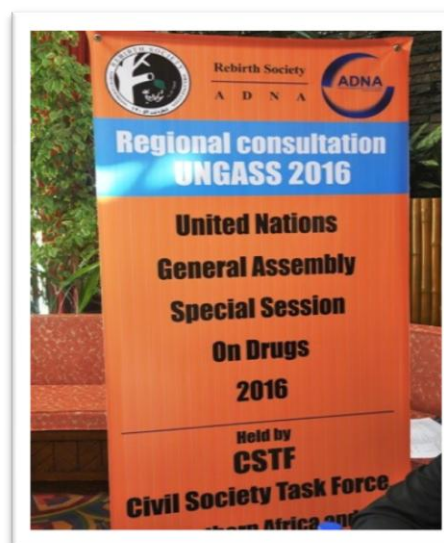


The UNODC is leading global efforts against drug trafficking and is the sole guardian of all international conventions on drugs and transnational organised crime.

Regional Consultations for Civil Society on the UNGASS 2016

17-18 February 2016, Tehran. The UNODC took part in the regional consultation meeting on UNGASS 2016 in Tehran. The representatives of the civil society organisations in North Africa, Middle East and Central Asia attended the session and discussed and exchanged on the best outcomes that could be reached in UNGASS 2016 in response to the challenge of world drug problem. The meeting had been organised by the Civil Society Task Force representative, the Iranian Rebirth NGO, the Iranian Expediency Committee on Drug Control; Demand Reduction and Public Cooperation Bureau of the Drug Control Headquarters, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, and UNODC Iran.

The meeting agenda and discussions revolved around the role of Civil Society organisations and concerns in relation to a number of topics including (i) Drugs and Health, (ii) Drugs and Crime, (iii) Human rights, (iv) youth, women, children, and



communities, (4) alternative livelihood and sustainable developments, and (v) emerging world drug challenges.



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Forensic Document Examination workshop at Bacha Khan International Airport

15-16 February 2016, Peshawar. With a view to empowering Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency immigration officials and the frontline staff of airlines operating at Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar, and within the framework of UNODC COPAK's ongoing activities under its sub-program on human trafficking, a two-day hands-on training workshop was delivered on 15-16 February 2016 at the airport .

The workshop's objective was to raise the level of awareness, related to the growing use of fraudulent documents, amongst law enforcement officials and airline staff. The participants were from various organizations such as FIA, Pakistan International Airport, Emirates, Shaheen Air, Air Blue, Qatar Airways, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Dnata,

and Ras Al Khaimah International Airport and found this opportunity equally good for learning and for sharing their knowledge with each other, to enable better understanding of the subject and facilitate alignment for further cooperation.

The training is intended to enhance the practical knowledge and skill sets of immigration officers to actively detect forged and fraudulently obtained documents, and in addition to discern printing techniques in an attempt to overcome the growing challenges and complexities around migrant smuggling as such migrants from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (province in Pakistan) try to reach Oman, UAE, and other GCC or Middle Eastern countries.

Strengthening the cooperation between law enforcement agencies at the border crossing points

7 April 2016, Tajikistan. Five days training for border liaison officers was organized last week at the Training Center of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan within UNODC regional project "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossing points and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices". Border liaison officers were trained to use the sniffing dogs in searching drugs, usage of drug detection equipment and analysis of intelligence data.

The Certificates awarding ceremony was led by the Director of the Drug Control Agency Mr. SherkhonSalimzoda, the Deputy Head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs- Mr. IkromIslomUmarzoda, Deputy Head of Customs Service- Mr. SukhrobSaydalizoda and Deputy of Border Guards Commander Mr.



AlisherAbdulkhaev.Mr. SherkhonSalimzoda in his speech noted the importance of such training courses for enhancing effectiveness of combating illicit drug trafficking and strengthening cooperation between law enforcement agencies at the border crossing points.

UNODC supports data collection on crime

24 March 2016, Kyrgyzstan.In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC has partnered with the National Statistics Committee in order to develop and publish a new compilation of crime trends. On 24 March 2016, the new tool, which contains crime statistics covering the period from 2010 to 2014, was officially presented to the public in

Bishkek including representatives of the government, civil society, international organizations and media. Produced with UNODC expert advice and technical support, the compilation analyzes data on specific crimes, the profile of offenders and the work of the criminal justice sector. Among others, the data

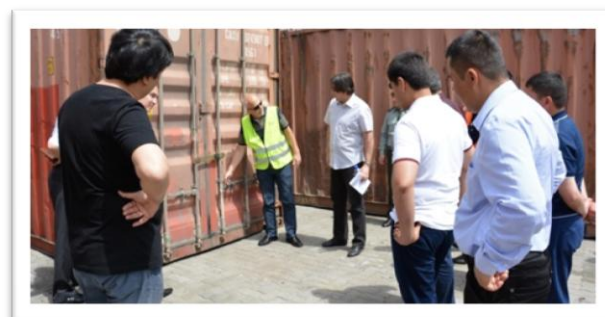


presented in the compilation shows that the number of crimes registered is generally going down. At the same time, the figures for some offences, such as drug related crimes and domestic violence reveal an upward trend. Official statistics confirm that crimes are often committed under the influence of alcohol. According to the data, offending is also strongly related to unemployment.

Within the framework of its Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019, the UNODC works to strengthen national capacities to produce, disseminate and use statistics on drugs and crime. The aim of UNODC's assistance in this area is to enable the countries of Central Asia to develop appropriate policies for crime prevention and criminal justice.

Container Control Mentorship Programme in Uzbekistan

26-29 April 2016, Uzbekistan. Customs officers of the Port Control Units in Chukursay and Angren dry ports and the Central Apparatus of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan took part in the mentorship programme conducted by the "UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme - Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan". WCO and UNODC representatives facilitated the training aimed at strengthening knowledge and skills of the Uzbek customs officers in "profiling" of the containers movement and using modern customs control methods including secured communication system "ContainerComm". Mentorship programme held on 26-29 April 2016 at Customs post "TekhkontoraChukursai" in

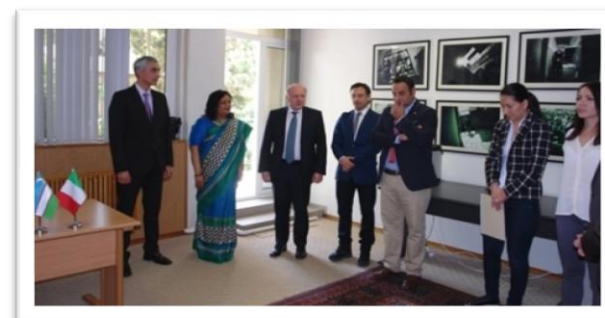


Tashkent. CCP assists governments in creating the sustainable enforcement structures in the selected sea and dry ports in order to minimize risk of shipping containers being exploited for illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime.

Training to prevent drugs on-line

11-15 April 2016, Uzbekistan. The law-enforcement officers from the Ministry of Interior and the Customs of Uzbekistan took part in the training course on prevention of drug trade via the internet. Training was jointly organized by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) and the Italian Embassy in Uzbekistan within the framework of the "NATO-UNODC Partnership Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Central Asian, Afghan and Pakistani Law Enforcement Personnel". Mr. Lorenzo Agostini, Director from Central Italian Counter Narcotics Directorate (D.C.S.A.), was invited to facilitate this training.

The NATO-UNODC partnership project on counter narcotics training is designed to deliver high-quality, professional law enforcement training to mid-level counter-drug officers in order to help



them combat the threat of trafficking of opiates within and through their territories.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative welcomed the partnership and emphasized that UNODC was fully committed to support countries in the region in strengthening their capacities to respond to the emerging challenges.



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Drug law enforcement systems for criminal intelligence collection and analysis

30 March 2016, Almaty. Regional semi-annual expert meeting was organized within the frame of the "Drug law enforcement systems for criminal intelligence collection, analysis and exchange" project at CARICC.

Law enforcement crime analysis capacity, cooperation between analytical units of the law enforcement bodies, new trends in the area of intelligence and strategic analysis; more efficient use of CARICC as a regional specialized body; introduction of the new software (analytical tools); and needs assessment of the LE analytical units/departments were the key issues discussed during the meeting.

Senior officers of the Analytical units/departments of the Ministry of Interior (MOI), MOI Academy and National Information and Analytical Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan; MOI and State Service on Drug Control of Kyrgyz Republic; MOI, National



Anticorruption Bureau and Financial Police of the Republic of Kazakhstan; MOI Academy and Drug Control Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan attended the meeting. The representatives of CARICC took part in the event.

Australia supports responses against human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan

8 April 2016, Islamabad. The UNODC Country Office in Pakistan signed a one year project with the Australian Government aimed at strengthening responses against human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan.

The project will be implemented under the UNODC Country Programme for Pakistan (2016-2019), with the financial support of approximately USD 550,000 provided by the Australian Government.

Mr. Guedes, UNODC Country Office Representative in Pakistan, highlighted the importance of building the capacity of law enforcement agencies in Pakistan to effectively detect and disrupt trafficking and smuggling networks that are financially benefitting criminal syndicates and causing untold suffering. This project would enable UNODC to further raise awareness amongst vulnerable populations and protect individuals,



especially women and children, from becoming victims.



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Japan supports the cross-border cooperation in Central Asia

9-10 March. In Dushanbe, the Government of Japan provided 267,000,000 Japanese Yens (approx. 2,2 mil USD) to the project of the UNODC aims at strengthening capacities of law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan, responsible for border control between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, as well as enhancing the border security in the Khatlon region. On 10 of March 2016, in Bishkek, the Government of Japan provided a new funding in the amount of 296,000,000 Japanese Yens (approx. 2,2 mil USD) to the project of the UNODC aimed at enhancing cross-border cooperation and the establishment of four new Border Liaison Offices on the Kyrgyz-Kazakh and Kyrgyz-Tajik border, as well as providing further support to 12 Border Liaison



Offices in the Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan previously established within the UNODC project.

Police women in Kyrgyzstan: Challenges and Prospects

3-4 March 2015, Bishkek. Conference on role of women in police held in Bishkek marked the 5th anniversary of the Police Women Association of Kyrgyzstan. Minister of Internal Affairs Mr. Melis Turgunbaev, Ex-president of the Kyrgyz Republic Ms. Roza Otunbaeva, members of the Kyrgyz parliament, representatives of the international organizations and diplomatic missions, as well as the civil society representatives, in total 100 participants, took part in the conference. The event was supported by the UNODC in cooperation with OSCE, the British Embassy to Kyrgyzstan, UNDP and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

The participants discussed women in police role and their professional development. Using this opportunity, the UNODC Programme Office in Kyrgyzstan handed over two vehicles to the Ministry of Interior to promote level of police patrolling including participation of the female police officers.



Conference participants discussed issues such as women leadership, gender policy in law enforcement, mentoring as a tool to promote gender equality and ethnic representation in police, as well as police interaction with the population and the development of culture of intolerance towards discrimination and gender-based violence.

First Steering Committee Meeting of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia

22 Februar 2016, Tashkent. Heads of the Drug Control Agencies, representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of five Central Asian countries as well as donor's representatives gathered to discuss progress in implementation of the UNODC

Programme for Central Asia. The meeting was hosted by the Uzbek Government.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia made the detailed presentation of Programme achievements, challenges faced and



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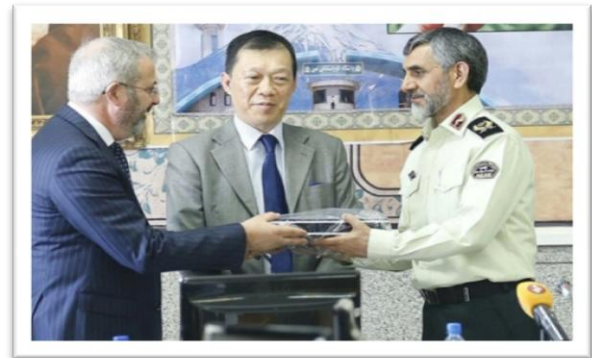


fund raising efforts. Participants reviewed and approved the Work Plan for 2016, Terms of Reference for the Programme Steering Committee

as well as selected the Chair and Co-Chair of the Committee which is the highest level of direct Programme authority and guidance.

UNODC coordinated joint cooperation of Iran and Italy for training of Afghan counter narcotics police Officers

24-29 April 2016, Tehran. UNODC Iran coordinated and organized training for 15 Counter Narcotics officers from various provinces of Afghanistan. The training is the result of cooperation among the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Italy and UNODC. The training workshop was run by Iranian and Italian law enforcement instructors. The aim was to strengthen the Afghan Counter Narcotics Police Officers by providing them with the latest knowledge and best practices from Iranian and Italian law enforcement experiences. The training was supported both financially and technically by the two Member States. The current workshop is the first of three workshops agreed upon. The course aimed at training the Afghan junior police officers on several different modules including



identification of hidden concealments, use of technology in identification and dismantling of criminal groups, joint operations and control delivery operations.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

National Meeting on Development Crime Prevention

13 March 2016, Tehran. The National Meeting on "Developmental Crime Prevention" was planned in cooperation with the Research Center on Criminal Law and Criminology of the Judiciary. There were over 70 participants to the meeting. They included senior members from Governmental bodies, such as the Social and Crime Prevention Directorate of Judiciary, Ministry of Education, State Welfare Organization, as well as Professors and students from the Universities of Tehran, Tarbiyyat Moddaress and Shahid. Analytical debates were conducted with regards to the newly enacted national law on crime prevention, i.e., (i) Developmental crime prevention: from the theoretical framework to the identification of



causes of danger; (ii) Reviewing and criticizing the rules of procedures with regard to children at risk, with a focus on the rules of procedure concerning street children and providing ad-hoc social services;



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(iii) Cross-cutting national plans with regards to students at risk; (iv) Plans and activities, with a view to developmental crime prevention within the national educational structure, (v) The role of

International Organizations with regards to developmental crime prevention and (vi) Management of developmental crime prevention, within the national law on crime prevention.

Increasing access to professional forensic services in Kyrgyzstan

10 March 2016, Bishkek.The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the UNODC and the Embassy of the US marked a new milestone in their partnership to improve the rule of law at a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new forensic laboratory in the Kyrgyz capital on March 10, 2016. UNODC allocated more than 48 million Kyrgyz Soms (630,000 U.S. Dollars) for the construction of the new office for the forensic laboratory. Main donor of these activities is US/INL.

UNODC provides technical assistance to UN Member States on forensic services through training and sharing of international best practices, thus contributing to the availability of quality forensic services."During the past two years the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia has been supporting professional development of forensic experts in Kyrgyzstan as well as in other countries of the region" - said Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia. "With the



modernization of the State Forensics Center infrastructure, we're taking another step in our joint endeavor to promote high quality expertise that will help Kyrgyzstan to attain international accreditation for its forensic services in the future," - Ms. Mittal added.

The US/INL funded project is implemented within the framework of the UNODC Criminal Justice Program in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Criminal Justice Capacity Building in Balkh, Bamyan and Herat

March 2016, Afghanistan. Throughout the years Afghanistan's infrastructure suffered heavy distractions, making it a challenge for government to implements the law in the country. In March 2012, the UNODC in partnership with the Afghanistan's Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court began "Criminal Justice Capacity Building in Balkh, Bamyan and Herat" project, that is still on going. Under this project there are three construction work sites commenced in the beginning of 2015. As of 31 March 2016, in the Dehdadi District Court building project construction was almost completed. The project of Kapisa Justice Department is three-fourths completed, and it is expected to be fully finished by 15 of May 2016. The Panjshir Justice Department building project, as of



the end of March 2016, three-fourths is completed. The Justice building in Bamyan is now finished and in use by the Justice department of Bamyan province as intended. The "Criminal Justice Capacity Building in Balkh, Bamyan and Herat" project is funded by the Government of Japan.



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HEALTH AND ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD

Zero Discrimination Campaign

1 March 2016, Tashkent. UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia joins the Zero Discrimination campaign and Stand Out for the right to respect and dignity of all!

On 1 March, people around the world together celebrated Zero Discrimination Day. This year's theme is Stand Out and encourages everyone to stand for fair and just societies. Discrimination remains widespread-gender, nationality, age, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or religion can all unfortunately be the basis for some form of discrimination. "When the most marginalized and vulnerable face discrimination and abuse, all of us are diminished," said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "The United Nations is strongly committed to upholding human rights and dignity for all."



Agricultural Entrepreneurship in Nangarhar: Paving the Way for Women Economic Development

April 2016, Afghanistan. UNODC, under project AFGK63, provided opportunity to 24 female-headed households to own commercial greenhouses in Sarkhrood District of Nangarhar Province. The key objective of the intervention was to provide a viable livelihood option for destitute women. The beneficiaries of the project were female internally displaced person and refugee returnees who have settled in Sarkhrood District and survivors of conflict who have lost their husbands. It was indicated that male children of these single-mothers were most vulnerable to indoctrination by extremist groups or by narco-entrepreneurs.

Khatmi-Gul from Fatehabad, Surkhroad village, a mother of 7 children aged 5-21 years, is one of the beneficiaries of UNODC Alternative Livelihoods project. She was trained under the partnership program between UNODC and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to own a



greenhouse. With the production of vegetables in the greenhouse, where the space is optimized and water consumption is reduced to 10% as compared to the field-grown crops, her income has increased 3-4 times. This intervention proved that when women are given economic opportunities for small-scale investments, they will be able to help not just



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themselves but those around them in the extended family and the community. Khatmi-Gul urged the Government and international development agencies to promote gender equality through

economic empowerment of women in the field of agriculture. Establishment of such micro-enterprises will ultimately contribute to food security.

Iranian female journalists illustrate the women's role in public awareness and advocacy

March 2016, Bishkek. The media and press advocacy are cornerstones of the civic society while playing significant role in assisting the government and non-government organizations in implementation of successful drug demand reduction, HIV control, and harm reduction programmes. The UNODC programmes at global, regional and country levels have special focus on the role of press and media. In March 2016, UNODC Iran joined hand with the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries in facilitating the active participation of three Iranian female journalists at the Regional Counter Narcotics Awareness Workshops for Journalists in Bishkek. The Bishkek workshop brought together journalists from the news agencies, media and press from eight countries of the region, namely Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The group discussed a number of



issues including information sharing; building networks and future joint activities in the area of drug control and harm reduction, as well as the awareness raising campaign for the public.

Advocacy for methadone maintenance therapy in Kazakhstan

13-15 April 2016, Astana. UNODC in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the Global Fund for Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria organized a workshop for addiction treatment physicians in order to develop advocacy plan and improve the skills for communication with media and other target groups. 30 addiction treatment physicians and psychologists from the all regions of Kazakhstan took part in the training course "Advocacy for Methadone Maintenance Therapy". It was the first interactive training course on this issue developed and offered by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia. Participants were trained on how to build relations and work with the mass media, how to identify target audiences and developed key messages for each of them, which communication channels use to deliver key



messages, and many other issues related to advocacy. Finally, participants developed and presented the Advocacy plan for methadone maintenance therapy for 2016 for their particular cities and regions.