



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

Annual Report 2008

covering activities in 2007

Contents

Preface	4
Highlights of 2007	5
Containing the world drug problem	9
Seeds of insecurity: the Afghan opium problem	19
Human trafficking: a crime that shames us all	25
Africa under attack	31
Caught in the crossfire: drugs and crime in Central America and the Caribbean	37
Fighting corruption	43
Strengthening the legal regime against terrorism	47
Adding value: Strategy for the period 2008-2011 and Menu of Services	53
Resource mobilization and partnership development	57

Preface

Drugs, crime and terrorism remain three of the greatest threats to the peace, security and well-being of humanity. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is therefore in high demand.

Growing confidence in the ability of UNODC to help States confront these challenges was reflected in a healthy increase in voluntary contributions in 2007. Recognition of the valuable work that the Office is carrying out is growing in the media, the public and among peer organizations.

The work carried out by UNODC in 2007 reaffirmed the merits of the Office's three-pronged approach, which is based on *research* that ensures that policy is evidence-based, a *strong legal framework* that helps States fight drugs, crime and terrorism according to the rule of law and an *operational response* that is made possible by the political ownership of the States concerned, technical assistance from UNODC headquarters and the involvement of the Office's worldwide network of field offices.

Success depends on building partnerships between UNODC and Member States and between UNODC and other United Nations entities, regional organizations, development banks, international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and the media. This is important for generating political will, pooling resources, sharing information and mobilizing support. Most of all, it is essential for generating a society-wide response to issues like drugs, human trafficking and corruption, which affect us all.

In 2007, UNODC continued its active engagement in core countries and regions—Afghanistan, Myanmar, Central Asia and the Andean countries—while expanding its work in West Africa. Human trafficking and corruption took centre stage. Drug control efforts, which have long focused on supply and interdiction, stressed demand reduction. These issues are profiled in this annual report. As you will see, the challenges are great.

Opium trafficking is fuelling instability in one of the world's most dangerous regions. Afghanistan and its neighbours are trying to cope with the consequences and UNODC is there to help by providing and analysing data on opium poppy crops, facilitating regional cooperation and assisting affected countries to strengthen border management and drug control.

Cocaine trafficking is threatening the security and sovereignty of vulnerable West African countries that are being used as a hub for drug consignments travelling between Andean producers and European consumers. UNODC has alerted the world to the problem and is on the ground helping embattled Governments to bolster their defences.

The menace of drug trafficking has caught Central America and the Caribbean in a cross-fire that is jeopardizing security and development. UNODC has studied the factors that make this region vulnerable in order to stimulate a suitable response.

Drug addiction is killing millions of people every year and creating misery for tens of millions of others. The injection of drugs is spreading HIV and hepatitis. UNODC is urging States to put a stronger emphasis on drug prevention and treatment, and is providing technical assistance to reduce the harm that drugs pose to users and society as a whole.

Human trafficking is becoming more exposed and better understood thanks, in part, to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The challenge now is to take action.

Corruption is a cancer that continues to kill people's trust in public administration and erode the common wealth built by society. UNODC is helping States prevent corruption, build integrity and recover stolen assets.

This wide range of activities is taking on a more strategic direction now that policy planning and the budget have become more closely integrated. UNODC has set clearer milestones for itself by adopting a new medium-term Strategy for the period 2008-2011 and has made it easier for Member States to understand what the Office can offer by drawing up a new Menu of Services.

All of this will enable UNODC to live up to growing expectations.



Antonio Maria Costa
Executive Director

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Highlights of 2007



Containing the world drug problem: Drug control is working, said the *World Drug Report 2007*, UNODC's flagship publication. Global supply, trafficking and consumption of cocaine, heroin, cannabis and

amphetamines have stabilized. Worldwide efforts to contain the world drug problem have effectively reversed a quarter-century-long rise in drug abuse and headed off a global pandemic. Afghanistan, however, bucked the trend with soaring opium production.



Seeds of insecurity: In 2007 Afghanistan's opium poppy cultivation reached record levels. There have been some successes: opium is grown in fewer provinces. But in the main growing area of Helmand the

increases have far outstripped reductions elsewhere. Heroin transiting through Central Asia to Europe is causing addiction, spreading HIV and funding organized crime.



Human trafficking: No country is immune from the crime of human trafficking, either as source or destination countries. To tackle this inhuman trade, UNODC is spearheading the Global Initiative to

Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) with partners in the United Nations system and beyond.



Africa under attack: The beleaguered nations of West Africa, and Guinea-Bissau in particular, are struggling to repel the onslaught of cocaine trafficked from South America. In 2007, UNODC rang the warning bell

and is mobilizing international assistance to help prevent a crisis.



Central America and the Caribbean caught in the cross-fire: Drug trafficking is fuelling violent crime and posing a serious obstacle to economic development in Central America and the Caribbean, which

are trapped between the world's biggest suppliers and consumers of cocaine. In 2007, two reports examined this situation and called for an effective operational response.



Fighting corruption: For decades, corrupt leaders have absconded with the national treasury of impoverished nations. The Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, launched in September 2007 by UNODC and

the World Bank, is designed not only to help developing countries recover such stolen assets, but also to work with the developed world to eliminate impediments to returning these vital assets.



Strengthening the legal regime against terrorism: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2006, calls for greater action to prevent terrorism, a main

plank of UNODC's mandate. To strengthen international law against terrorism, UNODC lends its expertise in the ratification and implementation of international legal treaties and related domestic legislation.



Adding value: To respond more effectively to the global threats of drugs and crime, UNODC set out a blueprint for action in its Strategy for the period 2008-2011. To implement the Strategy, the Office has developed

a Menu of Services to showcase the kinds of technical assistance it can provide to Member States.



Resource mobilization and partnership development: UNODC is strengthening partnerships to pool expertise and leverage resources.

Abbreviations and acronyms

The following abbreviations have been used in this report:

AIRCOP	Airport Communication Project
ATS	amphetamine-type stimulants (methamphetamine, amphetamine, ecstasy)
CARICC	Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CTC	Counter Terrorism Committee (of the Security Council)
CTED	Executive Directorate (of the Security Council)
DAPC-Japan	Drug Abuse Prevention Centre
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (of Nigeria)
Europol	European Law Enforcement Organisation
Interpol	International Criminal Police Organization
NGO	non-governmental organization
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
ProFi	Programme and Financial Management and Information System
StAR	Stolen Asset Recovery
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDEF	United Nations Democracy Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN.GIFT	United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

Measurements:

ha	hectares
tons	metric tons



Amphetamine-type stimulants.
Photo: Ioulia Kondratovitch

Containing the world drug problem

Containment is working. That was the positive and significant headline message from the *World Drug Report 2007*, the flagship publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In the report, UNODC said that global efforts to combat the production and use of illicit drugs were succeeding in bringing drug abuse under control, although the situation was still fragile. Belying doomsday forecasts of an ever-expanding nightmare of addiction, the Office also said there was robust evidence that the global supply of, trafficking in and consumption of all drugs had stabilized.

“For almost every kind of drug—cocaine, heroin, cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants—there are signs of overall stability, whether we speak of cultivation, production or consumption. Hopefully, within the next few years evidence to support this claim will become statistically and logically incontrovertible,” said UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa in the preface to the *World Drug Report 2007*.

While a number of factors contributed to this upbeat note, progress in containment coincided with drug control efforts led by the United Nations and a recession in the drug economy. These gains could rapidly come undone. Nor was the good news universal. Progress in some areas was offset by setbacks elsewhere. The situation in Afghanistan, in particular, was a black mark on a positive report card: the dramatic 50 per cent jump in opium production witnessed in that country in 2006 far outweighed the declining contribution made by the once-infamous Golden Triangle of South-East Asia. Other concerns included increasing cocaine consumption in Europe, drug trafficking in parts of Africa and the unsolved dilemma of the world’s 25 million problem drug users. It is estimated that approximately 200 million people, nearly 5 per cent of the world population aged 15 to 64, use illegal drugs.

Cocaine. The *World Drug Report 2007* tracked a continued decline in coca bush cultivation in the Andean



countries. Global cocaine consumption remained steady, although a reduction in the United States was undermined by alarming increases in Europe, particularly in Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom. In Spain, the main entry point for cocaine to Europe, the report showed that 3 per cent of the population used cocaine; among teenagers, the figure rose to 4.1 per cent. In contrast, 2.8 per cent of the population of the United States and 3.6 per cent of its teenagers used cocaine in 2006.

Amphetamine-type stimulants. The global production of amphetamine-type stimulants or ATS (methamphetamine, amphetamine and ecstasy) stabilized in 2005. The production of methamphetamine continued to be concentrated in North America, notably in Mexico and the United States, and in South-East Asia, particularly in Myanmar, China and the Philippines. Ecstasy production remained concentrated in Europe, notably in the Netherlands and Belgium, although production also grew outside Europe, particularly in North America and South-East Asia. Europe continued to be the main producer of amphetamine, with the Netherlands and Poland leading, followed by the countries of the Baltic region and Belgium. At close to 25 million consumers, the market for methamphetamines and amphetamines continued to be larger than that for cocaine (14 million users) or heroin (11 million users).

To help countries in South-East Asia deal with the rising use of ATS, UNODC is working on a training manual, the first of its kind for service providers. UNODC collected data on ATS from States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and China. A common database for ecstasy tablets, which covers photographic and basic forensic information on significant seizures, was finalized.

Cannabis. The production and consumption of cannabis levelled off for the first time in the last decade. Still, marijuana, which is grown in 172 of the 198 countries and territories for which UNODC obtained information, attracted close to 160 million customers annually, or 3.8 per cent of the population aged 15 to 64. The cultivation of cannabis herb remained concentrated in North America and Africa. The largest amounts of cannabis resin were produced in Morocco, followed by Afghanistan and Pakistan. While the production of cannabis resin declined in Morocco, it increased in Afghanistan.

New strains of higher potency cannabis made people sick as well as high. As a result, more people had to be admitted into emergency rooms and more pot smokers sought treatment.

Opium. Levels of opium poppy cultivation and opium production were significant and increased in both 2006 and 2007. Cultivation and production were concentrated in the southern provinces of Afghanistan. The greatest spike in figures was recorded in Helmand province, which alone is the most important source of opium in the world and where the security situation is extremely poor. Since opium production declined in several other parts of Afghanistan where conditions were better, it appears that the opium problem is primarily one of security. In the short term, conditions in the world's heroin markets will continue to be determined by events in southern Afghanistan.

Snapshots from the field

South-East Asia

The Golden Triangle, which covered parts of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand, is no longer a major source of opium. Opium poppy cultivation continued to decline in 2006 but rose again in Myanmar in 2007.

The area in Myanmar devoted to opium poppy cultivation rebounded by 29 per cent in 2007 to reach 27,700 ha and production jumped by 46 per cent to 460 tons, according to a UNODC report entitled *Opium Poppy Cultivation in South-East Asia: Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand*. That followed a decline to just 21,500 ha in 2006 from 130,000 ha in 1998.

The *World Drug Report 2007* attributed the surge in opium poppy cultivation to corruption and lack of Government control in areas held by insurgents. The situation was mainly restricted to Shan State, where, as in parts of Afghanistan and Colombia, drugs and insurgency combined to fuel insecurity.

Also worrying is the emergence of a more lucrative trade in methamphetamines, which has offset the decade-long decline in opium cultivation.

Alternative development in the Andes

In the Andean countries of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, together the world's main cocaine-producing region, the overall situation was stable yet fragile. Global cocaine production in 2006 was unchanged at 984 tons. Areas of land devoted to coca bush cultivation grew by 7 per cent in Peru and 8 per cent in Bolivia in 2006 to reach 51,400 ha and 27,500 ha, respectively, but decreased in Colombia by 9 per cent. In 2006, 156,900 ha were under coca bush cultivation in the three countries, a 2 per cent decrease from the 159,600 ha that were under such cultivation in 2005, according to a survey entitled *Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region: A Survey of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru*.

The Forest Warden Programme of the Colombian Presidency is innovative in that it focuses on helping to improve the living standards of small farmers while also protecting valuable forests in one of the world's true biodiversity hotspots. Forest warden families that participate in the programme receive incentives to give up coca bush cultivation, switch to licit crops and protect the environment. To evaluate the programme's success, UNODC conducted a survey in mid-2007 of 43,300 families and assessed the social services provided in 60 municipalities. It found that the programme had resulted in the elimination of 9,000 ha of illicit crops, recovered some 54,000 ha of land previously degraded by illicit crop cultivation and maintained the



Vocational training project in the coca bush growing area of Cochabamba, Bolivia. Photo: UNODC Bolivia

natural integrity of an additional 280,000 ha covering land, water and forests. It had also enabled 11,400 farming families, more than half of which were headed by women, to purchase 43,400 ha of land. To date, UNODC has worked directly with more than 6,000 farming families, or 30,000 people, who were previously dependent on coca bush cultivation.

In 2007, UNODC took stock of the progress made by a six-year-old programme in Bolivia designed to improve the non-agricultural skills of young people aged 15 to 34. Run jointly with the International Labour Organization, the programme focuses on finding alternative employment for farmers in the coca bush cultivation area of the Cochabamba Tropics, which is becoming progressively urban. In total, 23,000 young people in the region have been trained in different trades and in business management. As a result, more than 5,500 have either found positions or established businesses, raising their income by 31 per cent.

In Peru, UNODC reforested 650 ha of land degraded by coca bush cultivation in the Apurimac-Ene region, benefiting 600 families. In the region of Tocache, UNODC helped 50 communities switch from cultivating coca bush to growing palm for the production of palm oil and 13 former coca bush-growing communities from the province of Padre Abad to devote 1,800 ha of land for the cultivation of palm for oil. Driven by European and North American demand for organic coffee and cocoa, the proceeds of sales from Peruvian farm enterprises supported by UNODC are expected to have risen from \$55 million in 2006 to \$65 million in 2007, benefiting 18,500 families.

Supply

On the global supply side, coordinated law enforcement efforts boosted the volume of drug seizures. In 2005, it was estimated that law enforcement officials

intercepted 42 per cent of the cocaine and 24 per cent of the heroin produced globally, compared with the 1999 figures of 24 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively. Improved cooperation among law enforcement agencies led to seizures close to the source of cocaine production; some 57 per cent of global cocaine seizures took place in South America, the Caribbean and Central America.

This success, however, has forced traffickers in cocaine from Colombia and heroin from Afghanistan to establish new routes. Increasingly, cocaine traffickers have turned to West Africa, which has emerged as a transit point between South America and Europe, setting off alarm bells given the potential for such illegal activities to undermine national and regional stability (see chapter on Africa under attack of this Annual Report).

Seizures

Data on seizures show that the transport of heroin from Afghanistan to the Russian Federation via Central Asia was not well organized and that many people from countries along that route were involved. In contrast, large syndicates based in Mexico and Colombia monopolized the shipment of cocaine from Latin America with little involvement from individuals in the transit countries of Central America.

It proved more difficult to seize ATS largely because the supply routes are so much shorter for these kinds of drugs. Police forces had to be on the lookout for drug laboratories even in the middle of wealthy cities. Methamphetamines constituted the bulk of the stimulants confiscated globally (58 per cent of all seizures).

The establishment of border liaison offices at strategic border crossings in South-East Asia enabled law enforcement officers to share information in real-time to curb drug trafficking. As of 2007, 69 liaison offices had solved more than 500 cases, as a result of which they seized large quantities of drugs and precursors and arrested traffickers.

As for cannabis, the year 2005 saw a decline in seizures. If this trend were to continue, it could signal a growing reliance on locally produced cannabis. Despite successes in drug seizures, UNODC has reported that the drug business remained by far the most profitable illicit trade.

Successes around the world

At the request of the Government of Cambodia, UNODC helped to dispose of hazardous chemicals and clean up the site of a clandestine laboratory, the first ever found in Cambodia. In the process, the Government acquired the capacity to handle similar situations in the future by itself. This was a first-stage laboratory that manufactured chloroephedrine, a substance that would then be processed to produce methamphetamine in a second laboratory.

Authorities seized some 5.8 tons of precursor chemicals needed to convert raw drugs into finished products at the laboratory. UNODC raised the necessary funds and sent experts. The operation, which required the use of comprehensive health and safety measures, took place on-site since there were no chemical waste disposal facilities in Cambodia.

UNODC continued to support the Palestinian drug control authorities in upgrading their capacity against drug trafficking and related criminal activities in the Palestinian Territory, in particular along the borders with Egypt and at checkpoints around the West Bank. It provided advanced drug law enforcement training and updated drug detection equipment to the national drug control authorities.

The Container Control Programme, a joint initiative of UNODC and the World Customs Organization, has seen numerous successes in its short history. Almost two tons

of cocaine were seized in the port of Guayaquil, Ecuador, the biggest in a series of seizures.

The final destination of that consignment was, most likely, Europe. The drugs were discovered in a shipment of ground chilli peppers following pre-inspection profiling by the inter-agency port control team. A special police investigation unit was able to make a number of subsequent arrests.

Some 18 tons of isopropyl alcohol were seized by the inter-agency unit in Guayaquil in October. Isopropyl alcohol is a controlled substance in Ecuador because it can be used in the illicit production of cocaine.

The Container Control Programme aims to assist the Governments of Ecuador, Ghana, Pakistan and Senegal in establishing effective container control procedures to prevent drug trafficking and other illicit activities while facilitating legal trade.

Joint port control units comprising officers from different law enforcement bodies (such as customs and police) have been created at ports such as Guayaquil. The programme also promotes close cooperation between the customs, trade and law enforcement communities as a means to prevent the abuse of legitimate commercial trade for the purposes of organized crime. It also facilitates cooperation with relevant international agencies involved in regulating and monitoring worldwide container traffic.

Clandestine laboratory in Kampong Speu province, Cambodia. Photo: UNODC Cambodia/Chan Kee Bian





A drug treatment centre in Myanmar. Photo: UNODC Myanmar/Xavier Bouan

Drug control milestones

At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem, in 1998, Member States committed themselves to “eliminating or significantly reducing the illicit cultivation of the coca bush, the cannabis plant and the opium poppy” and to “achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction” by 2008.

The International Opium Commission was convened in Shanghai, China, in 1909. It gave rise to the first instrument of international law for dealing with psychoactive substances, the International Opium Convention, signed in The Hague in 1912. In 2009, Member States will take stock of progress at a ministerial gathering of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the UNODC governing body on drug control matters.

Beyond 2008

UNODC strengthened its collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on drug control.

Together with the Vienna and New York NGO Committees on Narcotics Drugs, UNODC launched “Beyond 2008”, an initiative to give civil society a platform for reviewing their achievements 10 years after the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. A series of regional consultations with NGOs took place and the process will culminate in a forum in July 2008.

Treating an illness: drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

While there were growing signs that both the supply of and demand for drugs were generally stable, drugs still ruled the lives of at least one in every 200 people across the globe. The biggest concern remained the world’s 25 million problem drug users, most of whom are heroin or cocaine addicts. Once again, the annual supply of opium from Afghanistan could, directly or indirectly, kill more than 100,000 people. Although it is important to continue making efforts to curtail supply, the greatest challenge in global drug control is to curb demand, which would ultimately reduce supply.



Brazilian hard rock band “Sepultura” joins the UNODC drug abuse prevention campaign during a concert on 26 June—the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Photo: Marcelo Versiani

Drug dependence is a physiological and psychological illness and a serious public health issue both in industrialized and developing countries. In 2007, the UNODC Executive Director urged States to treat the problem at its source—the drug users.

Illicit drugs are often used in developing countries to make the burdens of poverty, violence, marginalization, hard labour, hunger or depression endurable. However, addiction has been placing an increasing burden on developing countries, which often lack adequate health care, welfare and educational facilities to cope with the consequences of addiction.

Boys and girls play football at a youth camp in Lebanon organized by the Global Sport Fund.
Photo: UNODC/Norha Restrepo



Unsafe injecting practices hasten the spread of HIV and hepatitis B and C, and damage vital organs such as the heart and liver. Drug addicts need treatment as much as patients of chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes and tuberculosis.

Moreover, drug abuse impairs a person’s lucidity and reflexes. Drugs can lead to accidents and thus endanger lives and wreck workers’ productivity. People on drugs are a menace to the public and themselves. UNODC is urging greater attention to drug prevention with the aim of reducing the adverse health and social consequences of drug use.

Prevention

Drug abuse can be prevented, treated and controlled. Untreated substance abuse costs society dearly in terms of violent and property crimes, prison and court cases, emergency room admissions, child abuse, foster care, welfare and unemployment benefits. In addition, addicts who are stigmatized for their so-called self-destructive behaviour might live as pariahs. Scientific evidence, however, has confirmed that some people are more susceptible to drug abuse than others due to genetic or psychiatric factors, upbringing or socio-economic status. Whatever the cause, addiction always puts the addict further at risk.

There are 13.1 million injecting drug users in 130 countries. Early detection could help curb the spread of related diseases. The sharing of contaminated injection equipment is a major cause of HIV transmission in

many regions, including Eastern Europe, Central, South and South-East Asia, and in some countries in Latin America, according to the United Nations Reference Group on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Injecting Drug Users in Developing and Transitional Countries.

Drug abuse can be prevented by providing young people with opportunities, skills and information that advises against risky behaviour and in favour of healthy lifestyles.

In India, UNODC has worked to prevent the transmission of HIV among drug users by introducing the use of buprenorphine as oral substitution therapy in two institutions and three communities. After nine months, it was found that participants had sharply reduced the amount of time they dedicated to taking heroin (from 24.9 days a month to 1.7 days a month) and that 13.5 per cent of participants were injecting drugs compared to 52.4 per cent at the beginning of the treatment. UNODC therefore expanded oral substitution therapy to 15 sites in India and used both buprenorphine and methadone in other southern Asian countries. The UNODC intervention has since been taken up as part of the Government's national response to tackling HIV spread by injecting drugs.

The effectiveness of certain drug prevention activities has been proved in rigorous scientific trials. Unfortunately, many prevention programmes around the world are not backed up scientifically, which is why UNODC has launched new efforts to promote evidence-based prevention approaches, specifically through life skills education in schools, family skills training and prevention in the workplace.

Community-wide support is needed to combat drug abuse. Teachers and schools play a role in building a child's self esteem. To help decrease domestic conflict and create a supportive environment for children, family skills training programmes have proved particularly successful. These programmes improve parenting skills and decrease family conflict. They lessen depression and aggression in children and enhance academic performance. Yet, these programmes are not widely used in low and middle income countries. Therefore, last

year UNODC started a global review of available family skills training programmes.

Sports and social activities help youngsters to engage in healthy and constructive activities that enhance their well-being, prevent them from becoming isolated and empower them to reject drugs. In October, the Global Sport Fund organized a four-day regional football training camp for young people in Jounieh, Lebanon. Boys and girls from the region (Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, and Yemen and from the Palestinian Territory) played football together and learned positive values such as loyalty, commitment and respect for others. A joint initiative of UNODC and the Qatar Olympic Committee, the Fund promotes sport as an alternative to drug abuse and crime.

Looking at the broader picture, UNODC has called for States to share responsibility for the problems caused by drug abuse. Producer countries should devote more resources to stemming drug supply at its source by helping poor farmers to survive. Consumer countries should curb demand with early and long-term prevention programmes and by caring for addicts.

UNODC and its project partner CARE International

were granted permission to conduct HIV prevention training in 20 prisons in Myanmar in addition to the two they were already serving. UNODC trained 1,739 personnel and trainers working for the Myanmar police forces and two military hospitals in HIV/AIDS prevention. UNODC revised and distributed the *Addiction Rehabilitation Manual*, originally published in 1991. It also opened a drop-in centre in the northern Shan State to provide comprehensive drug services, bringing the number of drop-in centres in operation to five. The Office also assessed the behaviour of 631 injecting and other drug users and their sexual partners, then provided services aimed at preventing infection and ensuring basic health care.

Treatment

A co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNODC is the lead agency for HIV/AIDS prevention and care among injecting drug users and prisoners. It is also responsible for developing a United Nations response to HIV/AIDS associated

with human trafficking in countries of origin and destination. UNODC participated in four studies with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS that resulted in the publication, in 2007, of a volume entitled *Interventions to Address HIV in Prisons—Drug Dependence Treatments*.

Drug dependence responds to medical, pharmacological and psychosocial treatment. As with diseases such as diabetes or heart disease, overcoming addiction depends on adopting healthier lifestyles.

UNODC produced a study entitled *Reducing the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse: A comprehensive approach*, which calls for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders as well as the provision of facilities to reduce the harmful consequences of drug abuse.

Treatnet is an international network of 20 drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation resource centres developed by UNODC and linked to a number of international partners, including WHO and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. Since the launch of Treatnet in 2005, UNODC has trained trainers in 14 countries; they, in turn, have instructed more than 1,000 physicians, psychologists, counsellors, social workers, nurses and other professionals. Evidence has shown that the multiplier effect has gone beyond UNODC-supported programmes.

Currently, drug prevention and control programmes concentrate more on heroin than on cocaine, although both are highly addictive substances. UNODC has stressed that more information is needed about the effects of cocaine and the treatment of cocaine addicts. UNODC has joined WHO in improving evidence-based treatment of addiction for all types of drugs, including through the launch, in 2008, of a UNODC/WHO initiative entitled Partnership for Action on Comprehensive Treatment: Preventing and treating drug dependence and HIV/AIDS.

UNODC co-produced the report *HIV and Prisons in sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities for Action* to help this hard-hit and underserved population. The report was used for the first time during the week marking World AIDS Day 2007 in Mombasa, Kenya, at a regional consultation on HIV transmission among imprisoned injecting drug users.

Success with oral substitution therapy

Thirty-year-old Fahmida was jailed in India in December 2004. She was a drug user who took part in a UNODC programme designed to provide HIV/AIDS care for injecting drug users. "I am truly enjoying being a part of the UNODC intervention. The peer training has completely transformed my gloomy and depressed days into days filled with new hopes and happiness," she said.

The programme includes a variety of measures, a cornerstone of which is oral substitution therapy, which has been proved to be an effective, safe and cost-effective means to manage opioid dependence.

"I have learned so many things," said Fahmida. "I feel that a training of such calibre should be carried out everywhere, especially in rural areas."

UNODC helps empower women

Daw Dewi is the chairperson of a women's group in the village of Maehan in Myanmar, which was established as part of a community-based drug demand reduction project of UNODC.

The women's group has helped support addicts through centre-based detoxification, established a local library and child care centre, organized reading and writing as well as sewing classes and implemented a microcredit system. Village women have used the microcredit project to set up small community shops, such as school food stalls and tailor and repair shops. Under the system, a woman may borrow up to 30,000 kyat per month for two years; she then repays the borrowed money at 3,000 kyat a month, a rate that all the borrowers have been able to meet. To date, 108 women have borrowed funds.

Daw Khin Sein is one of those women. A widow at 35 and the mother of five, she borrowed 650,000 kyats (roughly \$500) in 2002 and 2003 from the project. With those funds, she repaired the bus that was her family's sole source of income. She repaid that loan and took out another, this time of 200,000 kyats (\$150), with which she opened a noodle shop and started to grow vegetables. She has since repaid her loans and enjoys a steady income. She has also built a new house.

Related documents



World Drug Report 2007

Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007

Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region: A survey of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru (2006)

Colombia: Coca Cultivation Survey (2006)

Bolivia: Coca Cultivation Survey (2006)

Peru: Coca Cultivation Survey (2006)

Opium Poppy Cultivation in South East Asia: Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand (2007)

Lao PDR Opium Survey (2005)

Myanmar Opium Survey (2005)

Morocco Cannabis Survey 2005

HIV and Prisons in sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities for Action (2007)

Reducing the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse: A comprehensive approach (2007)

Interventions to Address HIV in Prisons: Drug Dependence Treatments (2007)



Opium poppy in Afghanistan.
Photo: UNODC Afghanistan/Zalmai

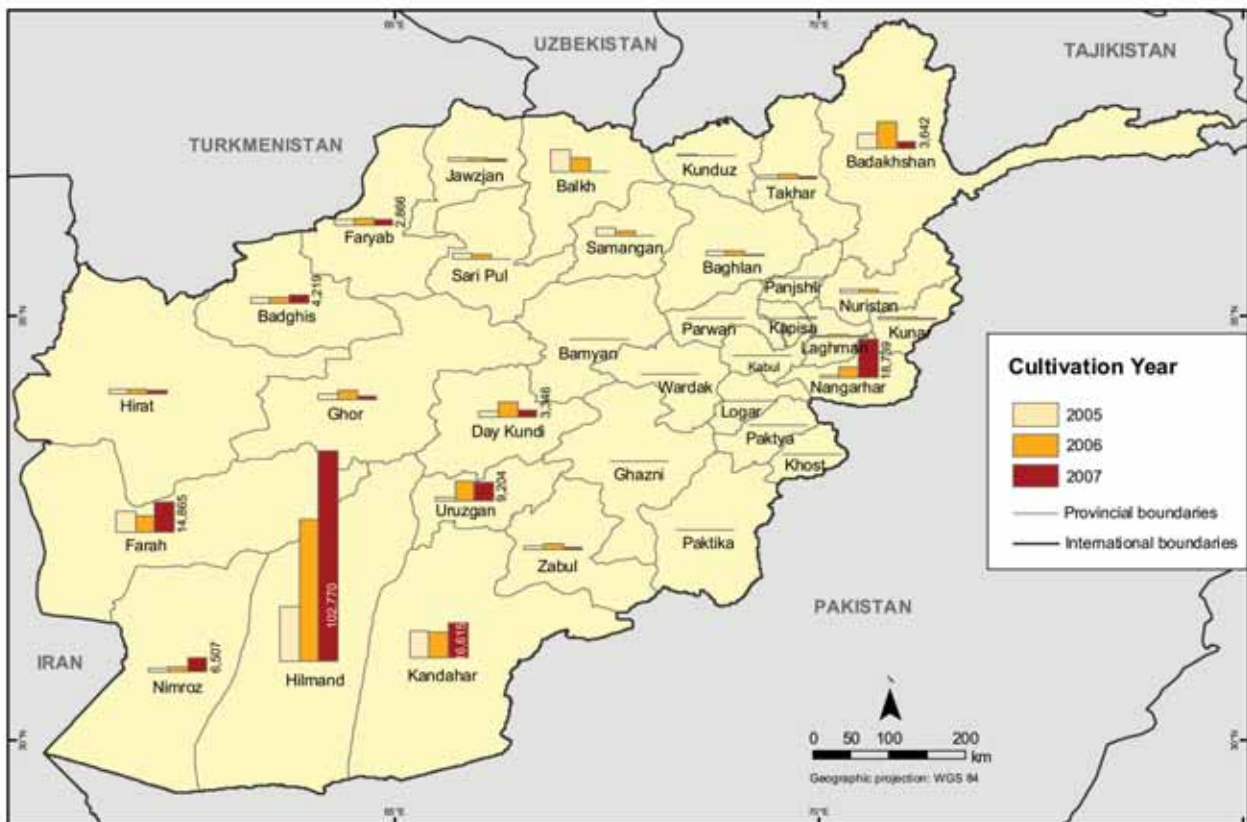
Seeds of insecurity: the Afghan opium problem

The situation in Afghanistan is blighting an otherwise improving drugs picture. The production of opium, the raw material for heroin, soared in 2007, rising 34 per cent from the already record levels of 2006, according to the *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007* of UNODC. Production reached 8,200 tons, a vast narcotics harvest of unprecedented size in modern times and unseen since the opium boom in China during the nineteenth century. That output represented 93 per cent of the world's supply and outstripped global demand, which is estimated at 4,500 tons. Much of the opium will end up on European streets as heroin, the hardest of drugs. Drug abuse also rose rapidly in Afghanistan, as the number of addicts, both adults and children, grew.

The size of Afghanistan's opium economy exceeded half the country's licit gross domestic product (53 per cent), according to the Survey. The total export value of opiates in Afghanistan reached about \$4 billion, a 29 per cent increase compared to 2006. About a quarter of that went to opium farmers while almost three quarters lined the pockets of traffickers. District officials took their cut, along with insurgents and war-lords.

The area devoted to opium poppy cultivation surged to 193,000 ha, double the 2005 figure. This expanse was greater than the area devoted to growing coca bush in all of Colombia, Bolivia and Peru. Opium poppy culti-

Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, 2005-2007



Source: Government of Afghanistan—National monitoring system implemented by UNODC

vation is almost completely concentrated in the south of the country, the site of the Taliban insurgency.

Some 80 per cent of the opium poppy was grown in seven provinces in the south and south-west and an astonishing 50 per cent came from a single province, Helmand. With 103,000 ha of land under opium poppy cultivation, Helmand became the world's most important source of drugs, exceeding the narcotic crop cultivation areas of entire countries like Colombia (coca), Morocco (cannabis) and Myanmar (opium).

The picture, however, looked different in the centre and north of Afghanistan, where the Government increased its presence. There, opium poppy cultivation declined. The number of opium-free provinces in the centre and north of Afghanistan more than doubled, from six to thirteen, compared to 2006, while in the province of Balkh opium poppy cultivation collapsed to zero in 2007 from 7,200 ha the previous year.

This north-south divergence confirmed that high-risk security areas were also high-opium growing areas. Counter-insurgency and counter-narcotics efforts were therefore inextricably linked; insurgents prevented national authorities and international agencies from carrying out their work. They profited from high-level corruption that allowed ever more orchards, wheat fields and vegetable plots to be turned into areas for growing opium poppy.

The report found indications that the Taliban may have started to use drug profits to purchase arms, pay militia forces and finance logistics. Through the application of international law, efforts are being made to stem this trend. Security Council resolution 1735 of 22 December 2006 on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts has made it possible for States to propose names of major drug traffickers involved in terrorism for inclusion in a "Taliban/Al Qaida" list. This list targets individuals and groups for

Antonio Maria Costa, UNODC Executive Director (centre), responding to journalists during a drug burning ceremony at Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Photo: UNODC Central Asia



sanctions such as asset freezes, travel bans and arms embargoes.

In another worrying trend, as the supply of opium increased, UNODC observed heroin laboratories sprouting up in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. These laboratories depended on smuggled supplies of precursor chemicals for processing opium into heroin. To stem the flow of the more than 10,000 tons of precursor chemicals entering the country and, in particular, to curb the trade in acetic anhydride, the regional precursor control programme of UNODC developed training and mentoring for checkpoint officers.

In 2007, Afghanistan either processed and exported or stored for future export some 660 tons of heroin and morphine. Because of the risks associated with smuggling, opium gains value at every border it crosses. By the time heroin reaches Western Europe, the original asking price of the Afghan opium may have gone up 100 times. In 2007, heroin also found new routes to the consumer, for instance through West Africa to the United States and via Pakistan and Central Asia to China.

Ultimately, to shut down routes and decrease the abundant opium supply, consumer States must act to lower domestic demand. "It will take time, money and determination-worthwhile investments to spare Afghanistan and the rest of the world more tragedies", said UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa.

Cross-border cooperation

The opium boom in Afghanistan and the instability at its borders have created a sense of urgency and shared interests among neighbouring countries. UNODC worked to improve border control, help increase law enforcement, facilitate joint operations and improve intelligence on trafficking routes.

Central Asia remained a key conduit for trafficking Afghan heroin to Europe. Nearly 20 per cent of the total volume of heroin produced in Afghanistan transited through the so-called northern route through countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Russian Federation to Europe. Illicit drug flows fed a flourishing criminal economy, which in turn engendered other threats to human security such

as an explosion of drug-related HIV/AIDS, corruption, money-laundering and terrorist financing.

UNODC directed its biggest portfolio of technical assistance, worth \$50 million, at Central Asia.

Since its inception in 1999 as a UNODC-funded project, the Drug Control Agency (DCA) of Tajikistan has consistently achieved a high drug seizure rate. Although this force is made up of fewer than 300 officers, it has consistently accounted for 20 to 30 per cent of total seizures in Tajikistan over the past several years. The DCA appears to have spawned a virtuous cycle. Since its inception, seizures by all agencies have increased dramatically, most likely because of competition with the DCA. Tajikistan's seizures are far greater than the combined seizures of all the other Central Asian countries. The European street value of drugs seized in Tajikistan since the founding of the agency has reached \$430 million, true value for money when compared with the \$14 million that UNODC expects to have invested in the project by 2010.

Law enforcement agencies in all five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) increasingly conducted intelligence-led operations to counter trade in both opiates and precursor chemicals. The initiative, known as the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), kicked off its pilot phase in November in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Once fully operational, the Centre will establish links with Europol, Interpol and other regional bodies.

Paris Pact

"The Afghan opium situation looks grim, but it is not yet hopeless. The problem is increasingly localized in the southern provinces along the border with Pakistan, where populations face threats reminiscent of what happened there a decade ago", said Mr. Costa.

UNODC stepped up region-wide efforts under the Paris Pact, an initiative launched in 2003 to promote coordinated measures against narco-trafficking in and from Afghanistan.

Within the framework of the Paris Pact, UNODC proposed five measures under the so-called "Rainbow Strategy": increasing the number of opium-free provinces in Afghanistan; strengthening cross-border counter-narcotics cooperation; securing Central Asia's borders through intelligence cooperation and border management; reducing the smuggling of precursor chemicals into Afghanistan; and improving security around the Caspian Sea.

In Central Asia, the rate of seizures was below 4 per cent of the volume of heroin trafficked via Central Asia. Most seizures took place in Tajikistan, where UNODC is working alongside the European Commission and the Government of the United States to equip guard posts along the Tajik-Afghan border and train officers. UNODC has also worked to enhance the collection and analysis of intelligence with mobile units complementing border liaison offices at check-points. The first such office is planned to be established along the Uzbek-Tajik border.

The Government of Turkmenistan is taking a more active role in the region. A new initiative to strengthen the capacity of States to fight drug trafficking around the Caspian Sea and the southern Caucasus region called the Caspian Sea Initiative has got under way. The Government committed itself to developing a Turkmen border initiative by: creating a drug control agency, training personnel stationed along the Turkmen border and cooperating with Afghanistan and Iran. Turkmenistan also obtained observer status with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and was the first member-country to ratify the agreement that led to the establishment of CARICC.

The Paris Pact is also strengthening data collection and analytical capacity thanks to a network of national strategic analysts based in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and the Central Asian countries. In 2007, UNODC enhanced the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism, an online tool that holds information on nearly 900 counter-narcotics projects in Asia and Europe. "If border control is not improved, Afghanistan's neighbours will be hit by a tsunami of the most

deadly drug," said Mr. Costa in October. In December, UNODC outlined a series of measures to be taken in the framework of the Paris Pact to reduce the negative health, social and security consequences of opium and heroin trafficking.

In June, UNODC brokered a trilateral initiative to improve counter-narcotics cooperation among Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. The three countries decided to take steps to improve border management, including by building more physical barriers to block smuggling, boosting law enforcement, launching joint operations and sharing intelligence on trafficking and suspicious shipments.

Ministers agreed to focus on all aspects of the drug economy: stopping the diversion and smuggling of precursor chemicals used to make drugs; locating and destroying drug laboratories; tackling corruption; and halting the laundering of money gained through drug trafficking.

At a Paris Pact meeting held in Turkmenistan in September, experts from Iran, Pakistan, North America, Central Asia, the European Union, the CIS countries, Interpol, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the World Customs Organization met to address the supply of drugs from Afghanistan.

Security briefing by a Tajik border guard.
Photo: UNODC Central Asia





Heroin seizure in Turkmenistan. Photo: UNODC/Stefano Berterame

In October, Tajikistan hosted summits of the countries of the CIS and of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa addressed the heads of State and foreign ministers of the CIS countries on the role played by UNODC in supporting their efforts to fight drugs, crime and terrorism, especially in connection with the record opium harvest in Afghanistan.

Combating HIV/AIDS

The thriving drugs trade means more addiction and the related misery of HIV/AIDS in the transit countries along the opium trafficking route. Injecting drug use is a particular risk factor for contracting the illness.

UNODC produced a ground-breaking *Regional Study on Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan* for the World Bank. Over the past ten years, Central Asia has suffered the highest increase in the

prevalence of drug abuse worldwide. The study reported that between 60 and 90 per cent of all cases of HIV infection in Central Asia were caused by the injection of drugs, while in the rest of the world that figure was 10 per cent. If not dealt with quickly, infections would spread into the wider population.

The study established the basis for future strategies for preventing the spread of HIV due to drug abuse and for treating people such as drug users, prisoners, sex workers and labour migrants with HIV.

Under a separate regional HIV/AIDS project funded in part by the OPEC Fund for International Development, UNODC supported Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan in the implementation of HIV prevention and treatment programmes aimed at helping injecting drug users and prisoners. National expert groups and UNODC conducted an assessment of legal and normative frameworks to develop recommendations for amendments to national laws enabling universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care. Draft legal assessment reports are due in 2008.

Related documents

Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007

The "Rainbow Strategy" (2007)

Regional Study on Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan





Children like this young girl are prized in the carpet industry for their small, nimble fingers.
Photo: Kay Chernush for the U.S. State Department

Human trafficking: a crime that shames us all

Human trafficking is an abominable crime that has no place in the twenty-first century. Victims are recruited, trapped and sold, sometimes to the highest bidder, for sexual and commercial exploitation. Most victims are women and young girls forced into prostitution or domestic servitude. Trafficked men work in fields, mines and quarries under dirty and dangerous conditions. Boys and girls are trafficked into child labour, in such industries as textiles, fishing or agriculture.

Human traffickers prey on the poor, the vulnerable and the weak. Lured by the promise of a better life, victims are often duped. Many are trafficked from developing countries to rich ones, while other traffickers exploit rural communities, forcing inhabitants into cheap labour within their own countries.

Held captive without identity papers and money, victims of human trafficking are powerless. Many are subjected to physical or psychological abuse. Traffickers also threaten to harm the victims' families to deter them from fleeing. Many are ill: HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases are common among women and girls forced into prostitution.

At any given time, millions of people are suffering the exploitation of trafficking. Because data are hard to come by, many fear this is but a fraction of the real number. No country is immune. UNODC reports that victims from 127 countries undergo exploitation in 135 nations.

Human trafficking is big business. Experts, including at the United Nations, estimate the total market value

of human trafficking at \$32 billion, of which some \$10 billion is drawn from the initial "sale" of individuals while the remainder represents the estimated profits made from the victims' work.

Taking action

UNODC is custodian of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Adopted in 2000, it is the key global instrument to fight this form of modern-day slavery. Since it entered into force in 2003, more than 115 countries have signed the Protocol.

To combat this scourge, UNODC is spearheading the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), an innovative programme whose ultimate mission is nothing less than the eradication of human trafficking.

The launch of UN.GIFT on 26 March 2007 in London's House of Lords resonated with historic significance. The date marked 200 years since the trans-Atlantic slave trade was abolished and since the Parliament of the United Kingdom had passed legislation outlawing the slave trade in the British Empire.

At the launch, UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa summed up the work to be done. "We have to decrease the number of victims by preventing trafficking, we have to increase the number of victims who are rescued and supported and we have to increase the number of traffickers who are convicted. We have the tools to do this, but we do not have the political will, large-scale public awareness or the resources to make it happen."

"I applaud the United Nations-led Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. Let us take action to prevent any more victims from having their dreams of a better future turn into nightmares of exploitation and servitude".

Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan
addressing both Houses of Parliament, London, 8 May 2007

UN.GIFT is based on a simple principle: human trafficking is a crime of such magnitude and atrocity that it cannot be dealt with successfully by any Government alone. The Initiative focuses on enlisting support, rallying forces and coordinating the world's resources to do battle against powerful crime syndicates. It aims to spur Governments, international institutions, civil society, corporations and the international media to build alliances and take action.

UN.GIFT, which was made possible by a grant of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, has a three-fold line of attack:

- Building Awareness
- Broadening the knowledge base of data, facts and statistics on human trafficking worldwide

- Stepping up technical assistance

Firstly, it seeks to build awareness of human trafficking. Although knowledge of human trafficking is spreading, awareness still remains low, making potential victims even more vulnerable. Increased awareness contributes to the implementation of effective prevention efforts by alerting potential victims about the dangers of human trafficking, reducing demand for services and products that rely on bonded labour, protecting victims and improving law enforcement methods.

UN.GIFT takes an innovative approach to awareness-raising by giving civil society and the private sector a larger role than before and by gaining leverage from these partnerships.

Hollywood film highlights plight of victims of human trafficking



Kevin Kline, star of *Trade*, and actress Sigourney Weaver attend the premiere of *Trade*. Photo: UN Photo/Nikolas Previn

Trade, a film that shines a spotlight on the underground world of human trafficking, premiered in September at United Nations headquarters in New York.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa, the film's producers, director and actors, as well as numerous Hollywood stars attended the screening. The Secretary-General expressed the hope that everyone who saw the film would feel compelled to take action against human trafficking.

Trade follows the story of a 13-year-old Mexican girl (Paulina Gaitán) and a young Polish woman (Alicja Bachleda) as they are kidnapped by traffickers in Mexico and transported for sale in the United States. As they make their brutal journey north, the young girl's older brother (César Ramos) and a Texan policeman (Kevin Kline) set off on a desperate and dangerous rescue attempt. The film was directed by Marco Kreuzpaintner and produced by Roland Emmerich and Rosilyn Heller. The narrative of *Trade* was inspired by "The Girls Next Door," a 2004 *New York Times Magazine* article by Peter Landesman.

Proceeds from the benefit premiere were used to support the anti-trafficking work of UNODC and Equality Now, an NGO. A percentage of the proceeds made by *Trade* at the box office during its first week of screening was also donated to UN.GIFT.



Trade poster, courtesy of Lion's Gate Films

Secondly, UN.GIFT aims to improve and expand the kind of information available on human trafficking. This may well prove to be the greatest challenge facing the Initiative, for the clandestine nature of the crime is a significant hurdle to gathering relevant and useful data. To formulate an effective anti-trafficking strategy, much more information is needed on the extent, geographic spread and many forms of the crime. The absence of reliable facts and statistics hinders efforts to identify the factors that lead people to engage in human trafficking, establish best practices to prevent it or assess its impact. UN.GIFT aims to collect better data, develop joint research initiatives and deepen analysis.

Thirdly, UN.GIFT focuses on helping individual States to fight trafficking. This stepped-up technical assistance will include manuals for law enforcement agencies, judges, prosecutors, and victim support groups, as well as fact sheets for use in raising awareness and drafting legislation to aid national programmes. The programme will develop two tools: one to standardize the methodologies used in collecting and analysing national data; the other to aid the collection and analysis of best practices in anti-human trafficking legislation.

As custodian of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, UNODC is managing UN.GIFT in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Turning the tide against human trafficking

Throughout 2007, a number of events took place around the world in the framework of UN.GIFT.

The first event took up the issue of human trafficking in conflict and post-conflict countries and was held in Kampala from 19 to 22 June. It involved training peacekeeping forces to prevent and detect trafficking.

The conference, organized by UNODC, the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization and Interpol, developed a regional action plan that includ-



Eric Wainaina, a musician and UNODC advocate in Africa, uses his voice and music to address social issues, such as human trafficking. At the beginning of a conference in Kenya,

Eric invited participants to join him in being vocal and "making a noise" against human trafficking.

ed concrete steps to tackle issues like prevention, the legislative framework and law enforcement techniques.

From 2 to 4 October, a regional event took place in Brasilia, where efforts focused on the development of a national action plan for Brazil.

In Thailand, a simultaneous regional event focused on criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons. The workshop, which was hosted by UNODC and the Government of Thailand with support from Government of Australia, looked at the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of trafficking cases within the framework of international standards and emerging good practices.

A major event took place in South Africa from 3 to 5 October, entitled "Interfaith dialogue: what the religious community can do to combat human trafficking". The event, which was the first to have brought together religious leaders from all faiths and NGOs working on human trafficking, was organized by the Government of South Africa and the Archbishop of Cape Town. Participants agreed on a Cape Town Declaration.

On 9 and 10 October, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey chaired a conference on human trafficking in the Black Sea region to identify ways to improve cooperation between law enforcement and NGOs for the referral of victims of trafficking.

Participants agreed to place the issue of human trafficking high on the agenda of the Budapest Process, an inter-governmental forum on migration in the European region which is currently chaired by Turkey.

On 10 and 11 October, a major conference in India looked at “Responding to trafficking for sexual exploitation in South Asia.” Participants considered ways to raise awareness of the problem through new partnerships with the private sector, media and artists. Major Bollywood stars, including John Abraham, showed their support at a gala event. The Delhi Declaration recognized the need to reduce demand for prostitution and the use of child and forced labour.

In Lithuania, another conference, also held in October, emphasized the role of the media in preventing trafficking in persons. The event was jointly organized with the Government of Lithuania and OSCE.

At the end of October, the League of Arab States, with UNODC support, held a workshop in Egypt to review the status of Arab legislation for combating trafficking in persons. A regional action plan was discussed.

In November, a UN.GIFT regional conference in Côte d'Ivoire picked up the theme of the June East Africa conference on conflict and post-conflict zones but focused more particularly on “Trafficking in children for their use in armed conflict”. Participants recommended setting up a trust fund for child victims.



In South Africa, an interfaith dialogue brought together religious leaders and NGOs working in human trafficking. Photo: UNODC South Africa

On 13 and 14 December, a round table to combat human trafficking aimed at strengthening cooperation and coordination among partners in Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the Central Asian countries was held in Kyrgyzstan.

Focus on India

“To combat organized crime, we need to be organized, all of us,” says superstar actor Amitabh Bachchan. “Come, join me in this global fight.”

UNODC, Indian film-makers produce anti-trafficking television spot

UNODC commissioned a two-minute video spot entitled “One Life, No Price”, to sensitize millions of moviegoers to this form of modern-day slavery and galvanize people to take action against it. The spot, which comes before the feature film *Welcome*, showcases major Bollywood names such as Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif. It was produced by Base Industries Group in collaboration with the NGO Prajwala.



In April 2006, UNODC launched an effort to strengthen the ability of police officers and prosecutors to tackle human trafficking in India. By the end of December 2007, Indian law enforcement authorities had registered 632 such crimes and rescued 1,036 victims, including 143 minors, in 105 rescue operations. They arrested 1,383 traffickers and 469 customers who were found indulging in the commercial sexual exploitation of trafficked victims. In two separate prosecutions, four traffickers were convicted by the courts.

The children of conflict: protecting the most vulnerable

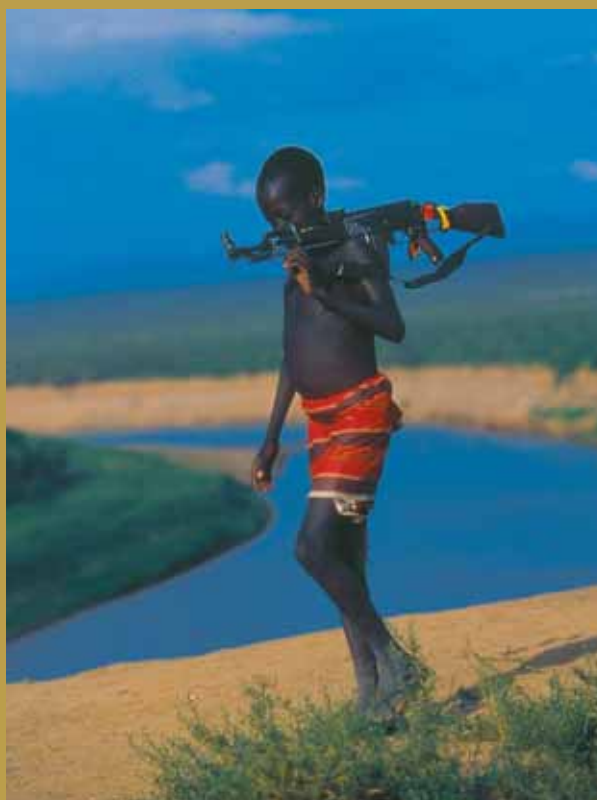
Countries in West and Central Africa bear scars from many wars. One of the most tragic legacies is that of lost children: victims of conflict who become victims of human trafficking. Children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, especially when separated from their families.

For boys, this has all too often meant recruitment as foot soldiers in West Africa's civil wars. Young children tote machine guns almost larger than themselves. They submit to warlords in order to survive. Part of their initiation involves taking drugs. This blunts their fear and pain and makes them ever-more dependent on their masters. They learn to wield their deadly weapons with indifference, transformed from innocent children into drug-crazed killers. Drug treatment must become an integral part of post-conflict rehabilitation.

They are victims, but they are often treated as criminals. Governments must go after the real villains, the thugs who recruit children into conflict and commit rape and other forms of sexual abuse against girls and women.

The misery does not necessarily end when the warlords lay down their weapons. Internally displaced people and refugees are highly vulnerable. Extra effort is needed to ensure that safe havens do not become recruiting grounds for traffickers. Aid agency workers must look out for predators and host countries must provide sufficient security.

After depriving them of their childhoods, their masters may continue to exploit the children by moving them to new conflict zones, recycling their skills for profit or depriving them of the advantages and opportunities of rehabilitation programmes.



Children involved in wars are robbed of their opportunity to live a normal life. They are often forcibly taken as soldiers (Ethiopia). Photo: Howard G. Buffett

Related documents

Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns (2006)
Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2006)





In April, UNODC staff members and Goodwill Ambassador Alessandro Scotti witnessed a seizure of more than 600 kilos of cocaine in Guinea-Bissau.
Photo: Alessandro Scotti

Africa under attack

African shores are under attack. Drug traffickers eager to respond to European and North American cocaine demand are establishing new routes through West Africa to outwit effective law enforcement safeguarding more traditional paths. They are shipping South American cocaine through West Africa and Afghan heroin through East Africa. Criminal networks also smuggle migrants. They traffic in human beings, small arms, light weapons and natural resources. They commit e-fraud and counterfeit crimes; they dump toxic waste illegally.

What follows is a glimpse of two of the main organized crime challenges facing the continent, particularly West Africa, namely the drugs trade and migrant smuggling.

Guinea-Bissau: the hardest test

West Africa has become a hub for cocaine trafficking from South America to Europe, according to a report issued by UNODC. In *Cocaine Trafficking in West Africa: The threat to stability and development*, it is reported that some 33 tons of cocaine, a drug not produced in Africa, has been seized since 2005.

Presented by UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa to the Security Council in December, the report suggested that this might be just the tip of the iceberg. UNODC estimated that in 2007 alone around 40 tons of cocaine passed through West Africa. A quarter of all cocaine consumed in Europe now transits through the region. Its wholesale value in Europe is \$1.8 billion.

Guinea-Bissau is one of the countries most affected by this phenomenon. The country is emerging from decades of conflict. While most people live in poverty, some are tremendously wealthy because of cocaine. Illegal drugs are swamping the country's tiny export economy. The value of the cocaine transiting through the region exceeds the entire national income, roughly the equivalent of the wholesale value of six tons of cocaine in Europe. Law enforcement is woefully under-resourced; its budget is less than the value of the seizures of the past two years. Guinea Bissau risks becoming a "narcostate".

European demand for cocaine is booming, but better law enforcement has thwarted the traditional smuggling routes through the Caribbean and into North America and Europe. Dealers have been forced to find new passages. "A sniff here and a sniff there in Europe are causing another disaster in Africa, to add to its poverty, its mass unemployment and its pandemics" was how UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa summed up the situation.

Guinea-Bissau is a convenient depot on the shortest and most direct route to Europe from Andean nations. Latin American drug runners prize its unguarded coastline and sparsely populated interior. They use fake fishing boats to bring their cargo. There is also growing evidence of shipments by air.

High-level corruption and the near-total absence of the rule of law allow drug gangs to operate with impunity. Law enforcement has no control: there is a lack of manpower, basic equipment and infrastructure. Even when arrested, international drug traffickers are seldom sentenced. The country does not have a single prison.

West Africa's many troubled States are defenceless against the onslaught. Guinea-Bissau's problems are spilling over and destabilizing vulnerable neighbours such as Cape Verde, Ghana and Mauritania. In Senegal, police officers made their biggest-ever drug seizure and arrested South Americans trafficking more than 2,400 kg of cocaine, worth more than \$200 million in Europe.

International community confronts security threat

The Security Council called for international support for Guinea-Bissau in September. It expressed particular concern for the safety of local officials fighting drug trafficking and organized crime and stressed the need to protect them. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reported in December that an increasing "social malaise aggravated by a widespread perception that State institutions were adrift" had marked past months in Guinea-Bissau.



Judicial police officers in Guinea-Bissau. Photo: Alessandro Scotti

In post-conflict countries like Guinea-Bissau, reconstruction and development must start with security and justice. In December, recognizing that the country could not surmount these challenges alone, the Security Council helped put Guinea-Bissau on the agenda of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, which was established to help war-torn countries avoid relapsing into conflict. The Council also noted the “progress made by the Government, with the support of the international community and the United Nations system, in particular UNODC, towards developing a robust anti-narcotics trafficking programme”.

Briefing the Council, Mr. Costa urged the international community to ensure that Guinea-Bissau received enough short-term assistance to avert collapse. He said that a few basic measures, such as a financial intelligence unit, an anti-corruption agency, a modern prison and better trained and paid judges, could have a major impact.

UNODC responds

UNODC has drawn up a plan to combat drug trafficking in West Africa. At a pledging conference held in

Lisbon in December, it called for \$20 million in international assistance to provide expertise, equipment and training to help Guinea-Bissau patrol its borders, destroy drug consignments, block money-laundering and arrest traffickers. It also called for the establishment of specialized units within the judicial police.

Four UNODC initiatives have addressed the dearth of information on crime, the security services, legal needs and communications between airports on trafficking routes. The Office has also worked under the auspices of the security reform programmes of the European Commission and the European Council for Guinea-Bissau, which aim to boost the skills of all security forces.

In June, UNODC launched a legal advisory programme to strengthen law enforcement and intelligence cooperation against cocaine trafficking between Latin America and West Africa. Financed by the European Commission with an in-kind contribution from Spain, the programme, which runs until 31 December 2009, aims to reduce significantly the amount of illicit cocaine entering the European Union. The target countries in West Africa are Cape Verde, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Togo. In Latin

America, they are Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, as well as the Caribbean countries. The project will train and equip law enforcement and intelligence services to cooperate in intelligence gathering and sharing operations. UNODC sent assessment missions to all the West African countries involved. It is putting together a plan to install databases in national centres.

Cooperation between UNODC and Interpol in West Africa got under way in 2007. UNODC prepared two new initiatives for enabling real-time communication between officers at airports along drug trafficking routes in Africa, one against cocaine trafficking in the West and one against heroin trafficking in the East. Airport Communications Project (AIRCOP) West and AIRCOP East, which are based on a border control initiative of the Economic Community of West African States, will enhance cooperation and information exchange between law enforcement agencies monitoring airports and help combat drug trafficking by air couriers.

UNODC has stationed an expert in Bissau, the capital of Guinea-Bissau. In partnership with national, bilateral and international partners, the expert will develop a plan to train and equip personnel and draft legal provisions to create the framework needed to establish a specialized unit within the judicial police to combat drug trafficking and organized crime.

The UNODC Executive Director has also appointed an adviser to help identify needs in criminal justice reform. The adviser will review the correctional services and international cooperation in criminal matters, particularly for combating and preventing drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and corruption.

Cape Verde: an integrated programme to fight cocaine trafficking

UNODC developed a comprehensive package of measures to reduce the risk of Cape Verde being used for trafficking operations.

The “Data for Africa” project that was set up in 2006 assists African countries and the international community in monitoring and tackling the links between drugs and crime on the continent. It seeks to provide insight into socio-economic development and the

criminal justice system. Since its launch, the project has supported a number of national and regional initiatives, such as surveys carried out in Cape Verde.

The ambitious Cape Verde Integrated Crime and Narcotics Programme was developed by UNODC in 2005 with support from the European Commission to bolster counter-trafficking efforts. In 2007, an innovative partnership with Interpol and the Department of Justice of the United States led to the installation of a Real-time Analytical Intelligence Database in the Office of the Attorney-General, the headquarters of the judicial police and the Central Bank of Cape Verde. Plans were in the pipeline to bring it to the National Intelligence Agency. The database will assist Cape Verde in fighting terrorism, corruption and money-laundering. The United States Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Guardia Civil of Spain, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Brazilian Federal Police and UNODC developed specialized training programmes to boost the results of investigations and operational efficiency. This training will benefit instructors from the judicial police and the national police, judges, prosecutors and financial sector specialists on money-laundering, asset recovery and forfeiture operations.

The programme against organized crime and drug trafficking in Cape Verde kicked off with intelligence-led investigation courses for the judicial police. A national drug and crime intelligence database was established at the headquarters of the judicial police in the capital, Praia.

The programme also improved the drug testing capabilities of the national forensic laboratory so that it could meet international standards. The programme can deliver just-in-time forensic assistance to other West African countries.

Following the establishment of joint border control teams at the seaport and airport of Praia, each team received transport and search equipment.

Measuring the impact

Clearly defining and evaluating the impact of law enforcement operations is difficult. Seizures and arrests do not give the full picture, making it difficult for the public, the potential victims of criminal activities, and

law enforcement agencies, to understand the true impact that operations have.

The built-in evaluation component of the Integrated Crime and Narcotics Programme overcomes this problem and provides decision-makers and technical experts with the clearest possible picture of achievements and failures. As part of the Programme, “crime victim surveys” were carried out among the public and law enforcement officers. The Government of Cape Verde published the results of these surveys, which reveal the perceptions people have of corruption and crime in that country. These results will be compared with those of a similar survey to be carried out at the end of the programme so that the programme’s impact can be measured.

East Africa fights heroin trafficking and its deadly effects

Injecting drug use in East Africa is increasing. UNODC continued to support an extensive outreach programme to reduce this activity and the related spread of HIV/AIDS in Kenya by helping the Government and local NGOs to promote preventive measures. The project targets vulnerable populations, including injecting drug users, sex workers and prison inmates. It builds the skills of staff working for the Government and NGOs, creates a large network of drug abuse and

HIV/AIDS prevention advocates and care providers and promotes community health outreach programmes.

Smuggling of African migrants

The smuggling of migrants from Africa is emerging as a grave problem, as people try to flee poverty at any cost. Some 300,000 Africans attempt to enter Europe illegally each year. Organized crime groups often have a hand in this profitable business which sees desperate migrants willing to pay steep smugglers’ fees. Many who attempt the trip die, either by drowning or succumbing to the parched terrain of the Sahara.

Migrants attempt to reach Europe from North Africa, particularly from Morocco, which is located just kilometres away from mainland Spain and the Canary Islands. Even more directly, some try to cross into Europe via the Spanish enclaves in Morocco of Ceuta and Melilla. Recent crackdowns by Moroccan and Spanish law enforcement authorities have made this transit route less viable, leading people to seek alternative routes, including to the Canary Islands from West Africa, or to Italy via Libya and Tunisia.

For many West Africans, the journey begins in Senegal, Mali or Niger. The better-off take large craft to the Canary Islands. For the poor, flimsy fishing vessels are the only option. Crime syndicates also smuggle



Irregular Malian and Mauritanian migrants awaiting their departure towards Europe’s “El Dorado” at the port of Nouadhibou in Mauritania. Photo: UNODC Senegal

irregular migrants from Bangladesh, China, India and Pakistan, often leaving them stranded until they find enough money to make the voyage north.

The adoption, in 2000, of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air by the General Assembly marked a significant milestone in international efforts to tackle this crime. The Protocol aims at preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants, as well as promoting cooperation among States, while protecting the rights of victims and preventing their exploitation.

UNODC acts against migrant smuggling in West Africa

Based on the findings of its 2006 report entitled *Organized Crime and Irregular Migration from Africa to Europe*, in 2007 UNODC launched an integrated programme against migrant smuggling that covered West and North Africa and Mauritania. The programme aims: to expose and block smuggling routes; improve information-sharing among States; raise awareness of the dangers involved in this crime; build

law enforcement capacity and improve bilateral and regional cooperation, in particular with regard to border control; develop national legislation in line with the Protocol; and provide technical assistance.

The programme will help those who are on the front-line dealing with this challenge: law enforcement officials, border guards and legal experts. The UNODC programme will bring together national experts to examine conditions at key smuggling points, propose solutions, review technical assistance needs and promote the exchange of information.

UNODC identified Senegal as the country with the most urgent needs and presented an initiative to the European Commission, whose Rapid Reaction Mechanism funded the project. Launched in July and completed in December, UNODC assisted Senegal in translating the provisions of the Migrants Protocol into national legislation. Senegal now has the first law against the smuggling of migrants, providing a model for other West and Central African States.

Related documents

Cocaine Trafficking in West Africa: The threat to stability and development (2007)

Cocaine Trafficking in Western Africa: Situation Report (2007)

Organized Crime and Irregular Migration from Africa to Europe (2006)



Former gang member imprisoned in Guatemala,
where violent crime is a major problem.
Photo: Julieta Bendana



Caught in the cross-fire: drugs and crime in Central America and the Caribbean

Drug trafficking is fuelling violent crime in Central America and the Caribbean, creating a serious obstacle to economic development, according to two separate reports released in May.

“The countries of Central America and the Caribbean are caught in the cross-fire, trapped between the world’s biggest suppliers and consumers of cocaine,” said Executive Director of UNODC Antonio Maria Costa. South America produces an estimated 900 tons of cocaine annually, worth some \$60 billion in the United States and Europe. These massive profits dwarf the legitimate economies of transit nations, which consume very little of the cocaine smuggled through them.

Both regions report some of the highest recorded homicide rates in the world. The spread of guns, a nasty side effect of the drug trade, is exacerbating the violence.

Crime is stifling the economies of States in the region; where violent crime and corruption flourish, development lags and democracy itself is undermined. Drug trafficking diverts criminal justice resources from other priorities and weakens law enforcement.

Many of these problems stem from outside the region. Robust international support is needed to solve them; the burden is squarely on rich countries to curb their demand for cocaine.

The following chapter examines the effects of the cocaine trade in Central America and the Caribbean and describes UNODC projects to stem the flow of drugs and arms coming from Colombia, a major source of the drug.

The Caribbean, or the dark side of paradise

Drug traffickers looking to feed Europe’s unprecedented appetite for cocaine have exploited routes through the Caribbean, lured by their long, unpatrolled coastlines and limited law enforcement capacity.

Annual cocaine use has increased markedly in many European countries in recent years, with the euro’s advance against the dollar providing yet another incentive for traffickers; one kilo of cocaine now sells for about \$50,000 in Europe, compared with \$30,000 in the United States.

In *Crime, Violence and Development: Trends, Costs and Policy Options in the Caribbean*, a joint report of UNODC and the World Bank, drug trafficking is blamed for rising rates of homicide and gun proliferation.

The Caribbean region suffers from the world’s highest murder rates, some 30 per 100,000 people annually. In 2007, young people were disproportionately represented among the ranks of homicide victims and perpetrators, with youth homicide rates in several Caribbean countries significantly above the world average. Overall assault rates were also significantly above the world average.

According to the report, “crime is undermining growth, threatening human welfare and impeding social development”.

Crime hurts business. Without action, tourism, a mainstay of the economy and an industry dependent on positive consumer perceptions, may suffer. Estimates suggest that if Haiti and Jamaica were to reduce their



Scene from a Jamaican television drama about growing up in tough inner-city communities where drugs and crime are widespread. The drama was jointly produced by UNODC, UNDP and UNESCO.

homicide rates to those of Costa Rica, a country considered to be fairly stable, both countries would see a 5.4 per cent increase in annual growth. Reducing the homicide rate in the Caribbean by one third could more than double regional economic growth.

Central America: a cocaine pipeline to the north

Central America faces similar problems. As reported in a study entitled *Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the Crossfire*, high rates of crime and violence spurred by drug trafficking undermine growth and impede social development.

Some 88 per cent of the cocaine destined for the United States transits through the Central America and Mexico corridor.

Central America is awash in firearms, a legacy of decades of bloody conflict. Gang violence is a major problem in countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, but the gangs alone cannot be blamed for the drug trafficking and the violence that afflicts these societies.

Crime is strongly associated with certain social and economic vulnerabilities, all of which are present in

Central America. Here, countries rank among the world's most unequal in terms of income. Several nations show secondary school enrolment rates below 50 per cent and a large and idle youthful population can become a pool of potential offenders.

Crime perpetuates underdevelopment by driving away business, eroding human capital and undermining democracy. Years of rampant crime have robbed Central America of private investment. "The warning signs are evident in this report—gun-related crime, gang violence, kidnapping, the proliferation of private security companies," said Mr. Costa, "But these problems are in no way inherent to the region. They can be overcome."

Common problems, common solutions

Both reports suggest that aggressive policing alone is not the answer to youth crime and stress the need to address the problems at their roots, by providing young people with work and other alternatives to violence.

In the Caribbean, several countries have invested in this public health approach, setting up after-school clubs, adopting mentoring programmes and taking other steps to keep high-risk young adults in school longer.

In the Dominican Republic, for example, citizen security approaches combined with modern policing methods have shown promise. Slum-upgrading projects, youth development initiatives and criminal justice system reform could contribute to reducing crime and violence.

Strategies for preventing crime in Central America should involve all sectors of Government and include education, housing and health issues, the report said. Development projects should always include a crime prevention component but also recognize that criminal justice reform and democratic community policing are also essential.

But the reports also noted that many problems, such as those related to organized crime, drugs and firearms trafficking, defy crime prevention initiatives. With respect to the Caribbean region specifically, the efficiency of the criminal justice system should be

improved by enhancing the way information is shared, tracking the performance of justice, monitoring reform and increasing accountability to the public, the report said.

Poor countries in Central America tend to have poorly resourced criminal justice systems, which is why Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua, have low ratios of police officers to citizens. This means that there are low conviction rates and, consequently, that the deterrent effect of law is minimal. Stronger justice systems would help to root out corruption and restore public confidence in the rule of law. This, in turn, would create a fertile environment for economic growth and attract foreign investment, thereby promoting development.

Both reports make a final key point on tackling drug trafficking and related violence. Many issues facing both regions stem from the demand for drugs in the United States and Europe. The problems transcend national and even regional boundaries. Neither region

has sufficient resources to fight the drug trade alone; each will need greater international assistance. In addition to drug demand from abroad, the Caribbean report noted that many weapons are trafficked from outside the region. Deported criminals are sent home from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States to countries with little capacity to receive them. Given the transboundary nature of these issues, the report argued that donors and States members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development should work together with Caribbean countries to reduce levels of crime.

Since the Caribbean islands have limited resources to fight the drug trade, consumer countries should provide significant assistance to bolster law enforcement.

The report on Central America highlighted the need for greater international support for the region if development efforts are to have any long-term impact. No issue today affects the stability and development of Central America more than crime, it said.

UNODC and Colombian authorities destroy almost 14,000 firearms on International Gun Destruction Day

A meltdown of nearly 14,000 firearms took place on 9 July, International Gun Destruction Day. Organized by UNODC, the Colombian Ministry of Defence, the national armed forces and the "Vida Sagrada" programme, this special ceremony highlighted the danger of illegal arms proliferation. Of the firearms scheduled for destruction, 77 per cent had been bought illegally. Of those, 60 per cent had been manufactured illegally, 31 per cent were privately owned and 9 per cent belonged to the armed forces.

Colombia has one of the highest homicide rates in the world. In 2005, 70 per cent of the more than 17,000 registered homicides were committed with firearms. Cities registering the highest numbers of legal firearms were also those showing the lowest homicide rates. Conversely, cities with the highest murder rates were those with the lowest number of legal arms. Most homicides in Colombia are connected with the illegal ownership, manufacture and trade of firearms.

The ceremony was supported by the national iron and steel company, Siderúrgica Nacional (Sidenal S.A.). The

molten metal went towards the manufacture of school chairs and the construction of a monument in memory of the victims of violence and kidnapping in Colombia.

In 2006, UNODC published a study entitled *Violence, Crime and Illegal Arms Trafficking in Colombia*, in which it was reported that Colombia needed to do more to crack down on organized crime and arms trafficking, including through the application of stiffer penalties for carrying or dealing in illegal arms.



Firearms destruction in Colombia, 9 July.
Photo: UNODC Colombia

UNODC presents *escopetarras* to famous personalities

UNODC presented an electric guitar made from an AK-47 rifle to Irish rock star Bob Geldof in Cartagena, Colombia, in January. The instrument, a modern-day example of turning swords into ploughshares, is known as an *escopetarra*, a word coined by merging the Spanish words for “shotgun” (*escopeta*) and “guitar” (*guitarra*).

Colombian musician César López invented the *escopetarra* in 2003. The first *escopetarra* and all subsequent versions have been made with rifles that were used in violent conflict. Since 2003, César has worked closely with UNODC Colombia to raise awareness about the myriad problems caused by gun-related violence in his country.

UNODC also presented an *escopetarra* to former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan when he visited the United Nations Office in Vienna in July. It is hoped that giving *escopetarras* will help to draw attention to the efforts being made by UNODC to limit the spread of firearms worldwide.

In 2005 UNODC became the custodian of the Firearms Protocol, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.



Bob Geldof receives an *escopetarra* from César López.
Photo: UNODC Colombia

Related documents

Cocaine Trafficking in West Africa: The threat to stability and development (2007)

Cocaine Trafficking in Western Africa: Situation Report (2007)

Organized Crime and Irregular Migration from Africa to Europe (2006)



Commemorations in Guinea-Bissau on 9 December, the International Day against Corruption. The slogan says "corruption, your 'NO' counts". Photo: UNODC Senegal/Théophile Patinvoh



CORRUPÇÃO
Cada **NÃO** conta

DE DEZEMBRO DE 2000
ANAL DE LUTA CONTRA

Fighting corruption

In the last decade, the list of corrupt leaders who have stolen billions of dollars from the countries they ruled has lengthened. Countries which aim to recover assets stashed in foreign countries face daunting obstacles.

Ferdinand Marcos

Consider the case of Ferdinand Marcos. During his 21 years in power in the Philippines, Marcos plundered State funds in a number of different ways, including by assuming control of large private enterprises, raiding the public treasury and taking kickbacks.

He laundered money through shell corporations which invested funds in real estate in the United States or deposited them in domestic and offshore banks under pseudonyms, in numbered accounts or in accounts with code names.

When Marcos was toppled in February 1986, the Philippine authorities immediately initiated work to recover the stolen funds. That very month, they established the Presidential Commission on Good Government and tasked it with recovering Marcos' booty.

The dogged battle lasted 18 years—almost as long as it took Marcos to amass his ill-gotten gains—before it achieved any success.

Twelve years elapsed before the deposits made by Marcos were repatriated to the Philippine National Bank; another six went by before the \$624 million involved was transferred to the Philippine Treasury.

Estimates of the cross-border flow of the global proceeds from criminal activities, corruption and tax evasion are estimated to cream off between \$1 and \$1.6 trillion from the global economy every year.

Assets stolen by corrupt leaders frequently amount to staggering figures. But the true cost inflicted by such

leaders is far greater. Corruption degrades public institutions, especially those involved in public financial management and financial sector governance. It weakens, sometimes lethally, the private investment climate. It stunts the economic growth that could lift many out of poverty.

If corrupt officials steal from their country's citizens, there is less money for education, health care and roads, not to mention for a functioning justice system. Worse still, this kind of corruption leads people to be cynical about democratic government and creates the belief that bribery is inevitable. This undermines the rule of law and legitimacy.

Recovered assets could provide much-needed funding for social programmes or infrastructure. Based on the field work it has done in Africa, the World Bank estimates that every \$100 million recovered could fund any of the following in developing countries:

- Between 3.3 and 10 million insecticide-treated bed nets, which are twice as effective as regular bed nets for preventing insect-borne illnesses such as malaria
- First-line treatment for more than 600,000 people with HIV/AIDS for one year
- Between 50 and 100 million drug-based malaria treatments
- The full immunization of four million children
- Approximately 250,000 water connections in households
- 250 kilometres of two-lane paved roads

Asset recovery efforts that are accompanied by institutional reform and better governance should also bring about significant and lasting benefits.

In order to prevent and resolve the problem of stolen assets, the premise of StAR is that both developed and developing countries must work in partnership. While developing countries need to improve governance and accountability, developed nations should also stop providing a safe haven for stolen proceeds.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank, and Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of UNODC, at the launch of the StAR Initiative. Photos: World Bank/Alejandra Viveros

Sani Abacha

General Sani Abacha looted billions from Nigeria when he headed the Government from 1993 to 1998.

His death in 1998 triggered a hunt by domestic authorities to recover these funds. The authorities, too, needed to overcome a number of obstacles, but they made headway more swiftly than their counterparts in the Philippines had. In 2005, Nigeria received some \$500 million as part of the restitution of assets stolen by Abacha.

According to a World Bank review, Nigeria successfully financed Millennium Development Goal projects with these funds, devoting them to improve citizens' health and education and to build infrastructure in rural areas.



- Assist developing countries in recovering assets by providing loans or grants to finance start-up costs, giving advice on hiring legal counsel and facilitating cooperation between States
- Monitor the use of recovered assets so that repatriated funds are used for development purposes, such as better education and infrastructure

In order to strengthen the collective effort to prevent and tackle the problem of stolen assets, monitor progress and provide advice, the initiative will be guided by the Friends of StAR, a group composed of influential leaders from developed and developing countries.

Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative

The Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, which was launched by the World Bank and UNODC at United Nations Headquarters, New York on 17 September, is designed to help developing States recover stolen assets and developed States to eliminate impediments to returning these vital assets.

“The Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative can foster greater cooperation between developed and developing countries—and between the public and private sectors—to ensure that looted assets are returned to their rightful owners,” said United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Specifically, StAR is designed to take action in four main areas:

- Support developing countries in strengthening their prosecuting agencies and bringing their laws into compliance
- Strengthen the integrity of financial markets by bringing financial centres into compliance with legislation against money-laundering and enhancing cooperation among financial intelligence units around the world

Helping countries to build capacity: the case of Nigeria

UNODC is implementing a project funded by the European Commission to combat corruption in Nigeria and recover assets stolen from that country by supporting the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The EFCC leads the fight against corruption and money-laundering in Nigeria and is the most successful anti-corruption agency in Africa. Since its inception in 2004, the Commission has prosecuted more than 400 cases, recovered or restrained assets valued at more than \$5 billion and helped Nigeria reach the 147th position in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index from last in 2003 and third to last in 2005.

UNODC and the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria conducted a country-wide survey on the perception of corruption in the business sector. EFCC successes are contributing to a growing perception that corruption can be combated.

In 2007, UNODC helped bring about major technological innovations within the EFCC and its Financial Intelligence Unit. UNODC upgraded their software used

to combat money-laundering and made it compatible with the information technology systems of Nigerian banks. It also ensured that this Financial Intelligence Unit was accepted as a full member of the Egmont Group of international Financial Intelligence Units. A new operations building was inaugurated in Abuja in May and UNODC is equipping a forensic unit to enhance the operational effectiveness of the EFCC.

In August, the Netherlands authorities signed a funding agreement worth \$500,000 to create, with full the participation of the EFCC, a new project to promote anti-corruption principles and ethics in the Nigerian business sector.

Under the terms of the project funded by the European Commission, representatives of the judiciary from six Nigerian states held integrity meetings and produced action plans for strengthening judicial integrity and building capacity. The plans include provisions for facilitating access to justice and developing and disseminating codes of conduct for judicial officers. To date, 150 judicial officers and staff from the National Judicial Institute have been trained on alternative dispute resolution and 400 judicial officers have been trained on judicial ethics.

Promoting integrity in international organizations

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the first and only global response to the challenge posed by corruption worldwide. UNODC believes international organizations should lead by example. To practice what they preach, they should align their integrity rules with the principles of the Convention.

The Convention against Corruption addresses the corruption of officials in public international organizations like the United Nations, not only by including the first-ever definition of such an official, but also by establishing it as a specific offence. The issue of the bribery of officials of public international organizations presents legal complexities and has therefore

been placed on the agenda of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption.

Addressing the corruption of international civil servants is also an important internal issue for international organizations. Although the Convention applies only to Member States, the standards and principles it contains can also help international organizations in their efforts to stamp out corruption.

The aim is also to enhance the possibilities for States and organizations to cooperate in investigating alleged cases of corruption within international organizations. By criminalizing the bribery of officials of public international organizations, the Convention against Corruption reminds State Parties of their obligation to comply with its provisions. This presents legal implications related to issues such as privileges and immunities, matters of jurisdictions and the role of international organizations.

UNODC launched an institutional integrity initiative, a process to be carried out within the agencies and programmes making up the United Nations system. The initiative proposes a voluntary, system-wide review of internal rules and regulations and examines ways of improving the rate of compliance with the standards of the Convention. The proposal was endorsed in June by the heads of the organizations belonging to the United Nations family, known collectively as the Chief Executive Board. UNODC requested the members of that Board to appoint representatives to initiate the internal review. A checklist containing the relevant principles of the Convention against Corruption and a proposed action plan accompanied the proposal. Board representatives met in September to discuss the first results of the exercise.

Board members and interested States and organizations will continue to advance the review process and to analyse ways of increasing cooperation between States and organizations in the investigation of cases of alleged corruption involving officials of public international organizations.

Related documents

Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative: Challenges, Opportunities and Action Plan (2007)
United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003)



The flag of the United Nations Headquarters in New York flying at half-mast in honour of staff members who lost their lives during a terrorist attack on the United Nations offices in Algiers.
Photo: UN/DPI



Strengthening the legal regime against terrorism

"We recognize that capacity-building in all States is a core element of the global counter-terrorism effort, and resolve to . . . encourage the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including its Terrorism Prevention Branch, to enhance, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, its provision of technical assistance to States, upon request, to facilitate the implementation of the international conventions and protocols related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism and relevant United Nations resolutions."

*United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
(Section III, para. 7), 8 September 2006*

As the year drew to a close, the United Nations offices in Algiers endured a deadly terrorist attack, yet another reminder of the importance of the work being done by the United Nations in general and UNODC in particular to combat this global scourge. Governments and international organizations are racing to develop strategies and international measures to fight back. One of these measures is the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2006.

The international counter-terrorism legal regime views terrorist acts as criminal behaviour. It is based on the premise is that perpetrators of terrorist acts should be brought to justice, either in front of their country's national courts or, through extradition, in front of the courts of other countries or international courts, with a view to making the world inhospitable to terrorists. The regime identifies various acts, such as aircraft hijacking, dangerous acts at sea, bombings, support and funding of terrorist organizations and kidnapping as acts of terrorism.

The challenges facing Member States wanting to sign up to and fulfil these obligations are daunting. That is where UNODC comes in. As with the more established drugs and crime regimes, UNODC is able to

help Member States to boost their legal framework on counter-terrorism as well as improve international cooperation against this criminal phenomenon.

UNODC lends its expertise to help States ratify and implement international legal treaties and related domestic legislation. It provides assistance in strengthening national criminal justice systems and helps States cooperate with one another.

Making a difference

Through its global project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, UNODC helped to raise the number of States which had ratified the first 12 international conventions and protocols from 26 in January 2003 to 97 in 21 November 2007. In 2007 alone, 43 new ratifications of the universal instruments were counted among the States that had received UNODC assistance.

During the year, UNODC provided direct legal assistance to more than 52 States and reached 106 States through regional and subregional workshops. It offered specialized substantive briefings to more than 1,500 national criminal justice officials on the legal regime against terrorism.

The project is funded through voluntary contributions from 20 countries. Contributions reached \$22.3 million by the end of December, with \$6.9 million being provided in 2007 alone.

UNODC helps States to:

- become parties to the international conventions and protocols against terrorism
- translate the provisions of these instruments into national legislation
- strengthen the capacity of national criminal justice systems through the training of judicial officers and prosecutors
- cooperate with other States, in particular on extradition and mutual legal assistance



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) meets with the families of the victims and survivors of the bombing of the United Nations Headquarters complex in Algiers. Photo: Evan Schneider/UN Photo

Major events in 2007

UNODC counter-terrorism experts helped organize a series of key events to drive forward the counter-terrorism work being done by the United Nations and to further the global project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism.

Highlights of this work included three subregional meetings at the ministerial level. The events mobilized support and prompted Governments to take action. They also provided a forum to evaluate progress, helped sustain States' commitment and identified needs for legal assistance.

The Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, organized together with the Organization of American States, was held in the Dominican Republic in March and attended by participants from more than a dozen Member States.

The Fourth Conference of the Ministers of Justice of Francophone African Countries for the implementation

of the universal instruments against terrorism, organized together with the Organisation de la Francophonie, took place in Burkina Faso in March and was attended by 66 participants from 28 Francophone African countries.

The Ministers of Justice Meeting on Strengthening the Counter-Terrorism Legal Regimes of the Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development was held in September in Uganda. The meeting was organized in cooperation with the Capacity-Building Programme of the Intergovernmental Authority and attended by representatives of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

Building on partnerships

To ensure the successful delivery of technical assistance, UNODC continued to invest in partnerships with other organizations fighting terrorism.

A major event in 2007 was the Symposium on Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, held in Vienna in

May and organized jointly by the Government of Austria, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and UNODC.

The Symposium aimed at raising awareness of the Strategy, promoting its implementation and identifying measures to assist Member States in this task. More than 350 participants from 107 Member States and international, subregional and regional organizations attended. A publication on the proceedings was finalized in September.

As in past years, UNODC carried out many activities in cooperation with other organizations. For the first time, it also organized events with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, including a subregional consultation workshop on the implementation of the legal regime against terrorism in the Pacific region and related technical assistance delivery, held in Fiji in June.

Close cooperation between UNODC and the Counter Terrorism Committees (CTC) of the Security Council and its Executive Directorate (CTED) helped States fulfil their counter-terrorism obligations as laid out in Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1373, a wide-ranging anti-terrorism resolution from 2001. In the course of 2007, UNODC participated in CTC/CTED country visits to Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Indonesia, Turkey and Viet Nam. UNODC also continued to assist requesting Member States in preparing their national reports for submission to the CTC. A 2007 highlight in this regard was the organization by UNODC of subregional workshops for West and Central African countries (held in Senegal in September) and Southern African countries plus the Comoros and the Seychelles (held in Botswana in November) on the preparation of responses to the three Security Council committees dealing with counter-terrorism.

In order to ensure that the counter-terrorism work of UNODC is aligned with the efforts made by the United Nations as a whole, UNODC continued to participate in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. In the course of the year, UNODC co-chaired the working groups on “Facilitating the integrated implementation of the Strategy”, “Elaborating techniques and mechanisms to evaluate technical assistance” and “Tackling the financing of terrorism”

and worked with other entities to promote international cooperation.

Expanding legal assistance and capacity-building support

Promoting international cooperation in criminal matters

The legal assistance that UNODC provides on counter-terrorism seeks to promote international cooperation in related criminal matters, in particular with regard to extradition and mutual legal assistance.

Assistance of this kind was provided, for example, at an expert workshop, organized by UNODC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), on Enhancing Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters to Counter Terrorism, which was held in Vienna in March for OSCE member States and partner countries. Another important event was the subregional workshop on International Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters related to Terrorism, also organized with the OSCE, which was held in Finland in October with the participation of the Baltic countries. UNODC also provided specialized training on international cooperation in cases of terrorism and criminal matters at a subregional workshop organized with the Organization of American States and held in Peru in October.

UNODC also developed a manual on international judicial cooperation in terrorist cases. An expert group meeting finalized the work in Vienna in April.

Suppressing the financing of terrorism

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy highlights the importance of addressing the financing of terrorism and the need for Member States to implement comprehensive measures that meet international standards.

Among other activities, in May UNODC organized, together with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, a workshop in Yemen on drafting legislation. Taking into account workshop analysis and feedback, Yemeni officials submitted a finalized draft law addressing the financing of terrorism to the parliament for discussion and adoption.

With the support of UNODC, a national agenda for the period 2007-2009 on countering the financing of terrorism and money-laundering was elaborated in Argentina. UNODC will provide technical assistance for its implementation.

UNODC, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund also chaired a working group of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force that aimed to elaborate proposals to increase the effectiveness of national strategies to address the financing of terrorism and improve the implementation of international standards. The working group examined better ways to prevent the collection of funds, detect the channelling of funds, seize and confiscate funds, gather intelligence and exchange information.

Preventing nuclear terrorism

Following the entry into force in July of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, UNODC launched specialized country assistance in the areas of criminal law and international cooperation in criminal matters related to nuclear terrorism.

Among the activities organized by UNODC to assist countries with the drafting of appropriate legislation was a regional workshop on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism for Central Asia and Afghanistan, which was held in Uzbekistan in April, in partnership with the OSCE, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Legal experts working in nuclear, criminal, maritime and international law met to discuss nuclear terrorism in Vienna in December. They exchanged views on the various penal provisions dealing with nuclear terrorism contained in the universal framework against terrorism. The meeting will lead to the publication, planned for 2008, of a specialized tool that aims to explain the offences related to nuclear terrorism.

Enhancing a criminal justice response to terrorism based on the rule of law

In accordance with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, UNODC has shown that effective counter-terrorism measures and respect for the rule of law, including for human rights, are not conflicting but complementary and mutually reinforcing goals. A criminal justice response that is based on the rule of law does more than bring perpetrators to justice, it provides effective prevention mechanisms with built-in human rights protections.

Two seminars focused on enhancing States' capacity to counter terrorism while respecting the rule of law. A seminar on combating terrorism within the rule of law, which was held in Morocco in March, was organized by the International Legal Assistance Consortium and its member organization Human Rights Network International. A regional judicial training seminar on striking a balance between the exercise of the power of the Government and the respect for human rights and democratic guarantees in the effective fight against terrorist acts was organized jointly with the Government of Spain and the Organization of American States and held in Colombia in May.

Related documents

United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006)



UNODC has developed a medium-term Strategy for
the period 2008-2011
Photo: UNODC



Adding value

The mission of UNODC is to contribute to the achievement of security and justice for all by making the world safer from crime, drugs and terrorism. The present strategy translates this vision into a platform for action.

Strategy for the period 2008-2011

As States seek solutions to threats that do not respect borders, they increasingly respond by making use of multilateral partnerships, for example through UNODC.

UNODC has developed a medium-term Strategy for the period 2008-2011 in close consultation with experts from Member States, NGOs and other United Nations organizations. The Strategy was endorsed by the two governing bodies of UNODC, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Economic and Social Council.

The Strategy sets out tangible goals focused on three main themes: rule of law; policy and trend analysis; and prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development. In total, the strategy contains 14 areas for which 53 concrete results, accompanied by performance measures, are to be achieved.

Rule of law

The Strategy aims to bring about effective responses to drugs, crime and terrorism by facilitating the implementation of relevant international legal instruments. It also promotes effective, fair and humane criminal justice systems through the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

The concrete results expected are:

- Ratification and implementation of conventions and protocols
- International cooperation in criminal justice matters
- More accessible, accountable and effective criminal justice systems
- Prevention of terrorism

Policy and trend analysis

The overarching goal is to rectify a dearth of information and analysis on crime and terrorism. While there are good global data concerning illicit drugs through illicit crop surveys and the UNODC World Drug Report, there are no comprehensive figures on world crime or an overview of crime trends. This is a handicap to achieving evidence-based policy-making on crime issues. There is also a greater need for counter-terrorism research in order to produce effective model laws and legislative benchmarks.

To achieve this aim, the Strategy for 2008-2011 sets out specific goals targeting, for example, improvements in the scientific and forensic capacity of Member States and the greater use of forensic and laboratory data to support policy decisions and operational activities. The success of the first goal will be assessed by performance indicators such as the number of drug kits distributed, the number of requests received for training assistance, or the number of manuals, guidelines, training materials and tools produced by UNODC.

Prevention, treatment and reintegration

Drugs, crime and terrorism are major problems, but they are not vast faceless forces. They affect the lives of individuals and the social fabric of communities. In order to prevent, treat and reintegrate those affected, the Strategy for 2008-2011 sets two main objectives.

The first is to reduce the opportunities for illicit activities, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, criminal activity and victimization. The second looks at the individuals affected. It recognizes that drug abusers and crime offenders need effective care to reintegrate into society, and that victims need assistance.

Making it happen: a shared responsibility

The Strategy for 2008-2011 is a challenging road map that is tailored to leverage the unique capacities of UNODC. By providing concrete targets and identifying well-defined areas of intervention, the Strategy lays the foundation for a culture of results-based management.

Menu of Services: putting the strategy to work

The Strategy presents a blueprint for action. The next phase is implementation. A key challenge for UNODC is to ensure that both recipient countries and donors who interact with UNODC experts in the field have a clear overview of the kind of technical assistance the Office can provide. The “Menu of Services” is a key marketing tool that outlines the Office’s areas of competence in a way that is accessible to practitioners.

The Menu of Services is structured broadly along the three themes identified in the Strategy. It highlights the importance of providing an integrated response to many challenges faced by Member States and under-

scores the fact that many of the services offered by UNODC interlock with each other.

As the number of mandates given to UNODC has increased and as the palette of services the Office offers has grown broader, the Menu helps make clear exactly what the Office can deliver and enables Member States and partners to draw most effectively on that expertise. It describes the legal, analytical and technical capabilities of UNODC and the tools available for achieving the objectives set out in the Strategy. The Menu of Services, which was launched in 2007, has been well received by field offices and Governments, and has formed the basis for programme development in a number of sectors.

Related documents

Strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2007)
Menu of Services: Technical assistance provided by UNODC (2007)



Innovation and excellence: the United Nations Agenda 21 Awards

The United Nations Agenda 21 (UN 21) Awards Programme was established in 1996 as part of the reform effort led by the Secretary-General to give recognition to staff members for innovation in the delivery of United Nations programmes and services.

On his first visit to the Vienna International Centre in February, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presented the UN 21 Awards and commendations for field projects and services delivered in 2006. UNODC staff members received four of the twenty prizes awarded to staff in the entire United Nations system.

One staff member from UNODC Thailand was rewarded for his individual contribution to the Computer-Based Training Academy. This e-Learning programme delivers good practice in law enforcement techniques to combat organized crime and illicit drug trafficking. It has contributed significantly to developing the expertise of law enforcement officials in 21 recipient countries.

The UNODC Country Office in Colombia won a commendation for its anti-human trafficking project, which harnesses the mass media to raise awareness of



United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon presenting a UN 21 Award to a Vienna staff member in February.

the problem through popular television soap operas and press campaigns.

Staff members in Human Resources Management and Information Technology Service won an award for establishing an online staff integrity awareness programme.

Finally, the Information Technology Service received a commendation for the Programme and Financial Management Information System (ProFi), an integrated financial and substantive information system that enhances transparency and makes it easier to monitor how donor funds are used.

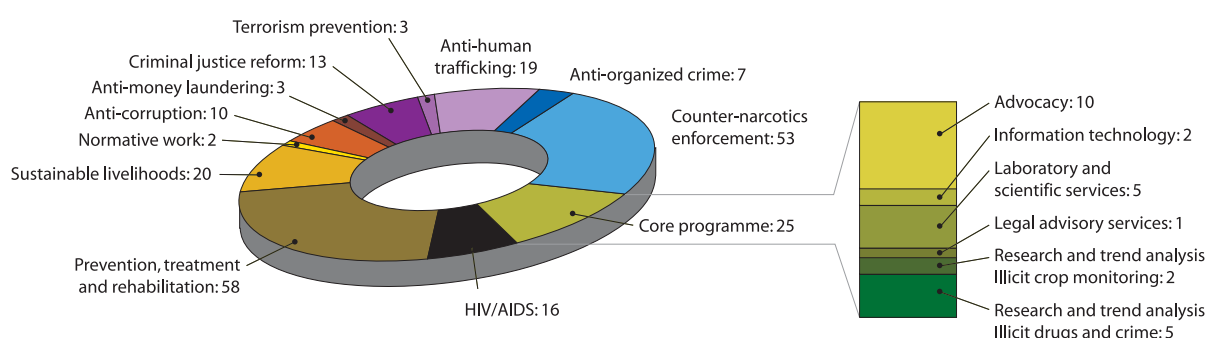
Annex

UNODC operations

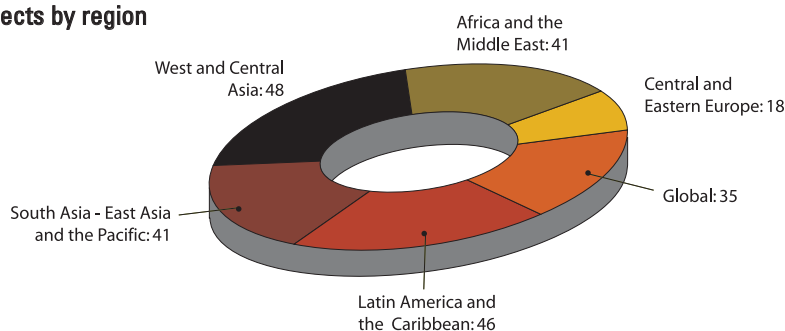
Worldwide demand for the specialist expertise that UNODC has gained in combating drugs and crime is rising. That trend is reflected in a major increase in resources from Member States and donors. UNODC ran a portfolio of 229 ongoing projects in 2007.

The latest available figures for 2007 show that operational expenditures on drugs and crime technical assistance programmes rose 39 per cent from \$91 million in 2006 to \$126.7 million in 2007. This reflected an increase of 31 per cent to \$92.3 million in the drugs programme and a dramatic rise of 65 per cent to \$34.4 million in the crime programme.

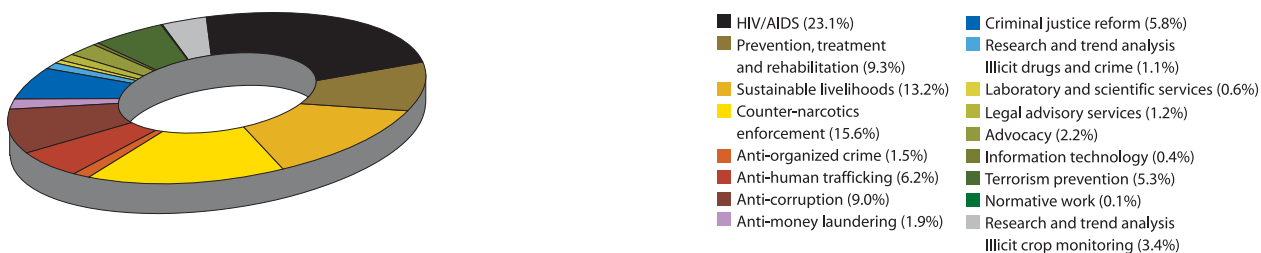
Breakdown of 2007 ongoing projects by theme



Breakdown of 2007 ongoing projects by region



Breakdown of 2007 expenditures by thematic area (total: US\$ 114,734,517)





Resource mobilization and partnership development

UNODC budget

The consolidated UNODC budget for the biennium 2006-2007 amounted to \$335.9 million. This included \$72 million from the United Nations regular budget, only \$33 million (11.1 per cent) of which went to UNODC, the remaining share going to cover the expenses of services shared with the United Nations Office at Vienna. Voluntary contributions amounted to \$189.2 million (57 per cent) for the drugs programme and \$74.7 million (22 per cent) for the crime programme. General purpose funding for drugs and crime combined amounted to \$54.1 million.

Resource mobilization

In 2007, \$178.9 million in voluntary contributions for both the drugs and crime programmes were pledged, an increase of 26 per cent compared to the \$141.6 million that were pledged in 2006.

The funds were distributed as follows:

- Funds for programmes: \$164.2 million (91.8 per cent)
- General purpose funding: \$14.7 million (8.2 per cent)

In terms of type of activity, the funding distribution showed a large increase in funding for crime-related activities:

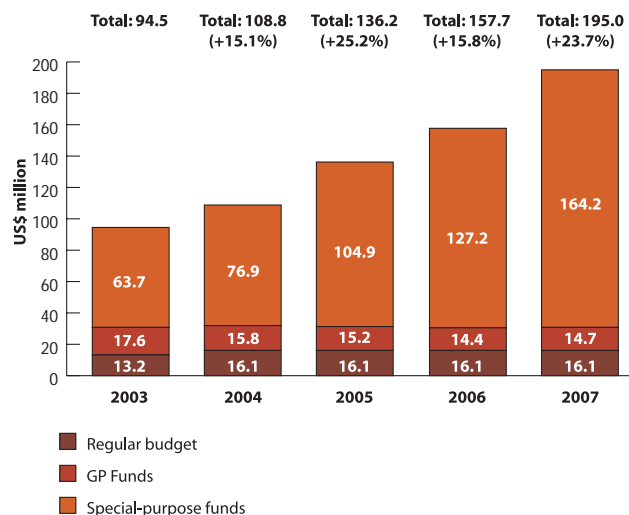
- Drugs Programme: \$111.9 million (63 per cent, compared with 80 per cent in 2006)
- Crime Fund: \$67 million (37 per cent, compared with 20 per cent in 2006)

Cumulatively, the level of voluntary funding for UNODC has increased 113 per cent over the past three years. This large increase has been driven primarily by higher contributions for technical assistance programmes. In 2007, for the first time in three years,

UNODC was able to record a slight increase in un-ear-marked or general purpose funding essential for financing the core infrastructure of UNODC.

Donor trends

Funding trend



UNODC significantly intensified its cooperation with its major donors and with emerging and national donors. Twenty-two informal meetings were held on management and operational topics.

Particularly noteworthy in 2007 were the large multi-year grants received from Australia in support of HIV/AIDS treatment in Myanmar (\$3.3 million), from Canada for the UNODC programme in Afghanistan (\$27 million), from the European Commission for the Victim Empowerment Programme in South Africa (\$18.9 million) and from Italy in support of criminal justice reform in Afghanistan (\$3.3 million).

In 2007, the major donor group provided about 72 per cent of all voluntary contributions compared with 63 per cent in 2006: the emerging and national donor

group provided about 21 per cent of the total compared with 32 per cent in 2006 and others accounted for about 7 per cent.

Significantly increased pledges were made by Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and by the European Commission.

Key institutional support for general purpose funding came from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France,

Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Turkey and the United States; together, these States contributed about 91 per cent of general purpose funding. Germany, France, Japan, Norway and Sweden even increased their general purpose contributions to sustain the core infrastructure of UNODC. Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, on the other hand, continued to provide significant cost-sharing for the running of local offices.

Donor support

PLEDGES FOR 2007 (DRUGS AND CRIME) IN US\$

as of 16 January 2008

MAJOR DONORS				
Donor		Special purpose funds	General purpose funds	Total
1	Australia	5,151,490	403,877	5,555,367
2	Austria	2,273,023	54,720	2,327,743
3	Belgium	102,403	63,393	165,796
4	Canada	16,135,908	560,748	16,696,656
5	Denmark	889,328	1,901,141	2,790,469
6	European Commission	21,718,048	-	21,718,048
7	Finland	900,427	301,780	1,202,207
8	France	2,591,867	843,061	3,434,928
9	Germany	1,821,874	789,474	2,611,348
10	Ireland	1,210,375	806,916	2,017,291
11	Italy	6,965,665	2,688,172	9,653,837
12	Japan	1,292,614	790,811	2,083,425
13	Luxembourg	1,346,842	67,568	1,414,410
14	Netherlands	9,287,050	-	9,287,050
15	Norway	5,353,152	1,901,483	7,254,635
16	Spain	1,873,978	241,935	2,115,913
17	Sweden	13,854,513	1,200,000	15,054,513
18	Switzerland	847,301	60,667	907,968
19	Turkey	745,000	255,000	1,000,000
20	United Kingdom	5,126,211	-	5,126,211
21	United States	14,928,673	1,000,000	15,928,673
Sub-total major donors		114,415,742	13,930,746	128,346,488

EMERGING AND NATIONAL DONORS

Donor	Special purpose funds	General purpose funds	Total	
22	Algeria	-	10,000	10,000
23	Bangladesh	-	1,000	1,000
24	Bahrain	535,600	-	535,600
25	Bolivia	454,900	-	454,900
26	Brazil	1,879,500	-	1,879,500
27	Chile	-	5,000	5,000
28	Colombia	12,221,558	-	12,221,558
29	Croatia	-	10,000	10,000
30	Czech Republic	168,180	112,120	280,300
31	Greece	290,000	-	290,000
32	Hungary	120,009	-	120,009
33	India	200,000	103,000	303,000
34	Israel	-	12,000	12,000
35	Kazakhstan	-	25,000	25,000
36	Kuwait	-	5,000	5,000
37	Laos	-	1,000	1,000
38	Libya	1,696,200	-	1,696,200
39	Liechtenstein	300,000	-	300,000
40	Mexico	700,000	100,000	800,000
41	Monaco	60,000	10,000	70,000
42	Morocco	-	5,000	5,000
43	Nigeria	8,717	-	8,717
44	New Zealand	140,845	71,595	212,440
45	Pakistan	-	1,956	1,956
46	Panama	-	3,600	3,600
47	Peru	1,684,161	-	1,684,161
48	Poland	68,399	-	68,399
49	Portugal	-	25,000	25,000
50	Qatar	1,365,750	-	1,365,750
51	Republic of Korea	-	97,250	97,250
52	Russian Federation	400,000	100,000	500,000
53	Saudi Arabia	-	50,000	50,000
54	Singapore	-	5,000	5,000
55	Sri Lanka	-	5,000	5,000
56	Slovenia	-	14,577	14,577
57	Thailand	10,000	20,000	30,000
58	Tunisia	-	2,713	2,713
59	United Arab Emirates	14,800,887	-	14,800,887
60	Venezuela	-	17,252	17,252
Sub-total emerging and national donors	37,104,706	813,063	37,917,769	

UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Donor	Special purpose funds	General purpose funds	Total
61 Human Security Fund	64,200	-	64,200
62 UNAIDS	7,679,021	-	7,679,021
63 UNDP	372,000	-	372,000
64 UNDEF	957,075	-	957,075
65 UNICEF	33,170	-	33,170
66 United Nations Mine Action Service	314,600	-	314,600
67 OSCE	9,459	-	9,459
68 NATO Russian Council	403,008	-	403,008
69 UNOPS	928,100	-	928,100
Sub-total United Nations agencies and inter-governmental organizations	10,760,633	-	10,760,633

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFI)

Donor	Special purpose funds	General purpose funds	Total
70 Inter-American Development Bank	1,430,000	-	1,430,000
Sub-total IFI	1,430,000	-	1,430,000

PRIVATE DONATIONS AND OTHERS

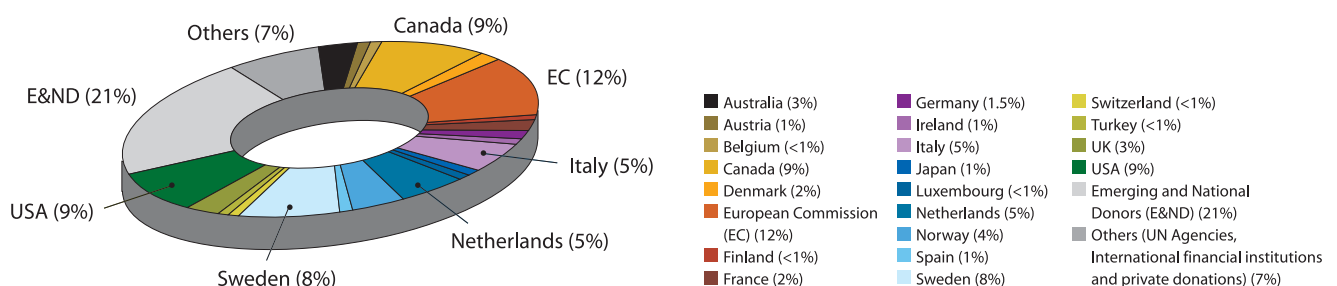
Donor	Special purpose funds	General purpose funds	Total
71 Organization of American States	89,500	-	89,500
72 DAPC-Japan	187,941	-	187,941
73 DROSOS Foundation	61,312	-	61,312
74 Olympic Council for Asia	100,000	-	100,000
75 Swissmedic	16,571	-	16,571
76 Other private	85,925	-	85,925
Sub-total private donations	541,249	-	541,249
Sub-total other	49,836,588	813,063	50,649,651

TOTAL ALL DONORS

164,252,330

14,743,809

178,996,139

Distribution of 2007 pledges
(US\$ 178.9 million)

Partnership development

With a growing portfolio of activities in Africa, UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding with the African Union, in which the following nine key areas for closer collaboration were identified: drug demand reduction, drug trafficking, HIV/AIDS in prison-like settings, crime prevention and criminal justice reform, small arm smuggling, corruption, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and data collection. The agreement was signed in Addis Ababa in December.

In 2007, UNODC engaged with the European Commission and various international financial institutions to promote private sector resource mobilization. While the focus and nature of each relationship is specific, the overall aim of UNODC is to strengthen its partnerships at both the policy and operational levels and to leverage its know-how, resources and operational capacity.

UNODC staff met with representatives of the European Commission in Brussels at the third senior officials meeting to discuss regional policies against drugs, human trafficking and organized crime. A number of joint project agreements were signed, making the European Commission the single largest provider of funds to UNODC in 2007.

Consultations took place with the Asian Development Bank to explore a joint approach to fighting money-laundering and corruption in South-East Asia. With the World Bank, the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative was launched with the objective of putting into action one of the key elements in the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

UNODC and the Inter-American Development Bank initiated a policy dialogue to explore joint initiatives against corruption and urban crime.

Consultations touching on numerous topics were held with the OPEC Fund for International Development, including on HIV/AIDS, crime and development in Africa and alternative development in Afghanistan.

UNODC continued its advocacy and fundraising activities with the private sector involving representatives from the media and entertainment industry, the international press, NGOs and foundations. Two major public

relations events were organized in New York, both related to human trafficking, namely the premiere of the film *Trade* and the photography exhibition "Images of Vulnerability", both of which mobilized broad-based support for the work of UNODC.

NHN Corp of the Republic of Korea donated \$500,000 to UNODC to help establish a virtual forum against cyber-crime. With the use of a digital platform, the forum will help law enforcement and criminal justice officers and researchers from developing countries to gain access to training courses and technical advice on how to prevent and investigate cyber-crime. The training course will be piloted in Viet Nam and launched in early 2008. This is the first time a private company has donated funds to UNODC.

Collaboration with the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre of Japan continued successfully in 2007. The Centre enabled UNODC to award 26 grants to NGOs in support of grassroots activities for drug abuse prevention.

United Nations agencies

A cooperation agreement was signed with the United Nations Foundation/ United Nations Fund for International Partnerships to promote private sector resource mobilization for UNODC activities.

Cooperation with the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security intensified, leading to the establishment of a solid pipeline of joint projects.

With its specialized technical expertise in criminal justice matters, UNODC is part of the Rule of Law Coordination Group with other United Nations bodies, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). UNODC is taking the lead on efforts to combat corruption, organized crime, transnational crime, human trafficking and drugs as well as in favour of victim and witness protection and assistance. One of the technical assistance tools provided by UNODC is the Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit, which was developed in cooperation with various partners, including UNDP, DPKO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the African Institute for the Prevention of

Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. UNODC is also training UNDP staff on the use of the toolkit for wider use and dissemination in order to conduct joint assessment missions in the field.

A partnership agreement with UNDP is being discussed to consolidate UNODC expertise on fighting corruption and promoting criminal justice. UNODC is also joining forces with UNDP in specific anti-corruption efforts in Eastern Europe and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In addition, UNODC and UNDP are implementing a technical assistance project to counter terrorism and the financing of terrorism in Kenya. Partnerships are also a key element of the work being carried out in conflict and post-conflict settings. For example, UNODC has been working closely with UNDP in southern Sudan for the development of a programme on criminal justice and prison reform.

In 2003, UNODC and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) signed a memorandum of understanding that was based on these two organizations' common mandate on crime prevention. Since then, significant efforts have been made to implement and push forward crime prevention measures through the development of joint technical assistance proposals on urban crime prevention and access to justice in East Africa. UNODC is a full-fledged partner of the Safer Cities Programme of UN-HABITAT and negotiations are under way for pursuing research on victimization.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is also an important partner of UNODC, in particular on matters related to juvenile justice. Together, UNODC and UNICEF have developed several important tools, including the child-friendly version of the *United Nations Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime* and the *Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators*. Efforts are being made at the country level to implement these tools and develop technical assistance. Furthermore, UNODC is a member of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, which aims to coordinate the provision to Member States of technical assistance on juvenile justice based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice.

A truly inter-agency effort is the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), which is led by a steering committee comprising representatives of UNODC, OHCHR, UNICEF, OSCE, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration. Through UN.GIFT, these organizations aim to coordinate activities against human trafficking.

As a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNODC looks specifically at the connection between HIV/AIDS and injecting drug use, prison settings and human trafficking. Coordination efforts at the country and regional level with UNAIDS and its other co-sponsor agencies have been launched.

UNODC has also fostered a strengthened partnership with DPKO, specifically with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. The two bodies conducted an evaluation mission with a view to developing a technical assistance programme to strengthen the rule of law and reform the criminal justice system in that country.

In Afghanistan, UNODC has worked with the International Security Assistance Force of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Additionally, UNODC is developing alternative development projects in Afghanistan with the World Food Programme. UNODC will advise on the implications of the drug control activities of the Government of Afghanistan and the World Food Programme will use its Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping/Food Security Monitoring Unit to secure food aid and security.

The OSCE cooperated with UNODC on issues of precursor control in Central Asia, on the implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and regional issues concerning the Caucasus region and Turkey.

UNODC cooperated with the World Customs Organization to extend the Container Control Programme, which is helping the Governments of four countries control the movement of sea freight and stop criminals using containers for illicit purposes.

UNODC and the Government of Qatar worked to set up a high-tech criminal intelligence centre in Doha to help the Gulf States combat drug trafficking. UNODC will provide technical help for the centre.