

Headquarters **activities**



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Vientiane, Laos. Samples of crystal methamphetamine, also known as “Ice”, are tested in the Drug Testing Laboratory of the Ministry of Health. The samples were seized from traffickers

Photo: Alessandro Scotti

Research and analysis

Policy and trend analysis is one of three main priorities for UNODC, which continued to work closely with Governments to improve drugs and crime data collection, research and analysis.

The *World Drug Report 2006*, UNODC's flagship publication, presented an analysis of trends in world drug markets. The Report highlighted progress made in 2005, but drew attention to three areas of concern: heroin supply in Afghanistan, rising cocaine demand in Europe and cannabis demand globally. A special chapter on cannabis showed that an estimated 162 million people use the drug, equivalent to 4 per cent of the global population aged between 15-64 years. While the problem posed by cannabis continued to grow, many facts about the supply of and demand for this drug remain obscure.

In 2006, 92 per cent of the world's opium was produced in Afghanistan, where cultivation increased by 59 per cent and production was up 49 per cent. Falling opium poppy cultivation in the Golden Triangle—Laos, Myanmar and Thailand—was a little-noticed success story in 2006. Myanmar recorded a decrease of 29 per cent in areas under poppy cultivation. This reduction brought the total decline in the region since 1998 to 85 per cent, according to the 2006 *Opium Poppy Cultivation in the Golden Triangle* survey.

After the impressive decline in coca cultivation in Colombia in the first half of the decade, the area under

cultivation increased by 8 per cent in 2005. However, due to simultaneous decreases in Bolivia and Peru, the total area under coca cultivation in the Andes in 2005 remained at about the same level as in 2004. A special chapter of the *Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region* report discussed the environmental effects of illicit drug cultivation and processing. While deforestation and water and soil pollution were identified as problems, the study found that very little reliable data were available to measure the extent of the problem accurately.

The dearth of data continued to hamper the effective monitoring of international crime trends. By November 2006, only 72 of the 192 United Nations Member States had responded to the *9th United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems*. This highlighted the need to strengthen further the international reporting system for crime statistics.

UNODC's "Data for Africa" project supported national and regional initiatives, such as surveys in Cape Verde and a review of the data collection for Nigeria's National Master Plan on Drugs. UNODC also produced a study on *Organized Crime and Irregular Migrations from Africa to Europe*. Although the true extent of the profits made in smuggling human beings is not fully known, the report included estimates of the size of the market, and highlighted the countries most affected and the routes used by smugglers.

Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region, June 2006



Convention support and legal advice

UNODC is the custodian of international legal instruments in the areas of drugs, transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. The Office is also the guardian of a considerable body of internationally recognized principles in crime prevention and criminal justice, encompassing such issues as juvenile justice, the treatment of offenders, international cooperation, good governance, victim protection and violence against women. UNODC also helps countries to reform their criminal justice systems.

United Nations crime conventions

UNODC works to attain universal ratification of the five United Nations crime conventions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations—the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and its three Protocols on human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Merida Convention). The inaugural session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Merida Convention was held in Jordan in December 2006.

UNODC's Convention support includes the provision of legislative drafting assistance, the development of a series of *Legislative Guides* for the implementation of the United Nations crime conventions and the provision of advice on international cooperation in criminal matters.

Legal assistance

UNODC gave legal advice and legislative assistance in 2006 to a number of countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe. Activities included assistance in upgrading national drug control laws, drafting new legislation on international judicial cooperation, special investigative techniques, pre-trial destruction of narcotic drugs and advice on reforms of judicial systems.

The Office provided justice system training in countries in Eastern Europe, North Africa, South and Central America and Western and South-Eastern Asia. Judges and prosecutors participated in mock trials and went on study tours.



Signing international conventions

UNODC developed a new software tool in 2006 to help legal professionals write effective mutual legal assistance requests and went to work on a similar tool for extradition requests.

An on-line legal library of the legislation adopted by countries to implement the international drug control conventions is maintained by UNODC. The Office also maintains a comprehensive directory of national authorities empowered to transmit or execute requests for extradition or mutual legal assistance.

UNODC updated the *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, first published in 1992, and was developing new legal tools such as the model legislative provisions related to the *Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime*.

Transnational organized crime

UNODC's Transnational Organized Crime programme provides technical assistance to help countries implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. This includes providing recommendations for new or strengthened laws, improving the institutional and operational capacities of law-enforcement and judicial bodies, international cooperation and legal assistance between countries and data collection.

UNODC provided advisers and mentors to work with Governments. In South America, the regional legal adviser conducted assessments in Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Training on special investigative techniques was given in Honduras.

In August, UNODC and Interpol provided training to intelligence analysts from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on specialized software and a network of analysts was set up.

In Peru, UNODC helped to draft legislation on special investigative techniques, witness protection and human trafficking. In Ecuador, equipment was provided to assist law-enforcement agencies. UNODC also provided West African police, prosecutors and judges with mentors and training.

Increased UNODC outreach to NGOs resulted in greater NGO participation in intergovernmental meetings in 2006. The Third Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime attracted 50 per cent more NGO participants than during the previous session. UNODC launched a new database containing information on over 1,500 NGOs working in drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice.

Counter-kidnapping

With financial support from the Government of Colombia and contributions from experts from 16 countries, UNODC developed a *Counter-Kidnapping Manual* to give police officers and policy-makers concrete guidelines on how to respond to kidnappings effectively.

It identifies different types of kidnapping—including for extortion or political purposes—and advises Governments on devising effective legislation, preventive measures and contingency plans. It comes with a

separate checklist providing practical guidance to senior police investigators, covering subjects such as negotiation, surveillance and intervention options.

In March, a training course based on the Manual was piloted in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, for senior police officers from the Caribbean. Training also took place in Asuncion, Paraguay, in August for participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Venezuela.

Combating trafficking in firearms

Trends in illicit trafficking indicate a link between the illegal firearms trade and other crimes such as drug and human trafficking and terrorism.

UNODC is developing guidelines to assist Member States with implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. A first expert group meeting in Vienna in November focused on the marking, tracing and identification of firearms, as well as on establishing effective systems for their export, import and transit licensing. Further workshops were planned for 2007.

Witness protection

UNODC began drafting international guidelines on witness protection programmes in a series of expert workshops. The guidelines were due to be completed by mid-2007.

In July, an expert meeting was held in Chile to finalize a draft model law on witness protection for Latin American countries. The first Latin American regional conference of the International Association of Prosecutors discussed witness protection, with support and expertise from UNODC.

Trafficking in human organs

Trafficking in human organs, fuelled by growing demand for transplants, is a lucrative business for organized criminal groups.

The removal of human organs is included in the definition of exploitation in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol of the Convention against Transnational



Members of a new Container Control Programme unit, set up with UNODC assistance, stand to attention in the port of Dakar, Senegal

Organized Crime. A UNODC study, entitled *Preventing, Combating and Punishing Trafficking in Human Organs*, was presented to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifteenth session in Vienna in 2006. The study showed that the extent of the problem of trafficking in human organs remains unclear.

Global Container Control Programme

The UNODC Container Control Programme, which started in 2005, helps police and customs authorities in developing countries to identify and inspect containers, which might contain illicit goods or materials.

The programme was piloted in Ecuador and Senegal, where Joint Port Control Units were established, with training provided by UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO). In Ecuador in March, the Guayaquil Joint Port Control Unit intercepted a consignment of cocaine with a street value of around \$US 556 million.

The container project was due to be extended to the Ecuadorean port of Manta in early 2007, with Ghana and Pakistan next in line.

Counter-narcotics and law enforcement

UNODC works with police, prosecutors and judges to help countries respond more effectively to illicit drug trafficking, providing technical assistance and the services of regional law-enforcement advisers. In 2006, training manuals, covering specialist topics such as criminal intelligence, undercover operations and surveillance, were distributed through UNODC field offices worldwide.

Paris Pact

Under the Paris Pact initiative to limit the trafficking of Afghan opiates through Western and Central Asia and Europe, two Expert Round Table meetings were conducted in 2006 on cross-border cooperation and intelligence exchanges between Afghanistan and its neigh-

bours. The meetings also improved counter-narcotics cooperation between the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Paris Pact partners.

In Moscow in June, the Government of the Russian Federation, in cooperation with UNODC, organized the second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan. The Conference adopted the *Moscow Declaration*, which highlighted the importance of international support for Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy.

Regional intelligence-sharing

Five Central Asian States—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—as well as Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation agreed in February to set up a regional intelligence centre to help fight drug trafficking. The Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), supported by UNODC, will be based in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Gulf States agreed to set up a similar body—the Gulf Centre for Criminal Intelligence—in Qatar, also with UNODC technical support.

Modelled on Europol, the intelligence centre of the EU, both Centres were due to be operational by mid-2007, helping to improve information exchange among national police services and leading to more drug seizures and arrests of drug smugglers.

Computer-based training

Computer-based training is an important part of the technical assistance provided by UNODC in the counter-narcotics field. Over 150 hours of law-enforcement training is now offered in various languages. In 2006 there were 63 individual syllabus modules and more were under development. The syllabus covers issues including profiling, targeting, risk assessment and searching at land borders, sea and airports, precursor chemicals, human trafficking and money-laundering. Already available in 15 countries, the training was set to expand across the Balkans, Brazil, the Pacific Islands and West Africa.

Drug seizures in Central Asia. Photo: Stefano Zardini



Combating money-laundering

In 2006, UNODC provided legal and policy assistance to over 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific through field-based experts operating under the mentor programme. New mentors began work in Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East, North Africa and Latin America, sharing their expertise with their local counterparts.

An information database known as the Anti-Money Laundering International Database (AMLID) Second Round of Legal Analysis was launched, reflecting the legal analysis of countries' efforts to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

In September, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which encourages UNODC to do more to help Member States comply fully with international norms to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

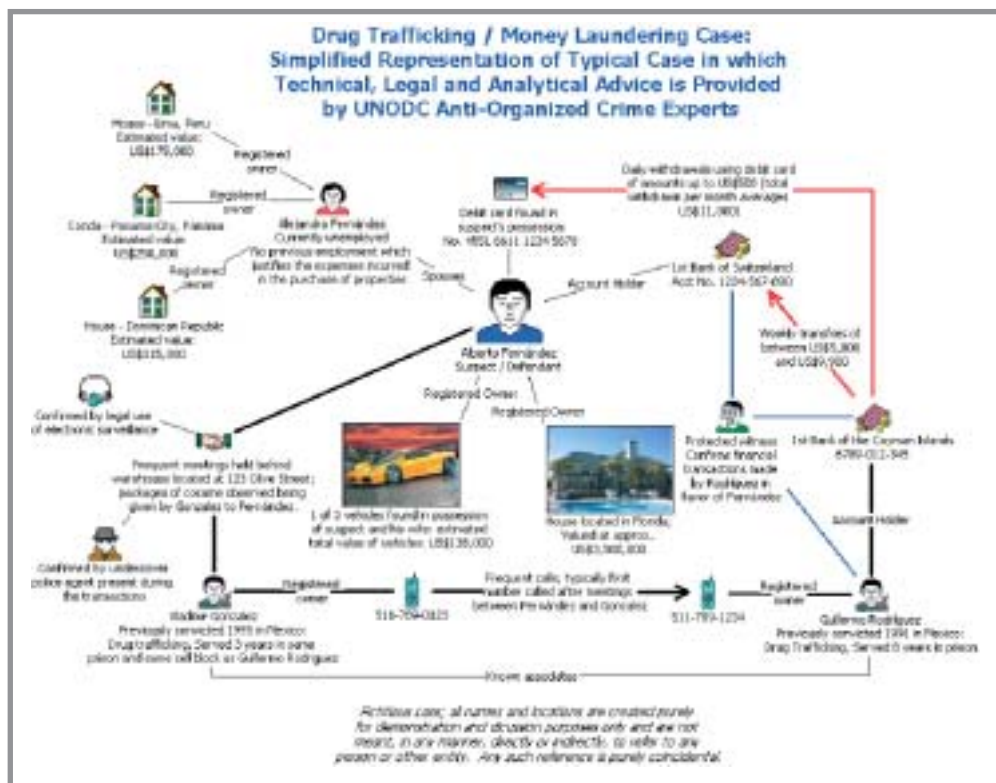
In 2006, UNODC began to participate in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate country assessment visits. Money-laundering and terrorism financing experts assessed countries' compliance with Security Council Resolution 1373 of 2001, which seeks

to offer a comprehensive response to the problem of combating terrorism.

The Financial Action Task Force for South America became the tenth partner organization of the International Money Laundering Information Network (IMoLIN), a one-stop research source administered by UNODC. UNODC continued to upload the monthly *Central Asia Newsletter*, a joint UNODC/World Bank electronic publication in English and Russian on IMoLIN, for e-mail distribution to over 500 recipients. As the most comprehensive online repository of legislation and analysis, IMoLIN is relied on by Government and law-enforcement officials.

UNODC strengthened its computer-based training programme by translating the training modules into Amharic, Arabic and Russian. Training classrooms were established in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

In a joint initiative with the OSCE, UNODC conducted a workshop on money-laundering and terrorism financing for prosecutors from Eastern and Southern Europe.



Sample case of money-laundering produced with software developed by UNODC to facilitate investigation and prosecution of complex cases

Fighting corruption



Image taken from the UNODC campaign leaflet for the International Day against Corruption, 9 December 2006

UNODC's Global Programme against Corruption, launched in 1999, provides Member States with technical assistance to improve the judicial and other institutions needed in the fight against corruption. UNODC also supports the formulation and dissemination of best practices, policies and tools to prevent and control corruption.

To date, the programme has trained government representatives, individual experts, NGOs and private sector entities from over 100 countries. It has provided specialized training to more than 1,000 national officials,

in particular judges, prosecutors and investigators in charge of anti-corruption work.

Altogether, 14 countries have benefited from long-term technical assistance projects. UNODC has also advised countries through regional and subregional workshops on a wide range of issues related to strengthening their legal and institutional capacities.

Through public service announcements, posters, flyers, radio and TV shows, particularly for the International Day against Corruption observed on 9 December each

year, UNODC reaches millions of citizens globally, raising awareness and encouraging them to take an active stand against corruption.

Criminal action

UNODC provided advice and technical assistance to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission of Nigeria, the country's leading anti-corruption agency. The Commission conducted several top-level investigations, resulting in the prosecution of State Governors, parliamentarians and the Inspector General of Police, as well as the recovery of assets worth more than \$US 5 billion.

Prevention

From 2001 to 2006, UNODC assisted the judiciaries of Indonesia, Nigeria and South Africa in strengthening their judicial institutions. UNODC's comprehensive assessments of the state of corruption in the judiciary helped to put policies and action plans into practice. These helped to enhance the integrity of judicial officers, increase the transparency of the judicial process and bring corrupt officials to account. In Nigeria, for example, a considerable number of judges and magistrates were removed.

Judicial integrity group

UNODC continued to support the work of the group of Chief Justices and senior judges. A key outcome of this work was the development of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, a comprehensive set of professional ethics for judges, which were endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2006 and recommended to Member States for domestic adaptation.

Partnership and cooperation

UNODC and the United Nations Office for Internal Oversight Services form the secretariat for the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination (IGAC), which brings together more than 30 multilateral and bilateral organizations active in anti-corruption

policy development, internal oversight and advocacy. IGAC has improved cooperation and enabled more effective use of limited resources to implement the Convention against Corruption.

Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The first session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption took place in Jordan in December. UNODC held three side-events bringing together representatives of civil society and the private sector, anti-corruption authorities and parliamentarians to discuss their expectations from Governments and to examine their own roles in the effective implementation of the Convention. A coalition of Civil Society Friends of the United Nations Convention against Corruption consisting of some 45 organizations from over 30 countries was also established.

Technical assistance tools

Work began to develop technical assistance tools, including:

- *Technical guide for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption*, aimed at supporting policy-makers and legal practitioners.
- *Handbook on Preventive Anti-Corruption Measures for Small and Medium Enterprises* with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The handbook provides small businesses, which often cannot afford large-scale anti-corruption and corporate ethics programmes, with simple and easy-to-implement tools to reduce the risk of them becoming involved in corrupt practices.
- *Commentary on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct*, and a guide on strengthening judicial integrity and capacity. The commentary will provide judicial disciplinary and oversight bodies with guidance to interpret and enforce the Bangalore Principles, while the guide gives an overview of good practices necessary to strengthen judicial independence, integrity, accountability and capacity.

Criminal justice reform



Overcrowded prison in the Caribbean

UNODC works to help improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people around the world: those who come into contact with the criminal justice system, including women and children.

In many countries a large proportion of adults and children who commit offences or who are arrested and prosecuted for alleged offences come from the poorest neighbourhoods and/or belong to minorities. Many children and young people were themselves victims before becoming offenders.

A key UNODC priority is to prevent child and youth involvement in activities that might lead to crime. UNODC does this by promoting national crime prevention strategies and supporting NGO networks. UNODC also supports countries in setting up criminal justice systems that are fair, efficient and accountable and which enforce respect for the human rights of offenders and victims.

The main challenges in this area are over-reliance on detention, including pre-trial detention, coupled with very poor prison conditions in many countries; the lack of criminal justice strategies taking into account victims of crime and the need to reintegrate offenders into society; the inappropriate handling by many criminal justice systems of women and children who have been subjected to abuse (in particular sexual abuse), and the lack of oversight mechanisms in criminal justice systems around the world.

In 2006, UNODC gave practical assistance to criminal justice officials, policy-makers, international organizations and NGOs and produced special tools.

Criminal justice reform and rule of law

The *Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit*, launched in 2006, was designed to help practitioners reform their own criminal justice systems and bring them into line with international standards. It also enables advisers from the United Nations and other bodies to conduct assessments of the justice systems in individual countries and identify areas for technical assistance. Written by a team of criminal justice experts from UNODC and the OSCE, the Toolkit covers policing, access to justice, prison and alternatives to incarceration, as well as other issues such as juvenile justice and the treatment of victims and witnesses. Divided into 16 modules, it provides detailed and comprehensive guidance for practitioners and will be updated with regular feedback from users.

Children in the criminal justice system

In order to improve the treatment of children by the criminal justice system, UNODC, UNICEF and the NGO International Bureau for Children's Rights produced a child-friendly version of the *United Nations Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime*. This document is available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

To assist Governments in designing policies relating to children in conflict with the law that conform to international standards, UNICEF and UNODC produced a *Manual on the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators*.

Alternatives to imprisonment

UNODC has encouraged criminal justice policy-makers to go beyond the use of imprisonment by producing separate handbooks on *Restorative Justice Programmes and Alternatives to Imprisonment*. In Malawi, UNODC worked with the NGO Penal Reform International to train paralegals (non-lawyers) to provide initial legal

assistance to prisoners in a number of post-conflict countries, starting in Liberia.

Violence against women

Millions of women worldwide are affected by violence. The first officials that most victims come into contact with after violent incidents are the police. However, in many countries the police are ill-prepared to give support and investigate such offences and in some cases women are re-victimized through their contact with the police. UNODC began work on a handbook for law enforcement officials on effective responses to violence against women.

Countering terrorism

On 8 September 2006, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This was a landmark event, as it was the first time that all 192 Member States had agreed on a common approach to fighting terrorism. The Strategy recognized the role of UNODC in such key areas as international criminal justice and international cooperation in criminal matters, and it encouraged UNODC to enhance its technical assistance to Member States.

As a result, UNODC reinforced its technical assistance in the legal aspects of counter-terrorism by facilitating the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism. During 2006, it provided 54 countries with assistance and conducted 11 regional workshops involving more than 82 countries, training approximately 1,700 criminal justice officials. UNODC also worked to assist cooperation between criminal justice agencies at the regional level, promoted the use of good legal and criminal justice practices in counter-terrorism and expanded its counter-terrorism legal research and legal training.

UNODC's counter-terrorism activities in 2006 contributed to an increasing number of ratifications of

international legal instruments. By the end of December, 85 countries had ratified the first 12 international conventions and protocols relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, compared with 75 in 2005, and 26 in 2003.

UNODC has developed a number of technical assistance tools. One of these, the Office's counter-terrorism legislative database, includes the full text of the international conventions and protocols relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, along with information on the status of ratifications. The database also contains more than 500 laws from more than 130 countries.

UNODC's technical assistance work complements the functions of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council and its Executive Directorate. In 2006, UNODC participated in country assessment visits of the Executive Directorate to nine countries. UNODC also participates in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

Preventing drug abuse

UNODC continued to focus on drug abuse, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation with the aim of reducing drug demand significantly by 2008.

In 2006, the Global Youth Network for prevention of drug abuse among young people continued to expand and reached more than 500 youth groups around the world with information, resources and training through regional networks. UNODC supported some 125 organizations with grants for comprehensive drug-abuse prevention activities. These activities reached approximately 40,000 young people.

UNODC's global drug-abuse prevention work in 2006 focused on the prevention of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) abuse. More people use this group of drugs, which includes amphetamines, methamphetamines and ecstasy, than cocaine and opiates (such as opium and heroin) combined. Methamphetamines, in particular, can cause severe psychological problems and addiction. Together with researchers, prevention workers and young people, UNODC identified the most effective ways to prevent ATS abuse and used these best practices to train NGOs and policy-makers in East Asia, South Asia and Southern Africa.

UNODC works with local partners. An example is the Kapatiran Kaularan People Coalition (KKPC) in the Philippines. KKPC has been working in a poor suburb of Manila for more than 15 years and brings together 25 local organizations working to prevent the abuse of methamphetamines and solvents among young people. KKPC undertakes public awareness-raising activities such as marches through communities; organizing competitions, concerts and producing posters; T-shirts and leaflets; as well as promoting sports for young people.

Another project of KKPC is the "back to school" programme, which aims to encourage a dialogue between parents and teachers and organizes tutorials in mathematics, science and languages to help children to go back to school. Other services include family therapy, counselling sessions and recreational activities for the whole family.

UNODC developed guidelines and training materials to help partner organizations evaluate the success of their prevention programmes.

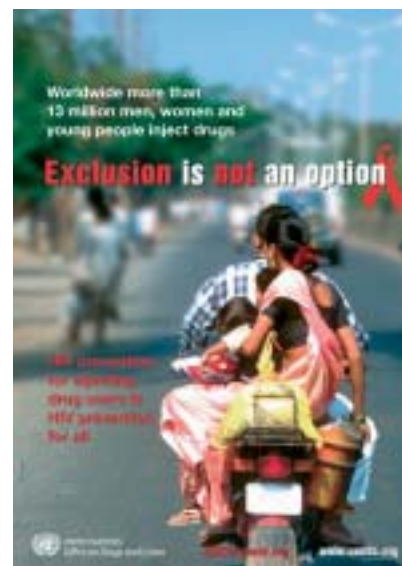
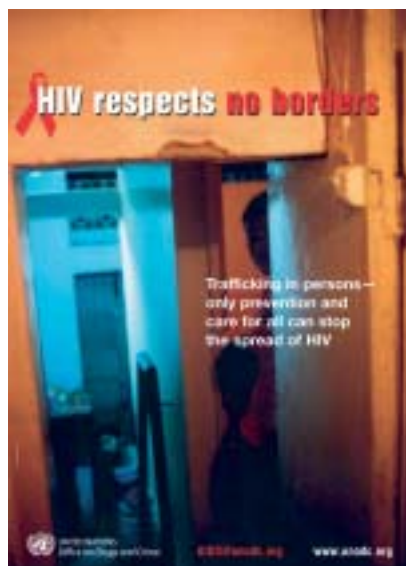
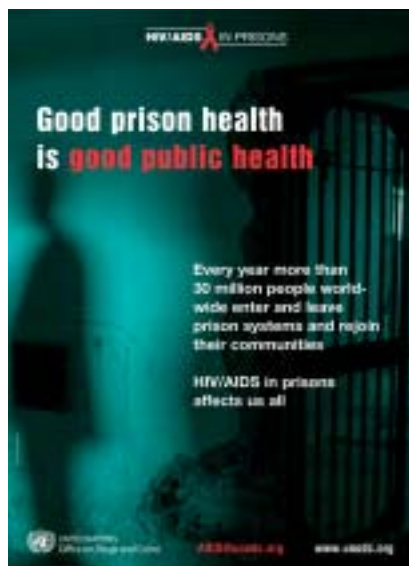
"Treatnet", the UNODC-initiated International Network of Drug Dependence Treatment and Rehabilitation Resource Centres launched at the end of 2005, got underway. Treatnet helps to improve the provision of drug-treatment and rehabilitation services, including support for HIV/AIDS prevention and care. The network comprises 20 drug-dependence treatment and rehabilitation resource centres in 19 countries as well as a number of associated training providers. Together, the centres reach 80,000 clients annually.

In 2006, Treatnet had two main goals: identifying and sharing good practices for drug-dependence treatment and rehabilitation, and helping its members to deliver better services. It focused on treatment in prisons, HIV/AIDS prevention and care of people with drug problems, along with their social reintegration and rehabilitation.

A team led by the University of California at Los Angeles developed a comprehensive training package and trained personnel at each Treatnet centre. Starting in 2007, these trainers will use their new skills to help nurses, doctors, counsellors and social workers.

UNODC's Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse continued work in Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa to improve knowledge of the drug-abuse situation. The Programme has so far helped 62 countries to develop the reporting of comparable data on drug-abuse situations and trends. New regional initiatives were launched in West and Central Africa and in the Russian Federation.

HIV/AIDS



UNODC posters for the World AIDS Conference held in Toronto, Canada

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 in prisons. It is also responsible for developing a United Nations response to HIV/AIDS associated with human trafficking in countries of origin and destination.

To improve data on injecting drug use, UNODC undertook rapid assessments in nine key countries. It also held consultations on methamphetamine use and HIV/AIDS.

In 2006, UNODC provided technical assistance on HIV prevention and care for injecting drug users and prisoners in partnership with Governments and civil society groups from 25 countries, especially in Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

Effective policies to prevent HIV in prisons and other correctional institutions are often hampered because

countries do not acknowledge the factors that contribute to its spread. An essential step is to create awareness among policy-makers.

As custodian of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, UNODC assists countries in implementing international standards for HIV/AIDS prevention and care in prisons.

Special attention is given to the needs of at-risk inmates, including juveniles, women, foreigners and prisoners from ethnic and other minorities.

In 2006, UNODC, with UNAIDS and the World Health Organization, developed a global strategy and a toolkit to help countries develop effective policies and establish national HIV/AIDS programmes in prisons.

At the World AIDS Conference in Toronto in August, UNODC organized a meeting on HIV/AIDS in prisons for over 100 key policy-makers.

Scientific support for drug-control activities

UNODC continued to provide scientific expertise and technical support to Governments to ensure that national laboratories and other scientific institutions can reliably provide the forensic expert services required under national legislation and international drug-control treaties. This included working with the EU's Central Asian Drug Action Programme to strengthen forensic laboratory capacities in five Central Asian countries, and improving inter-agency and international sharing of drug-related data.

In South and South-East Asia, UNODC focused for the first time specifically on laboratories and their clients (law-enforcement, regulatory and health authorities) to encourage the use of laboratory results and promote scientific support as an integral part of national drug-control frameworks. Among the outcomes of regional collaboration was an agreement to establish an interactive regional system for information exchange and knowledge-sharing among forensic laboratories and their clients, as well as collaborative research into the analysis of ephedrine, a precursor chemical for methamphetamine (an amphetamine-type stimulant), as well as safrole, isosafrole and safrole-rich oils used to make ecstasy-type substances.

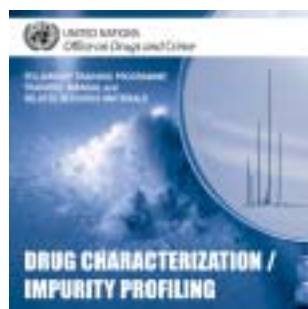
UNODC scientific services in 2006 included the provision of laboratory reference materials, such as hundreds of reference samples, scientific books and articles, man-

Identifying cocaine using a UNODC field testing kit



uals on laboratory analytical methods and drug and precursor identification kits. These kits were distributed to more than 60 countries, including countries in Africa.

The International Collaborative Exercises are a central element in UNODC's laboratory quality assurance support to Governments, which aims to help drug-testing laboratories worldwide to assess their performance and take corrective actions, if necessary. UNODC distributes drug samples to participating laboratories, which then test and identify drugs using standard procedures. Results from all laboratories are analysed and compared. In 2006, more than 50 laboratories worldwide participated in these exercises, enabling them to pinpoint and rectify weaknesses in their test procedures.



UNODC also created a range of new publications to meet increasing demand for up-to-date analytical methods, scientific support, procedural approaches and guidelines for drug and precursor identification and analysis. These included

a manual on the analysis of amphetamine-type stimulants and, in the field of drug characterization and impurity profiling, a *Fellowship Training Programme and Trainers' Guide*. The *Multilingual Dictionary on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*, an authoritative source of multilingual information and terminology on all controlled substances, was updated for use by national and international drug-control authorities.

In order to assist national drug-testing laboratories, UNODC, on behalf of the INCB, prepared guidelines for the import and export of drug and precursor samples used for reference purposes. The guidelines are aimed at laboratories as well as national authorities that issue the import/export authorizations required for the control of drugs and precursors.

A special edition of the *Bulletin on Narcotics* was devoted to "Science in Drug Control: the role of laboratory and scientific expertise" to raise awareness of the considerable value of scientific contributions to drug control.