



South-East Asia and the Pacific

India

The UNODC Regional Office for South Asia in New Delhi, India, covers six countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

South Asia is vulnerable to Afghan opium production given the region's proximity to the source. India is also one of the largest producers of licit pharmaceuticals, which are sometimes diverted due to gaps in the control system. India is now the country with the largest num-

ber of people living with HIV/AIDS. Injecting drug use is fuelling the epidemic throughout the region and more women are contracting HIV.

South Asia is also home to vast numbers of victims of human trafficking exploited for sexual slavery or forced labour. As a result the numbers of under-age girls contracting HIV/AIDS have risen.

UNODC assists countries in their struggle against drugs, crime and terrorism. At the policy level, the UNODC Regional Office has been supporting the Governments of South Asia to establish a framework of laws and regulations. In 2006, with UNODC help, Bhutan acceded to all United Nations drug conventions and Nepal ratified the 1971 United Nations Drug Control Convention, becoming the last country in South Asia to sign up to all drug control conventions.

Dealing a blow to human traffickers

A report by the National Human Rights Commission of India in 2004 found that over 80 per cent of police officers largely ignored human trafficking and 40 per cent did not know what the term meant. To address that lack of awareness, stop the criminalization of victims and help put traffickers behind bars, UNODC worked with central and state governments and anti-trafficking NGOs in 2006 to provide training for law-enforcement officers in five of the worst-hit states in India. Within a few months, over 2,000 police officers and almost 350

"I am Mr. S.S. (name withheld), a Deputy Superintendent of Police working in the field in Andhra Pradesh. I have put in 28 years of service in various capacities, starting my career as a Sub-Inspector of Police. I feel ashamed that all these years I have been violating the rights of (trafficked) women by branding them as prostitutes, despite the fact that they are victims of trafficking. Today (after the UNODC training-empowerment programme), I realize I have done wrong all these years and feel guilty about it. From now on, I will make sure that such violations do not take place. Victims of trafficking will be treated as victims and receive appropriate treatment. They will never again be treated as criminals."

Testimony of a senior police officer in Andhra Pradesh following UNODC training (November 2006)

prosecutors had received training. There was soon evidence that law-enforcement authorities were shifting their focus from arresting the victims (as prostitutes) towards apprehending the perpetrators.

Supporting the victims of human trafficking

UNODC, from its base in India, runs a global project to build NGO support structures for victims of violent crime, including trafficking. In 2006, 10 rescue/shelter homes were set up or supported, more than 900 victims of violent crime and trafficking received direct assistance and over 500 police officers underwent training as a part of this initiative. UNODC also supported the setting up by NGOs and communities of three hotlines for people in distress, especially on India's border with Nepal. UNODC gathered data on the relationship between child marriages and trafficking and on conviction rates for trafficking-related offences. It supported the development of an information kit on safe migration and a training manual and handbook for law-enforcement officers. The project also helped NGOs in India to take up high-profile cases in the high courts to ensure that the victims were treated justly after rescue.

National drug-awareness campaign in India

In 2006, UNODC helped the central government of India and several state governments to heighten awareness of drug abuse with a broad prevention programme, providing young people with accurate information and life-skills training (decision-making and negotiation skills). The approach consisted of a national drug-awareness campaign, a peer-led awareness programme and a schools programme.

The "I Decide" campaign kicked off in 12 states in India, which had not witnessed a nationwide drug-abuse prevention campaign for over a decade. Launched on 26 June, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, by Meira Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, the campaign makes young people aware of high-risk behaviour, gets them to talk about drugs and encourages them to resist.

Starting in north-east India, an ambitious community awareness programme got underway. Some 2,000 peer trainers reached out to 40,000 community volunteers with information on drug-related HIV/AIDS, and they in turn reached out to 800,000 young people.



"I decide" drug-awareness campaign posters

The schools programme aimed to alert pupils aged 11 to 18 years to the perils of drug abuse and help them make informed choices. The UNODC project will reach 250 schools directly.

Preventing the spread of drug abuse and HIV

The UNODC Regional Office's report *Drug Use in the North-Eastern States of India* gave an assessment of problem drug use in eight states grappling with particularly high incidences of HIV/AIDS and made appropriate recommendations.

In 2006, UNODC promoted a comprehensive package of services for drug users, especially injecting drug users and their sex partners. An important aspect of this work was the inclusion of a significant number of women both as service providers and target populations. UNODC analysed data provided by some 14,000 drug users and their sex partners to design strategies based on those findings.

In the latter half of 2006, the programme extended to over 60 operations across South Asia, but particularly in India. The comprehensive programme will thus reach around 10,000 drug users. Drop-in centres to advise people who are HIV-positive were established at 26 sites in India, oral substitution treatment using buprenorphine was expanded and low-cost community detoxification camps were started up.

Drugs and HIV in prisons

There are approximately 450,000 inmates in South Asian prisons, where drug use is rife and HIV/AIDS is spreading.

UNODC supported 11 prison projects throughout South Asia, developing on-site education programmes for prison staff, NGOs and inmates on the prevention of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.

UNODC began developing a “South Asia protocol for prison interventions” to address drugs- and HIV-awareness and prevention, vocational training, access to services and the reintegration of former prisoners into society. At the request of the Governments of India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, UNODC was set to expand its prisons projects in 2007.

Public-private partnership to tackle cyber-crime in India

As police clamped down on cyber-crime (and especially online offences against children) in other parts of Asia, paedophiles were increasingly looking towards India. In October, UNODC initiated a public-private partnership

to tackle this problem by holding an advanced forensic training programme in New Delhi on cyber-crime and computer-facilitated crimes against children. A workshop, jointly organized by the Central Bureau of Investigation, Microsoft and UNODC, targeted law-enforcement personnel from across India with training given by instructors from Microsoft Hong Kong and the US.

Precursor control

South Asia may be the weak link in the chain of international initiatives to contain heroin production in and around Afghanistan. In 2006, UNODC launched a new initiative to strengthen the control of chemical precursors used to convert opium into heroin and manufacture amphetamine-type stimulants. Under the project, specialized law-enforcement units will be trained to work with the chemical industry to monitor trade patterns and track suspect shipments.

Working with incarcerated women, India



Laos



ATS abusers undergoing treatment at the Somsanga treatment centre

Towards an opium-free future

Laos, once the third largest illicit opium producer in the world, reached a landmark in 2006, becoming virtually opium-free. Vigorous government eradication efforts have reduced the area under opium cultivation by 93 per cent since 1998.

The 2006 UNODC survey *Opium Poppy Cultivation in the Golden Triangle* showed that Laos was no longer exporting opium, but it warned that the progress could unravel unless poor farmers were given secure alternatives sources of income.

UNODC worked with the Laos Government to devise a new national strategy—"The Balanced Approach to Sustaining Opium Elimination in the Lao PDR (2006-2009)"—focusing on alternative development, drug-demand reduction, civic awareness and law enforcement.

Drug-demand reduction

UNODC and the Government continued to support treatment and rehabilitation programmes for opium addicts in all 10 northern provinces. During 2005-2006, over 8,250 addicts received treatment and the relapse

rate was relatively low. UNODC also helped the Government to monitor and collect data on addiction. Laos faces a growing problem of trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). Workshops to mobilize communities against drug abuse, especially ATS, were carried out in 16 of the country's 17 provinces. UNODC also helped to develop and distribute thousands of compact discs on ATS prevention, promoted media coverage on drug prevention and carried out national prevention campaigns against drugs.

UNODC's socio-economic impact surveys showed that half of former opium-producing communities needed urgent assistance. UNODC helped develop an Action Plan targeting 1,000 priority villages.

Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh announced measures to address drug control during the national campaign against drugs in October. At a meeting to harmonize drug-control efforts, many development partners, including the EC, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Food Programme (WFP), pledged funds to bring development to these villages.

UNODC carried out a rapid assessment survey in mid-2006, which showed an increase in injecting drug use

and related HIV/AIDS among young people in the country's capital, Vientiane.

In November, UNODC conducted a workshop with the Government of Laos, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS to identify responses to the ATS epidemic, injecting drug use and the heightened risk of HIV/AIDS infection in Laos.

UNODC assisted the Government in developing a comprehensive new drug law and a national drug law-enforcement strategy. It also provided training for legal and law-enforcement agencies.

UNODC held a National Workshop for government officials on the ratification and implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism. By the end of

2006, Laos had ratified seven of the 13 universal legal instruments, with the remainder due to be presented for approval by the National Assembly in 2007. UNODC also supported Government efforts to raise awareness of corruption.

Human trafficking

Laos faces a serious human trafficking problem as both a source and transit country. In October, UNODC launched a project to strengthen the capacity of legal and law-enforcement institutions to combat human trafficking. It will also assist the Government in implementing the Protocol relating to human trafficking of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.



Opening of the new 55-kilometre track which was constructed under the North Phongsaly alternative development project. It used to take up to two days to travel from Boun Nuea district to the remote village of Yao Fang. Now it takes just under two hours by car. Opened in April 2006, the road has brought new social services and trade and development opportunities for the thousands of villagers living in districts that used to be among the largest opium poppy-cultivating areas.

Myanmar

Myanmar, the world's second largest opium producer, continued to see opium cultivation decline in 2006. UNODC ran community support projects, introduced drug-demand reduction initiatives and helped to provide treatment and rehabilitation for the country's opium addicts.

UNODC's 2006 Golden Triangle Opium Survey showed an overall decrease in opium poppy cultivation of 29 per cent in Myanmar, Laos and Thailand compared with 2005. In Myanmar, cultivation fell 34 per cent to 21,500 hectares, representing a dramatic 83 per cent drop from the 130,300 hectares under cultivation in 1998. Wa Special Region 2, which used to account for the bulk of Myanmar's opium poppy cultivation, was declared opium-free. This resulted from an opium ban imposed by the local authorities in June 2005 as part of a five-year Government plan to make Myanmar opium-free by 2014.

Rapid opium eradication has hit some impoverished rural communities hard. UNODC has led initiatives to provide farmers with alternative livelihoods. The Kokang and Wa Initiative is a broad UNODC-led partnership designed to meet the humanitarian needs of thousands of former opium farmers and their families. UNODC provided comprehensive assistance to help them obtain food, basic services and education. In 2006, UNODC completed major irrigation schemes, such as the Nam Du canal in Ho Tao Township, which will irrigate 80 hectares of land, including areas that could previously be used only during the rainy season. The projects will contribute to helping farmers develop their land.

UNODC monitored progress in the Wa and surveyed districts needing assistance. A survey conducted in early 2006 on the impact of project work in Mong Pawk district between 1999 and 2005 showed major achievements, including 785 hectares of newly developed irrigated rice paddy fields and a 21 per cent increase in the number of households cultivating lowland paddy. Up to 42 per cent of households were using an improved lowland rice seed variety compared to virtually none in 1999, while 60 per cent had adopted at least one new crop.

An off-season opium survey was conducted by Myanmar's drug-control agency and UNODC in southern Shan state. Preliminary results showed that farmers

were switching to monsoon season planting, which could work against the Government's eradication efforts (eradication traditionally takes place during the normal cultivation season). Off-season poppy cultivation was reported in three townships. The rapid survey confirmed that there was no evidence of cultivation in the most notorious areas.

UNODC's Drug Demand Reduction programme in the Wa provided treatment and detoxification programmes for drug addicts in five townships in Mong Pawk and Wein Kao districts. Between 2004 and July 2006, it treated more than a thousand addicts and provided counselling sessions for families.



Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme staff surveying opium poppy fields

Ai Sum's story

My name is Ai Sum. I am 26 years old. I got addicted to opium four years ago. It all started when my opium-addicted friends told me about the "heavenly pleasure" they felt when they smoked opium. So I started smoking too. Smoking opium gave me a satisfaction as if all my dreams would come true. I thought it was the most pleasurable thing in the world. Within a week, I became an addict and could not stop using it, even as I began experiencing withdrawal symptoms—agonizing pain, nausea and vomiting. Production from my rice farm plummeted as I became less able to perform my daily tasks. I was in despair and did not know how to balance the need to spend cash to buy opium and the shortage of funds. I was very excited when I heard that UNODC's Drug Demand Reduction programme was going to be established in my township in 2006. I began receiving treatment at the centre, and after detoxification, I learned carpentry under the "Food for Training" programme. Now I am starting a new life, growing maize and soybeans for income and fixing up my house during my spare time.

*Ai Sum
Yong Moot village*

Villagers in the Wa hills participating in the "Food for work" initiative under which they build irrigation systems and receive rice as compensation



Human trafficking

In 2006, UNODC strengthened links with United Nations agencies and NGOs working on human trafficking. A national seminar on the draft Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law took place in Yangon, which recommended developing a National Plan of Action to include the protection of victims and witnesses and assistance in the return of Myanmar's citizens identified as trafficked victims abroad.

Building on the success of the UNODC-supported Border Liaison Offices created to increase cooperation on drug control between regional law-enforcement agencies, the UNODC regional centre in Bangkok, UNODC Myanmar and the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Mekong subregion led an initiative to provide anti-human trafficking training to border officials.

HIV/AIDS and drug-demand reduction

UNODC is the lead agency in the area of HIV/AIDS and drug use in Myanmar. Following UNODC's recommendation, the new National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS recognized injecting drug use as a primary means of transmission of the virus, requiring specific and immediate responses.

UNODC led initiatives on injecting drug use in prisons, among uniformed services and other "at risk" populations. Cooperation with the Department of Health and the National AIDS Programme was strengthened. UNODC and the Myanmar drug-control agency undertook a study to determine the role of the law-enforcement sector in the national response to HIV/AIDS.

In August, the community-based Drug Demand Reduction Project in Lashio collected data on drug orphans and found 290 orphaned children in the province, 33 of whom had lost both parents. Community associations and the Project Implementation Teams took care of them by providing food and school books and teaching them how to read and write.

Gyaw Saing Maing lives with her grandmother and two older siblings. Her mother is serving a 15-year prison sentence for selling drugs, and her father died when she was a baby. While her grandmother owns a small shop, the income is not enough to support the education of the three children. However, thanks to the community's assistance, Gyaw Saing Maing, who is now 4 years old, has recently joined her brother and sister at school.

Two new centres opened in Theinni and Tachilek to provide comprehensive drug services, including treatment and detoxification, counselling and support, health care, education and training. An increase in the number of young people attending the centres led to an expansion in activities and an increase in the number of staff trained at field sites. In northern Shan State, outreach activities and youth centres expanded to include over half the target population.

The HIV/AIDS Prevention project for the police force in Myanmar provided training at one police academy, three police training schools and two anti-narcotics task forces. Training was also given to the Army Medical Corps.

Thailand

The UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, based in Thailand, covers 34 countries and territories. Transnational organized crime, as well as drugs and human trafficking, are major problems throughout the region. Much of UNODC's work in 2006 centred on responding to growing abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and the trade in the chemical precursors used to make drugs.

UNODC Thailand's Computer-Based Training Academy won a *UN21 Award* for the best United Nations projects of 2006, after the Regional Centre pioneered an interactive law-enforcement training programme.

Precursor control and laboratory drug profiling

By promoting the use of standardized laboratory data as a primary reference source, UNODC helped countries to strengthen precursor controls and upgrade their capacity to profile drugs.

UNODC developed a DVD training programme and handbook in 10 languages on restricting precursors and on clandestine drug laboratories.

Safrole, a liquid extracted from plants, is a precursor for the clandestine manufacture of synthetic drugs. UNODC made possible the first survey on safrole-rich oils for Project Prism, an international operation on ATS precursors initiated by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The survey found that safrole from the region was being traded internationally in large quantities. The results of the survey will help countries to develop mechanisms to prevent the diversion of the oil for the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Tackling the ATS threat

Based on three years of data, UNODC published *Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) and other Drugs of Abuse in East Asia and the Pacific 2005*.

UNODC developed training for policy-makers on preventing ATS abuse among young people in order to assist with the drafting of appropriate legislation. Training was given to journalists to improve reporting on drug abuse.

UNODC focused on developing strategies to prevent young people from using ATS, including producing publications and deploying national project teams to carry out awareness-raising and education activities. A Laotian music video on drug-abuse prevention, produced with assistance from UNODC, included songs that won a local songwriting contest. CDs of the songs were to be distributed to schools and videoke clubs in 2007 and aired for one year on 17 stations of the Lao National Radio network.

Community-based alternative development

Governments in Afghanistan, Laos and Myanmar stepped up their efforts to provide former poppy farmers with alternative livelihoods. The Regional Office

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June). Promoting public awareness on the dangers of drug abuse



helped to establish bilateral agreements between Thailand and other countries on sharing their experiences in alternative development.

UNODC organized a seminar on illicit crop monitoring in the Greater Mekong subregion to share expertise on surveying techniques, satellite imagery, land use practices, and soil and climatic data. It also conducted a study on the coping strategies of former opium poppy farmers in Laos and Myanmar and recommended ways to prevent the farmers from relapsing.

Addressing the challenges of HIV/AIDS

Injecting drug use is the main cause of HIV transmission in the region but access to treatment is severely limited. The Regional Centre intensified its focus on HIV/AIDS and injecting drug use, including in prisons. Projects included the training of personnel and assessments of areas with high rates of HIV infection among injecting drug users.

Strengthening the international legal regime against terrorism

UNODC worked to promote the ratification and implementation of the universal instruments relating to terrorism.

Direct technical assistance was given to Fiji, Laos, the Philippines and Thailand.

Support for victims of human trafficking

Through its anti-human trafficking project in the Philippines, UNODC helped to provide medical and psychological care for nearly 100 victims and support for victims/witnesses who were assisting with the prosecution of offenders. UNODC also arranged vocational training to help them become reintegrated into the community. UNODC participated in an International Organization for Migration (IOM) project to train Cambodian provincial court officials in dealing with human trafficking.

Computer-based training

Computer-based training developed by UNODC to counter drug trafficking and related cross-border crime was provided through 94 training centres.

In 2006, six new centres were established in five countries—Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Work started on the production of a computer-based human trafficking law-enforcement training programme.

Viet Nam

In 2006, UNODC Viet Nam focused on drug law enforcement, fighting human trafficking, money-laundering and corruption, drug abuse and HIV-prevention, and drug treatment and rehabilitation.

UNODC forged close links with local and international partners and NGOs, and the Governments of Laos, Cambodia and China.

Fighting illicit drug trafficking

Illicit trafficking of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) plagues Viet Nam's border provinces. A UNODC project to help strengthen the drug law-enforcement agencies entered its final year. The Drug Interdiction Task Force Units established under the project

recorded many successes, including the fourth largest seizure of heroin (over 40 kg) made on land in Viet Nam. That consignment was intercepted in Lang Son province on its way from Laos to China.

UNODC provided training for more than 500 officers from the police, border guards, customs and drug-testing laboratories in cooperation with the US Drug Enforcement Administration and Australian Federal Police. It covered basic investigation skills, including intelligence collection and sharing, surveillance and methods of concealment, and deepened their understanding of the three United Nations drug control conventions. At its final evaluation by an independent external evaluator in October, the project was recommended as a model for other countries to follow.

UNODC and its partners prepared a follow-up project to help Vietnamese law-enforcement agencies to improve drug intelligence collection and sharing.

Combating human trafficking

UNODC trained officers from the justice system, border guards and police in investigating and prosecuting traffickers of human beings.

Meetings took place between Viet Nam and China, and Viet Nam and Cambodia, to increase cross-border law-enforcement cooperation. These resulted in agreements to conduct joint cross-border anti-human trafficking campaigns and develop bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance.

An expert group of law-enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges from different parts of the world was established to produce materials for advanced training. Viet Nam will be the first country to launch the new UNODC anti-human trafficking manual and curricula in advanced training scheduled in 2007.

To pave the way for Viet Nam's ratification of the United Nations Protocol on Smuggling of Migrants and help bring Vietnamese law into compliance with its provisions, UNODC assisted the Ministry of Justice in

undertaking an assessment of national legislation on migrant smuggling. This study supplemented reports of studies conducted in 2004 and 2005 on the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol on Trafficking in Persons. These three legal assessments will serve as the basis for Viet Nam's future legislation in these areas.

Drug treatment and rehabilitation

UNODC and the Committee for Ethnic Minorities concluded a two-year project to develop prevention and treatment programmes for ethnic minority drug users in the highland provinces of Lao Cai, Dien Bien and Son La. The project focused on building up community-based and culturally appropriate demand reduction solutions, including support for local treatment facilities, vocational and educational training, micro-credit loans and micro-grants. The programme, whose beneficiaries showed an extremely low relapse rate of 17 per cent, provided treatment to over 500 drug users and made available over 100 loans and grants.

In August, UNODC organized an International Forum on Development, Drugs and HIV in the Highlands of Viet Nam to address drug-demand reduction among the ethnic minorities in the mountainous north of the country. A survey took place to monitor drug use and high-risk

Training session for residents in a drug-treatment centre



behaviour among over 600 respondents from 13 communes.

Action against HIV/AIDS

UNODC started working with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to improve and develop HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services for drug abusers and to collect data for the design of a monitoring system. To develop training materials for effective drug treatment, UNODC assessed training needs in China (Shanghai) and Laos and in the provinces of Lao Cai, Hai Duong, Hai Phong, Phu Tho, Da Nang, An Giang and Tay Ninh in Viet Nam. "Training of Trainers" workshops were launched at the project sites.

Injecting drug users accounted for 53 per cent of newly detected cases of HIV infection in Viet Nam. Training on HIV/AIDS prevention started in August and is due to be extended to 22 drug-treatment centres countrywide. By mid-2007, over 1,000 people were due to receive training based on the "Inside Out" education package developed by the WHO with UNODC.

Drug prevention targeted at young people

UNODC helped to train newspaper and broadcast journalists on drugs issues, produced TV spots and distributed promotional materials to hundreds of children on 26 June, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

UNODC organized training to help 250 people learn counselling skills and ways to engage with young people. It also produced 1,500 booklets for families entitled *How to Help Our Children Stay Away from Drug Abuse*.



Parents' guidebook on drug prevention

and apprenticeships for mechanics. More than 200 former drug users and young people at high risk were expected to complete job training in early 2007.

Money-laundering

Vietnamese police officers, prosecutors and judges benefited from financial investigation training courses organized by UNODC in cooperation with the World Bank. The training addressed money-laundering and legislation related to financial crimes. It also dealt with domestic and international cooperation, searching skills, asset tracing and freezing, seizure and confiscation.

Officials from the State Bank of Viet Nam and other Government financial institutions also received basic training to tackle money-laundering. The State Bank of Vietnam continued work on the establishment of an Anti-Money Laundering Information Centre.

A total of 25 former trainees developed local drug-prevention activities. Community-based activities were expanded to five more urban sites, making a total of 10 project sites in 2006. New drug-prevention clubs were established to promote cultural activities and vocational training, such as music lessons, computer literacy