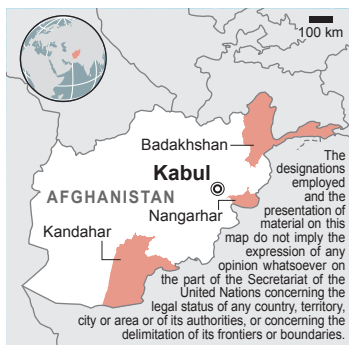


Capacity building for drug demand reduction in Badakhshan, Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Afghanistan

Duration: October 2004 to December 2008

Implementing UN Agencies: UNODC

Budget: \$1,027,870

Key Words: Alternative livelihoods; health; drug demand reduction

BACKGROUND

By 2004, Afghanistan had been in a state of factional conflict since 1979 resulting in a level of insecurity, impoverishment and lack of development almost unmatched elsewhere. Chronic hunger and unemployment were widespread, child malnutrition and mortality were at alarming levels, and civil society and human rights were in steady and significant erosion. At the same time, the cultivation of opium which had seen a brief decrease under the imposed Taliban prohibition was on the rise once again.

Although much of this opium was converted into morphine base and heroin for international consumption, the use of opium by Afghans was increasing as more and more people turned to easily available psychotropic substances to ease their stress. The use of drugs as short-term palliatives, however, carried long-term social, economic, legal and health dangers that were not clearly understood by many Afghans.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to combat drug use in Afghanistan by mainstreaming drug-demand reduction activities at the provincial, district and village levels in Badakhshan, Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces. Through the development of abuse-prevention

services and the provision of training and income generation activities for recovering addicts, the project aimed to deliver concrete and sustainable benefits to drug addicts and their families.

BENEFICIARIES

The project provided counseling to 295 drug dependents, treatment services to 333 drug dependents and follow-up services to a further 214 drug dependents. Moreover, 1,000 social workers were trained who educated approximately 20,000 individuals on the dangers of drug use. Vocational

training was provided to 100 former drug users, including 40 women, while over 6,000 Afghan men, women and children were supported with culturally appropriate resources providing information, education and advice on drugs, drug-related healthcare and socio-economic issues.