



**United Nations**  
Office on Drugs and Crime

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Advancing justice,  
health and security  
in a time of global need



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This publication has not been formally edited.



**United Nations**  
Office on Drugs and Crime

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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2023, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) confronted increasingly complex challenges, including the alarming growth of synthetic drug markets, the evolution of cybercrime, and the rising threat of crimes that affect the environment, among other persistent and emerging threats. These challenges necessitated dynamic responses, and our Office leveraged our expansive field network covering 150 countries and territories, as well as our unique mandates and expertise, to support countries in developing and implementing such responses. Our record programme delivery of USD 431.8 million, the overwhelming majority of it delivered in the field, highlighted our commitment to stepping up when it matters, and where it matters.

Moving forward, UNODC is dedicated to maximizing the efficiency of our operations, and the effectiveness of our interventions. We have established specialized branches for addressing critical areas and strategically consolidated our global programmes, reflecting our commitment to operational excellence and coherent delivery. The year 2023 has tested our adaptability and resilience, pushing us to continue to innovate. As we continue our mission, we remain focused on making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism for all.

**Ghada Waly**  
*Executive Director, UNODC*





@UNODC

Children participate in activities of UNODC's Strong Families programme.

# ABOUT UNODC

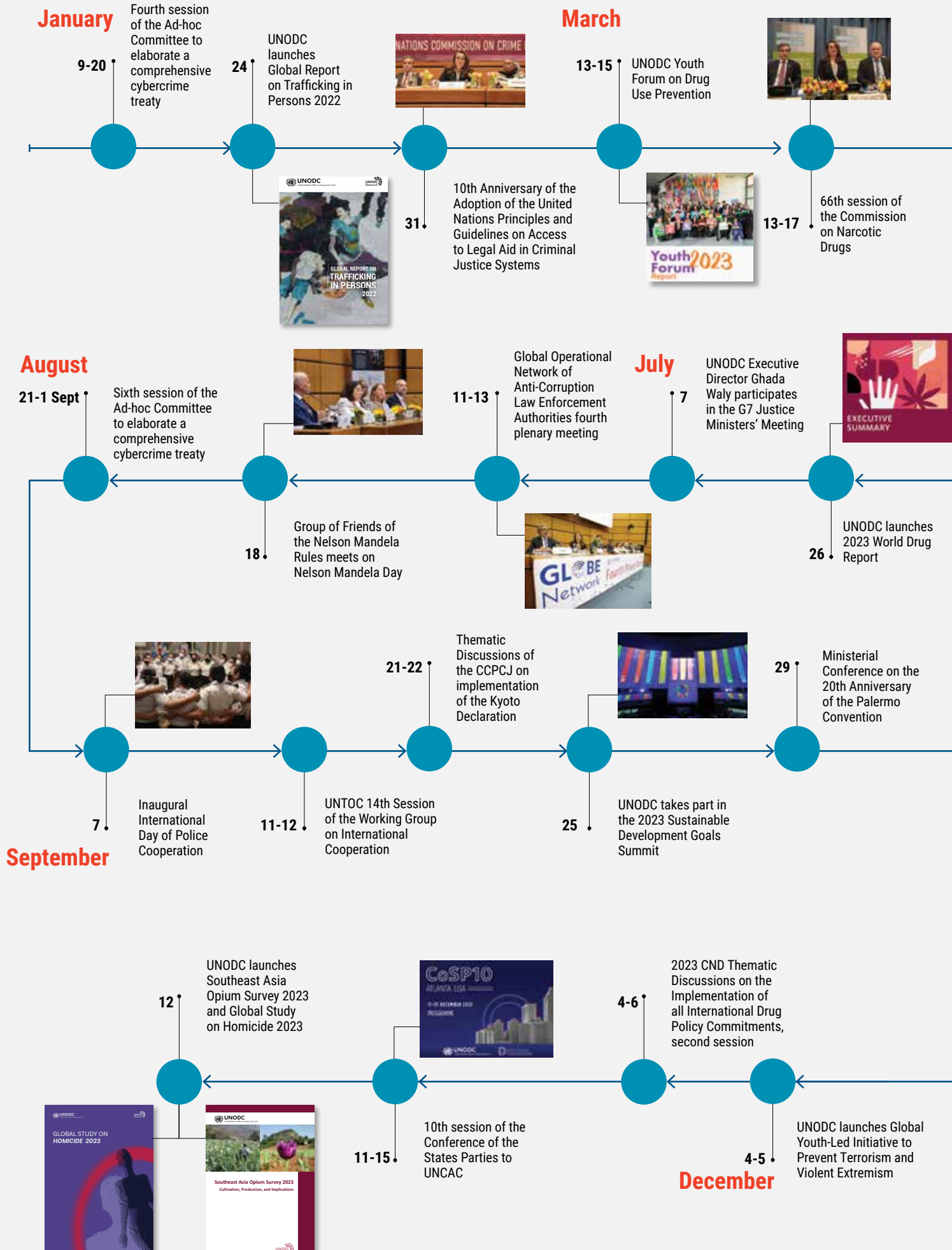
The mission of UNODC is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, through working for and with Member States to promote justice and the rule of law and build resilient societies.

Guided by its [Strategy for 2021-2025](#) and working through its network of field offices and headquarters in Vienna, UNODC provides research along with normative and technical support to Member States. UNODC's approaches are comprehensive and innovative, paying particular attention to gender equality, non-discrimination, respect for human rights and the empowerment of women and youth.

The mandate of UNODC encompasses thematic areas related to preventing and countering

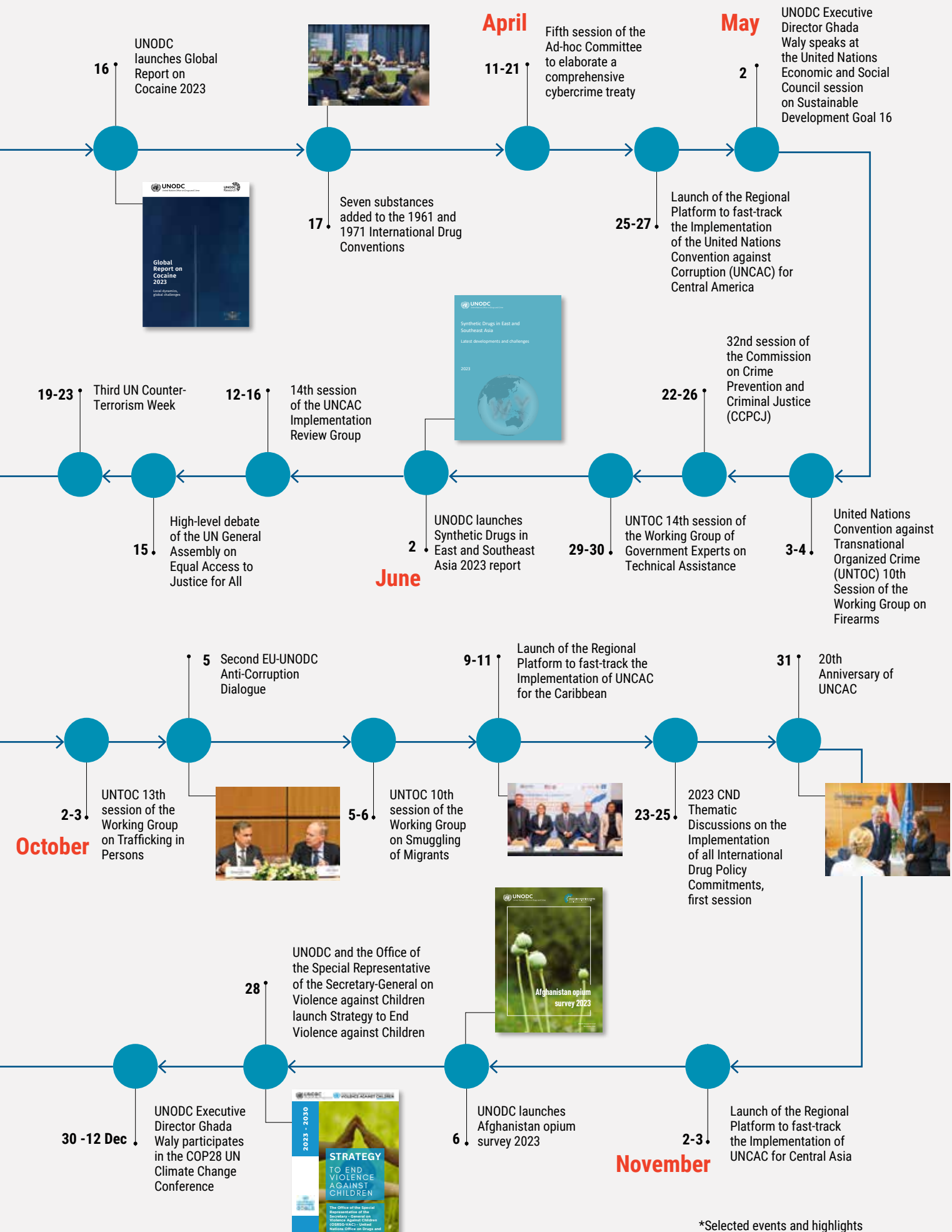
transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, and the world drug problem as well as enhancing and strengthening criminal justice systems. Clustering the work around these five areas allows the Office to provide comprehensive solutions to the interrelated challenges Member States face and strengthen national, regional and multilateral institutions. Strong institutions that have integrity and accountability will provide effective responses and access to justice. They are also key to promoting a balanced response to drugs. UNODC helps ensure that efforts to address crime, corruption, terrorism and drugs are coordinated across national boundaries, facilitating and fostering a shared responsibility in countering these threats to peace, health, security and justice for all.

# UNODC IN 2023:





# A year of impactful events



# GLOBAL PRESENCE

## 2

Liaison  
Offices

### 150

countries and  
territories supported

### 101

countries with  
physical presence



### 3,089

total workforce

### 76%

of personnel  
based in the field

### 49%

female  
professional staff

### 61%

of all selections for regular positions  
from **less-represented** regional groups



UNODC has established an extensive on-the-ground presence, reinforcing its global reach and operational capacity to address complex challenges. With a robust network spanning 101 countries and 130 office locations<sup>1</sup>, the organization demonstrates its commitment to delivering impactful initiatives worldwide. The strategic expansion is exemplified by the establishment of a Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe in Istanbul, Türkiye, alongside expanded presence in Ukraine and Haiti in 2023, further underscoring UNODC's adaptability and dedication to addressing

region-specific issues effectively. Aligned with its expansive operational footprint, UNODC maintains a diverse programme portfolio to address critical global concerns, each tailored to meet the unique needs of the locality they serve. Among the new programmes launched or newly consolidated in 2023 are the Regional Framework for Arab States (2023-2028), the Regional Programme for South Asia (2024-2028), the Global Scientific and Forensic Services Programme and the Global Programme on UNODC Action against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling.

<sup>1</sup> Figures as of 31 December 2023





1

Headquarters

110

Programme  
Offices

7

Country  
Offices

10

Regional  
Offices

44

Global  
Programmes

10

Regional Programmes  
and Frameworks

5

Country Programmes  
and Frameworks

Over  
100

Projects

## Increased UNODC presence in Haiti, working with the UN Security Council

In June 2022 UNODC established a Programme Office in the Republic of Haiti, under the terms of a strategic border management agreement with the Haitian government. Since then, UNODC has become a key partner for the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti and for government counterparts. Due to its strategic positioning in the country and its key mandate, UNODC has also received direct mandates from the UN Security Council (UNSC):<sup>2</sup>

The portfolio of UNODC in Haiti includes maritime law enforcement, border control, human trafficking, anti-

corruption, and money laundering. Furthermore, based on its direct mandate UNODC provides a trimestral report to the UNSC on sources and routes of weapons trafficking and illicit financial flows.

Finally, thanks to access granted by the Haitian government agencies related to border control, and cooperation between private port logistics actors and Haitian Customs, UNODC has been playing a pivotal role in the release of medical and food assistance containers and other UN-related containers from the port in Port-au-Prince during the current crisis.

2. Mandates from the UNSC have been given to UNODC through five resolutions, namely: **2645** – 15 July 2022; **2653** – 21 October 2022; **2692** – 4 July 2023; **2699** – 2 October 2023; and **2700** – 19 October 2023.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

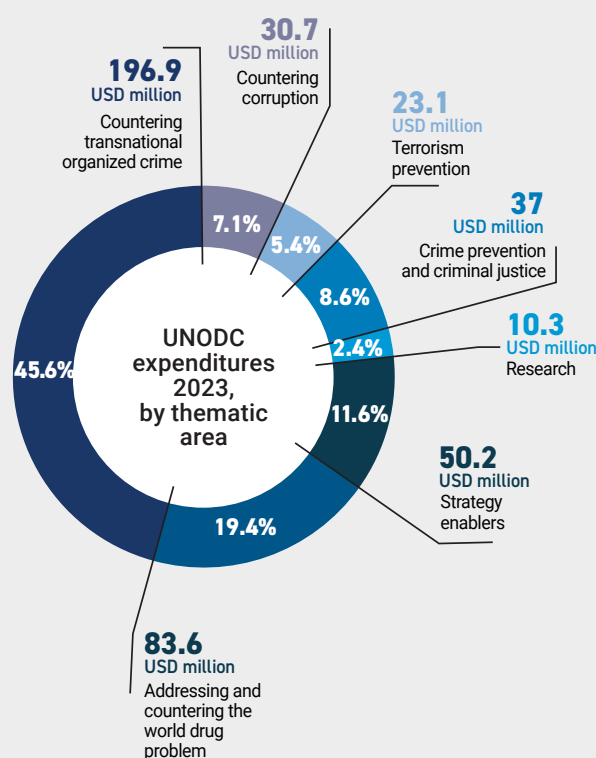


In 2023, UNODC's total revenue reached USD 455.2 million with voluntary contributions comprising 85.5 per cent (USD 389.5 million). Voluntary contributions continued to form the backbone of support at global, regional and national level. Within this funding category, the general-purpose or unearmarked contributions reached USD 3.6 million, a mere 0.8 per cent of UNODC's total income. Assessed contributions to the UN, under the regular budget, continued to form a minor part (5.2 per cent) of total revenue, at USD 23.5 million.

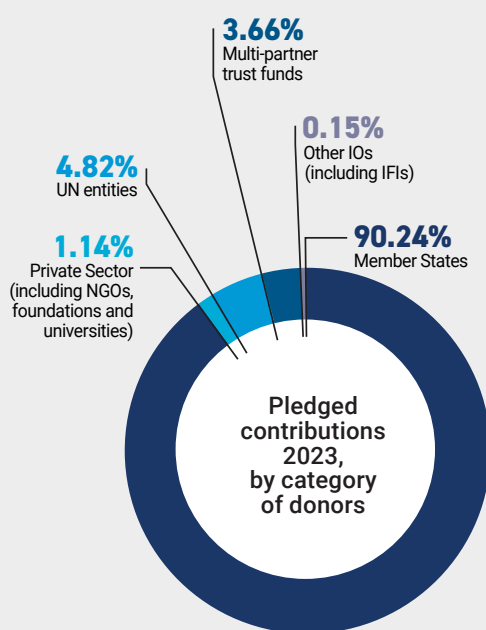
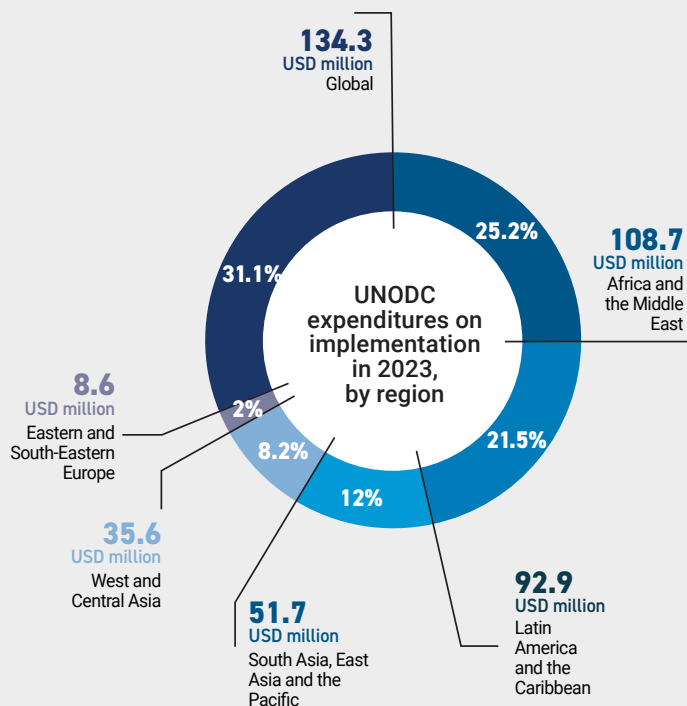
## 2023 Revenues and Expenditures (USD million)

	Funding Source				Total
	General Purpose	Special Purpose	Programme Support	Regular Budget	
Revenues Received	3.6	385.9	42.2	23.5	455.2
Expenditures	4.3	372.4	31.6	23.5	431.8

In 2023, UNODC achieved record programme delivery, especially in key areas such as border management, alternative development, anti-corruption, combating wildlife and forest crime, terrorism prevention, and money laundering, achieving an overall implementation rate of 102.7 per cent. The largest expenditure by thematic area was related to transnational organized crime, supporting Member States to effectively implement the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols.



The overall expenditure on implementation in 2023 reached USD 431.8 million. This represented an increase of USD 51.7 million or 13.6 per cent compared to 2022. Of the USD 431.8 million total, USD 297.5 million was used on implementation of work within UNODC's network of field offices. UNODC recorded an expenditure on its global programmes of USD 134.3 million or 31.1 per cent of the overall total. By region, expenditure was largest in the region covering Africa and the Middle East (USD 108.7 million or 25.2 per cent), followed closely by the Latin America and Caribbean region (USD 92.9 million or 21.5 per cent).



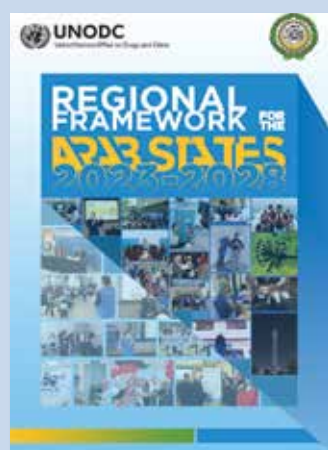
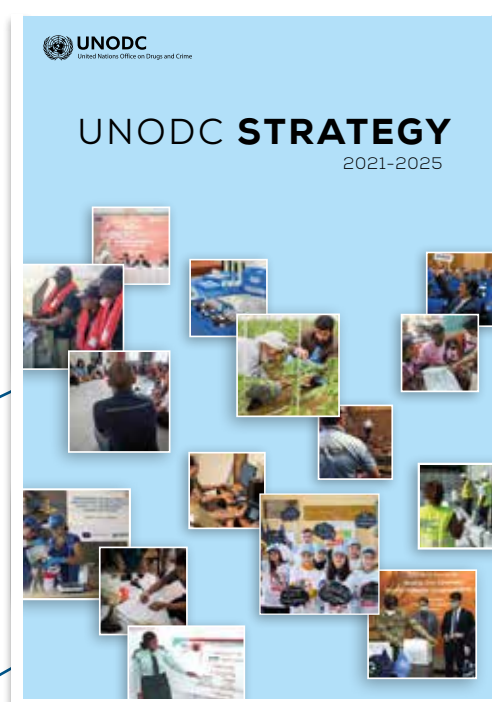
In 2023, Member States were the predominant benefactors to UNODC's activities. Their support was supplemented by key contributions from non-governmental sources and international organizations, including financial institutions. Efforts to expand and diversify UNODC's partner base, as part of its 2021-2025 corporate fundraising plan, include strategic dialogues, consultations, and exploring digital fundraising strategies to boost contributions and interest in its missions.

In 2023, General Purpose (GP) funds represented a vital but limited portion of UNODC's budget. They comprised just USD 3.6 million, equivalent to below 1 per cent of the organization's overall received contributions. Despite their modest share, these funds played a crucial role in sustaining core programmatic functions, such as normative work and research. Notably, GP funds were instrumental in driving strategic initiatives worldwide, particularly in regions such as Haiti and Ukraine. The continuing imbalance between earmarked (special-purpose) and unearmarked (general-purpose) resources poses significant challenges for UNODC, affecting its ability to respond to rapidly changing global priorities, to deliver on global mandates and to strengthen enablers of development.

# STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS



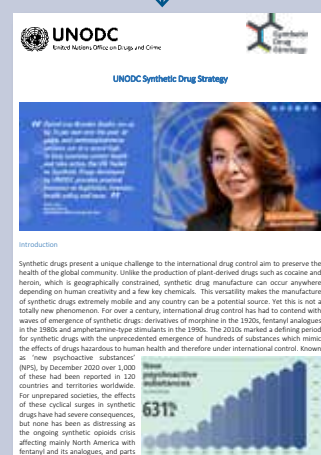
The [UNODC Strategy 2021-2025](#) is the organization's strategic roadmap for the medium-term. It outlines key commitments in all its areas of work, centred on five thematic areas. It further identifies critical change and efficiency enablers (such as improved and strengthened communication, evaluation, innovation and partnerships) to support and enhance the implementation of its priorities. The Strategy pledges to ensure that the cross-cutting commitments of gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, child protection and youth empowerment are fully mainstreamed throughout UNODC's work. UNODC further works through a number of region, country and thematic strategies fully aligned with the overarching corporate strategy.



**Regional Framework  
for the Arab States  
2023-2028**



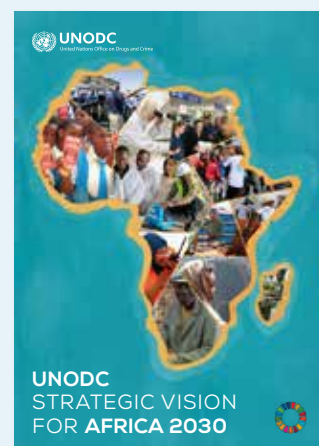
**UNODC Strategic  
Vision for Nigeria  
2030**



**UNODC Synthetic  
Drug Strategy  
2021-2025**

### UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030

In 2023, UNODC advanced its efforts to meet the objectives set out in its Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, initiated in early 2021 to align and coordinate UNODC's evidence-driven programming and technical assistance throughout the continent. The Vision aims to bridge the gap between current initiatives and the aspirations set by African States, in accordance with the African Union's Agenda 2063. In line with the Vision, UNODC actively contributed to the development and coordination of the [Integrated Border Stability Mechanism](#) in West Africa in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Launched in September 2023, the mechanism is designed to bolster cooperative border governance and enhance security along borders that are crucial for regional stability. This initiative strengthens regional efforts to combat transnational organized crime.



### UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022-2025

In line with the UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022-2025, UNODC advanced its efforts to engage and promote impact at the local level and to reach the more distant and vulnerable communities, including Indigenous populations. In Brazil, UNODC collaborated on a joint assessment with the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples and the Yanomami, Kayapó, and Munduruku Indigenous Peoples. This assessment explored how UNODC could assist Brazilian authorities and the Indigenous communities in tackling crimes stemming from illegal mining in Indigenous territories. Additionally, UNODC supported the 19th Munduruku Assembly in Itaituba, discussing with Munduruku representatives about economic and sustainable alternatives to illegal mining in the Tapajós river basin. Addressing the concerns of the Brazilian government and the impacted Indigenous Peoples, UNODC broadened its scope of impacts to include alternative development solutions and early warning systems. This initiative aims to mitigate the effects of crimes associated with illegal mining in the Brazilian Amazon's Indigenous territories.



### Strategic Stability Grid for Afghanistan

UNODC developed the Strategic Stability Grid (SSG) – a framework for tackling intersecting challenges in Afghanistan and the region – in response to the fast-evolving situation after the Taliban takeover of power in 2021. The grid comprises several activities. Inside Afghanistan, UNODC focuses on alternative livelihoods, drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes as well as monitoring drug cultivation and drug use. In neighbouring countries UNODC's work is centred around illicit trafficking trends, cooperation in law enforcement, strengthening border management and cross-border cooperation, supporting the rule of law and addressing terrorism risks.

Achievements on the ground in Afghanistan in 2023 included: providing 80,115 people with opium-alternative sustainable livelihoods opportunities in Helmand, Kandahar, Laghman and Nangarhar provinces; providing essential health care and HIV, Hepatitis B and C testing, along with drug use prevention activities and psychosocial support, to 39,299 people in Kandahar, Laghman and Zabul provinces; and completing a high-risk national drug use survey for which 6,800 drug users were interviewed.





# STRATEGY ENABLERS



Strategy enablers, such as improved and strengthened communication, monitoring and evaluation, and partnerships, significantly enhance UNODC's capacity to address global challenges. Partnerships expand UNODC's reach and impact through collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, with UNODC able to leverage expertise and resources for comprehensive solutions. Effective communication strategies increase global support for UNODC's initiatives, demonstrated in

2023 by substantial growth in online and social media engagement. Independent evaluation ensures UNODC's projects and programmes are effective, transparent and accountable, driving continuous improvement and informed decision-making. Together, these elements help advance UNODC's mission to combat drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, contributing to global peace, security, and sustainable development.

## PARTNERSHIPS

**1,335**  
civil  
society  
partners  
trained

**319**  
engagement activities  
with civil society  
through online multi-  
stakeholder platforms  
(WhatsOn and NGO  
MarketPlace)

**229**  
implementing  
partners

**Over 500**  
South-South  
cooperation  
activities

**Over 200**  
Joint UN projects  
and initiatives

**28**  
new partners from  
Member States,  
trust funds, UN  
and private sector

Participation in  
**19 UN Sustainable  
Development  
Cooperation  
Frameworks**

Coordinated 34  
UN entities to  
develop a  
**UN Action Plan on  
Trafficking in All  
its Forms**

## COMMUNICATIONS

**12.6**  
million views  
of UNODC  
corporate website

**845,888**  
social media  
followers in 2023

**20% longer**  
session time on  
UNODC website in  
2023 than in 2020

↓  
**56%**  
increase from  
2020

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**15**  
UNODC projects and  
programmes with  
funding of USD 88  
million evaluated

**17**  
evaluation  
guidance  
documents and  
tools produced

**2**  
government-led  
evaluations carried out  
with UNODC technical  
assistance

↓  
including **3**  
**guidance notes**  
on inclusive,  
gender-  
responsive  
and human  
rights-sensitive  
evaluations

**9**  
workshops conducted on  
results-based monitoring  
for UNODC staff



# CROSS-CUTTING COMMITMENTS



**48**

Focal Points on human rights mainstreaming in Vienna and the field

**17**

Focal Points on the [UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy](#)

**Toolkit on Mainstreaming Gender and Human Rights** in the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime launched

**UNODC Human Rights Pledge** launched on the anniversary of the 75th year of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights

**Training on human rights** due diligence piloted in coordination with the UNODC Regional Office in Central Asia

## HUMAN RIGHTS



In 2023, [UNODC pledged](#) to help strengthen the focus on human rights in the context of its work, reaching 70 countries in the next five years through technical assistance and developing tools. The [UNODC Pledge for the Human Rights 75 Initiative](#) will support UNODC's systematic work to promote human rights-based approaches across its mandate to support Member States to prevent and address crime, corruption, drugs and terrorism, and in coordination with the entire United Nations system.

## GENDER



In 2023, UNODC enhanced its gender mainstreaming efforts in line with its [Gender Strategy \(2022-2026\)](#), focusing on building capacity and awareness among staff and Member States using established tools. In a gender-responsive leadership programme, 12 UNODC senior managers participated in workshops and mentoring to embed gender perspectives into their roles. Additionally, 27 male personnel engaged in workshops to become allies for gender equality in the workplace, with strategies to implement in 2024. These initiatives marked a key step towards integrating gender considerations into UNODC's operational and organizational culture.



**629**

personnel trained on gender mainstreaming / empowerment of women

**7**

awareness-raising events and campaigns organized

**1**

Spanish-language online training developed on gender mainstreaming

Gender analysis applied to **48** projects/programmes and **8** global programmes

## YOUTH



Meaningfully engaging young people, with youth-focused initiatives across its mandate and youth mainstreaming actions, continues to be a priority commitment for UNODC, as outlined in UNODC's [Youth Empowerment Accelerator Framework](#). In 2023, UNODC along with the UN Office in Vienna hosted an all-day intergenerational dialogue, uniting 41 young colleagues and 17 senior managers. This event, the first of its kind, helped amplify young voices in the organizations, foster a progressive organizational culture, and develop creative solutions for implementing UNODC's corporate strategy. Three ideas have since been selected for implementation, with support from Young UN Vienna.



A theatre play led by UNODC YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board members to teach about the importance of ethics and integrity, at a Young Changemakers Event held alongside the tenth UN Anti-Corruption Conference, CoSP10, in Atlanta, United States.



Women from a working group of Egyptian youth at a Regional Policy Making Event in Cairo.

**7**

Youth Fora held

**10**

youth-focused tools and publications developed

**5**

capacity-building sessions held for UNODC personnel on meaningful youth engagement

**65**

UNODC Youth Focal Points engaged

**New Regional Advisor**  
for Africa on Youth Mainstreaming and Youth Programming

## DISABILITY



**Disability inclusion scoring tool** rolled out for all UNODC projects

**4**

training courses on disability inclusion conducted for UNODC staff

The second UNOV/UNODC [Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#) was launched in 2023 and will run through 2024. UNODC, in line with its mandate, promotes equality of treatment and opportunities for persons with disabilities in the justice system by facilitating their access to justice, providing legal aid and other services, and carrying out research and awareness-raising campaigns. Persons with disabilities are consulted when UNODC country and regional programmes are developed and implemented, in line with the principle 'Nothing about us without us'. Also in 2023, UNODC organized an event to showcase workplace adaptability and marked the International Day for Persons with Disabilities with the UN Network of Persons with Disabilities in Vienna for the first time.



# Addressing and Countering the World Drug Problem



Colombian president Gustavo Petro greets UNODC officials at the launch event for Colombia's drug policy 2023-2030 'Sowing life, banishing drug trafficking'.

With the world drug problem affecting millions of people, countering illicit drug markets requires global solidarity, cooperation, and consensus-building. UNODC addresses the global drug problem through a multifaceted strategy, integrating evidence-based services, capacity building and technical assistance to give Member States the tools to address the health, social, and economic impacts of drugs. UNODC works on enhancing forensic best practices, supporting evidence-based drug use prevention strategies as well as the treatment, care, and rehabilitation of people with drug use disorders,

and ensuring access to controlled substances while preventing their non-medical use. UNODC also supports sustainable development in rural areas impacted by organized crime, to foster licit income alternatives, and implements comprehensive health programmes for individuals with drug use disorders and/or in prisons, with a commitment to human rights and gender equality. The annual World Drug Report offers comprehensive analysis of evolving drug markets and their intersections with other crimes.

<b>&gt; 270</b> <b>tonnes of chemicals</b> safely disposed of by Member States after UNODC technical assistance	<b>&gt; 350</b> <b>tonnes of cocaine</b> safely disposed of by Member States after UNODC technical assistance	<b>300</b> drug testing and toxicology laboratories provided with UNODC Laboratory quality assurance support
<b>&gt; 200,000</b> <b>people benefited</b> from uninterrupted provision of HIV services in humanitarian settings	<b>176,000</b> <b>user visits</b> to the UNODC Early Warning Advisory on new psychoactive substances (online)	<b>124,000</b> professionals from <b>203</b> countries and territories actively using the <b>404</b> resources and tools in the <a href="#">UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs</a> (online)





Youth representatives gather in Vienna, Austria for a group photo at the UNODC Youth Forum on Drug Prevention during the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2023.

## Key achievements in 2023

UNODC trained 830 practitioners and 13 non-governmental organizations on drug use prevention and supported drug treatment and care services and practitioners in 43 countries in 2023, improving care for 67,000 people with drug use disorders. Furthermore, extensive training and advocacy efforts bolstered the capacity of healthcare providers to develop gender-responsive and human rights-based services for vulnerable populations, including those affected by HIV/AIDS.

UNODC marked the Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development in October 2023 by launching a practical guide on designing the integral environmental protection components of alternative development projects.

During 2023, UNODC enhanced the [Drugs Monitoring Platform](#) as an early warning tool to detect trafficking routes and modus operandi, trained officers on drug identification, handling and crime scene investigation, and enhanced monitoring of illicit drug cultivation, with regional workshops attended by representatives from over 120 countries. This work underscores UNODC's strategic commitment to addressing and countering the world drug problem.

UNODC's largest annual strategic research product on drugs, the [World Drug Report 2023](#), provided an in-depth analysis of evolving drug markets, and insights on synthetic drugs and psychedelics, regulatory approaches for herbal medical cannabis, drug use in humanitarian settings, the effectiveness of service innovations introduced during COVID-19, and the intersection between drugs and crime in the Amazon region.

## UNODC Early Warning Advisory on new psychoactive substances

In 2023, UNODC and partners developed three interactive data dashboards for the [UNODC Early Warning Advisory](#) (EWA) on **new psychoactive substances** (NPS). This data advisory aims to monitor, analyse and report emerging trends on NPS as a basis for effective, evidence-based policy responses. The dashboards allow users to quickly explore and visualize NPS data on seizures and toxicology cases. Each visualization is interactive and provides the user different insights about the global situation on NPS. Among these, users can analyse the substances reported by year, country, region and regional spread; if NPS have been reported for the first time or placed under international control; information on toxicology cases involving NPS, including by type (e.g., post-mortem, drug driving, clinical admission) and relative contribution of the NPS to the case outcome (e.g., causal, contributory, etc.), among others. This improved the user-friendliness of the EWA, by allowing the users to analyse data contained in the system according to their needs. It also led to an increase in user sessions by 64 per cent and user registrations by 123 per cent compared with 2022.

## Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) programmes across Africa

In 2023, UNODC significantly bolstered the implementation of **Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) programmes**, which treat opioid dependence, reduce drug-related harms and support long-term recovery, across Northern and Eastern regions of Africa. In Algeria and Egypt, UNODC's initiatives led to the establishment of nine OAT centers, providing methadone maintenance treatment to over 800 clients. This rollout was underpinned by a significant expansion in the development of national OAT strategies, including methadone treatment guidelines. Success in these countries sparked interest from Jordan, Libya, and Tunisia in launching or expanding their OAT programmes. In Kenya, UNODC's OAT programmes saw substantial enrolment, with 55 per cent of identified opioid users receiving medically assisted therapy. An OAT clinic was also introduced in a Kenyan prison. These efforts have reinforced UNODC's pivotal role in supporting health and reducing opioid- and other drug-related harm across the continent, through a comprehensive approach including treatment and services to reduce drug-related harms.



A man proudly displays cabbage he grew after support from UNODC to transition from cultivating opium poppy in Khairabad, eastern Afghanistan.



Recipients of a Drug Abuse Prevention Centre grant to mobilize youth for evidence-based drug prevention pose for a photo in Peru in 2023.

## New strategic plan for drug control in the Mekong sub-region

In a collaborative effort to address the escalating challenge of methamphetamine and synthetic drug trafficking in the **Mekong sub-region**, UNODC, together with the governments of Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, forged a **new strategic plan for drug control** during an officials' committee meeting in Beijing, China. This agreement marks a pivotal moment in the collective response to the surge in drug seizures across the region, showing a united commitment among countries of the Mekong sub-region and UNODC to curtail the drug trade, an enhanced regional cooperation, and a tailored approach to countering the complex drug issues facing the area.





# Preventing and Countering Organized Crime



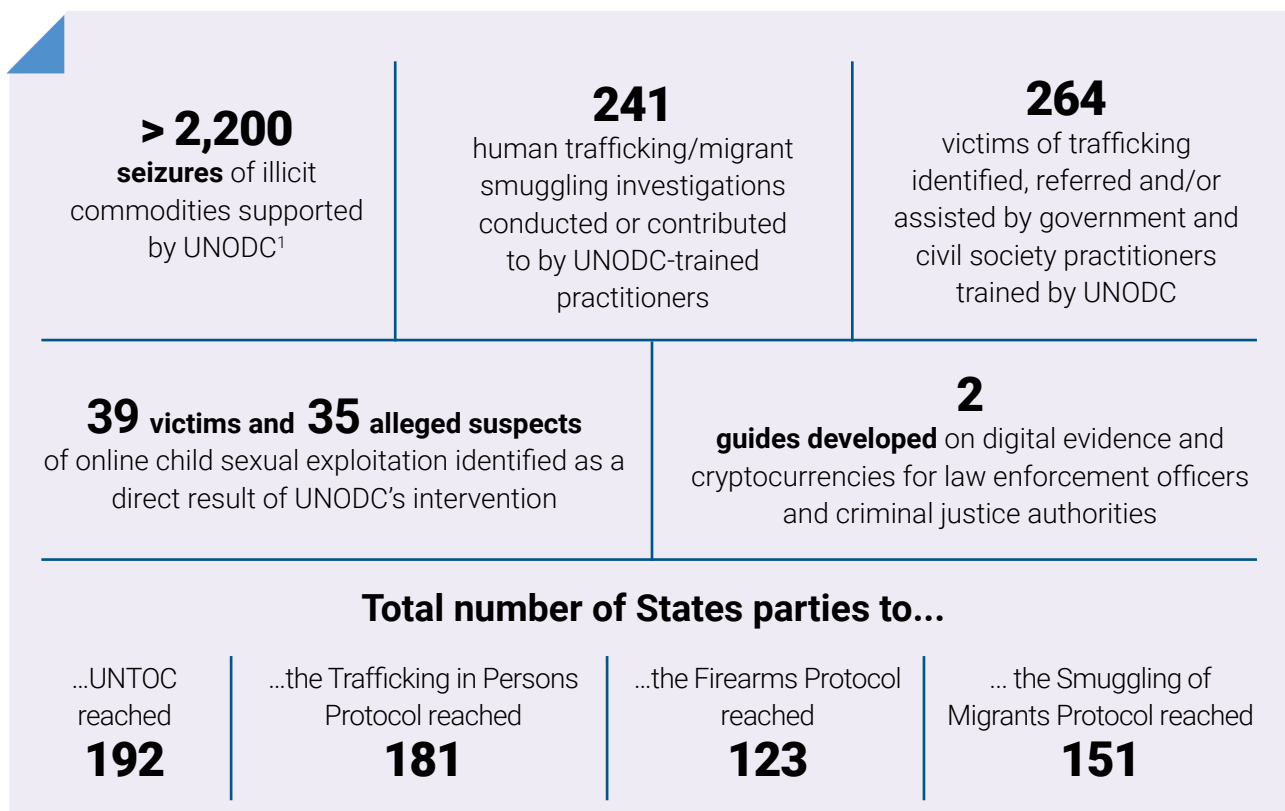
Organized crime foments instability and weakens institutions. Its reach and capability of harm is expanding as it increasingly moves online. Considering this, along with the increase in global conflicts and crisis situations, UNODC's work enhancing the capacity of Member States to sustainably tackle organized crime is invaluable. UNODC supports Member States' efforts at prevention, criminalization, law enforcement, international cooperation and collaboration with manifold non-governmental stakeholders. Central to its efforts is promoting and supporting the [UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime \(UNTOC\)](#) and its three Protocols, which together provide a comprehensive legal toolkit to address the complexities of international crime. UNODC's multifaceted strategy includes legislative support, capacity building, and enhancing international cooperation to promote environmental protection and combat human and arms trafficking, cybercrime, and money laundering. This approach aims to dismantle criminal networks and reinforce global security, ensuring a coordinated, effective response to the evolving landscape of organized crime worldwide.

## Key achievements in 2023

A new global action programme to Counter Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling was finalized and approved in 2023, with the programme starting from January 2024. The new programme brings together three existing ones against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants as the main delivery vehicle for technical assistance, normative and policy work, now including a global forum for trafficking survivors.

Responding to the need for support for border management for law enforcement, crime prevention, and the economic security of Member States, UNODC achieved notable border management successes in 2023. On land, UNODC's initiatives led to the seizure of 250 tonnes of cocaine, 205 tonnes of precursor chemicals, and 490,000 pieces of weapons and explosives. At sea, UNODC supported 83 countries in tackling global maritime crimes across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, as well as the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Red, and Black Seas.





<sup>1</sup> Including illicit drugs, falsified medical products, drug and explosive precursors, strategic goods, undeclared cash, wildlife products, minerals, weapons and explosives.



UNODC also advanced opportunities for women in maritime law enforcement through a two-pronged approach developing both dialogue and capacity, with an emphasis on creating an enabling environment for a more gender-responsive force.

In December 2023, the UN Security Council held its first-ever dedicated debate on transnational organized crime. The 15-nation council adopted a

[presidential statement](#) urging increased international cooperation and enhanced border and law enforcement capacities to combat the growing threats of transnational organized crime, which thrives amid global instability and conflict. Ghada Waly, Executive Director of UNODC, emphasized the need for resilient institutions and communities to tackle organized crime.



## Project Hermes

UNODC, through [Project Hermes](#), addresses the illicit trafficking of firearms, parts, and ammunition in Express Courier and postal parcels in the Western Balkans. This emerging challenge for national authorities has been fuelled by the use of online marketplaces, where bought and sold illicit firearms are then shipped by postal/courier services to avoid traffickers being identified. The anonymity and ease of online transactions and rapid growth of e-commerce have made it easier for traffickers to operate undetected.

To effectively combat firearms trafficking through Express Courier and postal parcels, Project Hermes established novel partnerships with postal services and the private sector. The project involves customs, designated postal operators, express courier companies, third-party logistics, postal service regulators, law enforcement and prosecutorial services. In the context of the project, UNODC developed a manual for X-ray detection and trained customs authorities and postal operators to analyse X-ray images to detect firearms, and in particular their components and ammunition, in packages. This resulted in an increased detection of firearms parts in postal parcels by the national counterparts. UNODC also supported the development of eight memorandums of understanding signed between customs administrations and designated postal operators to enhance cooperation on firearms trafficking, along with ten standard operating procedures developed on countering firearms trafficking in postal parcels.

UNODC works with BH Pošta and Bosnia and Herzegovina Customs on preventing firearms trafficking in postal parcels in November 2023.



A poetry and graffiti slam on cybercrime prevention is held in Dakar, Senegal.



Thai maritime law enforcement officers operate a joint patrol in the Mekong region with counterparts from China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Viet Nam, supported by UNODC in Thailand.



## UNODC supports public policymaking for peacebuilding in Colombia

During 2023, UNODC provided technical support to the Colombian government's efforts to increase peacebuilding among the armed groups such as the National Liberation Army (ELN), and multi-crime organizations such as Clan del Golfo, that hinder peace and sustainable development in Colombia. UNODC provided technical support to the Commission for Security Guarantees and the Peace Agreement Implementation Unit in the drafting and approval of a **public policy for dismantling criminal organizations and conduct that undermine peacebuilding**, including those known as successors of paramilitarism. The policy was enacted by the President of Colombia in September 2023, seven years after the establishment of the peace agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP) group. It will increase actions to counter organized crime and promote sustainable peace in territories most affected by drug trafficking and crime in Colombia.

Migrants arriving by canoe at Lajas Blancas after crossing the Darién Gap, the border region between Panama and Colombia.



## Financial disruption programme against terrorist and armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

In 2023 UNODC initiated a **financial disruption programme aimed at combating the financing of terrorist and armed groups in eastern DRC**, including those engaged in the illicit exploitation of natural resources and with ties to Islamic State-affiliated cells. This programme was conducted in collaboration with a DRC Panel of Experts and MONUSCO, the UN stabilization mission in the country. It focused on enhancing the Financial Intelligence Unit's (FIU) capacity to analyse terrorism financing typologies and training key stakeholders from the FIU, police, military, customs, intelligence services, and the private sector.

Among the significant achievements it led to, the FIU established links with counter-terrorism units in eastern DRC and expanded cooperation with mobile money operators in the counter-financing of terrorism (CFT). The programme also raised awareness among senior CFT actors about the importance of financial disruption in promoting development and national security. UNODC continues to mentor the FIU on developing standard operating procedures for the CFT unit, implementing targeted financial sanctions, and creating CFT indicators for the private sector as part of an inter-agency financial disruption strategy forming part of UNODC's broader technical support in counter-financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering in the DRC.



# Preventing and Countering Corruption and Economic Crime



UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly addressing the opening ceremony of the UN Anti-Corruption Conference CoSP10 in Atlanta, United States in December 2023.

Corruption and economic crimes erode democratic institutions, stall economic growth and destabilize governments. With the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) providing a legally binding framework for international cooperation against corruption, UNODC collaborates with governments, private sector, civil society, youth and academia to combat corruption globally and at all levels of society. UNODC supports stakeholders to translate their UNCAC commitments into reality. 2023 marked 20 years since the Convention – the world's first and only universal legally-

binding anti-corruption treaty – was adopted, with Barbados' accession as the Convention's 190th party underscoring its global character. The implementation of the Convention into domestic law by States parties is evaluated through the [Implementation Review Mechanism](#). As countries use the Mechanism to conduct peer reviews and improve anti-corruption frameworks, UNODC provides context-specific support to close gaps in various areas, such as prevention, education, asset recovery and integrity in the justice system.

**> 2,300**

anti-corruption practitioners, members of judiciaries, and prosecutors trained

**Four** new anti-corruption hubs established around the world

(Regional hub for Africa; Regional hub for Southeast Asia and the Pacific; Sub-regional hub for South America; and Sub-regional hub for Southern Africa)

Total number of States parties to UNCAC reached

**190**

**23**

country visits

**21**

executive summaries

**10**

country review reports

facilitated by UNODC as part of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism

**35** Member States and **57** authorities

joined the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) in 2023

**21** jurisdictions participated in **9** regional platforms

for information exchange and international cooperation to prevent and counter corruption  
**(69 States overall)**



Participants attend the fourth plenary meeting of the GlobE Network in July 2023.

## Key achievements in 2023

The [Conference of the States Parties \(CoSP\)](#) to UNCAC is the Convention's main policymaking body, supporting States parties and signatories to implement the Convention using the Implementation Review Mechanism and giving policy guidance to UNODC to develop and implement anti-corruption activities. CoSP10 in Atlanta, United States, in December 2023, was the largest to date, with over 2,000 participants attending from 160 countries (including more than 900 civil society representatives). Twelve resolutions and two decisions were adopted, which resulted in new mandates for UNODC in supporting global anti-corruption efforts.



For the first time, a representative of youth addresses the tenth UN Anti-Corruption Conference, CoSP10, in December 2023 calling for a fair chance for youth to have a say in shaping the global anti-corruption agenda.

UNODC strengthened the capacity to counter corruption in 2023 through activities at national, regional, and global levels and through fostering the growth of anti-corruption networks. Additionally, to bring service delivery closer to beneficiaries, new regional and sub-regional anti-corruption hubs were established in: Nairobi, Kenya and Pretoria, South Africa to cover Africa; Bangkok, Thailand to cover Southeast Asia and the Pacific; and Bogotá, Colombia to cover South America.

To empower young people to become agents of change, UNODC held 'UNCAC belongs to YOUTH' workshops in 2023 for young changemakers to strengthen their knowledge on anti-corruption and UNCAC. More than 30 youth representatives from Africa, Asia and Europe exchanged dialogue to identify the challenges they faced in each continent and their link to corruption. This exchange provided input on a road map to strengthen the role of non-governmental actors (young people, academia, and civil society). At the closing of the workshops in Kenya in June 2023, a vision document was signed by participating youth and 20 trees of hope were planted to mark the 20th anniversary of UNCAC.

## The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) Secure Communications Platform

The [GlobE Secure Communications Platform](#), launched by UNODC in 2021, provides a secure space for authorities to share information quickly, informally, and securely. By the end of 2023, GlobE Network members numbered 105 Member States and 187 law enforcement authorities. In 2023, a dedicated space on the platform was created to facilitate regional cooperation and collaboration specifically between authorities that are part of the Western Balkan GlobE Regional Component. This has already yielded positive results, with authorities in Albania supporting ongoing investigations in neighbouring North Macedonia, fostering a culture of trust and collaboration.



## Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR) Action Series

In 2023, UNODC co-organized the [Global Forum on Asset Recovery \(GFAR\) Action Series](#), a series of events designed to make tangible progress in asset recovery and return, by facilitating communication and negotiations among requested and requesting countries in connection with specific ongoing cases. Preparations for the GFAR Action Series started at a GlobE Network plenary in July 2023 and continued at the UNCAC Working Group on Asset Recovery in September 2023. Discussions were practitioner-focused and involved the first two focus countries (the Republic of Moldova and Zambia) through bilateral and multi-jurisdictional case meetings.

By CoSP10 in December 2023, six other focus countries had joined the Action Series: Algeria, Honduras, Iraq, Nigeria, Seychelles, and Ukraine. In Atlanta, the [Stolen Asset Recovery \(StAR\) Initiative](#) organized 65 bilateral and multi-jurisdictional meetings in the framework of the Action Series to support these countries' efforts to advance asset recovery cases. The Action Series, hosted by the United States, with co-hosts France and the United Kingdom, is organized by UNODC and the World Bank, in partnership with the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre and the International Centre for Asset Recovery.



Youth leaders from Africa join UNODC in planting 20 trees, representing the 20 years since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2023.



## UNODC Coding4Integrity Arab Youth Anti-Corruption Hackathon

UNODC established the '**Coding4Integrity**' **youth anti-corruption hackathon** series to seize the energy and potential of youth to empower the next generation to become integrity leaders, innovating and developing technology solutions for corruption-related challenges in their communities. In September 2023, under the Coding4Integrity series, UNODC organized its **biggest youth hackathon** ever in Doha, Qatar, along with its partners, the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority of the State of Qatar and Microsoft Qatar. Over 110 young developers participated from 17 Arab countries, with young women making up more than half of the participants. The three winning teams showcased their tech-based projects at a special event in the margins of CoSP10 in December 2023.



Launch of the Regional Platform to Fast-Track the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption in Central America in Roatán, Honduras, in April 2023.





# Preventing and Countering Terrorism



UNODC and the National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT) of Indonesia conduct a training and simulation exercise in Semarang, Indonesia to enhance preparedness against the threat of chemical weapons terrorism.

In 2023, socioeconomic divides aggravated by the global security challenges, economic uncertainty, weak governance, and armed conflict threatened to provide fertile breeding grounds for violent extremism and terrorism to thrive, stifling international peace and security efforts. UNODC works with Member States to prevent and counter these evolving threats in line with international norms and human rights. UNODC delivers technical assistance for Member States to build their

normative frameworks, policies, and institutional capacity for inclusive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society criminal justice responses that involve youth, women, and terrorism victims as essential actors in effective and long-term counter-terrorism strategies. The Office promotes international legal instruments, aiding their implementation at national level, and facilitates global cooperation.

**> 50**

youth-led NGOs working to prevent violent extremism in a UNODC-established network

**19**

new adherences by 13 Member States to the international legal instruments against terrorism

**> 3,000**

criminal justice and counter-terrorism officials from 75 Member States trained

**56%**

of participants in UNODC criminal justice training activities on terrorism observed positive policy, legislative, institutional changes

**88%**

of officials trained by UNODC on counter-terrorism subsequently applied newly acquired skills or improved existing skills



## Key achievements in 2023

The [Third UN Counter-Terrorism Week](#), one of the biggest counter-terrorism events for the international community, took place in New York on 19-23 June 2023. It was comprised of two major events: the High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies and the Eighth Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The latter strategy was reviewed, noting the launch of UNODC's Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism. Furthermore, the UN General Assembly also re-affirmed UNODC's mandate on terrorism prevention through the adoption of two additional resolutions.<sup>3</sup>

UNODC continued to provide comprehensive technical assistance and mentoring in 2023, on aspects related to strengthening national criminal justice responses to terrorism. As an example of its scope, in Mozambique this support led to

UNODC training over 800 criminal justice officials, determining forensic and equipment needs, supporting the development of a counter-terrorism strategy, and building operational capacity to conduct parallel financial investigations. This last area of assistance led to Mozambique opening its first-ever criminal case on terrorism financing.

Other successes of UNODC's action on terrorism in 2023 include evidence collection capacity and practices for terrorism cases in Nigeria and Philippines, promoting international legal instruments against terrorism resulting in Albania, Congo and Zimbabwe becoming parties to the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism, and increased international cooperation in the context of non-proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Empowering youth leaders in preventing terrorism and violent extremism

In 2023, UNODC launched an innovative initiative to **empower youth leaders to inform and develop responses to terrorism and violent extremism**. The initiative has established a global network of civil society organizations dealing with related topics, designed and led by youth, which in the context of counter-terrorism is unprecedented. As facilitator, UNODC ensures that youth remain at the forefront, leaning into UNODC's global programme which drives people-centred responses to counter-terrorism. The network expanded fivefold over 2023 since its inception, now encompassing over 50 youth-led non-governmental organizations dedicated to preventing terrorism and violent extremism.

<sup>3</sup> A/RES/78/226 (2023) and 78/229 (2023).

## UNODC's assistance leads to successful conviction of Islamic State leader

In 2023, UNODC supported **South Asian authorities obtain electronic evidence for counter-terrorism** through tailored guides and training programmes, resulting in a skilled pool of officials in South Asian nations. A notable outcome of this engagement was the successful conviction of Mohamed Ameen, a Maldivian national designated by the United States as a key leader of the Islamic State in Maldives. Ameen was sentenced to 27 years in prison for membership of a terrorist organization, and for conspiracy, in a significant success in the Maldives' counter-terrorism efforts. UNODC's capacity-building support was cited as instrumental in building the case. UNODC gave national authorities practical training on facilitating cross-border cooperation to request electronic evidence across borders. As per informal communication with Maldivian authorities, knowledge acquired from the training and training-of-trainers course was instrumental in facilitating police-to-police cross-border cooperation to secure evidence that led to the conviction.



With the support of UNODC, Ethiopia hands over the rotational chairmanship of the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) to Burundi during the 25th EAPCCO Annual General Meeting in Bujumbura, Burundi, in October 2023.

## Victims' Voices, Silencing Terrorism



An Iraqi victim of terrorism creates clay sculptures as part of a rehabilitation process entailing the use of art within UNODC's 'Victims' Voices, Silencing Terrorism' campaign.

In 2023 UNODC concluded a three-year project in Iraq and the Middle East and North Africa region, together with the civil society organization 'Lebanese Association for Victims of Terrorism', to provide **psychosocial recovery support to terrorism victims**, empowering them to become agents of change in preventing terrorism and violent extremism within their communities. As a result of the initiative, over 120 victims of terrorism were supported, and criminal justice and law enforcement agencies were helped to identify legislative and procedural gaps relating to the status of victims. In this context, UNODC launched a dedicated social campaign in the summer of 2023 entitled 'Victims' Voices, Silencing Terrorism' to showcase the results of the initiative, which reached over 23 million people.





# Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice



Officials from the Ghana Prison Service stand up for the Nelson Mandela Rules in July 2023 as part of UNODC's awareness-raising campaign #PrisonersMatter.

Crime prevention and criminal justice reform must be gender-responsive, human rights-compliant and respect the rule of law. UNODC supports Member States in using and applying the [UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice](#). Embracing a holistic approach and championing people-centred responses, UNODC addresses vulnerabilities and the specific rights and needs of

individuals in contact with criminal justice systems, including groups facing structural impediments to justice. This approach aims to prevent and address crime and violence, promote equal access to justice for all, and ensure criminal justice institutions operate in a fair, effective, inclusive, transparent and accountable manner.

**> 3,300**

crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners supported with technical assistance

**66**

Member States engaged in efforts to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice reform

**'Equal Access to Justice for All'**

resolution adopted in May 2023

**8**

crime prevention and criminal justice networks supported by UNODC at global, regional and sub-regional levels

**Over 15,000**

youth empowered with knowledge and skills to prevent crime and violence, promote peace and justice



@Penal Reform International in Africa

Participants at the Regional Conference on the Rights of Justice-Affected Women in Kampala, Uganda, in October 2023.

## Key achievements in 2023

In 2023 UNODC engaged with some 66 Member States to bolster crime prevention and enhance criminal justice systems. Efforts included advancing access to justice, evidence-based crime prevention, gender-responsive justice, and prison and penal reform, as well as addressing violence against children.

In May 2023, the 32nd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted the ground-breaking 'Equal Access to Justice for All' resolution, which was then adopted by the UN General Assembly on 19 December 2023 ([A/RES/78/227](#)). This resolution delineates explicit priorities for Member States to advance commitments under international human rights law, UN standards and norms and the Kyoto Declaration, and work towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16 for promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

On 28 November 2023, UNODC and the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children officially launched their 'Strategy to End Violence Against Children 2023-2030' in Vienna, Austria. This strategy advocates for the criminalization of serious forms of violence against children under international law, to ensure children's rights are fulfilled, respected, and protected. It also focuses on institutional and structural forms of violence against children, such as the unnecessary deprivation of liberty, and the

treatment of children in contact with the justice system through punitive approaches. It is grounded in international law on child rights and aligned with the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child as well as UN crime prevention and criminal justice standards and norms.

In September 2023, UNODC organized and serviced the first session of an open-ended inter-governmental expert group aimed at developing model strategies on reducing reoffending.



@UNODC

School students gather for a photo with UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, at the launch of the Joint Strategy to End Violence Against Children in November 2023 in Austria.

## Enhancing community-based crime prevention in Nigeria and Thailand

In 2023, UNODC used **evidence- and community-based crime prevention** to address risk factors of organized crime, in the process strengthening police-community interaction and community resilience. In the Niger Delta region of **Nigeria**, UNODC did this by strengthening community-oriented policing, and facilitating youth empowerment and skills training in remote areas. This enhanced community-based crime prevention by addressing the root causes of organized crime and improving relations between police and the community, strengthening resilience against criminal activities. In northern **Thailand**, UNODC worked to strengthen cooperation between Border Liaison Offices and the community through making each group familiar with evidence-based practices that can target the causes of crime and violence. These efforts complemented ongoing UNODC support on cross-border cooperation between law enforcement actors and training on investigating organized crime.

## Improving Access to Justice in Nigeria

UNODC significantly contributed to improving **equal access to justice in Nigeria** in 2023. In collaboration with Nigerian institutions, UNODC conducted two training programmes between June and September 2023 on human rights-based and gender-sensitive policing, along with a workshop in October 2023 that produced 21 recommendations to strengthen coordination and referral mechanisms related to police misconduct. UNODC's collaboration with national stakeholders<sup>4</sup> led to tangible outcomes and plans for continued support implementing recommendations, supporting police reform, and strengthening access to justice in Nigeria.

<sup>4</sup> Stakeholders included the UNODC Country Office in Nigeria, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Nigeria Police Force Complaints Response Unit, and the Police Service Commission.



Participants of the UNODC event 'Early Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems' pose for a photo in Nepal, in July 2023.

## Ukraine Penitentiary Forum

UNODC, in partnership with Ukraine's Ministry of Justice, organized a ground-breaking **Penitentiary Forum** in Kyiv in June 2023 to address the pressing issues faced by Ukraine's prisons. Over 100 participants from Ukraine and the European Union, among them government officials, prison experts, judges, parliamentarians, civil society and international organizations, discussed the impact of the conflict on prison and offender management, emergency preparedness and response capacities, overcrowding and poor prison conditions, a lack of resources and outdated legislation. Attendees signalled strong support for prison and penal reform. International participation highlighted global concern and showcased collaboration and commitment from the international community. The event set the stage for continued progress and further prospects for UNODC technical assistance aimed at reforming, stabilizing and improving Ukraine's prison system.



# RESEARCH



As the United Nations Secretary-General's [Data Strategy](#) highlights, by making better use of data we can make better decisions and deliver stronger support to those we serve. With this in mind, UNODC's work on research provides a foundation of evidence and analysis to inform UN and UNODC action, and to help policymakers effectively respond to existing and emerging drug and crime challenges. Alongside flagship reports on trafficking in persons, homicide, and the world drug situation – as well as the first global report on cocaine – published in 2023, UNODC released briefs on emerging and organized crime-related issues, illicit crop cultivation surveys, and technical guidance on using administrative data in the criminal justice sector.

UNODC is using artificial intelligence to make timely information on seizure events more available and enhancing its geospatial analysis capacity by using earth observation and other data to monitor illegal activities. Moreover, the UNODC Information Centre in Central Asia became fully operational in 2023, supporting research and monitoring of illicit drug cultivation in and around Afghanistan, drug trafficking, and trends in smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. UNODC is supporting governments to improve data collection through capacity building and technical assistance, including through its Centres of Excellence in Mexico<sup>5</sup> and Republic of Korea<sup>6</sup>, as well as alternative development impact assessments.

**3.8 million**  
downloads  
of UNODC  
research in 2023

**> 500,000**  
data entries offered  
on 12 different  
topics via the  
**UNODC Data Portal**

**18,000**  
data entries not older than  
six months on individual  
drug seizures made  
available on the **Drugs  
Monitoring Platform**

**Over 3,250**  
participants  
trained on drug and  
crime statistical  
methodology

**31**  
research publications released  
on drugs and crime in 2023  
including **4 flagship reports**  
presented in **over 100 events to**  
**over 7,600 participants**

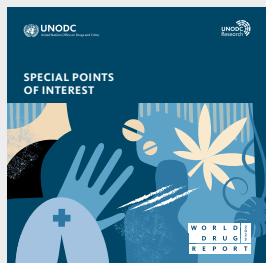
**14**  
publications developed  
on transnational  
organized crime,  
cocaine monitoring and  
smuggling of migrants

**29**  
research partnerships  
established with  
international agencies,  
private sector and  
academia

<sup>5</sup> Jointly founded by UNODC and Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)

<sup>6</sup> Jointly founded by UNODC and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)

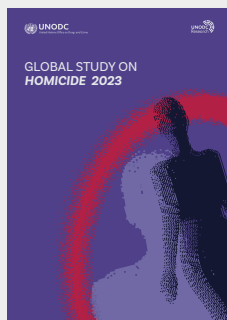
## Selected publications released in 2023



World Drug Report



Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022



Global Study on Homicide



Global Report on Cocaine



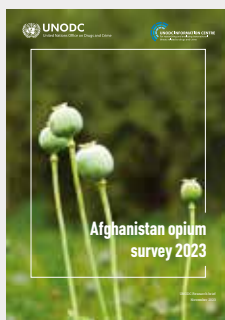
Haiti's criminal markets: Mapping trends in firearms and drug trafficking



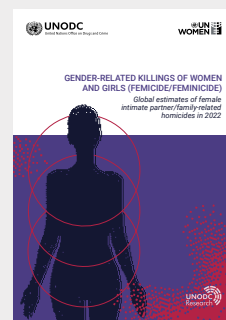
Global progress report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators<sup>7</sup>



Understanding Illegal Methamphetamine Manufacture in Afghanistan



Afghanistan opium survey



Gender-related killings of women and girls, Global estimates in 2022<sup>8</sup>

## UNODC Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessments for the Sahel

The **UNODC Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessments (TOCTA)** for the Sahel offer comprehensive insights into illicit trades and their socioeconomic impacts in the region, covering issues from gold and fuel trafficking to migrant smuggling. The series currently encompasses five detailed reports, with three more to be released. UNODC also adapted the same methodology to the national context of Nigeria to publish an organized crime threat assessment for Nigeria in 2023. Despite challenges like political instability and difficulties collecting data in violence-stricken areas, UNODC's research and partnership engagement efforts continue, aiming to bolster national and regional crime prevention and support development. UNODC's threat assessments expand the evidence base related to organized crime to help both policymakers and practitioners understand the illicit markets, criminal operators, and their methods. The reports enable governments to more accurately identify the threats, prioritize resources, develop and refine strategies – all to improve the effectiveness of crime prevention and the response to transnational organized crime.

<sup>7</sup> With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

<sup>8</sup> With UN Women

# NORMATIVE WORK



The [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#) (CND) and the [Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#) (CCPCJ) are policymaking bodies within the United Nations system and guide international action against drugs and crime. They are functional commissions of the [United Nations Economic and Social Council](#) (ECOSOC) and governing bodies of UNODC. UNODC supports these Vienna-based Commissions to strengthen cooperation with the UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, ECOSOC and its various subsidiary bodies, as well as with a broad range of UN entities, international and regional organizations.

In 2023, participation at the two Commissions reached record highs, with the CND's 66th session hosting 2,450 participants and the 32nd Crime Commission attracting 1,680 participants, both online and in-person.

UNODC serviced, and substantively contributed to, the CCPCJ and CND regular sessions along with the Commissions' intersessional thematic discussions, devoted to the Kyoto Declaration (held by the CCPCJ in September 2023) and the implementation of all international drug policy commitments (held by the CND in October and December 2023, respectively).

As guardian of the UN Convention against Corruption, UNODC presided over the tenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention (CoSP10) in December 2023. The tenth session of the largest biannual anti-corruption conference in the world hosted the conference's first-ever private sector forum. More information on CoSP10, UNCAC and its Implementation Review Mechanism can be found on pages 22-23 of this report.

At the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference, UNODC held four high-level events and organized eight side-events. The events aimed to raise awareness of UNODC work on crimes that affect the environment, as well as understanding of the biodiversity-climate-crime nexus and its relevance for the COP Climate Change Conferences, amongst the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNODC sees this increased knowledge as part of the solution to reducing ecosystems degradation and refining the language on ecosystem degradation, natural resource overexploitation and biodiversity loss in the climate action agenda. Executive Director Ghada Waly also participated in additional high-level COP28 side-events to raise awareness of crimes that affect the environment, share knowledge, and draw attention to UNODC's mandate in countering crimes that affect the environment.







**United Nations**  
Office on Drugs and Crime

