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**UNITED NATIONS
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AND CRIME**

UNODC

“HIV-related stigma and discrimination continue to impact the lives of people living with HIV and prevent so many others from accessing the services they need. Women, girls, people who use drugs, people in prison, sex workers and so many other vulnerable groups struggle without access to life-saving services because of who they are or what they do.”

Yury Fedotov
UNODC Executive Director

WHAT IS UNODC?

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is committed to promoting health, justice and security by being a global leader in the response to illicit drugs, transnational organized crime and terrorism, which have emerged as major threats to individuals, communities and countries. These are high-priority issues for the United Nations and it is widely recognized that coordinated national, regional and international initiatives are needed to address them. Using its many years of experience and its technical and political credibility, UNODC is striving to ensure that such initiatives are designed and implemented in a proactive, focused and effective manner.

As a Cosponsor of UNAIDS, UNODC is the convening organization for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support among people who use drugs and those living and working in prisons.

It collaborates with national and international partners, including civil society and other UNAIDS Cosponsors, to assist countries in developing and implementing interventions designed to guarantee that these vulnerable and often very diverse populations can access optimum HIV services. In addition, it strives to ensure that people who use drugs, young people, women and people living with HIV are meaningfully included in programme design and implementation.

WHAT UNODC DOES FOR THE AIDS RESPONSE

In aiming to increase access to comprehensive, evidence-informed, human rights centred HIV services for people who use drugs and those who live and work in prison settings, UNODC provides a broad range of technical assistance, including the following:

- Targeted advocacy to reduce stigma and discrimination and to promote gender and age responsive HIV approaches to drug use, criminal justice and the treatment of prisoners.
- Technical assistance in reviewing, adapting, developing and implementing effective legislation and policies, facilitating large-scale, multisectoral and evidence-informed HIV interventions for both key populations.

- Support in developing and disseminating normative tools and guidelines, documenting good practice and maintaining and distributing strategic information.
- Enhanced assistance to develop and implement strategies and programmes that ensure equitable access to HIV services, including for women who use drugs, women in prisons and their children by addressing their special needs and implementing tailor-made services on the ground.

To facilitate reaching the target agreed in the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS of reducing transmission among people who inject drugs by 50% by 2015, UNODC and its partners, in 2013, selected 24 high-priority countries in which it has focused its efforts for greater impact: Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

UNODC also promotes meaningful engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations, and in 2013 it strengthened its partnership with CSOs by establishing the UNODC–CSO Group on Drug Use and HIV. This group has become an avenue for structured dialogue between UNODC and such organizations, allowing for greater cohesion, more effective collaboration and joint initiatives. It is part of UNODC's remit in the UNAIDS Division of Labour to build capacity among national stakeholders, including civil society actors, to help enhance both policies and programmes and monitoring and evaluation.

In addition, UNODC supports regional prison and HIV networks, namely the African HIV Prison Partnership Network and the Monitoring Centre for HIV and Prisons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which aim to overcome the major challenges associated with the epidemic in prisons and help to formulate an effective challenge to the epidemic in this critical area.

Additional information is available [here](http://unodc.org/unodc/en/hiv-aids/new/index.html) (unodc.org/unodc/en/hiv-aids/new/index.html).

