

## **SUDAN'S INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ASPECTS RELATED TO CAPACITY BUILDING AND DRUG COMBAT**

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### **Abstract**

Drugs abuse and trafficking pose serious threats to safety, security and productivity of societies. Many social and economic factors raise market demands for drugs abuse that is escalated more by the cheap available means of transportation. Equally important, the Internet and other means of communications could widen global drugs demand' and trafficking. It is also connected to other international organized crimes that need to be campaigned against, not only by us as police leaders but also as governments, regional and international organizations, as well as civil society sectors. Such integrated regional and international co-operation and support is very essential for combating this serious crime. In some particular regions, this crime destabilizes governments due to its association to rebel's activities, money laundering and corruption.

This paper aims to highlight part of the international cooperation in combating drugs abuse and trafficking. Focus has been put on the Eastern African region cooperation in fighting cross-border and international organized crimes like drug trafficking. More emphasis would be extended to Sudan for Narcotics and Drugs combating program, as one of the areas which Sudan is focusing and closely collaborating with foreign counterparts. In the first place, the joint work of the United Nation Office for Drug and Crime (UNODC) with Sudan to become a Regional Drug Centre is illustrated. Furthermore, Sudan also has-been chosen as a Regional Centre of Excellence for Forensic Sciences including drug detection, as well as being adopted by the INTERPOL as a Training Centre for Drugs K9 at the region. In addition, capacity building which forms an important component and an integral part in cooperation efforts will be presented briefly.

**Keywords:** Drug Abuse, Drug Trafficking, Institutional Capacity Building, International Cooperation, Sudan

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## International and Regional Actors

As crime cannot be combated by national isolated standalone efforts, the world of today recognizes the value of collaboration and cooperation. Many national, regional and international agencies worked collaboratively against crime including drugs trafficking. For instance, they joined and formed networks between their countries and then extended their collaboration to form entity comprising member networks. The UNODC and the INTERPOL have particular importance of international cooperation in combating crime and drugs abuse and trafficking and could be considered as leading organizations in this domain. Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL), the European Union's law enforcement agency (EUROPOL) are additional examples for cooperation activities over continents. Regionally, and complementary in drugs detection, analysis and classification countries have joined and formed networks and then extended their cooperative to form entity comprising member networks. An example of such cooperation is the International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA) which is a multilateral partnership between the regional networks of operational forensic laboratories including:

- The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD),
- The European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI),
- The Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories (SMANZFL),
- The Asian Forensic Sciences Network (AFSN),
- The Southern Africa Regional Forensic Science Network (SARFS).

INTERPOL provides a diverse range of analytical products such as: analytical reports, threat assessments for regions or specific crimes, risk assessments for a particular event and intelligence publications (bulletins, monthly reports ... *etc.*). Cooperation includes involvement in the international related organizations that provide both operational and strategic analytical support to crime-related investigations, operations, consultancy services and training for police in member countries.

UNODC tasked to identify, analyze and monitor global drugs and transnational organized crime threats, knowing that this information enables the international community to understand trends of drugs, define appropriate drug and crime control priorities. The Quality Assurance Program (IQAP), International Collaborative Exercise (ICE) initiated by the Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS) of the UNODC, is an example of other technical support coordinated globally by the UNODC.

Similarly, Arab region as well has its own regional cooperation through the Council of Arab Interior Ministers which works toward strengthening the cooperation in different fields of combating crime and maintaining security and justice. Too many initiations have been launched by the council, as well as, by the council of Arab Ministers of Justice aimed to combat terror, drugs crime, illicit trafficking of arms, narcotics ... *etc.*

Regarding the African regional co-operation, Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) was formed in 1998 as a platform for police cooperation to fight cross-border and international organized crimes like drug trafficking. Other bodies are also there, like the African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes, the Liaison and Fusion Centers, the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO).

In February 2014, Police Directors and Inspectors General from all over the African Continent, made the Algiers Declaration that led to the establishment of the AFRIPOL that was endorsed by the Executive Council of the AU in June 2014. It is a body against transnational crime contributing to enhance cooperation among member states including existing continental structures and institutions.

### **SUDAN's National and Regional Cooperation**

Sudan is an INTERPOL member and is party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 Convention. Sudan is also one of thirteen EAPCCO member countries.

Sudan is taking serious interest in narcotics matters, and in addressing eradication, prosecution, and treatment. The central government unit responsible for liaison and coordination of national drug control policy is the Drug Combat Administration.

Sudan has signed many cooperation protocols with different counterparts over the world. Most of the signed protocols emphasized the importance of training and information sharing.

**Table 1:** Some countries that Sudan has offered them training courses during 2016

Country	Description	Officers	NCOs
Chad	Training courses	6	-
	Training convoy	82	214
	Finger-print	2	-
	Crime Investigation	2	-
	Forgery & Counterfeiting	2	-
Gambia	Questioned Documents	5	-
	Forgery & Counterfeiting	3	-
Somalia	Training courses	15	-
	Police College	15	-
	Crime Scene Training	10	-
	Leadership & Management	5	-
	Planning & Police Management	5	-
Yemen	Police College	9	-
Palestine	Police College	20	-
Jordan	Police College	72	-
	Police High Academy	5	-
Djibouti	Police College	1	-
Morocco	K9 Training	-	4
	Digital Forensic Evidence	4	-
Total		263	218
Over all		481	

Furthermore, some regional conferences and meetings had been held in Sudan including the 5<sup>th</sup> INTERPA Conference (Refugees Crisis). However, 2016 also witnessed many visits from Police Chiefs and Directors.

**Table 2:** Sudan's participations abroad during 2016

Country	Conferences & Contributions	Training	Country	Conferences & Contributions	Training
Egypt	40	147	Ivory Coast	1	-
Ethiopia	23	11	Indonesia	2	22
Kenya	17	27	Jordan	12	87
Rwanda	6	8	Gambia	2	-
South Africa	4	6	Germany	4	13
Tunisia	24	22	Comoros	2	-
Saudi	5	9	Congo	1	-
UAE	8	30	Kyrgyzstan	2	2
Austria	3	-	Mozambique	2	-
UK	4	2	Norway	1	-
Turkey	8	2	Belorussia	1	1
Russia	3	47	Djibouti	1	-
Holland	3	1	Canada	1	-
Belgium	9	-	Chad	1	-
USA	2	4	Japan	1	5
Somalia	2	-	Korea	1	11
Kuwait	2	-	Morocco	2	89
France	12	20	Spain	1	1
Italy	3	-	Zimbabwe	2	-
Swazi-	5	-	Tanzania	1	2
Qatar	6	-	Bangladesh	1	-
Thailand	1	-	Algeria	2	-
Zambia	4	-	Uganda	4	1
India	-	5	Oman	-	1
Malaysia	-	22	Singapore	-	2
Lebanon	-	41	Seychelles	-	1
Nigeria	-	1	Brazil	-	2
Total Training Programs			645		
Total Conferences & Contributions			266		
<b>Total</b>			<b>911</b>		

## **UNODC Work with Sudan to be a Regional Centre for Drugs Analysis**

In November 2003, Government of Sudan through the Ministry of Interior submitted a proposal regarding the establishment of a Regional Drug Analysis Laboratory to serve as a regional training centre. A comprehensive assessment of the laboratory as a capacity to the proposed Drug Regional Centre, by the UNODC, was indispensable to consider current development and progress as well as to investigate what might be required for the near future and strategic plans, at that time. One year after, Dr. Howard Stead, Chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Section, representative for the head of the UNODC visited Sudan to assess the proposed plan. However, Mr. Stead stated in his report that, Sudan Forensic Administration provided satisfactory training programs and technical support to crime investigations in Sudan. He also stated that, Sudan had an adequate space and facilities for training of the staff and for its current needs and have the capability to do so for his neighbor countries and to the region.

Since that time, Sudan moved a considerable distance and worked efficiently and effectively to host the centre. The goals of the Centre are:

- Improve the national forensic capacity and capabilities of member state to meet international accepted standards,
- Ensure the worldwide availability and accessibility of internationally accepted standards,
- Increase the use of forensic science services, data and information for evidence- based operational purposes, strategic interventions and policy and decision-making,
- More importantly, to collaborate closely with other governmental institutes/agencies in handling, monitoring and evaluating cases on narcotics and drugs in the country.

Following the recommendations of the head of UNODC, Sudan reiterated its goal of establishing Regional Forensic Laboratory for Narcotics and Drugs. Tremendous efforts for establishing a state of art Forensic Laboratory, including advanced narcotic and drug analysis departments, were exerted and a considerable development and progress had been achieved.

The following table illustrates the improvements been carried to meet the requirements of the technical indicators as to the report's recommendations:

**Table 3:** Current Status of Sudan Forensic Directorate and UNODC Recommendations

<b>UNODC Recommendations</b>	<b>Sudan Forensic Directorate current status</b>
Provide the necessary equipment for drug analysis in the Chemistry Department	- At the present the laboratory acquired advanced new GC-MS's, HPLC's, LC-MS, XRD, XRF, SEM/EDXRF ...etc.
Basic/advanced training for drug analysts and specialists	- Local and foreign training was conducted, on drug analysis in cooperation together with the UNPOL-UNMIS Forensic Chemist.
Regular visits of experts to assist in the sustainability of the ongoing development	-UNPOL-UNMIS Forensic Expert (Chemist) deployed and was assigned at the lab. for more than six months, Experts from UK visited Sudan from DFID Program Experts from Forensic Service of Turkey visited Sudan according to a bilateral agreement between Governments of Sudan and Turkey.
Continuous supply of reference, periodical and related materials	Reference materials are available in the library coming from UNODC, Reference books on drugs and other forensic specialties became available at the Training Centre library. Availability of cross references with another library within the National Ribat University library system <i>i.e.</i> Department of Medicine, Department of Pharmacology, Department of Biochemistry.
Supply of reference samples for analysis, as required	- Requested from UNODC, however, secondary references were being used especially those from prescribe drugs.
Ensure firm chain of custody	Some protocols <i>e.g.</i> Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Work Instructions (WIs) were already set and currently being reviewed and/or revised, Other new protocols for forensic services are set and presently working for ISO-17025.
Develop syllabuses and training programs for the personnel	- Numerous training programs (basic - advanced) were proposed.

Organize courses in drug analysis to the new forensic scientists, judges, prosecutors... <i>etc.</i> , at national and regional levels	Training was conducted, locally and outside Sudan <i>e.g.</i> Japan, Turkey, Jordan ... <i>etc.</i> Other programs were proposed, from basic to advanced training.
Build a case management system	Actually, there is a case management system existing, but needs to be improved. Further, close coordination discussing and finalizing an advanced case management system is on the ground.
Ensuring the continuity of Phase (2)	- Sustainable plans will be finalized 2017-2018
Starting training at the regional level	Establishment of other forensic laboratories and/or mobile laboratories in other states specifically in Port-Sudan, El Obaid and Kadugli. Some training courses to Ethiopian and EAPCCO forensic scientists were conducted at Khartoum Next November, Forensic Awareness and Crime Scene specialized course for the same EAPCCO countries would be organized in Khartoum and supervised by the INTERPOL Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya. Other proposed training (Annex 3)
Cooperation prospective: establishing central database at the Regional Laboratory to be linked to national similar laboratories to ensure maximum cooperation	Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) was currently discussed; if UNODC database is available, the lab is very willing to be linked for the purpose.

Moreover, the area of administrative aspects had also been improved. The Vision and Mission had been set. Strategy and Organizational Structure had been approved. New scientists possessing the required qualifications had been recruited and trained as mentioned in the above table. The Directorate now has well-constructed physical facilities that can accommodate any future expansion of services offered *e.g.* instrumentation rooms, research facilities among others which must be within the acceptable scientific spatial arrangement and design. Security procedures, safety for the



personnel were observed. Policies were formulated and are now available for all serving as reference at all levels as appropriate. However, some procedures as well as detailed work instructions need to be developed, implemented and standardized.

Sudan participates regularly in the (IQAP), ICE, and currently under processing ICE 2017/1. The LSS prepares and sends participating laboratories seized materials (SM) and biological specimens (BS) test samples. The list includes, Amphetamine type, Stimulants, Cannabinoids, Cocaine, Hallucinogenic drugs, Opiates, Adulterants/Diluents.

After the submission of analytical results, the forensic laboratory receives its individual evaluation report. This annual participation enables the Sudan Forensic Department to follow the comprehensive information on the drug illicit situation.

Based on the considerable advances and recognition of the whole region and some international related organizations, the Centre is quite ready to be assisted and endorsed as an accredited UNODC centre for drugs and narcotics analysis for the region.

### **EAPCCO's Context**

The EAPCCO Chiefs of Police had developed several strategies and mechanisms to support operations, consultancy services and training for the region. One of such strategies is the interregional operation called *Operation Uslama*, which is conducted at Eastern and Southern Africa annually since 2013 and ultimately, posted very impressive results.

These coordinated mechanisms, provided technical support to drug-related crime in all member countries. As a result, the region witnessed increased seizures of major drugs hauls at Sudan, Kenya and Tanzania as an example. At Sudan, traffickers have used various concealed methods to move drugs overland to the market or to their stores for repackaging and reshipping. Hauls have been recorded by Sudan Drug Combating Administration and many Interceptions have also been made at airports, sea ports and land ports.

There are other regional drugs related bodies, which provide a platform for discussion, development of strategies and plans of action in combating drugs trafficking, e.g. the Heads of Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies (HON-LEA).

However, The INTERPOL regional bureau reports indicated that, the Inter-agency Cooperation has worked well in some EAPCCO countries leading to major seizures.

One other powerful tool in solving such crimes, is sharing the available advanced national capabilities. It is worth note, that not all EAPCCO countries have such satisfactory institutions that might be due to lack of qualified personnel and required facilities. However, they determined to get benefit from the available technologies suitable with their actual needs and to share experiences from each other. EAPCCO, particularly, during its meeting on 27 – 30 of September 2009 - Djibouti, recommended the improving of the region forensic capabilities. In the same resolution, they noticed the advancement made by Sudan in the forensic field. Sudan was encouraged to share its experiences with other EAPCCO members. At that conference, Sudan agreed, presented and made available its forensic and related training capabilities.

During the 15<sup>th</sup> annual EAPCCO general meeting, it was decided to urge its members to establish Centres of excellence for the region. Such Centres make possible sharing experiences and best practices at regional and international levels and making the country able to contribute to the global efforts towards eradication of dangerous drugs and other crimes. The EAPCCO recognized the following Centres of Excellence:

- Forensic and cyber forensics Centre by Sudan,
- Regional counter-terrorism Centre by Kenya,
- Peace Support Operations (PSO) and cybercrime centre by Rwanda,
- Community policing model in Uganda.

The Purpose of the Centre of Excellence is:

- To assist Police in each EAPCCO country to improve forensic services within its capacity through specialized and well equipped forensic laboratories.
- This regional laboratory was planned to be designed as a forensic service that will ensure an over-all shared purposes and directions of police for all EAPCCO members.
- All forensic examinations particularly serious and regional crimes (Drugs, post blast investigation and Disaster Victim Identification), become available.
- The laboratory also is to work as a reference laboratory for all EAPCCO members.
- It also works as a Training Centre for the region.

Achieving Excellency in Forensic Services came in line with the Forensic Administration strategy. The Administration focused and carried out intensive development and training programs closely collaborating with local and foreign counterparts, *e.g.* United Nations Police, United Missions in Sudan (UNPOL-UNMIS), Safety and Access to Justice Programme (SAJP).

However, there are other local centres, focusing on a specific aspect each. They could share their capability with other members:

- a. General Criminal Intelligence, Counter Terrorism and Investigations, Police Aviation; Kenya,
- b. Disaster Management; Burundi,
- c. Traffic Management, Gender Based Violence and Child Protection, Police Institutions of Higher Learning, Peace Support Operations and Logistics; Rwanda,
- d. Regional Centre for Community Policing and Social Media; Uganda,
- e. Public Order Management, General Junior Command Courses and Maritime Policing/Piracy; Tanzania.

## **Training and Capacity Building**

Training programs aimed to reinforce efficiency, using proper assessment and awarding licenses to officials working on examination. Because most officers working at combating institutions lack the required professional skills and equipment to handle cases competently, training has to include all the elements necessary for reinforcing efficiency and assessment and necessarily for the assigned tasks. Accordingly, other law enforcement agencies like immigration, customs, forestry, airport security and the sea ports were also accommodated in the training programs. Training included: first crime-scene respondents specialized in handling crime-scenes, drugs detection and investigative skills, concealing methods and transportation means among others. Police should be well equipped to detect and carry out necessary tests on suspected drugs. These programs also included the syllabus, continuous assessment, regional training and cooperation with similar laboratories.

To support these training efforts, Sudan Forensic Administration had developed a training arm specialized in forensic science. That was in the year 1995. Now the Institute is affiliated to the University of National Rabat and has many programs including awarding MSc. and PhD. degrees in forensic sciences.

To harmonize and enhance the training programs in the region to fight against transnational crimes, the resolution (RES/EAPCCO/2015/CPC/17/7) of the Council of EAPCCO police Chiefs held on 16 – 17 November 2015, Naivasha – Kenya called for a meeting of commandants of police Colleges/Academies and Schools and to establish a framework that would ensure the fast tracking of the suggested police training harmonization process in the region.

Accordingly, the meeting convened on 25 – 26 January 2016, Kigali – Rwanda resolved the following:

- Establishing the ‘Eastern Africa Association of Police Training Institution’ (EAAPTI).
- To harmonize and to standardize training programs.

### **Working with SAJP**

SAJP was a 4 years program that worked on capacity building and increasing coverage, accessibility and effectiveness of the police and justice systems of the Sudan. SAJP assisted in contributing training programs in the following areas:

- All crime-scene technical work including: handling of major crime-scenes, developing and implementation of Disaster Victim Identification.
- Scientific forensic visits to UK for some of the working forensic staff.
- Formulation of a strategy to the forensic work in Sudan and drawing a plan of actions in response to the implementation of that strategy.
- Organizing a capacity building project and workshop activities.

### **Working with UNMIS/ UNAMID**

Making use of the presence of UNMIS and then UNAMID (UN Mission in Sudan and then with African Union in Darfur), cooperation was carried out at all forensic aspects. A UN liaison office within the Sudan Forensic Administration for UNPOL experts was established. That office facilitated continuous contact with UN related experts to be consulted and for the delivery of training courses and sometimes, new methodologies were introduced.

## **Conclusion**

Sudan possesses a very good long history in policing and in international cooperation, particularly in training and forensic science. Sudan has a distinguished fingerprint on his African neighbour countries and the Arabic region as well. The history of the long co-operation with regional and international partners, knowhow and all these developments could make Sudan a suitable candidate to host focal centres and crime related networks for Africa and Middle East region. Taking into account the recent developing co-operation between Sudan Police Administration and leading international agencies including Turkish Police, FBI and EU which is planning to install a specialized centre to tackle migrants smuggling and human trafficking, Sudan is gaining more momentum as an optimum Focal Point in achieving the goal of the international cooperation in maintaining safety, security and justice including that related to drugs and drugs trafficking.

Meanwhile, and in all cases for international community and Sudan to meet these challenges and opportunities, Sudan must have technical assistance urgently in:

- Development of necessary Information Technology infrastructure, including the acquisition of some necessary equipments,
- Use of Information Technology to replace manual work with electronic processing of materials,
- Development of human capacity to manage Information Technology.