Responses: Border Liaison Office (BLO) Network
Border Liaison Office (BLO) is solution adopted by countries in ASEAN to address the risks of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)

- Operating since 1998
- In 5 countries
- In 76 locations
- With 638 Officers (as of Jan 2018)
- In 2016-2017 more than 4000 instances of cross-border cooperation
BLO is present in all the Mekong-Sub Region in multiple border locations
BLO improves: cross-border cooperation through multi-agency mechanisms

- Establish Standard Operating procedures (SOP)
- Streamline judicial cooperation
- Create data standards
BLO improves: capacities to collect, analyse and disseminate information

- Combine data on various crime types
- Support cross-border sharing of data
- Training for analysts
BLO enhances: staff knowledge and skills via technical training

- Core operational front-line training
- High-value skills for investigations
- Support training academies for new recruits
In Lao: UNODC supports 16 locations

- Borders: Thailand, Viet Nam, Myanmar, China, Cambodia
- Status: Challenged capacity to perform border management
- Strategy: Build the capacity and support involvement of all law enforcement agencies including customs, immigration and border guards
In Viet Nam: UNODC supports 16 locations

Borders: China, Cambodia, Lao
Status: Significant investments in maintaining BLO Network and interest in expanding cooperation with neighbours (i.e. Cambodia)
Strategy: Partnership with government and focus on improving cooperation between law enforcement and judiciary
In Cambodia: UNODC supports 14 locations

- Borders: Thailand, Lao, Viet Nam
- Status: Challenged capacity to focus on addressing the full spectrum of TOC creates a difficult environment
- Strategy: Continue to build the capacity of government and support the involvement of other law enforcement agencies including environment and finance.
In Thailand: UNODC supports 11 locations

- Borders: Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Malaysia
- Status: BLO Network fully endorsed and adopted by provincial government - this situation provides a blueprint for the region
- Strategy: Work with government in and advocate the BLO Network and approach across the Mekong Region
In Myanmar: UNODC Supports 11 locations

- Borders: China, Thailand, Lao, Bangladesh, India
- Status: Territorial integrity complicates (i.e. Shan State) ability of government to control TOC. Challenges in operational capacity create a difficult operating environment.
- Strategy: Provide technical support to government and involve all law enforcement agencies.
Expanding to Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines

- Indonesia: Assessment mission in Q2 2018
- Malaysia: Discussion with Government for assessment mission
- Philippines: Establish the special requirements of maritime BLO
UNODC works with China, Bangladesh and India

- China: Established partnership to support linkages with Mekong BLO locations
- Bangladesh: Assessment to determine locations to establish new BLO locations
- India: Working to identify effective approach for cross-border cooperation
UNODC Supports BLO in 5 key areas:

1. Training of officers to increase operational capacity

   In 2017-2018

   - Build skills on controlled delivery & investigations
   - Provide practical knowledge on testing illicit substances
   - Use of data as primary indicator for operations
   - Awareness on migrant smuggling dynamics
   - Insights on gender and human trafficking
UNODC Supports BLO in 5 key areas:

2. Assisting to build adequate infrastructure and facilities

- Provide support to Government of Viet Nam for new BLO locations
- Deliver support to Government of Myanmar for BLO locations in Rakhine

In 2017-2018
UNODC Supports BLO in 5 key areas:

3. Proving up-to-date equipment and physical assets

In 2017-2018:

- Drug & precursor testing kits delivered to all BLO locations in Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar
- Drug & precursor testing kits delivered to central drug authority in Myanmar
- Crime scene investigation materials delivered to all BLO locations in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia
UNODC Supports BLO in 5 key areas:

4. Systems for modern information management

In 2017-2018

- Build skills on controlled delivery & investigations
- Provide practical knowledge on testing illicit substances
- Use of data as primary indicator for operations
- Awareness on migrant smuggling dynamics
- Insights on gender and human trafficking
UNODC Supports BLO in 5 key areas:

5. Effective and regular cross-border communications

In 2017-2018

- Confirmed standard operating procedures (SOP) in Viet Nam and Cambodia
- Assessment for new cross-border arrangements between Viet Nam and Cambodia
- Identify demand for cross-border cooperation in Lao
- Identify demand for ASEAN cooperation with Bangladesh and India
Member States are fully committed to BLO. Varying levels of capacity and financial investment put strain on region to effectively tackle TOC and prepare for increased ASEAN trade.