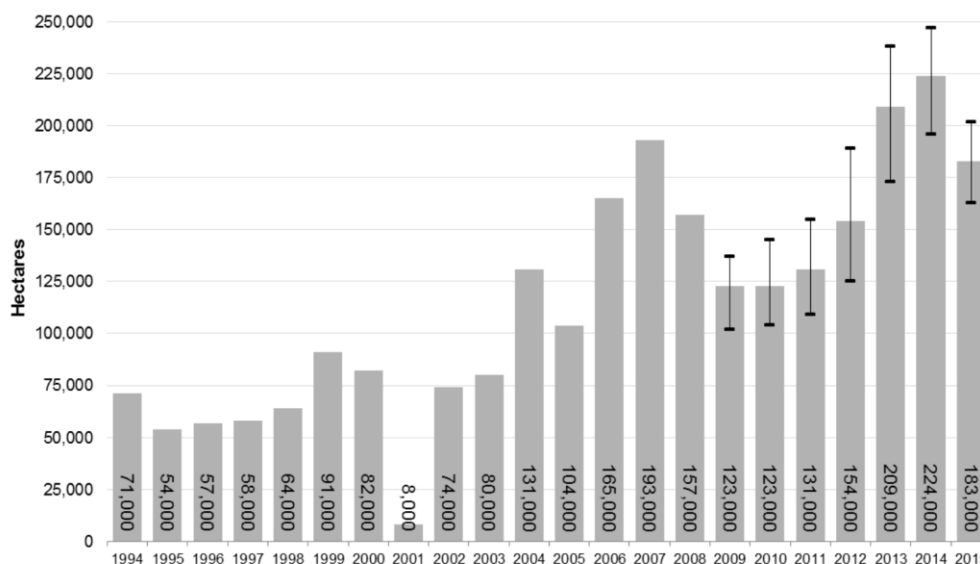




UNODC in West and Central Asia. *Newsletter Quarterly, Vol 1, June – September 2015.*

This Newsletter provides information about key UNODC actions, events and partnerships in the region of West and Central Asia (Afghanistan, (I.R. of) Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan). The UNODC strategy for West and Central Asia maximizes synergies with existing programmes in the region, primarily the Country Partnership Programme for (I.R. of) Iran, the Country Programmes for Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Programme for Central Asia and the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. This approach enables an integrated and concerted “one-UNODC” response in West and Central Asia focusing on Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice and Legal Cooperation, and Social and Health Aspects, and therefore supports national and regional efforts deployed for international peace, stability and development. UNODC is also promoting the drug control and cooperation platform set-up through the Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach and ensures effective linkages with other UNODC Regional Programmes operating in regions affected by Afghan opiates traffic including the trafficking of precursors, notably along the Balkan, Northern and Southern routes.

SPECIAL COLUMN



The recently released Afghan Opium Survey indicates that the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan estimates to be 183,000 hectares (163,000 - 202,000) in 2015, which represents a 19% decrease from 2014. The area under opium poppy cultivation has decreased for the first time since 2009, and is at its fourth highest level since the beginning of estimations in 1994; higher levels have been estimated in 2007, 2013 and 2014.

All three main opium-cultivating regions experienced a decrease in poppy-cultivation levels in 2015, with the largest relative decrease being in the Eastern region (-40%; mainly driven by decreases in Nangarhar), followed by the Southern (-20%) and Western (-10%) regions. In the Central (+38%) and Northern (+154%) regions a strong increase was observed. In the Northeastern region (-5%) area under poppy cultivation could be considered as stable.

Hilmand remained the country’s major opium-cultivating province (86,443 hectares), followed by Farah (21,106 hectares), Kandahar (21,020 hectares), Badghis (12,391 hectares), Uruzgan (11,277 hectares), Nangarhar (10,016 hectares). Nimroz (8,805 hectares). and Badakhshan (4,056 hectares).

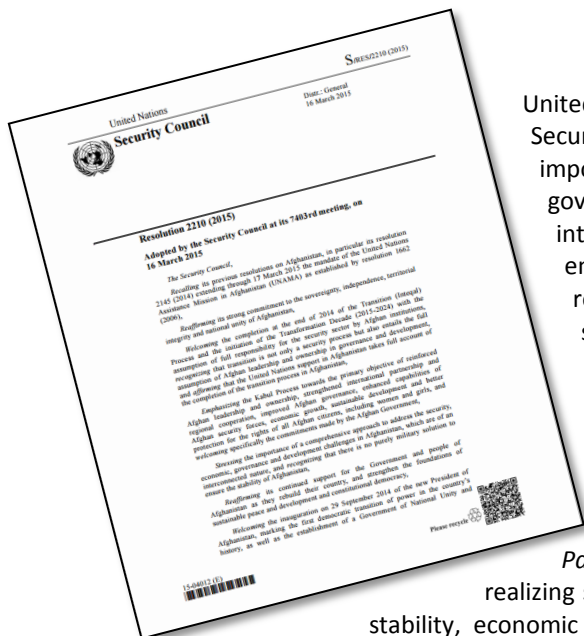


UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in partnership with



THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2210



United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2210, adopted by the Security Council at its 7403rd meeting on 16 March 2015, stressed the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, which are of an interconnected nature, recognizing that there is no purely military solution to ensure the stability of Afghanistan. The international community and regional partners are emphasized to further effectively support Afghan-led sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking in a balanced and integrated approach through regional initiatives and recognize the threat posed by the illicit economy on the international peace and stability.

The UNSCR welcomed the Government Reform Programme entitled *“Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to Reforms and Renewed Partnership”*, comprising of strategic policy priorities for Afghanistan towards realizing self-reliance in the Transformation Decade for improving security, political stability, economic and fiscal stabilization, advancing good governance, including electoral reform and strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the rule of law, and respect for human rights, fighting corruption and the illicit economy, as well as paving the way for enhanced private sector investments and sustainable, social, environmental and economic development.

At the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on 10 September 2015 in Vienna, H.E. Minister Azimi noted the progress made by Afghanistan in cooperation with the international partners over the past 14 years. Despite this progress however, illicit narcotics continue to inflict a great deal of damage to Afghan society, the broader region and the world. H.E. Minister Azimi emphasized three major Afghan challenges, among which the first one, are the continuously strengthening organized crime groups in the region and abroad, the second of which the problematic increase of drug addicts in the country, with three million current drug addicts. The third challenge H.E. Minister Azimi puts forward are the farmers involved in poppy cultivation who must do so for their livelihood, yet only receive 4% of the 61\$ billion illicit drug business. H.E. Minister Azimi calls for integrated efforts in both prevention and treatment, for increased provision of sustainable livelihoods and continued long-term and demand-driven support to the counter narcotic (CN) efforts in the years to come.

In response to the UNSCR, UNODC will hold a High Level Meeting of Partners on 14 December 2015 to review the status of cooperation and future strategic directives, with Afghanistan being at the core of the discussion and particularly, the pivotal function of its new National Drug Control Action Plan, which features a prominent Regional Cooperation plan therein. The expected outcome is the promotion of UNODC and major partners’ work in connection with governance, rule of law and counter narcotics in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Precursor chemicals and their momentous detriments.

11 June, 2015. As part of UNODC's ongoing assistance programme in Pakistan, the Country Office in collaboration with the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) conducted two workshops for the chemical and pharmaceutical industry at the ANF Academy in Islamabad. The aim of these workshops was to raise awareness within the industry on the diversion of precursor chemicals and their illicit use. The workshops were widely attended by the CEOs, managers, supervisors and traders of leading national industries including Rafhan, Nestle, Service, Punjab Beverages, Ittehad Chemicals Ltd and many others from Khyber Paktunkhwa and Punjab.

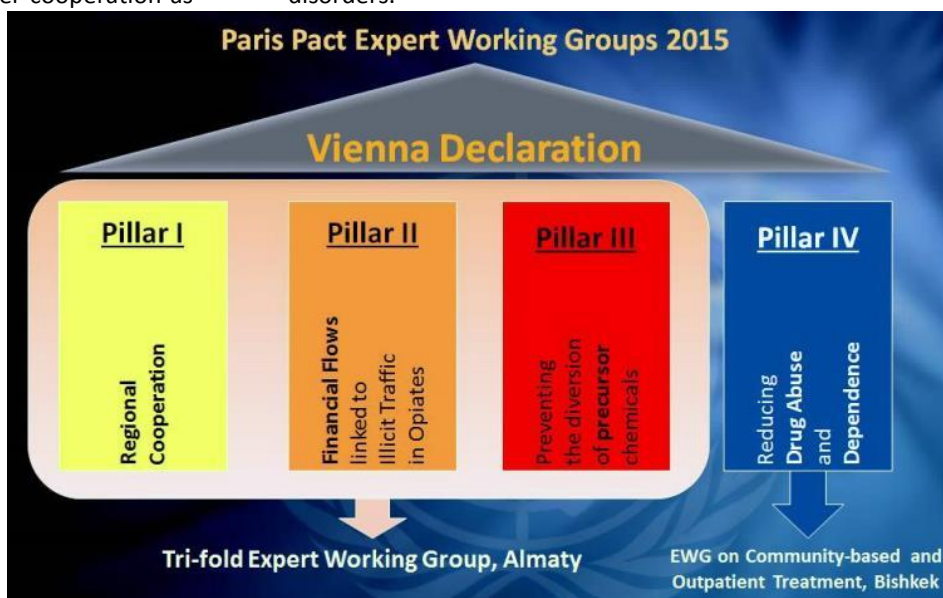


Paris Pact Expert Working Groups held in Almaty and Bishkek.

The **Paris Pact Initiative**, facilitates periodical consultations and strategic thinking at the expert and policy levels between partners and aims to organize annual expert meetings on each of its four thematic pillars, among which regional initiatives, illicit financial flows, precursor chemicals, cross-border cooperation as well as the treatment services are discussed. The recommended activities and conclusions resulting from all four expert meetings will be brought to the forthcoming Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group Meeting scheduled for October 2015, where they will be subject to further discussion and eventual endorsement by the partnership.

01-05 June, 2015. Tri-Fold Expert Working Groups (EWG) were hosted by CARICC in Almaty, Kazakhstan in which the key objective, among others was the identification of concrete actions required to address priority gaps under each of the first three Vienna Declaration pillars.

26 June, 2015. Another EWG that was hosted in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan corresponded with the fourth pillar of the Vienna Declaration, discussing the effectiveness of treatment services through the utilization of the best scientific knowledge in the area of treatment of drug use disorders.





Dogs responsible for 15% of total drug seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

15% of drug seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran, accounted for 1.950kg of heroin, equaling a street value of USD 780 million of the seizure of about 75 tons of different kinds of drugs such as opiates, cannabis, methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs in 2014.

1 July, 2015: UNODC Representative, Mr. Leik Boonwaat, visited the centre, together with Mr. Hossein Asgarian, from the UNODC office in Tehran, as well as Mr. Ferrari and Ms. Tay from the OIOS in Geneva. The aim was to discuss the achievements as well as the needs of the centre, particularly to upgrade the medical veterinary equipment. The Anti-Narcotics Police also plans to expand the work of their centre by establishing two new centres in South Eastern and North Western part of Iran.

1 September, 2015: His Excellency Ambassador Koji Haneda of Japan and UNODC Iran visited the Iranian Police Drug Detecting Dog center in Karaj, which has expanded its capacity of Drug K9 teams throughout the

country thanks to the support of the Government of Japan and UNODC.

Ambassador Haneda received a briefing on the Iranian Police drug dog units capacities and operations, and effectiveness of the trained dogs as the main factor behind the seizures of 40 tons of different types of drugs such as opiates, cannabis methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs so far in 2015, strengthening the view of dogs as the first line of defense against international drug trafficking networks.



Counter-narcotics canine capacity of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in Pakistan increased.

1 June, 2015.

The UNODC Country Office Pakistan and the ANF organised a special visit by a team of counter-

narcotics canine experts from the Bolivian Police who evaluated the canine capacity of the ANF and explored the steps required to bring the canine capacity of Pakistani law enforcement agencies in line with the

international standards. The Bolivian Police Training Centre of Drug Detecting Canines is located in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and is considered one of the renowned canine training facilities in the world. Particular reference was given to improving the canine breeding and training capabilities of the ANF and tactical deployment along both vulnerable drug trafficking routes and entry/exit points in the country. The experts facilitated the development of a comprehensive technical evaluation of the emerging needs in the country's law enforcement agencies, and the UNODC's future development strategy to enhance Pakistan's counter-narcotics canine capacity.



New Border Liaison Offices (BLO) opened at the Kyrgyz-Tajik Border.

15 June, 2015. The BLOs were established in the framework of the UNODC "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)" project, and opened on 15 June, 2015. The Government of Japan, amongst others, funded this project and provided USD 1,270,000 to specifically support the BLOs at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border. The First Deputy Chairman of the State Service on Drug Control under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Gulamzhan Anarbaev emphasized the importance of

BLOs concerning the improvement of the interagency and cross border cooperation between Kyrgyz and Tajik law





enforcement agencies as well as the crucial contribution

to their efforts in countering drug trafficking.

Training of Trainers and Advanced Level Training in Precursor Control

15-19 June 2015. To enhance the precursor control capacity and support the law enforcement training activities under the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries (Sub-Programme 1), "Training of Trainers and Advanced Level Training Course in Precursor Control" was conducted at the Training Center of the Drug Control Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan. In this course, 21 law

enforcement officers from eight countries were trained by the French Police and Customs Experts as a kind contribution of the Government of France. The trainees learned about the latest interdiction techniques, and shared information on new synthetic drugs. As one of the outcomes of this training course, the number of the local trainers increased and the counterpart agencies will be able to train more officers in the field.

Counteracting the risk of shipping containers being illicitly used.

The Global Container Control Programme has implemented several programmes to further decrease the risk of shipping containers being illicitly used to smuggle illicit substances. Custom officers were trained in selecting high-risk containers in the pre-arrival (imports) and/or pre-departure (exports) phases, and to undertake their physical examinations.

June, 2015. A four-day Mentorship Programme for Turkmen Customs Officers of the Ashgabat dry port and the Turkmenbashi seaport was conducted by UNODC in June 2015, with the aim of enhancing the sustainability of the programme, and equipping the newly assigned

officers of the CCP Port Control Unit (PCU) with the necessary skills and knowledge.

September, 2015. A two week training for frontline officers of the Customs Service and Drug Control Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan was conducted by the "UNODC-WCO Global Container Control Programme". The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan hosted the event at the "Terminal" customs post in Dushanbe, at which the trainees became proficient in applying profiling and searching techniques of high-risk consignments as well as exchange data via the secure "ContainerComm" communication system.

Eradication of Wild Cannabis in Kyrgyzstan.

24 July, 2015. Since the beginning of the year, 57 tons out of 550 hectares of wild cannabis has been destroyed in the Ak-Suu and Tyup districts of the Issyk-Kul province, of which another 15 tons of wild cannabis were destroyed by Kyrgyz law enforcement agencies. Coordinated efforts are required by the main national counterparts, including local governors, the general population with the support of international organizations to counteract the big areas of wild cannabis. A joint operation "Poppy 2015" was conducted through coordinated efforts of the UNODC, the SSDC (State Service on Drug Control) and other law enforcement agencies, representatives of the judiciary system, as well as local authorities and the mass media.





UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in partnership with



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Afghanistan Drug Reporting System (ADRS) launched.

23 June, 2015. The ADRS is an interactive online system for all counter narcotics related data from all line Ministries involved in counter narcotics (CN) on Afghanistan. It serves as a key component of the Ministry of Counter Narcotic's leadership and coordination role in CNs as well as a crucial tool for policy makers, members of the international community

and all those interested in countering narcotics in Afghanistan. This up-to-date online database, provides information about all narcotics related indicators, including eradication, cultivation, drug price, treatment capacity, imprisonment, alternative livelihoods and seizures to inform trend analysis, policy development and evaluation.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons celebrated.

26 July, 2015. Millions of women, men and children fall victims of human trafficking annually. The latest global estimate according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) calculates that 21 million people are victims of human trafficking. Roughly 4.5 million of those are estimated to be victims of sexual exploitation, of which 82% are women and children. This day was marked by the Regional Office for Central Asia in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and UNODC Programme Office in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) to raise awareness of the plight of human trafficking victims, and promote and protect their rights.



**WORLD DAY AGAINST
TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS
30 JULY**

Combating Cybercrime in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries.

18-19 August, 2015. A two-day regional workshop on "International and Regional Cooperation to Combat

Cybercrime" was organized (in Dushanbe/Tajikistan) under the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring countries, Sub-Programme 2 on "International/Regional Cooperation in Legal Matters" in close cooperation with the OSCE Border Management Staff College and European Commission. The regional workshop brought together senior experts/practitioners from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Comprehensive domestic legislation and its application to combat the use of new technologies for illicit financial flows was at the centre of the regional workshop. The workshop successfully concluded by adopting a set of recommendation/conclusions for promoting regional cooperation to prevent and combat cybercrime.





Strengthening Cooperation between Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

2-4 September, 2015. A joint UNODC/EAG/ITMCFM inter-regional workshop on "Strengthening Cooperation between FIUs and LAEs in Combating Laundering of Illicit Drug Trafficking Proceeds" was organized in Moscow under the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring countries (Sub-Programme 2) jointly with EAG and with the support provided by the Russian FIU (ITMCFM). The workshop brought together senior experts and practitioners from all 8 RP countries as well as senior experts from China, Belarus, India, Russian Federation, EAG, CIS ATC and CSTO to discuss and share best practices among which: (i) Legal regulations for the fight against laundering of drug trafficking proceeds and the national efforts to address it; (2) Effective cooperation between LEAs and FIUs as well as FIUSs at the international level in combating illicit drug

trafficking; (iii) Proactive detection of drug proceeds laundering transactions and further cooperation with the LEAs as well as (iv) effective practical cooperation in course of the CSTO and practitioners from all 8 RP countries as well as senior experts from China, Belarus, India, Russian Federation, EAG, CIS ATC and CSTO to discuss and share best practices among which: (i) Legal regulations for the fight against laundering of drug trafficking proceeds and the national efforts to address it; (2) Effective cooperation between LEAs and FIUs as well as FIUSs at the international level in combating illicit drug trafficking; (iii) Proactive detection of drug proceeds laundering transactions and further cooperation with the LEAs as well as (iv) effective practical cooperation in course of the CSTO Channel operation and the UNODC CASH Initiative.

Tons of Drugs Burned on World Drug Day celebrations

6 September 2015. Tons of drugs have been burned on the International Day of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as the World Drug Day. This special day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1987 and by means of diverse campaigns and themes raises awareness of the damage illicit drugs present to society. It simultaneously serves as a reminder of the goals agreed by the Member States for creating an international society free of drug abuse. The world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health, safety and well-being of humanity, in particular to young people, and to the national security and sovereignty of States, and undermines socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development. Whereas Vietnam draws upon the beauty of art and the wide range art can have in addressing a community, Pakistan draws upon



awareness camps in busy intersections. In turn, Iranian and Uzbek law enforcement agencies burned 56 tons and 1 ton 400kg respectively on that special day (Iran burned 500 tons in total in 2014), in order for people to visibly memorize and anneal the detrimental factors drugs can have on individuals, communities, countries and the world.

Building Capacity of Specialized Homicide Investigation Unit.

9 September, 2015. UNODC, in partnership with the Punjab Police, organised a seminar on "Building the capacity of Specialized Homicide Investigation Units (SHIU)" in Lahore, Pakistan. This initiative began with the training of 108 master trainers from all 36 districts of Punjab by the UNODC in 2014, and started their duties on 9 September 2015, comprising of 478 officers. In addition, 1489 officials will assist these investigation officers. 478 officers were picked from the investigation training at the Police Training College in Chuhng, during which senior officers and experts from the Forensic

Science Agency trained them on modern methods in various fields, including evidence collection, preservation of crime scenes and completion of legal proceedings. Investigation officers started working at police stations across the province, among others in Lahore (52), Sheikhpura (75), Gujranwala (45). Additionally, UNODC had also trained the police in performing as first responders at crime scenes to preserve evidence, and provided 550 first responder kits for the protection of crime scenes.



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in partnership with



HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD

Launch of Three New Alternative Livelihood Projects.

02 August, 2015. UNODC Country Programme for Afghanistan facilitated a multi-stakeholder event on launch of three Alternative Livelihood projects by the Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN), discussing the topics on (a) Land Stabilization (Herat and Farah), (b) Development of Agricultural Value Chains (Badakhshan, Takhar and Baghlan) and (c) Support to High-Value Horticulture (Kandahar) which will be implemented over the next 24 months. The event took place in Karachi, Pakistan and was chaired by the MCN Minister, H.E. Salamat Azimi and attended by ministers and senior Government officials from Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Commerce and Industries and Ministry of Interior, implementing partners- Aga Khan Foundation, DACAAR and Mercy



Corps, donor representatives-Finland and Japan, and the civil society. The launch event provided an opportunity to discuss and debate the expected outcomes of each project, the likely impact of livelihoods on target communities and how to best ensure the sustainability of each intervention.

Mobilizing HIV prevention and treatment.



July, 2015. UNODC in cooperation with the Tashkent Medical Institute for Advanced Training conducted a nationwide series of video-seminars aimed at training general practitioners and infection diseases doctors on HIV prevention, treatment and care for People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. The video-seminars taught participants about the international standards in HIV prevention and treatment among PWIDs and discussed issues related to stigma and discrimination.

National Mobilization Against Narcotics launched.

16 August, 2015. Seminars on National Mobilization (NM) against narcotics were conducted in five provinces of Afghanistan, including Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar and Badakhshan, with the aim of raising awareness and galvanize public against narcotics. Line

ministers including Ministers of Counter Narcotics, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock and Hajj and Pilgrimage participated in those seminars in order to involve media in counter narcotics and national mobilization against narcotics.



Herat Governor Visits the Land Stabilization Project in Kohsan District – Herat, Afghanistan.

26 August, 2016. H.E. Mohammad Asif Rahimi, accompanied by the provincial government officials, visited the land stabilization project supported by UNODC and praised the efforts of the implementing partner (Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)) and the beneficiary community for the successful establishment of the project. He further pointed out that if the project is maintained over a longer period of time, positive changes will result in

terms of an amelioration of the environment, water retention and enrichment of flora and fauna, which will decelerate land degradation.



Increased focus on Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) Treatment Approaches in Iran.

July, 2015. Behavioural Drug and Risk Counselling (BDRC) is an innovative treatment approach, introduced by the UNODC in the Islamic Republic of Iran, piloted in 2014 through a joint collaboration between UNODC, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and the Yale School of Medicine. It focuses on immediate problem areas in substance abuse, including treatment participation and adherence with treatment prescriptions; becoming abstinent, maintaining abstinence, and preventing relapse; as well as modifying or eliminating behaviours that increase the risk of contracting blood borne or infectious diseases (e.g., HIV, Hepatitis, STDs). In particular, there is a focus on increasing engagement in non-drug-related social interactions and pleasurable activities.

In 2015, UNODC organized a four day training and supervision course for BDRC focused on treating women with amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) use disorder in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to enhance capacity for treatment and rehabilitation of ATS use disorders and to increase knowledge, skills and confidence in Iranian drug therapists on effective out-patient interventions. Women drug users and spouses of drug users are amongst the most vulnerable ones in Iran, facing higher levels of domestic violence and deprivation in comparison to other women in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Drug Control Headquarter (Iran) figures indicate that more women are dying from drug related causes compared with previous years (3000 drug related deaths per year).

Launch of Drug Prevention Campaign in the Sindh Province, Pakistan.



18 August, 2015. UNODC, Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Pakistan (INL) launched a five month long drug prevention campaign in nine cities located in the Province of Sindh (Hyderabad, Larkana, Sukkur, Shikarpur, Badin, Mirpur Khas, Nawabshah, Jacobabad, and Khairpur) on 18 August, 2015. Sindh had the second highest prevalence rate for

cannabis use in the country, with almost 100,000 drug users in Sindh estimated to be injecting drugs, primarily opiates. The campaign makes use of diverse means in order to raise public awareness on drugs and their harmful effects on individuals, families and society at large with a special focus on youth in the educational institutions, teachers, parents and religious leaders. The Drug Prevention Campaign includes the installation of billboards with drug prevention messages in local languages at strategic locations in the target cities; broadcasts of drug prevention messages and talk shows on FM radio and local TV stations, drug prevention education sessions with school children, teachers and religious scholars, as well as a helpline to offer access to drug information and facilitate drug treatment services.