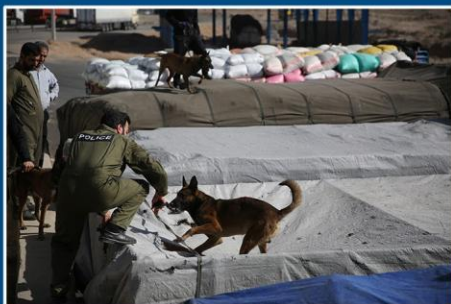




## Annual Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Drug Control Activities in 2019



## *Annual Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Drug Control Activities in 2019*

### Foreword:

Since its establishment in 1989, the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) has had major accomplishments in countering the global scourge of illicit drugs through developing and implementing of long-term integrated and comprehensive strategies involving demand reduction and supply reduction to minimize and eventually eliminate the availability and use of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances and to ensure the creation of a drug-free community.

In this context, the main actions and measures taken by the Islamic republic of Iran in combating and addressing the world drug problem in 2019 are summarized as following:

### *“Let's help each other”*

The motto *“Let's help each other”* designated by the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran for 2018-2020 surpasses geographical borders and seeks the collaboration of beneficiaries as well as important domestic and foreign actors aimed at saving human lives and preserving human dignity and esteem in the face of the threat posed by narcotic drugs and addiction. The motto is in congruity with international rules and principles and calls for more effective participation by world countries and international bodies for the sake of containing the universal threat posed by the production, transit and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances particularly in high-risk zones.

The project known as the *helping hands in society* has been put on the agenda of the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) with the aim of creating and strengthening the feeling of individual and social responsibility as well as developing participation by all beneficiaries in the society covering various domains such as prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and harms reduction. The project makes every individual and family more familiar with the risks and harms caused by drug abuse and addiction enabling them to help other

individuals and families either healthy ones or those exposed to risks leading to the formation of a dynamic educational and supportive arrangement making one more hopeful for the creation of a drug-free community in the future.

A series of measures have been carried out in 2019 for the realization of the above-mentioned project as following:

- Biking event and organizing a seminar at Shahid Harandi residential area in Tehran city on the role of NGOs and social participation for controlling social harms,
- Holding cultural and sports events including Futsal competitions at Shahid Harandi residential area in Tehran city attended by the spokesperson of the cabinet of ministers as well as the national soccer team players and veterans,
- Preparing a bulletin on job creation and vocational training dealing with the creation of job opportunities for recovered individuals and families who were harmed by the menace of narcotic drugs,
- Sharing of views by NGOs and the education ministry for the implementation of the project in Kurdistan province,
- Organizing an exhibition for students concerning social harms in the province of East Azerbaijan,
- Holding the seminar on the topic of the *helping hands in society* in the province of West Azerbaijan as well as the province of Sistan & Baluchestan attended by Sunni ulemas
- Signing of MOU by the secretariat of the Drug Control Headquarters and the Technical and Vocational Training Organization for empowerment and protection of recovered individuals and families harmed by addiction
- Providing training for 35,000 recovered individuals and their families teaching them their needed skills.

In the past three decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has conducted approximately 40,000 armed confrontations with drug traffickers dismantling more than 48,000 drug trafficking networks leading to the seizure of approximately 12,000 tons of drugs. Unfortunately, It is worthy to note that during the same period, the Islamic Republic of Iran has dedicated 3,819 martyrs and more than 12,000 disabled persons for the sake of combating illicit drugs (1979-December 2019) that indicate huge human and spiritual loss inflicted on the country for the sake of maintaining security and public health.

In 2019, the Law Enforcement Agencies of the Islamic Republic of Iran conducted number of 2,319 armed confrontations with bandits and members of international drug trafficking networks and dismantled number of 1,886 drug trafficking rings as well as active local, regional and international networks. The said operations led to the seizure of approximately 815 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances including 36 tons of heroin and morphine.

Such an achievement at the global level is not due to technical, logistical and financial support provided by world countries and international organizations. On the other hand, the accomplishment is the result of adherence to the noble and advanced Islamic and humanitarian precepts prevailing in the country.

This is a clear indication of the Islamic Republic of Iran's adherence to Islamic and humanitarian principles as well as national and international commitments in the field of drug control after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Iran stands in the first place with regard to the volume of opium seizure and has the second position concerning the seizure of heroin and morphine in the world. Such an accomplishment has led to the recognition of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the flag bearer of the fight against narcotic drugs in the world.

<p>The Islamic Republic of Iran is always praised by global and UN bodies particularly the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the relentless fight against the menace of narcotic drugs.</p>
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Due to the intensification of measures for combating the drug supply and enhancement of qualitative and quantitative capacities of law enforcement agencies, the ice-manufacturing labs (methamphetamine) were transferred from Iran to Afghanistan since approximately a year ago. The trend has been intensified due to the growing consumption market and the low cost of production in Afghanistan.

### **Significant Measures for Combating the Drug Supply:**

- Continuing reinforcement of physical barriers at the border and blocking the eastern (entry points) and western borders (exit points) of the country through the construction of 2,009 kilometers of embankments, barbed wire, canals, etc;
- Expanding electronic borders control facilities;
- Enhancing cooperation, coordination and law enforcement operations through establishment of the Specialized Supply Reduction Committees in DCHQ for better inter- organizational and intra- organizational operational information exchange within the country;
- Exchanging of law enforcement officers with neighboring countries and beyond in order to facilitate operational exchange of information;
- Dealing blows to the economic foundations of drug traffickers;
- Promoting bilateral, regional and international LEA cooperation, including through intelligence-sharing and cross-border cooperation, aimed at countering the world drug problem more effectively;
- Major reduction in drug-related criminal activities that were aimed at causing insecurity particularly along eastern regions of the country;
- Using drug-sniffer dogs for detecting narcotic drugs;
- Using advanced drones of the armed forces for detecting drug trafficking routes as well as monitoring any movement by drug convoys;
- Strengthening further maritime drug traffic control through capaci-

ty building at national level and as well as facilitating regional and international maritime cooperation;

- Continuing of observation and precise monitoring of activities by drug traffickers and street dealers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in cyberspace via cyber police;
- Reducing of production and consumption of methamphetamines (ice) in the country;

Approving and offering “The Comprehensive Document For Combating The Drug Supply” as a strategic and scientific roadmap for countering illicit drugs and psychotropic substances and directing the drug control policies and plans based on the most credible scientific evidence. This document has been submitted to the LEA for implementation in December 2019.

It should be noted that 15,000 liters of anhydride acid as well as 16,840 kilos of sodium chloride (precursor) were seized in 2019, those registered in INCB’s PICS system.

**Table 1- Measures for Combating the Drug Supply**

Title	Unit	Quantity
Armed Confrontations With Drug Traffickers	Number of confrontations	2319
Dismantled networks	Number of networks	1886
Seized opium	Kilograms	656258
Heroin	Kilograms	17414
Hashish (cannabis)	Kilograms	73928
Morphine	Kilograms	18185
<b>Total Seizures</b>	<b>Kilograms</b>	<b>814477</b>
Drug control martyrs	Number of martyrs	5

## **Major Activities in the field of**

### **Prevention and Cultural Affairs**

- Implementing the plan for empowerment and addiction prevention in schools for students, parents and teachers;
- Setting up student focal points acting as health assistants for developing primary prevention at universities and academic centers;
- Implementing the national project for research on epidemiology of addiction at work places;
- Equipping small gyms in rural areas in order to create exuberance amongst the rural population of the country;
- Holding a national festival with the theme of a healthy teenager for high school students;
- Offering training on self-care skills and home-school cooperation plan designed for elementary students;
- Conducting special primary prevention plans for people living in underprivileged and contaminated zones, slum-dwellers and vulnerable social groups;
- Attaching special importance to the need for spreading the culture of social liveliness at educational centers, family, work places as well as recreational and public places;
- Implementing special plans aimed at detecting families and children who are exposed to the threat of addiction;
- Providing training on prevention at military sites particularly for soldiers, officers, non-commissioned officers and the staff;
- Implementing special plans on prevention for women, girls and children living in shanty towns;
- Conducting necessary preventive interventions in prisons for offering training on prevention to the inmates' families and the staff working in prisons;
- Benefiting from the capacities of IRIB (Islamic Republic of Iran

Broadcasting) at the national and provincial levels for the sake of preventing addiction;

- Standardizing plans and activities in the field of primary prevention in various social environments.

**Table 2- Cultural and Preventive Measures**

Title	Unit	Quantity
Number of individuals covered by cultural and preventive programs in families	Persons	4650000
Number of individuals covered by cultural and preventive programs in educational settings (schools and academic centers)	Persons	2099650
Number of individuals covered by cultural and preventive programs at work places	Persons	192000
Number of individuals covered by cultural and preventive programs in rural and urban communities	Persons	70700
National hotline for counseling services on addiction	Response to calls	457397



## Major Activities in the fields of

### Treatment, Harms Reduction and Social Support:

- Using modern methods of treatment, rehab and harms reduction based on national and international experiences;
- Planning for the merger of drug use disorder treatment services with the primary health care system;
- Providing access to harms reduction and treatment facilities by addicts seeking such services;
- Providing pharmaceutical services such as methadone, buprenorphine and opium tincture at outpatient clinics;
- Providing non-pharmaceutical services such as psychological treatment based on matrix model for the consumers of stimulant drugs, brief cognitive-behavioral treatment, contingency management, structural mental treatment at the level of individuals or groups, family-therapy, therapy for spouses, groups providing assistance at harms reduction and treatment centers;
- Conducting AIDS control plans for protecting public health particularly reducing HIV/AIDS infection via intravenous drug use;
- Benefiting from the community-based approach as well as the huge capacities of the people, NGOs and the private sector in the field of drug demand reduction and particularly treatment and harms reduction;
- Launching treatment, rehab and harms reduction clinics for pregnant women and addicted women who have children;
- Launching the addiction warning and monitoring network;
- Qualitative and quantitative expansion of treatment and harms reduction services for addicted inmates within the framework of triangular clinics in prisons.

**Table 3- Treatment, Harms Reduction and Social Support**

Title	Unit	Quantity
Prevalence rate for drug use (narcotics and psychotropic substances) in the general population (15-64 years)	Percentage	5/4
Number of treatment and harms reduction clinics	Number of clinics	9148
Number of individuals admitted by treatment and harms reduction clinics	Persons	1472668
Ratio of HIV-contaminated persons via intravenous drug use to the total population contaminated with HIV virus	Percentage	31
Ratio of drug-related deaths to total cases of unnatural deaths	Percentage	9/7
Ratio of drug abusers under treatment and harms reduction to total number of drug abusers	Percentage	52

## Major Activities by NGOs for

### Development of Public Participation:

- Strengthening the community-based approach in the field of drug control with the participation of people from all walks of life;
- Producing 10,000 training packages for the empowerment of NGOs;
- Creating 90 cyber networks and cellphone software in line with the adoption of a community-based approach in the field of drug control;
- Launching inclusive centers for empowerment and social protection of recovered individuals in selected provinces of the country;

Approving “The Comprehensive Document For Adopting A Community-Based Approach” as a strategic and scientific roadmap based on the most credible scientific evidence. The document submitted for all stakeholders and beneficiaries for implementation in December 2019.

**Table 4- Developing Public Participation and NGOs**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
NGOs active in the field of drug control	Number of NGOs	2410
Number of recovered individuals covered by vocational training	Persons	40000
Holding festivals, seminars and specialized exhibitions	Number of events	410
Holding training workshops at national, regional and provincial levels	Number of work-shops	895
Creating the capacity for sustainable job opportunities for recovered individuals and those harmed by addiction in collaboration with social entrepreneurs	Persons	450
Ambassadors representing the community-based approach for combating drugs	Persons	1780
Holding technical sessions with non-governmental and public entities as well as NGOs for developing public participation	Number of sessions	847

## Major Educational and Research Activities

- Establishing the research council attended by experienced academicians and continued interaction with research and scientific centers affiliated to public universities, schools of medicine, Payam-e-Nour University, Islamic Azad University and University of Applied Science and Technology in order to implement research projects in the fields of combating the drug supply and demand reduction;
- Designating 7 subjects as national research priorities as well as 145 subjects as research priorities for preparing theses and dissertations in the field of drug control and offering them to universities, research centers and other academic institutions;
- Conducting 16 applied researches at the national and provincial levels in relation with the software and hardware aspects of drug control (including rapid assessment of drug use disorder, the approach towards narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, designing the management knowledge system, etc.) while making use of the country's specialized and scientific capacities for generating knowledge and strengthening the scientific approach for combating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- Providing support for 52 relevant theses and dissertations;
- Publishing 6 quarterly scientific periodicals in the field of addiction in Farsi comprising 90 specialized articles;
- Publishing 4 quarterly scientific periodicals in the field of addiction in English comprising 60 specialized articles uploaded on [www.etiadpajohi.ir](http://www.etiadpajohi.ir) and DOAJ international website;
- Publishing 3 quarterly periodicals on public health and addiction in Farsi comprising 21 specialized articles;
- Empowering efficient manpower and updating their technical knowledge, planning and developing training courses for managers and senior experts at DCHQ secretariat through organizing technical

workshops in the fields of prevention, treatment, harms reduction, combating the drug supply, international affairs, legal and judicial affairs, public relations and dissemination of information, properties and assets, etc.

- Updating the digital library and uploading research projects, dissertations, specialized papers and books (lib.dchq.ir with 10,937,006 visitors).

## Regional and International Cooperation:

### A Participation in international meetings:

- Holding the ceremony marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking attended by the judiciary chief, interior minister and other relevant authorities as well as ambassadors, diplomats and military attachés residing in Tehran;
- Taking part in the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna as the most important annual meeting dealing with the issue of narcotic drugs at the international level (March 2019);
- International seminar on search methods and risk analysis (April 2019);
- International conference on practical mechanisms and legal norms for controlled delivery and covert operations for combating narcotic drugs and organized crimes attended by prosecutors and law enforcement authorities in Issyk-kul, Kyrgyzstan;

### B Participation in regional meetings:

- 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Heads Of Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) of Asia and the Pacific;
- 54<sup>th</sup> sub-commission meeting on drugs trafficking in the Middle East and Near East, held in Tashkent;
- 8<sup>th</sup> steering committee meeting of the Regional Program for Afghanistan and neighboring countries, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- Meeting on operation Reflex and countering NPS, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- Experts' group technical meeting in Turkey on new methods for tracking down chemical precursors particularly acetic anhydride;
- Technical regional meeting for sharing experiences regarding the project for strengthening the family foundation (10-14 years old) as well as successful experiences on drug abuse prevention among teenagers within the framework of the regional program for Afghanistan and neighboring countries, held in Almaty;
- Meeting of the Paris Pact working group on preventing precursor

diversion held in Shanghai, China;

- Taking part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> working session of data analysis departments in Vienna;
- Meeting on precursor profiling hosted by INCB in Vienna.

## **C Organizing regional and international meetings:**

- Holding training workshops on prevention in collaboration with UNODC such as project for the mighty family foundation program and strengthening family program;
- Hosting the Regional Working Group on Precursors in Tehran within the framework of UNODC Regional Program (July 15-16, 2019);
- Organizing a training workshop in Tehran for specialists of the region on detection and treatment of drug overdose and withdrawal syndrome;

## **D Bilateral cooperation:**

- Visits by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran led by DCHQ Secretary General to Austria, Slovakia, Russia and China;
- Receiving high-ranking delegations from Italy, Iraq, Pakistan and Armenia

***Designation of the Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS) by UNODC as:***

***the Regional Center for Capacity-Building and Research on the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders***

It was agreed to select one of the active centers operating in the field of treatment and harms reduction as a regional center for capacity-building in the field of research and treatment. The agreement was reached within the framework of the Country Participatory Program between the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNODC. The Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS) was finally selected as an exemplary center following examination by experts.

A draft MOU was submitted to DCHQ by UNODC and the document for cooperation was signed in the course of the visit by DCHQ Secretary General to Vienna on October 2019. On this basis, INCAS was officially chosen by the UNODC as a regional center for capacity-building and research on the treatment of drug use disorders.

Following the signing ceremony in Vienna, INCAS was officially inaugurated as a regional center in the field of addiction research and treatment on December 18, 2019 in Tehran in a ceremony attended by Vienna-based special representative of UNODC, several diplomats and ambassadors as well as national authorities and specialists.





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