



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

History of Agency in the World and Iran

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to address the interrelated issues of drug control, crime prevention and international terrorism in all its forms. The UNODC headquarters is located in Vienna, Austria. It has national and regional field offices covering over 150 countries.

The UNODC programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran was launched in 1999. The Iran programme opened a new page in the Iranian drug control policy making and marked the participation of the international community in the Iranian drug control, legal reform, drug prevention and HIV control efforts, which were combined with advocacy initiatives.

UNODC has been working with national counterparts and international donor community to launch a new Iran country programme on drugs and crime for 2011-2014.



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Priorities Globally and in Iran

UNODC implements measures that reflect the three international conventions on drug control and the conventions against trans-national organized crime and corruption.

Working directly with governments and non-governmental organizations, the UNODC field offices develop and implement drug control, crime and terrorism prevention programmes, always adapted to the local necessities of the countries involved. The three pillars of UNODC's work are:

- Field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.
- Normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of the relevant international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of secretariat and substantive services to the treaty-based and governing bodies.
- Research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues and expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions.

UNODC in the Islamic Republic of Iran is focused on delivering quality and scientific based services to the country on three thematic areas of illicit trafficking and border management; drug demand reduction and HIV control, and crime prevention, criminal justice and anti-corruption. Moreover, the Office acts as the interlocutor and promoter of regional cross-border cooperation among Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan to tackle serious organised crime and drug trafficking challenges.

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Main projects/activities in Iran

The new framework of UNODC cooperation and assistance for the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2011-2014 aims at enhancing and promoting cooperation between national stakeholders and international donors in drug control and crime prevention. Moreover, the new UNODC country programme extends its umbrella of cooperation to actual end-users namely non-governmental organisations, academia and research institutes. The programme covers three main clusters and includes:

Illicit (drug) trafficking and border management

- Assist and support national authorities enhancing border management, drugs, precursors and amphetamine type stimulants interdiction capacities through national, regional and international initiatives, and
- Assist authorities in the process of identifying and acting against organized crime drug networks and serious operatives;

Drug Demand Reduction and HIV Control

- Support implementation of comprehensive drug demand reduction, HIV control and harm reduction programmes;
- Support programmes for easy access of intravenous drug users, their sexual partners, and prison inmates to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services, and
- Support various national authorities and non-government entities in the implementation of innovative approaches on drug demand reduction.

Crime, Justice and Corruption

- Support the national process to introduce legislative and institutional regulatory frameworks under the United Nations Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime (UNTOC), including through regional and international cooperation;
- Support national anti-corruption bodies on effective measures to counter corruption under United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and
- Support national authorities in actions to counter trafficking in cultural properties, art and antiquities in accordance with international standards.

South-South Cooperation

UNODC Iran is a promoter of South-South Cooperation in the country and global levels. The Office has arranged study missions from 35 Asian and African countries to Iran since 2007 for capacity-building initiatives including exchanges of experiences on injecting drug use, methadone maintenance, and needle-syringe exchange. In the area of crime prevention, the Office assists in upgrading Financial Intelligence Units cooperation between Iran and developing countries against financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering.