



## AFGHANISTAN DRUG REPORT 2012: PRESS RELEASE

**Kabul, 9 November 2013: “Urgent need to strengthen and scale-up action against illicit drugs”**

The Afghanistan Drug Report 2012 released by the Ministry of Counter Narcotics with technical support of UNODC today highlights key achievements to date in the development of institutional and policy frameworks in response to illicit drugs. At the same time, the report shows that the cultivation, trafficking and use of illicit drugs remain critical challenges for Afghanistan resulting in significant negative social, economic and political impacts. Thus, the report underlines that, the need to strengthen and scale up counter narcotics policies and interventions is more pressing today than ever before. *“Considering the transition process and serious challenges related to drugs and organized crimes, effective responses are required by the country with support from the international community”* stated the Ministry of Counter Narcotics.

There have been considerable investments and interventions to counter drug supply including public awareness campaigns, eradication and alternative livelihoods support which have had impacts on poppy cultivation. For instance, within areas targeted by the Helmand Food Zone Programme, farmers rely less on poppy and more on wheat for their income than farmers outside the Food Zone. Also, the number of drug treatment centers increased by 58% between 2009 and 2012 but overall capacity remains low covering only 5.9% of the opium and heroin users in the country.

In terms of Law enforcement efforts, significant increases have been observed in the number of seizure cases for most illicit substances. Between March 2009-March 2010 and March 2012-March 2013, seizures increased as follows: heroin (250.4%), opium (212.6%), hashish (328%), morphine (88.9%) and alcohol (1900%). The total number of incoming cases at the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) increased by 48.8% between March 2009-March 2010 and March 2012-March 2013. Similarly, increases have also been observed in terms of the number of suspects at Primary and Appellate courts and prisoners and juveniles incarcerated for narcotics-related crimes.

In publishing the Afghanistan Drug Report, the Ministry of Counter Narcotics has created a solid foundation for evidence-based counter narcotics policy and advocacy and a platform for policy engagement amongst multiple governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. *“I hope that this report will serve as an effective step in capacity building of national institutions in the country in order to address the drivers of poppy cultivation, trafficking and drug use and effective ways”* said the Ministry of Counter Narcotics. *“It provides a valuable starting point for national and international stakeholders involved in counter narcotics to guide and review policy and processes but also engage in further research to enhance the evidence base for future policy and advocacy”* indicated the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime.

Given the far reaching implications of the drugs challenge for security, governance and stability, the report calls for greater strategic efforts and investments to consolidate gains made to date and effectively tackle the challenge of illicit drugs in Afghanistan. Importantly, the report states, the sustainability of counter narcotics efforts is also intricately linked to regional and international dynamics and drivers. It is thus important for actors beyond Afghanistan to equally sustain commitment to counter narcotics efforts within Afghanistan and the region.

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The full report can be downloaded in Dari and English at [www.mcn.gov.af](http://www.mcn.gov.af)

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