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INCB INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT MEMBER STATES

INCB Learning

INCB Learning is the Board's initiative to enhance the ability of Governments to estimate and assess their requirements for internationally controlled substances for medical, scientific and industrial purposes, in compliance with the three international drug control treaties, with the aim of promoting adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their misuse. The initiative includes five e-modules for online learning (in English, French, Russian and Spanish, as well as Portuguese) as well as virtual and in-person training and seminars.

In 2023, INCB Learning conducted in-person training for 34 officials from six countries in Central America and the Caribbean and virtual training for officials from seven Russian-speaking countries.

As of 1 November 2023, 1,462 officials from 154 countries and territories have enrolled in INCB Learning e-modules, and more than half (54 per cent) were women. The Board encourages Governments to register officials from their competent national authorities for the e-modules.

INCB global rapid interdiction of dangerous substances (GRIDS) programme

The INCB GRIDS Programme focal point networks form the robust infrastructure that enables the rapid exchange of information and alerts, and the development of intelligence which facilitates operational action to assist in investigations, including the dismantling of organized criminal groups trafficking non-scheduled dangerous substances, such as new psychoactive substances and non-medical synthetic opioids.

As a result of the expanding network of focal points under the programme, the number of real-time incidents communicated through the INCB IONICS platform exceeded 77,000 in 2023. This has supported Governments in carrying out investigations and analyses that led to seizures of dangerous substances, arrests of traffickers, prosecutions and disruptions of international trafficking networks.

In 2022 and 2023, INCB conducted Operation Knockout to identify global trafficking sources and destinations of shipments of 1,4-butanediol, carisoprodol, flubromazepam, gamma-butyrolactone and ketamine, substances associated with drug-facilitated sexual assault reported in a number of countries. The operation involved 160 law and regulatory enforcement officials from 76 national agencies and organizations and six international partners. This led to 671 seizures, amounting to more than 785 kg and 225 litres of drugs seized during the operational period.

Over the past year, the INCB GRIDS Programme convened 26 training events for more than 500 front-line officers. The training was led by regional technical officers based in Egypt, India, Mexico, Nigeria and Thailand and focused on the safe handling and seizure of opioids, and information exchanges using the IONICS and GRIDS platforms.





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In the past year, five global alerts and special notices were issued under the GRIDS Programme for voluntary action by law and regulatory authorities and their private sector counterparts. This included an alert relating to emerging trafficking in tianeptine – a substance with opioid-like effects – and trafficking in bromazolam and flunitrazolam, both emerging novel triazolobenzodiazepines with no known legitimate use.

INCB precursor control programme

Understanding national landscapes of precursor-related industries to prevent the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals

Building on the Board's tools and resources, INCB cooperates with Governments to enhance knowledge about national precursor industry landscapes, in particular industries that are not yet licensed or otherwise regulated under national precursor laws but that deal in chemicals that might also be used in illicit drug manufacture as alternatives to controlled precursors.

Operation Insight reveals practices in free-trade zones

Free-trade zones promote trade and industry through simplified and reduced taxation. However, they are also vulnerable to trafficking in drugs and precursor chemicals. Operation Insight, conducted jointly with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, helped to advance knowledge regarding free-trade zones and raise awareness among Governments about the need for proper oversight over them, in accordance with the requirement of Art. 18 of the 1988 Convention. The operation provided evidence of the vulnerability of free-trade zones to be exploited for precursor trafficking. Notably, a seizure of a significant quantity of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine was reported during 2022, linked to one such zone.

