

# BIMSTEC
## Annual Drug Report 2021

Prepared by

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# Bangladesh

Bangladesh is not a drug producing country but it is vulnerable for drug penetration due to its geographical location as it is situated in between two major drug-prone belt; “The Golden Crescent” and “The Golden Triangle”. Illicit drug dealers try to Capitalize the geographical proximities for drug trafficking. Bangladesh shares a long porous border with our two neighboring countries India and Myanmar. Law enforcing agencies of the country are working relentlessly to wipe out this menace with strong hand.

Bangladesh is signatory country of three international drug control conventions (UN conventions). Anti-drug activities are carried out in Bangladesh in line with these conventions. To comply with the provisions of such conventions, the government of Bangladesh had enacted the Narcotics Control Act, 1990 and established the Department of Narcotics Control. According to this Act, different rules were formulated. With the passage of time, the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 has been enacted repealing the previous Narcotics Control Act, 1990.

To control the illicit production of synthetic drugs like psychoactive substances and stimulants, Bangladesh has taken initiatives to regulate the precursor chemicals required to production of these drugs. The precursor chemicals is used to manufacture of synthetic drugs are scheduled as ‘A’ class drug in the Narcotics Control Act, 2018.

**Current Drug Scenario of Bangladesh:**

Bangladesh shares 4156 kilometers land border with India by three sides (West, North & East) and 271 km border with Myanmar. Out of which 208 km is land border and 63 km is water boundary at the south-east corner. Porous bordering areas made our country vulnerable to large extent.

Now our major concern is Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) or YABA and Crystal Methamphetamine (Crystal meth / Ice) which are trafficked into Bangladesh from Myanmar. On the other hand Cannabis, Heroin, Codeine preparations (Phensedyl, Korex, Escufets), Opioid based injecting drugs and are tablet like; Tapentadol, Tramadol, and Pentadol are trafficked into Bangladesh from India through western and eastern borders.

**Measures taken to counter drug dealings:**

All law enforcing agencies of our country are working unremittingly to confront this hurdle. We usually conduct regular drives to bring the drug dealers under the ambit of the law. Furthermore, we conduct special drives once in a while to bolster the anti-drug drives.

Statistics on drug cases, arrested persons and seizures:

| Name of Drugs | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 (Up to May) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ATS (Yaba) (Tab. Pcs)** | 53073665 | 45868569 | 42977219 | 22857751 | 16503315 |
| **Heroin (in Kg)** | 441 | 338.279 | 700.928 | 502.686 | 84.937 |
| **Codeine (Bottle)** | 574301 | 706061 | 482433 | 572865 | 201763 |
| **Cannabis (in Kg)** | 86696 | 115367.863 | 112165.821 | 114345.2 | 44054 |
| **Injecting Drug (Ampoule)** | 113070 | 215511 | 180285 | 157977 | 75616 |
| **Opium (kg)** | 68.476 | 46.763 | 15.663 | 20.84 | 13.079 |
| **Cocaine (in Kg)** | 1.5 | 4.57 | 13.003 | 130.184 | 13.079 |
| **Crystal Meth / Ice (kg)** | 36.794 | 113.331 | 186.632 | 112.344 | 6.73 |
| **Total No. of Cases** | 93190 | 100321 | 97241 | 68461 | 29951 |
| **Total Number of Accused** | 122152 | 124775 | 120287 | 84847 | 38021 |

We conduct regular anti-drug drives against the listed drug dealers. From time to time we conduct week long special anti-drug drives to bring the drug dealers under the judicial process. Our another mode of enforcement is to conduct mobile court drives to make demonstration among the drug dealers. The offences for which the penalty goes up to two years fall under the jurisdiction of mobile court.

We put surveillance on domestic as well as international postal services specially courier services to prevent the drug trafficking of both modes; inbound and outbound.

One Special Task Force has been formed to combat Amphetamine Type Stimulant (ATS) in Cox`s Bazar and Teknaf as these areas are considered entry point of inbound ATS

We regularly conduct anti-drug campaign over the country to inject the sense awareness among the community which may contribute to make them drug addiction free. We undertook a series of efforts: arranging seminar, symposium, discussion, class discussion, hanging anti-drug billboard, banner, anti-drug discussion at various institutions. We disseminate anti-drug messages to the community through Full Coloured Outdoor LED Display Billboard and KIOSK at populous places.

We try to bring the drug dependents to the mainstream of the society ensuring proper treatment so that they can contribute in nation building. Like the government organizations, a few non-government organizations work for the treatment of drug dependent population for smoothing the treatment facilities. A number of 4 Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres with 199 beds have been established under the ownership of the government while 396 Private Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres across the country.

As drug abuse is a global problem, it should be addressed and countered globally. With a view to combating drug menace effectively, Bangladesh signed a bilateral agreement with India in 2006 and with Myanmar in 1994. After signing the agreement, 7 bilateral meetings were held between Bangladesh and India and 5 bilateral meetings were held between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Beyond that, we are working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), The Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Drug Enforcement

Administration (DEA) and SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD), Colombo Plan.

# Bhutan

## Bhutan Drug Report 2021

| Yearly Arrest and Case | | |
|---|---|---|
| Year | People arrested | Total Case |
| 2021 | 735 | 291 |

| Month wise Arrest | | |
|---|---|---|
| Month | Cases | Person Arrest |
| January | 7 | 16 |
| February | 7 | 16 |
| March | 18 | 54 |
| April | 22 | 61 |
| May | 28 | 61 |
| June | 26 | 68 |
| July | 31 | 90 |
| August | 26 | 54 |
| September | 37 | 89 |
| October | 22 | 49 |
| November | 36 | 102 |
| December | 31 | 75 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 291 | 735 |

| **Gender Wise** | | **Age Wise** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Year | 2021 | Year | 2021 |
| Male | 692 | Below 18yrs | 112 |
| Female | 45 | 18-24yrs | 331 |
| **Total** | **737** | 25 yrs &above | 294 |
| | | Total | 737 |

| **Offence Wise Arrest** | | |
|---|---|---|
| Offences | 2021 | |
| | Case | Person arrest |
| Abuser | 206 | 462 |
| Illegal Sale of inhalant or solvents | 0 | 0 |
| Un- authorized advertising of controlled substances | 0 | 0 |
| Illegal Possession of NDPS | 5 | 12 |
| Illegal Cultivation or Harvest of Cannabis | 0 | 0 |
| Illicit Trafficking NDPS | 80 | 261 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 291 | 735 |

| **Occupation Wise** | |
|---|---|
| Occupation | 2021 |
| Unemployed | 229 |
| Student | 161 |
| Employee | 91 |
| Trainees | 7 |
| Prisoners | 17 |
| Dessups | 34 |
| Driver | 40 |
| Guide | 4 |
| Business | 49 |
| Farmer | 36 |
| Labour | 62 |
| HomeMaker | 7 |
| **Total** | **737** |

| Substance Use Wise | |
|---|---|
| Type of NDPS | 2021 |
| Marijuna | 313 |
| Solvent | 129 |
| Pharmaceuticals | 65 |
| Poly Users | 230 |
| Total | 737 |

| NDPS Seizure | |
|---|---|
| **Types of NDPS** | **2021** |
| Cannabis leaves(kgs) | 24.59 kg |
| Resin (Hashish - kgs) | 3.51kg |
| Cannabis Plants(nos.) | 0 |
| Brown sugar ( in gms) | 1.9 gms |
| Methaphetamine (Crystal Meth in gms) | 0 |
| Khat Plant (Cathinone in kgs) | 0 |

| NDPS Seizure | |
|---|---|
| **Types of NDPS** | **2021** |
| Ketamine (in kgs) | 0 |
| Solvents | |
| Correction Fluid diluter(in bottles/pens) | 0 |
| Dendrite(in gms) | 0 |
| Thinner (Litres) | 2.39 litres |
| Petrol (ML) | 0 |
| Pharmaceuticals | |
| Phensedyl (bottles, 100ml each) | 0 |
| Codiene based syrup (Corex/Recordex (bottles, 100ml each) | 60 |
| Tramadol (Spasmo proxyvon plus) (capsules) | 127513 Capsule |
| Nitrazepam (Nitrosun) (tablets) | 500 |
| Relipen (tablets) | 0 |
| Pethidine injection | 0 |
| Diazepam | 0 |

| Division Wise | 2021 | |
|---|---|---|
| **Division** | **Cases** | **Persons** |
| I, Paro | 27 | 57 |
| II, Punakha | 19 | 45 |
| III, Phuntsholing | 20 | 72 |
| IV, Samtse | 8 | 33 |
| V, Gelephu | 20 | 60 |
| VI, Tsirang | 1 | 4 |
| VII, Trongsa | 2 | 3 |
| VIII, S/Jongkhar | 2 | 8 |
| IX, Trashigang | 6 | 22 |
| X, Mongar | 4 | 4 |
| **NDOVD, Thimphu** | **153** | **351** |
| XII, Wangdue | 24 | 67 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| XIII, Bumthang | 2 | 2 |
| XIV, Trashiyangtse | 3 | 7 |
| **Total** | **291** | **735** |

# India

## 1. Constitutional and Legal Framework

***Article 47 of the Constitution of India reads ....*** "the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health."

A comprehensive law, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, enacted in 1985, constitutes the statutory framework for drug law enforcement. This Act mandates prohibitions and controls over narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals (except for medical and scientific purposes); establishes an investigative procedure and a punitive regime and provides for the financial investigation, seizure and forfeiture of drug related assets. It envisages graded punishments having a maximum of twenty years imprisonment and even possibility of death penalty in certain cases of repeat convictions and provides for the seizure and forfeiture of drug related assets not only of the accused but also of his associates and relatives.

The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act, enacted in 1988, provides for preventive detention of habitual drug traffickers. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 provides for additional punishment for laundering drug tainted proceeds.

## 2. International Conventions

India is a signatory to the three United Nation's Conventions on drug related matters, i.e. Single Convention on Narcotic Drug, **1961;** Convention on Psychotropic Substances, **1971;** UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, **1988.**

## 3. Drug Control Strategy

3.1 Government business is divided in the Central Government as per the Allocation of Business Rules. As per these Rules, the NDPS Act is administered by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue. However, matters pertaining to Drug Demand Reduction are handled by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, which is responsible for health issues, runs several drug de-addiction centers in the Government hospitals across the country. **The Narcotics Control Bureau, under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), coordinates actions by various functionaries (Central and State) under the NDPS Act.** The State Governments also have their own Health Departments and Social Welfare Departments who have their own set of activities relating to Drug Demand Reduction.

3.2 On the Supply reduction front, enforcement of the provision of the NDPS Act, 1985 is done by various enforcement agencies like Narcotics Control Bureau, Central Bureau of Narcotics, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and a number of empowered agencies, as also by provincial agencies such as Police, Excise etc. At the seaports & airport terminals, Customs is the principal drug law enforcement agency and in the territorial water, the responsibility is discharged jointly by the Customs, NCB and the Coast Guard.

3.3 The Central Bureau of Narcotics headed by Narcotics Commissioner of India supervises the control over licit cultivation of Opium Poppy. They are also the competent authority to control and oversee import and export of Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances and Controlled Substances (precursor chemicals). They administer the PEN (Pre Export Notification) regime for this purpose.

3.4 The State Drugs Controllers are responsible for (i) issuing licenses for drug

manufacturing and sales, (ii) approval of drug formulations and (iii) monitoring of quality of Drugs & Cosmetics, manufactured by respective state units and those marketed in the state under the Drugs & Cosmetic Act.

3.5 India follows a three pronged strategy viz. **Supply Reduction, Demand Reduction and Harm Reduction.** Supply reduction refers to the enforcement efforts against illicit production and trafficking of drugs. Demand reduction is about creating awareness against drugs and their harmful effects in general public especially the vulnerable youth. The harm reduction strategy is to reduce the harmful consequences of drug abuse though de-addiction work (provision of Syringes to prevent the risk of HIV infection).

## 4. Supply control:

4.1 India's close proximity with the major Opium growing areas of South West and South East Asia makes it transit region as well as consumption region. Cannabis and the Opium Poppy are

indigenous to most of the region. In addition, India has a large chemical industries and growing pharmaceutical base. The drug situation in India is, therefore, a complex combination of many factors.

4.2 The salient features of drug trafficking scenario in India may be summarized as under:

- Trafficking of opiates from South West Asia to India.
- Trafficking of hashish from Nepal.
- Illicit cultivation of Opium & Cannabis in some regions.
- Suspected diversion of Opium from licit cultivation and indigenous production of low quality heroin.
- Diversion of precursor chemicals & prescription medicines containing psychotropic substances.

- Use of Internet Pharmacies, use of dark net and crypto-currencies in drug trafficking.
- Misuse of courier services and cargo.
- Trafficking through Indian Ocean maritime route.
- Trafficking of drugs by drones and through tunnels at Indo-Pak border.

## 5. Seizures:

5.1 Seizure of various drugs by Indian Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in 2021

| Drug | Quantity (in Kgs) |
|---|---|
| **Opium** | 5,161 |
| **Morphine** | 131 |
| **Heroin** | 7,197 |
| **Cannabis** | 8,12,545 |
| **Hashish** | 4,197 |
| **Cocaine** | 364 |
| **Methaqualone** | 13 |
| **Ephedrine/ Pseudo-ephedrine** | 325 |
| **Acetic anhydride** | 24,265 |
| **ATS** | 387 |

5.2 Destruction of Narcotic Drug Yielding plants by Indian Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in 2021

| Plant type | Area (in Acres) |
|---|---|
| **Poppy Plant** | **11,027** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Cannabis Plant** | **34,866** |

5.3 No. of Cases booked & persons arrested in Drug Trafficking cases by Indian Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in 2021

| | |
|---|---|
| **No. of cases booked** | **68,144** |
| **No. of Persons arrested including foreigners** | **93,538** |
| **No. of foreigners Arrested** | **593** |





















## 6. Capacity Building

The mandate of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) also creates an obligation on it for capacity building of other drug law enforcement agencies entrusted to enforce the drug laws in the country. In addition to provide materialistic support to them through the assistance to states scheme, it is also mandatory to develop and enhance enforcement skills in their personnel /drug law enforcement officers.

NCB conducts regular short duration training programmes for drug law enforcement officers, either by itself or in co-ordination with other authorities like National Academy for Custom, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA), National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences (NICFS), Central Academy of Police Training (CAPT), National Forensic Science University (NFSU), Border Guarding Forces, State Police Training Centres, etc.

These programmes also provide a platform for sharing of best practices of the agencies in their respective areas of strength like increased knowledge of Drug Law Enforcement, enhancement of intelligence collection as well as investigation, knowing new trends & patterns of drug trafficking, understanding the execution of “Controlled Delivery” operations, busting of Clandestine Labs etc.

In the year 2021, most of the trainings were imparted through virtual platforms as a norm due to the restrictions imposed arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, NCB conducted 351 Training Programme all over India. A total of 9,689 persons participated in the training programmes.

## 7. International & National Coordination

### 7.1 International Coordination

As a part of international co-operation, India has signed Bilateral Agreements & Memorandum of Understandings with 41 countries for combating illicit trafficking of NDPS and Chemical Precursors as well as related offences. On behalf of Government of India, NCB also co-ordinates with various international organizations such as SAARC

Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD), Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), Colombo Plan, Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD), Bay of Bengal Initiative For Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-Operation (BIMSTEC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and INTERPOL etc. for sharing of intelligence information, participation in the workshops, capacity building, etc. Director General Level Talks are organized with neighbouring and other countries such as Myanmar, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh etc. to resolve various issues on drugs trafficking having international implications.

7.2 National Coordination

The multiplicity of stakeholders in drug law enforcement requires coordination amongst various agencies on a real-time basis. For effective coordination between various Central and State Agencies, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has constituted a four-tier coordination mechanism namely Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) to enhance coordination from the grass root level to the apex level amongst the stakeholders nationwide and effectively deal with the menace of drugs. Apex NCORD, Executive NCORD, State NCORD and District NCORD are the four pillars of the system. With this 04-tier structure the monthly NCORD meetings are chaired by the Director General, NCB. The objective of this mechanism is to bring all the agencies involved in supply, demand and harm reduction under one umbrella.

To monitor the investigation of important and significant seizures, a Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) with DG, NCB as its Chairman has been set up by Govt. of India on 19 July 2019.

## 8. Precursor Chemical Control in India

8.1 In India, precursors are controlled under three different Acts namely the NDPS Act, 1985, the Customs Act, 1962 and the Foreign Trade Development & Regulation Act, 1992, and are enforced by three different agencies which are briefly discussed below:

**(a)** NDPS Act - Regulation of Controlled Substances (RCS) Order, 2013:

The Government of India has notified twenty seven precursor chemicals as

Controlled Substances vide Regulation of Controlled Substances Order, 2013. The precursor chemicals have been classified into three Schedules. These are:

**Domestic Controls:** Schedule- A (7 substances whose manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, import, export, consumption, offer for sale or distribution or mediate in sale/purchase through website, social media or in any other manner is subject to controls exercised by NCB)

**Export/Import Control:** Schedule- B: (27 substances including substances of schedule- A whose export from India is subject to controls by Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN).

Schedule - C: (27 substances including substances of schedule A whose import into India is subject to controls by CBN).

**(b) Border Controls:**

Border guarding forces such as Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Assam Rifles are empowered for search, seizure and arrest in cases of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Controlled Substances under NDPS Act, 1985.

**(c) Export & Import Controls : Controls imposed under the EXIM policy/ PEN Regime:**

India adheres strictly to the Pre Export Notification (PEN) regime. The Export-Import policy, framed under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, imposes restrictions on the import and export of goods. Export/Import of Controlled substances listed in Schedule B&C of RCS Order, 2013 is subject to a "No Objection Certificate" from CBN.

**Demand Reduction**

9. **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (2018-2023):** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has prepared a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2023. The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families. It focuses on preventive education, awareness generation, identification, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons and training and capacity building of the service providers through collaborative efforts of the Central and State Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations.

10. **Activities of Mass Media, Student and Youth:-**

10.1 National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) has been designated as a nodal agency for conduction of various awareness, capacity building & community intervention programmes under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) in collaboration with various stakeholders in different States/UTs. Under NAPDDR, the Institute is making efforts to have partnership with the organizations on a larger scale in States/UTs.

10.2 26th June is observed as "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking". Due to the restrictions resulting from the COVID pandemic, NCB, through its various Zonal Units had launched a massive online campaign against the ill effects of Drugs on the occasion of 26th June, 2021, majorly through various activities such as circulation of Audio Video messages by eminent personalities from the field of Politics, Bureaucracy, Sports, Films, Music etc. Anti drugs messages from the twitter handles of

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble Union Home Minister and other eminent personalities boosted this online campaign in huge way.

10.3 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in 272 identified vulnerable districts with an aim to create awareness about ill-effects of substance abuse among the youth, with special focus on higher education institutes, university campuses and schools and reaching out into the community.

10.4 The States had launched Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan on 15th August 2020 in their districts. The efforts are afoot to train responsible young population to increase community participation and public cooperation in the reduction of demand for dependence-producing substances and promote collective initiatives to prevent the usage of drugs in the first place. Major focus would be on Youth and Higher educational Institutions in this Abhiyaan.

10.5 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has set up a National Toll Free Drug De-addiction Helpline Number 1800-11-0031 w.e.f. 07.01.2015 to help the victims of Drug abuse, their family and society at large. The Helpline has been made functional on 24 X 7 basis w.e.f. 01.03.2017.

10.6 With active support of NCB, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) had formulated a "Joint Action Plan on Prevention of Drugs & Substance Use among Children and Illicit Trafficking" which was launched on 09.02.2021. The results of these actions are being reviewed to undertake intervention programmes across the country on regular basis. NCPCR, in coordination with NCB had conducted virtual meetings in 260 out of 272 vulnerable districts in the month of July & August 2021 to review the implementation of the Joint Action Plan on "Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse among Children & Illicit Trafficking".

**Risk Mitigation**

**11. Activities of Medical Treatment**

11.1 The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare runs a dedicated national drug de-addiction programme (DDAP) under which financial assistance for affordable, easily accessible and evidence-based treatment of all substance use disorders are being provided in three Government hospitals/institutions vis-a-vis National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS, New Delhi; National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru and Postgraduate Institute of Medical & Educational Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. Besides these institutions 17 Drug Treatment Clinics (DTCs) are established under this programme through NDDTC, AIIMS in various district/civil hospitals of the Country.

**12. Activities of Rehabilitation:-**

12.1 The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment implements a "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse" which provides financial assistance to eligible Non-Governmental Organizations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, etc. for, inter-alia, running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA) to provide composite/integrated services for the rehabilitation of addicts. The main objective of the Scheme is to alleviate the consequences of drug and alcohol dependence amongst the individual, the family and society at large and to provide for a whole range of community based services for the identification, motivation, counseling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation for Whole Person Recovery (WPR) of addicts to make a person drug free and gainfully employed.

# Myanmar

**Brief background**

1. Myanmar gained independence from British colonial rule in 1948 and since then, has inherited the dire legacy of poppy cultivation in its northern territories. Although successive Governments have strived to eliminate this problem, poppy cultivation thrived in various forms taking advantage of political instabilities, weak prevalence of law and order, poverty and underdevelopment of ethnic population residing along border areas, occurrence of ethnic armed conflicts, and the inability to have complete control over border areas. Additionally, with the illegal inflow of precursor chemicals used for manufacturing narcotic drugs from neighboring countries, the country is also faced with challenges of methamphetamine (ATS) problem in some parts of its border areas.

**Enacting Laws**

2. As a member of the United Nations, Myanmar is a signatory to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), the Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1972) and, the Convention against Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and has been implementing the provisions contained in these International Conventions. Accordingly, Myanmar has enacted Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances law in 1993 and the Rule Relating to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law in 1995 and Rule Relating to Supervision of Controlled Precursor Chemicals in 2004 respectively.

3. To effectively manage the problem of narcotic drugs, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) was formed in 1976 headed by the Union Minister for Home Affairs as Chairman and together with 16members; the Central Committee is taking measures to control narcotic drugs. CCDAC has not only formed Drug Abuse Control Committee at all Region/State, District, Township, Ward and Village levels but has also subdivided itself into following ten sectors: Law Enforcement and Administration; Alternative Development; Substituted-Crops; Livestock Breeding; Medical Treatment; Rehabilitation; Educating Students and Youths; Public Awareness; International Relations and; Supervising Controlled Precursor Chemicals. All sectors are actively engaged in reducing the production and use of narcotic drugs.

4. The Government has adopted the following strategies and tactics to reduce and eventually eliminate narcotic drugs.

**Two strategies**

(a) The designation of narcotic drugs as a national duty and comprehensive implementation of that strategy

(b) The development and enhancement of the standard of living of the national races in the border areas and total eradication of opium cultivation.

**Three tactics**

(a) Supply reduction.

(b) Demand reduction.

(c) Law enforcement.

**Three operational modes**

(a) To uplift, improve and change the morale, perception and belief of drug users, poppy growers and drug producers.

(b) To secure smooth and easy transportation and communications between the nationals residing in highland areas and those in mainland.

(c) To uplift the economic and social life of the national races residing in the border areas.

**Developing and Implementing Programs**

5. A 15-years drugs elimination program (1999/2000 to 2013/2014) was developed and implemented in (51) priority townships in three 5-years stages. Although this program has a level of achievement, the fourth 5-years program (2014/2015 to 2018/2019) is now underway to further reduce poppy cultivation and to address the new threat of ATS and other psychotropic substances. Although program activities will be implemented all across the country, special priority is being given to (40) townships in Shan States, (6)

townships in Kachin, (3) townships in Kayah and (2) townships in Chin States - totaling (51) townships altogether.Program activities include eliminating supply and demand, taking enforcement measures, encouraging the participation of general population and other organizations and, enhancing international cooperation, all of which are being implemented in a comprehensive manner.

**Supply Reduction**

6. Under alternative development scheme, priority is given to improve transportation systems and to increase access to water supply, electricity, health and education services. The Ministry for Border Affairs, in close cooperation with international organizations such as UNDP, UNODC, WFP, UNHCR, Nippon Foundation. AMDA, World Vision, WHO and Malteser, is lending assistance to set up forests, plantations and orchards, provide health care services to local population and to construct clinics and schools.

7. As part of crop substitution program, new plantation fields are being developed where both annual and perennial crops that conform to local conditions are planted. Additional trainings in the field of agriculture are also conducted and complementary assistance such as seedlings, fertilizers, insecticides and mechanized farming equipment are being provided. Farmers are also assisted to find markets for local products in close coordination with relevant local organizations.

8. For livestock breeding, respective sub group is now conducting trainings for breeding livestock, setting up livestock banks in order to expand the pool of good stocks, creating model livestock breeding villages, providing good animal stocks, medicines and equipment and, vaccinating animals against diseases on a regular basis.

9. To develop the livelihood of poppy farmers and to eliminate poppy cultivating habits, Cooperation with CCDAC and UNODC to implement the alternative development in Loilem and Hopone townships, Southern Shan State and alternative development project including water resources, health, education and transportation in 56 villages within Mong Hsat and Tachileik districts. CCDAC and NNCC have already choosed (12) townships in Northern Shan State and currently coordinating to implement alternative development project in Kutkhaing, Tamoenye and Kaungkha.

10. Annual Opium Surveys are being undertaken since 2002 jointly with UNODC and satellite survey of poppy cultivated areasare being undertaken since 2006 in cooperation

with China. This bilateral survey has enabled Myanmar to destroy poppy fields based on satellite imageries provided by China.

11. According to the survey report on Illicit Crop Monitoring developed in cooperation with UNODC, opium production that stood at 1760 metric tons in 1996was reduced to 315 metric tons in 2006. However, production increased up to 870 metric tons in 2013 but later in 2014 the production was considerably decreased to 670 metric ton and was further decreased down to 647 metric ton in 2015. Due to unforeseen circumstances; UNODC cannot take Illicit Crop Monitoring Surveyfor 2016.

12. Geographically, Shan States is known to be the largest poppy cultivated area and according to the 2015 survey report on Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme, there are 55500 hectares of poppy cultivated areas nationwide with90.7% of them in Shan States alone. There are 23400 hectares in Southern,9700 hectares in Northern and 17200 hectares in Eastern Shan States with the remaining 4200 hectares in Kachin State, 500hectares in Chin State and 500 hectares in Kayan State.The following chart shows the total poppy cultivated hectares nationwide in Myanmar, hectares destroyed and opium production in metric tons.

| | 2005-06 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cultivated (Hectares)** | 21500 | 31700 | 38100 | 43600 | 51000 | 57800 | 57600 | 55500 | - | - | 41000 | 36100 |
| **Production (Mt)** | 315 | 330 | 580 | 610 | 690 | 870 | 670 | 647 | - | - | 550 | 520 |
| **Destroyed (Hectares)** | 4188 | 4088 | 8274 | 7058 | 23771 | 12258 | 15188 | 13237 | 7562 | 3536.96 | 5762.79 | 2578.52 |

13. The Supervision Committee for Controlled Precursor Chemicals was formed in 1998 and has been able to supervise the importation, production, exportation, transportation, utilization and trading of these chemicals. These precursor chemicals are however, smuggled into Myanmar from neighboring countries across the borders in many ways and due to diligence of Anti-Narcotic Units, the volume of controlled substances uncovered and confiscated are as follows.

| Types of Precursor | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Caffeine (Kg)** | 1441.27 | 13482.60 | 431.46 | 9932.26 | 19847.48 | 5885.000 | 20759.49 |
| **Ephedrine (Kg)** | 358.37 | 133.36 | 32.10 | 111.94 | 534.204 | 0.0015 | 139.71 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pseudoephedrine (Kg)** | 6946.99 | 3580.76 | 1945.24 | 1271.97 | 119.20 | 390.100 | 7.6 |
| **Acetic anhydride (Lit)** | 9.50 | 55.00 | 1297.53 | 260.00 | 16.00 | 1318.340 | 40 |
| **Hydrochloric acid (Lit)** | - | 173.50 | 1702.59 | 7950.00 | 3494.8 | 106720.000 | 181657 |
| **Sulphuric acid (Lit)** | 2585.50 | 924.00 | 280.00 | 2197.65 | 28476.8 | 11034.900 | 62135 |
| **Ethyl Ether (Lit)** | - | - | 41995.58 | 8188.00 | 250 | - | 203794 |

**Demand Reduction**

14. Drug addiction is being viewed as a public health issue and thus, the Ministry of Health is providing treatment for drug users at (26) Major Drug Treatment Centers and (47) Minor Treatment Centers. There are also community based drug treatment centers in many parts of the country. Additionally, there are (46) Methadone Centers – (15) in Kachin State, (14) in Shan States, (12) in Sagaing, (3) in Mandalay and (2) in Yangon Regions – providing substitution therapy. CCDAC itself has set up (3) Youth Rehabilitation Centers where both treatment and rehabilitation are being provided to drug users. The transmission of blood borne diseases including HIV, which is a negative consequence of injecting drug use, is also being addressed though harm reduction interventions.

15. Under the supervision of The Ministry of Social Welfare, there are (6) Rehabilitation Centers in Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Lashio, Kyaing Tong and Tachileik that are helping drug users - who have undergone treatment - to be reintegrated back into the social stream. Campaigns are being launched to encourage drug users to get treated at drug treatment centers.While getting treated, they themselves and their dependents can receive necessary support,undergo physical and mental rehabilitation, receive vocational training programs and be part of reintegration programs that are linked to continuum of care interventions. If they so desires, they can even get trained to become volunteer drug wardens.

16. The Ministry of Education takes the lead in raising awareness on the dangers of narcotic drugs among school children and youths.Information on dire consequences of drug use has already been included in the life skills curriculum for children at basic education level. Public debates, exhibitions, competitions and refresher training courses for teachers on the perils of narcotic drugs are also held for in-school youths whereas, community based awareness raising programs are conducted for out of school youths.

**National Level on Drug use Survey**

17. National Drug Use survey is in the process of LOA on Law Enforcement and Counter Narcotics between the United States of America and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar that was signed on 25 September 2014 and contributed fund under the country program of UNODC to mechanism. It will be an instrumentality in adopting policies and drawing process of preventing drug use, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation by this making assessment and to report important finding facts to relevant authorities such kind of bad consequences related drug use, the way of drug use, prevalence of drug use by group.

18. There will be a survey assessment in 15 of States and Regions from December 2015 to November 2016. The assessment will be conducted by 3 parts such as urban area, poppy cultivated area and non-poppy cultivated area. Depending on minimum / maximum population each region or state, collecting of 2000 households and 120 households in townships / quarters were selected and then reselected 30 households among them by Random method. A member of household between the ages of 15 to 64 will be selected and interviewed.

**Enforcement Measures**

19. The Tatmadaw(Myanmar Armed Force), Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department are the responsible entities to combat narcotic drugs in Myanmar. Drug Enforcement Division is being formed under Myanmar Police Force and its (3) Sub Divisions and (50) Units are placed in areas around the country where production and trafficking of drugs are found to be highest and along the border areas and are undertaking effective anti narcotic drugs enforcement measures.

20. The following Chart illustrates the seizures of narcotic drugs in Myanmar.

| Types of drugs | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Opium (Kg)** | 1470.35 | 2356.93 | 1828.40 | 888.84 | 945.7096 | 1256.169 | 2829.04 |
| **Heroin (Kg)** | 335.79 | 238.93 | 435.46 | 186.04 | 769.2589 | 570.622 | 1099.12 |
| **ATS Pill (Millions)** | 18.16 | 10.18 | 12.65 | 49.95 | 98353462.5 | 72.816 | 106.7 |
| **ICE (Kg)** | 426.66 | 173.00 | 47.11 | 2261.69 | 2464.0834 | 1107.491 | 2827.5 |
| **Speciosa** | 330.15 | 218.95 | 605.31 | 687.35 | 1409.4324 | 651.127 | 1827.53 |
| **Cannabis (Kg)** | 80.27 | 40.94 | 205.54 | 87.70 | 188.7805 | 198.826 | 142.4 |
| **Case** | 4006 | 4928 | 6696 | 6414 | 8800 | 9544 | 13037 |
| **Suspect** | 5740 | 7137 | 9425 | 9188 | 13591 | 14000 | 18681 |

21. The follow Chart illustrates the number of heroin refineries and ATS tablet manufacturing machines seized between 2005 and 2018 June.

| Types | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Heroin Refineries** | 4 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | 2 | - | 7 |
| **Tablet Machines** | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 3 | - | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

**Cooperation with the General Population and other Organizations**

22. The Ministry for Information is in charge of raising awareness among the general population on the perils of narcotic drugs and the need to avoid abuse of it. Educational programs on this menace are disseminated nationwide using all forms of media including radio, television, newspapers, journals, articles, cartoons and posters with members of Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association (MANA) travelling far and wide within the country holding preventive education talks and distributing educational booklets that are published on a monthly basis. Additionally, narcotic drugs preventive interventions are also undertaken in cooperation with various UN Agencies, NGOs and CBOs.

**International Cooperation**

23. Myanmar is cooperating closely with countries within the Greater Mekong Sub Region as well as with ASEAN Member States in striving to combat narcotic drugs. Myanmar has also signed Bilateral Agreements with India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Russia, Laos PDR, China and Thailand with United States of America to jointly combat narcotic drugs.

24. Myanmar is a member of Mekong MoU Countries, so Myanmar enhanced drug elimination and obligated objectives of Safe Mekong Operations. During the Safe Mekong Operation in 2015, Myanmar has been successfully seized and apprehended many drugs and drug related cases and has been prosecuted. Myanmar also actively participate in 3 year safe Mekong Operation and shared responsibilities with the Member States. Safe Mekong Coordination Center was established in 2013. Myanmar also dispatched two officers to work full-time at the center. Myanmar is now conducting SMCC operation

center at Kyaing Tong, Shan State during 1st July to 30thSeptember 2017. Other member states send 2 officers from their respective country.

25. ASEN Senior officials on Drug Matters are one of an important meeting among the ASEAN countries and it is a part of ASEAN spirit. Myanmar actively participated as an observer before Myanmar was joining the ASEAN. Myanmar had joined the ASEAN since 1997 and have actively participated and cooperated with other member countries.

26. ASEAN senior officials on Drug Matters Meeting held annual among the ASEAN countries and hosted by alphabetically coordinated with ASEAN secretariat and closely cooperated with UNODC and other international federation of Non-Governmental Organizations (IFNGO). Delegates from all member states and delegates from UNODC and IFNGO also attend in every meeting. Moreover, other back to back meetings are simultaneously held with India, Korea, Japan and China during the above mentioned meeting.

27. The first meeting of the BIMSTEC counter-Terrorism and transnational Crime was held on 9 December 2004 in New Delhi, India. At that meeting BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemical was established and was led by Myanmar. The 4th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals was help on 12-13 September 2016 in Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

28. Additionally, there are joint endeavors with Yangon based US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) Thailand, Australian Federal Police (AFP) and with National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) of China and have set up Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) along Myanmar-China, Laos and Thailand borders. These serve as main centers for exchanging information relevant to combat narcotic drugs.

29. Myanmar herself is not only carrying out its resolution adopted by CND, the country is also carrying out its elements adopted from the resolutions of UNGUSS which was conducted in New York, America in April 2016.

30. Myanmar existing law that is 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was amended in line with international standard and norms. Amended law was enacted in 2018 February 14 by the law No.(6) of Pyi Htaw Su Hlutaw, Government of Myanmar.1995 Rules (draft) amending committee is currently being formed in order to implement conformably with the new amended law.

**Conclusion**

31. The problem of narcotic drugs is intrinsically linked to ethnic armed conflicts. Thus, in order to attain peace within the country through reducing armed conflicts, Myanmar has formed a Union Level Central Committee on Peace with the President as the Chairperson and is striving to secure a nationwide ceasefire agreement by holding political dialogues with all parties concerned.

32. Although Myanmar has made all-out efforts in combating narcotic drugs utilizing its own resources as well as in cooperation with the international community, the country is still facing constraints and challenges in these strives. However, we would like to reiterate that, Myanmaris trying its best to face and overcome these constraints and challenges by adopting plans and programs that conforms to the country's reality.

# Nepal

**Overview**

The globe is facing an immense challenge of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Nepal cannot be apart of such global scenario. The issues related to cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and consumption of such substances are emerged as big threat to regulatory agencies as well as to general public. Recent Outbreaks of the cases show the increasing number of drug users. The survey Report on Current Hard Drug Users in Nepal, 2020 has identified that the number of drug users reached 130,424 and annual growth rate is 5.06%.

Several measures have been adopted to break the vicious cycle of Drugs as it not only harms the individual drug users but also affects the nation as a whole. Considering this fact, Nepal has formulated rules, regulation, working procedure and plans. Narcotic Drug Prevention and Control National Master Plan (2022-2027) have been formulated emphasizing on following requirements;

- To control and reduce abuse and illegal trafficking of drugs; federal, provincial and local levels of government including non-government sectors shall mainstream the issue through long-term vision, policies, programs, activities and budgets,
- Encourage governmental and non-governmental agencies to formulate necessary structures, budgets and programs to control drug abuse and illegal trafficking,
- Increase cooperation, partnership and coordination between concerned agencies from the ward level to the center in the control of drug abuse and illegal trafficking,
- Create social solidarity to end violence against women and children due to drug addiction along with other social distortions and disharmony,
- Build an effective partnership with stakeholders organizations and formulate responsive national programs,
- Enhance the interest of stakeholders in individual health and safety,
- Materialize the campaign of building a healthy, civilized, virtuous and crime-free society,
- Focus on practical implementation of drug related laws and policies,

• Contribute to the development and prosperity through peace and security; and good governance.

All policy documents and international commitments of Nepal direct the basic elements of drug managements as harm reduction, prevention, treatment and enforcement. A workable institutional setup has been established to deal with this issue. The Narcotic Drug Act, 1976 is under process of amendment. The following are area-wise activities carried out in the reporting year in order to build a drug-free society:

**A. Demand Reduction**

The federal, provincial and local level government partnership with non-governmental sector is a most prioritized joint effort for demand reduction. Major activities for demand reduction are mentioned below;

(a) Activities with students and youth

a. Interaction programs were conducted in four provinces.

b. Awareness programs were launched by the unit of Community Police and Nepal Police (Around 250,000 Persons in Number).

c. Management and Psychosocial Counseling Training were conducted for treatment and rehabilitation centers.

d. Consultation program with provincial and local government unit were organized.

e. Rapid Evaluation/Survey was done in 2 Districts.

(b) Activities with mass media

a. "SURAKSHHIT JEEVAN" – A Journal of Drug Control has been published.

b. Broadcasting public-notice on national TV channels, local channels, and Radio stations.

c. Brochures, pamphlets and publications are distributed regularly.

d. Social sites and website (including drug portal) is regularly updated.

(c) Others

a. 195 Rehabilitation centers are affiliated with the Ministry

b. Grants provided to selected treatment centers

c. Selected treatment centers were awarded

**B. Supply Control**

a. 77 Assistant Chief District Officers are assigned as Narcotic Drug Control Officer through cabinet decision

b. Drug Chemical and Explosives Tracking and Management System (CEDTM) have been established.

c. Illegal cultivation of narcotic source plants is regularly destructed by law enforcement agencies.

d. Controlled import and regular inspection is done for different kinds of precursors chemical including Acetone, Hydrochloric Acid, Sulphuric Acid, Potassium Permanganate. No case has been registered of diversion of precursor's chemicals in the reporting year.

e. Narcotic Control Bureau worked as a vital law enforcement agency. Persons arrested and quantity of drug seizure in the reporting year 2021 is presented in the following table;

# Sri Lanka

**Drug Supply Control**

1. Prevent the trafficking and production of Narcotic drugs, Psychotropic Substance.
2. Strengthen Law Enforcement Agencies and Stream line their activities, coordination with Interrelation Agencies.
3. Sharing information about drug traffickers with SAARC countries and other relevant countries through the SDOMD and Interpol.
4. At Sea ports, Airports, Air postal cargo and illegal sea routs should be security Strengthen.
5. Security screening of travelers and their luggages should be strengthen.
6. There should be attention for frequent suspicious travelers to the country.
7. High technology surveillance equipments including Face Identification should be mounting at the tickets counters.
8. Proper security scanning of containers at the sea ports are very essential.
9. Security vetting of suspicious currier agencies is one of the important factors.
10. All multi day fishing boats should be register at the Ministry of Fisheries.
11. Fishing boats attached to the fishing harbor around the Island should be registered with GIS units should be alert.
12. A monitoring systems of small boats (Dingy boats) is a very important factor an analyzing sea routs.





1 108 kg
9 6
1 104 kg
9 5
1 128 kg
9 4
1 108 kg
9 19
1 120 kg
9 12
1 116 kg
9 17



01 kg 210g



**Drug Demand Reduction**

1. Enhance demand prevention efforts through Education and Community and Mobilization campaigns and projects.
2. Develop effective and accessible drug treatment and rehabilitation system.
3. Conduct a drug abuse survey to determine the prevalence of drug addiction.
4. Proper prison management for "Drug free Prisons"
5. Develop curriculum against drugs.
    a. The Ministry of Education will develop a curriculum against drugs for inclusions in text book at primary, Secondary, Higher Schools and Universities.
6. Community Mobilization and anonyms Complaints.
7. Media Conferences, seminars and social gathering programme a platform for media personal to component and understand new approaches in drug abuse prevention and drug demand deduction.
    a. To spread the message of drug abuse prevention among media personal.
    b. To provide a forum for extensive exchange ideas relating to drug prevention.













**Risk Mitigation**

1. Monitoring and education in order to successful both drug supply control and demand reduction strategies require active effective coordination and corporation between Police Narcotics Bureau and related agencies.

2. Standers systems and procedures in sharing intelligence regarding drug trafficking among the countries.

3. There should be an Agent handling and Informer handling desk on drug traffickers within in the intelligence agencies.

4. MOU and Treaties among the countries are very important in risk mitigation of Narcotic drugs.

5. In developing and maintaining a forensic Laboratory capable of delivering Expert evidence in courts.

6. Monitoring specialized units including the intelligence and Mobile detection teams in order to ensure that advance investigating techniques effective against drug traffickers in the country.

7. Establishment of professional training (Foreign and Local) for Police Officers in counter Narcotics drugs.

8. As the use and trafficking of methamphetamine has increased dramatically, laws have been amended and penalties have been toughened.

# Thailand

**Thailand Annual Drug Report 2020**

## 1. Legal Framework

In 2020, two drug laws came into force and five drafts were in the law enactment process of the Thai Parliament. The two laws include (1) The Office of the Prime Minister's Regulations on Reward Payment to Informants leading to Arrest, Reward to Officers and Subsidy for Narcotic Operations (Issue 2) B.E.2563 (2) The Notification of the Narcotics Control Board on Criteria, Method and Conditions for Examining or Testing Narcotic Substances in the Body of Individuals or a Group of Individuals dated 8 July 2020. The five drafts consist of (1) Act on the Use of the Narcotics Code, B.E....(2) Narcotics Code, B.E.... (3) Act on Narcotics Criminal Procedure Code (4) Act on Narcotics (Issue No....), B.E.... (5) Act on Kratom Plants, B.E....

## 2. International Conventions

Thailand has been a party to the three United Nation's conventions on drug control: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. In addition, Thailand has been members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1967 and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation in 1997, respectively.

## 3. Drug Control Strategy

Narcotic problem in Thailand has been placed as the priority issue relating to security issues that needs to be solved urgently. It was integrated in the National Strategy in the aspect of security issue. The Cabinet at its meeting on 3rd November 2020 also approved the 3-Year Narcotics Control Action Plan 2020-2022 which was designed to be the narcotics control framework and a management tool to drive forward narcotics control operation and implementation by concerned agencies in order to achieve the target which is the level of narcotic drug problem become under control to the level that does not affect security and properties of people by reducing the number of drug dealers/ traffickers, users and recidivism of narcotics offending in the area. The Action Plan also focused on encouraging the involvement of all stakeholders to integrate to

achieve the goal and vision of the Action Plan, that is, Thailand is sustainably secured and safe from narcotic drugs. The Narcotics Control Action Plan 2020 was the third level plan issued in accordance with the Cabinet's resolution on December 4, 2007. The devising of the plan was in line with the National Security Strategy, the National Reform Plan, the National Economic and Social Development Plan, and the government's policy declaration to the Parliament. Approved by the Cabinet on 6 November 2020, this Action Plan consisted of five main measures as the following:

1. Proactive International Cooperation: support cooperation to end illicit drug production outside the country, provide alternative development to the problematic areas affected by affected by illicit drug production and intercept the trafficking of chemicals and production equipment to production areas.

2. Narcotics Law Enforcement: include the interception of Illicit Drugs, Precursors and Chemicals, the suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking Groups by destroy the illicit drug trafficking structure and individuals/networks involved, drug hidden storage, financial and digital currency investigation, property examination and asset forfeiture, as well as, the improvement of justice system and strict enforcement of laws.

3. Drug Prevention: strengthen the villages/ communities along the border and with sustainable alternative development program in accordance with Royal Initiatives on Self Efficiency and advocate appropriate and concrete drug prevention for each of target groups, as well as, to improve social environment for demand reduction by eliminating negative factors and increasing positive ones.

4. Drug Treatment: promote access of drug users to treatment and harm reduction, improve admission and screening system, provide appropriate drug treatment program including after care and rehabilitation and mobilize community participation in the process.

5. Integrated Management: Implement immediate drug control operations for specific target areas in response to urgent situation or government directives, apply new alternative approaches, such as, decriminalization, legalization of drugs for medical and scientific purposes to improve drug control work, as well as, integrate mission and work of all concerned agencies at all levels. Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) as the main drug control policy making agency is in charge of the integration with 9 ministries and 28 counterpart agencies to ensure coherent plans and consistent implementation.

### *4.1 Overview*

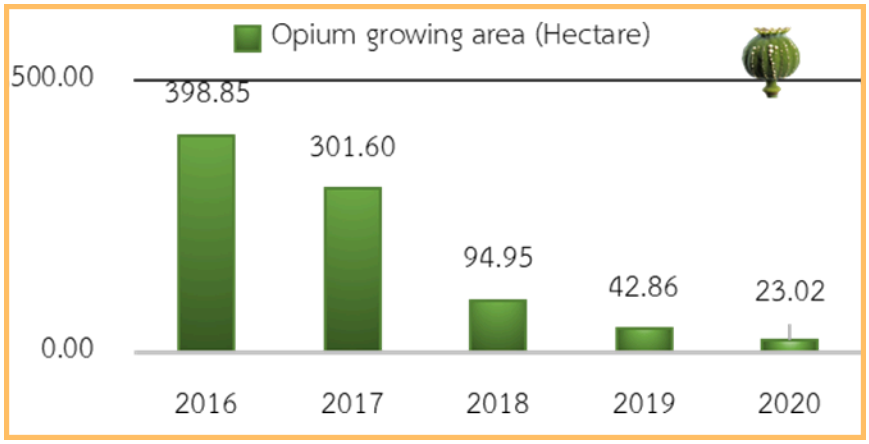
In 2020, Thailand was affected by the upsurge of drug production especially synthetic drugs in the Golden Triangle area. Consequently, an influx of illicit drugs into Thailand continuously increased. This led to the sharp rise of arrest cases the same as in the countries surrounding the Golden Triangle. Apart from the drug smuggling from the Golden Triangle, Thailand also faced the illicit smuggling of drugs from other regions such as cocaine from South America and "ecstasy" from Europe. Most illicit drugs used in Thailand were from sources outside. However, domestic illicit crop cultivation, like opium and cannabis, was still found in a small quantity.

In order to maintain the drug demand, a large number of illicit drugs smuggled into Thailand were to sell at a cheap price. it found that most drug users or 69.9% are new users. The most commonly used drug was methamphetamine tablet or Yaba, tantamount to 78.8%, followed by crystalline methamphetamine or ICE (10.2%), and cannabis (5.2%). Illicit drugs that require a close look were ICE and heroin as the prevalent rate of their tended to continuously increase. Nowadays, the use of online platforms like Line, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram together with parcel post service and courier service to trade and deliver drugs were increasingly popular.

### *4.2. Illicit Drug Crop Cultivation*

According to the survey findings conducted by Narcotic Crops Survey and Monitoring Institute, Office of the Narcotics Control Board, the illicit cultivation of opium and cannabis were still found. In 2020, about 23 hectares of illicit opium cultivation were found nationwide, most in the North of Thailand. For the past 5 years, the illicit plantation has been in decline.

Figure 1: Opium growing areas, year 2016-2020




For cannabis, there were three main patterns of illicit cultivation which were grown 1) in the mountainous forests mixed with other cash crops 2) in greenhouses or in garden beds and 3) in living places.

Figure 2: Illicit cannabis growing patterns



Illicit cannabis cultivation in forest or in certain garden beds



Illicit cannabis cultivation in greenhouses



Illicit cannabis cultivation in living places

### *4.3 Drug Smuggling into Thailand Situation*

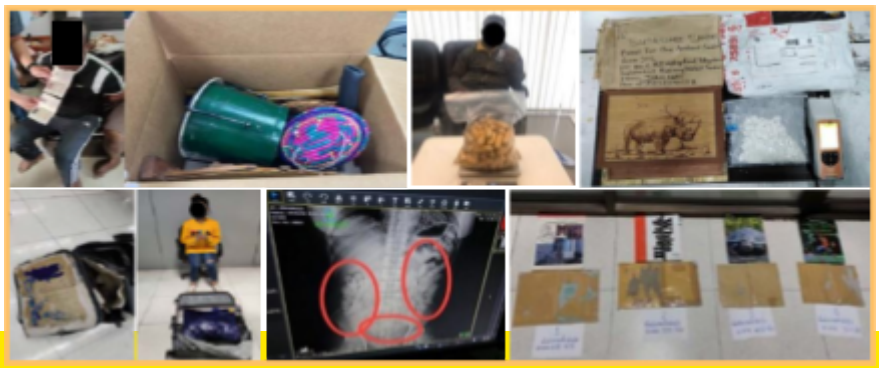
Thailand was both a transit route and a market of illicit drugs from the Golden Triangle such as methamphetamine tablets (Yaba), crystalline methamphetamine (ICE), heroin, and ketamine. During the past years, synthetic drug production in the Golden Triangle increased. Drug trafficking syndicates had continuously been smuggling illicit drugs into Thailand across the land and riverine borders. Drugs were often contained in a sack for smuggling across the borders. After that they were concealed in car passenger cabins or modified secret compartments of trucks, or mixed with and hidden in other goods for further transportation from the borders to the inner areas. Use of parcel post service, courier service to smuggle drugs were also found increasing in both frequency and quantity.

Figure 3: Drug concealment methods



Moreover, Thailand also encountered illicit drug smuggling from other regions, for instance, cocaine from Africa by Western African drug syndicates. According to the cooperation under Airport Interdiction Task Force: AITF, a large number of cocaine smuggled from Africa by African drug syndicates to Thailand was arrested at international airports. Recently, to avoid being arrested, the syndicates changed from using their own people to hiring Thai women to pick up drugs from a source country and carry them back to Thailand. In 2020, there were nine cases of cocaine, 25.52 kg. and seven offenders. Interesting patterns of smuggling include body packing and stuffing, concealing in a knitted hat, in a bangle bracelet, in luggage lining, in book covers, in parcel posts, in other goods delivered by courier service companies. Nonetheless, the prevalence of cocaine abuse in Thailand remained low and limited in a group of upper-class people according to its high price.

Figure 1: Cocaine seizures and concealment methods



As for "Ecstasy", smuggling via international parcel posts was mainly from Europe. In 2020, 56 cases of parcels from Germany, France, Netherland, Belgium, Portugal, and United Kingdom were seized with the evidence of 389,974 ecstasy tablets (compared with 2019, 20 cases seized with 147,749 tablets). The tablets were stuffed in baby milk powder boxes and Chinese tea bags. Ecstasy was used by a certain group and commonly found at night entertainment places and parties. In General, a street price per tablet was around 500-800 THB, whereas an online price was around 400-500 THB.

Figure 2: Patterns of ecstasy concealing



Figure 3: Cases and drug offenders during 2016-2020

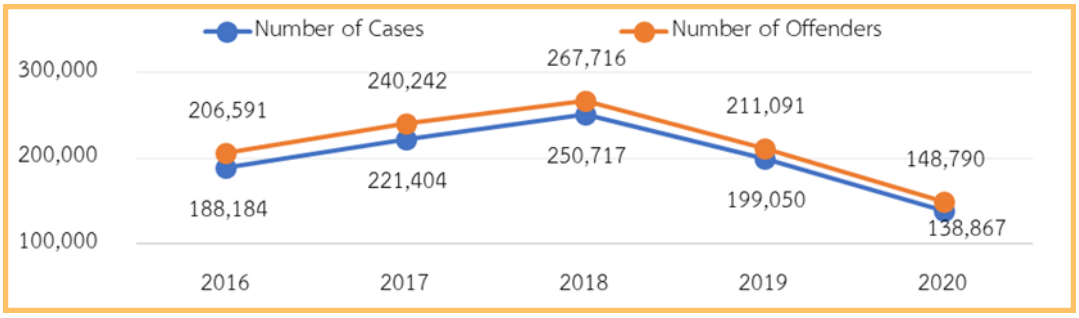


Figure 4: Seizure of Yaba

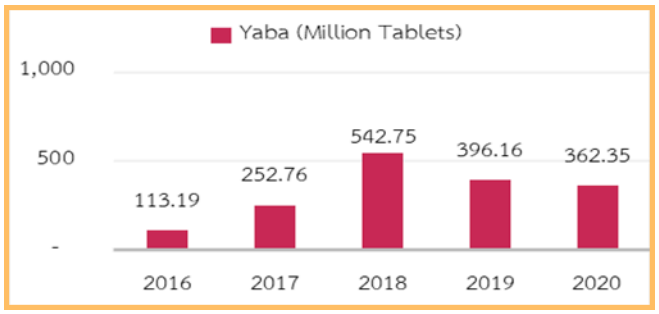



Figure 5: Seizure of methamphetamine, 2016-2020

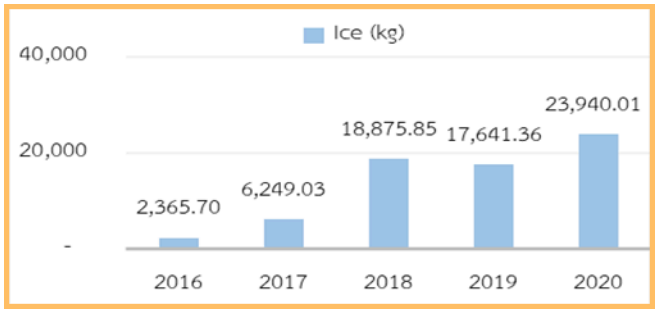



Figure 6: Seizure of heroin, 2016-2020

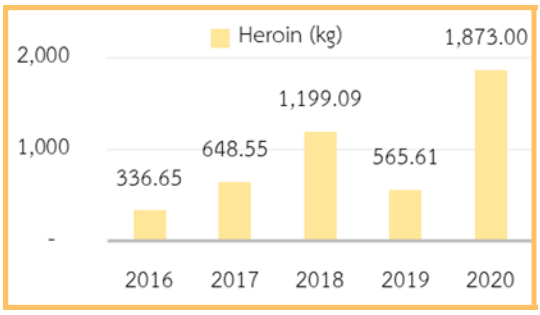
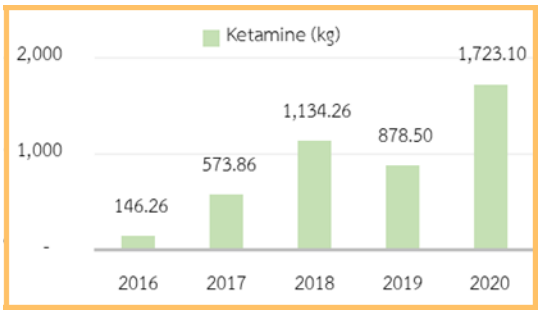



Figure 7: Seizure of ketamine, 2016-2020




Overall, in 2020 there were 138,867 arrest cases with 148,790 offenders. compared with the previous years, the number of cases and offenders were on the decrease; however, the number of drug evidences especially Yaba, ICE, ketamine, and heroin were on the increase. This reflected that the quantity of seized drugs per case

were on the rise. Most of drug offenders in 2020 were new ones, accounting for 58.65 per cent. Most of them were male (91.08%). Young people aged 25-29 were found committing drug crime most (20.55%).

Figure 11: Old and new offenders arrested in 2016-2020

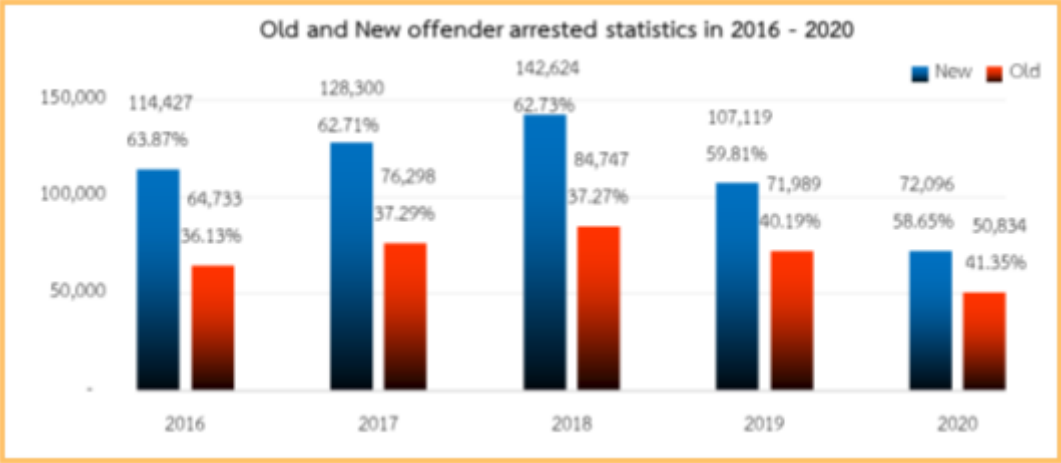



Figure 12: Offenders classified by age group in 2016-2020

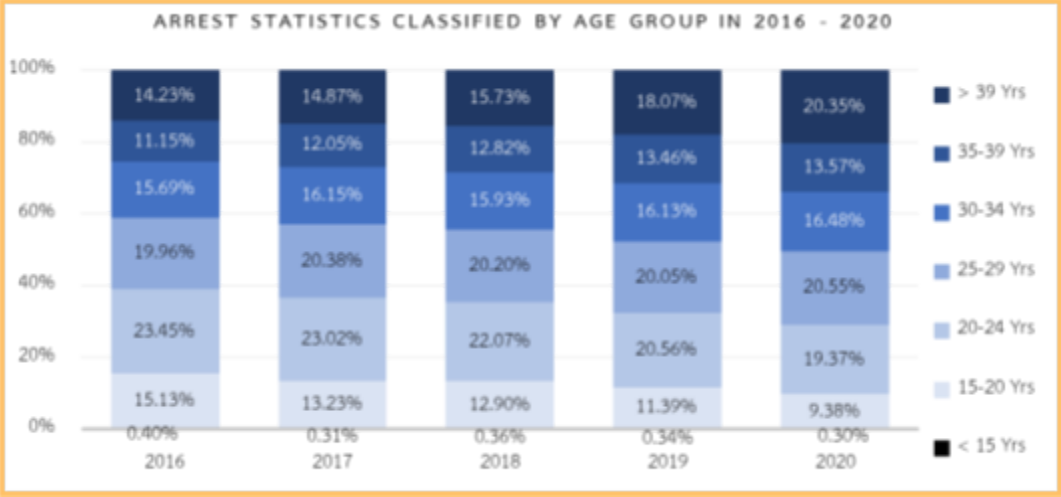
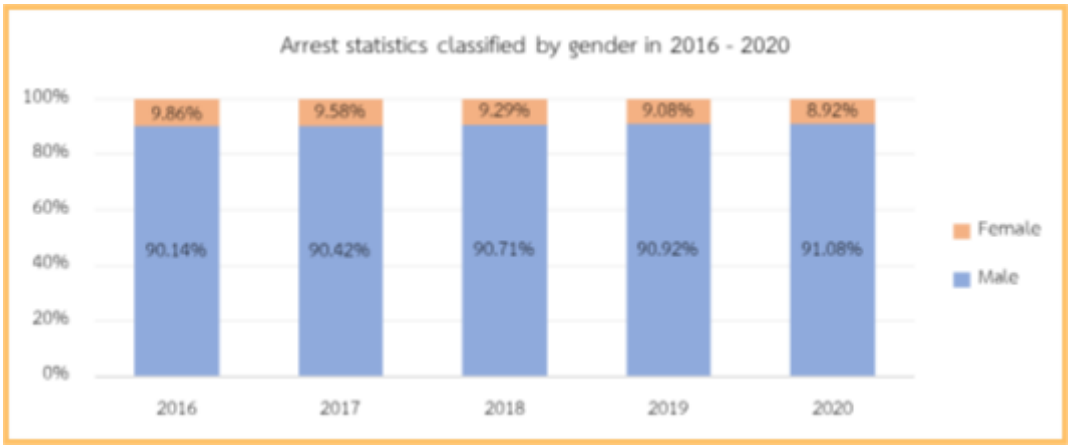


Figure 13: Offenders classified by gender 2016-2020




Apart from existing drug business, drug trafficking syndicates currently increasingly utilized online platforms and parcel post service to distribute illicit drugs. Twitter was the most popular online platform for drug business (97.1%), followed by Instagram (1.6%), and Facebook (1.3%) respectively. According to the online platform investigation, it found that 77.9 per cent of all drug dealers were new dealers while old dealers were only at 10.8 per cent. Dealers whose accounts were suspended, were at 11.3 per cent. Dealers who sold a single drug accounted for 62.2 per cent, and those who sold more than one drugs accounted for 37.8 per cent. For the dealers selling a single drug, they sold ICE (47.2%), cannabis (27.6%), Tramadol (8.6%), Kratom leaves (4.5%), and Alprazolam (3.5%) respectively. In addition, other drugs such as cough syrup (Dextromethorphan (DXM)), LSD, Yaba, magic mushroom, heroin, cocaine, and “ecstasy” were found.

Figure 14: Drug sale via online platforms



### *4.4 Prevalence of drug use*

Due to the influx of illicit drugs into Thailand with cheap prices, the number of drug users remained high. In 2020, a total number of drug users registered for treatment was 132,023. Most of them were new users, accounting for 69.87 per cent. It found that a number of new users had been declining during the past five years while a number of old or relapsed users had continuously been increasing. Most drug users were older than 39 years old, accounting for 20.71 per cent, followed by users in the 25-29 age group (18.86%), and the 20-24 age group (18.83%). Most of them were male (89.74%). According to a medical diagnosis, they were grouped as drug users at 58.1%, drug dependents at 37.0%, and recreational drug users 5.0%.

The most commonly used drug was Yaba, accounting for 78.78 per cent, followed by crystalline methamphetamine or ICE (10.23%), and cannabis (5.16%). Meanwhile ICE and heroin tended to be more widely used since 2016 and should be closely monitored. The number of ICE users applying for treatment had risen from 8,398 to 13,446 in 2020. Most of them were new users accounting for 74.1 per cent. For heroin, 53.2 per cent were old users; however, the prevalence of heroin use among children and adolescents in some areas had increased.

Figure 8: Drug users in treatment, 2016 - 2020

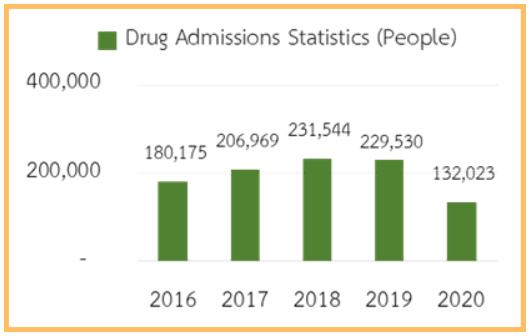



Figure 16: Old and new drug users in treatment, 2016 – 2020

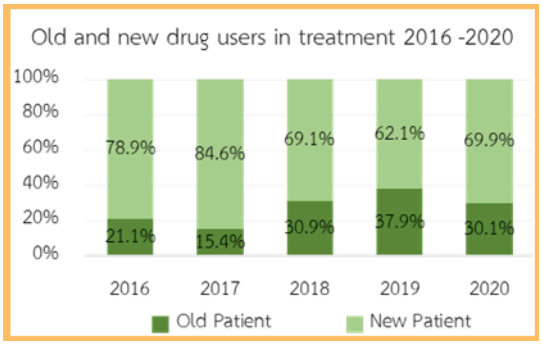
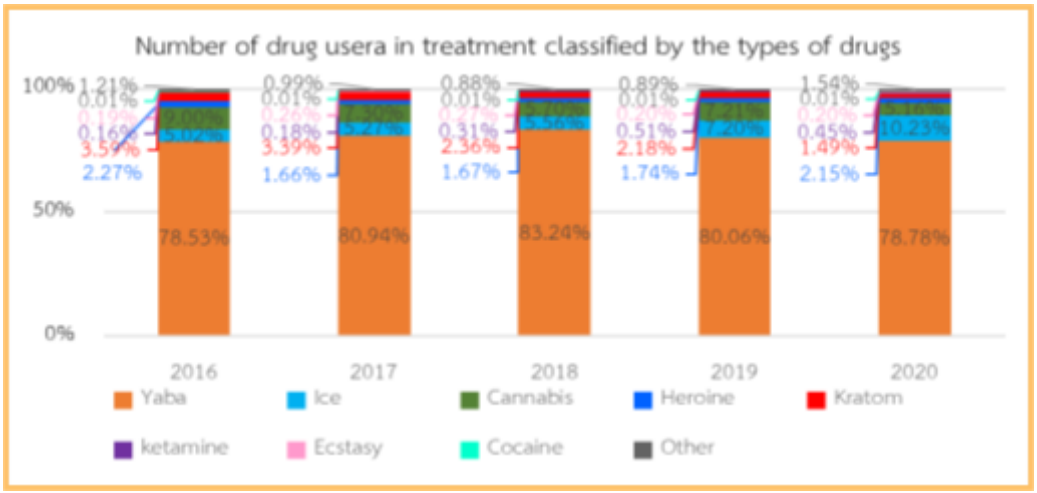


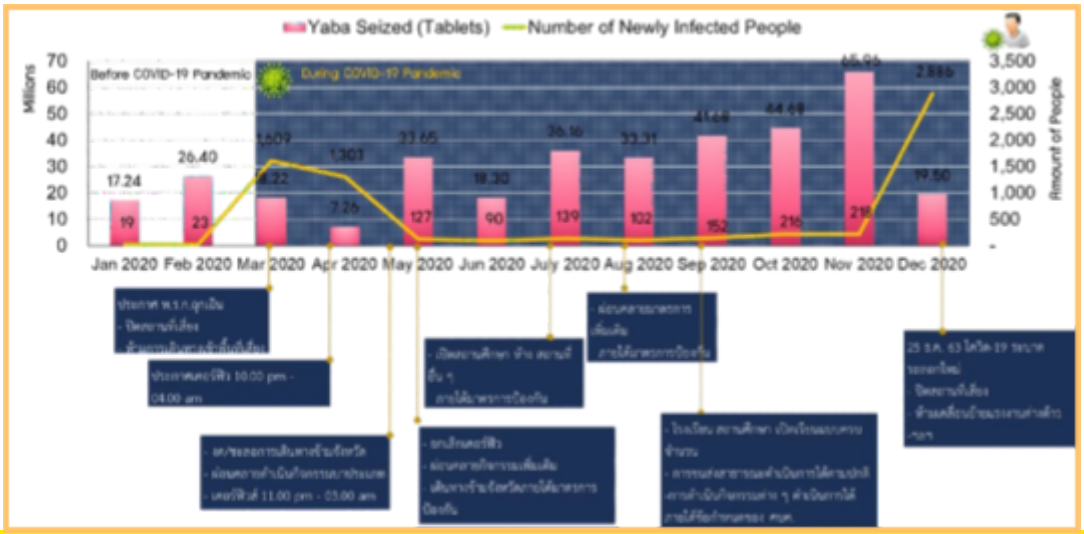

Figure 9: Drug users in treatment classified by the types of drugs, 2016 -2020




***4.5 Drug situation during the pandemic of Corona Virus 2019 (COVID-19)***

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Thai authorities detected the first COVID-19 infected case in January 2020. Consequently, the Royal Thai Government had issued the preventive and control measures for controlling the widespread of COVID-19 by closing all permanent and temporary border checkpoints and points of entry along the borders of Thailand and neighboring countries, including implementing lockdown measures in varying degrees throughout the country. COVID-19 screening points were set up in every province and resulted in travel and transportation difficulties. As a result, trafficking syndicates struggled to smuggle drugs into Thailand at the beginning, so big drug seizures were quite rare. Nevertheless, after the COVID-19 restrictions were eased, the situation resumed to normal. Although all nightlife venues were ordered to close due to the COVID-19 restrictions, rented houses, apartments, condominiums were used for gathering and drug use instead. Treatment and rehabilitation services hardly operated.

Figure 18: Seizure of Ya Ba and Admission of COVID-19 infected cases (Jan-Dec 2020)



### *5.1 Narcotic Crop Control*

In Thailand, there were 3 major narcotic crops jeopardizing Thai economics and society, namely, opium, cannabis, and kratom plant. Opium is the most vulnerable narcotic crop that has been cultivated by various highland ethnic groups in the northern region of Thailand since the past century. The illicit narcotic crops were surveyed and monitored closely and kept under control as the following:

1. Opium: During the opium cultivation season in 2019/2020 (during August 2019-April 2020), the ONCB by the Narcotic Crops Survey and Monitoring Institute (NCSMI) conducted the aerial survey by helicopter and ground survey in the potential areas of 76 highland areas covering the area of 2 million hectares in 12 provinces in the North of Thailand. The survey found 224 plots of opium poppy cultivation covering the area of 23.176 hectares in 6 provinces.

2. Cannabis: the aerial survey of ONCB by NCSMI found 14 plots of illicit cannabis plantation around 0.32 hectares in Kutbak District, Sakon Nakhon Province.

3. Hemp: Hemp is controlled as a narcotic drug under Category V but permitted to grow under the Ministerial Regulation on License Application and License for Production, Distribution and Possession of a Drug in Category V only for Hemp, B.E.2559. Moreover, hemp cultivation as economic crop is also controlled under the Order of the National Narcotics Control Command Center No. 7/2017. In 2020, hemp cultivation was licensed for 177 plots around 100 hectares in 9 provinces nationwide, 35.84 hectares of which was under the research project of Highland Research and Development Institute (HRDI) in the areas of THC, development of least narcotic contained species, use of hemp fibers and textile industry and income generating activities. According to ONCB's aerial survey by UAV over the permitted areas, hemp was grown only in 67 plots, tantamount to26.72 hectares and 811.6 square meters.

4. Kratom plants (Mitragyna speciosa)

Controlled as a narcotic drug under Category V, Kratom plants were also being delegalized. In 2020, legal traditional consumption and possession of Kratom was proposed for the pilot areas in 135 villages/communities in 13 provinces and for 10,329 households having 23,317 kratom plants and 12,557 kratom users registered in the system. According to ONCB's survey, only 7 areas in 2 provinces (Phetchabun and Nakhon Sri Thammarat) met with the ONCB's criteria. More of 8 villages in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province with 476 households having 795 kratom plants and 636 users were in the process of registration.



## 5.2 Alternative Development

### *5.2.1 The 50th Year Anniversary of the Royal Project*

On the occasion of the Royal Project's 50th Anniversary, the Royal Project Foundation and its partner, Highland Research and Development Institute (Public Organization) – HRDI consider it is timely to organize the International Conference on Rising to the Challenge of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Sustainable Highland Development: The Royal Project Model on 22 – 24 December 2019 at the Royal Park Rajapruek, Chiang Mai with the cooperation of ONCB. Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendiradebyavati Kromluangrajasarinisiribajra Mahavajrarajadhita graciously opened the meeting on 22 December 2020 at the Royal Park Rajaruek and visited the exhibition on the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Project to commemorate the benevolence of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great's profound wisdom and graciousness in bestowing the Royal Project for the benefit and happiness of the Thai highland people. The meeting was intended to provide an important platform for portraying the experiences of the Royal Project's 50-year journey on highland alternative development shedding light on how the Royal Project Model could be a means to realizing the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). In addition to the meeting, the field visit to the Royal Project Foundation and Highland Research and Development Institute (HRDI) operation areas was organized in 3 routes in Chiang Mai to demonstrate the achieved sustainable solutions through holistic approach in economic, environment and social dimensions. Each area was representing the 3 pillars of sustainable development, including Mae Hae Royal Project Development Centre (economic aspect), Pa Miang and Teen Tok Royal Project Development Centre (environment aspect) and Pang Dang Nai Highland Development Project Using the Royal Project System (social aspect).



### *5.2.2 Roi Jai Rak Project: Solution to Drug Problem in Community by Alternative Development Approach at a special area of Thaton Sub-district, Mae Ai District, Chiangmai Province*

The Project has been implemented by the ONCB with the cooperation of Mae Fah Luang Foundation under the Royal Patronage and other government and private agencies since November 15, 2017. In 2020, the Project attained the following outcomes; development in 10 dimensions (water system, soil, forest, education, health-care, agriculture, livestock, handicraft, increase value-added products and tourism), education of drug prevention in 3 schools including the target group of 703 students aged between 9-15 years, treatment and follow-up activities under Volunteering to Do Good Project for 146 users of which 91 received vocational funds, and the other 130 were followed up and provided after care support, arrest of 19 drug offenders, community policing team in 4 villages, and replication of the project model to other target areas in 4 Provinces and 19 Districts



### *5.2.3 Alternative Development Networking*

- ***The Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development (EGM) on Advancing Alternative Development and Development-oriented Drug Policies***

The Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage (MFLF) co-hosted the Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development (EGM) on Advancing Alternative Development and Development-oriented Drug Policies on 15 – 17 December 2019 at the Riverie Hotel and Doi Tung Development Project in Chiang Rai together with ONCB, the Governments of Germany, Peru and UNODC. The meeting was attended by 60 participants from 14 countries and government agencies from Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, international organizations, civil society, private sector and academia. The meeting comprised panel discussion and field visit to Doi Tung

Development Project. The result of the meeting was presented at the 63th Session of Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March in 2020 at Vienna International Centre, Austria.





- ***Myanmar – Thailand Alternative Development Project***

The project was aimed at developing target communities in 2 areas, namely, Naungtaya, Pinlao District, Southern Shan State and the upper area of Thachileik District, Eastern Shan State. At Naungtaya, four house-groups, namely, Pinkhin, Po In, Mawaypin, and Loy Mo were target areas. The project successfully implemented the following activities, community outreach, rapport and participation, development of highland water system, increasing rice yields, setting up of the production fund, processing process of Assam tea, livestock and training on animal husbandry for local volunteers. At Thachileik, target areas include 3 house-groups, namely, Muang Go, Maung Lin, and Maung Hae. The project successfully implemented community rapport, knowledge exchange and study visits for local officials, development of drinking water system, setting up funds for livestock and animal nursery, for example.

### *5.3 Control of Illicit Drugs, Precursors and Chemicals*

Thailand is not a precursor and chemical producing country. Most of them were imported for medical and industrial purposes. However, adjacent to the Golden Triangle and production areas, Thailand faced the smuggling of precursors, chemicals and production equipment along its border. To overcome the problem, bilateral and multilateral cooperation was implemented via negotiation, country partnership strengthening, knowledge exchanges, human resource training and drug forensic equipment development. Domestically, ONCB together with concerned agencies cooperated to intercept the trafficking along border areas, especially the in the northern and northeast regions of Thailand. In 2020, the interdiction measures along the borders were tightened especially for three primary areas: Land borders: focusing on 19 key routes/channels frequently found drug smuggling in 15 provinces, 40 districts. This led to

the seizure of 224,276,238 Yaba and 17,388.74 kgs of ICE. Most of the mentioned evidence or 71.56% was seized by the border checkpoints and road checkpoints. International airports: foreign drug traders also used social media as a communication channel to trade the illicit drugs in particular for Ecstasy, Ice and cocaine before sending the drugs via international parcel/courier or hidden in goods, travelling bags, and luggage etc. In 2020, 65 suspects were arrested with the evidence of 5,783 Yaba tablets, 29.16 kgs. of ICE, 2.73 kgs. of heroin, 6.8 kgs. of ketamine, 21.71 kgs. of cocaine and 343,639 ecstasy tablets. Lastly, Seaports: through the international cooperation, investigation expansion of 3 cases led the seizure of 100 kgs. of ICE, 75 kgs. of heroin and 169,780 kgs. of opium seeds.

### 5.4 Drug Suppression

#### *5.4.1 Suppression of major drug traffickers, masterminds and their syndicates*

The government by the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice had the policy to suppress drug trafficking syndicates by focusing on demolishing drug trafficking structure by asset forfeiture measure, the extensive investigation by conspiracy measure, enforcement of other related laws, and introducing new tool and technology to support the operation for concrete outcomes. As a result, about 30 percent of the total drug cases, as well as, the total drug offenders were charged with 5 major offences (production, import, export, distribution, possession). Out of the arrest warrants of 3,528 suspects issued under the Act on Measures for the Suppression of Offenders in an Offence Relating to Narcotics B.E.2534, 1,853 suspects were detained, and their assets at the value of 2,107.75 million THB had been frozen of which later the assets worth 790.57 million THB was forfeited, and the other worth 1,317.18 million THB remained on trials. Furthermore, ONCB in cooperation with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society destroyed on-line trafficking channels Out of 248 suspicious accounts, 41 accounts were closed, and the other 207 were in the process. Extensive investigation was carried out and resulted in the arrest of 15 suspects with the evidence of 257,737 YaBa tablets. 5.12 kgs. of ICE and 1.45 kgs. of heroin.

To reduce drug dealers in 23,140 communities nationwide, 10,543 street dealers and their gang members were arrested with the seizure of 55,737,297 Ya Ba tablets, 4,488.59 kgs. of ICE, 72.42 kgs. of heroin, 9,163.57 kgs. of cannabis, 42.80 kgs. of ketamine. Extensive investigation led to the seizure of their assets worth 60,850,636

million THB. Moreover, a call-center of “1386 Hotline” and other social media channels were open to receive complaints and leads related to drugs. There were 17,547 complaints/leads received, and 14,864 cases or 84.71% were responded and taken into action.

### *5.4.2 Special Drug Law Enforcement Operations in Target Areas*

Integrated Drug Control Operation along the Upper Northern Border

The Action Plan was aimed at intercepting drugs from outside the country by creating effective border defense in 4 northern provinces namely, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son and Phayao, covering 19 districts, 33 subdistricts and 47 villages in total. The operation outcomes included the arrest of 749 offenders with the seizure of 80.11 million pills of Yaba, 1,741 kgs. of ICE, 53.09 kgs. of heroin and 94.11 kgs. of cannabis.

***Integrated Drug Control Operation along the Lower Northern Border***

The Action Plan focused on intercepting the smuggling of drugs from the border and the upper northern region to the inner area and strengthening border villages. The outcomes included; 20 check points and taskforces were set up and reinforced, the arrest of 912 cases with 943 offenders. the seizure of 2,426, kgs. of ICE, 8,671,047 pills of Yaba and 241 kgs. of cannabis, from 5,995 villages/communities sponsored, more than 95 percent of them made a drug situation report and conducted drug prevention and policing activities. 8,479 drug users were reported, 1,763 of whom receive support. 1,420 drug dealers were reported, 322 of whom

were prosecuted.

***Narcotics Control in 3 Southern Provinces***

The National Command Center on Drug Control (NCCDC) issued Order no. 11/2018 dated June 19, 2018 on the Drug Control Strategic Plan in the Southern Border Area 2017-2021 with the intent to solve drug problem in target areas in 5 years. The target areas covered 1,000 villages in 3 provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat. The outcomes in 2020 included; building strong anti-drug 2,145 villages and 143,433 families including 12,600 persons from Yalannanbaru Group, 14,801 arrest cases, having 15,718 offenders with the evidence of 6,924,930 pills of Yaba, 130 kgs. of cannabis, 10,936kgs. of kratom (leaves/ residue), 2,207 kgs. of ICE and 57.37 kgs. of heroin, hosting drug prevention activities at 3,456 educational institutes, kindergartens, and Islam schools,

referring 6,078 drug users to treatment providing after-care to 8,589 persons and vocational support to 812 persons.

### *5.4.3 Financial Investigation / Asset Forfeiture*

The NCCDC's orders including no. 5/2020, 6/2020 and 7/2020 established the Command Center on Asset Forfeiture of Drug Syndicates and 2 Working Groups on Asset Investigation and Forfeiture of Drug Syndicates and Extensive Investigation for Asset Forfeiture of Drug Syndicates. In 2020, assets of 5 major drug syndicates were seized, for example, the total 147 assets of Pamornwichit syndicate, worth 202,585,000 baht and 4 suspects arrested. During the fiscal year 2020 (October 2019 - September 2020), from 1,853 drug offenders, the total assets worth 790.57 million THB was forfeited.



### *5.4.4 Drug Forensic Analysis*

The Narcotic Analysis and Technical Service Institute (NATSI), ONCB reported that the purity of many drugs except meth tablets has increased during the past 5 years (2016-2020). This corresponds with the lower costs of precursors and chemicals, easier access to chemicals, and higher production capacity. Samples of drugs seized not

only had higher purity but also appeared in more various forms, marks and packages. In the fiscal year 2020, the NATSI conducted both quality and quantity analysis of all kinds of seized drugs from 2,885 cases with 5,270 sample units at the total weight of 223,767.585 kgs.

For meth tablets, the compound substances that mainly found in Yaba were methamphetamine hydrochloride and caffeine at 15.01%-20.00% and 70.01%-80.00% in a single Yaba tablet. The purity of meth reduced from the range of 20.01-25.00 per cent to 15.01-20.00 per cent. There was no significant change of Yaba compound from last year. For Ice, the psychoactive substance mostly contained in Ice is methamphetamine hydrochloride at 90.01% - 99.86% of the weight of the sample and there was no significant change in ICE composition from last year. The purity of most ICE samples has increased from more than 90 percent to the interval of 98.01-100 per cent. In cannabis bars, a significant substance found in cannabis bar of major cases was tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) ranging between 2%-8%, cannabidiol (CBD) between 0.1 – 0.8% and cannabinol (CBN) between 0.1 – 1.6%. The remaining substances found were heavy metal contaminating substances, such as, arsenic, mercury, lead and cadmium. There were 9%-14% of tetrahydrocannabinol substance found in dried cannabis flowers, and 20.01%-50% in cannabis oil contained in various vials/bottles. In heroin bars, heroin hydrochloride was found at 80.01%-90.00% per unit or about 82.31% of the sample weight. The purity of cocaine hydrochloride was at 90.01% and above per unit or 56.72% of the weight of sample cocaine powder and at

20.01%-40.00% of the weight of sample cocaine liquid. For ecstasy, the purity of main substance, MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy methamphetamine) was at 40.01%-50.00% per unit or about 45.68% of the sample weight.





### *5.4.5 Destruction of Drug Evidence*

In 2020, the ONCB organized the destruction of seized cannabis twice at the weight of 13 tons and 542 kgs. 12th June 2020 and 4th December 2020, respectively. Moreover, in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with the ONCB organized the 50th Destruction of over 25,000 kilograms of all Drugs, most of which was methamphetamine/amphetamine and followed by opium, heroin and Ecstasy, respectively. Since 1977, there were over 170,000 kilograms, worth more than 270,000 million baht, of seized narcotics had been destroyed.




## 6. Demand Reduction

### 6.1 Drug Prevention: Individuals and their Environment

Drug demand reduction strategy in Thailand is devised with the intent to solve drug problem by comprehensive measures of building immunity against drugs and safe environment appropriate and tailor-made for each of target groups. Technical evidence and innovation were used in devising and implementing drug prevention programs through various activities and channels as the following:

#### *6.1.1 Building Drug Immunity for Target Groups*

The project was aimed at reducing new drug users; therefore, the high-risk group aged between 15-24 years and their peers were the targets. Various activities were implemented with the intent to create awareness of the targets, their society and enhance their participation in drug prevention through the key message of “Safe Zone, No New Face”; new generation don’t use drug. 20 short VDO clips entitled “Inspiration for Drug Prevention” was broadcasted through social media, news broadcasting towers, public communication system in schools, factories, villages and communities and radio stations of partner agencies. The results showed about 115.70% or 5.6 million people of high-risk target group perceived and were aware of the dangers of drug use and right living and social skills for drug prevention. For their peer and society, 158.69% or 53.2 million people (including 9.1 million children and youth, 1.7 million workers and 42.4 million villagers) received the message and were aware the importance of drug prevention. To gain better access to the target group, famous influencers on social media and youtubers, TV presenters also joined the project to promote a safe zone of social media for the target group, teaching speaking and communication technique, as well as, disciplines and ethnics. To educate and enhance understanding and right attitude, talk shows by mental

health professionals and psychiatrists on 3 various topics relating to youth's mental health.





Specifically, for *children and youth in educational institutes*, Executive Function (EF) enhancing program was given to kindergarten students in order to strengthen their brain skills against drugs. 74.54% or 1,553,857 children received EF program. 89.38% primary schools conducted life skill and morality development program, whereas 72.96% of students participated in the program. For secondary schools, vocational schools and universities, social drug prevention activities were implemented in 10,548 out of 11,755 institutes or about 89.73% with 4,034,460 student participants. For out of school youth, the campaign, called "Change the Risk Group to the Powerful Group" was carried out. Important support and assistance were given to 107,125 youths, of whom 27,855 was provided with education, 17,324 with vocational training and 43,967 with sports and recreation. 7,088 youths were trained to be Anti-Drug Volunteer Forces. Lastly, for Workplace/Entrepreneur Group, 129.21% of workplaces having more than 10 employees and 115.16% of workplaces having less than 10 employees organized a drug prevention program at workplace.

### *6.1.2 Building Safe Environment*

The program promoted villages/communities to have safe environment under the concept idea of creating more "Secured Sub-district" by controlling risk factors, policing risk areas, monitoring people at risk, assisting people in difficulties, and increasing positive factors, arranging of drug prevention and suppression in the target epidemic areas of 5,542 subdistricts of 46 districts. About 84.6% or 5,505 subdistricts completed drug prevention activities for youth group, strengthening family, village leader development, drug suppression operation, strengthening families, and prevention

activities for the youth risk group. The same program would also be replicated in 6 provinces in the lower northern region.

## 6.2 Treatment and Rehabilitation

### *6.2.1 Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Program*

ONCB promoted the participation of family/community in solving drug use and set up to reach 890 villages/communities (11 communities in Bangkok, 879 villages nationwide) in 2020. The program had a working team of village committee and subdistrict operation unit to reach out drug users and provide them with assistance and referral to community-based treatment or treatment centers in their own village, follow-up and after-care services to ensure their smooth reintegration to society. As a result, 1,421 persons were assisted by the program. In addition, ONCB also had a project entitled "Baan Lom Rak" (Home Embraced by Love) to support a family role in taking a parental care of their children by improving communication skill and knowledge on children and youth psychology, for example.

### *6.2.2 Harm Reduction*

In 2020, there were 22,941 or 20 percent of drug patients (114,481 persons) receiving harm reduction service. Besides, 6,145 injected drug users of which 1,430 were HIV positive were reached by NGOs and civil society organizations. The pilot project on Buprenorphine or Suboxone substitution for opioid users was being implemented in all 7 Thanyarak Hospitals under Princess Mother National Institute on Drug Abuse Treatment.

### *6.2.3 Reducing Impacts from Drug Patients with mental disorders*

To reduce impacts of drug patients who had mental disorders to society, ONCB supported many activities to promote understanding and cooperation from all sectors to respond appropriately to the problem. For example, mass media infographic video motion graphic was produced and broadcasted to educate and guide families and communities on care measures for said patients. A manual on measures to monitoring, referral, treatment, follow-up, aftercare and assistance for drug patients with mental disorders in an E-book form was produced and distributed to frontline officers to use as practice references. For drug offenders and prisoners in court system, psychosocial clinic gave them counselling and related services to reduce recidivism after release. Moreover, the MOU on the Cooperation to Provide Psychosocial Counselling to Prisoners and Drug Offenders in the Court System was also signed between Office of the Court of Justice,

ONCB, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Justice and Office of Thai Health Promotion Foundation.

## 7. International Cooperation

ONCB organized and participated in international drug control cooperation activities and meetings upon its commitment to bilateral and multilateral agreements all year round. Besides, ONCB, Thailand was a leading agency to support 2 important regional drug control projects as the following:

### *7.1 Golden Triangle Operation 1511*

On 15 November 2019, Ministers of the 6 countries from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam unanimously agreed on the establishment of the Golden Triangle Operation 1511 under the Safe Mekong Operation Plan among Six Countries (2019-2022) in Bangkok. The objectives of Operation 1511 are to interdict the trafficking of chemicals and precursors to illicit drug production areas and the smuggling of drugs from the production areas to other destination countries. Member countries agreed to strengthen their forces and equipment to execute a joint operation plan and activities, such as, patrolling, policing and setting up checkpoints on key trafficking routes, suppression in target areas of member countries. The outcomes during 1 December 2019 - 30 September 2020 revealed that

29 drug production and storage sites were destroyed with the evidence f 377.4 Yaba tablets, 22.8 tons of Ice, 2.5 tons of heroin and 801.8 kgs. of Ketamine. Moreover, 12.3 tons of caffeine, 17.3 tons of precursors and 1,046.3 tons of essential chemicals were seized.



Operation 1511 in Thailand

### *7.2 The 9th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Meeting*

The ONCB under the ASEAN-NARCO project initiated the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) in 2015. Since then, ONCB has hosted the ADMN Meeting twice a year in order to gather drug situation of member countries, analyse and produce an annual ASEAN drug situation report. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the 9th ADMN Meeting was postponed from March 2020 to 24 September 2020 and held online. The meeting was attended by ADMN Teams of member countries, representatives of ASEAN Secretariat ONCB Minister Counsellors in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, as well as, Thailand Substance Abuse Academic Network. The meeting reviewed the content of the draft ADM Report 2019 and agreed on ADMN Work Plan 2020 - 2021. The ADM 2019 report was finalized and published by the end of 2020 and also presented the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Drugs later.

