



# Study Tour Report South-South Cooperation

Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan

November 2007

# South-South Cooperation

The notion of international cooperation came to existence with the UN charter, which pledges to “employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social development of all people.” The ‘north-south cooperation’ and technology transfer from the north to south was considered as the bridge to fill the technological competence gulf between the developed and the developing countries. Over the years, it was realized that within the group of developing countries also there were marked differences. This made people to think of cooperation among the developing countries themselves thus giving rise to the concept of ‘south-south cooperation’

The concept of South-South cooperation was developed in the 1970s focusing on the significance of mutual cooperation among developing countries. The cooperation entails an equal relationship between the South and the South. The countries in the south generally share certain commonalities such as similar developmental experience and are also faced with common challenges such as high population pressure, poverty, hunger, disease, environmental deterioration, etc.

The UN has continually been supporting various activities to promote South-South Cooperation in the form of policy support and capacity-building activities among others. In 2003, the UN General Assembly decided to declare 19 December, United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. The assembly urged all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation, and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical, and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives.

Since 2002, facing a concentrated HIV epidemic among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and in Prisons I.R. of Iran has implemented extensive measures for controlling the epidemic, which has made Iran a pioneer country in the region and also among Islamic countries in the provision of comprehensive services to IDUs and in prisons.

In this context and in frame South-South Cooperation, UNODC Iran has adopted the development of more collaboration between south countries as a major policy during recent two years. Improvement of the regional HIV and drug control programmes and measures among the mentioned groups, through exchange of experiences have been the pivot of this initiation.

With facilitating study tours to Iran from countries of the region, UNODC Iran has supported interested countries in developing HIV/AIDS and drug prevention and care programmes in the community and in prison settings.

This report is trying to present a global picture of joint activities between UNODC Iran and other UNODC offices in the wider region during 2007 in the frame of South-South Cooperation by providing brief information of study tours to Iran from Myanmar, Malaysia, China, Vietnam, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan.

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**Study Tour**  
**Egyptian, Lebanese, Jordanian Delegations**  
**November 2007 – Iran**



Egyptian, Lebanese, Jordanian Delegations Visiting West Triangular Clinic

## Study Tour Report

### 1. Participants:

<b>Egypt</b>	
Eid Kamel Mohamed Samia (Mr.)	Police Officer / physician
Hanan Abdel Latif Abdel Mafez Youssef (Ms.)	Clinical Pathology Consultant, El Matar Hospital
Khaled Ismail Mohamed Fawzy Esmail (Mr.)	Police Officer
Mohamed Omar Mohamed Abdel Aziz Emam (Mr.)	Police Officer/physician
Mostafa Rezk Saad Morad (Mr.)	Medical epidemiologist
Osama Abdel Wahed Emera Abdel Wahed (Mr.)	Police Officer/Physician
<b>Jordan</b>	
Mohammad Rajab Deeb Asfour (Mr.)	Doctor. Director Mental Health Center
Jamal Younes Abdel Razzaq Anani (Mr.)	Physician, Director of National Center for Rehabilitation of Addicts- MOH
Jihad Mohammad M. Albreizat (Mr.)	Police Officer
Khaled E. A. Alma'asfeh Almajali (Mr.)	Police Officer / physician
Assad Yahya Assad Rahhal (Mr.)	Physician
Samer Noufan A. Abu Wandi (Mr.)	Police Officer
<b>Lebanon</b>	
Samia Ghazzawi (Ms.)	Chief of Pharmacy Dep.
Hadi Aya Baabdat (Mr.)	President of Association Justice and Mercy (AJEM)
Lara Eldabaghi (Ms.)	Public Health Officer
Mustapha Elnakib (Mr.)	National AIDS program manager
Michel Shakkour (Mr.)	Chief of General Criminal Investigation Division
<b>UN</b>	
Ehab Salah Ahmed Mohammed (Mr.)	Physician UNODC ROMENA Project Officer

**2. Place visited:** Tehran, I.R. of Iran

**3. Date:** 24 – 29 November 2007

**4. Coordinator:** UNODC Iran / UNODC ROMENA

### 5. Purpose of the visit:

1. Discuss the strategy development process and the programme's impact with relevant partners in the host country
2. Analyze methods used for needs assessment and development of data on drug use and HIV/AIDS in prisons, and discuss implications for strategy development
3. Familiarize with health and social facilities existing in prisons for drug use and HIV/AIDS care and get acquainted with examples of linkage with community services after discharge

4. Discuss/observe activities implemented and resources offered in the prison setting for/by inmates to increase their knowledge on the risks of drug use and HIV/AIDS
5. Acquire information on other measures taken by the host country (i.e. legislative measures, prison rules reform) to create a framework for sustainable drug use and HIV/AIDS responses in prisons

## **6. Background:**

UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa has recently launched a regional project to assist governments of the beneficiating countries in designing and implementing national strategies for drug use and HIV/AIDS care and prevention in the prison settings, in close cooperation with UNAIDS Regional Support Team for the Middle East and North Africa.

As part of a phased strategy, the project will initially include the countries of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Algeria.

The following immediate objectives are expected to prevail at the end of the project to contribute to increase the access to drug use and HIV/AIDS prevention and care services in prison settings:

1. National strategies for HIV/AIDS in prison settings established, within the National AIDS Control Programmes or, where established, the National AIDS Control Committees;
2. The knowledge on the current risks and skills to deal with drug use and HIV/AIDS in prisons increased among prisons' personnel;
3. The health and social facilities for the prevention and care of drug use and HIV/AIDS in prisons strengthened;
4. The knowledge of inmates on drug use, HIV/AIDS and ways to reduce potential risks of those conditions increased;
5. Overcrowding and general prisons conditions improved.

Within the immediate objective number 1, as a first step for the development of national strategies for drug use and HIV/AIDS in prisons settings, national Task Forces have been established in each country to be responsible for the implementation of the national activities and for drafting the national strategies, under the technical guidance of UNODC and UNAIDS. The Task Forces are composed of representatives of the National AIDS Programmes or National AIDS Committees/Councils, Prison authorities and other relevant counterparts at the country level (i.e. Substance Abuse Departments within the Ministries of Health, Anti Narcotics General Administrations, research institutions, etc).

The project aims among other to strengthen the Task Forces' capacity to develop a sustainable multi-sectoral national response, by increasing their knowledge of possible implementation models of strategies for drug use and HIV/AIDS prevention and care in prisons. In this connection, study tours to countries that have already implemented drug use and HIV programs in prisons will allow the direct observation of such strategies "in action", and provide an opportunity to discuss the response development process with relevant actors from other countries. 2 Study tours will be therefore organized for Task Force members, one to take place in the Islamic Republic of Iran and a second one to a country in Europe.

## **7. Report:**

Activities allowed the exploration of different levels of response to drug use and HIV/AIDS in prisons. With the view of achieving the above-mentioned objectives, they included the following:

- Meetings with relevant actors involved in developing the strategy for an overview of the process, discussion of problems encountered and ways to overcome them (DCHQ, Revolutionary Court and Iranian Prison' Organisation).

- Meetings of Task Force members with counterparts from the host country (National AIDS Program and Psycho-social Care Department / Ministry of Health, UNODC Country Office, UNAIDS Country Office NAP managers and prison authorities from both countries) to discuss respective roles in implementing the response.
- Meetings with institutions involved in needs assessment and/or data collection (Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies INCAS, After Care Department in the Prison's Organisation) which are more relevant for Task Force members concerned with research and implementation.
- Visits to prison and community- based services, targeted for Task Force member (After Care Department and ARYA).
- Visits to prison wards (Qezel Hessar & Rajae Shahr Prisons), meeting with health care givers and visiting the comprehensive health care services provided for inmates in prisons.
- Meetings with institutions/organizations/NGOs responsible for implementing activities to curb HIV epidemic among Injecting Drug Users in the community (West Tehran Triangular Clinic and Persepolis Drop In Center).
- Collection and review of relevant material on the programme development and implementation
- Meetings with institutions involved in legislative/normative framework development (Revolutionary Court and DCHQ).

## Annex I

### Agenda

<b>Saturday 24 Nov 2007</b>	
Arrival in Tehran	
Accommodation at Tehran Grand Hotel	
<b>Sunday 25 Nov 2007</b>	
08:30	Pick up from the Hotel
9:00-9:30	UNODC Welcoming
10:00 – 11:00	Meeting with Iranian Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ)
11:30-12:30	Meeting with Iranian’s Prison Organization
<b>12:30-14:30 Lunch</b>	
15:00-16:00	Meeting with the Revolutionary Court
16:00	Back to the Hotel
<b>Monday 26 Nov 2007</b>	
8:00	Pick up from Hotel
8:15 – 9:15	Visit to West Triangular Clinic
10:15 – 11:30	Visit to the Persepolis NGO
12:00 – 14:30	Visit to Iranian National Centre for Addiction Studies (INCAS) plus <b>Lunch</b>
15:00 – 16:00	Meeting with UNAIDS
16:00	Back to the Hotel
<b>Tuesday 27 Nov 2007</b>	
09:00 – 10:00	Visit of Prison After Care Service in Tehran
10:30 – 12:00	Visit to Qezel Hesar Prison in Tehran Province Plus <b>Lunch</b>
14:30 – 16:30	Visit to Rajae Shahr Prison in Tehran Province
16:30	Back to the Hotel
<b>Wednesday 28 Nov 2007</b>	
8:00	Pick up from the Hotel
08:30 – 09:30	Meeting with Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Office, MOH
10:00 – 11:30	Meeting with Dr. Gouya, Head of Centre for Disease Control, MOH
<b>12:30- 14:00 Lunch</b>	
14:00 – 15:00	Visit to Arya Non Governmental Organization (NGO)
15:00	Back to the Hotel
<b>Thursday 29 Nov 2007</b>	
9:00	Pick up from the Hotel
9:30- 11:30	Round table together with Iranian relevant authorities on HIV/Drug Control and Prison Organization and UNAIDS
11:30-12:30	Wrap up Session
<b>12:30-14:00 Lunch in Homa Hotel</b>	
14:00	Back to the hotel
<b>Friday 30 Nov 2007 (Departure from Tehran )</b>	
	Pick up from Hotel to the Air Port



**Annex II**  
Pictures



Meeting with the Deputy to Representative of UNODC Iran



Meeting with DCHQ Authorities



Meeting with the Head of Prisons Organization



Visit to a Triangular Clinic in Tehran



Visit to INCAS



Meeting with the UNAIDS National Officer



Visit to Qezel Hessar Prison in Tehran Province



Visit to Inmate After-Care Center