



International Narcotics
Control Board



GLOBAL RAPID INTERDICTION OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES (GRIDS) PROGRAMME

A Global Programme of the International Narcotics Control Board



What is GRIDS?

The Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme aims to measurably reduce trafficking in dangerous substances globally, with a particular focus on emerging new psychoactive substances (NPS), non-medical synthetic opioids, as well as relevant chemicals and equipment, and limit supply to consumer markets by:

Enhancing global communication to facilitate real-time information exchange between Member States on incidents involving dangerous substances



Coordinating activities that support multilateral operations, investigations and communication



Engaging in relevant private sector partners, focusing on the manufacture, marketing, monetization, and movement of dangerous substances



"Today, synthetically engineered highly toxic non-medical synthetic opioids, NPS and designer precursors made on demand, ordered online using anonymous crypto-currencies and hidden among the millions of letters and parcels shipped around the world, result in human suffering and loss of life. Traditional scheduling both nationally and internationally is just the minimum. Governments need tools and support to address these continuously changing trends and new ways of trafficking."

Cornelis P. de Joncheere, INCB President

A Rapidly Changing Global Threat in a Changing Disguise

The synthetic drug epidemic, fuelled by the rapid emergence of new highly-potent and non-scheduled dangerous substances, continues to impact communities all over the world leading to an unprecedented number of overdose deaths every year.

Due to their potency, international shipments of these dangerous substances are frequently made in very small amounts making detection difficult. Shipments are often part of express mail services, express courier services, and freight forwarding consignments posted via unsuspecting third countries. Intelligence sharing and international cooperation are paramount if domestic controls are to effectively interdict the manufacture, sales and re-distribution of dangerous non-controlled substances before they reach consumers.

Responding to Member States' requests to enhance their law enforcement capacity to detect new psychoactive substances, promote cross-border cooperation and information-sharing through the use of specialized tools, INCB took the decision to consolidate its operational counter-trafficking special projects and tools -- **Project ION**, the global **OPIOIDS Project** and the **IONICS platform** -- and expand sectors involved in its **Public-Private Partnership** initiatives under GRIDS.



PROJECT ION

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS ON NPS

Project ION is the operational initiative, supporting national authorities' efforts in preventing non-scheduled NPS with little or no-known medical, scientific or industrial use from reaching consumer markets.



Project ION activities are primarily engaged in the coordination, collection and communication of strategic and operational information and intelligence related to suspicious shipments of, trafficking in, and manufacture of NPS. The INCB secure online communication platform (IONICS) is dedicated to real-time communication of suspicious incidents and it allows for the development and sharing of strategic and operational intelligence to counter global trafficking.

GLOBAL OPIOIDS PROJECT

OPERATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TO INTERDICT OPIOID'S ILLICIT DISTRIBUTION & SALES



The Operational Partnerships to Interdict Opioids' Illicit Distribution and Sales (OPIOIDS) Project supports national authorities' and international organizations' efforts in preventing trafficking in synthetic opioids and their precursors.

The activities and partnerships developed under the OPIOIDS Project are designed to effectively provide a balanced, practical approach to the collection and communication of actionable information and operational intelligence of these substances to support the work and safety of relevant first-responders.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

PREVENTING TRAFFICKING AND DIVERSION THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Through its expanding Public Private Partnerships initiative, INCB supports Governments in developing and implementing voluntary partnerships as an adaptive and effective strategy to prevent the exploitation of the private sector in the manufacture, movement, marketing, and monetization of dangerous substances.



The Five Core Pillars of the **GRIDS** Approach

In order to prevent the global diversion and trafficking of dangerous substances the GRIDS approach is based on five core pillars, which are indispensable to the fulfilment of the Board's objectives.



A Consolidated Approach Under a New Umbrella

GRIDS trains its law and regulatory enforcement focal points under Project ION and the OPIOIDS Project and facilitates access to real-time exchange of information and operational intelligence through INCB's proprietary Project ION incident Communication System (IONICS) platform, mechanisms which achieve counter-trafficking results.



Intelligence-gathering: Exchange at a global level of actionable intelligence on selected regions and modus operandi of trafficking in dangerous substances, as a basis for implementing rapid interdiction activities;



Coordinating global special operations: Operationalizing intelligence by connecting the most relevant stakeholders across law enforcement and regulatory agencies and launching operations;



Rapid training on awareness, interdiction and intelligence exchange: Strengthening interdiction and intelligence exchange capacity by training and exchanging know-how, technical expertise, contacts and methodologies across agencies;



Provision of practical tools: Equipping those who have a practical role to play in interdiction efforts with the necessary tools, frameworks for cooperation and secure channels of communication to succeed in substantially reducing trafficking in dangerous substances in the short and intermediate term.

Through Governments, voluntary cooperation mechanisms involving internet and e-commerce providers, the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, transport providers, providers of online financial services, and social media platforms are incorporated across programme prevention and interdiction activities.

Towards Long-term Sustainability

With its roots pre-dating the United Nations, INCB is the oldest and most experienced international body to ensure that adequate supplies of drugs are available for medical and scientific uses, and that the diversion of drugs and their precursors into illicit channels does not occur.

The GRIDS Programme builds upon the Board's track record of successful international operational initiatives. The Programme activities align with both the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

Our Mandate

GRIDS supports the 2018 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 73/192, calling for "International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem", by responding to requests by Member States to enhance their law enforcement capacity to detect and identify new psychoactive substances and promote cross-border cooperation and information-sharing through the use of the Board's specialized tools and projects.



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