How UNODC assists Member States in implementing the UNGASS Outcome Document on cross cutting issues

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Chapter 4. Cross-cutting issues

[picture of adolescents]  Women, including pregnant women

Children and adolescents  [picture of pregnant women at a health centre]
Chapter 4. Cross-cutting issues

Treatment as an alternative to imprisonment

Quality assurance of treatment services and systems

Children and adolescents exposed to drugs at a very young age
Chapter 1. Drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation
Initiatives

- Psychosocial protocol
- Pilot in Afghanistan, training in 17 countries
- Support the networking of policy makers and professionals at the country level to sustain the efforts beyond the funding and training

Coordinate a global approach to address drug prevention and treatment for children and adolescents

- Present a unified and coordinated platform to advocate for the health and well-being of children, as it relates to drugs;
- Create a framework to address drug use in children and adolescents in a comprehensive, coordinated and integrated strategy that is inclusive, rights-based and evidence driven;
- Develop a roadmap to prevent drug use and treat youth with substance use disorders 2019-2025.
Services for women with drug use disorders, including pregnant women
WDR 2018: Causes and Consequences of drug use disorders among women

- Biology
- Risk behaviour
- Psychosocial differences
  - Fewer resources
  - Partner with a substance use problem
  - Care of dependent children
  - History of abuse and trauma

Guidelines are available
Women can recover as well as men

- Gender-responsive services address:
  - Accessibility
  - Child care responsibilities and parenting skills
  - Trauma and safety
  - Co-occurring mental health disorders
  - Socio-economic marginalisation

Pregnant women with drug use disorders

- [picture of a woman with drug use disorders]
- SUDs during pregnancy associated with:
  - Low birth weight, early delivery and poor nutritional status (also lifestyle effects)
  - Neonatal withdrawal
Treatment for pregnant women with drug use disorders

- Gender-specific, voluntary and non-judgmental services, PLUS
  - Pharmacological interventions especially for opioid use disorders to avoid withdrawal
  - Breastfeeding evaluated case by case
  - Parenting skills

UNODC and WHO technical assistance

- UNODC/WHO training on treatment for women during pregnancy, Brazil and Mexico
- UNODC regional training on treatment and care for women in Central America, Guatemala
- UNODC training on treatment of women with focus on human rights, Egypt
- Support to Afghanistan in enhancing services at national level with a specific focus on the inclusion of women
Quality assurance of treatment services and systems

Coverage is low ... what about quality?
Drug treatment in line with the International Standards

- Accessible (incl. affordable!)
- Ethical
- Evidence-based
- Responding to individual and population needs
- Underpinned by good clinical governance
- Integrated (health, social care and criminal justice sectors)

A quality assurance cycle
Both at the level of services and at the level of systems

- [picture of two pieces of puzzle (services and systems)]

Pilot in Afghanistan

- [picture of people from Afghanistan]
Flexible structure

Example of a drug treatment service scorecard
Treatment and care of persons with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system

From coercion to cohesion, since 2010
Preliminary findings (49 countries reported)

- 63% of countries: provision of treatment for drug using offenders as alternative to criminal justice sanctions (ARQ data)
- Ca. 40% of countries (N=49) report such measures during trial (usually at sentencing stage)
- Ca. 33% of countries report measures at pre-trial stage, the usually as diversion from prosecution
- Less than 20% countries indicate treatment as alternative at post-sentencing stage (eg early conditional release)
- Some (6) countries reported on drug courts
Good practices at all stages of the criminal justice process

• Pretrial stage: Discharge the offender in appropriate circumstances or impose non-custodial measures, including treatment and care services, for minor cases
• Sentencing stage: Should take into consideration the rehabilitation needs of the offender, the protection of society and the interests of the victim
• Post-sentencing stage: Any form of release from an institution to a non-custodial programme shall be considered at the earliest possible stage

If imprisonment cannot be avoided, treatment and care in prison settings
Ready to support Member States to put these ideas into practice

Thank you!