



Federal Republic of Nigeria

POST
UNGASS
2016

CND

COMMISSION ON
NARCOTIC DRUGS
VIENNA



Operational recommendations on demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues.

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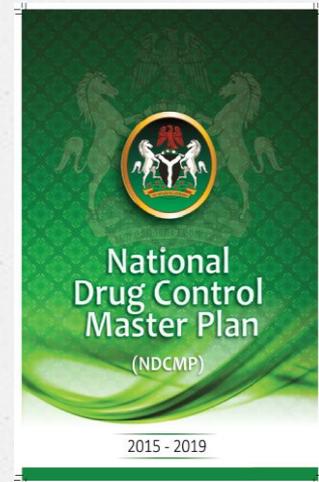


Introduction

Nigeria in its re-affirmation and unwavering commitment to the political declaration and plan of action, continues to adopt a multi-pronged, balanced approach in tackling the world drug problem especially in the area of Drug Demand Reduction (DDR).

The operational recommendations on demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues is currently being addressed using the Nations National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP) 2015-2019. As it relates to DDR.

The interventions use scientific evidence-based methods, taking cognisance and respecting Human Right of all especially risk groups and vulnerable populations.





Drug Use Prevention

The first priority was the identification of the vulnerable groups, which helps in developing appropriate prevention and sensitization programmes for each of the groups at risk.

Some vulnerable groups identified in Nigeria include:

- *The Youths*
- *Internally Displaced Persons*
- *Women and Children,*
- *Youths out of school,*
- *Youths in school,*
- *Victims of human trafficking,*
- *Long distance drivers,*
- *Female sex workers(FSW) etc.*

This identification was achieved using the initial raw data from The National Drug Use Survey for Nigeria still being analysed by UNODC The survey is sponsored by EU under Project NGAV 16, Response to drugs and related organized crime and being implemented by UNODC.



The Identification of Risk Groups & Appropriate Interventions

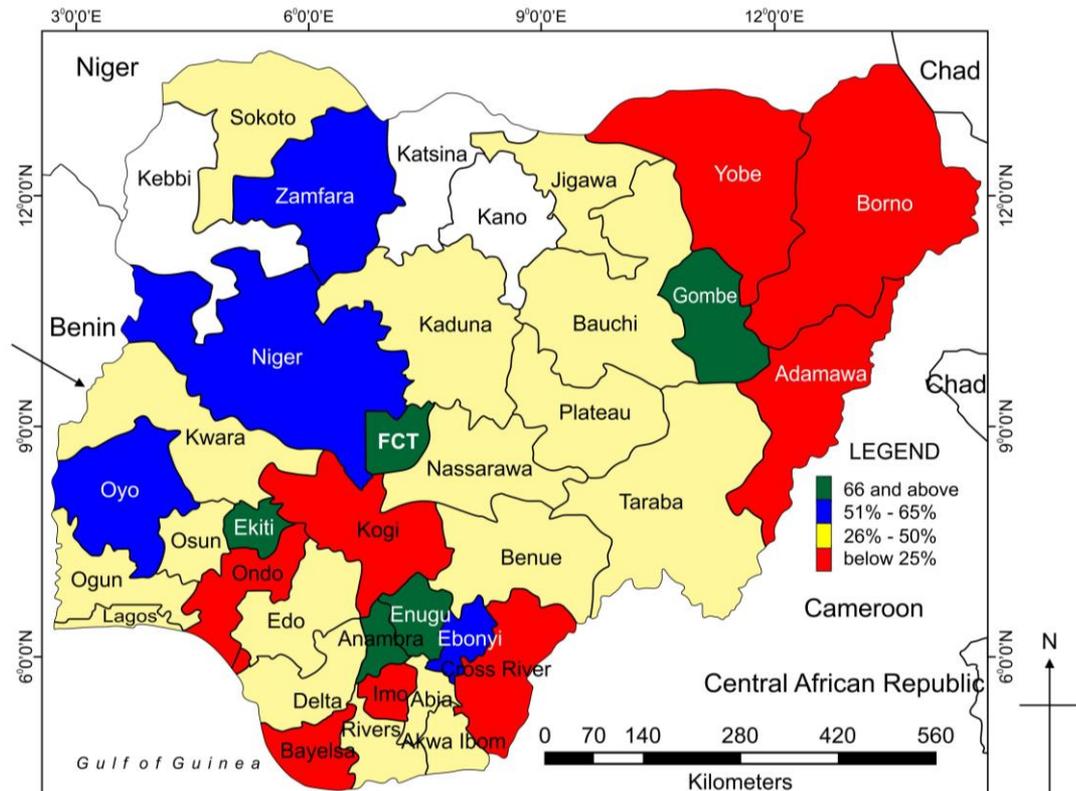
The identification of at risk groups remains a core activity for addressing drug demand reduction effectively in Nigeria. This became even more important when we began to take stock of past interventions especially in relation to their effectiveness and reach (Diversity in culture has been a major challenge).

Tools Used to Enhance Identification Within the Last Two Years Include:

- Conducting periodic assessment of initiatives and interventions to identify and review the data of vulnerable groups is of essence.
- Periodic update on the status of substances of abuse, the required appropriate programmes for the diverse sub-populations.



National DDR Sensitisation Reach



Based on our findings we introduced and started an aggressive social media campaign and increased Inter-Agency co-operation with all relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies of Government. CSO's are also incorporated



Tailored Specific Interventions Nigeria has found effective

Social Media Platforms to Create Awareness:

- Twitter Handles: Targeted at the general populace especially youths and people who want information anonymously.
- To find out current drug use trends in the country.
- Tailored messages for hearing impaired persons recently we have introduced sign language to achieve a better reach.
- Instagram gives a more vivid presentation of the harm of drug use.



Tailored Specific Interventions (Cont'd)

Drug anonymous support group (DASG)

DASG is a Self Help program for recovering drug dependent persons. It is part of Drug Agency's treatment module, and serves as a follow-up for these individuals. Here, they share Common ideas, past failures and successes, which help to encourage each other to cope with every day pressures and to quit drugs totally and live a drug free life. From year 2016 to September 2017 over 20 sessions was held

Free Toll Telephone Counselling.

Telephone counselling is a toll free helpline for those who need to speak with a counsellor urgently. It is also for persons who need urgent help or advice for loved ones and support care givers. This intervention has provided a non-judgmental; non-stigmatised and time friendly form of help. We want to ensure exclusion is not an option.



Tailored Specific Interventions

Unplugged - School Based programme for School Children 10-14 Years Old (Targets early intervention)

Unplugged is an Age appropriate evidence based school drug prevention program

12 lessons to prevent use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs among children 10-14 year old.

Delivered by trained teachers at the schools.

A Teachers Handbook and Students Workbook is part to the *Unplugged* package.

The Unplugged intervention results

- 23% reduced risk of using cannabis
- 28% reduction of risk to get alcohol intoxicated weekly
- 30% reduction of risk to smoke daily

(Faggiano, 2008)

In addition the spread was all over the country

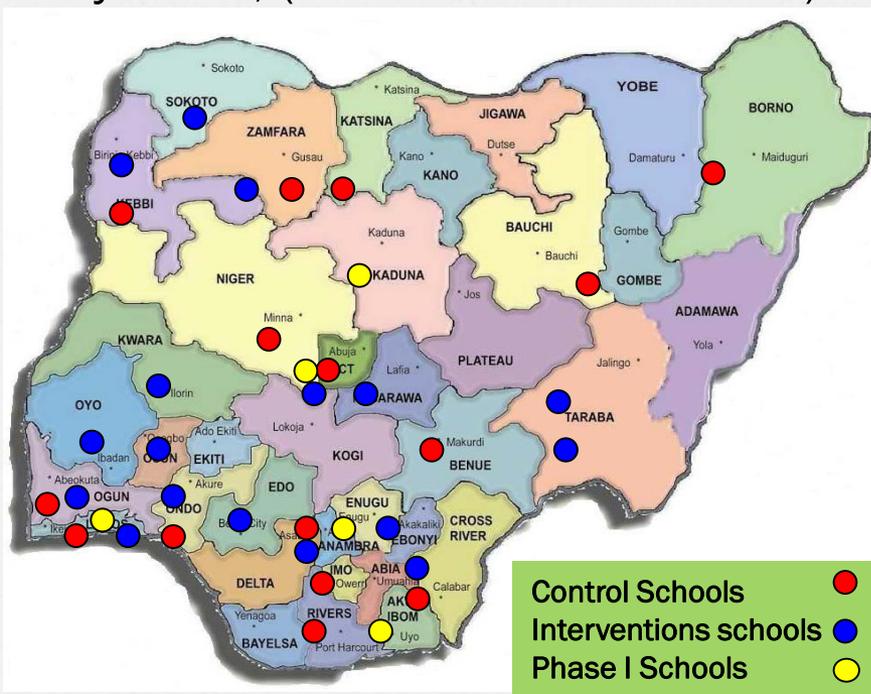


Drug Use Prevention Unplugged pilot programme in Nigeria



Phase II – 2016 Five schools participated in the pilot study in April-May 2015, (excluded from the RCT)

Phase II – 2016





Tailored Specific Interventions (Cont'd)

National school curriculum-School based programme

- The integration of drug education and life skill education in schools is an activity that helps “create awareness in schools”.
- Drug Education had been infused in School Curriculum in Nigeria at basic Education and Senior Secondary School Levels. The infusion was also done in the General Studies courses at the tertiary school levels.



Tailored Specific Interventions (Cont'd)

Inter-Agency collaboration

- There are mechanisms to ensure that identified drug users are encouraged to access treatment. There is an existing working collaboration between the Drug Law Enforcement Organization and the health sector, these facilitated the referral roles played by the Nation Drug Law Enforcement Agency.
- Most people who use drugs are referred to the Drug Agency's Counselling Centre's/Hospitals for Counselling/Treatment instead of prosecution when cut during drug raid operations.
- Law Courts also refer drug offenders who are found to be users to Drug Agency Counselling Centre's for help especially youths who have committed minor crimes under the influence of drugs.



Tailored Specific Interventions (Cont'd)

Inter-Agency collaboration (Cont'd)

- ✓ Joint Trainings for those in LE and the Health Sector.(e.g Introduction to drug, policing and harm reduction)
- ✓ Capacity building of LEA's and sensitisation of officers especially while in the line of duty so they know that *drug users do not have a place in the Prison setting. (The Nigerian Prisons Services, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Customs)*
- ✓ Joint Trainings for those in LE and the Health Sector.



Tailored Specific Interventions for HIV especially among PWID's

Advocacy toolkit for HIV prevention programming for people who inject drugs in Nigeria

WHO THIS TOOLKIT IS FOR?

- 'This toolkit is for use at all levels-national, state and community. It targets all key stakeholders, policy makers and HIV program implementers who are active in PWID programming. It is particularly relevant for individuals and groups that can influence decisions and policy makers.' (NACA)

(Advocacy toolkit for HIV by National Agency for the Control of Aids (NACA)).



Tailored Specific Interventions for HIV especially among PWID's (Cont'd)

PURPOSE OF THIS ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

- This toolkit is aimed at providing practical advocacy strategies to ensure effective and efficient implementation of HIV prevention programmes for PWID. (NACA)
- To sensitise Law Enforcement Officers on harm reduction services in the context of HIV AIDS and other blood borne diseases. Under project NGAV; 16 The Agency has trained 168 Law Enforcement Officers.



Principle of balanced Approach to DDR

In line with the principles of balance approach, there is need to ensure enforcement action that will reduce the availability of drugs in illicit local market.

We cannot successfully deal with issues of drug demand reduction without putting a mechanism that will ensure the reduction to illicit accessibility of these drugs by vulnerable groups. However, it is important to say that in Nigeria does not criminalise Drug Users.



Treatment Of Drug Use Disorder

- Having standards and guidelines for management of substances use disorder in countries remain key in scaling up drug demand reduction programmes.
- The Federal Ministry of Health in partnership with UNODC and WHO have developed the Minimum Standards for Drug Dependence Treatment in Nigeria.
- UNODC in partnership with the Drug Control Agency developed the National Standard Policy and Practice Guidelines for the Drug Control Agency's Counsellors and the Agency's Counselling Centres.
- Eleven drug dependence treatment Centre's have being scaled up to offer specialized services to persons with substance use disorder. Nigeria received support from EU for upgrading of the treatment Centres.



Challenges

- *Substances not under International Control.*
- *Drug dependent persons often in denial of their drug use status (Non acceptance of their drug use status)*
- *Family neglect of persons undergoing treatment.*
- *Non acceptance of treatment in hospital settings.*
- *Lack of age specific recreational space as avenues to occupy the youths*
- *Cultural barriers to drug interventions.*
- *Poor drug rehabilitation facilities.*
- *Poor private partnership response in drug prevention.*
- *Inadequate political will to sustain drug use interventions.*
- *Inadequate attention to sensitisation of relapse.*



My Final Thought

To aptly ensure the realisation of the outcome document of UNGASS 2016 we must re-focus our eyes to see pain that destroys and hear silent cries that are calling for a helping hand. We made a call to “Listen First” now we must encourage everyone to stretch out and care. Very often real care that eases pain often comes at no cost

