Third Round of Thematic Discussions on the Implementation of UNGASS

Children with substance abuse problems and juvenile justice

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Children with substance abuse problems and juvenile justice

1st Public health issue

Dealt with appropriate health and child protection institutions

Benefit from policies and measures aimed to rehabilitate them and promote their rights to health and protection

Current situation: Increasing number of Children with substance abuse problems who do not receive adequate treatment and end up being dealt with exclusively by the juvenile justice system rather than by the health and child protection systems.
Common Challenges

- Lack of Governmental Commitment to fulfilling the rights of the child
- Inadequate legislation and enforcement
- Lack of specialized institutions and lack of capacity of professionals
- Adoption of punitive approaches rather than preventative or restorative, and rehabilitative approaches
- Lack of inter-institutional communication and co-operation mechanisms
- Violence against Children
- Lack of engagement of the family, community media and civil society
Integrate children’s issues into broader health, rule of law and development agendas.

Drug demand reduction, drug treatment and Juvenile justice reform must be child-rights based and embedded in processes of long-term institutional and policy reforms.

Strong emphasis on promoting prevention of children’s involvement in drugs and crime and on the accountability of child protection, health, educational and justice institutions (principle of shared responsibility).

Collect data and evidence with a view to understanding the scale of the problem, identifying emerging issues, and conducting risk assessments and analysis.

Establish a clear framework for health and justice services and service delivery mechanisms.

Incorporate substance abuse treatment into their juvenile justice system.

Offer specialized training courses for criminal justice professionals.

Substance abuse treatment programmes: individualized screening and assessment, opportunity to be accountable, acquire social competence, offer educational and vocational services, and protect the community.

Adopt secondary legislation, which set out the medical, psychiatric and psychological services to be provided in a child detention facility.
Global Programme on Violence Against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

in support of the SDGs 3, 5 and 16, by means of the Global Programme on VAC, is supporting countries to operationalize this systemic approach

Supports Governments to take measures in order to ensure that the treatment of substance abuse problems of children who are in contact with the juvenile justice system is a pre-condition to prevent recidivism and promote their social reintegration.

Provides technical assistance to prevent and treat children in the juvenile justice system with substance abuse problems.

Contributes to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of those children.
Thank you!