Presentation of the Annual Report – International Narcotics Control Board

Report embargo: 24 February 2010, 11 a.m. Central European Time
Established by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs to replace predecessor bodies under League of Nations

Additional mandates to control psychotropic substances under the 1971 Convention; and chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture under the 1988 Convention
Functions of INCB

- To monitor and promote treaty compliance
- To encourage dialogue with Governments

Quasi judicial function
Thematic review: Primary prevention of drug use

– Prevent drug use in populations that are either not using or not seriously involved with drugs.

– Challenges:
  • Age of initiation- adolescence and early adulthood
  • Rates of drug use higher among adolescents
  • In general, so far low priority on primary prevention of drug abuse for youth and other vulnerable groups
Recommendations:

Governments should:

– Make primary prevention a strategic issue, establish a focal point for primary prevention, develop better cooperation among all government institutions, esp. With regard to health and education

– Primary prevention should begin with prospective parents, continue with family-based initiatives, classroom initiatives balancing information on risks with life skills as well as target key locations for young adults (discotheques, bars, music festivals)

– Prevention requires sustained and coordinated efforts, not only stand-alone, highly visible campaigns

– Involvement of civil society
Regional Trends
Main problem drugs (as reflected in treatment provided), 2007 (or latest year available)

Unweighted average of treatment demand in 43 European countries or territories in 2003-2006.


Legend:
- Opiates
- Cannabis
- Cocaine-type stimulants
- Amphetamine-type stimulants
- Others
- No data available

Note: Data generally account for primary drug use; therefore polydrug use may increase totals beyond 100%.

Sources: UNODC, Annual Reports Questionnaire Data/DETA and National Government Reports.
Primary drugs of use among persons treated for drug problems

- **Bangladesh**: 83% (cannabis: 17%)
- **Maldives**: 87% (cannabis: 13%)
- **Nepal**: 94% (cannabis: 6%)
- **Sri Lanka**: 100%
- **India**: 73% (cannabis: 19%, opiates: 5%, ATS: 2%, cocaine: 1%, sedatives: 1%, inhalants: 2%)
UNODC Rapid Situation and Response Assessment (RSRA) sites
South Asia

- Increased trafficking of Afghan origin heroin in the region
- Increased diversion, trafficking and illicit use of pharmaceuticals
  - Means of diversion: forged prescriptions, thefts from pharmacies, hospitals and doctors’ offices
  - Illegally operating Internet pharmacies play a major role
- Emerging of clandestine ATS production facilities
- Injecting drug use (opioids and pharmaceuticals) diffused rapidly in the South Asia
- HIV infection among IDUs reported in all countries in South Asia and the epidemic is differential
UNODC Response:

- Strengthening of drug law enforcement capacities at legal, regulatory and enforcement level
- Strengthening precursor chemical control
- Legal & policy review focused on drug-related issues
- Studies and surveys on vulnerable issues, regions and populations.
- Assessment of nature and extent of illicit use of pharmaceuticals conducted in all countries – Final report under formulation
- RSRA conducted in each country
- Comprehensive packages of services including HIV prevention for drug users and incarcerated populations
Country specific scenarios
Bangladesh
Facts and trends:

- Vulnerable to ATS (Yaba) and pharmaceutical use/trafficking (codeine based cough syrups)
- Source for preparations containing pseudoephedrine trafficked to South and Central America

**INCB observations:** Notes seizure of 2m tablets in Honduras of pseudoephedrine sourced to Bangladesh

**UNODC RSRA (2008) highlights:**

- Drug user age group of 21-30 years (60%)
- 28% of the drug users were IDUs
- Among IDUs, lending (43%) and borrowing (39%) of needles and syringes was common.
What is UNODC doing

- Sensitizes law enforcement on diversion of ATS precursors.
- Two RSRA conducted (2005 & 2008)
- Implementing comprehensive package for services for drug users and their sex partners.
- National advocacy strategy which focuses on removing barriers in programme implementation related to drug use and related HIV/AIDS
- Feasibility study on methadone substitution treatment due to start in March 2010.
Bhutan
Facts and trends-

- Pharmaceutical preparations containing benzodiazepines widely abused; suspected origin – India
- Out of total arrested persons for drug use 90% were under 26 years of age – Underscores the need to address the problem among youth.

UNODC RSRA highlights

- Age group of 21-30 years (50%)
- 19% of the drug users IDUs
- 39% drug users have been tested for HIV
UNODC response

- First national baseline survey on drug use conducted in 2009
- Support to three drop-in-centres for drug users
- Support to setup first-ever comprehensive drug treatment and rehabilitation centre
- National advocacy strategy which focuses on removing barriers in programme implementation related to drug use and related HIV/AIDS

❖ INCB observations: Notes with satisfaction on conduct of the first baseline survey on drug use in 2009 – awaits findings
India
Facts and trends:

- Increase in Afghan origin heroin seizures. About 50% of all heroin seizures in India.
- Pharmaceutical preparations increasingly smuggled; source for illegally operating internet pharmacies
- Courier/postal services used to smuggle drugs

UNODC RSRA highlights

- 62% of the drug users were IDUs
- More than 3/4 (78%) of the drug users switched to injecting from non-injecting methods
- Among IDUs, lending (51%) and borrowing (46%) of needles and syringes was common

- Age of initiation of drug use 10-11 years of age
- Only 37% students knew which substances are drugs

2008 – Women and Drug Use in India: Substance, Women and High-Risk Assessment Study (UNODC-MSJE joint project)

- Drugs of use- solvents, tobacco, heroin, sleeping pills, cannabis and dextropropoxyphene
- Average age of initiation 16.5 years for solvents and 18.4 years for tobacco.
- 80% female drug users had not undergone any treatment
INCB observations

- Encourages support to drug use prevention among young people
- Satisfied with efforts to meet reporting obligations
- Notes efforts to encourage use of morphine
- Urges adoption of measures to prevent use of internet to divert controlled substances
- Remain vigilant on diversion of Acetic Anhydride (AA)

UNODC response

- Sensitizes agencies on reporting obligations, misuse of internet and on precursor diversions
- School and out-of-school programme- 250 schools
- National communication Campaign - ‘I Decide- I will not take drugs’
- Implemented two RSRAs (2005 & 2008) and is implementing comprehensive package for services for drug users
- National advocacy strategy focusing on removing barriers in programme implementation related to drug use and related HIV/AIDS
- Feasibility study on methadone substitution treatment due to start in March 2010.
Maldives
Facts and trends:

- Smuggling of heroin through ‘Male’ airport (India / Sri Lanka).
- Insufficient access to treatment and rehabilitation services, notably for repeat offenders and drug abusers in prisons.
- Significant increase in the reported numbers of young drug users mostly in the ages of 10 to 14.
- The common drug of abuse in the Maldives is heroin/brown sugar.
- Drug Control Master plan launched in 2008.

★ INCB observations: Notes with satisfaction establishment of a detoxification centre in 2009
UNODC response

- Support to capacitate service providers dealing with drug use and HIV treatment, care and support interventions

- Support three civil society partners for implementing comprehensive package of services for drug users

- National advocacy strategy which focuses on removing barriers in programme implementation related to drug use and related HIV/AIDS

- Methadone maintenance treatment for drug users in place
Nepal
Facts and trends:

- Trafficking of cannabis and prescription drugs mainly through land borders
- High quality cannabis resin being trafficked
- Survey conducted by Government in 2006 estimated 46,000 drug users

UNODC RSRA highlights

- 80% of the drug users IDUs
- Most (92%) of the drug users switched to injecting from non-injecting methods

\* INCB observations: Advises adequate allocation of resources for treatment /rehabilitation
UNODC response

- Two RSRAs conducted (2005 & 2008)
- Comprehensive package of services for drug users and their sex partners being implemented through 13 drop-in centres
- National advocacy strategy focusing on removing barriers in programme implementation related to drug use and related HIV/AIDS
- Methadone substitution treatment for 300 IDU’s ongoing
- Comprehensive package interventions targeting female drug users rolled out
Sri Lanka
Facts and trends

- Traditional trafficking routes from India for smuggling of heroin
- Pakistan also identified as source for Afghan origin heroin
- First ATS clandestine lab detected in Kosagama, May 2008

UNODC RSRA highlights

- 4% of the drug users IDUs
- Most of drug users (93%) currently using heroin by non-injecting method (smoking)
- Less than a fourth of the drug users (23%) have been treated ever for drug dependence
UNODC response

- Support to 8 drop-in-centres for drug users

- National advocacy strategy focusing on removing barriers in programme implementation related to drug use and related HIV/AIDS
Thank you for your attention

For further information, please contact:

Shraddhaa Mahapatra, UNODC Communications Officer Regional Office South Asia
Tel:0091-11-42220099, shraddhaa.mahapatra@unodc.org

www.unodc.org/southasia