



I. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING / NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

Honduras has a National Anti-Drug Plan, approved on November 9, 2000, and in effect from January 1, 2001 till December 31, 2004, that is in the implementation phase. It covers the following areas: supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, institutional framework, and program evaluation. It has a central coordinating authority called the National Anti-Drug Trafficking Council, which is composed of government authorities and representatives of the active forces, the president of the Council, and an executive secretary. The Council has its own budget.

Honduras has ratified the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna 1988, and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.

The country has signed and ratified the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (amended by the 1972 Protocol). Honduras has signed the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), and the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

Honduras, has not signed the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters or the three additional Protocols to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. In the period under evaluation 2001-2002, laws were enacted that are consistent with other international conventions, such as the Anti-Money Laundering Act (Legislative Decree No. 45-2002), which took effect on June 5, 2002. In March 2002, the new Code of Criminal Procedure entered into force. The Police and Social Coexistence Act (Legislative Decree No. 226-2001) took effect in April 2002. The Law for the Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Social Reintegration of Gang Members was passed in November 2001. That year also saw the enactment of the Law to Control Firearms, Munitions, Explosives, and Similar Items.

The Honduran Drug Observatory is responsible for compiling and analyzing drug-related statistics; it in turn supplies the CICAD/OAS Inter-American Observatory on Drugs and provides annual reports to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

The country reported that it does not use the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) to process information on controlling drug demand. It does however use the Uniform Statistical System on Control of the Supply Area (CICDAT) to process data on supply control.

Honduras reported that it does not issue government publications and does not have a mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of its data collection capacity; it also pointed to weaknesses in coordination for uniform processing and reporting, which ultimately translates into the absence of a reliable national statistical system. Information is distributed in print and electronic format to the general public in the country and abroad.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.**
- 2. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS (CIFTA).**



3. **RATIFY THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME.**
4. **SIGN AND RATIFY THE THREE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME.**
5. **REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO RATIFY THE UN CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES OF 1971.**
6. **ESTABLISH MECHANISMS THAT PERMIT THE STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION TO COMPILE INFORMATION ON DRUGS AND PRESENT THEM IN A UNIFORM FASHION, SUCH AS SIDUC.**

II. DEMAND REDUCTION

Honduras is implementing its Strategy to Fight the Problem of Alcoholism and Other Forms of Drug Addiction, at the public and private level, specifically with that concerns both ambulatory care and hospitalization on both the national and regional level, which was updated in the 2000-2004 National Strategy.

That strategy has a national budget that rose from 2000 to 2001.

Honduras is implementing a national system of prevention programs that targets key sectors of the population (primary school students, parents, health workers, police officers, and other unspecified groups). Covering 1,921 students in schools (90%). They have a bi-monthly frequency and a reach at the municipal level.

The country reported that it does not have specialized professional training at the university level on drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and research.

Honduras reported that in the evaluation period 2001-2002 it has not evaluated the efficiency, effectiveness, or impact of drug abuse prevention programs.

The country does not have standards of care or regulations for drug abuse treatment. Honduras is in the process of preparing a manual of minimum standards for treatment. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the registration and accreditation of treatment services.

The country has public and private drug addiction treatment programs and centers, providing outpatient and inpatient care, with national and regional coverage. Honduras reports on 107 ambulatory patients attended too in the public sector, with 82 being adults and 18 minors; 5,072 patients were interned in public hospitals, and 181 in private hospitals.

No studies have been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the different treatment and rehabilitation programs and modalities.

Honduras has estimates on drug use prevalence in the general population; it also has a partial study (PACARDO 1999-2000) on prevalence in specific populations, in which it is indicated that there is a higher prevalence and opportunity for consumption about youth ages 15 to 19. In the area of prevalence and illicit drug consumption the use of inhalants is higher than marihuana and cocaine, and the abuse of legal drugs has a higher prevalence in the 11 departments studied. But the information provided was not specific enough to evaluate it adequately.

No information is available on morbidity or mortality associated with drug abuse. However, recent changes were detected in drug abuse modalities, such as use of ecstasy under the tongue.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **EXPAND COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS THAT TARGETS KEY SECTORS OF THE POPULATION.**
2. **IMPROVE THE STUDIES ON PREVALENCE AND CONDUCT STUDIES ON MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG ABUSE.**
3. **DEVELOP NATIONAL CAPACITY IN SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RESEARCH.**
4. **IMPLEMENT THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR TREATMENT.**
5. **REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO ESTABLISH MECHANISMS TO EVALUATE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS.**

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production and Alternative Development

Honduras reports that small plots, less than three hectares, of marijuana in the departments of Francisco Morazán, Yoro, Colón, and Ocotepeque were detected and destroyed. The marijuana detected, seized, and destroyed was intended for the domestic market. No indoor cultivation was detected. Given the foregoing, there are no alternative agriculture development plans.

B. Supply Reduction and Control of Pharmaceutical Products and Chemical Substances

Honduras reports that it has not detected any illicit drug laboratories.

The Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Control Division is responsible for controlling and preventing the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. The country reported that it does not have a formal mechanism in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the entity and that the main obstacles it faces include the lack of authorized regulations, insufficient human resources, and the scant number of security personnel.

Although it reported that there is a mechanism that controls and regulates the use and distribution of pharmaceuticals by health professionals authorized to do so and a formal mechanism to evaluate its effectiveness, it did not explain the criteria used for that assessment.

It does not have a mechanism for effective operational information exchange and collaboration among national authorities responsible for controlling pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. It also indicated that there is no interagency coordination.

There are several entities responsible for information exchange and collaboration with similar regulatory agencies in other countries on control of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. On this point, the country indicated that there was no institutional coordination and inadequate enforcement of drug control policies.

Honduras reported that it has national laws and regulations that make provision for penal, civil, and administrative sanctions against the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances, but that a shortage of trained personnel prevents effective control from being exerted.



The country did not provide any information on the number of pre-export (re-export) notifications requested and received for controlled chemical substances; it only indicated that it was not an exporter.

The country did not report on seizures of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances, but said that confiscated pharmaceuticals are disposed of through incineration.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. IMPROVE THE SYSTEM FOR PREVENTING THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, BY ESTABLISHING A REGISTRY OF AUTHORIZED PROFESSIONALS, ADEQUATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, STAFF TRAINING, AND AN EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG THE COMPETENT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.**

IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

Imprecise data were provided on the number and quantity of drugs seized in 2000 and 2001. The country recorded seizures of opium, cocaine base, and crack. Seized illegal drugs are incinerated by judicial order, and no stocks of seized drugs are kept.

No information was provided on the number of persons arrested, charged, and convicted for illicit drug trafficking and illicit possession. The country also did not report on the exchange of operational information and collaboration among the competent national authorities on illicit drug trafficking.

Honduras reported that it has given judicial cooperation to and received it from Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Spain, the United States, and Panama.

The country has laws that criminalize acts of corruption, and with respect to the number of public officials convicted of illicit drug trafficking or corruption related to trafficking, it reported that in 2002 one official was sentenced to prison for drug trafficking and other offenses.

Regarding new trends in the global phenomenon of the mobility of different manifestations of the drug problem, Honduras reported that non-specified quantities of ecstasy were seized in 2001 and 2002 and that Honduran citizens were arrested at the international airport in El Salvador, carrying heroin and bound for Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

B. Firearms and Ammunition

To prevent diversion, Honduras has several entities responsible for controlling the movement of firearms and ammunition. It also has laws criminalizing illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition.

Honduras reported that in 2000 and 2001, 379 persons were arrested for illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition; of those 347 were charged. To date there have been no convictions for illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition.

The country has laws establishing administrative controls for the importation of firearms and ammunition. It also has laws that require that the importing or in-transit country issue the necessary licenses or authorizations, prior to authorizing exports of firearms or ammunition, and laws that



require that the necessary import licenses or authorizations be issued, prior to authorizing entry of firearm or ammunition imports.

Information was provided on the quantity of firearms and ammunition seized in illicit trafficking cases in 2000 and 2001, as shown below:

A. QUANTITY OF FIREARMS SEIZED

Type of Firearm	Quantity seized	
	2000	2001
AK-47 Rifles	185	111
9mm. Macarow handgun	127	16
7.62 Caliber Rifle	12	18
45 mm. Caliber machine gun	10	4
M-16 caliber 5.56 mm. A-1 and A-2 Rifle	18	3
9 mm. Caliber machine gun	21	11
Total	373	163

B. QUANTITY OF AMMUNITIONS SEIZED IN THE CASES OF THEIR ILLICIT TRAFFICKING, BY TYPE

Type of Ammunition	Quantity seized	
	2000	2001
AK-47 Rifles	8,600	6,500

Destined to Organizations of Illicit Drug Trafficking		
Year	Percentage of Firearms	Percentage of Ammunitions
2000	45%	60%
2001	25%	45%

The Ministry of Security maintains a permanent computerized national registry system on the importation of firearms and ammunition.

The national entity responsible for the exchange of information and for collaboration with similar agencies in other countries regarding the control of firearms and ammunition is the National Firearms Ballistic Registration Division of the Ministry of Security's General Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DGIC).

No information was provided on the number of requests sent or received in relation to shipments of firearms and ammunition.

C. Money Laundering

Honduras criminalizes money laundering. The Law Against Money Laundering (Legislative Decree 45-2002) entered into force on June 5, 2002, in keeping with international conventions signed and ratified by Honduras. The country does not specify the predicate crimes giving rise to money laundering.¹

1. The Honduran Government has submitted information, outside of the deadlines, on the Law Against Money Laundering which extends the criminal definition of money laundering to include other predicate offenses.



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Banks, currency exchange offices, the stock exchange, and insurance are subject to administrative controls to prevent money laundering.

The country arrested 5 people and charged 22 persons for money laundering in 2000; 3 people were arrested and 14 charged in 2001. It did not provide information on the number of persons convicted.

There are specific control measures in place that require the following: reporting large transactions, client registry, verification of client identity, transaction registry, preservation of records, existence of an enforcement official, and know-your-client policies. The country did not know if financial institutions have implemented know-your-employee policies. Independent audits are not required.

In accordance with Article 44 of Decree No. 45-2002, the country is implementing its Financial Information Unit (FIU), the purpose of which is to collect, analyze, and consolidate information contained on the forms it receives from the institutions it oversees. Honduras did not provide statistics on the FIU.²

Honduras reported that in 2000 and 2001 administrative sanctions were imposed on financial institutions and others responsible for failure to report suspicious transactions.

The country reported that, according to its legislation, bank secrecy can be lifted.

No property was forfeited in money laundering cases in evaluation period 2001-2002.

Honduras reported that the Seized Goods Administration Office is responsible for administering and/or disposing of assets seized and forfeited in connection with illicit drug trafficking and money laundering offenses.

Honduras reported that it did not make requests for extradition to other States in money laundering cases in the evaluation period 2001-2002. In 2001 it received one request, from Mexico, Colombia and Panama; which it granted.

The country made requests to freeze property in money laundering cases, but it did not receive any such requests from other States.

Honduras did not report the number of requests to lift bank secrecy made to other States in money laundering cases. It did however receive such requests, from Mexico, Colombia and Panama which were granted.

The country reported that 4 judges and 30 prosecutors received special training to administer money laundering cases in 2000, as well as 2 prosecutors in 2001.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. EXTEND THE CRIMINAL DEFINITION OF MONEY LAUNDERING TO INCLUDE PREDICATE OFFENSES OTHER THAN ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.**
- 2. PROVIDE SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON ENFORCEMENT OF MONEY LAUNDERING LAWS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS.**

2. Statistical information on the FIU was provided outside of the deadlines.



V. CONCLUSIONS

Honduras has made significant efforts, by strengthening the institutions that fight drug trafficking with a multi-sectoral central coordinating authority composed of a Council and an Executive Secretariat. The budget of that authority is autonomous. The country has a Strategy for Attacking the Problem of Alcoholism and other forms of Drug Addiction, with private sector involvement. It reported weaknesses in demand reduction, such as the absence of systematized registries, standardization, studies on prevalence, and the lack of trained personnel for therapeutic care.

Honduras does not have significant illicit crops; control measures have not detected illicit drug laboratories in the country's territory. Honduras does not have a mechanism for evaluating control and prevention of controlled chemical substances. Although laws set forth penal, civil, and administrative sanctions, they are not effectively enforced due to the lack of trained personnel. The country has legal measures regulating the importation, exportation, and issuance of licenses for firearms and ammunition, with a standardized national registry. It has enacted a new law to fight money laundering that constitutes substantial progress. The country has exhibited new trends in the global phenomenon of the drug problem, such as the abuse of new drugs and the existence of new transit routes.

The contribution of international cooperation is a positive element in the strategy to fight illicit drug trafficking; and CICAD would like to express its concern to Honduras for not supplying information in specific cases and in a timely manner, which hindered a more proactive process by the MEM.



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11. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO ESTABLISH MECHANISMS TO EVALUATE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS.
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14. PROVIDE SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON ENFORCEMENT OF MONEY LAUNDERING LAWS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS.