



I. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING/ NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has a draft national plan, which is pending approval. It covers the areas of demand and supply reduction, control measures, institutional framework, program evaluation and a proposed budget for its activities. The 1988 law "Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act" attributed the national drug coordination to the Ministry of Health and the Environment.

The country has signed, but not ratified the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA) and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. St. Vincent and the Grenadines has ratified the United Nations (UN) Conventions Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna 1988, Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 protocol. It has not signed the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, nor the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols. The country informs that legislation enacted has been done in accordance with the international conventions.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has a centralized office for data collection located in the Narcotics Section of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Department. The Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) is utilized for demand reduction data collection; however, the Uniform Statistical System on Control of the Supply Area (CICDAT) is not utilized. There is no mechanism to evaluate the country's data collection capacity. The country distributes publications and materials related to drug problem through the press/media and government agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN.**
- 2. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION.**
- 3. 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).**
- 4. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.**
- 5. SIGN AND RATIFY THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS THREE PROTOCOLS.**

II. DEMAND REDUCTION

St. Vincent and the Grenadines does not have a national demand reduction plan, however the country is implementing a national system of drug abuse prevention programs that targets the key populations of enrolled primary and secondary schools, community based programs for out-of-school youth, adults, women, the workplace and prisoners.



The country reports that there has also been training for prevention practitioners that includes youth leaders, parents and police officers. The professional training offered during the period covered was short refresher courses or in-service training for health workers and undergraduate university level courses. There is no indication if the national demand for professional training in prevention and treatment is met. There has been no evaluation or research in prevention approaches and programs. There are no guidelines for the standards of care for drug abuse treatment.

Drug treatment and rehabilitation programs exist which cover the country and are accessible to adults and minors. The programs involve ambulatory, residential and clinical modalities and include networks for early detection, outreach and referral of cases, detoxification, treatment, re-habilitation and social reintegration and aftercare. There are two treatment centers, one private and the other public. There have been no studies to evaluate various treatment and rehabilitation programs and modalities. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Global Youth Tobacco Survey of students in grades 7-11 showed that 15.2% (Male=17.6%, Female=11.5%) currently smoke cigarettes. There are no further estimates available of drug prevalence or the determination of the consequences of drug use among the general population.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGY OR PLAN.**
- 2. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT.**
- 3. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO CONDUCT FURTHER STUDIES ON THE PREVALENCE OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION.**

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production and Alternative Development

St. Vincent reported that there was no data available for 2000-2001 on the illicit cultivation and seizure of drugs. The country reports that 46,721 cannabis plants were destroyed in the first six months of 2002. There were no seizures of plants grown indoors in the period under evaluation 2001-2002. There are no alternative development programs and there was no reported destruction of illicit laboratories.

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

The Drug Inspector's Office in the Ministry of Health has the principal responsibility for controlling and preventing the diversion of pharmaceutical products. The country controls all pharmaceutical products listed in international conventions. The Inspector's Office scope of responsibility covers import and export control, license control, monitoring distribution, inspection and investigation, regulatory control, administrative sanctions, registry of licensees including pharmacies and transport control. The country reports that there is a formal mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of this entity.



The Ministry of Health is principally responsible for regulating and preventing the diversion of controlled chemical substances. Its scope includes: import and export control, license control, monitoring distribution, inspection and investigation, registry of licensees and pre-export notifications. There is no formal mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of this entity. Presently the control of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substance is covered by the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Act 6 of 1996. The country informs that it is in the process of updating this legislation.

The country reports having a mechanism to monitor and regulate the use and distribution of pharmaceutical products by authorized health officials. The elements of this mechanism include: prescription requirement, special license or permit to prescribe certain drugs, distribution through pharmacies or authorized outlets, monitoring prescription practice, and inspection and investigation. There is no formal mechanism in place to evaluate its effectiveness.

Operational information exchange and collaboration among national authorities responsible for the control of pharmaceuticals are facilitated by: an interagency committee, joint forces and operations, joint training, interagency information systems/networks, and interagency communications systems/networks. There is no formal mechanism in place to evaluate the effectiveness of such methods.

No mechanisms to promote or facilitate operational information exchange and collaboration among national authorities responsible for the controlled chemical substances were reported.

There is one national entity responsible for the exchange of information and collaboration with similar regulatory agencies in other countries regarding the control of pharmaceutical products. The areas of responsibility include: import and export control, license control, monitoring distribution, inspection and investigation, regulatory control, and administrative sanctions. There is no formal mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of this entity.

There is one national entity responsible for the exchange of information and collaboration with similar regulatory agencies in other countries regarding the control of controlled chemical substances. The areas of responsibility include: import and export control, license control, monitoring distribution, inspection and investigation, and registry of authorized companies. There is no formal mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of this entity.

Information was not provided with regard to national laws and/or regulations establishing penal, civil and administrative sanctions against the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines reports that information is not available on the number of pre-export notifications for controlled chemical substances issued, received or replied to.

No seizures of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances occurred during the period 2000-2002.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. DEVELOP FORMAL MECHANISMS TO EVALUATE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROLLING OF AND PREVENTING THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE, AND FOR OPERATIONAL EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATION AMONG NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR THE CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.**



2. **DEVELOP A FORMAL MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING AND REGULATING THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS BY AUTHORIZED HEALTH OFFICIALS.**

IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

St. Vincent and the Grenadines conducted several drug seizures of relatively small amounts of cocaine hydrochloride, crack cocaine, cannabis plants and cannabis leaf. The country reported that a number of persons were arrested and charged both for illicit trafficking and illicit possession. It further reported on convictions for illicit drug trafficking. Possession for personal use is an offense.

Statistics on number of persons convicted for illicit drug possession for personal use are not available.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines reports that exchanges of operational information among national authorities take place via joint forces and operations and joint training, and that there is no formal mechanism to evaluate the efficacy of the means of operational information exchange and collaboration.

The country reports that it received no requests for judicial cooperation from other countries in the period of evaluation 2001-2002. No information was provided as regards extradition requests made by or received by St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines reports that some acts of corruption criminalized in the Inter-American Convention against Corruption are covered by Criminal Code Cap 124 85(a) and 85(b), while others are not covered. There were no public officials convicted for crimes related to drug trafficking in 2000-2001.

B. Firearms and Ammunitions

The police and Customs and Excise are the entities responsible for controlling the movement of firearms and ammunition and preventing their diversion. Their scope of responsibility includes issuance of import/export/transit licenses and authorizations, information exchange with relevant national entities in other countries, information exchange within the country among relevant national entities, cancellation of licenses and authorizations and confiscation or forfeiture of illicitly traffic firearms or ammunition. Joint forces and operations, and joint training are the means/mechanisms of cooperation employed by these entities, but there is no formal mechanism to evaluate their effectiveness.

The Firearms Act, Act 12 of 1995, amended 1999, criminalizes the illicit trafficking of firearms and ammunition. The importation, exportation, transit of firearms and ammunition are subject to administrative control. Licenses or authorizations are required from importing, exporting or in transit countries prior to authorizing embarkation from the country or entry into it of shipments of firearms and ammunition.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines reports that 215 people were charged for illicit trafficking firearms and ammunition in the year 2000, while 109 were convicted. The country further reports that 196 people were charged with the same offense in 2001, and 92 were convicted. In 2000, St. Vincent reports that 74 firearms were confiscated. For 2001, 37 were confiscated.



The country reports that there is a record-keeping system on the importation, exportation and transit of firearms and ammunition. In the year 2000, 4 requests were made to other countries to obtain information in relation to shipments of firearms and ammunitions, while in 2001, 2 requests were made. No replies to these requests were received. No requests for similar information were received by St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the period 2000-2001.

C. Money Laundering

The Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering Prevention Act no. 39 of 2001 (SS 41-43) criminalizes the offence of money laundering. Predicate offenses include illicit drug trafficking, illicit traffic of firearms, prostitution, pornography, kidnapping, extortion, corruption, terrorism, fraud, and any offense tryable both summarily and for any indictable offense.

There are administrative controls to prevent money laundering by banks, offshore banks, currency exchanges, stock exchange, insurance, casinos, real estate, lawyers, notaries, accountants, cross border movements of currency and negotiable bearer instruments, as well as other sectors.

In the period 2000-2002 there have been no charges or convictions for money laundering.

Financial institutions are required to report suspicious transactions. Other control measures include client registry, verification of client identity, transaction registry, preservation of records, existence of an enforcement official, existence of independent audits, and know-your-client policies.

Eight suspicious transactions were reported in the year 2002, and there are 8 ongoing investigations. No administrative or judicial sanctions for non-compliance of money laundering laws and regulations were applied in the period under evaluation (2001-2002). Bank documents and financial documents can be provided in money laundering cases.

The Ministry of Finance administers a "confiscation fund"; however, there were no properties forfeited over the period 2000–2002.

The country reports that it has a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), which is under the Ministry of Finance, staffed with 12 officials, which has its own budget. The FIU has been in operation since May 6th, 2002. It also conducts analysis and reports findings, investigates, regulates, and sanctions. While the FIU has not signed memoranda of understanding, the Financial Intelligence Unit Act provides expressly for the exchange of information with any foreign financial intelligence unit.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines did not make any requests for extradition on the grounds of money laundering in the period 2000 – 2002. The country received only one request for extradition. The country made no requests to other countries to freeze assets in cases of money laundering. One request to freeze assets, which was granted, was received in 2002. No requests were made to other countries for bank documents or financial records for use in money laundering cases. One such request was received and granted in 2002.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines reports that it trained 2 judges in 2000 and 1 prosecutor in 2000 and another in 2001. Three administrative officials were trained in 2001 and 4 in 2002.



V. CONCLUSION

In its response to the MEM questionnaire, St. Vincent and the Grenadines reflected progress in strengthening its national policies. At the same time, some recommendations from the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000 appear to be stalled.

The country has a draft National Drug Plan which is pending approval. Once the plan is approved the Ministry of Health and the Environment shall exercise the functions of a Central Coordinating Authority as regards the drug problem. Progress has been made in the demand reduction area, with the implementation of a national system of drug abuse prevention programs targeting key areas of the population.

Regarding supply reduction, the limited information provided precludes CICAD from offering an adequate evaluation. The country exhibits weaknesses in the areas of guidelines for drug abuse treatment, the control of the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances. There is also a need to strengthen control mechanisms against the diversion of firearms and ammunition. Ratification of some important international instruments is still pending. Substantial progress has been made in the area of money laundering control.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has demonstrated its commitment to the MEM process, and it is urged to persevere in achieving its objectives.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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5. SIGN AND RATIFY THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS THREE PROTOCOLS.
6. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGY OR PLAN.
7. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT.
8. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO CONDUCT FURTHER STUDIES ON THE PREVALENCE OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION.
9. DEVELOP FORMAL MECHANISMS TO EVALUATE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROLLING OF AND PREVENTING THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE, AND FOR OPERATIONAL EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATION AMONG NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR THE CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.
10. DEVELOP A FORMAL MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING AND REGULATING THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS BY AUTHORIZED HEALTH OFFICIALS.

