

Multilateral
Evaluation
Mechanism
MEM

Trinidad and Tobago

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Organization of American States – **OAS**

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – **CICAD**

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Organización de los Estados Americanos – OEA
Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organization of American States – OAS
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD

Organização dos Estados Americanos – OEA
Comissão Interamericana para o Controle do Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organisation des Etats Américains – OEA
Commission Interaméricaine de Lutte Contre l'abus des Drogues – CICAD

NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

Trinidad and Tobago has a National Drug Master Plan, in effect from 1998 – 2002 and currently being revised. It covers supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, institutional framework and an evaluation system. It does not have a budget component, although a Multi-Sectorial Work Group has completed the modernization of the National Drug Master Plan 1998-2002 and is awaiting assignment of a budget.

In July 2000 Trinidad and Tobago established, through Cabinet Order, a National Drug Council (NDC) to monitor, evaluate and coordinate the implementation of the national anti-drug plan.

It has ratified the United Nations Conventions of 1988 and 1971. It has acceded to the United Nations Convention of 1961 and ratified the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. The Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, and the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials have been signed but not ratified.

There are national anti-drug laws and regulations. There is specific legislation with respect to money laundering, in accordance with CICAD model regulations. There is legislation concerning chemical substances and firearms, ammunition and explosives, but no mention was made of it being in accordance with the CICAD model regulations.

Trinidad and Tobago does not have an integrated system for the collection and maintenance of statistics and documents. However, it has a separate collection of documents on demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and the societal impact of illicit drugs. It appears to have statistics in the mentioned areas, although it reports that it does not have statistics in these areas.

Recommendations

1. Assign a budget for the National Drug Master Plan.
2. Ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and ratify the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials.
3. Ensure that national legislation on chemical substances and on firearms, ammunition and explosives is in accordance with the CICAD model regulations.

4. **Develop and apply an integrated system for the collection, analysis, and maintenance of statistics and documents.**

DEMAND REDUCTION

Trinidad and Tobago has a National Demand Reduction Strategy which provides the framework for executing demand reduction programs. The national system of drug abuse prevention is delivered to 50% of school children and 75% of prisoners. There are programs for community leaders and prison officers, but none for socially displaced persons, including out of school youth.

The "Drugs in the Workplace" programs are available in the private sector and are under development in the public sector.

The United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action has been adopted.

There are guidelines on minimum standards of care for drug treatment. A legal basis to support the guidelines is currently being prepared. Programs are in place to deliver drug treatment and rehabilitation that include early detection and outreach, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and after-care.

Training for professionals is provided in 3 ways. First, through a two-week program at Caribbean Institute of Alcohol and Drugs, (CARIAD), which has been offered for over 25 years and draws a faculty of international experts second, through the University of the West Indies (UWI) certificate program in addiction studies, which is offered at the St. Augustine Campus and third, through various seminars and workshops conducted throughout the island for medical personnel, social workers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and teachers.

Trinidad and Tobago is developing a methodology to measure the prevalence of drug use in the general population. In addition, systems have been put in place through the National Database for Drug Information to ensure the collection and collation of information relevant to determining the prevalence of drug use, the age of first use of any illicit drug, the type of drug used, and the annual incidence of new drug users. Research on prevention and drug use and evaluation of drug abuse prevention programs is ongoing. The age of first use of illicit drugs was indicated only for males: age 12 for Cocaine use, and age 14 for Cannabis and Alcohol. The annual incidence of new drug users is not known.

An evaluation has been carried out on a number of treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Recommendations

1. Develop and implement prevention programs for socially displaced persons, including out of school youth.
2. Complete the development and implementation of Employee Assistance Programmes, which will include a component of Drugs in the Workplace.
3. Implement a system to determine the prevalence of drug use and the annual incidence of new drug users.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Trinidad and Tobago has procedures for measuring illicit cultivation. There are 142 hectares of illicit cannabis cultivation, with potential production of 211 metric tons. As of November 1999, there was manual eradication, by burning, of 2,113,850 trees, 1,913,100 seedlings, and 3,655 kilograms of marijuana.

The Ministry of Agriculture as an incentive to farmers, and the Ministry of Local Development through the Unemployment Relief Programme, implement Alternative Development programs. The country reports that the programmes are not extensive and require enhancement.

The Chemistry Food and Drug Division of the Ministry of Health is in charge of controlled chemical substances and pharmaceuticals diversion control. Systems to estimate legitimate annual national needs are in place to monitor and track incoming pharmaceuticals and drugs from importers to pharmacy outlets, medical practitioners and consumers. The country has in place a system to monitor and regulate professions involved in the distribution and use of pharmaceutical drugs. Specifically, administrative mechanisms exist to regulate the use and allocation of drugs through the examination of records of licensed bodies.

The Ministry of Health has a system for record keeping and the exchange of operational information at the national level, regarding control of chemical substances and pharmaceuticals. The Drugs Inspectorate of the Ministry of Health is the entity responsible for the exchange of information at the international level.

There are laws and regulations in place that provide only for penal sanctions against the diversion of controlled chemical substances, although no sanctions are reported in enforcement of those laws, as well as no confiscations in 1999.

Regarding international transactions involving controlled substances, the country states that it has neither issued nor received pre-export notifications, nor has it requested technical assistance on the basis of international agreements.

Recommendation

1. Develop and implement the necessary legal and administrative framework to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

CONTROL MEASURES

Trinidad and Tobago has established law enforcement, administrative and judicial agencies with responsibility for the investigation, control and/or elimination of illicit drug trafficking. The law enforcement agencies are the Organized Crime and Narcotics Unit (OCNU) of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, Customs and Excise Division, Chief Preventive Investigator and the Counter Drug Crime Task Force. The Administrative agencies involved in counter drug activities are the Strategic Services Agency (SSA), the Joint Operations and Command Centre (JOCC) and the National Security Council Secretariat. The Police and Customs carry out functions related to intelligence, investigation and enforcement. Prosecutions are under the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions. In special circumstances the Commission of Inquiry, presided by a judge and inquisitorial in nature, may be appointed

The Strategic Services Agency is responsible for cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among national authorities and also with other countries in accordance with international agreements.

With respect to counter drug activities, Trinidad and Tobago reported 3,299 drug seizure operations related to illicit drug trafficking and provided the following data on types of drugs and quantities seized.

	Unit of measure	Quantity
Coca Paste	Kgs	137
Leaf Cannabis (grass)	Kgs	5,304

Regarding the number of persons arrested and charged for this offense, 921 were reported for marijuana trafficking and 459 were reported for cocaine trafficking. It reported 4,691 convictions for drug-related offenses.

Trinidad and Tobago received 28 requests in accordance with international agreements for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking. It does not indicate the number of replies to the requests received.

There is no information on requests for cooperation from Trinidad and Tobago to other countries.

The country has criminalized the illicit manufacture of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, in keeping with the Firearms Act. In addition, it has established administrative control measures to prevent the offences referred to above.

The country has laws and/or regulations authorizing both the freezing and seizure of ammunition, explosives and other related materials, but no information was given on firearms.

There is a mechanism and/or authority that maintains a record of imported and intransit firearms, and for the importation, exportation, and transit of ammunition, explosives and other related materials. Trinidad and Tobago is not a manufacturer of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. There is a mechanism in place that ensures countries have issued the necessary licenses or authorizations before exportation. There is a mechanism for interagency coordination and information exchange regarding firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials at the national and at the international levels.

The Firearms Bureau of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Services is the national centralized point and competent authority for collecting and disseminating information on firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other materials. All requests to import, export, manufacture, or transport firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other materials must be made before the Commissioner of Police and registered with the Firearms Bureau.

There was one arrest and no convictions for illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. In Trinidad and Tobago, trafficking of firearms is not categorized as an offense; however, there are other related offenses dealing with the import, export, sale, transfer, and procurement of these items.

The country reports 83 seizure operations of firearms and other related materials connected with illicit drug trafficking that were carried out by law enforcement agencies.

The quantity and type of firearms seized during the year under review are indicated in the table below:

Type	Quantity
Revolvers/handguns	45
Shotguns	16
Homemade firearms	15
Pellet and trap guns	14
Total	90

A total of 13 requests were made for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute the manufacture of and trafficking in firearms and related materials. In turn, 35 such requests were received, and 22 replies sent.

Trinidad and Tobago has laws and regulations that criminalize money laundering. There are also administrative controls to prevent occurrences of money laundering. There exists legislation for the freezing or seizure and forfeiture of assets related to money laundering. The Financial Investigations Unit (FIU) of the Counter Drug Task Force of the Ministry of the Attorney General is the central agency responsible for receiving, requesting, analyzing and disseminating to competent authorities disclosures of information relating to financial transactions. The FIU facilitates the exchange of operational information and collaboration among national authorities and authorities in other countries.

There are no laws in Trinidad and Tobago that require financial institutions and others responsible to report suspicious or unusual transactions to competent authorities. There is also no requirement for financial institutions and others responsible to comply with other control measures.

There exists in the country a mechanism for the management and disposal of assets seized and forfeited from illicit drug trafficking.

Six persons were arrested and tried for money laundering activities during the year in review. The Government indicated that, because the aforementioned money laundering cases are still pending, no data are available in respect of the number of persons convicted.

In all, 38 requests were made for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute money laundering and 30 replies were received during the year under review.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen the mechanism of international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking.**

2. Establish a register to identify the number of persons charged or convicted for illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.
3. Enact legislation requiring financial institutions and others responsible to report suspicious or unusual transactions to the competent authorities, as well as laws stipulating that financial institutions and other responsible are to comply with this and other control measures.

HUMAN, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COST OF DRUGS

Estimating the human, social and economic cost of the drug problem in all of its manifestations constitutes a complex process. This information is relevant to each country's understanding of the magnitude of the drug problem. This would enable each country to appreciate the direct and indirect cost in proportion to their Gross National Product or national annual budget. Because many countries have difficulty in providing these estimates, CICAD is proposing a hemisphere-wide program involving training and technical assistance, which should assist the country in its effort in confronting the drug problem and fulfilling this indicator's requirements.

Recommendation

- 1 Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

CICAD recommends that Trinidad and Tobago's anti-drug efforts could be strengthened by addressing the following:

1. Assign a budget for the National Drug Master Plan.
2. Ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and ratify the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials.
3. Ensure that national legislation on chemical substances and on firearms, ammunition and explosives is in accordance with the CICAD model regulations.
4. Develop and apply an integrated system for the collection, analysis, and maintenance of statistics and documents.
5. Develop and implement prevention programs for socially displaced persons, including out of school youth.
6. Complete the development and implementation of Employee Assistance Programmes, which will include a component of drugs in the workplace.
7. Implement a system to determine the prevalence of drug use and the annual incidence of new drug users.
8. Develop and implement the necessary legal and administrative framework to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.
9. Strengthen the mechanism of international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking.
10. Establish a register to identify the number of persons charged or convicted for illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.
11. Enact legislation requiring financial institutions and others responsible to report suspicious or unusual transactions to the competent authorities, as well as laws stipulating that financial institutions and other responsible are to comply with this and other control measures.
12. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.