

Multilateral
Evaluation
Mechanism
MEM

Belize

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Organization of American States – **OAS**

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

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1999
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2000

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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

Belize has a National Anti-Drug Plan, which covers the following areas: Supply Reduction, Demand Reduction, Control Measures, Institutional Framework, Budget and an Evaluation system, in effect from 1999 until 2003.

Its legal basis falls within the framework of the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) legally constituted by the "MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT" enacted in 1990. The Anti-Drug Plan was enacted by the Government of Belize in February 2000.

NDACC is the central coordinating authority responsible for the activities of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and the information center. The NDACC has a budget allocation under the Ministry of National Security.

Belize has ratified the United Nations Convention of 1988 and the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of, and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials. It has signed the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. It has not signed the United Nations Conventions of 1961 and 1971, or the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. Accession to all of these conventions is presently awaiting approval by the Government.

National legislation and regulations exist with respect to the issue of drugs, in particular in the areas of money laundering, chemical substances and firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Belize has an integrated system for the collection and maintenance of statistics and documents.

Recommendations

1. **Accede to the UN Conventions of 1961 and 1971.**
2. **Sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.**
3. **Ratify the Inter- American Convention Against Corruption.**

DEMAND REDUCTION

Belize has a National Drug Demand Reduction Strategy. It has developed a national system of drug abuse prevention programs that target certain key populations. On June 9, 2000 “Resource Educational Information Centers” were instituted throughout the country to address drug problems among street children and the adult population. The programs given in schools cover 100% of the school children. Programs are also in place for community leaders, prisoners, out of school youth and current and recovering addicts. No programs for prison officers exist, nor are there programs in public or private work environments.

Belize has not adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

This country has established guidelines of minimum standards of care for drug treatment. A drug treatment and rehabilitation program exists that includes early detection and outreach, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. There is no professional specialized training in drug abuse prevention.

There is no regular diagnosis of drug use in the general population.

Belize conducts research on prevention and drug use, and evaluates drug abuse treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention programs, however it does not indicate the methodology used. The average age of the first use of illicit drugs is 10 years for males and 12 years for females. There is no regular diagnostic system of drug use in the general population, and no information available on the annual incidence of new drug users.

Although all indicators in this grouping had responses, many of them were answered with no observations, references, or any other elaboration as to the basis for the answer submitted. Because of this, it was difficult to provide an informed response in determining the evaluation.

Recommendations¹

1. Continue development of a “Drugs in the Workplace” Program.
2. Continue the process to approve a national demand reduction strategy based on the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action for purposes of systematically developing and implementing programs in this critical area.

¹ Belize has reported that all recommendations in the Demand Reduction Section are presently being addressed and awaiting final approval.

3. Create and implement a process to measure the prevalence of drug use to include the annual incidence of new drug users.
4. Provide specialized training in drug abuse prevention.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Belize has reported an increase in cannabis crop production, despite the Government's efforts at manual eradication. Belize estimates a cannabis cultivation area of 200 acres (81 hectares) per year, yielding a total potential production of approximately 107 metric tons per year. Belize did not provide information concerning the methodology used to calculate potential production.

The country did not give details of mechanisms used and institutions responsible for preventing the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and chemical substances.

Belize has enacted laws and adopted mechanisms for the control of pharmaceuticals. The competent body for pharmaceutical abuse prevention is the Health Services Directorate, under the Ministry of Health. However, at present there is no law governing the control of chemical substances, although the Ministry of Health is conducting a study for purposes of establishing legal sanctions and control regulations. The current control method is applied in an ad hoc fashion by the Ministry of Health, the Customs Directorate, and the Police Department.

Belize uses the pre-export notification mechanism for its exports and has replied to 67% of notifications received in connection with its imports.

Recommendation

1. Establish legislation to control chemical substances.

CONTROL MEASURES

In Belize there are administrative, judicial, and law enforcement agencies specifically responsible for the investigation, control, and/or elimination of illicit drug trafficking. The National Drug Abuse Control Council performs related administrative responsibilities. A mechanism exists for effecting coordination, cooperation, or timely exchanges of information among national authorities. Additionally, there is a centralized agency, the Joint Intelligence Coordination

Center (JICC), that effects coordination, cooperation, and timely exchanges of information at the local, regional, and international levels, in accordance with current international agreements.

Eight drug seizure operations were conducted by law enforcement agencies during 1999; the drugs seized were the following:

Drug	Unit.	Quantity
Cocaine	Kgs.	1.515
Cannabis plants	Plants	270,134
Processed Cannabis	Kgs	392
Processed Crack	Kgs	37

The country reported 2,369 persons arrested, 2,369 charged, and 1,895 convicted for illicit drug trafficking, possession and cultivation.

Belize has enacted laws that criminalize the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials; establish administrative control measures to prevent these offences; and authorize the seizure of these objects. Legislative provision also authorizes confiscation or forfeiture of objects seized.

Belize reports that it has adopted CICAD's "Model Regulations for the Control of International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition." The Model Regulations were adopted through the enactment of the "Firearms (International Movement of Firearms Parts, Components, and Ammunition) Control Regulations," Act No. 23 of 2000.

The Ministry of National Security is the authority that maintains records (by date, classification, description, and numbers) on the manufacture, import, export, or transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

There are mechanisms that ensure the issuance of the necessary licenses or authorization before release for export of shipments of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials and that effect inter-agency coordination and information exchange at a national level on the movement of these objects.

Two persons have been charged and two convicted in relation to the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other materials. Eight seizure operations were undertaken by law enforcement agencies, and 502 firearms were seized.

Belize has identified the origin of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials seized. The JICC operates a register to identify the routing employed in the diversion of the items seized. Five requests were made for international cooperation and three responses were received.

Belize reports it has a mechanism to provide reliable data on money laundering offenses as well as on administrative sanctions.

The freezing and seizure of assets related to money laundering is also legislated. The JICC is responsible for receiving, requesting, and disseminating to competent authorities information relating to financial transactions and for facilitating operational information sharing and collaboration with national and overseas authorities. National laws and regulations exist that require the reporting of suspicious or unusual transactions to the competent authorities and mandate compliance with control measures.

The information on money laundering offenses is compiled by the Belize Police Department while the data on administrative sanctions applied against financial institutions for failure to report suspicious transactions is kept by the Central Bank of Belize as the Supervisory Authority. While the system for providing information is in place, there have so far been no reported cases of criminal prosecutions for money laundering offenses, or of administrative sanctions against financial institutions for failure to report suspicious transactions.

The Government of Belize has made two requests for international cooperation to investigate or prosecute money laundering and received replies to those requests.

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 costs of the drug problem.**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

CICAD recommends that Belize's anti-drug efforts be strengthened by addressing the following:

1. Accede to the UN Conventions of 1961 and 1971.
2. Sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.
3. Ratify the Inter- American Convention Against Corruption.
4. Continue development of a drug in the workplace program.
5. Continue the process to approve a national demand reduction strategy based on the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action for purposes of systematically developing and implementing programs in this critical area.
6. Create and implement a process to measure the prevalence of drug use to include the annual incidence of new drug users.
7. Provide specialized training in drug abuse prevention.
8. Establish legislation to control chemical substances.
9. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.