

Multilateral  
Evaluation  
Mechanism  
MEM

# Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Organization of American States – OAS

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD

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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

**S**t. Vincent and the Grenadines does not have a national anti-drug plan. However, relevant authorities are engaged in reviewing a draft plan with a view to its formal adoption.

Although the country does not formally possess a national coordinating entity served by executive personnel, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution has, by statutory order, been deemed to be the central coordinating authority.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has signed the UN Convention of 1988, but has not signed the UN Conventions of 1961 and 1971; the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials; the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption; and the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

In spite of the fact that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is not signatory to these international conventions, it has national legislation with respect to the control of trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials and money laundering. However, this is not the case for controlled chemical substances.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines does not have a system for the collection and maintenance of statistics and documents. Neither does it maintain separate documents or statistics on demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures or the societal impact of illicit drugs.

## Recommendations

1. **Continue with the review of the National Drug Plan and proceed towards its implementation.**
2. **Set up a specific office with the necessary personnel to cover coordinating activities.**
3. **Accede to the United Nations Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988, and sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials; the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.**

4. **Ensure that national legislation with respect to control of money laundering, firearms, and chemical substances is in accordance with the relevant CICAD model regulations.**
5. **Develop and implement an integrated system for the collection, analysis and maintenance of statistics and documents.**

## DEMAND REDUCTION

**S**t. Vincent and the Grenadines has not approved a National Demand Reduction Plan. In spite of this, necessary measures are being taken using the United Nations Declaration under the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action as a guideline. Regarding this Declaration, no updated information on the formal accreditation of this instrument is as yet forthcoming.

No national system of drug abuse prevention programs exists that covers the following populations: school children, community leaders, street children, prisoners, prison officers, out of school youth or other at "risk" groups. There are no "Drugs in the Workplace" programs.

There are no established guidelines on minimum standards of care for drug treatment, nor are there any drug treatment and rehabilitation programs. There is no professional specialized training in drug abuse prevention and treatment.

No methodology exists for measuring the prevalence of drug use in the general population. There is no research on prevention and drug use or evaluation of drug abuse prevention programs. No information is available regarding the average age of first use of any illicit drugs. The annual incidence of new drug users is unknown.

## Recommendations

1. **Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action.**
2. **Approve the National Demand Reduction Strategy based on the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, for purposes of systematically developing and implementing programs in this critical area.**
3. **Institute drug treatment and rehabilitation programs coordinated and facilitated by trained personnel and adopt guidelines based on minimum standards of care.**

4. Introduce mechanisms for measuring the prevalence, incidence and age of first drug use.
5. Introduce evaluation programs to measure the success of drug use and prevention programs.

## SUPPLY REDUCTION

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has identified 263 acres of cannabis cultivation and has manually eradicated 171 acres of cannabis within its territory. There are 35 new acres of crops, and there is no procedure to measure potential production.

The Ministry of Health, through the Drugs Inspector, is responsible for monitoring and regulating professions involved in the distribution and use of pharmaceuticals. There is a system in place to estimate legitimate annual domestic needs for these products.

No national body exists in St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the control and prevention of the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines there exists a centralized agency for the dissemination of information exchange and collaboration among countries in relation to pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances.

There are laws and regulations for the application of penal and administrative sanctions for the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. However, the country did not report the application of such sanctions in 1999. The country reports having replied to approximately 60% of pre-export notifications of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances received. It did not issue any pre-export notifications for controlled chemical substances, as there is no such exporting from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines did not request assistance under international cooperation agreements regarding controlled chemical substances.

## Recommendations

1. Develop and implement surveillance mechanisms that facilitate early detection, control and eradication of illicit cultivation.
2. Establish a centralized agency and strengthen the mechanism for operational exchange of information between national authorities responsible for the control of chemical substances and pharmaceuticals.

## CONTROL MEASURES

The Narcotics Drug Squad is responsible for investigating, controlling, and eliminating illicit drug trafficking, as well as coordinating the timely exchange of information among national agencies and with other countries, in keeping with international agreements. The country reports that there are no administrative or judicial agencies devoted to investigating, controlling, and/or eliminating illicit drug trafficking.

The country reports that law enforcement agencies conducted 551 drug seizure operations, involving 15.3 kg of cocaine and 7,188 kg of cannabis, 4,760,739 cannabis plants and 10,000,000 cannabis seeds during the period under review.

The country reports that 264 persons were arrested during 1999. During that year, a total of 501 persons were charged for drug trafficking and 321 were convicted.

Two requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute illicit drug trafficking were received, and two replies were sent.

National laws and regulations exist that criminalize offenses related to the illicit manufacture of, and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. Administrative measures have also been put in place to prevent these offenses. There are also laws authorizing the seizure and forfeiture of those items.

Records are kept on the import and transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. The country does not manufacture or export these items. There are mechanisms for effecting interagency coordination and information exchanges at the national level and with other States.

The following table provides data on the number of persons charged and convicted for possession and use of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials:

Type of Offence	Number of Persons Charged	Number of Persons Convicted	% Convicted Relative to Number of Persons Charged
Possession of unlicensed firearm	29	16	55%
Possession of Ammunition	4	2	50%
Discharge firearm	9	1	11%

The country reports that 42 firearms connected to drug trafficking and 34 unlicensed firearms were seized, while it does not identify the origin of these items or the routing employed to divert them.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines reported that no requests were made during the year under review for international cooperation to investigate or prosecute offenses related to the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, in the framework of international agreements therein.

Money laundering has been criminalized in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. There are also administrative controls in place to prevent money-laundering offenses. Laws and regulations authorize the freezing and seizure of assets related to money laundering. There is no central agency responsible for receiving, analyzing, and disseminating information on financial transactions to the competent authorities. The country has noted, however, that in the absence of a centralized authority, the Police Department has assumed this function. It is not mandatory for financial institutions to report suspicious or unusual transactions to the competent authorities; however, they are required to comply with other control measures.

Mechanisms are in place for the management and disposal of assets seized and forfeited from illicit drug trafficking. The country reported that no persons were arrested, charged, or convicted for money laundering offenses during the year under review, and that no administrative or judicial sanctions were applied by supervisory agencies against financial institutions for failure to report suspicious transactions. No requests were made for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute money laundering pursuant to any international agreements.

## Recommendations

1. Establish a system to identify the origin and the routing of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.
2. Create a mechanism for receiving, analyzing and disseminating information on financial transactions to the competent authorities along the design of the financial intelligence unit contemplated in CICAD's Model Regulations.
3. Pass laws obliging financial institutions and other relevant bodies to inform the competent authorities of suspicious or unusual transactions, and enact laws stipulating that financial institutions and other relevant bodies must comply with other control measures.

## HUMAN, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COST OF DRUGS

**E**stimating 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

**C**ICAD recommends that St. Vincent and the Grenadines' anti-drug efforts be strengthened by addressing the following:

1. Continue with the review of the National Drug Plan and proceed towards its implementation.
2. Set up a specific office with the necessary personnel to cover coordinating activities.
3. Accede to the United Nations Convention of 1961, 1971 and 1988, and sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials; the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.
4. Ensure that national legislation with respect to control of money laundering, firearms, and chemical substances is in accordance with the relevant CICAD model regulations.
5. Develop and implement an integrated system for the collection, analysis and maintenance of statistics and documents.
6. Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action.
7. Approve the National Demand Reduction Strategy based on the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, for purposes of systematically developing and implementing programs in this critical area.
8. Institute drug treatment and rehabilitation programs coordinated and facilitated by trained personnel and adopt guidelines based on minimum standards of care.
9. Introduce mechanisms for measuring the prevalence, incidence and age of first drug use.
10. Introduce evaluation programs to measure the success of drug use and prevention programs.
11. Develop and implement surveillance mechanisms that facilitate early detection, control and eradication of illicit cultivation.



12. Establish a centralized agency and strengthen the mechanism for operational exchange of information between national authorities responsible for the control of chemical substances and pharmaceuticals.
13. Establish a system to identify the origin and the routing of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.
14. Create a mechanism for receiving, analyzing and disseminating information on financial transactions to the competent authorities along the design of the financial intelligence unit contemplated in CICAD's Model Regulations.
15. Pass laws obliging financial institutions and other relevant bodies to inform the competent authorities of suspicious or unusual transactions, and enact laws stipulating that financial institutions and other relevant bodies must comply with other control measures.
16. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.