

Multilateral
Evaluation
Mechanism
MEM

Guyana

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

Guyana has a National Drug Strategy Master Plan, in effect from 1997-2000, which covers the areas of supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, institutional framework, and an evaluation system. Furthermore, although it does not have a budget allocated to this area, activities deriving from the Master Plan are covered by the implementing agency responsible.

The National Anti-Narcotic Commission (NANCOM), established by Cabinet order, is Guyana's central coordinating agency, which oversees the activities of demand reduction, supply reduction, and control measures. It does not oversee the activities of an information center.

Guyana has ratified the United Nation Conventions of 1971 and 1988. It has signed the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. It has not signed the United Nations Convention of 1961. It has not ratified 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

National laws and regulations with respect to chemical substances, money laundering and firearms, ammunitions and explosives are in place and are in accordance with the CICAD Model Regulations.

The country does not have an integrated system for the collection and maintenance of statistics and documents, but separately compiles documents on demand reduction and statistics on control measures.

Recommendations

1. **Ensure a budget for carrying out the National Drug Strategy Master Plan.**
2. **Accede to the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.**
3. **Ratify 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.**
4. **Implement an integrated system to collect, analyze, and maintain statistics and documents.**

DEMAND REDUCTION

The country has a Demand Reduction Strategy, which has not been implemented in a sustained and coordinated manner. However, a number of programs are offered that target key populations. There are no “Drugs in the Workplace” programs.¹

Guyana has adopted the UN Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action.

No guidelines have been established for minimum standards of rehabilitative care. Although the country indicated that it does not have any drug treatment and rehabilitation programs, it observed that schools, churches and other Non Governmental Organizations provide treatment in both public and private hospitals. No specialized training in drug abuse prevention or treatment is available.

The country has not conducted studies designed to measure the magnitude of drug use in the general population. No data are available with respect to average age of first use or annual incidence of new drug users. No evaluations have been conducted on drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Recommendations

1. Implement the Plan of Action of the UN Declaration in all aspects.
2. Implement the Strategy for National Demand Reduction and coordinate it through a central entity.
3. Broaden prevention programs that target key populations and launch those whose implementation is awaiting the order to proceed.
4. Develop and execute “Drugs in the Workplace” programs in the public and private sector.
5. Establish minimum standards of care for drug treatment and rehabilitation.
6. Carry out evaluations of all programs in the area of Demand Reduction.

¹ Since October 2000, Guyana has developed and implemented “Drugs in the Workplace” programs.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Illicit cultivation of cannabis is carried out in the country on a small scale in isolated wooded plots. The Food and Drugs Department of the Ministry of Health is the body that regulates pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances.

Guyana has laws and regulations in place for the application of penal and administrative sanctions for the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. However, no sanctions were applied in 1999. The country has a system to estimate legitimate needs for pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances.

In general, it is difficult from the information the country provides to obtain an accurate picture either of the current status of control of production of synthetic and organic drugs, or of the infrastructure in place.

Recommendation

1. Implement a system that will permit the identification, measurement, and monitoring of trends in illicit cannabis crops.

CONTROL MEASURES

The country has law enforcement and administrative agencies responsible for investigating, controlling, and eradicating illicit drug trafficking. The Guyana Police Force, Defense Force, Coast Guard and Border Patrol, and the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit are responsible for law enforcement. The Joint Operations Subcommittee and the Joint Intelligence Subcommittee are the administrative agencies. The country responded that there is no judicial agency specifically responsible for the control of illicit drugs.

There is a mechanism in place for coordination and cooperation, and timely exchange of information among national authorities and other countries, in accordance with international agreements.

A total of 552 drug seizure operations were carried out by law enforcement agencies in 1999. Some of these were joint operations and others were carried out by individual agencies. Data on seizures by specific agencies are not available.

The following tables provide data on the number of persons arrested and charged for drug trafficking and drug possession during 1999:

Type of Offense	Number of Persons Arrested	Relative to the Population Rate per 100,000 Inh.
Trafficking in Cocaine	171	22
Trafficking in Cannabis	236	31
Possession of Cocaine	51	7
Possession of Cannabis	364	47
Total	804	107

Persons charged:

Type of Offense	Persons Charged	% Relative to No. of Persons Arrested	Rate Relative to the Population of the Country per 100,000 Inh.
Cannabis related	591	98.5	77
Cocaine related	213	95.9	28
Total	804	97.2	105

The country did not provide data on requests made for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking or on the number of replies. It noted that their anti-narcotics law enforcement agencies received several requests.

Regarding firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials:

- There are national laws and regulations that criminalize the illicit manufacturing and trafficking thereof.
- Guyana has in place administrative control measures to prevent these offenses.
- Guyana's legislation authorizes seizure of firearms.
- The country has laws and regulations authorizing the confiscation and forfeiture of firearms and related materials.
- Records are maintained of the manufacturing, importation, exportation, and transit thereof.
- It has mechanisms to maintain records by date, description, and quantity of the above-mentioned articles.
- It does not have a system to record information on the exportation of these articles.
- Neither does it have a mechanism or authority to ensure that, before releasing for exportation shipments of the above-mentioned articles, the importing or transit countries have issued the necessary licenses or authorizations.

The country has a mechanism for national interagency coordination and information exchanges. It also has a centralized point for information exchanges among states. Guyana has not provided data on the number of requests made for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute the illicit manufacture and trafficking of these articles.

The country did not provide data on the number of persons charged or convicted in connection with illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms and other articles. Guyana supplied no data on the number of seizure operations or on the quantities of firearms, ammunition and other articles seized, confiscated, or forfeited by its competent authorities. Guyana has a system to identify the origin of firearms and other articles seized, but does not identify the routing employed in the diversion of the firearms, ammunition and other related materials.

There is a national law and there are national regulations that define money laundering as an offense. Guyana did not provide any information on its administrative controls to prevent money laundering. However, there are laws authorizing the freezing, seizure and forfeiture of assets.

There is a control agency responsible for receiving, requesting, analyzing, and disseminating disclosures of information regarding financial transactions as well as an agency for exchanges of operational information and collaboration among national authorities and among related central agencies.

The country has national laws and regulations that require financial institutions and others responsible to report suspicious or unusual transactions and to comply with other control measures.

Guyana has a mechanism for the management and disposal of assets seized or forfeited from illicit drug trafficking and there is a system for their management and administration. It does not have data on the number of persons arrested, charged or convicted for money laundering in 1999.

The country noted that their money laundering legislation was passed in February 2000 and therefore questions relating to administrative or regulatory sanctions during 1999 do not apply. No response was given as to whether requests were made for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute money laundering due to absence of a legal framework in Guyana in 1999.

Recommendations

1. Establish a judicial agency responsible for investigating illicit drug trafficking.
2. Establish mechanisms for the collection of data regarding arrests, charges, and convictions; seizure operations and quantities of firearms, explosives, ammunition, and other related materials seized; requests for international cooperation; and for money laundering offenses.
3. Identify the routing employed in the diversion of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials seized in connection with illicit drug trafficking.
4. Create a mechanism or authority to ensure, before authorizing the release for exportation of firearms, explosives, ammunition, and other related materials, that the importing or transit countries have issued the necessary licenses or authorizations.
5. Establish a mechanism to maintain a record by date, classification, description, and quantity of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related materials seized.

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 Guyana's anti-drug efforts be strengthened by addressing the following:

1. Ensure a budget for carrying out the National Drug Strategy Master Plan.
2. Accede to the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.
3. Ratify 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.
4. Implement an integrated system to collect, analyze, and maintain statistics and documents.
5. Implement the Plan of Action of the UN Declaration in all aspects.
6. Implement the Strategy for National Demand Reduction and coordinate it through a central entity.
7. Broaden prevention programs that target key populations and launch those whose implementation is awaiting the order to proceed.
8. Develop and execute "Drugs in the Workplace" programs in the public and private sector.
9. Establish minimum standards of care for drug treatment and rehabilitation.
10. Carry out evaluations of all programs in the area of Demand Reduction.
11. Implement a system that will permit the identification, measurement, and monitoring of trends in illicit cannabis crops.
12. Establish a judicial agency responsible for investigating illicit drug trafficking.
13. Establish mechanisms for the collection of data regarding arrests, charges, and convictions; seizure operations and quantities of firearms, explosives, ammunition, and other related materials seized; requests for international cooperation; and for money laundering offenses.
14. Identify the routing employed in the diversion of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials seized in connection with illicit drug trafficking.

15. Create a mechanism or authority to ensure, before authorizing the release for exportation of firearms, explosives, ammunition, and other related materials, that the importing or transit countries have issued the necessary licenses or authorizations.
16. Establish a mechanism to maintain a record by date, classification, description, and quantity of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related materials seized.
17. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.