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# The National Drug Information System

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National Drug Council  
Ministry of National Security

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# Background



- n The National Drug Observatory, and the National Drug information system, was launched on Monday 28th June, 2004, at the Trinidad Hilton Hotel & Conference Centre in Port of Spain.
  - n It is the result of the collaborative efforts of the majority of agencies responsible for the implementation of the national anti- drug strategy
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# Project Stakeholders

- n Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago
  - n Employers
  - n Civil society and persons involved in policy and programme development, monitoring and evaluation
  - n Business Community ( Chambers of Commerce, Business Associations such as DOMA, and others)
  - n Rehabilitation and Treatment Centres
  - n Students of the Social Sciences and Humanities
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# Key players (Collaboration in action)

- n Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
  - q Court and Process Branch
  - q Organised Crime, Narcotic and Firearms Bureau (OCNFB)
  - q Crime And Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA)
- n Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service
  - q Youth Training Center
  - q Women Prisons
  - q All Adult Facilities
- n National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP)
- n Counter Drug Crime Task Force
- n Forensic Science Center
- n Trinidad and Tobago Immigration Division
- n Treatment and Rehabilitation Communities
  - q Rebirth House



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# Budget

Item/activity	Cost
Stakeholder consultations (cost of meetings, refreshments etc)	\$ 10,000.00
Computers	\$180,000.00
Software	\$ 30,000.00
Website development	\$ 5,000.00
Training and coaching in use of NDIS	\$ 15,000.00
Launch	\$ 22,000.00
Maintenance	\$ 20,000.00
Total	\$272,000.00

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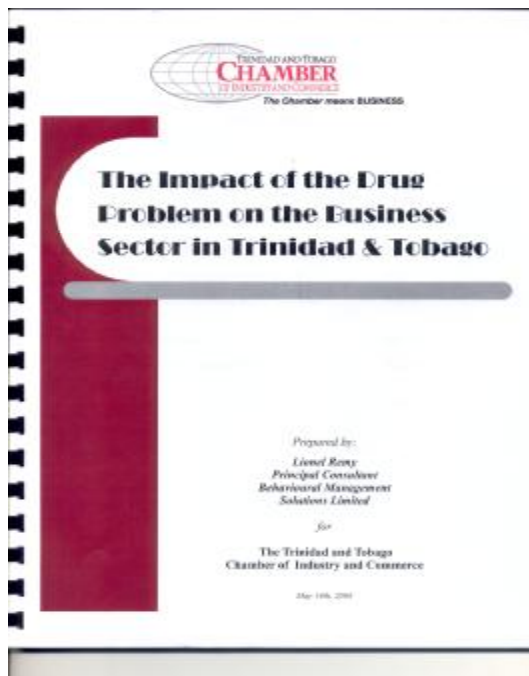
# Key Steps in Project Implementation

- n Sensitization of the agencies
  - n Establishment of coordinating team
  - n Engagement and involvement of all stakeholders
    - q Consensus building on approach and objectives
  - n Data collection
    - q Identifying what and how data will be collected
    - q Creating instruments to collect data
    - q Capturing data according to the prescribed format
    - q Ongoing evaluation of data collection instruments
    - q Disseminating data according to prescribed format
  - n Joint planning and implementation
    - q Software procurement
    - q System installation
  - n Monitoring and evaluation
    - q Frequent reviews undertaken during implementation and ongoing
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# Information collected in NDIS

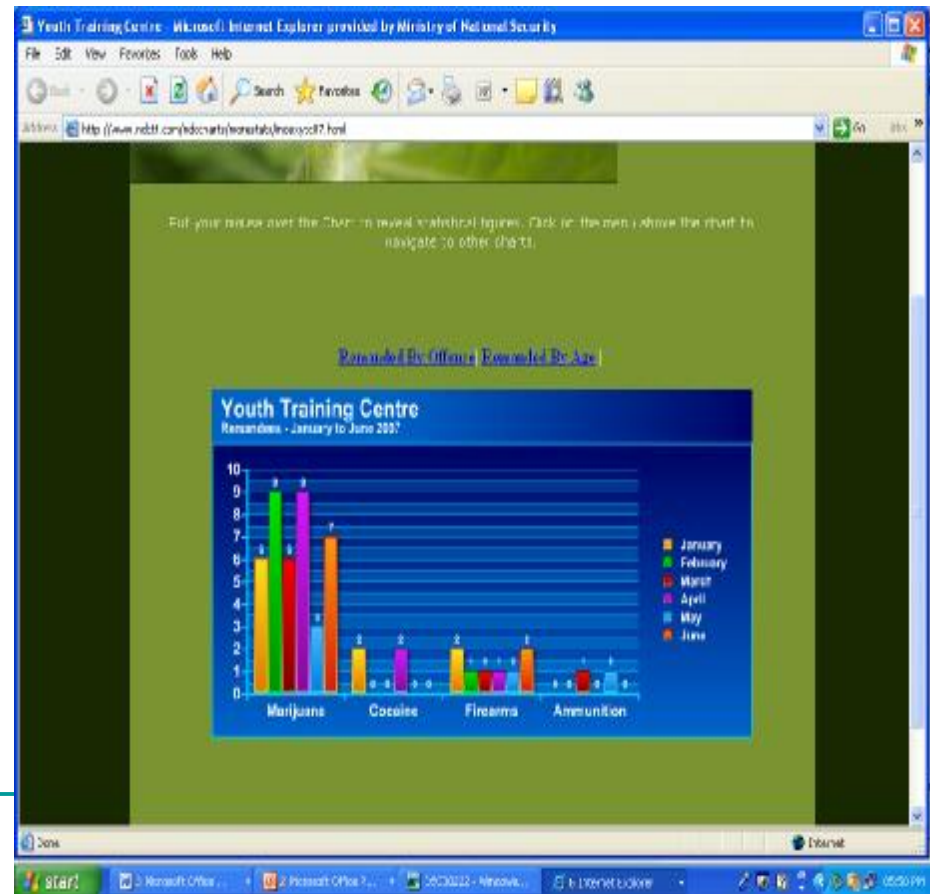
## n Research studies

- q Results of **Qualitative** and **Quantitative** studies on drug use in Trinidad and Tobago



# Information collected in NDIS

- n Statistics from primary sources (Points of contact)
  - q Demographic,
  - q Geographic
  - q Nature of offenses



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# Special Features of NDIS

- n Real Time information collected and organised
  - n Information collected at the point of contact with the respective agency
  - n Information security and safeguards for erroneous input ( Underway)
  - n Monitoring and evaluation as a collaborative effort
  - n Information sharing and integration amongst participating agencies
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# Evaluation of NDIS

- n The project is subject to **monthly and quarterly reviews** by the Council as expansion and continual improvement activity is ongoing
    - q The project is reviewed against predefined objectives, milestones and evaluation criteria categories of **Effectiveness, Impact, and Stakeholder Satisfaction**
  
  - n A system of progress reporting of the coordinating teams
    - q As such the implementers are responsible for monitoring and collecting the information that provides input for the quarterly review and evaluation
  
  - n The **usage, quality of inputs, currency of information, availability** of the site is also assessed using the evaluation tools implemented by the Council
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# Sustainability

- n The project has demonstrated that it is sustainable on the following levels
  - q **Resourcing**
    - n The council is committed to sustaining its anti drug programme and as such provides for the funding and maintenance of the Observatory in its annual budget
    - n The Council is also committed to maintaining the current group of participating agencies while expanding the number of contributing agencies
  - q **Maintenance and cost**
    - n The initial cost of software and infrastructure were the main cost items. The site is now maintained at a cost of approximately \$20,000.00 annually
    - n The system is maintained onsite by participating agencies
    - n The human resources for management of the NDIS is provided by the Council's Secretariat, supported by staff of the contributing agencies
  - q **Technical support and advice**
    - n Technological support is provided by the web master and the IT staff of the Ministry of National Security

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# Impact (Outcomes)

- n **Integrated responses** by agencies to drug problem
  - n Data on the **extent, distribution and volume of the drug problem** is being collected in a systematic way.
  - n Standardised and concrete formats for collection and presentation of data resulting in **increased accuracy, reliability and validity of drug information.**
  - n **Drug policies and programmes developed as a result of information analysis** as opposed to uninformed assumption.
  - n Availability of an accurate source of drug information
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# Future Expansion and development of NDIS “Continual Improvement”

- n Increase the number of contributing agencies
  - n Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among agencies to formalize the relationship
  - n Formalize the “Real Time” input of data
  - n Instant perception surveys on drug and firearm awareness
  - n Information on resource centers
    - q Referrals
    - q Information
  - n Migration of other drug information sites and related resource
  - n Creation of a database of “best practice” or “good practice” on anti drug initiatives and programme
    - q This will facilitate sharing of effective strategies, networking and benchmarking
  - n Creation of a discussion board and chat line (confidential electronic system to discuss issues)
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# Lessons learnt

**n Relationship! Relationship !  
Relationship !**

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# Lessons Learnt Cont'd

- n **Technical support and advice is critical to guide and help persons responsible for the databases at the various agencies**
    - q There is a need to provide coaching, advise and sometimes resources as agency budgets may not have catered for the expenses.
  
  - n **Consultation and engagement of all stakeholders from inception and throughout the development and lifespan of the project**
    - q Consensus, dialogue and learning from each other is key
  
  - n **Plan clearly, but be flexible.**
    - q Development of clear objectives and plans cannot be overstated. However implementation brings unforeseen constraints, plans need to be periodically reviewed and adjusted where necessary in response to the environment
  
  - n **Communication should be ongoing and simple**
  
  - n **Agree on Monitoring and evaluation mechanism and indicators from inception of the programme. There is need to build a common understanding of the objectives and measurement that will be utilized.**
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## Final Thought

**n If you build it in consultation with them – They will come.**

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