

Drug Control as a Development Challenge

National Workshop on Drugs
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Development is

The freedom for person to make decisions about his/her own life ... it is not only required for a healthy society but it should be the ultimate goal.

Amartya K. Sen

Development is

The objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives.

Mahbub ul Haq

Development is

The development challenge is primarily a human challenge, how to lead lives free from want and fear.

“Wealth is evidently not the good we are seeking, for it is merely useful for the sake of something else”. *Aristotle, ancient Greece*

Poor development

Health

- 968 million people without access to improved water sources (1998)
- 2.4 billion people without access to basic sanitation (1998)
- 34 million people living with HIV/AIDS (end of 2000)
- 2.2 million people dying annually from indoor air pollution (1996)

Poor development

Education

854 million illiterate adults, 543 million of them women (2000)
325 million children out of school at the primary and secondary levels, 183 million of them girls (2000)

Poor development

Income poverty

1.2 billion people living on less than \$1 a day (1993 PPP US\$), 2.8 billion on less than \$2 a day (1998)

Poor development

Children

163 million underweight children under age five (1998)
11 million children under five dying annually from preventable causes (1998)

Poor development : Drugs and people

The drug scourge goes far beyond addicts and organized crime issues. Drug dependence is now deeply rooted in community malaise and broader socio-economic concerns.

Drugs and poor development : a devastating connection

The link between drugs and the spread of HIV is well documented. The link between drugs and poverty, income problems, health and education issues, marginalization of social and ethnic groups, violence, crime, corruption and other governance problems is less studied and understood, but not less devastating in developing countries.

The impact of drug abuse on development can be identified in four major areas : employment and productivity, HIV/AIDS, environment, conflict situations.

Drugs' impact on Employment and productivity

- Lost investment in legitimate enterprise
- Lost investment in human capital
- Future costs to the quality of the workforce
- other associated costs of the drug trade (money laundering, corruption, etc.)

Drugs' impact on HIV/AIDS

- While the primary cause of transmission of HIV in the developing world is heterosexual activity, intravenous drug use accounts for a substantial portion of AIDS-related cases.
- More than ninety-five percent of all HIV cases are in the developing world. Success on controlling AIDS will hinge on targeting the epidemic amongst IDUs. This of course requires political courage based on evidence based policy.

Drugs' impact on Conflict situations

- Drug-related dimensions can exacerbate ethnic conflicts
- authoritarian Governments often justify counter-insurgent campaigns within the name of drug control
- Governments use narco-strategic concessions to ethnic groups offering them access to the drug trade in return for support.

Drugs' impact on Environment

The impact on illicit drug production on environment is devastating.

- Deforestation
- Soil degradation
- Water pollution

Shared goals

Sustainable development, health and education for all, economic growth, environmental protection, population management, respect for human rights, good governance, are in fact shared goals of both drug control and development.

Uncontrolled drug production, trafficking and abuse, and uncontrolled AIDS are threats to human security.

a clear and present danger for sustainable development

Economic, food, health, environment, personal, community and political security are important elements of drug control.

illicit production, trafficking and abuse can have negative repercussions on the economic, food, health, environment, personal, community and political security

Other important effects of illicit drugs on national security are the following:

• *On economic security*

lack of government access to the illicit proceeds of drug production and trafficking has a negative impact on the gross domestic product, and direct correlation with the strength of the underground economy

• *Agriculture Production*

opium cropping, at best provides temporary relief to cash crisis in the short term, but it makes poverty more endemic and strongly rooted in the longer run

• *Drug dependence in the opium producing communities*

increasing risk of communicable and other diseases arising from the general deterioration in personal health care

• *Food security*

law enforcement against primary bread winners who are producing, trafficking or abusing drugs have immediate tragic consequences for survival of the spouse and children, and long lasting devastating effect on their health, education and economic opportunities

• *Environmental security*

slash and burn techniques to remove highland forest areas contribute to soil erosion
the pollutants from the synthesis of opium represent significant environmental damages

- **Personal security**

enormous pressure has been placed on the juvenile and adult correctional systems

- **Personal level**

stigmatization and isolation

- **Community security**

the resulting corruption is often sufficient to at least create community conflict and at worst create grave or total community fragmentation

- **Direct effect on national security**

cross border incursion of traffickers and their attempts to maintain their own security through the use of fire arms as well as moderately sophisticated weaponry the connection between insurgency, drugs, and arms

In a nutshell, it can be said that illicit drug production, drug trafficking and drug abuse for sure are too often *the fuse which ignites a human security crisis*, where other variables have already created some forms of vulnerability

But more importantly, and irrespective of other variables, drug production and drug trafficking are also **an essential condition for most extreme situation of lack of human security** to become endemic, and resilient to corrective measures.

Exactly as a fire in a slum, drugs enter easily as a spark, but are very difficult to extinguish. They often are put out only when the whole neighbourhood or affected society is completely burnt out.

UNODC response:

The ACCORD Plan of Action

What is the ACCORD Plan of Action?

- The ACCORD Plan of Action (ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs) enables a cooperative network to respond to the dangers of new drugs and measure the progress
- Result of the International Congress “In pursuit of a drug-free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the vision, leading the change”
- Adopted by 36 countries and 16 international organisations

ACCORD establishes a dynamic Plan of Action which rests on four pillars:

1. Proactively advocating civic awareness on dangers of drugs and social response
2. Building consensus and sharing best practices on demand reduction
3. Strengthening the rule of law by an enhanced network of control measures and improved law enforcement co-operation and legislative review
4. Eliminating the supply of illicit drugs by boosting alternative development programs and community participation in the eradication of illicit crops

Why ACCORD?

- Weak regional coordination
- Fragmented strategies
- Limited regional information sharing, processing and analysis
- Absence of a comprehensive political and monitoring framework for regional drug control
- Call by ASEAN Ministers at their 33rd ministerial meeting

ACCORD is the sole ASEAN + China comprehensive framework for regional drug control cooperation

ACCORD will be a success if all partner Members commit to:

- Ownership of the process and the outputs;
 - Active participation and commitment;
 - Collaborative and transparent processes;
- A new cooperative culture

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