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1. CAMBODIA

1.1. General Situation in Cambodia

1.1.1. Drug Use

Drug use – Estimating the number of drug users in Cambodia is difficult as there have been no nationally representative surveys of illicit drug use performed and inconsistent terminology and methodology have been used in various studies. The number of reported drug users increased more than ten-fold from about 600 persons in 2000 (NACD 2010a, p. 7) to between 6,000 and 7,000 persons in 2010 (NACD 2010c, p. 3). However, officials of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) believe actual number of drug users is considerably higher than these estimates (NACD 2012b). The Cambodian National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STI (NCHADS) estimated that there were 13,000 drug users in 2008.

NACD estimated that about 70% of all illicit drug users in 2009 were users of methamphetamine (both in pill and crystalline form). An estimated 15% were heroin users and the remaining 15% were reported as being users of other drugs (NACD 2010b, p. 4). Cambodia has been reporting crystalline methamphetamine as the most commonly used drug in Phnom Penh since 2009. There is a small market for ecstasy in Cambodia; however, most ecstasy in Cambodia is trafficked through the country to neighbouring countries (NACD 2010c, p. 2).

The majority of drug users in Cambodia are aged 18-25 years (NACD 2012b). Friends-International, a Cambodian non-governmental organization (NGO), indicates that more than half of street children and youth in Phnom Penh use drugs and a large portion are poly-drug users. Methamphetamine in both pill and crystalline form is the most widespread illicit drug and injecting use of this drug among young users is on the rise (Friends-International 2011). The use of inhalants and solvents, particularly among young drug users, continues to be a problem (NACD 2008).

Table 1. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Cambodia, 2006-2011

Drug type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011*
Methamphetamine pills	1	●	●	2*	1	2
Crystalline	2	●	●	1*	2	1
Ecstasy	4	●	●	●	●	6
Cannabis herb	3	●	●	●	4	4
Heroin	2	●	●	●	3	5
Inhalants	5	●	●	●	●	3
Opium	4	●	●	●	●	●

● = Not reported

Sources: DAINAP; *NACD 2010a; **2010 rankings based on DAINAP data and Cambodia country reports; *** NACD 2012b

Table 2. Trend in use of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2006-2011

Drug type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011*
Methamphetamine pills	↑	●	●	●	↑	□
Crystalline	↑	●	●	●	↑	□
Ecstasy	↑	●	●	●	●	□
Cannabis herb	↓	●	●	●	●	□
Heroin	↑	●	●	●	●	□
Inhalants	↓	●	●	●	●	●
Opium	↓	●	●	●	●	●

↑ = Increase, ↓ = Decrease, ↔ = Stable, ● = Not reported

Source: DAINAP; *2010 rankings based on DAINAP data and Cambodia country reports; **NACD 2012b

Injecting drug use - There are no government estimates for the number of injecting drug users (IDUs) in Cambodia. The primary sources of data for injecting drug use are available from NGOs in Phnom Penh which provide services to drug users such as referrals to government-sponsored counseling and testing services. A cross-sectional survey of 528 drug users in 11 rehabilitation centres and in the community in Phnom Penh conducted in 2007 found that 32% (170 drug users) were injecting drug users (NCHADS 2008, p. 9). Of those IDUs, 24.4% (range: 16.4-33.2%) were infected with HIV (NCHADS 2008, p. 32). Almost 36% of IDUs surveyed were reported to have shared needles/syringes during their most recent injecting episode (NCHADS 2008, p. 16). Heroin was the most commonly injected drug among the 170 IDUs (NCHADS 2008, p.33).

Although Cambodia does not have a history of significant injecting drug use, many persons who use drugs, particularly heroin and methamphetamine, are shifting to injection as their primary mode of administration. This rapidly changing pattern of drug use is primarily due to the increasing availability of affordable opiates, particularly heroin (WHO 2009, p. 7). Thus, there is concern that Cambodia could experience a resurgence of HIV infections due to expanding injecting drug use in the country.

1.1.2. Drug Production

The manufacture, trafficking and use of illicit drugs is a significant and worsening problem in Cambodia. There are indicators that increasing numbers of local and international drug criminals are using the country as a manufacturing base and a transit route for ATS and other drugs to international markets (NACD 2011b, p. 3).

The illicit manufacture of ATS in Cambodia was first detected in 2007 and has since increased considerably. During the past few years, law enforcement authorities have dismantled 11 clandestine laboratories for manufacturing ATS and their precursor chemicals. (NACD 2011a, p. 3; NACD 2010c, p.2). At least two methamphetamine production sites were seized in Phnom Penh in 2011. In addition, large quantities of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine were seized during 2010 along with other essential chemicals used in the manufacture of ATS.

¹ Police raid meh lab', Phnom Penh Post, 02 March 2011 and 'Massive drug bust in capital', Phnom Penh Post, 02 May 2011.

1.1.3. Drug Trafficking

Cambodia remains a key transit country for the trafficking of illicit drugs from manufacturing countries to markets in the region. During the past few years, drug criminals have been using Cambodia as a drug packaging location for trafficking to other countries and for distribution to local markets (NACD 2011a, p. 2). A large portion of the methamphetamine and heroin seized in Cambodia is trafficked from manufacturing centres in Myanmar along the Mekong River and road networks in Lao PDR and then into Cambodia through its northeastern borders (NACD 2011b, pp. 3-4).

In 2010, cocaine was smuggled into Cambodia by air and post from a number of countries in South America, West Africa, and South-East Asia. A small amount of the smuggled cocaine was distributed in domestic markets and the remaining quantities were trafficked onwards; primarily to China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea (NACD 2011a, p. 2). In Australia, some of the crystalline methamphetamine was found to have originated in Cambodia in 2010 (INCB 2011, p. 115), and 65kg of substances containing heroin, which were mailed in parcel post from Cambodia was intercepted and two Cambodian-Australian suspects were arrested in Sydney and Melbourne (Cambodian Daily, 18 April 2012).

West African drug trafficking organizations are involved in trafficking drugs, primarily heroin and cocaine, both to and from Cambodia. In addition, criminal organizations from Taiwan Province of China and mainland China are also involved in drug trafficking in Cambodia (NACD 2011c, p. 5).

1.1.4. Drug sources

A large portion of the methamphetamine and heroin seized in Cambodia originate from Myanmar and are trafficked into the country through the northeastern borders of the country by land and river routes. Domestically manufactured methamphetamine also supplies the Cambodian market.

However, the scale of methamphetamine manufacture in Cambodia is unknown, but is likely higher than is indicated by the reported data. Ecstasy is primarily trafficked into the country from Europe via air routes and most of the ecstasy that enters Cambodia is further trafficked to neighbouring countries (NACD 2010c, p. 2). Cocaine continues to be trafficked into Cambodia from South America via countries in West Africa and South-East Asia, primarily by West African drug trafficking organizations (NACD 2010c, p. 2). West Asia is a source for heroin found in Cambodia (NACD 2010c, p. 1).

1.2. Short update on Cambodia's institutional framework

Cambodia signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the three UN Drug Conventions on 7 July 2005. The ratification process was completed in September 2007, when Cambodia acceded to the 1972 Protocol of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

Cambodia's former Law on the Control of Drugs was enacted in 1997, but as the drug situation changed rapidly in Cambodia, lawmakers found that the law was not adequate to tackle the scale of the problem. The law was subsequently amended on two occasions in order to make it comply with the mandatory provisions of the UN Conventions. Those amendments still proved insufficient to address the situation and there remained a number of loopholes in the law which needed to be addressed. In 2 January 2012, new Law on Drug Control was adopted. It introduces new classification of addictive drugs, defines the anti-drug institutions and contains Anti-Money Laundering provisions as well it recognizes the right to voluntary access to drug treatment for drug users and the respect of psych social and health care providers to provide assistance to people who use drugs, in health structures and in the community.

In May 2010, the Government of Cambodia updated the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2008-2013 which outlines the Royal Cambodian Government (RCG)'s drug policy. Under the NSDP, Cambodia is instructed to continue to implement the five priorities of the National Master Plan on Drug Control. Those priorities strategies include: (1) Curbing Demand for Drugs; (2) Curbing Drug Supply; (3) Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Integration; (4) Strengthening Law-enforcing Capacity; and (5) International Cooperation (excerpted from NSDP Update 2009-2013). In this scheme, the National Police has set the objective of "Village-Commune Community Safety" to raise public awareness of drug issues and strengthen to monitor them.

Law enforcement capacity remains limited in Cambodia. Corruption within law enforcement agencies should be addressed with further efforts in the fight against drugs. The RGC has sought to reform and enhance the capacity of law-enforcing institutions. It is working with concerned parties to take a multi-pronged approach to combat the domestic production and distribution of drugs. Cambodia is also seeking to improve the awareness, capacity, commitment, professionalism and accountability of law-enforcing institutions in order to improve implementation of the Law on Drug Control.

With growing understanding that a purely law enforcement approach alone cannot control the production, sale and use of drugs, the Cambodian Government is adopting strategies aimed at reducing demand. The Cambodian Government has conducted a public awareness campaign through the media and prevention activities in schools and started a Community Based Drug treatment. This program with the support of the UN: This important initiative has been successfully piloted in Banteay Meanchey Province: Many drug users do access medical and psychosocial services, and Law enforcement provides an enabling supporting environment allowing to differentiate drug users from drug traffickers. A methadone maintenance program for heroin users has also been piloted by the Ministry of Health with UN technical support and funding from Australia in the Khmer Friendship Hospital in Phnom Penh.

1.3. Update on major bilateral and multilateral programs

Donor assistance has largely focused on individual donors' strengths and priorities, rather than on a strategic or sector-wide approach. This also reflects the different development priorities of the donor partner agencies (law enforcement, health, NGOs) involved in delivering the assistance.

1.3.1. Supply reduction

A UNODC survey demonstrated insufficient knowledge about how to reduce supply at the primary border crossing points. To increase capacity and awareness to prevent drug trafficking at the border, the UNODC has assisted the Royal Cambodian Government to establish 12 Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) along Cambodia's land borders. The BLO programme promotes informal "horizontal communication" between agencies and across borders, as well as providing skills training and some communication and transport equipment under UNODC supported initiative "Partnership against Transnational-crime through Regional Organized Law-enforcement (PATROL)", and is meant to expand as more BLOs are needed to control transnational forms of crime along Laos and Vietnam.

The Australian Government continues its ‘Cambodia Criminal Justice Assistance Programme’ (CCJAP), which was established in 1997 and is aimed at assisting to criminal justice reform. Australia focuses on addressing systemic weaknesses in the CNP, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Courts and Prison administration. The project responds directly to the National Legal and Judicial Reform Strategy and has supported the CNP, MoJ and Prisons Administration to develop strategic and annual plans. RGC Harm reduction policies are disseminated to local police through CNP endorsed training modules as part of the Village and Commune Safety Plan implementation. The Australian Federal Police work to build the capacity of the CNP, including by funding and supporting the Transnational Crime Team, which has had a number of recent successful anti-drug operations.

Japan has completed its Project on Prevention of Drug Abuse and Capacity-building of provincial Police and other relevant Officers which focused on the provision of assistances on law enforcement officers, drug analysis and the enhancement of drug awareness.

The government of the United States of America supports Cambodia on Illicit Trafficking, however more specifically on trafficking of persons and child protection. Some of the work in strengthening systems and training of Law Enforcement personnel have mutual benefit, such as crime scene investigation and evidence management training. Additionally, Bangkok-based Drug Enforcement Agency Officers provide technical assistance through joint operations and narcotics-specific training to the NACD and CADD on an ad-hoc basis.

1.3.2. Demand and Harm Reduction

The UNODC has, in partnership with the NACD, implemented a project to develop community-based drug abuse counseling, treatment and rehabilitation services in Cambodia (CBTx). This joint Royal Government of Cambodia and UN (UNODC/WHO/UNAIDS) program supports the further development and roll-out of community-based drug treatment services for drug users in Cambodia. It aims to help provide the people of Cambodia with a cost effective alternative to the current use of compulsory drug treatment in confined settings. The programme will build on the results and lessons learned from the piloting phase in Banteay Mencheay province as well as the ongoing implementation of the Oral substitution Therapy (Methadone Maintenance therapy). Authorities have been investing in this initiative and are calling External Development Partners to support its extension (Battambang provinces in the North East along the Mekong River).

The Australian Government Overseas Aid Programme (AusAID) supports HAARP (HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program) Cambodia which works exclusively with injecting drug users to reduce HIV/AIDS infections. The HAARP initiative cooperates with a number of NGOs in service delivery as well as improving the enabling environment. HAARP supports the methadone maintenance program mentioned above.

1.4. Place and date of meeting of mini-Dublin group

The Mini Dublin Group meeting took place in the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh on 8th May 2012. The Deputy Secretary Director of the NACD, Major General Meas Vyrith, provided an update on the drug situation in Cambodia. He called the attention of the Mini Dublin Group members to support financially and technically the Drug Control response, notably on the Drug Law and the community Based Treatment initiative. Mr. Olivier Lernet, the Country Manager of the UNODC provided a briefing on the drug situation from the UN perspective, as well as an update on the community based treatment program.

1.5. Progress on recommendations from previous report

Drug Law passed and approved by the RGC, providing a momentum to improve the national drug control response.

Lack of Resource Mobilization from donor Countries on the Community Based Treatment affects progress of the project. This should be addressed as Cambodia is clearly the leading country significantly exploring evidence based to compulsory drug treatment centers and could impact the whole region.

1.6. Mini-Dublin Group Assessment of Needs

1.6.1. Emerging threats/trends

Cambodia is becoming a significant centre for the manufacture and trafficking of methamphetamine. Significant quantities of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine are being trafficked into Cambodia, primarily through neighbouring Thailand. A large proportion of the pharmaceutical precursors found in both countries over the past couple of years originated from Republic of Korea.

Cambodia remains a key transit country for ATS and heroin and is being increasingly targeted by international drug trafficking organizations.

There is some likelihood that a spill over effect on Cambodia will continue to take place:

- originated by greater amounts of heroin and ATS produced and trafficked from Myanmar
- Increased by the latest anti-drugs campaign in neighboring Thailand, launched in September 2011, may lead drug traffickers to smuggle greater amounts of ATS

In recent years, crystalline methamphetamine use has become increasingly widespread and is becoming the top drug of concern in Cambodia: The need to provide evidence based forms of ATS treatment is of paramount importance to counter the effects on communities and overall economical progress of the Nation.

1.6.2. Political Initiatives

There appears to be strong political will to tackle drug trafficking and production with multiple approaches in controls of production, supply and demand. The RGC has focused on drug education to the public to raise their awareness and understanding and capacity building of law enforcement officers. In the legal aspect, the RGC introduced the new Law on Drug Control and policy of the “Village-Commune Community Safety” in the scheme of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). Also, there is a new challenge to treat and educate the drug users by the Community Based Treatment with the support of UNODC. Subsequently, these efforts leads to remarkable increasing of detection of drugs and arrests concerned with drug crimes.

However, the RGC seems to still have some difficulties in full implementation of their anti-drug policy by the lack of funding, equipment and human resources.

1.7. Recommendations for Strengthening Counter-Narcotics Effort

- The Cambodian Government, with support from technically relevant partners should develop of procedures and instruments to implement the new drug law. Awareness campaign about the new drug law for all stakeholders, including law enforcement, prosecutors, judiciary, and general public should be conducted as well as the developpement of Sub decrees as per the articles and principles of the Law.

- Strengthened border control and provision of increased capacity building for officials working at the land border, including in Border Liaison Offices. Technical skills for law enforcement personnel, including with respect to the drug law, investigation, collection/handling of evidence, forensics should be strengthened.
- Continue to expand support for community based treatment initiatives with support from EDPs to meet the exceptional commitment and leadership of the Royal government of Cambodia.

2. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

2.1. General situation in China

2.1.1. Production

As in previous reports², China remains one of the main global producers of precursor chemicals. There continues to be a growing chemical manufacturing industry throughout China and organized crime has continued to take advantage of this situation to divert legitimately manufactured chemicals or manufacture illicit chemicals. There is a high demand for precursors for use in drug manufacturing in China, which includes the diversion of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. The challenge still remains in China to prevent such chemicals being diverted domestically and internationally for illicit drug production.

Illicit manufacture of crystal methamphetamine and ketamine was found in a number of provinces in China. In 2011, 529 drug manufacturing cases were cracked (increased by 20% from 2010), and 357 clandestine drug laboratories were dismantled (decreased by 6% from 2010) by Chinese law enforcement authorities.³

2.1.2. Trafficking

The Golden Triangle remains a major drug source to China. In the past two years there has been an increase in the amount of opium production in the north of Myanmar. In 2011, the poppy cultivation in the north of Myanmar increased by 10.7% to 31,700 hectares from 2010.⁴

² Mini Dublin Group Country Report 2011

³ NNCC Annual Report 2011 (in Chinese) page 50

⁴ Ibid page 49, NNCC Presentation to Mini-Dublin May 2012

According to the National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), amount of manufacture of methamphetamine tablets also increased.

The Golden Crescent continues to be the world's largest source of opium production. Opium cultivation had decreased from approximately 157,000 hectares in 2008 to 123,000 hectares in 2010, but it rebounded to 131,000 hectares in 2011, with opium production of more than 5,800 tons (increased by 61% from 2010). Heroin from the Golden Crescent was mainly trafficked into China by air, land and mail routes. 10 cases cracked in Xinjiang Autonomous Region in 2011, with 610.9 kg heroin from Golden Crescent, especially from Afghanistan seized.⁵

The NNCC has reported that China continues to remain largely a trafficking route for cocaine, in recent years Guangdong province became the major transit and consumption place of cocaine.⁶

2.1.3. Demand

The demand for drugs, especially among the youth, remains high. The Government's Drug Control Strategy is broadcasted in various forms of media, including television and newspapers to ensure a wider distribution to its audience. Many drug prevention booklets and texts are published and distributed.

The NNCC monitors and records drug users and in 2011 identified 235,000 new registered users and over 171,000 drug dependants under compulsory drug detoxification treatment and over 97,000 people involved in community-based treatment and rehabilitation.⁷

Analysis of drug abuse across China in 2011 is as follows;

Heroin – 1,156,159 users – 64.5%

Methamphetamine – 417,210 users – 23.3%

Ketamine – 135,500 users – 7.6%

Opium – 25,474 users – 1.4%

Cannabis – 20,415 users – 1.1%

Others – 17,437 users – 1.0%

⁵ Ibid page 49, 50, NNCC Presentation to Mini-Dublin May 2012

⁶ NNCC Presentation to Mini-Dublin may 2012

⁷ Ibid page 20

2.1.4. *Statistics*

NNCC published the following statistics in relation to drug control in China:

-Seizures (2011)⁸

Precursor chemicals – 1834.78 tons

Heroin – 7.08 tons

Opium – 823 kg

Methamphetamine, and tablets – 14.32 tons

Ecstasy – 73.19 kg

Ketamine – 5.38 tons

Cannabis – 2.6 tons

Cocaine – 49.59 kg

-Other statistics (2010)⁹

Drug criminal cases recorded – 101,700

Drug suspects arrested – 112,406

2.2. Short update on China's anti-drugs strategy

2.2.1. Changes/additions to the Counter Narcotics institutional framework

NNCC is the leading agency of narcotic control in China. The Commissioner is comprised of representatives from a range of key government ministries bringing a broad response to the issue of drug control. National coordination of drug control activities is the responsibility of the NNCC. Narcotic enforcement is undertaken by the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) on behalf of the NNCC through the MPS Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). NCB also operate at provincial level. China Customs and the Anti Smuggling Bureau also enforce narcotics control.

⁸ Ibid page 25, 32, NNCC Presentation to Mini-Dublin May 2012

⁹ Ibid page 25

2.2.2. *Legal/legislative changes.*

China's narcotic legislation is based on the Criminal Law of China 1997. The major legislative changes in 2011 were:

- The Regulation on the Drug Treatment that established multi-pronged drug rehabilitation system came into force on 26 June 2011¹⁰; and
- In 2011, China signed the MOU with Australia to exchange information on precursor chemicals.¹¹

2.2.3. *Assessment of the Government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drugs policy.*

The overall drug problem China faces with manufacture, trafficking and drug use continues to be major concern for the Chinese Government. The government continues to tackle the issues of drug prevention and education, drug treatment and rehabilitation. China's resolve to tackle the issue of drugs can be seen in the following actions:

- Held narcotic control conferences at provincial and municipal level during the year;
- Increased and continued public education campaigns;
- Signed the MOU with Australia to exchange information on precursor chemicals; and
- Signed Letter of Intent for strengthening the anti-narcotics cooperation between the narcotics control bureau of the MPS of China and anti-narcotics force, the Ministry of the Narcotics Control of Pakistan on 15 July 2011.¹²

2.3. **Update on major bilateral and multilateral Counter Narcotic programs.**

China continues to work with international partners: The major bilateral and multilateral programs conducted were:

- NNCC provided 14 training seminars and workshops for 270 drug enforcement officials from Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Pakistan and Afghanistan; and
- NNCC hosted 1st training seminar for drug enforcement officials of Shanghai Cooperative Organization (SCO) countries.¹³

¹⁰ Ibid page 8

¹¹ NNCC Presentation to Mini-Dublin May 2012

¹² NNCC Presentation to Mini-Dublin May 2012

¹³ Ibid page 38

2.4. Place and date of meetings of mini Dublin Groups

4 May 2012 – Held at the Embassy of Japan.

2.5. Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance

NNCC views to continue to strengthen bilateral co-operation with foreign law enforcement agencies. They have expressed a need for:

- Increased intelligence training and exchange;
- Development of MOU in the area of precursor chemicals.

2.6. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs

2.6.1. Emerging threats/trends

The Mini Dublin group identified the following emerging threats and trends:

- Precursor chemicals originating from China is a major issue for all countries;
- The seizure of synthetic drugs from Golden Triangle dramatically surged over last two years;
- Heroin from Golden Crescent were mainly trafficked into China by air and postal service;
- Guangdong province became the major transit and consumption place of cocaine;
- The rapid growth of heroin abuse in China effectively contained;
- The spreading of synthetic drugs within China arouse major concern;
- Illegal trafficking and abuse of controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances remain austere.

2.6.2. Political initiatives

The Mini Dublin group assessed that the political initiatives currently put in place by the Chinese Government are appropriate and support the needs of the country.

2.6.3. Recommendations

No recommendations were put forward by the Mini Dublin Group.

3. LAO PDR

3.1. General Situation

The Lao PDR is at a cross roads and faces serious challenges. Of these, the most critical is the challenge of good governance. The 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2011-15(NSEDP) and the MDGs will only be achieved if state financial resources are properly managed, basic social services are delivered, the law enforced and citizen's rights protected by law, and when decisions are made with transparency and accountability. ¹⁴

Another critical challenge is the threat from **illicit drugs**. The Lao PDR is located at the hub of the Greater Mekong Sub Region and shares over 5000 kilometres of porous land borders with the other five countries of the GMS. The geopolitical instability in Myanmar and the efforts of both insurgency groups and pro government militia to arm themselves from the profits from illicit trade has seen an increase in transit trafficking of illicit drugs from Myanmar across the Lao PDR to another third country. The past years has seen **consecutive increases in illicit opium production as well as an unprecedented increase in seizures of illicit drugs**. There has been an eighteen fold increase in seizures of ATS and a threefold increase in heroin and cannabis seizures from 2008 to 2010 which indicates significant increases in the flow of illicit drugs through the country. **The Government of the Lao PDR must address the transnational threats from illicit drugs if it is to achieve its development priorities.**

Drug Seizure trends 2008-2011

Year	Heroin (Kg)	Opium (Kg)	ATS (tablets, millions)	Cannabis (Kg)	Cocaine (Kg)	Arrested foreigners	Arrest cases
2008	17.5	11.8	1.23	804.6	2	6	222
2009	29.3	49.9	2.33	975.9	0.1	20	473
2010	84.3	86.5	24.5	3,521	0	16	581
2011	43.4	63.9	4.6	1,617	0	77	1,037

77 arrested foreigners in 2011 include 14 Chinese, 7 Myanmar, 33 Thais, 21 Vietnamese, 1 French and 1 American.

¹⁴ Extract from the common country assessment on the Lao PDR

The concern regarding security and the impact on social economic development along the Mekong river in the Golden Triangle border areas where Thailand, Myanmar and Laos meet after pirate attacks on shipping in late 2011 **killed 13 Chinese crew members** have been somewhat alleviated with the recent arrest of a major drug kingpin Sai Naw Kham by Laotian authorities in May 2012 and subsequent deportation to China on the 9 May.

The rapid spread of Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) and synthetic drugs, especially amongst Lao youth, remained a core concern and the most pressing drug problem. While there were no indications of the establishment of ‘mega-labs’ for methamphetamine production in Laos, like those found elsewhere in the region, infrastructure development, the rapid expansion of road networks throughout the country, has continued to open up new routes not only for trade and marketing but also for transnational narcotics traffickers.

According to the Opium Survey 2011, released in December 2011, Laos has seen a continued increase in poppy cultivation from 2010 (3,000 ha) to 2011 (4,100 ha). Laos also saw a significant increase in the number of arrests of foreign nationals in 2011. A total of 77 foreign nationals were arrested for drug offences, compared to only 6 in 2008.

The close linkage between drugs and crime was highlighted in March 2012, when a senior Government official told the UNODC Representative that 80 % of all the reported criminal cases are related to narcotic drugs. There is more readiness to acknowledge the links between illicit drugs trafficking and other transnational organized crimes such as human trafficking and money laundering. Significant developments over the past six months include the endorsement in principle of a draft Illicit Drug Law Enforcement Strategy. This will be an important step in translating the Master Plan into practical action.

The mutual evaluation by the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) in July 2011 found the Lao PDR non-compliant or partially compliant to the majority of the 40+9 recommendations on legal and regulatory frameworks on money laundering and financing of terrorism set by the OECD’s Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The Lao PDR has been recommended for enhanced follow up. The Lao PDR could be reviewed by the International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) and if found deficient would entail measures to be put in place that could affect banking operations and financial transactions.

The APG report estimates the annual proceeds from illicit drug trafficking in the Lao PDR to be **over US\$ 750 million**. The availability of these vast sums of money greatly heightens the vulnerability of the country to significant increases in crime, corruption and money laundering. The concern is being expressed that corruption in the country will shift from being just sporadic to being more systemic and institutionalized. This would seriously undermine stability and growth.

3.2. Changes to the institutional counter-narcotics framework

The Government of Laos' **National Drug Control Master plan for 2009-2013 (NDCM)** forms the basis of the national counter-narcotics framework. The Master plan was formally adopted in March 2009. The National Drug Control Master Plan addresses the recent rise and proliferation of illicit drug production, trafficking, abuse as well as related criminal activity in the Lao PDR. The Master Plan responds to the heightened risks this activity poses to the country's social order and national stability through a comprehensive strategy.

The Master plan is administered by the Lao national Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) and was prepared with extensive assistance from the UNODC. It is the first comprehensive National Master plan and proposes a nine pillared approach, including strategies for: trend analysis and risk assessment; alternative development and poverty reduction; drug demand reduction and HIV prevention; civic awareness and community mobilization; law enforcement; criminal justice and rule of law; chemical precursor control and forensic capacity; international cooperation; and, institutional capacity building. The Government of Laos estimates that implementation of the Master plan will have a total cost of USD72 million, for which it is currently seeking donor assistance. A significant development was the Government of Laos' decision to incorporate the Master plan into the current 7th five year National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2011-2015(The 7th NSEDP) which was approved by the National assembly in June 2011. This is an important step towards implementing the Master plan and sustaining political will.

A national **Drug Control Steering Committee** was established in 2009 and headed by the Prime Minister, with the Chairman of the LCDC and Minister for Public Security as deputies. This Steering Committee together with the LCDC are the key policy coordination mechanism for the Lao Government. The counter-narcotics framework is also underpinned by the 2007 national Law on Drugs and March 2009 Prime Minister's Decree on Guidelines for Implementing the Law on Drugs (Decree 076).

Another significant development to the institutional framework was the establishment of the Sub-working Group on Crime and the Sub working group on Drugs under the Mini Dublin and Illicit Drugs Sector Working Group (IDSWG). The Sub-working Group on Crime is a technical-level group aimed at strengthening coordination and cooperation on tackling transnational crime and includes participation from core Lao government agencies, judicial and law enforcement authorities, and Mini Dublin Group members. The Sub-working Group on Drugs was also established to coordinate drug related issues and food security and poverty reduction efforts related to the resurgence of opium poppy cultivation, as well as the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of opium abuse and the increasing numbers of youth abusing ATS (amphetamine type stimulants).

At the 20th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in April 2012, the leaders of the 10-member countries adopted a declaration aiming at wiping out illicit drug production, processing, trafficking and use in the ASEAN region by 2015. To realize a drug-free ASEAN Community, ASEAN leaders said they would intensify concerted efforts to realize the vision and goal of a drug-free ASEAN Community by 2015, and as a high-priority agenda of ASEAN, to speed up the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use 2009-2015 and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015) on drug-free ASEAN by 2015. Cooperation and coordination measures will be further expanded with ASEAN's dialogue partners and external parties to eradicate illicit drugs in the region.

The Lao PDR is preparing to host the ninth Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM-9) in Vientiane in November 2012. A movement has been established composed of many concerned committees in Vientiane and in the Provinces throughout the country to address social evils such as drug trafficking and abuse at the same time to guarantee the security of the many Heads of Governments and States attending the ASEM-9. This mechanism is being utilized to crack down on drug trafficking.

3.3. Update on bilateral and multilateral counter-narcotics programmes

The UNODC takes the lead on counter-narcotics programmes in Laos, in cooperation with a number of donor partners from the international community. Activities in the first half of 2012, included:

- The **LAO K44** Increasing food security, promoting licit crop production and small farmer enterprise for a total approved budget of Euro 2,200,000 (US\$ 2.9 million) is a joint project between UNODC and the European Union as well as the Government of the Lao PDR being implemented in Sam Tai District of Houaphan Province over a three year period.
- The umbrella project **LAOK48** “Support the Implementation of the Comprehensive National Drug Control Master Plan” with a total budget of US\$ 1.8 million with an approved budget US\$ 265,000 funded by the US Government. The project is critical in strengthening the Government of the Lao PDR’s efforts to sustainably address opium elimination and drug abuse. However the project faces a serious funding shortfall of US\$ 1,535,000.
- The **LAO K46** Phongsaly Alternative Livelihood and Food Security Project with a total approved budget of US\$ 1,200,000 funded by the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg is being implemented in the districts of Meuang Khoua, Mai and Samphan over a period of two years.
- The **LAO XSPK 26** “Increasing Food Security and Promoting Licit Crop Production and Small Farmer Enterprise Development in Lao PDR and Myanmar” funded by Germany contributing a total of euro 2.3 million. In the Lao PDR, project activities are being implemented in 3 districts of Oudomxay Province. The project is being implemented in partnership with the prestigious Royal Project Foundation and the Highland Research and Development Institute of Thailand. The project is able to demonstrate concrete successes in the use of advanced technology to reduce poverty and enhance food security.
- The Australian Government continued its support for the HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Programme (**HAARP**), HAARP Lao PDR has been designed to develop and support a multi-sectoral response to preventing HIV among injecting drug users. The national HIV policy and the Drug Control Master Plan will provide a conceptual framework and strategies for activities supported by HAARP. Indicative funding for HAARP in Lao PDR is approximately AUD 4 million over 6 years (2009-2014) based on a funding agreement with the UNODC. A major breakthrough after a high level visit late last year to Vietnam through saw the approval by the Government of the Lao PDR to pilot harm reduction service delivery in four districts of two provinces in the Lao PDR and the participation of active drug users in project formulation and development processes.
- The US Government has provided assistance mainly through INL in the US Embassy in Vientiane. The US Government continues to provide assistance to drug control and treatment of drug users. It aims to extend assistance to law enforcement and in strengthening customs, the judiciary and prosecutors office.

3.4. Identification of needs for external assistance

Responses to narcotic challenges are largely focused on alternative livelihood development programmes. To address the resurgence of opium poppy alternative development remains a necessary and priority focus for the Government of the Lao PDR. There is an urgent need to expand and upscale alternative development, food security and poverty reduction assistance.

There is considerable scope for the Government of Laos to engage the international community further on law enforcement and legal reform, police cooperation and intelligence sharing and border control, as local capacity in these areas is limited.

Besides China and Vietnam, the Government of Laos has yet to demonstrate willingness to engage substantially with regional and international police agencies and prosecution authorities, even though such assistance could play a valuable role in strengthening border control, information sharing and law enforcement. There is a crucial need to strengthen the Lao PDR's responses to anti money laundering and anti corruption.

3.5. Implementation of Previous recommendations/Conclusions

Recommendation 1: Highlight to the international community the growing narcotics challenges faced in Lao PDR and Recommendation 2: Seek to expand donor assistance to the Lao National Drug Control Master Plan 2009-2013 and to the Sub-regional Action plan.

The Government of Laos and UNODC continue the efforts to seek financial support for the NDCM from the international community. The LAO XSPK 26 "Increasing Food Security and Promoting Licit Crop Production and Small Farmer Enterprise Development in Lao PDR and Myanmar" funded by German contributing a total of euro 2.3 million was signed on the 6 March 2012. The alternative development programme continued to be developed with priority alternative development and sustainable livelihoods ensuring food security and reducing poverty projects identified for:

- Phon Xay District in Luangprabang Province,
- Nonghet District in Xiengkhuang Province,
- Ngot Ou District in Phongsaly Province and
- Viengtong District in Houaphan Province as well as
- Xaisomboun/Hom districts in Vientiane Province requiring US\$ 3 million each year over the next five years

Recommendation 3: Seek to take a more comprehensive and better coordinated approach to anti-narcotics activities, inter alia by including anti-narcotics strategies and messages in development projects in at-risk areas, even where those projects are not primarily focused on narcotics outcomes.

The Government of the Lao PDR has approved in principle the “National Drug Law Enforcement Strategy” and has underlined its support for more coordinated and integrated strategies in addressing the drug problem.

Recommendation 4: Continue to extend collaboration between the Lao Government and international partners, including through information sharing by law enforcement authorities.

While cooperation with China and Vietnam remains strong, more efforts are needed in this regards and enhancing international police cooperation remains a priority recommendation.

Recommendation 5: Recognize the growing linkages between traditional drug control issues and other forms of organized crime, and take a comprehensive approach that goes beyond law enforcement and criminal justice responses.

Further legal reform and the strengthening of legal process remain key priorities. Ongoing coordination and cooperation amongst Mini-Dublin Working Group members can continue to play a valuable role in this process, particularly through assisting the Lao Government in strengthening the rule of law, international police cooperation, judicial process and border control. The Lao PDR has been active in the UNCAC (Convention against Corruption) implementation review. It completed the review of Croatia. It is currently under review by Luxembourg and Mongolia. The Lao PDR has agreed to participate in the UNODC programme, “East and Southeast Asia partnership on Criminal Justice Response to Terrorism”. The National Assembly decided to develop law on human trafficking and law on international cooperation in criminal matters, and amend the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Law in the next five years. Within 2012 NA plans to enact laws on extradition and mutual legal assistance.

Support is also sought for:

Project ENACT-Enhancing National Anti Corruption Technical Capacity and Project CLEAR-Combating Money Laundering and enhancing anti financing of terrorism responses among others.

3.6. Mini Dublin Group coordination

As Chair of the Mini-Dublin Group for 2011, Australia hosted of the Mini Dublin meeting on the 4 of November 2011, in Vientiane. The Mini Dublin Group with support of UNODC and LCDC organized a field visit to Oudomxay, Phongsaly and Dien Bien Phu from the 3 to 6 December 2011, to assess the firsthand the drug situation and devastation caused by drugs to communities on both sides of the border along a major drug trafficking route from Laos to Vietnam. The Vietnamese authorities in Dien Bien Phu reported that there were some 5000 IDU in 2008 with a HIV prevalence rate of 45% that has increased to over 6000 IDUs in 2011 with a HIV prevalence of 70%.

Japan took over the Chair of the Mini Dublin Group in 2012 and hosted the Mini Dublin meeting in 3 May 2012 in Vientiane. During the meeting The Chair of LCDC H.E. Mr. Soubanh Srithirath reported on the current drug situation and the UNODC Representative Mr. Leik Boonwaat reported on the transnational nature of the drug problem in the Lao PDR.

3.6.1. Assessment of emerging threats and trends

The rapid increase in methamphetamine addiction and trafficking, poses a significant threat, particularly to the youth of Laos. Whilst methamphetamine abuse has to date been concentrated mainly in urban areas, it is equally important to monitor its spread into rural populations, especially those formerly prone to opium addiction, particularly as new trafficking routes open up across the country.

The increasingly transnational nature of the illicit drugs trade in Laos, its integration into broader emerging transnational organized crime networks and the emergence and consolidation of major trafficking routes in Laos continue to represent further significant threats. Regional tensions, particularly use of narcotics trafficking to fund insurgency in Burma and Southern Thailand, could also have serious destabilizing effects on efforts to counter illicit drugs in Laos. The significant spread of heroin and the use of Laos a ‘transit country’ for these trafficking routes also presents significant challenges.

The fact that only 670 new cases of HIV was identified in the Lao PDR during 2011 but an alarming over 5000 new cases of HIV were identified in the first quarter of 2012, including injecting drug users greatly emphasizes the need to expand and not curtail HIV prevention activities in the country.

3.6.2. Assessment of political will

The Government of Laos has continued to improve its political will to address counter narcotics challenges, particularly through the establishment of the high-level Prime Minister's Steering Committee, recognizing the need to incorporate the National Drug Control Master plan into the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and reconfirmation regarding the structure and role of the sub working group on illicit drugs. Political will to engage the international community on improving the capacity of law enforcement agencies and international police cooperation and information exchange, remains weak and could be strengthened considerably.

3.6.3. Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Continue to *highlight to the international community the growing narcotics challenges faced in Lao PDR.*

Recommendation 2: *Actively seek to expand donor assistance to the Lao National Drug Control Master Plan 2009-2013.*

Recommendation 3: *Seek to take a more comprehensive and better coordinated approach to anti-narcotics activities, inter alia by including anti-narcotics strategies and messages in development projects in at-risk areas, even where those projects are not primarily focused on narcotics outcomes.*

Recommendation 4: *Recognise the growing linkages between traditional drug control issues and other forms of organised crime, and take a comprehensive approach that goes beyond law enforcement and criminal justice responses.*

Acronyms

LCDC: Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision

NDCM: National Drug Control Master Plan

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

IDU: Injecting Drug Users

4. MYANMAR

4.1. General Situation

In the 1980s, Myanmar was the world's largest producer of illicit opium, and opium production continued to increase until its peak in 1993¹⁵. In 1999 the Government of Myanmar and local authorities engaged in a 15-year plan to eliminate opium poppy cultivation by 2014. A measurable decline in domestic opium cultivation and potential production began. This decline in cultivation was aided also by the imposition by local authorities of an opium ban in the Wa Region in June 2005, and in the Kokang Special Region in 2003.

After reaching a minimum level in 2006, opium cultivation began to gradually increase again in 2007. According to the UNODC Opium Poppy Survey report¹⁶ on Myanmar, there was an estimated year-on-year increase in the area under poppy cultivation of 20%, from 31,700 ha in 2009 to 38,100 ha in 2010. This was accompanied by an estimated year-on-year increase in potential opium yield of 46% over the same period. Geographically, opium poppy cultivation still appears to be confined largely to the highland areas of Shan State, with much smaller areas of cultivation reported in other states such as Kachin, Kayah and Chin.

Countries in East and South East Asia have seen an increase in the manufacturing, trafficking and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). A large volume of these ATS are produced in the eastern border areas of Myanmar. The most common is methamphetamine. This illicit production of methamphetamine is aided significantly by the use of precursor chemicals which are trafficked into eastern Myanmar from India and China. Recently there has been a shift in the production practices for methamphetamine from sourcing raw precursor chemicals in bulk to sourcing these chemicals from processed, licit pharmaceutical preparations. Since 2009 there has been an annual increase in the seizure of licit pharmaceutical preparations, such as cold and flu medications containing ephedrine or pseudo-ephedrine, being trafficked into Myanmar to be used in the production of methamphetamine and other ATS.

¹⁵ According to the World Drug Report 2006 (page 57), total area of cultivation in 1993 was 165,800 ha and 1996 was 163,000 ha. Production was estimated at 1791 mt for 1993 and 1760 mt for 1996. Thus 1993 was the highest for both cultivation and production in the past 20 years.

¹⁶ UNODC (2010) South-East Asia Opium Survey 2010: Lao PDR, Myanmar

This shift reflects a broader global trend, however, and is not unique to Myanmar. A significant portion of these ATS pills produced in the eastern border regions of Shan State subsequently are trafficked via various routes directly to Thailand, China and Lao PDR. There is evidence also of new transnational trafficking routes for this ATS along Myanmar's western border with Bangladesh and India.

In 2010, there was a significant decline in seizures of ATS pills when compared with those which were recorded for 2009. In 2010 Myanmar recorded 2.2 million pills seized, which is a significant contrast to the 23.8 million recorded as seized in 2009, but closer to 2008 and 2007 figures which were 1.1 million and 1.6 million respectively. This year-on-year decline in volume of domestically-seized ATS pills does not indicate necessarily that methamphetamine manufacture is on the decline. It is important to note, for example, that in 2010 Myanmar's neighbouring countries of China, Lao PDR and Thailand all reported significant increases in domestic seizures of methamphetamine originating from Myanmar.

With respect to crystalline methamphetamine, large shipments of this ATS destined for international markets were seized in Myanmar in 2009 and 2010. There have been no officially-reported seizures of crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing facilities in Myanmar; however, most of the crystalline methamphetamine that has been seized in northern Thailand in the past two years is alleged to have originated from the eastern border areas of Myanmar.

In Myanmar heroin and opium are the primary drugs of use. This opiate use has decreased over the past six years, a reduction which coincides with a reported increase in the use of methamphetamine pills. As a result ATS is now ranked the third most commonly used drug in the country. Of concern in relation to this reported increase in ATS use is the fact that, like other countries in this region, drug treatment facilities in Myanmar are vastly under-resourced, and possess no treatment facilities specifically designed to treat ATS dependency.

As noted above most domestic opium cultivation, and heroin and ATS production, occurs in Shan State and, in particular, in the eastern areas along the border with China. These border areas, most of which are controlled by various armed ethnic groups, remain affected regularly by sporadic armed conflict between state and non-state actors, as well as between competing non-state groups.

The continuing situation of human insecurity that is evident in many areas of Shan State – but specifically along the eastern border – is leading to increases in opium poppy cultivation, ATS production, and illicit drug trafficking. This is in turn leading to further deterioration in the human security environment of these areas. Therefore unless the factors which are underlying this insecurity are addressed and resolved, Myanmar authorities will find it difficult, if not impossible, to achieve their stated goal of eliminating illicit drug production by 2014.

4.2. Update on Myanmar's anti-drug strategy

4.2.1. Changes/additions to the counter-narcotic institutional framework

There have been no significant changes to Myanmar's counter-narcotic institutional framework over the last year.

4.2.2. Legal/Legislative changes including money laundering

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) is preparing a revision of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law of 1993. This law stipulates that an illicit drug user who fails to register at a medical centre recognised by the government or who fails to abide by the directives issued by the Ministry of Health for medical treatment shall be punished with imprisonment of 3 to 5 years, and it is proposed that it be revised to impose a less severe punishment in recognition that drug dependent individuals should be treated as patients rather than criminals.

4.2.3. Assessment of Myanmar's anti-narcotics strategy

The Myanmar Government is implementing a 15-year drug control plan (1999-2014) aimed at a drug-free country by 2014. The drug control plan will be implemented in three phases. In the early stage, the main priorities were given to the eradication of opium poppy cultivation; and, in the remaining phases, the Government set priorities on: the elimination of drug illicit drug user; the establishment of a special anti-narcotic task force; local participation in the implementation of the drug control process; and, cooperation with international organisations. The drug control plan addresses 51 townships covering 55,112 square miles and a population of approximately 3.8 million inhabitants. During the past 10 years Myanmar authorities have achieved a significant decrease in opium cultivation in the first and second phases of the programme. More recently, however, cultivation has begun to increase again.

The Central Committee of Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) under the Ministry of Home Affairs is the leading counter-narcotics agency. The CCDAC consists of a number of thematic work committees (crop substitution; livestock breeding; medical treatment; rehabilitation; youth education; law enforcement; administration of seized narcotic drugs; international relations; control of precursor chemicals; effective settlement of narcotic drug cases, and others) and operates 26 Anti-Narcotic Units across the country. CCDAC coordinates law-enforcement activities of the Myanmar Police Force, the Customs Department and other relevant authorities, and alternative development activities in cooperation with the Ministry of Border Affairs.

According to data reported by CCDAC, seizure of illicit narcotics and precursor chemicals decreased in general in 2010 after experiencing a significant increase in 2009. In 2010, the Myanmar Government reported that it had seized 86 kg heroin; 922 kg of opium (include both high-grade and low-grade); 35 kg of opium oil; 23 vials of morphine; 2.2 million methamphetamine pills; 226 kg of crystalline methamphetamine (also called 'ice'); 206 kg of cannabis; 34 kg of ephedrine (which is an ATS precursor chemical); and, 4.3 million cold/flu medicine tablets containing pseudoephedrine (which is an ATS precursor chemical). In addition, the CCDAC has reported that 8,268 ha of opium poppy field was eradicated, and 3,465 persons were arrested for illicit narcotic-related offences in 2010.

In 2011 data provided for the period to the end of August, CCDAC has reported seizures of 40.46 kg of heroin; 744.8 kg of opium (high-grade only); 1.15 kg of morphine; 2.6 million methamphetamine pills; 5.4 kg of crystalline methamphetamine; 139.34 kg of cannabis; 88.53 kg of ephedrine; 5.7 million, and 76 kg, of cold/flu tablets containing pseudoephedrine.

Being a party to a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements on counter-narcotics cooperation in the region, Myanmar cooperates with other countries in information sharing and other activities for the elimination of drugs; however, as the State budget for counter-narcotic activities is limited, international cooperation for the training of Myanmar officials and alternative development is crucial to achieve progress in combating illicit narcotics production.

4.3. Update on major bilateral and multilateral counter narcotics programmes

See Annex, 'Current and Previous Anti-Narcotics Programmes in Myanmar'.

UNODC

The UNODC mandate is to assist Member States to address the salient threats posed by drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. UNODC addresses rule of law problems by working in the following areas: trafficking, governance and criminal justice. UNODC tackles health and development challenges through its Drug Demand Reduction, HIV-AIDS and sustainable livelihood work.

The present interventions in Myanmar are based on the existing framework of the UNODC Regional Programme (2009-2012). The Regional Programme provides specific guidelines to assess progress made by Member States to address the salient threats posed by organised crimes as well as the effectiveness of UNODC's contribution in the Region.

The Regional Programme has been conceptualised based on both the UNODC Strategy (2008-2011) and consultations with Member States as to their priority needs. The Regional Programme initially covers four years, from 2009 to 2012. However, it is anticipated that most of its outcomes and outputs will remain relevant over a much longer timeframe. Ongoing relevance will be reviewed annually and the Regional Programme will be revised as required.

Drug Demand Reduction, HIV/AIDS prevention and care: UNODC has supported the development and implementation of community-based drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention and care (as related to injecting drug users) programming since 1994. Currently, UNODC is working in 12 townships out of the HIV National Strategic Plan's 29 priority townships in need of HIV interventions. In addition, UNODC provides HIV and AIDS awareness training to law enforcement personnel. UNODC's HIV programming is implemented with support from the Three Diseases Fund and the Australian government. Currently, HIV programme activities are implemented in Kachin State, Shan State, Mandalay Division and Yangon Division. UNODC-supported programming is delivered through drop-in and outreach modalities and targets 16,000 injecting and non-injecting drug users.

Alternative development and sustainable livelihood: Building on 30 years of work in the Greater Mekong Region, UNODC delivers alternative livelihood programming to populations in remote areas of the Northeast. Through a 10 year long project implemented in the Wa Special Region 2, UNODC provided assistance to ex-opium poppy farmers, thereby enabling them to transform their agricultural livelihood following an opium ban imposed by Wa authorities.

Currently UNODC is supporting farming communities in Hopong, Loilen, and Pinlon townships in southern Shan State to alter farming practices that will see more of their time and investments spent in increasing diverse food crop production and the ending of opium poppy cultivation. UNODC is targeting an estimated population of about 70,000 opium farmers and relatives living in 228 villages of these townships. The projects are funded by the European Commission, Japan, and Germany.

Research and Survey: UNODC has been carrying out the Myanmar Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (ICMP) in cooperation with the Government since 2003. This programme produces annual opium surveys which provide verifiable estimates on the extent and trends of opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar to national authorities, regional and sub-regional bodies as well as the United Nations and the international community. The survey contributes to establish a comprehensive crop monitoring system in Myanmar. It builds on the experience acquired in previous years and further strengthens the capacity of the government to maintain such a system. This annual survey is supported by Japan. The 2010 Opium Poppy Survey report was released in December 2010. The 2011 Opium Poppy Survey fieldwork was completed in March 2011 and the 2011 report will be issued in November 2011.

UNODC Global SMART Programme

The UNODC Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme was launched in September 2008. The overarching objective of the programme is to support Member States to make effective evidence-based decisions for designing responses to counter the problem of illicit synthetic drugs. The programme supports this through three primary steps:

- Information is *generated* and *managed* by relevant agencies;
- Information is *analysed* and *reported* through various reports/fora;
- Information is increasingly *used* for the development of policy and strategic interventions.

The Global SMART Programme is being implemented in a gradual, phased manner. East and South East Asia is the first priority region in which the Global SMART Programme is being implemented with Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam as the beneficiary countries.

Myanmar has been one of the priority countries for SMART in this region, and in this country the programme has focused on:

- a) Increasing the information base on and analysis of the ATS situation in the country;
- b) Identifying existing formal/informal data-sharing mechanisms on ATS;
- c) Facilitating discussions on ATS data generation and data sharing between law enforcement, health and treatment agencies;
- d) Facilitating discussions on ATS data sharing between Government agencies and NGOs/INGOs;
- e) Initiating a process to establish a mechanism for information-sharing on ATS health and treatment aspects in the country.

In 2010 the SMART programme also established a mechanism for collecting baseline data on drug use (with a focus on ATS) from drug treatment and drug user-focussed drop-in centres. Information collection began in the first quarter of 2011. The information will be consolidated and shared in a UNODC regional report. The current phase of the Global SMART Programme is being supported by Australia, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Thailand.

Other relevant UNODC programmes include:

UNODC Computer-based Training (CBT) Programme

Since 2000, UNODC has been providing Member States with technical assistance to address a range of issues related to transnational organized crime through computer-based training (CBT). The existing UNODC CBT curriculum contains 78 modules and is available in 18 languages. It is currently being delivered via 300 Centres in 52 countries. More than 100 of these Centres are in South East Asia and the Pacific. The CBT Unit coordinates and implements operations from the Regional Centre in Bangkok.

Details of the CBT implementation in Myanmar are:

- 14 CBT Centres in Myanmar
- Key focal points include Police, Customs, Criminal Investigation Dept (CID)
- CBT operations have been conducted at :
 - The Central Training Institute of Myanmar Police Force, Mandalay;
 - Customs Department, Yangon;
 - Border Liaison Offices (along the borders of Myanmar).

Future CBT activities in Myanmar will include

- Establishing new/upgraded CBT Centres and Sites;
- Provision of training for assigned local CBT Managers;
- Developing and customizing new CBT Courses for Myanmar;

Japan

The Japanese Government has conducted a crop substitution programme for the eradication of opium poppy cultivation and poverty reduction in northern Shan State since 1997 through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). From April 2005 to March 2011, JICA conducted a project for the comprehensive socio-economic development of Kokang Self-Administered Zone, which totalled about \$11 million. This project covered infrastructure, agriculture, livelihood improvement, health and education aimed at the mitigation of the critical situation of the people in poverty after eradicating opium poppy cultivation in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone.

As succeeding activities in Northern Shan State, which aims to support eradication of opium poppy cultivation, JICA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Border Affairs, is planning to materialize a five-year technical cooperation project focused on agriculture and rural development in order to stabilize alternative livelihood.

The Japanese Government has contributed \$4.43 million (1996-2007 total) to the UNODC project for drug control and development in the Wa Special Region of the Shan State, and \$492.1 million (2002-2011 total) to the UNODC project for illicit crop monitoring in Myanmar. The Government of Japan contributed \$0.75 million to WFP Food Assistance for Children and Mothers during the lean season through Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO) in northern Shan State in 2009 and approximately \$5 million to WFP PRRO in Myanmar including northern Shan State in 2010.

The Japanese Government funded in 2009 \$ 0.13m to AMDA, a Japanese NGO, for their project for upgrading a rural health centre in Kokang Region.

In recent years including early 2011, CCDAC officials participated in the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference in Tokyo hosted by the National Police Agency of Japan.

World Food Program (WFP)

WFP has continued providing food and livelihood support to vulnerable and food insecure beneficiaries in the targeted areas (Lashio, Kokang and Taunggyi, and in Wa until September/October 2010).

Together with its partners, WFP carried out a food security survey in Lashio area in March 2011. The main findings indicate the following:

- The overall food security situation has improved in 2011 compared to 2010: 17% of the households are considered to be severely food insecure compared to 25.9% in 2010; 23.8% are moderately food insecure compared to 26.1% last year; and 58.6% are food secure this year compared to 48.1 % in 2010;
- Despite an improvement in the overall food security situation, food insecurity still remains a concern in some of the townships, especially in Man Tone, Lashio, Kutkai, Tan Yan and Theinni;
- Twenty one percent (21%) of households are considered to have poor, 22% medium and 57% good access to food;
- The major constraints to agricultural productivity are: i) inability to afford inputs (29%); high labour costs (15%); and pest problems (12%). These constraints have significantly affected households in Kutkai, Lashio, Nam Kham and Theinni Townships;
- About 71% of the households are indebted. The main reason for taking loans was to meet immediate food needs;
- The main constraints faced by households are: i) high health expenditure (13%); ii) few job opportunities and low wages (10%); and iii) high post-harvest losses (9.7%).

A food security assessment is currently being carried out in Kokang, and results should be available in the coming days.

In 2010, in the four targeted areas, 393,202 beneficiaries were reached with 7,471 mt of mixed commodities at a total cost of US\$ 5.8 million.

State/Division	Food distributed (mt)	Value in US\$	Beneficiaries
Lashio	2,458	1,908,503	151,756
Kokang	2,857	2,218,158	84,016
Taunggyi	792	615,058	61,422
Wa	1,364	1,059,060	97,008
Total	7,471	5,800,779	393,202

In 2011, WFP plans:

- To provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for 335,000 former poppy farmers and their families with 4,100 mt of food, through food for work and food for training programmes. Projects aim at increasing agriculture production through land development, irrigation systems and improved agricultural practices;
- In targeted schools, children's enrolment and attendance are ensured through the food for education programme, which provides monthly family rations to 79,000 students who attend school, and constitutes a safety net for vulnerable households, through the distribution of 4,700 mt of rice;
- WFP also provides nutritious food to HIV/AIDS and TB patients under treatment, as well as to children under 3 and pregnant and lactating mothers. In total, 5,200 beneficiaries will receive 418 mt of mixed commodities, including fortified blended food.

Thus, in 2011 (January-March), 514 mt of food have been distributed to 100,000 beneficiaries, at a total cost of US\$ 400,000. Activities are implemented directly by WFP or through its cooperating partners. WFP is working with nine international and local NGOs (ADRA, AHRN, AMDA, AZG, CARE, KMSS, NAG, WHH, WV) who complement food assistance and maximise the benefit of the activities.

The Kokang and Wa initiative (KOWI) was established in order to develop a holistic approach to the development of sustainable livelihoods in the region. Partners meet regularly in Yangon and the field.

WFP has sub-offices in Lashio, Taunggyi, Wa and Kokang. All offices are headed by national staff. Since September 2009, international staff are not allowed to work in or travel to Kokang and Wa. In July 2010, the government requested WFP to suspend its activities in Wa Region until further notice. In Taunggyi area, southern Shan State, WFP was operational in three Townships: Hsihseng, Phe Khone, and Pin Laung. Last year, the government requested WFP to phase out from Phe Khone and Pin Laung. However, there is evidence that poppy cultivation has resumed in some areas of southern Shan State, and farmers are increasingly relying on the cultivation of poppies for their main source of income. WFP plans to expand its operational areas in order to provide assistance to vulnerable households and offer them alternative livelihood programmes. In January 2011, a request was sent to the government in order to target the following additional townships: Pin Lone, Loi Lin, Nam Sam and Mauk Mae. In these areas, the targeting of the villages as well as the activities will be coordinated and implemented together with UNODC.

Australia

Australia, through the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), continues to support counter-narcotic efforts in Myanmar, through police-to-police cooperation and support to the World Food Programme's activities in Kokang, Wa and elsewhere in Shan State.

Australia is also a major contributor to efforts to counter HIV/AIDS in Myanmar through the Three Diseases Fund (3DF), managed by UNOPS, and the HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program (HAARP), managed by UNODC, and a number of smaller projects.

Australia is also contributing to the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT). LIFT is funded by Australia, the European Commission, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. LIFT aims to provide USD100 million over 5 years to improve the food and livelihoods security of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Myanmar, and Shan State is one of the five target areas for LIFT.

European Commission

The European Commission has been supporting the activities of UNODC since 2003.

Two projects aiming at reducing injecting drug use and its harmful consequences were implemented in the period 2003-2008. They contributed to decrease the spread of HIV and mitigate the impact of HIV & AIDS in Myanmar by promoting safe behaviour and improved access to comprehensive services, specifically among intravenous drug users.

The European Commission is currently supporting two food security and crop substitution projects in Southern Shan State for the eradication of opium poppy cultivation and poverty reduction. Originally supposed to be implemented in Pinlaung Township, both projects had to be relocated to Hopong Township since UNODC was denied the MoU to operate in the proposed target areas. The new area of implementation shows similar needs for assistance.

The European Commission is also one of the donors contributing to the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) and to the Three Diseases Fund (3DF).

4.4. Place and Date of Meeting of Mini-Dublin Group in Myanmar

Do to time constraints, a meeting was not held.

4.5. Prioritized Identification of Needs for External Assistance

- Continued and enhanced international cooperation and capacity building with Myanmar law enforcement agencies on counter narcotics
- Addressing food security issues, including the provision of food and development assistance for former poppy farmers facing serious food shortages
- Continued programmes to improve the livelihood of former poppy cultivating communities including in newly-developed poppy cultivation areas
- Continued surveys and research on opium and ATS production
- Treatment and rehabilitation of addicts and former addicts with an emphasis on supporting methadone programs to treat drug addiction

4.6. Mini-Dublin Group Assessment of Needs

4.6.1. Emerging Threats/Trends

Opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has continued to see year-on-year increases in cultivation area since 2006. In 2010 production of opium also increased significantly from 2009 figures.

Further, the production and trafficking of other illicit drugs, most notably ATS and its precursors, is increasing. Continued inaccessibility, due to insecurity reasons, to the main areas where illicit drug crop cultivation and drug production occurs continues to represent a considerable challenge to the anti-narcotics efforts by the Myanmar Government and the international community.

Household food insecurity and its apparent relationship to household engagement or re-engagement with illicit drug cultivation and production is a significant, emerging threat in Myanmar.

Also of concern is the apparent tightening of controls to access for UN agencies and donors providing assistance for former poppy farmers in certain areas. Although this partly reflects ongoing security issues in these areas, members consider that the controls to geographic access may be going beyond what is necessary. The lack of access to these areas, which in some cases do not fall under regular government control, hinders domestic anti-narcotic efforts.

4.6.2. Political Initiatives

The Myanmar Government continues to publicise their determination to tackle narcotics production through its 15-year narcotics elimination plan. However, its activities have been hampered by insufficient funds and inaccessibility to many areas where it is believed that illicit drugs cultivation and production takes place. The successful implementation of the 15 year plan will depend also on the situation in the Special Region border areas, the political will of the new government after the 2010 election and continued, expanded assistance from the international community.

4.7. Recommendations

- That the joint chairs, Japan and Australia, continue to update the document which outlines current and previous anti-narcotics programs in Myanmar and which can be used as a resource to avoid duplication of effort and identify key gaps, and that a draft of this document be available for comment at the next Mini-Dublin Group meeting.
- That the completed report of the Myanmar Mini-Dublin Group committee be forwarded to the Myanmar Government.
- That members urge Myanmar to provide greater access to UN agencies and INGOs into areas of illicit drug cultivation and production concern in order to provide assistance to opium poppy farmers, including through the timely provision of necessary visas and travel authorisations for international staff.

- That members encourage Myanmar and its neighbours, chiefly China and Thailand, at the bilateral level and, where appropriate, in multilateral fora to continue to work closely with each other on counter-narcotics strategies.
- That members encourage Myanmar's neighbours to work more closely with the international organisations engaged in counter-narcotics in Myanmar.
- That members seek to strengthen their assistance for alternative development (income substitution, community development, construction of infrastructure) in former poppy-growing areas, both in the areas declared opium free (Kokang and Wa) and in the current centres of opium production in southern and eastern Shan State. Other donor countries should be encouraged to look at strengthening their assistance in these areas.
- That members continue to support the provision of emergency assistance for the immediate needs of former poppy growers facing the loss of their primary income.
- That members continue support for building human resources capacity and to scale up HIV prevention and treatment services for drug users, in particular injecting drug users.
- That members remain alert to the impact of recent and future political developments on counter-narcotics efforts, particularly in Shan State.

5. THAILAND

5.1. General situation

The drug situation in Thailand remains serious, with trends largely unchanged since 2011. Trafficking of illicit drugs, particularly from Myanmar, continues to rise. 'Ya-ba' and other amphetamine-type substances (ATS) specifically 'ice' are the most used drugs in Thailand. The demand of ice is continuing to increase rapidly. Thailand remains a key transshipment route, both from neighboring countries and further afield, and a preferred geographic location for international syndicates organizing narcotics activities.

- Bangkok and the satellites, as a regional air, land and sea transport hub, remains the main market, storage and transit point in Thailand. However, with more international airlines now also flying directly into Phuket and other international airports, it is presenting an alternative to Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport and is emerging as potential law enforcement vulnerability.

- Traffickers continue to find new routes, including through Laos PDR., Cambodia, Vietnam and Malaysia to import drugs into Thailand and avoid detection by Thai law enforcement authorities. International drug trafficking in Thailand continues increasingly to involve West Africans (especially Nigerians), Pakistanis and Iranians. West African now turn to white collar international drug traffickers by using of ASEAN nationalities to work for them as drug couriers.

There has been an increase in heroin interceptions, possibly as a result of political developments and law enforcement activities in Myanmar.

- The use of ATS continues to rise, with 'ya-ba' (methamphetamine) the most commonly-used illicit drug in Thailand. Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) has also reported an increased prevalence of 'ice' in Thailand. The majority of ATS continue to be imported into Thailand from Myanmar, with some shipments also being intercepted from Laos. ATS are also produced in high volume in Thailand and are widespread due to low manufacturing costs, high profit yields and the ability to produce all year round.
- Trends in the use of cocaine and 'ecstasy' are also increasing, primarily in expatriate circles but also among more affluent Thais. The importation and use of 'ice' and cocaine in tourist areas such as Pattaya, Samui and Phuket is increasing due to the high volume of foreign tourists visiting these locations.
- The use of 'kratom', a mildly hallucinogenic leaf, continues to be isolated largely to the southern provinces. There are also instances in the southern border provinces of individuals being involved in drug trafficking to raise funds for the insurgency.
- The most recent list of statistics on drug cases in Thailand, published by the Thai Office of Narcotics Control Board, is at **Attachment A**.

5.2. Changes to Thailand's institutional counter-narcotics framework

Thailand's anti-drug campaigns are increasingly focused on public awareness campaigns, rehabilitation, medical care and treatment of drug addiction. ONCB is increasingly addressing drug issues with a more holistic approach and is interested to learn from other countries.

- Following the July 2011 general election in Thailand, the government headed by PM Yingluck Shinawatra launched a new national drug control strategy entitled "[Kingdom's Unity for Victory over Drugs](#)".

- This new strategy is part of Thailand's "national agenda" to solve the nation's drug problems and to ensure greater coordination across all relevant agencies and ensure agencies adhere to the rule of law. The campaign will be conducted under the supervision of the National Command Centre for Drug Elimination (NCCDE) and led by H.E. Police Captain (retired) Chalerm Yubumrung, Deputy Prime Minister, as Director of NCCDE, and H.E. Police General (retired) Pracha Promnok, Minister of Justice, as Deputy Director of NCCDE.
- The aim of the new drug control strategy is to "put an end to the nation-wide spread of drug abuse" by "mobilizing national efforts to overcome drugs". The policy comprises four key elements:
 - In dealing with drug abusers and addicts, the policy reaffirms the principle that drug abusers/addicts should be treated as patients, rather than criminals, who should be given access to appropriate treatment and given a chance to reintegrate into society, including through the provision of systematic after-care services.
 - To prevent vulnerable groups and general public from being involved in illegal drugs, the policy encourages all segments of society to "be united as a national force to combat drugs".
 - Law enforcement effort in relation to drug traffickers, drug dealers, drug influential people and wrongdoers, should be done in a way that upholds the rule of law, and should be strictly implemented.
 - International cooperation on control and interdiction of illegal drugs and precursor chemicals should be proactive and managed in an integrated and effective manner.
 - Thai authorities are actively tackling the illegal trade of pre-cursors, most specifically home medicine containing pseudoephedrine. Thailand has recently amended its legislation on the classification of medicine containing Pseudoephedrine and has also developed stricter compliance guidelines on the importation, production and sale of the medicine.
 - Thai law enforcement agencies continue to make regular and large seizures at both land and air crossing, but there are fewer reports of seizures involving sea freight/shipping containers, indicating this area could be lagging behind airfreight and passengers monitoring, and could therefore be a vulnerable point for Thailand.
 - Thailand has, for many years, implemented a range of policies and campaigns against drugs, including the controversial 'war on drugs' campaign under the government of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. It is unlikely that the current Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra will see a return in such a controversial campaign, and there has so far been no evidence of extrajudicial killings since she came into office.

- Nevertheless, human rights advocates have raised concerns in relation to reports of compulsory rehabilitation for addicts.

5.3. Update on major bilateral and multilateral counter-narcotics programs

During the 11th Senior Officials Meeting for Transnational Crime (SOMTC) held in Singapore in October 2011, Thailand was tasked to take the lead on illegal drug suppression activities in the region. The meeting had identified six crime types as key threats to the ASEAN community: narcotics, trafficking of women and children, illegal foreign workers, economic crime, information technology crime and terrorism.

An exchange of certified Field Training Officers (FTOs) in anti-narcotics operations among member countries will also be initiated as part of efforts to share information and knowledge among the ASEAN law enforcement authorities. Lao authorities have requested Thailand send experienced FTOs to help train their police.

5.4. Mini Dublin Group meetings (place, date and attendees)

On May 4 at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand. See attached attendee list.

Officials from ONCB were invited to give their assessment of the current drug situation in Thailand. Member countries also received a presentation updating them on UNODC actions in Thailand by representatives of the UNODC.

5.5. Identification of needs for external assistance

As outlined above, we assess as credible the reports of human rights advocates and consider Thai authorities need for assistance in establishing medically-accepted mechanisms to treat drug addicts (rehabilitation) and in educating all levels of society about the harm of narcotics.

Thai authorities also need assistance with implementing a comprehensive three-pronged policy approach of Harm Minimization which comprises:

- Supply reduction (law and order)

- Demand reduction (prevention education and drug treatment)

- Harm reduction (reducing the wide range of physical, psychological and social harms associated with illicit drug use).

While there has been considerable domestic and international attention, support and resourcing in Thailand to address the first component – supply reduction – there remains substantial capacity and resource gaps in addressing demand reduction, and even greater challenges ahead for Thais in implementing harm reduction.

Assistance for demand reduction in Thailand requires:

The establishment and maintenance of Community Drug Treatment Services for acute withdrawal and longer rehabilitation which utilize evidence-based practice and are informed by international standards; and the provision of well targeted evidence-based health promotion strategies which educate vulnerable groups about the potential harms of illicit drug use (including narcotic drugs) and how to access further information, support, counseling and treatment as appropriate.

Assistance for harm reduction in Thailand requires:

Public education and advocacy to establish policy and legal environment to support harm reduction service provision.

The establishment and maintenance of a range of services to reduce the physical, psychological and social harms experienced by drug users and the general community as a result of illicit drug use.

These services include but are not limited to: education and behavioral change interventions, drug counseling, establishment of methadone maintenance, needle and syringe distribution, voluntary counseling and testing for HIV and hepatitis, hepatitis vaccination, referral for HIV treatment and referral broader health care.

5.6. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs

5.6.1. Emerging threats/trends

The continued increase in the use of ATS in Thailand has been identified as a key threat.

5.6.2. Political initiatives

While the announcement of a new national policy on drug suppression and prevention is an encouraging development, it remains to be seen how these policies will be implemented in practice. Thailand's ONCB continues to develop the national drug strategy aimed at supply minimization, demand minimization and harm reduction.

The increased focus on public awareness campaigns, rehabilitation, medical care and treatment of drug addiction by the Thai government should be further encouraged.

The change to legislation on pre-cursor drugs is a positive development which will make it more difficult for pre-cursors to be sourced in Thailand.

5.6.3. Recommendations

Mini Dublin Group members should continue to provide support through appropriate mechanisms for Thailand's counter-narcotics work. Given the wide range of activity that takes place through Thailand as the focal point for the region, it will be important to cooperation to avoid duplication and ensure assistance is well-targeted.

Thailand should also be supported, where appropriate, in its own efforts to become a donor in the region, bearing in mind the valuable experience and expertise

Thailand itself has been building up. Ongoing support for regional programs which include Thailand and for NGOs working in this field, to cover areas not funded through government resources, will continue to be important.

Attachment A - THAILAND

Statistics on Drug Cases throughout the Country January 1 – December 31, 2011

Substance	Cases	Offenders	Amount (grams)
Heroin	829	939	
Ecstasy	141	182	
Raw opium	394	413	
Cooked opium	79	82	
Opium plant	41	41	
Ketamine	155	171	
Cocaine	58	80	
Codeine	2	3	
Caffeine	0	0	
Dried marijuana	10,294	11,339	
Fresh marijuana	497	517	
Marijuana Resin	14	14	
Kratom plant	5,760	7,462	
ICE	17,432	20,299	
Ya-ba	166,092	174,664	
Psychotropic Substances	836	938	
Inhalant	2,997	3,020	
Others	3,014	5,402	

Total 202,060 cases (unidentified suspect 707 cases) of 215,770 offenders

Remarks: - Issue dated, April 10, 2012.

- ICE stands for Methamphetamine Hydrochloride crystal.
- Ya-ba stands for Methamphetamine-type stimulant tablet.

The shown numbers are subjected to change at anytime upon subsequent reconciliation later found among all authorities.

Seizure of home medicine contain Pseudoephedrine in Thailand

All identified destination to drug production area.

Year	Case	Tablets	Kilograms
2008	4	707,450	192.20
2009	12	1,908,700	
2010	13	33,376,072	
2011	10	10,240,820	2.50
2012	2	1,706,600	
Total	41	47,939,642	194.70

6. VIET NAM

6.1. Drug trends in Viet Nam

6.1.1. General Situation

The drug situation in Viet Nam remained complicated in 2011, observations are outlined below:

- With opium poppy cultivation virtually eliminated, it is estimated that as much as 95% of illicit drugs being transported inside Viet Nam, for either transit or domestic consumption, have been smuggled in from neighboring countries.
- Cross-border and domestic drug trafficking rely on increasingly organized and sophisticated methods. The traffickers take advantage of the long and porous land borderline and the coastline. Heroin, opium and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) are smuggled into Viet Nam across the north-western, central-northern and southern borders. Heroin and cannabis are trafficked from Viet Nam into China. Inside the country, drug hot spots are mainly located in the cities.
- Number of ATS users, especially Ice, increased in major cities as Ha Noi, Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City with participation of school and university students.

- UNODC concluded the survey on awareness, availability and use of ATS in Viet Nam by a Report namely “Amphetamine-type stimulant in Viet Nam: Review of the availability, use and implication for health and security”. This report showed that there are many types of ATS in Viet Nam but the main types of ATS that are both available and being used are methamphetamine (in both tablet and crystal form) as well as Ecstasy (in both tablet and MDMA powder form). The availability and use of ATS increased slowly between 2000 and 2007 but more rapidly in recent years. School and university students, the main target group of the survey had heard of ATS, whereas the majority of them could not differentiate between the various types of ATS. Ecstasy and Ice use was more preferable than methamphetamine tablets among all risk groups. The vast majority of them, however, reported only recreational use of ATS. Injection of ATS was also apparent in Viet Nam.

6.1.2. Production and cultivation

- Opium poppy cultivation has been reduced, although some plantations still exist in the northern mountainous provinces. Small scale cannabis cultivation exists in urban and rural areas. The use of imported technology to establish concealed internal growing locations in order to avoid detection in relation to cannabis cultivation has been reported. In October 2011, the Government of Viet Nam reported the total detected and eradicated area of opium poppy in 2010-2011 as 25.85 hectares, comprising of 29,709 opium poppy plants. This was a decrease of 10.4% of the total area of the 2009-2010 crop.
- Domestic production of ATS was detected in some localities (Ho Chi Minh City, Ha Noi, Bac Giang, Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa) with manual methods. Precursors used for ATS production were abstracted from cough or flu medicines.

6.1.3. Drug trafficking and seizures

- According to the current Annual Report of Ministry of Public Security, in 2011, drug law enforcement forces detected 18,623 cases involving 26,687 subjects (an increase of 2,500 cases and 3,190 subjects over the same period last year). 309.16 kg and 36 blocks of heroin, 76.2 kg of opium, nearly 7 metric tons of fresh cannabis and 500 kg of cannabis, 121.38 kg and 365.988 tablets of synthetic drugs, along with other evidence and properties.

6.1.4. *Drug abuse*

- By the end of 2011, there were 158,141 people that use drugs registered nationwide, indicating an increase of 8,514 people since 2010. Heroin users account for some 83% of people who use drugs and the 30-45 year age group of drug users account for 54% of the total number of people who use drugs. According to the current Annual Report of Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs, there were 60,000 people who use drugs under treatment under all forms of drug treatment services accounting for 60% of total registered users, of whom, 8,266 people were treated in their community and more than 6,000 participated in the MMT programme. According to the country report of Viet Nam on the drug situation, the actual number of people who use drugs was estimated to be considerably larger than those registered. The majority of the registered users were male (95%), while the proportion of female drug users increased from 2% in 2001 to 5% in 2010.
- Injecting drug use is widespread and highly correlated to heroin use. Eighty-five per cent (85%) of drug users nationwide are using drugs through injection, and injecting drug use accounted for half of all reported cases of HIV.

6.1.5. *Treatment*

- According to the current 2011 MOLISA report, there are 121 operational centres for drug users countrywide that have the capacity to accommodate 65,000 people. Of which, 80 centres are under the management Labour, Invalids and Social Affair sector. Clinical care and evidence-based drug dependence treatment, recommended by WHO and UNODC, remain rudimentary in the majority of these centres. In addition, ‘community-based drug treatment centres’ provide detoxification services but little else by way of treatment.
- In accordance with this report, a total of 60,000 people who had used drugs received treatment in 2011, of whom, 8,266 are under community-based treatment and about 6,000 in the MMT programme. UNODC will continue to advocate a review of the policies leading to the establishment and operation of compulsory centres and support the development of a treatment system that conforms to international best practices in drug dependence treatment and the respect of human rights. The Government has expressed its commitment to increase access to evidence based drug dependence treatment, in the community, such as the national Methadone Maintenance Treatment programme and community-based care and support.

- The Government's initial findings of pilot methadone maintenance treatment showed a positive impact on the lives of opioid dependent persons and their families. Until now, most of the running costs of a methadone clinic has depended on donor support, which challenges sustainability. According to the Government's plan, by the end of 2012, 61 methadone clinics will have been opened in 13 provinces and cities with a target of 15,600 people to be enrolled in treatment. The long-term objective is to have 245 methadone clinics operational in 30 provinces and cities with 80,000 opioid dependent persons in treatment by 2015.

6.1.6. *National Drugs Control Strategy to 2020 with a vision to 2030*

- In 2011, the Government of Viet Nam approved the National Strategy on Drug Control and Prevention to 2020; the National Target Programme on Crime Prevention and Suppression for 2011-2015; the National Plan of Action on Anti-Human Trafficking period 2011-2015.

6.1.7. *National Programme on HIV/AIDS prevention*

- In, 2011, the Government also approved the National Target Programme on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control period 2011-2015.

6.2. **Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programmes**

Australia

Law Enforcement Cooperation

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has offices in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and is actively involved with the Counter Narcotics Department (C47) of the Vietnamese Police General Department for Crime Prevention and Suppression. Australia is a destination country for drugs transhipped through Viet Nam including; heroin, amphetamine type substances (ATS) and illegal precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of ATS.

The AFP has a number of capacity building initiatives including providing training on illicit drug trafficking methods and study tours to Australia. In March 2010 the Viet Nam - Australia Joint Transnational Crime Team (JTCC) opened in HCMC. The primary focus of the JTCC is intelligence sharing related to drug trafficking.

European Union

The European Union has currently no specific cooperation programs on drugs or crime in Viet Nam but maintains liaison contact with the authorities. The already initialed EU- Viet Nam Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, to be signed in 2012, states as one of its aims the collaboration in the areas of combating organized crime, money laundering and illicit drugs, so we might expect closer cooperation over the medium term.

France

France has no specific programs on drug-related issues but regularly conducts training sessions, working visits and exchanges on crime-related matters and aims at strengthening its cooperation legal framework with Vietnamese authorities.

In 2011, French police investigation highlighted the link between cannabis indoor-cultivation and illegal immigration networks run by a Vietnamese syndicate in Paris.

Great Britain

Great Britain has no specific drug-related programs, but maintains close liaison with Vietnamese authorities. Vietnamese criminal syndicates are involved in Cannabis production in houses in Great Britain. Great Britain has programs on organized immigration crime and human trafficking, which are a direct result of Cannabis production. Money laundering of drug profits is also a problem.

Japan

There has not been a reported narcotics trafficking case from Viet Nam to Japan since 2001. In Japan, most drug trafficking arrests relate to ATS (Amphetamine Type Stimulants) cases, though heroin cases have increased in recent years. The recent increase in ATS trafficking case in Viet Nam will be a trend to which we should pay attention.

Japan has currently no specific bilateral cooperation programs on drug-control issues. The Government of Japan, however, has been promoting “human security” as one of the main pillars of its development aid policy and considers drug control a matter of great importance. It continues to work closely with the Government of Viet Nam in their efforts to control drugs in collaboration with UNODC.

United States of America

Counter-Narcotics Cooperation

U.S. counter-narcotics objectives in Viet Nam are aimed at improving cooperation in cross-border, regional, and international enforcement efforts and in assisting Viet Nam to expand the capacity of its domestic counter-narcotics law enforcement agencies. Operational cooperation between Vietnamese and U.S. authorities, in particular between the Ministry of Public Security Counter-Narcotics Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Hanoi Country Office, has improved, but further progress is needed to achieve significant results.

International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA):

The U.S. Government continues to use the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, in cooperation with the Thai Government, to provide law enforcement training to approximately 100 Vietnamese law enforcement officials each year on a range of topics. Counter-Narcotics-related courses offered at ILEA in 2012 include the following:

- Chemical Control/Clan Lab Investigations
- Narcotics Unit Commanders Course Viet Nam
- International Seaport Interdiction/Cargo Targeting Training
- Financial Investigations

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Activities:

The DEA engages in direct cooperation on specific counter-narcotics cases and engages in capacity-building efforts by supporting GVN participation at international and regional events and conferences, as well as conducting some basic training activities. DEA and the Department of Defence Joint Interagency Taskforce-West (JIATF-W) plan to conduct a training seminar with the Ministry of Public Security's Counter-Narcotics Department (C-47) in July 2012. The seminar will provide tactical and emergency medical training to more than 50 police officers. In addition, DEA and JIATF-W continue to partner with MPS C-47 to support the construction of a joint training facility in Vinh, Viet Nam. This project is expected to be completed in November 2012.

Anti-Money Laundering Cooperation:

The U.S. Government views anti-money laundering efforts as a key tool in denying access by drug traffickers to domestic and international financial networks that may be used to finance their illegal activities and to otherwise enjoy the proceeds thereof. The U.S. Department of the Treasury has stationed an AML Technical Assistance Advisor at the U.S.

Embassy in Hanoi to support the State Bank of Viet Nam's AML awareness, AML organizational and institutional development, and Financial Intelligence Unit development and operations since February 2010. The U.S. Department of the Treasury has also delivered several training sessions of its Financial Investigative Techniques course for GVN officials in cooperation with the UNODC Anti-Money Laundering project.

During 2012, the U.S. Government also provided technical assistance to the Supreme People's Procuracy and Supreme People's Court on prosecution and adjudication of money laundering cases. This included workshops in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City providing guidance on: (1) establishing criteria for case selection; (2) planning and organizing case material; (3) identifying evidentiary gaps; and (4) prosecution strategy. In addition, the U.S. Department of the Treasury is working with the Ministry of Interior Police Training Academy and with the General Department of Viet Nam Customs Training Academy to develop and incorporate financial investigative techniques courses into their respective curricula.

The U.S. previously coordinated the participation of some thirty Customs and AML Department officials in a workshop on Bulk Cash Smuggling and Trade-Based Money Laundering at the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility in August 2009. The U.S. Department of the Treasury will sponsor attendance of three GVN officials at a regional asset forfeiture seminar in April 2011.

Export Control and Border Security Programs:

Under the rubric of the U.S. Department of State-sponsored Export Control and Border Security (EXBS) program, the U.S. Coast Guard and other USG entities continued to provide training for the Viet Nam Marine Police and build capacity as well as self-sustaining training capabilities. EXBS engagement is focused on supporting the development of a comprehensive in-country training program addressing the full range of trade and security threats (e.g. piracy, drug trafficking, WMD proliferation, and contraband smuggling).

Harm Reduction for Drug Users:

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Viet Nam anticipates receiving approximately \$69 million in FY 2012 for a targeted program of HIV prevention, care, and treatment among most-at-risk populations, primarily injecting drug users (IDU), sex workers, and men who have sex with men. The FY 2012 program will also focus on health systems strengthening for a long-term, sustainable response to the epidemic. Injecting drug use plays a significant role in driving HIV transmission; approximately 60 percent of all HIV infections in Viet Nam are directly or indirectly associated with injecting drug use. Among its prevention programs, PEPFAR promotes medication assisted therapy, including methadone, an intervention proven to stem the rate of HIV infection among people who use drugs. PEPFAR currently supports Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT) for over 8,000 IDUs (as of March 2012) in 42 clinics across eleven provinces. Among the 32 provinces supported by PEPFAR, there is a focus on nine provinces where the epidemic is having the greatest impact: Hanoi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho, An Giang and Nghe An, Lao Cai, and Dien Bien. PEPFAR also supports HIV counselling and testing and community outreach for drug users and sex workers. Through PEPFAR, the U.S. Government also participates in the development and implementation of the Viet Nam National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

UNODC

The UNODC portfolio in Viet Nam at present consists of 8 national projects, which envisage multi-sectoral technical assistance aimed at policy support, legislation and advocacy, suppression of illicit trafficking, prevention and reduction of drug abuse, addressing HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, money laundering and other priority needs identified by the Government. Viet Nam also benefits from a number of UNODC global and regional projects supporting better cross-border cooperation, increased knowledge and skills of front line law enforcement officers through Computer Based training, better capacity of Judicial system to deal with crime issues with full respect to human rights.

UNODC is planning to launch a Country Program in Viet Nam 2012-2017 to better integrate drug control and crime prevention issues into the overall development agenda. To this end, the Country Programme will be aligned with the main national planning frameworks including the Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan, the National Target Program on Drug Prevention and Control, the National Target Program on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, the National Programme and Plan of Action on Prevention and Combating Human Trafficking, as well as with the One UN Plan 2012-2016.

VNM/U62 - Policy advice and technical support to the Government of Viet Nam in implementation of the drug control and crime prevention programme.

Total budget (US\$)	170,200
Duration	2009-2011
Funding from: (US\$)	One UN

This project supported the Government of Viet Nam in development of the national drug control strategy to 2020 with a vision to 2030. The Government approved the strategy in June 2011. Based on the national drug control strategy, the National Target Programme (NTP) on drug control 2011-2015 has been developed. The NTP on drug control is one of 15 national target programmes on specific issues and prioritized areas to be developed and incorporated in the national social economic development plan for period 2011-2015. This year, the Government also developed and approved the National Target Programme on Crime Prevention and Suppression for 2011-2015. Technical support was also provided to enhance precursor control, and promote communication activity on the occasion of the International Day against Drugs on 26 June.

VIE/H65 - Strengthening drug law enforcement agency information collection and sharing procedures:

Total budget (US\$)	1,122,000
Duration	2010-2012
Funded (Phase 1&2):	605,000 (One UN)
Funding shortfall:	517,000

The project's main objective is to enhance the drug law enforcement capabilities of Viet Nam by improving and developing the information collection and sharing capacity of the main agencies involved in drug law enforcement in Viet Nam. Knowledge and increased communication of individuals as well as an institutional level of information analysis will be improved in order to strengthen the investigation capacity of Viet Nam.

Phase 1 developed and successfully trialed inter-agency forms, which will be formally introduced, once the computer system for intelligence storage and analysis has been established under Phase 2.

In addition, 3 computer-based training (CBT) centers were established; 22 CBT courses were conducted for 250 trainees providing basic knowledge of intelligence. 104 trainees were selected to attend 4 intermediate training courses specializing in intelligence analysis. The first phase of the project has been successful in bringing all four participating law enforcement agencies together, and reaching an agreement on consolidating and improving the inter-agency coordination and cooperation in data collection and information sharing.

Under Phase 2, a computerized law enforcement information system is being set up, which will include information analysis tools and will facilitate:

- information gathering of information, both case-related and general strategic & tactical information at all levels
- storage and access control of gathered information
- advanced searching of data and discovery / charting of relationships.

Phase 3 will establish Target Development Teams that will specialize in the collation and analysis of information held by the agencies. This will enable them to develop the information into an operational investigation that can be handed to operational teams for resolution.

VNM/S65 - Strengthening of the Legal and Law Enforcement Institutions in Preventing and Combating Money Laundering in Viet Nam

Budget (US\$)	1,249,539
Duration	2007- 2011
Funding from: (US\$)	One UN, Canada, UK, USA

The project’s main objective is to increase detection, investigation, prosecution and trial capacities of the law enforcement and the judiciary (Police General Department, Border Army, Customs General Department, Prosecution Office and the Courts) on money laundering. The main 2011 achievements include the drafting of the implementation guideline for the law enforcement and the judiciary, 8 awareness raising workshops conducted on anti money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) to 268 employees in commercial banking system and real-estate sectors, 6 computer-based training (CBT) courses on AML/CFT for 114 law enforcement officials and 4 typology training workshops for 127 provincial customs officials.

Article 251 on money laundering offense of the Penal Code has been amended. Implementation guideline has been drafted and waiting for the Government’s approval. Circular No 12/2011/TT-BXD of the Ministry of Construction provides guidance to the implementation of Decree 74-2005/NDCP on AML/CFT in real-estate sector. The Money Laundering Laws (AMLL) has been drafted and submitted to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

A handbook on AML/CFT for Investigators, Prosecutors and Judges inclusive the implementation of Article 251 on money laundering offense of the Penal Code has been completed.

This project was completed in April 2012.

VIE/H68 - Technical assistance to treatment and rehabilitation at institutional and community level:

Budget (US\$)	1,649,800
Duration	2007- 2011
Funding from: (US\$)	Australia, Luxembourg, Sweden

The project supports drug treatment service providers to diversify drug treatment and rehabilitation services in Viet Nam. The project is to address the need to improve and further develop a range of HIV prevention and drug abuse treatment services for drug abusers in selected localities in Viet Nam. This includes HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as community-based and residential treatment and rehabilitation.

In January, the project supported the Department of Social Evils Prevention (DSEP) to organize a workshop on developing new drug treatment protocols at the community and family levels, and to expand drug treatment and aftercare services in the community. The participants had opportunities to share their experiences and contribute to the discussions on drug treatment, relapse prevention, rehabilitation, incentives, and harm reduction approaches. In all, 52 senior people from DSEP, sub-DSEP offices, and treatment centres from 14 provinces, attended the workshop. Following the workshop, DSEP made a commitment to coordinate with other Ministries to draft and issue Circulars which would help guide provinces in implementing effective drug treatment.

In May, a second workshop was organized jointly with DSEP for 65 leaders of local authorities from 16 provinces, for revision of current drug treatment services.

VNM/J04 - Drug Abuse Prevention among Ethnic Minorities in Viet Nam

Budget (US\$)	1,784, 400
Duration	2007- 2011
Funding from: (US\$)	USAID, Australia, Luxembourg, Sweden

The project was developed to reinforce and scale up drug abuse and HIV prevention services, and alternative community-based drug treatment and relapse prevention program among highland ethnic minority populations in Son La, Dien Bien, Lao Cai and Yen Bai provinces.

A range of interventions, underpinned by harm reduction principles, has been implemented in all project provinces. Training and other forms of support from provincial health staff (project provincial staff) for outreach workers has increased the capacity of current project peer outreach workers. Peer outreach activities continued in the existing 45 communes in 4 provinces.

As the result of behavior change, communication work, home based counseling of peer outreach workers, the establishment of Peer Supply Information Points, the number of people who voluntarily go to VCT and other STI services in first 6 months 2011 reached 427. All four provincial PACs reported that people in the project communes have access to improved HIV and other STI/STDs related services.

Harm reduction approaches are adopted and services such as NSP and condom distribution have been implemented in 27 communes of Dien Bien province in response to the national campaign against HIV/AIDS epidemic. In all, 11,966 people of the high-risk groups have been contacted and provided with counseling. Safety equipment including needles and syringes clips (150pcs), needles and syringes disposal boxes (400pcs) were provided for all project peer outreach workers (145 people) in 4 provinces in March for doing outreach activities.

Aftercare club activities continued and maintained in 4 project provinces involving participation of more people including former drug users, their peers and family members. The total number of 540 club members remains unchanged to date. Cluster and commune meetings were held regularly every week. There were 400 meetings held in first 6 months of 2011 which involved the participation of 10,075 people.

The number of peer educators, outreach health workers to work in the community decreased from 145 to 68 in 4 provinces as the reduction of activities in this extended period.

Advanced and refresher harm reduction training, Needles and Syringes programme training for outreach workers, village, commune health workers and police officers were conducted in July and October. Information, education, communication (IEC) materials were provided for 27 Peer Information Supply Points (11 Peer Information Supply Points have been established at early April) so that the community could better access information on HIV/AIDS & drugs. Altogether 68 peer outreach and health workers have organized information communication sessions for nearly 13,591 villagers in 4 provinces.

Condom distribution has been implemented in all the project sites (45 communes) with the total number of 5,940 condoms distributed in first 6 months. This has contributed to promoting condom use among ethnic minority groups. Young people and intimate partners of injecting/drug users became familiar with this program.

Needles and syringes exchange program are being implemented in 45 communes of project sites. This activity was implemented in only 14 communes in 2009. More than 97,455 clean needles were provided to the injecting drug users and 80,288 used syringes were collected and disposed. The disposal percentage reached 80 %.

1,091 drug users, PLWH & their families received counseling at Counseling Center inside the Peer Information Supply Point. Total 427 people voluntarily go to VCT and use the STI service.

A regional seminar on drugs and HIV/AIDS responses was conducted for 10 countries in the region to share experience and to take stock of the situation of injecting of injecting drug use and HIV in East and South East Asia; to promote the role of law enforcement, health and criminal justice practitioners in creating an enabling legal, policy and operational environment for HIV prevention services; and to exchange experience and knowledge on challenges and opportunities for the implementation of evidence-based approaches to drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention in the region.

VNM/J93 – Support for developing effective ATS prevention strategies and measures in East Asia: A pilot in Viet Nam

Budget (US\$)	500,000
Duration	January 2009 – June 2012
Funding from: (US\$)	Japan, Sweden, One UN

The project aims to support the Government of Viet Nam in developing effective amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) prevention strategies and measures targeting high risk populations, particularly young people. The project's main objective is to assess the situation of ATS use in Viet Nam, and pilot an effective prevention programme based on the assessment results.

The assessment of the current ATS situation in the country comprising seizure and arrest data in the past 5 years and surveys of targeted groups including school and university students, high risk groups (Female Sex Workers, Men who have Sex with Men, People Who Use Drugs, Taxi Drivers/Construction Workers, Bar Goers) was conducted in 2010 and early 2011 to provide an overall picture of the magnitude and the nature of the problem. The findings of the assessment were presented at the Regional Seminar on Substance Abuse and Its Consequences held in Ho Chi Minh City, July 2011 under the framework of MOU cooperation with financial support and organization of the project. The Report on ATS Situation in Viet Nam will be launched in late April 2012.

Based on the findings, the project developed a pilot prevention programme as education and advocacy campaign, training courses, workshops to (1) prevent the initiation of ATS use, (2) reduce harms associated with ATS use among high risk groups who may have or may not have used ATS, and (3) build up a safety workplaces and entertainment venues. Some of these activities were implemented in 2011 while the others are planned to be taken place in first half of 2012 at selected sites of Ha Noi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City.

The project will complete by the end of June 2012.

GLO/G32 – Drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention

Budget (US\$)	624,230
Viet Nam segment	
Duration	2002- 2012
Funding from: (US\$)	One UN, multiple donors

The following support was provided under the project:

- Technical support to NGOs providing prevention, care, and treatment services to drug users, specifically injecting drug users (IDUs); HIV positive drug users and to prisoners;
- Technical guidance and policy advice to the Government of Viet Nam on the three UNODC HIV/AIDS key policy and programmatic areas, namely HIV/AIDS prevention and care related to (a) drug dependence, particularly injecting drug use (b) prison settings and (c) the trafficking in human beings;

- Trying to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and drug use through raising the knowledge on HIV/AIDS among the community, health system, NGOs and the affected populations themselves;
- Assistance to the Government of Viet Nam in developing, implementing, and mainstreaming of strategies which effectively deal with HIV/AIDS prevention and care among IDUs in the community and in prison settings;
- Cooperation with other UNAIDS cosponsor agencies in carrying out UN policies and strategies in the country.

Advocacy strategy together with the action plan was drafted in line with the national AIDS strategy. The strategy focus on increasing cooperation between groups and local authorities relating to support services for IDU and IDU with HIV through workshops on development of intervention program at the local level with the participation of relevant organizations at focal areas. IDU network was strengthened to provide information, referral and counseling services to former drugs users and drug addicts through visiting several community-based HIV care and treatment and drug dependence treatment service providers. The capacity to implement harm reduction was enhanced for the justice sector, law enforcement, correctional system including the police officers from Hanoi City and Counter-Narcotics Department through the involvement of their participation in harm reduction and police services. As a result, the Drugs Referral Scheme has been introduced to promote the role of law enforcement in the effective implementation of community-based HIV prevention, treatment and care programs.

VNM/K16 - HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in prisons and pre-trial detention settings in Viet Nam

Budget (US\$)	997,000
Duration	2010- 2011
Funding from: (US\$)	One UN & USAID

This project aims at supporting the national efforts to control transmission of HIV and other infectious diseases among prisoners including pre-trial detainees and to the broader community, and promoting a continuum-of-care between custodial facilities and the community-at-large in order to address the care, treatment and support needs of PLHIV both entering, detained in, and/or being released from custody.

Despite some initial difficulties with legal basis on HIV prevention and harm reduction intervention in prison settings, the project is moving forward and delivering the expected activities. Knowledge on HIV prevention, treatment and care interventions and harm reduction related to injecting drug use increased among prison officers. Prison-based peer health education manual has been developed as a guide to inform prison-based peer education activities for the benefits of the inmates. Ministry of Public Security is receiving continuous support on needs assessment of HIV/AIDS in prisons to inform policy and programmatic responses. In addition, advocacy effort has been carrying out at all level for the application of the comprehensive package of intervention in prison settings with effective harm reduction approach.

6.3. Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups

The initial Viet Nam Mini-Dublin Group Meeting for 2012 was held on 27 April in combination with the Round table meeting on drug, crime and human trafficking prevention and suppression, period 2011-2015 co-organized by the Ministry of Public Security and UNODC in Hanoi. A follow-up meeting will be called if required later in the year.

6.4. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

Support for strengthening Viet Nam's legal / criminal justice framework, and law enforcement agencies in drug control and combating related transnational organized crime, including money laundering.

Support for the development of drug law enforcement agencies' interdiction and investigation capacity, information collection and sharing.

Increased information collection to identify trends in drug use, especially ATS use.

Support for drug prevention activities including attention to synthetic drugs ATS.

Support for drug treatment and rehabilitation, especially the expansion of successful models, capacity building and introduction of evidence-based, and community-based approaches.

Support for HIV prevention and other harm minimization measures including methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) among injecting drug users, in prison settings and people vulnerable to human trafficking.

6.5. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs

6.5.1. Emerging threats/trends

Although poppy cultivation and opium production are no longer major drug problems, illicit drug trafficking is occurring in a complex manner with traffickers adopting more organized and sophisticated methods.

Viet Nam continues to be a transit point for drugs and chemical precursors. Local drug traffickers work closely with their accomplices abroad to smuggle drugs into Viet Nam and in transit to other destinations in the world. The danger of diversion of precursor chemicals to illegal manufacture of drugs in Viet Nam has become obvious. There are signs that ATS production is present in Viet Nam. The number of drug users in the country increased from 140,000 to 158,414 in total, various new types of drugs have emerged, some of which were not on the list of controlled drugs. Heroin continued to be the most commonly used drug amongst users. ATS use has become popular in major cities. Heroin and ATS use among young people is increasing. Cannabis use is also reported to increase. New types of drugs abused in Viet Nam that have emerged include the use of ketamine, crystallized methamphetamine (MDMA), hallucinogenic LSD, GHB, trifluoromethyl pencyl piperazine (TFMPP), benzylopipezine (BZP) and most recently PMMA. Injecting drug use (IDU) was widespread, accounting for over 80 % of the total number of drug users. IDU remains a major mode of HIV transmission in Viet Nam.

Drug crimes were often connected to money laundering and there is much work to do in Viet Nam on their Anti Money laundering laws and enforcement.

Another significant issue is Vietnamese syndicates cultivating cannabis in residences in Australia and European countries. This crime type is often linked to human trafficking and illegal migration.

6.5.2. Political initiatives

Advocacy, policy advice and continued technical assistance are required to support the Government of Viet Nam in continuing its political, social and economic reform in the country. The public administration reform, and the justice reform process need to be promoted in a more intensive and speedy manner to protect rights and ensure access to justice, particularly for the population group of vulnerable people.

Following priority areas with regards to drugs;

- continued revision of Drug Law (including new drug types listed as controlled substances) ;
- promote the approval of the draft anti-money laundering law (compliance with international standards);

- strengthening justice system and anti-corruption measures to improve enforcement actions;
- Continued technical assistance in drugs and HIV prevention, treatment with the support of community based treatment as alternatives to compulsory drug treatment centres.

6.5.3. *Recommendations*

In December 2011, Viet Nam ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Supplementing Protocol against Trafficking in Human Beings (the Palermo Protocol). The Group recommends the Government to officially deposit ratification instruments to the UN and develop measures to bring the national legislation/mechanisms in compliance with international treaties.

Encourage the Government to strengthen inter-agency coordination and cooperation (e.g. in information sharing) in implementing new National Drug Control and Crime Prevention strategies. More active cross-border cooperation, both legal (e.g through MLA) and operational should be supported.

Continued bilateral and multilateral assistance to support the Government of Viet Nam commitment to fight against drugs and crime would be highly beneficial.
