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Subject: Regional Report on South East Asia and China

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**1. Update of information for each country**

**1.1 Cambodia**

To date, the manufacture, trafficking and use of illicit drugs are a significant and worsening problem in Cambodia. Cambodia has become a favored transit and storage location for international drug traffickers. In 2012, a number of significant seizures of illicit drugs – including methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin – were recorded in Cambodia. Most of these were related to transnational organized criminal activity. Drug trafficking organizations from Taiwan and mainland China are involved in the trafficking of ATS and heroin. West African networks are involved primarily in the trafficking heroin and cocaine through Cambodia to markets in the region. Meanwhile, domestic use of Methamphetamine continues to expand. Illicit drug use was previously concentrated primarily in urban areas, but has expanded into rural areas in recent years, in particular in the provinces adjacent to Lao PDR and Thailand.

## 1.2 China

The examples of recent drug countermeasures related to China are as follows.

- (1) Strengthen international drug control cooperation, the Office of China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) initiated the joint operation “Joint Force-2012” against transnational drug crimes from July 20th to September 20th, which received active response from relevant 23rd countries. NNCC and the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) directly contacted to the each law enforcement organization in 23rd countries and exchanged information with each other.
- (2) In July 2012, MPS, Yunnan Police authorities and Myanmar Police authorities jointly investigated cross-border illegal trafficking cases. As a result, they cracked down a drug manufacturing lab and arrested 11 suspects involving the illegal trafficking, seized over 340 kg of methamphetamine.

## 1.3 Lao PDR

In preparation for the round table meeting to be held on the 23 November 2012, the Government of the Lao PDR reaffirmed the structure and terms of reference of the Illicit Drugs Sector Working Group (IDSWG) as well as the two Sub Sector Working Groups for drugs and crime. Because of serious concern on committees in Vientiane and in the Provinces throughout the country to address social evils such as drug trafficking and abuse, some 24 entertainment venues have been closed down in Vang Vieng in September 2012. Vang Vieng has been notorious for drugs, drink and related deaths. Some 6 foreign visitors this year and 22 during the last year had reportedly met an untimely death there.

Responses to narcotic challenges are largely focused on alternative livelihood development programs. To address the resurgence of opium poppy alternative development remains a necessary and priority focus for the Government of the Lao PDR. The alternative development programs continued to be developed with urgent priority.

- Transferring innovative alternative development technologies from Oudomxay to Sam Tai District in Houaphan Province (US\$ 350,000)
- Phon Xay District in Luangprabang Province, (US\$ 1.5 million)
- Alternative Development phase 2 in Houaphan Province, (US\$1.9 million)

- Ngot Ou District in Phongsaly Province (US\$ 3 million)
- Cross border Project for Nonghet district in Xieng Khuang Province (US\$ 1.5 million.)
- Support to community based treatment of drug users in the Lao PDR (US\$ 300,000)

#### 1.4 Myanmar

- (1) In 2011, there was a significant increase in seizures of ATS pills when compared with those which were recorded for 2010. In 2011, Myanmar recorded the seizure of nearly 6 million methamphetamine pills, which is almost 3 times higher than the seizure in 2010 but still lower than the 23.8 million recorded as seized in 2009. The seizure in 2008 and 2007 were 1.1 million and 1.6 million respectively. This fluctuation in volume of domestically-seized ATS pills does not indicate necessarily that methamphetamine manufacture is fluctuating as well. It is important to note, for example, that Myanmar's neighbouring countries of China, Lao PDR and Thailand seized significant amount of methamphetamine originating from Myanmar since 2009. This indicates the manufacture of methamphetamine pills in Myanmar remains high.
- (2) With respect to crystalline methamphetamine, most of them has been seized in northern Thailand in the recent years and has originated from the eastern border areas of Myanmar. The seizure of the first ever crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing facility in Lauk Kai, at the Myanmar-China border, in July 2012, may support this indication. Significant amount of finished products, semi-finished products and precursor chemicals were also seized together with equipments used in production of crystalline methamphetamine.
- (3) According to data reported by CCDAC, seizure of illicit narcotics and precursor chemicals slightly increased in 2011, in contrast to 2010, but still lower than the seizures in 2009. In 2011, the Myanmar Government reported that it had seized 42 kg heroin; 1.1 mt of opium (include both high-grade and low-grade); 60 kg of opium oil; 4,694 vials of morphine; 5.9 million methamphetamine pills; 33 kg of crystalline methamphetamine (also called 'ice'); 196 kg of cannabis; 110 kg of ephedrine (which is an ATS precursor chemical); and, 1,680 kg of cold/flu medicine tablets containing pseudoephedrine (which is an ATS precursor chemical). In addition, the CCDAC has reported that 7,058 ha of opium poppy field was eradicated, and almost 4,000 persons were arrested for illicit narcotic-related offences in 2011. However, seizures statistics reported by CCDAC for 2012 suggests a significant increasing trend.

## **1.5 Thailand**

- (1) The attached document is the most recent list of statistics on drug cases in Thailand, published by the Thai Office of Narcotics Control Board in June 2012.
- (2) According to the statistics above mentioned, there were 208,174 drug-related cases and 222,049 arrests in 2011. Although the statistics between 2002 and 2004 showed significant decrease, but after got increase again and now the statistics of 2011 shows the same level of 2002.
- (3) Methamphetamine like ya-ba and ice continues to be a major drug problem. Especially the number of demand for ya-ba is in a strong increase these years.
- (4) The government set up the Kingdom's Unity for Victory over Drugs in September 2011.

## **1.6 Vietnam**

- (1) In the first 6 months of 2012, drug law enforcement agencies investigated more than 10,000 cases, arrested 14,600 people involving in drug related crimes and seized more than 210 kg of heroin, 70 kg of opium, 1.5 metric tons of fresh cannabis, 96 kg and 6 blocks of dried cannabis; 100 kg and 184,000 tablets of synthetic drugs.
- (2) By 15 May 2012, there were 171,392 registered drugs users which shows increase in 7.7% over the same period of last year. Male users accounted for 96%, female: 4 %; age: under 16 accounted 0.02%, from 16 to under 30: 50%, and from 30 upward: 49.8%. Heroin users account for some 84.7% of people who use drugs.
- (3) As a follow up to approval in 2011 by the Government of Viet Nam of the National Strategy on Drug Control and Prevention to 2020, the Prime Minister of Viet Nam also signed on 31 August 2012 the National Target Programme on Drug Prevention and Control for the period 2012-2015.
- (4) One of the major developments was the approval in June 2012 by the National Assembly the amendment to the Law on Handling of Administrative Violations. With this approval, the administrative detention of sex workers is now abolished. Although the compulsory treatment of drug users still remains, it will be now subject to the Court decision with the right of drug users to appeal.

## **2. Mini Dublin Group meetings and activities since May 2012**

### **2.1 Cambodia**

Update of the Country Report (Annex1), circulated among the member countries in October 2012.

## **2.2 China**

Update of Information by Mini Dublin Group chair.

## **2.3 Lao PDR**

Update of the Country Report (Annex2). The last Mini Dublin Group meeting was held on 3 May at the Embassy of Japan in Lao PDR. The Illicit Drugs Sector Working Group will be held on 18 October under the chair of Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) with co-chair of Japan and UNODC.

## **2.4 Myanmar**

Update of the Country Report (Annex 3).

## **2.5 Thailand**

Update of Country Report (Annex 4). The last Mini Dublin Group meeting was held on 4 May at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

## **2.6 Vietnam**

Update of Country Report (Annex5). The last 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.

## **3. Follow up towards Recommendations:**

### **3.1 Cambodia**

There is no updated information.

### 3.2 China

There was no recommendation to Mini Dublin Group in China among those adopted in Central Dublin Group Meeting in May 2012.

### 3.3 Laos

The Mini Dublin Group followed-up the implementation of the recommendations as follows:

(1) Recommendation 1

*Highlight to the international community the growing narcotics challenges faced in Lao PDR*

To highlight the growing narcotic challenges faced by the Lao PDR, the Government held an official ceremony presided by the Prime Minister to mark the 25th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on the 26 June 2012. Narcotic drugs including 12.52kg of heroin, 470,170kg of amphetamine type stimulants, 1,535kg of cannabis and 226.5kg of white powder containing chemical precursors were burnt in front of senior members of the Government and Ambassadors and representatives from the diplomatic and international community.

A meeting was held with the Ambassadors and representatives from ASEAN countries at the Prime Minister's Office to provide an update on the worsening drug situation in the country on the 25 June 2012.

(2) 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 US Government provided US\$ 150,000 for the training of prosecutors and law enforcement officials in September 2012 in support of the NDCM.

(3) Recommendation 4:

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

At the end of March 2012, UNODC convened a special meeting between law enforcement, customs, immigrations, counter narcotic police, national drug control agencies from China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in Chiang Mai to discuss sub-regional law enforcement cooperation and how to ensure better and more effective coordination across borders.

### **3.4 Myanmar**

There is no updated information.

### **3.5 Thailand**

There is no updated information.

### **3.6 Vietnam**

There is no updated information.

## **1 CAMBODIA**

### **1.1 General Situation**

#### *1.1.1 Drug Use*

**Drug use** – There are no recent statistics on the number of drug users in Cambodia. A size estimation study is being conducted in 2012, led by the government. According to the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), the official number of drug users in Cambodia was estimated at about 5,000 to 6,000 persons in 2011. NACD officials admit, however, that the actual number of drug users is considerably higher.

The Cambodian National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STI (NCHADS) estimated that there were 13,000 drug users in 2008. Earlier estimates from an expert consensus group, led by UNAIDS, indicate that there were upwards of about 46,000 drug users in Cambodia, of which about half were ATS users (NAA 2008).

In 2010, an estimated 81% of all drug users used methamphetamine, 4% used heroin, 4% used inhalants (glue) and 11% used other drugs. An estimated 77% of all drug users in Cambodia are below the age of 26 years (NACD 2011c). Whereas illicit drug use was previously concentrated primarily in urban areas, in recent years it has been expanding into the rural areas, in particular in the provinces adjacent to Lao PDR and Thailand (INCSR 2012). In addition, drug use among women appears to be on the rise (NACD 2011c).

**Table 1. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Cambodia, 2007-2011**

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

● = Not reported

Source(s): \*NACD 2010a; \*\*2010 rankings based on DAINAP data and Cambodia country reports; \*\*\*NACD 2012b

**Table 2. Trend in use of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2007-2011**

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

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

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

**Injecting drug use** - The HIV rate among all drug users in Cambodia was about 1.1% in 2008, slightly higher than the 0.9% national prevalence rate (NACD 2011c). In 2011, of the estimated 1,900 injecting drug users (IDUs) in Cambodia, the HIV prevalence was estimated at 24.1%, according to preliminary findings of the latest study by the National AIDS Authority of Cambodia (NAA 2012).



### *1.1.2 Drug Production*

The manufacture, trafficking and use of illicit drugs in Cambodia has continued to expand. Over the past few years, Cambodia has become a favored manufacture and transit location for Asian and African drug trafficking networks. In 2011 and 2012, Cambodian law enforcement authorities seized record amounts of crystalline methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine, most of which was destined for international markets including Australia, Taiwan and Thailand. A number of ATS manufacturing facilities were also seized, most of which were located in Phnom Penh.

During the past few years, Cambodian authorities have dismantled nearly 20 facilities that were manufacturing methamphetamine or producing precursor chemicals for the manufacture of methamphetamine and MDMA. Some of the seized facilities as well as seized shipments of precursor chemicals were connected to ethnic Chinese drug trafficking organizations based in Taiwan.

Large amounts of methamphetamine (in pill and crystalline form) and heroin manufactured in the Golden Triangle are smuggled into Cambodia from Lao PDR. Cambodia has also become a major transit hub for the smuggling of cocaine and Afghanistan-produced heroin by drug trafficking organizations, in particular ones from Africa.

Methamphetamine pills are the most widely used drug in Cambodia, although crystalline methamphetamine is becoming more widely available and use of the drug is on the rise, particularly in Phnom Penh and among young drug users (NACD, 2011d, p. 4).

### *1.1.3 Drug Trafficking*

Cambodia continues to be used by Asian and African drug criminals as a major transit country for the trafficking of illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals due to its porous land, maritime and air borders. NACD authorities estimate that there are about 100 illegal corridors on the border with Thailand and 50 illegal corridors on the border with Lao PDR (Phnom Penh Post 03 May 2012). A large portion of the methamphetamine and heroin trafficked into Cambodia is trafficked from manufacturing centers in Myanmar along the Mekong River and road networks in Lao PDR and then into Cambodia through its northeastern borders. The drugs are then often repackaged for further trafficking via air passenger couriers to regional and international markets. The international airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap are key trafficking centers for inbound and outbound consignments of illicit drugs (NACD 2012a).

West African drug trafficking criminals are involved in trafficking primarily heroin and cocaine through Cambodia. Cocaine is smuggled into Cambodia by air and post from a number of countries in South America, North America, West Africa and South-East Asia for export to third countries along overland routes (NACD 2012a). Some drug trafficking organizations from Taiwan and mainland China are involved in the trafficking mainly of ATS and heroin (NACD 2012c). Also, the sequence of drug trafficking by Thai women to Cambodia from Africa and South America, which are organized by the West African drug syndicate, have been detected at the Phnom Penh and Siem Reap Airport since August 2012.

In 2012, law enforcement authorities in Cambodia recorded a number of significant seizures of illicit drugs as well as chemicals and equipment used for the manufacture of ATS. In April 2012, Australian authorities seized some 65 kg of heroin, shipped by parcel post from Cambodia and concealed as hair products. In August 2012, 70 kg of high purity heroin were seized on a fishing vessel in Taiwan. The heroin is likely to have originated from Myanmar and was loaded on board the vessel in Cambodia

#### *1.1.4 Drug sources*

Large quantities of methamphetamine are manufactured domestically; however, most of the methamphetamine (and heroin) trafficked into and through Cambodia originates from Myanmar. Since 2010, law enforcement authorities have dismantled a number of clandestine illicit drug manufacturing laboratories, most of which were for the manufacture of ATS or their precursor chemicals (NACD 2011a; NACD 2010b). In recent years, large quantities of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine have been seized in Cambodia. In 2009 and 2010, drug law enforcement authorities dismantled a number of facilities that were extracting ephedrine from raw ephedrine grass and pseudoephedrine from pharmaceutical preparations. It is believed that the extracted precursor material was intended for further trafficking to illicit crystalline methamphetamine manufacturers in the region (NACD 2011c). Cambodian drug trafficking groups involved in clandestine ATS manufacture generally work together with partners from other countries (notably Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan). The harvesting of safrole oil, a common precursor for MDMA, continues to be a law enforcement and environmental concern in Cambodia.

## 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, a 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. It also recognizes the right to voluntary access to drug treatment for drug users and the role of psychosocial and health care providers can play in providing 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 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 program. This program with the support of the UN has been successfully piloted in Banteay Meanchey Province. Many drug users have received improved access to medical and psychosocial services, and Law enforcement has been enabled to provide a supportive environment differentiating 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, healthcare providers, NGOs) involved in delivering the assistance.

#### *1.3.1 Supply reduction*

A UNODC survey demonstrated the local authorities had 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, 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 with 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. 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 works 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*

UNODC and partners are promoting access to voluntary community-based treatment, as an alternative to the Compulsory Drug Treatment Centers. This approach, championed by the government and piloted in Banteay Mancheay Province is showing promising results.

Cambodia has 13 (temporary) drug treatment centers run by the civilian police, military police, Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs (NACD 2012a).

## **1.4 Place and date of meeting of mini-Dublin group**

A mini-Dublin group meeting was not convened in the second half of the year. Instead, the draft of the country report was circulated among the member countries and their inputs were reflected to update it in late October, 2012.

## 1.5 Progress on recommendations from previous report

The new Drug Law was 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 initiative has affected 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. RGC requested expansion to two additional provinces and this took place (Steung Treng and Battambang)

## 1.6 Mini-Dublin Group Assessment of Needs

### 1.6.1 *Emerging threats/trends*

- The manufacture, trafficking and use of illicit drugs is a significant and worsening problem in Cambodia.
- Cambodia has become a favored transit and storage location for international drug traffickers. In 2012, a number of significant seizures of illicit drugs – including methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin – were recorded in Cambodia. Most of this was related to transnational organized criminal activity.
- Methamphetamine use continues to expand. Illicit drug use was previously concentrated primarily in urban areas, but has expanded into rural areas in recent years, in particular in the provinces adjacent to Lao PDR and Thailand.
- Drug trafficking organizations from Taiwan and mainland China are involved in the trafficking of ATS and heroin. West African networks are involved primarily in the trafficking heroin and cocaine through Cambodia to markets in the region.

### 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 have led 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.
- The drug situation in Cambodia needs to be better monitored. A national system to collect accurate and reliable data should be created with the input of different ministries concerned (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, etc). The statistics generated by the database would help to design future drug policies and consequently better respond to the needs.
- 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. As drug trafficking by air is of growing importance, special focus should put on both *Phnom Penh and Siem Reap international airports*. Drug detection methods, deterrence strategies could be put in place, following the models in place in other countries.
- Most importantly the country must continue to expand support for community based treatment initiatives. The level of trafficking in the region and in the country makes this approach absolutely crucial. Other countries are interested and imitating the Cambodian Model as stated during the *Second Regional Consultation on Compulsory Centres for Drug Users* (1-3 October 2012, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

- Assistance has so far been provided on basis of individual donors’ priorities, with a lack of optimization and synergy of resources. To harmonize and coordinate the assistance approach, regular meetings of the different stakeholder, especially the donors, should take place regularly.

## 2 LAO PDR

### 2.1 General Situation

A critical challenge to the Lao PDR is the threat from increasing trafficking, and abuse of **illicit drugs and the transnational as well as the insidious nature of the problem**. 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 proceeds of illicit trade has seen an increase in transit trafficking of narcotic drugs across the Lao PDR to a 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.



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 arrest of a major drug kingpin Sai Naw Kham by Laotian authorities in April 2012 and his subsequent deportation to China on the 10 May 2012. However significant seizures of methamphetamines continued in May 2012 with 1.6 million tablets seized in Luangprabang province and 5 million tablets seized in Luangnamtha province.

The rapid spread of Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) especially amongst Lao youth, remains 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, rapid infrastructure development and rapid expansion of road networks throughout the country have continued to open up new opportunities not only for trade but also for transnational trafficking of illicit commodities such as drugs, humans, counterfeits, illegal timber and endangered wildlife.

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). This is the fifth consecutive year in which the Lao PDR has seen increases in illicit opium poppy cultivation, from 1500 ha in 2007 to 4,100 ha in 2011 which is a 173% increase.

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 related offences, compared to only 6 in 2008. Some 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 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.

## **2.2 Changes to the institutional counter-narcotics framework**

The Government of Lao PDR's **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 Lao PDR 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 7<sup>th</sup> five year National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2011-2015(The 7<sup>th</sup> 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).

In preparation for the round table meeting to be held on the 23 November 2012, the Government of the Lao PDR reaffirmed the structure and terms of reference of the Illicit Drugs Sector Working Group (IDSWG) as well as the two sub sector working groups for drugs and crime. The sector-working group forms part of an institutional framework to coordinate and facilitate effective development assistance efforts. 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 as well as other negative social phenomena.

Some 24 entertainment venues have been closed down in Vang Vieng in September 2012. Vang Vieng has been notorious for drugs, drink and related deaths. Some 6 foreign visitors this year and 22 during the last year had reportedly met an untimely death there.

### **2.3 Update on bilateral and multilateral counter-narcotics programs**

The UNODC takes the lead on counter-narcotics programs 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 Program (**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. Some 107 IDUs are accessing services in the four sites.
- 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.

## **2.4 Identification of needs for external assistance**

Responses to narcotic challenges are largely focused on alternative livelihood development programs. 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.

The alternative development program continued to be developed with urgent priority projects addressing alternative development, sustainable livelihoods, food security and poverty reduction identified as follows:

- Transferring innovative alternative development technologies from Oudomxay to Sam Tai District in Houaphan Province (US\$ 350,000)
- Phon Xay District in Luangprabang Province, (US\$ 1.5 million)
- Alternative Development phase 2 in Houaphan Province, (US\$1.9 million)
- Ngot Ou District in Phongsaly Province (US\$ 3 million)
- Cross border Project for Nonghet district in Xieng Khuang Province requiring about (US\$ 1.5 million.)
- Support to community based treatment of drug users in the Lao PDR (US\$ 300,000)

To mount a response to these extremely serious threats from increasing flows of narcotic drugs as well as other transnational illicit commodities, the Lao PDR must take concrete action to understand the problem, establish the normative frameworks required for national and international responses. This includes ensuring compliance with the UN convention against transnational organized crime and the UN convention against corruption. Measures must be taken to strengthen the Lao Government efforts to establish the necessary legislative and regulatory basis at the country level to counter the threat from transnational organized crime and build up the technical capacity to meet the challenges. Regional partnerships must be expanded and strengthened.

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 counter-corruption.

Urgent support is sought for the following projects in 2012-2013:

- **Project ENACT**-Enhancing National Anti-Corruption Technical Capacity (US\$ 450,000)
- **Project MERIT**-Mechanism Enhancing Ratification and Incorporation of International Treaties (US\$ 350,000)
- **Project CLEAR**-Combating Money Laundering and enhancing anti financing of terrorism responses (US\$ 350,000) and
- **Project FACTS**-Forensic Science Ability and Capacity enhancement through Technical Assistance and Support (US\$ 300,000)

## **2.5 Implementation of previous recommendations/Conclusions**

*Recommendation 1: Highlight to the international community the growing narcotics challenges faced in Lao PDR*

To highlight the growing narcotic challenges faced by the Lao PDR, the Government held an official ceremony presided by the Prime Minister to mark the 25th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on the 26 June 2012. Narcotic drugs including 12.52kg of heroin, 470,170kg of amphetamine type stimulants, 1,535kg of cannabis and 226.5kg of white powder containing chemical precursors were burnt in front of senior members of the Government and Ambassadors and representatives from the diplomatic and international community.

A meeting was held with the Ambassadors and representatives from ASEAN countries at the Prime Minister's Office to provide an update on the worsening drug situation in the country on the 25 June 2012.

*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 US Government provided US\$ 150,000 for the training of prosecutors and law enforcement officials in September 2012 in support of the NDCM.

*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 which includes the Lao National Commission for Drug Control & Supervision, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Security has approved in principle the "National Drug Law Enforcement Strategy" in June 2012, At the same time the Government of the Lao PDR 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. At the end of March 2012, UNODC convened a special meeting between law enforcement, customs, immigrations, counter narcotic police, national drug control agencies from China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in Chiang Mai to discuss sub-regional law enforcement cooperation and how to ensure better and more effective coordination across borders.

*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 program “East and Southeast Asia partnership on Criminal Justice Response to Terrorism” in the February of 2012. The National Assembly decided to develop the law on human trafficking and law on international cooperation in criminal matters, and the Criminal Procedure Law in July 2012. Amendment of the Penal Code will be approved in the next five years. Within 2012 NA plans to enact laws on extradition and mutual legal assistance.

## **2.6 Mini Dublin Group coordination**

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 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 is 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.

### *2.6.1 Assessment of emerging threats and trends*

The continuing increasing trend of illicit opium poppy cultivation in the country is worrisome and requires close monitoring. UNODC's annual opium survey indicates that 25 tons of opium was produced in 2011. Some 15 tons is estimated to be required for domestic consumption by some remaining 10,000 opium users. This leaves about 10 tons of opium available for export and refining into heroin.

Expansion of alternative development assistance balanced with appropriate law enforcement measures and treatment of drug users is a must to reduce this disturbing trend.

The use of Laos as a 'transit country' for the trafficking not only of illicit drugs, but also precursors as well as other transnational organized crime related commodities presents significant challenges to the socio-economic development as well as security and stability of the country. The significant increase in methamphetamine abuse and trafficking, poses a significant threat, particularly to the youth of Laos who form more than 60% of the total population. There are increasing numbers of youth seeking treatment for drug abuse.

Drug demand reduction treatment programmes that are evidence based and incorporate more community based approaches together with effective prevention measures must be implemented to mitigate this threat.

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. Geopolitical and regional tensions, particularly the continuing use of proceeds from narcotics trafficking to fund insurgencies in Burma and Southern Thailand, have serious destabilizing effects on efforts to counter illicit drugs in Laos.

The Asia Pacific Group against money laundering estimates that proceeds from transit drug trafficking alone could exceed 16% of the GDP of the Lao PDR. UNODC estimates that total transnational organized crime flows in the region amount to approximately 15 times the GDP of the Lao PDR. These vast amounts of cash fuel both crime and corruption. The costs in terms of human health, welfare, environmental damage and lost government revenues are immense.

Measures to support the Lao PDR to comply with the UNCAC and UNTOC as well as to raise the capacity of relevant national institutions and personnel to address corruption and transnational organized crime are necessary.

A total of 670 new cases of HIV were identified in the Lao PDR during 2011 resulting in an accumulative over 5000 persons who tested HIV positive in the country as of March 2012, including injecting drug users. This emphasizes the need to expand and not curtail HIV prevention activities in the country.

#### *2.6.2 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.

H.E. Mr. Soubanh Srithirath, Chairperson of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision and a Champion against illicit drugs, sadly passed away from an illness on the 17 July 2012. A state funeral was held on the 21 July for Mr. Soubanh who was one of the original signatories of the MOU on Drug Control for the Greater Mekong Sub Region. He served as Chairperson of LCDC since 1990. Under his leadership illicit opium poppy cultivation and consumption was significantly reduced by over 94% and 81% respectively in 2006. A successor has not yet been nominated.

2.6.3 *All five recommendations to the Government of the Lao PDR remain valid*

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

*Recommendation 5: 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
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Trans National Organized Crime

### 3 MYANMAR/BURMA

#### 3.1 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 1993<sup>1</sup>. 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 report<sup>2</sup> on Myanmar, there was an estimated year-on-year increase in area under poppy cultivation of 14 %, from 38,100 ha in 2010 to 43,600 ha in 2011. This was accompanied by an estimated year-on-year increase in potential opium production of 5 % 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> UNODC (2011) South-East Asia Opium Survey 2011: Lao PDR, Myanmar

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. 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 2011, there was a significant increase in seizures of ATS pills when compared with those which were recorded for 2010. In 2011, Myanmar recorded the seizure of nearly 6 million methamphetamine pills, which is almost 3 times higher than the seizure in 2010 but still lower than the 23.8 million recorded as seized in 2009. The seizure in 2008 and 2007 were 1.1 million and 1.6 million respectively. This fluctuation in volume of domestically-seized ATS pills does not indicate necessarily that methamphetamine manufacture is fluctuating as well. It is important to note, for example, that Myanmar's neighbouring countries of China, Lao PDR and Thailand seized significant amount of methamphetamine originating from Myanmar since 2009. This indicates the manufacture of methamphetamine pills in Myanmar remains high.

With respect to crystalline methamphetamine, large shipments of this ATS destined for international markets were seized in Myanmar in 2009 and 2010. After recording the seizures of 124 kg and 226 kg in 2009 and 2010 respectively, the seizure dropped to only 33 kg in 2011. Most of the crystalline methamphetamine that has been seized in northern Thailand in the recent years is alleged to have originated from the eastern border areas of Myanmar. The seizure of the first ever crystalline methamphetamine manufacturing facility in Lauk Kai, at the Myanmar-China border, in July 2012, may support this indication. Significant amount of finished products, semi-finished products and precursor chemicals were also seized together with equipments used in production of crystalline methamphetamine.

In Myanmar heroin and opium are the primary drugs of use. This opiate use has decreased over the past seven 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.

## **3.2 Update on Myanmar's anti-drug strategy**

### *3.2.1 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.

### *3.2.2 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.

### *3.2.3 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 slightly increased in 2011, in contrast to 2010, but still lower than the seizures in 2009. In 2011, the Myanmar Government reported that it had seized 42 kg heroin; 1.1 mt of opium (include both high-grade and low-grade); 60 kg of opium oil; 4,694 vials of morphine; 5.9 million methamphetamine pills; 33 kg of crystalline methamphetamine (also called ‘ice’); 196 kg of cannabis; 110 kg of ephedrine (which is an ATS precursor chemical); and, 1,680 kg of cold/flu medicine tablets containing pseudoephedrine (which is an ATS precursor chemical). In addition, the CCDAC has reported that 7,058 ha of opium poppy field was eradicated, and almost 4,000 persons were arrested for illicit narcotic-related offences in 2011. However, seizures statistics reported by CCDAC for 2012 suggests a significant increasing trend.

By the end of August, Myanmar authorities have already seized 146 kg of heroin; 1,287 kg of opium (high-grade only), 60 kg of opium (low grade); 467 vials of morphine; 15.7 million methamphetamine pills; 374 kg of crystalline methamphetamine; 59 kg of cannabis; 313 kg of ephedrine, and 3,462 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.

### **3.3 Update on major bilateral and multilateral counter narcotics programmes**

#### ***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 10 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 Region and Yangon Region. 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 2011 Opium Poppy Survey report was released in December 2011. The 2012 Opium Poppy Survey fieldwork was completed in March 2012 and the 2012 report will be issued in November 2012.

#### 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 upcoming 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 \$2.1 million (2002-2012 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)***

In 2011, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stepped up poppy eradication efforts, destroying standing poppy crops throughout the country. Recognizing the impact this campaign was having on community livelihoods, the Government requested UN Agencies, and particularly WFP, to provide emergency food assistance in areas where poppy eradication efforts were significantly impacting household food security status.

WFP's assistance to ex-poppy farmers followed a joint assessment conducted by WFP and UNODC; affected communities in Ho Pone and Loi Lin Townships within south and central Shan started receiving food rations as an initial response after their poppy fields were destroyed.

As of August 2012 WFP, in collaboration with UNODC, reached 16,528 people with 632 tons of food in Ho Pone and Loi Lin.

As requests for assistance from the Government were received for communities in two additional townships in southern Shan State, Pekon and Pinlaung, WFP conducted an emergency food security assessment in late January 2012. WFP assessed 10 villages identified by the Government as severely affected. The objective was to assess the extent to which household food security status was impacted by poppy eradication intervention.

The results of the assessment indicate that:

- In the communities affected in Pinlaung and Pekon, the food security situation was stable and no immediate assistance was deemed necessary;
- Household diet appeared sufficiently diverse, thus indicating adequate food access;
- Paddy production actually increased from 2010 to 2011, with food stocks likely sufficient until early to mid-June;
- Market purchases were the main source of rice for households, suggesting household income remains sufficient to afford basic food needs the loss of poppy's generated income. Few households were reportedly forced to purchase food on credit or borrow from friends/relatives;
- Continuing monitoring will help understand the resilience of these communities; if assistance is deemed necessary, food or cash-based assistance will be considered.

Alongside assisting vulnerable ex-poppy farmers, WFP continues to support the communities most in need through assets creation, nutrition, education and emergency response activities. In 2011 WFP reached more than 1.35 million people across the country distributing 35,000 tons of food commodities.

WFP will continue to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable sectors of the population in the coming years with the aim of contributing to a more equitable development in Myanmar. WFP is also keen in supporting the transition and national reconciliation efforts by reducing poverty, food security and undernutrition and increasing the resilience capacity amongst the communities more exposed to shocks and natural disasters.

WFP is currently working in Magway Region, Rakhine, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and plans to expand its area of intervention to new ceasefire areas in the coming years.

### *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 in Myanmar, and a number of smaller projects.

Australia is also contributing to the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT). LIFT is funded by Australia, Denmark, the European Union, the Netherlands, New Zealand, 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 target areas for LIFT.

### ***European Union***

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 implementation of these projects has suffered from important delays and activities on the ground only started in early 2011. The EU and UNODC have agreed to review the strategy following the decision from the GoM to intensify the poppy eradication campaign in Southern Shan State. Project support will be channelled in priority to villages (1) in which eradication has already occurred; and, (2) in which there is a high rate of household participation in poppy cultivation (either through direct planting of poppy, or through participation in wage labour in poppy fields), regardless of whether eradication has occurred in, or is planned for, these villages.

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).

### **3.4 Place and Date of Meeting of Mini-Dublin Group in Myanmar**

Due to time constraints, a meeting was not held.

### **3.5 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

### **3.6 Mini-Dublin Group Assessment of Needs**

#### *3.6.1 Emerging Threats/Trends*

Opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has continued to see year-on-year increases in cultivation area since 2006. In 2011 production of opium also increased from 2010 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.

### *3.6.2 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.

## **3.7 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.

### Current and Previous Anti-Narcotics Programs in Myanmar

(Compiled by Mini Dublin Group Myanmar)

As of: **September 2012**

Donor	Recipient Agency	Project/Program Title	Budget (USD)	Other currency	Description	Region(s)	Start Year	End Year	Status
1 Japan	Bilateral (Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs)	Project for the Eradication of Opium Poppy Cultivation and Poverty Reduction in Kokang Special Region	\$11,000,000		Covers infrastructure, agriculture, livelihood improvement, health and education aimed at mitigation of the critical situation of the people in poverty after eradicating opium poppy cultivation and demonstration of model porvetry reduction activities in the Kokang Region.	Kokang Self-Administered Zone	2005	2011	Completed. (Japanese experts were not allowed access to project sites since the Kokang Incident in Aug 2009; field activities of the project were carried out by local staff )
2 Japan	Bilateral (Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs)	Buckwheat cultivation project as substitute crop of opium poppy	\$4,860,000		Introduced buckwheat cultivation as substitute crop of opium poppy, and supported its quality maintenance and marketing (export to Japan).	Northern Shan State (Kokang, Muse, Lashio, Kyaukme District)	1997	2005	Buckwheat cultivation component was merged into the Kokang Project (only technical support). Prioivate sector (local company) took over the activities and is continuing in Kokang, Kyaukme and extended to PaO areas (Southern Shan State) .
3 Japan	Bilateral (Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs)	The Increase of Food Production (2KR/Grant Aid)	\$5,770,000		Fertilizer and agriculture machineries (Tractor, thresher, etc) provided through 2KR was distributed to farmers of Northern Shan State through Na TaLa.	Mainly Kokang and Wa region	1998	1999	Completed

4	Japan	Bilateral (Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs)	The Project for Electrification of Kokang Region in Northern Shan State	\$1,714,000	Electric poles, transformers and electric grid from Tarshwetan to Kyasishu are installed. In addition, technical transfer on electrification was conducted for Myanmar and local electric engineers.	Kokang region	2001	2003	Completed
5	Japan	Bilateral (Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs)	The Project for Improvement of the Road Construction Equipment for Kokang Region in Northern Shan State.	\$4,633,000	To renovate access road to mountain villages, road construction equipments (grader, wheelloader, vibration road roller, dump trucks, etc) were provided through NaTaLa with maintenance workshop. 10 km of demonstration road between Laukai and Tarshwetan was constructed.	Kokang region	2001	2003	Completed
6	Japan	Bilateral (Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs)	Primary Health Care Project in Kokang Special Region	\$240,000	AMDA (Association of Medical Doctors of Asia) had implemented the project for improvement of community-based health programs, strengthen of function of border areas and improvement of hygiene conditions with JICA's Grassroot Technical Cooperation Program.	Kokang region	2004	2006	Although JICA's Grassroot Technical Cooperation Program was completed, AMDA is continuing the activities by own and other financial resources in Kokang region to date.
7	Japan	Bilateral (Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs)	The Kokang Region Opium Poppy Eradication Support Programme	\$400,000	World Vision had implemented The Kokang Region Opium Poppy Eradication Support Programme in Konkyan township in sectors of health, livelihood improvement, agriculture with JICA's Grassroot Technical Cooperation Program.	Kokang region	2004	2007	Although JICA's Grassroot Technical Cooperation Program was completed, World Vision is continuing the activities by own and other financial resources in Kokang region to date.

8	Japan	UNODC	Drug Control and Development in the Wa Special Region of Shan State	\$4,430,000		Supported the transition to sustainable development by strengthening the Wa personnel capacity to plan and coordinate work to reduce poverty and sustain the elimination of opium in the Wa Region	Wa	1996	2007
9	Japan	UNODC	2007 Food Security Programme for Burma/Myanmar (4 Village Tracts □)	\$152,609		Focuses on poverty alleviation through improved food security. Targets interventions in the areas of i) food security and increasing legal production in agriculture ii) development of small farmers' associations and cooperatives iii) prevention of opium production, consumption and treatment	Pinlon, Southern Shan State	2010	2010
10	Japan	UNODC	Illicit Crop Monitoring in Myanmar	\$2,125,376		To provide verifiable estimates on the extents and evolution of opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar to national authorities, regional and sub-regional corporation mechanisms as well as UN and international community	Shan, Kachin, Chin and Kayah states.	2002	2012
11	Japan	World Food Programme	Improving the food security, nutrition status and livelihoods of vulnerable groups (Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO))	\$750,000		Food assistance was provided to highly food-insecure and vulnerable groups (children under five and pregnant and lactating women, as well as school-age children in Kokang)	Northern Shan State	2009	2009
12	Japan	World Food Programme	Improving the food security, nutrition status and livelihoods of vulnerable groups (Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO))	\$650,000		Food assistance was provided to highly food-insecure and vulnerable groups	NFI for Northern Shan State	2006	2006

13	Japan	World Food Programme	Improving the food security, livelihoods of vulnerable groups (Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO))	\$1,130,000	Food assistance was provided to highly food-insecure and vulnerable groups	Lashio, Kokang, Wa, Magway	2006	2006	Completed
14	Japan	World Food Programme	Improving the food security, livelihoods of vulnerable groups (Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO))	\$280,000	Food assistance was provided to highly food-insecure and vulnerable groups	Northern Shan State	2005	2005	Completed
15	Japan	World Food Programme	Emergency Operation	\$500,000		Northern Shan State	2004	2004	Completed
16	Japan	World Food Programme	Emergency Operation	\$300,000		Kokang	2003	2003	Completed
17	Japan	Japanese NGO	Upgrading a Rural Health Center in Kokang Region	\$130,000	Upgraded a rural health center in Kokang Region	Kokang	2009	2009	Completed
18	European Commission	UNODC	Reducing injecting drug use and its harmful consequences in the Union of Myanmar	951,570 Euro	To reduce injecting drug use and its harmful consequences, with a particular focus on reducing the transmission of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users (IDUs) and their families and communities, through increased access to information and services for drug users.	Myanmar	2003	2006	Completed
19	European Commission	UNODC	Reducing injecting drug use and its harmful consequences in the Union of Myanmar	640,000 Euro	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.	Myanmar with special focus in Mandalay Division and Northern Shan State	2006	2008	Completed

20	European Commission	UNODC	2007 Food Security Programme for Burma/Myanmar in 6 village tracts" Hopong Township, South Shan State	\$2,635,000	1,445,000 Euro	To increase diverse food crop production and the ending of opium poppy cultivation. Expand the village economy via agri-business that can lead to sourcing markets for higher priced processed products.	Hopong, Southern Shan State	2009	2013	Project sites were changed from Pinlaung to Hopong township in Southern Shan State since UNODC was denied the MoU to operate in the area. Government agreement was granted.
21	European Commission	UNODC	2007 Food Security Programme for Burma/Myanmar in 4 village tracts" Hopong Township, South Shan State	\$2,325,000	1,275,000 Euro	To increase diverse food crop production and the ending of opium poppy cultivation. Expand the village economy via agri-business that can lead to sourcing markets for higher priced processed products.	Hopong, Southern Shan State	2009	2013	Project sites were changed from Pinlaung to Hopong township in Southern Shan State since UNODC was denied the MoU to operate in the area. Government agreement was granted.
22	Germany	UNODC	Increasing Food Security and Promoting Licit Crop Production and Small Farmer Enterprise Development in Lao PDR and Myanmar	\$1,951,800	1,573,809 EUR	Focuses on poverty alleviation through improved food security. Targets interventions in the areas of i) food security and increasing legal production in agriculture ii) development of small farmers' associations and cooperatives iii) prevention of opium production, consumption and treatment	Pinlon, Southern Shan State	2011	2012	Pending for baseline assessment followed by the full implementation of project activities by Jan 2011.
23	Germany	Welthungerhilfe/German Agro Action	Improvement of Basic Infrastructure and Livelihoods in 49 Villages in Former Poppy Growing Areas		500,000 EUR		Wa Special Region Northern Shan State	2009	2012	Ongoing, expatriate access impossible since August 2010
24	Germany	UNODC	Global Partnership on Alternative Development	\$220,600		Contributed to a sustainable reduction of illicit crop cultivation through integration of development counter narcotics objectives into broader development policies, plans and programmes		2007	2010	Completed.
25		UNODC	Support of Uprooted People in Loilen Township (11 Village Tract)	\$1,308,500		Improve sustainable livelihood as a whole, from improving livelihood assets of the farmers, as well as acting on livelihood process and structures.	Loilen, Southern Shan State			Secured government approval already.

26	3DF	UNODC	UNODC Partnership for the Reduction of Injecting Drug Use, HIV/AIDS and Related Vulnerability in Myanmar	\$3.414.400		To prevent and reduce injecting drug use, HIV/AIDS and related vulnerability through strengthening CBOs and Township Project Management Committees in priority townships in Myanmar.	Shan State	2007	2011	Completed
27	Australia	UNODC	Reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users through the HAARP Country Flexible Programme in Myanmar	\$4.816.574		To reduce the spread of HIV related harm which is associated with injecting drug use.	State (Shan, Kachin) Division (Yangon, Mandalay)	2008	2012	On-going.

## 4 THAILAND

### 4.1 General situation

The drug situation in Thailand remains serious, with trends largely unchanged since 2011. Trafficking of illicit drugs from abroad 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. The manufacturing of ATS in high volume are hardly found in Thailand.



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. In the southern part of Thailand, the use of 'kratom', a mildly hallucinogenic leaf, is still common locally.

The most recent list of statistics on drug cases in Thailand, published by the Thai Office of Narcotics Control Board, is at **Attachment A**.

## **4.2 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 Chalerm Yubumrung, Deputy Prime Minister, as Director of NCCDE, and H.E. Police General 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 is related 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 is handled in proactive and managed in an integrated and effective manner.

Thai authorities are actively tackling the illegal trade of precursors, 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.

### **4.3 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, human trafficking, 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.

#### **4.4 Mini Dublin Group meetings (place, date and attendees)**

On May 4 at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

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.

#### **4.5 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, voluntary counseling and testing for HIV and hepatitis, hepatitis vaccination, referral for HIV treatment and referral broader health care.

## **4.6 Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs**

### *4.6.1 Emerging threats/trends*

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

### *4.6.2 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 reduction, demand reduction 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 precursor and other essential chemical is a positive development which will make it more difficult for precursors to be sourced in Thailand.

### *4.6.3 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 cooperate in order to avoid duplication and ensure assistance is well-targeted.

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

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****Statistic on Drug Cases throughout the Country in 2011 and 2012 (1 January – 31 August 2012)**

Substance	2011			2012 (1Jan-31Aug)		
	Cases	Offenders	Amount (grams)	Cases	Offenders	Amount (grams)
Heroin	994	1,117	547,464.78	425	484	72,076.98
Ecstasy	151	193	5,288.18	45	66	421.89
Raw opium	588	612	37,079.79	137	148	21,647.08
Cooked opium	117	125	5,577.353	23	26	516.56
Opium plant	61	62	202,286.951	14	14	156,500
Ketamine	168	184	77,990.151	49	66	2,362.13
Cocaine	60	82	31,789.617	34	38	9,800.64
Codeine	2	3	312	1	1	14,300
Caffeine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dried cannabis	12,107	13,224	12,849,553.72	4419	4889	14,355,206.02
Fresh cannabis	567	588	1,452,781.652	282	294	940,911.93
Cannabis resin	16	16	72,472.66	6	6	17,154.77
Kratom plant	6,077	7,836	24,175,603.93	3,275	4,093	12,287,899.63
ICE	19,973	23,021	1,233,152.55	10,523	12,194	1,002,466.32
Ya-ba	183,130	192,572	4,937,571.82	75,855	80,052	5,332,636.76
Psychotropic Substances	869	972	1,048,699.01	382	421	162,587.26
Inhalant	3,408	3,433	100,322.92	926	930	26,427.31
Others	3,100	5,530	9,075,872.48	1678	2,708	5,065,491.02
Total	223,804	238,490	-	94,000	100,673	-

**Remarks:** - Issue dated 24 September 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.

## **5 VIET NAM**

### **5.1 Drug trends in Viet Nam**

With efficient opium poppy eradication efforts, it is estimated that as much as 95% of illicit drugs being trafficked into Viet Nam, for either transit or domestic consumption.

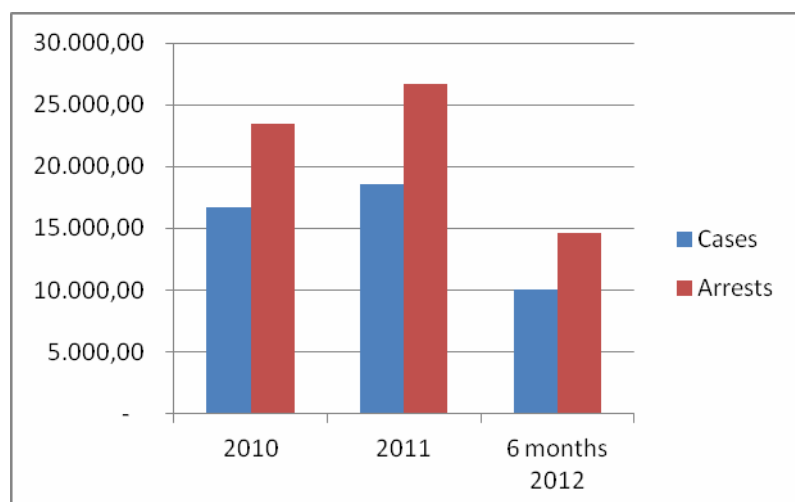
Although heroin and opium remain the main drugs consumed or trafficked in Viet Nam, the synthetic drugs are becoming increasingly popular on the Viet Nam illicit drugs market. In April 2012, the Ministry of Public Security reported seizure in April 2012 of 10 cases with 45 kg of synthetic drugs at Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City international airports. Seizures of crystal methamphetamine and powder were also made in provinces.

According to UNODC 2012 ATS survey, the ATS market in Viet Nam continues to expand and diversify. Use of ATS is becoming increasingly widespread mainly in big cities. The general level of knowledge and understanding about ATS remains minimal in Viet Nam.

Overall, in 2011 drug law enforcement agencies detected more than 18,623 cases, arrested 26,687 people involving in drug related crimes (an increase of 2,500 cases and 3,190 people over the same period last year), and seized more than 309 kg and 36 blocks of heroin; 76 kg opium; nearly 7 metric tons of fresh cannabis and 500 kg cannabis, 121 kg and 366,000 tablets of synthetic drugs.

In the first 6 months of 2012, drug law enforcement agencies investigated more than 10,000 cases, arrested 14,600 people involving in drug related crimes and seized more than 210 kg of heroin, 70 kg of opium, 1.5 metric tons of fresh cannabis, 96 kg and 6 blocks of dried cannabis; 100 kg and 184,000 tablets of synthetic drugs.

**Figure 1: Cases and arrests from 2010 to the first 6 months of 2012**



**Table 1: Drugs seizures from 2010 to the first 6 months of 2012**

Drug type	2010	2011	6 months 2012
Heroin	316.755 kg and 12 blocks	309 kg and 36 blocks	210 kg
Opium	28.17 kg	76 kg	70 kg
Fresh cannabis	8,623.2 kg	Almost 7 tons	1.5 tons
Dried cannabis	-	500 kg	96 kg and 6 blocks
Synthetic drugs	21,996 kg and 221,685 tablets	121 kg and 366,000 tablets	100 kg and 184,000 tablets

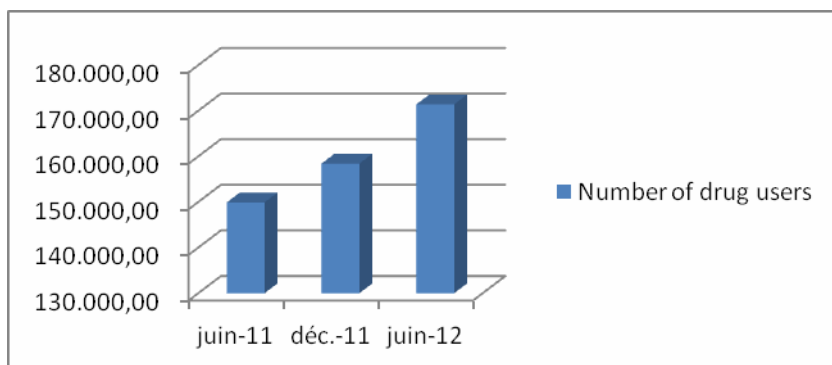
*- Drug abuse situation:*

By the end of 2011, there were 158,414 registered drug users nationwide, indicating an increase of 8,514 people since 2010. Heroin users account for some 83% of people who use drugs.

By 15 May 2012, there were 171,392 registered drugs users which shows increase in 7.7% over the same period of last year. Male users accounted for 96%, female: 4 %; age: under 16 accounted 0.02%, from 16 to under 30: 50%, and from 30 upward: 49.8%. Heroin users account for some 84.7% of people who use drugs.



**Figure 2: Increasing number of drug users from June 2011 to May 2012**



Cultivation of narcotic containing plants, although limited, shows somewhat increasing trend. In October 2011, the Government of Viet Nam reported the total detected and eradicated area of opium poppy in 2010-2011 was 25.85 hectares. In 2011 - 2012, the national authorities eradicated 37.8 ha of narcotic containing plants (an increase of 14% compared to the same time in 2011), of which 34 ha of opium poppy, and the remaining 3.8 ha of cannabis.

**Table 2: Cultivation from 2010 to 2012**

Type of plants	2010-2011	2011-2012
Opium poppy plants	25.85 ha	34 ha
Cannabis	Small scale	3.8 ha

### Policy developments

As a follow up to approval in 2011 by the Government of Viet Nam of the National Strategy on Drug Control and Prevention to 2020, the Prime Minister of Viet Nam also signed on 31 August 2012 the National Target Programme on Drug Prevention and Control for the period 2012-2015.

One of the major developments was the approval in June 2012 by the National Assembly the amendment to the Law on Handling of Administrative Violations. With this approval, the administrative detention of sex workers is now abolished. Although the compulsory treatment of drug users still remains, it will be now subject to the Court decision with the right of drug users to appeal.

## **5.2 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 of the Vietnamese Police General Department for Crime Prevention and Suppression through number of capacity building training and other initiatives.

### **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.

### **Great Britain**

The UK has increased its law enforcement footprint in Vietnam, and will seek to build on existing relationships in the coming year. UK co-operation with Vietnam is currently excellent but organised crime is a growing phenomenon and it is essential that the UK and Vietnam work even more closely to combat this increasing threat. To that end the UK has opened a SOCA Liaison Office in Hanoi in 2012, which will allow a more dedicated relationship with Vietnamese law enforcement to develop. In addition, SOCA will add to their presence in South East Asia by having a Regional Director based in Bangkok from 2013.

Vietnamese crime groups have traditionally dominated cannabis cultivation in the UK; however this dominance may be decreasing. Most of these cannabis farms are staffed or run by Vietnamese illegal immigrants, with the money generated by cannabis cultivation in the UK estimated to be between GBP 300 million and GBP 800 million per year. Much of this is known to be sent back to Vietnam through the use of individual couriers or via legitimate Vietnamese businesses. The laundering of the proceeds of crime generated by this criminality will be a key area of work for SOCA in the coming year, and SOCA will look to identify a key partner within the MPS and also work with the UNODC to strengthen responses in this area.

Criminal vendettas and rivalry between crime groups have also resulted in a number of kidnaps and murders in the Vietnamese community. SOCA and the UK Human Trafficking Centre have worked closely with ACPO Forces in England and Wales on responses tackling this criminal threat.

## **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. 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**

U.S. counter-narcotics objectives in Viet Nam are aimed at improving cooperation in cross-border, regional, and international enforcement efforts and 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.

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.

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 Defense Joint Interagency Taskforce-West (JIATF-W) conducted a training seminar with the Ministry of Public Security's Counter-Narcotics Department in July 2012. The seminar provided tactical and emergency medical training to more than 50 police officers. In addition, DEA and JIATF-W continue to partner with MPS (Counter-Narcotics Department) to support the construction of a joint training facility in Vinh, Viet Nam. This project is expected to be completed in November 2012.

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 outreach, AML organizational and institutional development, and Financial Intelligence Unit development and operations since February 2010.

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 which provided 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 Public Security's Police Academy and with the General Department of Viet Nam Customs Training Academy to develop and incorporate financial investigative techniques courses into their respective curricula.

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 to build general operational capacity and 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).

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Vietnam anticipates receiving approximately \$69 million in FY 2012 for a targeted program of health systems strengthening and HIV prevention, care, and treatment among key populations including injecting drug users (IDU), sex workers, and men who have sex with men. Injecting drug use plays a significant role in driving HIV transmission; approximately 60 percent of all HIV infections in Vietnam 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 10,000 IDUs in 45 clinics across eleven provinces (as of September 2012). PEPFAR also supports HIV counseling and testing and community outreach for key populations. 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. Through PEPFAR, the U.S. Government also participates in the development and implementation of Vietnam's National Strategy on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control.

## **UNODC**

With support of a number of donor partners and as part of the One UN in Viet Nam the UNODC provides assistance to Viet Nam in addressing transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking; corruption and money laundering; in terrorism prevention; in strengthening Criminal justice system and on Public health (drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS).

*In the areas of organized crime, illicit trafficking and smuggling*, UNODC helped to enhance national efforts in border security in the Greater-Mekong Sub-region, with some significant arrests and seizures directly attributable to the operations of border liaison offices (BLO). The availability of comparative national data on amphetamine-type stimulants and its related consequences was improved through a survey that included information collection and analysis as well as the promotion of inter-agency cooperation. Further, the capacity of front-line law enforcement officers was enhanced through training, especially computer-based training including 22 training courses for 250 officers. UNODC supports law enforcement authorities in improving and developing the information collection and sharing capacity through, inter alia, computer-based training.

Through a dedicated programme *against money laundering*, UNODC helped to increase capacity of the Economic Police Department of the Ministry of Public Securities to identify, investigate and prosecute economic crimes by delivering training in basic investigative techniques, money laundering and financial investigation. UNODC also provided money laundering and financial investigation training to the Anti-Corruption Related Crimes Department of the Ministry of Public Security in Ha Noi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City. As a custodian of UNCAC, UNODC also provided policy advice, whenever required, for the Government Inspectorate to make a self-assessment of the implementation of the Convention.

UNODC assisted the Government *in formulating new strategies and policy documents addressing drugs, crime and illicit trafficking in human beings*, such as National Programme on Crime Prevention. In the criminal justice area, partnerships on the response to terrorism have been initiated as part of a new regional programme against terrorism.

UNODC aims at *addressing drug use and dependence* that affect the lives of individuals, families and communities through prevention of use, prevention of the consequences, treatment and care. UNODC has provided technical support to the Government in the development of comprehensive drug prevention programmes and drug treatment and rehabilitation services, as well as for the expansion of evidence-based, voluntary drug treatment services in the community.

UNODC has been helping to strengthen national capacity through capacity building, technical assistance and advocacy efforts to reduce the *spread of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users, including in prison setting*.

More detailed information is available upon request.

### **5.3 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.

#### **5.4 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 in money laundering.
- Support for the development of drug law enforcement agencies' interdiction and investigation capacity, information collection and sharing, especially investigation and suppression of ATS related crime; information collection to identify trends in drug use, especially ATS use; support for drug prevention activities including attention to synthetic drugs.
- Support for drug treatment and rehabilitation, especially in diversification of services for drugs users at provincial level and closure of the so-called "06" centres.
- Support for HIV prevention and other harm minimization measures including methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) among injecting drug users, in closed settings.

#### **5.5 Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs**

##### *5.5.1 Emerging threats/trends*

Illicit drug trafficking and other types of transnational organized crime are occurring in a complex manner with offenders 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 and extraction of precursors from legal medicines to illegally manufacture of drugs in Viet Nam has become obvious. ATS production, particularly Ice, has been emerged in Viet Nam.

Various new type of drugs are emerged, some of which were not in the list of controlled drugs. Heroin continued to be the most commonly used drug amongst users. Cannabis use is also reported to increase. ATS use has become more and more popular in major cities. Injecting drug use (IDU) was widespread and 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.

### 5.5.2 *Policy 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 and 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 most vulnerable and disadvantaged people. 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 legislation needs to be revised accordingly to bring it into compliance with TOC.

### 5.5.3 *Recommendations*

The Government:

- To strengthen inter-agency coordination and cooperation (e.g. in information sharing) in implementing new National Drug Control and Crime Prevention strategies. Active cross-border cooperation should be supported (e.g. increased number of MLA, cross-border operations with neighboring countries, etc.)
- To follow up to the recently approved new Drug Control and Crime Prevention target Programmes to develop Action plan and prioritize activities in addressing existing gaps
- Legislation revision (e.g. Drug Law, Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, development of a new Law on Treatment of drugs users)
- To strengthen Justice system and anti-corruption measures to improve enforcement actions;
- To diversify services for drug users at community level as alternatives to compulsory drug treatment which should be abolished.