



Brussels, 29 October 2014
(OR. en)

14832/14

CORDROGUE 81
ASIE 66

NOTE

From: Japanese Regional Chair of the Dublin Group
To: Dublin Group
Subject: Regional Report on South East Asia and China

1. Update of Information for Each Country¹

1-1 Cambodia

- (1) Transnational and Asian drug trafficking groups continue to target Cambodia as a source, transit and destination country for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and other illicit drugs. Therefore, the amounts of crystalline methamphetamine and cocaine seized in Cambodia since 2012 are significantly higher than in previous years. Cannabis continues to be illicitly cultivated in Cambodia; however, cultivation levels continue to decline. (See 4-1 for more country details.)
- (2) As a recent trend, majority of the drug users in Cambodia are youths aged between 18 to 35, many of which are unemployed. A total of 2,713 persons are currently undergoing drug treatment and rehabilitation at the government-run or privately-run centers.

¹ Updates from the Regional Report submitted to Central Dublin Group Meeting held on May 2014

- (3) Within the framework of New Strategic Plan on Drug Control (2013-2015), the government plans to set the following objectives for 2014: (1) Continue to promote drug education and awareness, (2) Strengthen Community Based Treatment, (3) Promote efficient law enforcement operations, (4) Increase cooperation among ministries and institutions, (5) Promote and enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries, including continuously strengthening Border Liaison Offices (BLO), (6) Promote and enhance international cooperation, (7) Strengthen institutions concerning all related authorities.

1-2 China

- (1) In order to strengthen law enforcement efforts for illicit drugs, China set up rapid listing mechanism of unscheduled precursor chemicals and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Chinese Authorities held and continue to hold series of high-level meetings in order to prioritize anti-drug efforts in its law enforcement policies.
- (2) As recent international cooperation efforts, China hosted Senior Officials Committee Meeting for 1993 MOU Signature Countries in Beijing, in both May and September 2014. China also hosted several joint operations with neighbouring countries, such as Vietnam and Thailand. In particular, on February 22nd 2014, China-Thailand joint operation succeeded in arresting African criminal and seized 1.9kg of methamphetamine in Guangzhou. (See 4-2 for other cases)
- (3) According to ONCB's intelligence in Thailand, a U.S national was arrested on May 14th 2014 in Chongqing for trafficking 1.99kg of methamphetamine. Furthermore, according to US DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration)'s intelligence, approximately 70kg of cocaine was seized in cargo container from South America in Shanghai on August 19th 2014.

1-3 Lao PDR

- (1) According to the statistics by Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCSC), law enforcement agencies counted for 1,474 arrest cases of drug related offences which included 51 foreign offenders and seized 200.5 kg of Heroin, 13.82 kg of Opium, 3.5 millions of ATS tablets, 13.26 kg of Ice and 1,142 kg of Cannabis by the first 9 months of 2014.

Figures of arrest cases of drug related offences as well as arrest of foreign offenders increased from last year. (See 4-3 for more details)

- (2) The government of the Lao PDR has participated in a series of meetings and workshops related to drug issues which were held by the ASEAN secretariat which demonstrates the positive attitude to address drug related challenges.

1-4 Myanmar

- (1) Opium poppy cultivation still appears to be confined largely to the highland areas of Shan State, and survey results suggest that farmers who resort to poppy cultivation are not in pursuit of progressively higher income levels but rather to compensate for deficiencies in income. It is estimated that without opium cultivation, farmers can make only 60 % of income compared to non-opium households in the same area. (See 4-4 for more updates)
- (2) In order to enhance the resilience of the ex-poppy farmers who were affected by government's poppy field eradication efforts, the WFP (World Food Programme) food assistance project in partnership with UNODC had started in 2012 and successfully completed in 2013 reaching over 16,500 people with 766 metric tonnes of food in Shan State. (See ANNEX.1 for other anti-narcotics project details)
- (3) WFP's three-year countryside "Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO)" was launched in 2013, and it introduced a new activity to support HIV and TB patients, many of which are drug addicts. WFP provides nutritious food to patients of HIV and TB who are under treatments. In 2014, WFP is planning to reach 670 HIV/ TB patients suffering from drug addiction in Kachin and Shan states as well as Yangon, and will extend the programme to other areas if funds allow.

1-5 Thailand

- (1) Regardless of the establishment of new administration, anti-drug measures remain as one of the top priorities for Thailand. However, the government recognizes the necessity to strengthen law enforcement efforts especially in the area of Golden Triangle.
- (2) After seizing power in a coup on May 22nd, NCPO announced NCPO Command No.41/ 2557 ‘The Suppression and Stopping of Narcotic Spread Out,’ which is adhere to the advice of His Majesty the King “Understanding, Reaching Out, and Development.” The command requires the troops of NCPO, Ministry of Interior, Royal Thai Police and other relevant agencies to strengthen law enforcement measures against drug offences which include asset forfeiture, thorough drug inspection, strengthening of rehabilitation measures for drug users, precession of government officials involved in illicit drug trafficking and continuous follow up on NCPO on aforementioned measures.

1-6 Vietnam

- (1) In the first 6 months of 2014, drug law enforcement agencies investigated 10,256 cases, arrested 15,298 drug offenders and seized 478.70 kg of Heroin, 14.10 kg of Opium, 1909.10 kg of Cannabis, 127.50 kg and 197,097 tablets of synthetic drugs. These figures reflect an increase in a number of illicit drug trafficking cases as well as an increase in heroin seizure, synthetic drugs and cannabis but a decrease in opium when compared to the same period of last year. (See 4-6 for more updates)
- (2) According to the Ministry of Public Security, there were 182,799 registered drug dependent people as of June 2014. By drug type, heroin users accounted for the largest proportion of illicit drug users (72%), followed by users of synthetic drugs (14.5%), opium (6.4%), cannabis (1.6%) and other drugs (5.5%). By August 2014, there were 95 MMT (Methadone Maintenance Treatment) clinics in 32 provinces / cities with 17,521 people receiving treatment, and it is expected that by 2015, 245 MMT clinics will be operational in 61 provinces, capable of receiving 81,000 patients.

- (3) In the area of illicit drug trafficking, the UNODC Global Container Control Programme (CCP) has been approved by the Prime Minister of Vietnam. CCP has a global reach and aims to fortify the structures and processes which allow for the application for sustainable laws for states and selected ports, so as to minimize the exploitation of maritime containers for the illicit trafficking of drugs, and other transnational organized crime activities.
- (4) In August 2014, Customs Officers in Tay Ninh province conducted the largest ever seizure of criminal cash of \$860, 000 (VND 18.2 billion), which expected to be smuggled into Cambodia from Vietnam. The officers involved in the cash seizure had previously been trained by UNODC.

2. Recent Mini Dublin Group Meetings and Activities

2-1 Cambodia

There is no updated information.

2-2 China

The last Mini Dublin Group Meeting was held on September 22nd at the Embassy of Japan in China. Officers from Japan, Australia, Germany and France attended the meeting, and officers from Israel also joined the discussion although they are not Mini Dublin Group members.

2-3 Lao PDR

On August 7th, the Informal Mini Dublin Group Meeting was held with the participation of the directors of both Somsanga Drug Treatment Center and Vocational Training Center.

2-4 Myanmar

There is no updated information.

2-5 Thailand

The last Mini Dublin Group Meeting was held on September 29th at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand. Australia, Belgium, Italy, Spain, US, UNODC and ONCB participated in the meeting.

2-6 Vietnam

There is no updated information.

3. Follow-up on 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 2014.

3-3 Lao PDR

Lao PDR has followed-up the implementation of the recommendations as follows:

- (1) The Government of the Lao PDR (GOL) and the Mini Dublin Group conducted a field trip from this March 19 to 22 in order to observe progress situation on ongoing Alternative Development (AD) activities in the northern provinces. The event contributed to have constructive discussions among the Mini Dublin Group members regarding the expansion of the AD programmes prioritized in the Lao PDR National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP).
- (2) The Mini Dublin Group visited the “Somsanga Drug Treatment Center” and “Vocational Training Center” on March 25 to support GOL activities for improvement of treatment for ATS users. Furthermore, Mini Dublin Group had discussion with the Director of the both Centers at the informal Mini Dublin Group meeting held on August 7, 2014. The GOL is currently focusing on the Community-Based Treatment (CBT) approach in Vientiane to meet some best practices in the area of drug treatment.

- (3) The GOL and the Mini Dublin Group members recognize that opium poppy cultivation is linked with poverty and a comprehensive approach with good coordination among related authorities is crucial to address this challenge. LCDC, which is a key authority of the coordination, is trying to strengthen the relationship among the central, local authorities, and development partners. Taking into account that a regional cooperation is necessary to achieve drug-free environment by the establishment of AEC, the GOL is keen to work together with ASEAN countries.

3-4 Myanmar

There is no updated information.

3-5 Thailand

Thailand has followed-up the implementation of the recommendations as follows:

- (1) Under the NCPO Command No.41/ 2557, troops are strictly controlling the illicit drug trafficking and as a result, they have seized approximately 52 million Methamphetamine pills in around one and half month after the coup had occurred, which counts for 40% of the amounts seized in 2013. Despite these efforts, problems remain for Thailand for measures against the prevalence of illicit drug trafficking by means of electronic payment or EMS.
- (2) In the last Mini Dublin Group Meeting held on September, participants reiterated the importance of cooperation within ASEAN countries as well as international community, and jointly take actions toward possible transnational crime cases such as drug offences as a consequence of establishment of AEC.
- (3) The aim of the “ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Center,” which it’s establishment was announced by ONCB this September, is to enhance information sharing among ASEAN countries, especially for the purpose on thorough crackdown on illicit drug trafficking in border areas.

3-6 Vietnam

There is no updated information

4. Follow-Up Report of Each Country

4-1. Cambodia

4-1-1 General situation

(1) Drug Use

There are no consistent statistics as to the exact number of persons who use drugs in Cambodia. NACD estimates the number of drug users at 13,000; however the general consensus among the Royal Government of Cambodia and international agencies is that there are currently between 12,000 and 28,000 persons who use drugs.

Methamphetamine pills are the most widely used drug in Cambodia, although crystalline methamphetamine is becoming more widely available, with use on the rise, particularly in Phnom Penh and among unemployed youth.

Whereas illicit drug use was previously concentrated primarily in urban settings, in recent years it has been expanding into rural areas, in particular in the provinces adjacent to Lao PDR and Thailand.² Drug use among women and within prisons appears to be on the rise.³

Most of the people who use drugs are between the ages of 18 to 35 years old. A large number of drug users are unemployed.

A total of 2,713 persons are currently undergoing drug treatment and rehabilitation at the government's temporary centres as well as at privately-run centres.

² Cambodia country report, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Bureau of International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs (BINLEA), U.S. Department of State (Accessed at <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2012/vol1/184098.htm>).

³ UNODC 2013.

Table 1. Rank of primary drugs of concern in Cambodia, 2009-2013

Drug type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Methamphetamine pills	2	1	2	2	1
Crystalline methamphetamine	1	2	1	1	2
Ecstasy	●	●	6	●	●
Cannabis herb	●	4	4	4	●
Heroin	●	3	5	●	●
Inhalants	●	●	3	3	●
Opium	●	●	●	●	●

● = Not reported

Source(s): ‘Country Report of Drug Situation in Cambodia’, National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), presented at the Fifteenth Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC), Tokyo, 2-5 February 2010; Official communication with the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), April 2012; Cambodia country presentation, National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), presented at the Global SMART Programme Regional meeting, Yangon, Myanmar, 20-21 August 2014.

Table 2. Trend in use of selected drugs in Cambodia, 2009-2013

Drug type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Methamphetamine pills	●	↑	↑	↑	●
Crystalline methamphetamine	●	↑	↑	↑	↑
Ecstasy	●	●	↑	↓	●
Cannabis herb	●	●	↑	●	●
Heroin	●	●	↓	●	●
Inhalants	●	●	●	●	●
Opium	●	●	●	●	●

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

Source(s): DAINAP. NACD, February 2010; NACD, April 2012; NACD, August 2014.

HIV and Injecting drug use

Injecting drug use, including of methamphetamine, in Cambodia, continues to be on the rise. According to the National AIDS Authority of Cambodia, HIV prevalence in 2007 was 24.1% for injecting drug users. In 2012, the ‘National Population Size Estimation, HIV Prevalence and Related Risk Behaviours’ (under the auspice of the NACD, Ministry of Health and HAARP), reported that HIV prevalence slightly increased among injecting users to 24.8%. The same study reported a significant increase of approximately 4% (from 1% in 2007) in HIV infections among non-injecting people who use drugs.

(2) Drug Production

Significant quantities of methamphetamine are domestically manufactured; however due to the paucity of data, the full extent of illicit drug manufacture in Cambodia is unknown. Over the last few years, Cambodian authorities have dismantled almost 20 facilities that were manufacturing methamphetamine or producing precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine and MDMA. Some of the dismantled facilities, including the seized consignments of precursor chemicals, were linked to Chinese drug trafficking organizations based in Taiwan. In 2013, law enforcement authorities dismantled a methamphetamine pill re-pressing operation in Phnom Penh.⁴

Cannabis continues to be illicitly cultivated in Cambodia; however, cultivation levels continue to decline. Illicit harvesting of safrole-rich oils (SRO), commonly used as precursors for ecstasy, remains a problem in Cambodia.

(3) Drug Trafficking

Transnational organized criminal networks from Asia and West Africa continue to target Cambodia as a major transit country for illicit drug and precursor chemical trafficking. Large quantities of methamphetamine (in pill and crystalline form) and heroin manufactured in the Golden Triangle continue to be trafficked into Cambodia across its northeastern border from Lao PDR.

⁴ ‘ Summary Report on Drugs Situation in the Kingdom of Cambodia, 2013’, National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), 2014.

The majority of the drugs, particularly crystalline methamphetamine and heroin, are often repackaged for further trafficking via overland routes and with passenger plane couriers to neighbouring countries (primarily Thailand and Viet Nam) and to other markets, in particular Australia. In addition, international airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap are being increasingly used as key trafficking points for both inbound and outbound illicit drug operations.⁵

Cocaine is smuggled into Cambodia by plane and by post from a number of countries in South America, North America, West Africa and Europe, to be exported onwards to a third country along overland and air routes. Many arrested drug couriers had been recruited by West African drug trafficking organizations. Some drug trafficking organizations from China and Taiwan are mainly involved in ATS and heroin trafficking.

4-1-2 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 previous 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 inadequate 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 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 as well as recognising the right to voluntary access to drug treatment for people who use drugs and the respect of psychosocial and health care providers to provide assistance to people who use drugs, in health structures and in the community.

⁵ Op. cit. NACD, 2014; 'Summary Report on the Control of Drug Related Matters', National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), presented at the Twenty-third Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 26-28 June 2013.

In 2013, the Royal Government of Cambodia approved the New National Strategic Plan on Drug Control (2013-2015), which outlines the Government's plan to further implement the drug law. The National Strategic Plan consists of 5 Strategies, 7 Strategic Measures, 35 Programmes, and 103 Activities. The 5 priority strategies include:

1. Drug Demand Reduction
2. Drug Supply Reduction
3. Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Re-Integration
4. Law Enforcement
5. International Cooperation

Law enforcement capacity remains limited in Cambodia. Corruption within a handful of law enforcement officials should be addressed with further efforts to reduce drugs trafficking and abuse. The Government 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 the growing understanding that solely focusing on law enforcement and punitive approaches alone cannot control the production, sale and use of drugs, the Government is adopting strategies aimed at reducing demand. The Government has conducted a public awareness campaign through the media and prevention activities in schools and started a community based drug treatment program. Under this program, law enforcement has been enabled to provide a supporting environment allowing differentiation between people who use drugs from drug traffickers. A methadone maintenance program for heroin users and needle exchange program has also been implemented by the Ministry of Health with UN technical support and funding from Australia.

4-1-3 Update on Major Bilateral and Multilateral Programs

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

UNODC- Supply reduction

A UNODC survey demonstrated insufficient knowledge among Cambodia authorities 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 Government of Cambodia to establish seven Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) in smuggling hot-spots 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 the 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 the borders with Laos and Viet Nam.

UNODC- Demand and Harm Reduction

CBTx promotes a continuum of care and strengthened community mechanisms to provide services and referrals for drug prevention and treatment (including harm reduction interventions) and rehabilitation for all people who use drugs. By the end of 2013, CBTx provided ongoing treatment for over 1,200 people who use drugs.

Additionally, the program has provided training to 170 health staff from four provincial referral hospitals and 15 health centres, as well as NGOs, to improve understanding of drug dependence and treatment options, patient assessment and treatment planning, counselling techniques and pharmacotherapy.

CBTx has facilitated stronger relationships among key national agencies such as the National Authority for Combating Drugs, Ministry of Health, UNODC and Provincial partners including the Provincial Health Department as well as local health and social service providers.

Partnerships have been established with law enforcement, which has increased their understanding of drug use and CBTx. Specifically, this has encouraged police to address drug dependence as a health concern that requires treatment rather than with punitive responses. People who use drugs are now less likely to hide and are more likely to engage with NGOs and local authorities due to a more supportive law enforcement environment at the commune level (local government).

Australia

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) in Cambodia works to build the capacity of the Cambodian National Police (CNP) by continuing to support a CNP Transnational Crime Team, which has had a number of recent successful anti-drug operations. The Transnational Crime Team comprises dedicated CNP personnel as well as one AFP adviser. The AFP has provided surveillance equipment and forensic crime scene examination kits to a number of provinces. The AFP remains concerned about the alleged drug-related activities of West African criminal groups as reported by NACD.

Australia, through its Defence Cooperation Program, also continues to support Cambodia's efforts to secure its maritime borders and establish mechanisms to combat drug trafficking, illegal fishing, people smuggling, and threats against its natural environment. Australia was integral in supporting the establishment of the National Committee of Maritime Security (NCMS) in 2009 and has since then, in conjunction with the United States, continued to support the NCMS through professional development training in Australia, command post exercises, formulation of operational orders and directives, ship visits, and continued logistical support to the NCMS and Royal Cambodian Navy, both in Phnom Penh and at the Naval Base in Ream.

In addition to its law enforcement and security cooperation, Australia is also helping to reduce the spread of HIV related to injecting drug use through the HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program (HAARP). HAARP has been operating for nearly six years and has had some major achievements, including supporting the first methadone maintenance program in Cambodia, integrating needle and syringe programs into the broader health system and improving law enforcement responses to injecting drug use with a focus on reducing HIV transmission. HAARP is now in its exit phase and is preparing to hand over responsibility for these activities to the Royal Government of Cambodia. It will close in December 2014.

Germany

German Federal Criminal Police Office (*Bundeskriminalamt*) held a training course, "Principles and Methods of Police Evaluation and Analysis - Operational Analysis" in the year 2009 in Phnom Penh/ Cambodia.

During the years 2007, 2008 and 2010, the Cambodian National Police (CNP) received a support of managerial and operational tools as well as IT-equipment which had a total value of around 35,000 Euros.

Given the minor criminal connections between Germany and Cambodia and the low requirement of cooperation currently, no further actions or measures are planned at this moment.

Japan

The Government of Japan (GoJ), together with other donors, is supporting the Global SMART Programme to assist with data collection and analysis of drug trends (production, drug trafficking and abuse) in Cambodia. The GoJ provided a short-term training course titled “Seminar on Control of Drug Offences” through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the period of two weeks from August 31 to September 13, 2014 in Tokyo. From Cambodia, one Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department at the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) participated in the training course, and an additional 12 participants at the level of division directors or senior executives of relevant public institutions joined from Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. In collaboration with the Japanese National Police Agency, the training course was conducted for the following purposes: sharing knowledge and experiences related to the prevention of cross-border smuggling and to enhanced control of drug offences; improving investigation capabilities of the participants through the sharing of their acquired knowledge; and strengthening international networking among the participants and their organizations. The GoJ will continue to conduct the same training course in 2015 and 2016.

Each year, Japan has hosted the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC) in Tokyo. This year, the ADEC-19th was held from 18-20 February, and 34 countries including Cambodia, and five organisations (ASEAN, ASEANAPOL, EUROPOL, ICPO and UNODC) attended. ADEC is a region-wide platform to discuss the latest trends in illicit drugs in the Asia-Pacific region and to share information among relevant agencies on effective measures to counter drug trafficking.

The United States of America

The Government of the United States of America is helping Cambodian authorities to address a range of criminal activity, including drug trafficking, through focused capacity-building programs. Examples include training funded by the U.S. Joint Interagency Task Force-West (JIATF-West) for the Royal Cambodian Navy and the National Committee for Maritime Security to improve ship maintenance and vessel boarding procedures. JIATF-West also helps train Cambodian officials and private bank representatives on financial investigative techniques.

EU

The EU is funding programmes active in Cambodia related to law enforcement, anti-terrorism, and countering money laundering and illegal migration. Although, the EU does not fund actions specifically targeted at drugs, the delegation appreciates to be kept in the loop on this topic. In early March, the UNODC informed the EU, at Headquarters' level, about their new project focusing on drugs from the perspective of treatment and care. HQ and Delegations are evaluating the possibilities of synergies with that project, in particular in the context of the ongoing exercise of programming our new cycle of cooperation starting in 2014 and in the limits imposed by the policy of streamlining EU cooperation objectives.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom continues to work closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia on serious crime issues including drug smuggling, human trafficking and people smuggling, money laundering, and child abuse and exploitation. In February 2014, an important new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the UK's National Crime Agency and the Cambodian General Commissariat of National Police to increase cooperation in the fight against serious crime. Under the scope of cooperation, the MoU specifically identifies drugs crime as one of the priority areas for increased coordinated operations, information sharing and capacity building between the UK and Cambodia.

4-1-4 Place and Date of the Meeting of the Mini Dublin Group

On April 2nd 2014, the Mini Dublin group convened at the Embassy of Japan in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Attendees included embassy officials from Australia, EU, France, Japan, and US. Apologies were received from Germany, Sweden, and UK. The National Authority for Combating Drugs and the UNODC made presentations on the drug situation in Cambodia and their activities in the previous 12 months. The Mini Dublin Group did not meet in the second half of 2013, but consulted via email on this update.

4-1-5 Prioritized Identification of Needs for External Assistance

For demand reduction, the lack of technical equipment, budgets, and human resources for carrying out the education program is a primary problem. For supply reduction, information sources for assisting operations are not sufficient. For harm reduction, treatment, rehabilitation, vocational training, and re-integration, the lack of human resources, equipment, capacity and budgets have resulted in a slow roll-out of the training and educational program as part of Community Based Treatment (CBTx). For the strengthening of law enforcement, the number of officials available to conduct procedural investigations and collect evidence for the court institutions is still limited.

4-1-6 Mini-Dublin Group Assessment of Needs

(1) Emerging threats/trends

- The manufacture, trafficking and use of illicit drugs remains a significant problem in Cambodia.
- Transnational and Asian drug trafficking groups continue to target Cambodia as a source, transit and destination country for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and other illicit drugs.
- The availability and use of methamphetamine in pill and crystalline form continues to expand. A large and growing majority of persons arrested for drug-related offences or persons submitted for drug treatment involve methamphetamine.
- The amounts of crystalline methamphetamine and cocaine seized in Cambodia since 2012 are significantly higher than in previous years.

(2) Political initiatives

There appears to be strong political will to tackle drug trafficking and production with multiple approaches addressing production, supply and demand. After the adoption of new Law on Drug Control in 2012 as part of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), the Royal Government of Cambodia approved the New Strategic Plan on Drug Control (2013-2015), as noted above. In 2014, the Government plans to (1) continue to promote drug education and awareness, (2) strengthen Community Based Treatment, (3) promote efficient law enforcement operations, (4) increase cooperation among Ministries and institutions, (5) promote and enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries, including continuously strengthening Border Liaison Offices (BLO), (6) promote and enhance international cooperation, (7) strengthen institutions concerning all related authorities.

(3) Recommendations

Although the past recommendations have been implemented steadily, they are still valid. So, while mentioning main accomplishments in the past, participants have agreed that the previous recommendations remain current. These are:

- Continuing support for the Royal Government of Cambodia to implement the seven strategic measures under the newly adopted 2013-2015 National Strategic Plan on Drug Control.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia, with support from relevant partners, should aim to develop procedures and initiatives to implement the Law on Drug Control. This includes development of Sub decrees as per the articles of the Law, and awareness campaigns regarding the law for all stakeholders (including law enforcement, prosecutors, judiciary, and the general public).
- Cambodian authorities should strengthen border control and provide increased capacity building for officials working at the land border, including in Border Liaison Offices. There should also be more capacity building in technical skills for law enforcement personnel, including training in improved investigation techniques, collection/handling of evidence, forensics methods/techniques.

- The Royal Government of Cambodia should build on its initial leadership on community based treatment initiatives by dedicating more resources to this effort. Donors should look at supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia's commitment to community based treatment initiatives. The Ministry of Health should identify Community Based Treatment (CBTx) as a high priority for donor funding in order to have the best chance of attracting donor funds committed in the health sector.
- 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 the different ministries concerned (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, etc.). The statistics generated by the database would help to inform the design future drug policies and consequently a better response to needs. The development of a national database would provide reliable statistics to monitor the trends in drugs use.
- Donors should look to harmonise and coordinate their assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia through increased information sharing and meetings with relevant stakeholders.
- Continuous work with the Royal Government of Cambodia to enhance knowledge and skills to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking offences is needed.
- Operationally focused support (in partnership with international, regional and national partners) to generate intelligence for the investigation and prosecution of drug and precursor related trafficking offences is to be provided.
- Enhancement of drug and precursor identification and profiling capacities, through the development of infrastructure, training, and networking, including engagement with the chemical industry is needed.

4-2. China

4-2-1 Recommendation

There was no recommendation to Mini Dublin Group in China among those adopted in Central Dublin Group Meeting in May 2014.

4-2-2 The Activity of Mini Dublin Group after the last Mini Dublin Group Meeting

22th September 2014 – Held at the Embassy of Japan.

4-2-3 Development of Drug Situation in China

China continues to strength drug interdiction and international cooperation. China also set up rapid listing mechanism of unscheduled precursor chemicals and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). In this context, Chinese Authorities held and continue to hold series of high-level meetings in order to prioritize anti-drug efforts in its law enforcement policies.

The examples of recent international cooperation efforts are as follows.

- (1) Hosted Senior Officials Committee Meeting for 1993 MOU Signature Countries in Beijing, May and September.
- (2) China-Vietnam Border Area Joint Operation against Drug from April to June,2014.
- (3) On Feb 22th 2014, China-Thailand Joint operation arrested an African criminal with 1.9kg of meth seized in Guangzhou.
- (4) On May 14th 2014, according to Thai ONCB's intelligence, an American criminal arrested in Chongqing with 1.99kg of meth seized.
- (5) On Aug 19th 2014, according to US DEA's intelligence, approximately 70kg of cocaine seized in cargo container from South America in Shanghai.

In addition, Cocaine seized in China 2013 is 51.28kg (there was no 2013 figures in Mini Dublin Group Report 2013,CHINA).

4-3 Lao PDR

4-3-1 Follow up of Recommendations in the Country Report in 2014

Recommendation 1 – Encourage and support the Government in its efforts to realize core priorities under the current National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP).

The Government of the Lao PDR (GOL) and the Mini Dublin Group conducted a field trip in March 2014. Through the trip, participants got a better understanding of the ongoing Alternative Development (AD) activities in the northern provinces of the Lao PDR. This event was also an opportunity for the Mini Dublin Group members to share views regarding the expansion of the AD programmes prioritized in the NDCMP as well as increasing capacity building, drug demand reduction, and law enforcement initiatives in order to support the successful implementation of the NDCMP.

Currently, the GOL is trying to improve the existing drug treatment centers and develop the community-based treatment by using its national budget in order to respond to the increase of drug use across the country. In addition, the GOL decided to establish the anti-drug fund to combat drug use and drug smuggling.

Recommendation 2 – Continue to encourage and support the Government in its efforts to develop evidence-based addiction treatment programs for ATS users (eg community-based treatment and, for full-blown addicts, medically-sound systems at treatment centres) and place emphasis on rehabilitation and vocational training.

The Mini Dublin Group has encouraged and supported activities of the GOL for improvement of treatment for ATS users by carrying out the visit to the the Somsanga Drug Treatment Center and Vocational Training Center on March 25, 2014, and discussion with the Director of the Center at the informal Mini Dublin Group meeting on August 7, 2014.

The GOL started to focus on the Community-Based Treatment (CBT) approach in Vientiane to meet some best practices in the area of drug treatment. The GOL is also looking at ways to reduce the overcrowding at the Somsanga Drug Treatment and Vocational Training Center.

Recommendation 3 – Continue developing 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 GOL and the Mini Dublin Group members recognize that opium poppy cultivation is linked with poverty and a comprehensive approach with good coordination among related authorities is crucial to address this challenge. Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC) which is a key authority of the coordination is trying to strengthen the relationship among the central, local authorities, and development partners.

Also a regional approach is important in consideration of the fact that drug trafficking and drug related crimes has increased year by year. The GOL is trying to achieve drug-free by 2015 by cooperating with the ASEAN member countries.

Recommendation 4 - Consider options for providing and encouraging further donor support to narcotics-related work, including capacity building for relevant Lao Government agencies.

Towards 2015, development partners, especially USA has supported activities of the Lao government, with additional pledges amounting so far 1.6 million USD through LCDC and also UNODC.

Although development partners are trying to provide supports to prioritized issues based on the NDCMP, further assistance is required to cover activities mentioned in the Plan. Currently the following projects are under the process of fund mobilization;

- AD project in Bokeo province
- AD Project in Phongsaly province
- Funding shortfall for the implementation of the Drug Control Master Plan (LAO K48 project of UNODC)

Also, through the field trip of the Mini Dublin Group in March, it was recognized that there is a Chinese company to produce oil seeds for export to China as one of the AD activities.

Recommendation 5 – Support collection of data and reporting of statistics on drug law enforcement, including arrests, prosecutions and convictions, as well as gender-disaggregated figures.

UNODC has conducted opium surveys in the Lao PDR in cooperation with the GOL since 1992. All surveys were implemented in cooperation with LCDC. In 2013, the helicopter survey included 70 randomly selected sample sites measuring 5km by 5km and covering 8 provinces in northern Laos, namely Phonsali, Luang Namtha, Houaphan, Xiangkhoang, Oudomxay, Luangprabang, Bokeo, and Xaignabouli.

Recommendation 6 - Encourage the Government to exchange intelligence on drug arrests, wherever possible, with regional international law-enforcement partners including the Dublin Group countries to ensure they are able to tap into international police intelligence networks and achieve more success against high-level drug smugglers.

The GOL has participated in a series of meetings and workshops related to drug issues which were held by the ASEAN secretariat and it demonstrates the positive attitude of the GOL for addressing challenges. The Mini Dublin Group continues to encourage the GOL to cooperate with regional activities.

4-3-2 Activities of Mini Dublin Group in 2014 (as of September)

March 19 – 22	Field Trip to the Golden Triangle area and the northern provinces in the Lao PDR
March 25	Visit to the Somsanga Drug Treatment Center and Vocational Training Center
June 25	Burning Ceremony of the seized drugs
August 7	Informal Mini Dublin Group Meeting about the Somsanga Drug Treatment Center and Vocational Training Center

4-3-3 Update of the drug situation in the Lao PDR

Year	Hero in (Kg)	Opiu m (Kg)	ATS (tablets, millions)	ICE (Kg)	Cannabis (Kg)	Cocaine (Kg)	Arrested foreigners	Arrest cases
2008	17.5	11.8	1.2	0	805	2	6	222
2009	29.3	49.9	2.3	0	976	0.1	20	473
2010	84.3	86.5	24.5	0	3,521	0	16	581
2011	43.4	63.9	4.6	0	1,617	0	77	1,037
2012	45.0	87.6	10.1	0	2,836	0	41	1,223
2013	287.8	89.7	15.1	26.5	5,484	10.5	44	1,434
2014*	200.5	13.82	3.5	23.26	1,142	0	51	1,474

Remark: * Statistic from January to September 2014

Source: LCDC

4-4 Myanmar

4-4-1 General Situation

(1) Opium and opiates

Myanmar is considered to be the second largest producer of opium in the world, behind Afghanistan. East Asia's illicit opiate industry value is estimated at \$16.3 billion per year, majority of which is driven from Myanmar opium/heroin. In 1999 the Myanmar Government and local authorities engaged in a 15-year plan to eliminate opium poppy cultivation by 2014. This Plan has now been extended a further five years and will conclude in 2019. Until 2006 there was a considerable decrease in the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar, as a result of efforts to eradicate opium poppy cultivation as well as the imposition by local authorities of an opium ban in the Wa region in June 2005 and in the Kokang Special Region in 2003. However, illicit opium poppy cultivation has since increased although it is still well below the levels reached in the 1990s. After reaching a minimum level in 2006, opium cultivation began to gradually increase again in 2007. According to the UNODC Opium Poppy Survey report⁶ on Myanmar, poppy cultivation in Myanmar rose **13%** in 2013 from the previous year to **57,800 hectares**, more than doubling since 2006. The combination of an increase in both cultivation and yield of opium poppy in Myanmar in 2013 resulted in a rise in opium production of some **26%** in comparison to 2012. The best estimate for 2013 opium production in Myanmar alone is some **870 tons**, the highest since assessments by UNODC and the Government began.

In addition to the increase in production, it is important to note the sophistication in cultivation. The farmers use irrigated fields and fertilizers to increase productivity, while planting in lowland paddy and use intercropping such as with beans, and multi-stage planting to mitigate eradication.

⁶ UNODC (2014) South-East Asia Opium Survey 2013: Lao PDR, Myanmar

Geographically, opium poppy cultivation still appears to be confined largely to the highland areas of Shan State, with smaller areas of cultivation reported in other states such as Kachin, Kayah and Chin. According to the UNODC survey, poverty and food insecurity are major drivers of poppy cultivation for most poppy farmers, although survey results suggest that farmers resort to poppy cultivation to compensate for deficiencies in income and to maintain a minimum level of subsistence, rather than in pursuit of progressively higher income levels. Choosing to grow poppy instead of, or in addition to, other crops does appear to improve the affluence level of households, According to the survey, the average annual income per household (weighted) in 2012 for non-poppy growing villages and poppy growing villages were \$2135 and \$2262 respectively, with the average for all villages was \$2190. It is estimated that without opium, opium farmers can make only 60% of income of non-opium households in the same area.

(2) Amphetamines (ATS)

Countries in East and South East Asia have seen an increase in the manufacturing, trafficking and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), with a large volume of these ATS being produced in the eastern border areas of Myanmar. The most common type of ATS produced is methamphetamine. East Asia illicit ATS industry value is estimated at \$15billion per year.

The illicit production of methamphetamine is aided significantly by the use of precursor chemicals which are trafficked into eastern Myanmar from India and China. Recently there has been a shift in the production practices for methamphetamine from sourcing raw precursor chemicals in bulk to sourcing these chemicals from processed, licit pharmaceutical preparations. Since 2009 there has been an annual increase in the seizure of licit pharmaceutical preparations, such as cold and flu medications containing ephedrine or pseudo-ephedrine, being trafficked into Myanmar to be used in the production of methamphetamine and other ATS. 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.

Based on the seizure volume, domestic production of ATS is estimated to be over 1 billion pills per year. In 2013, Myanmar recorded the seizure of over 10.2 million methamphetamine pills. The seizure in was the highest in 2009 at 23.8 million, while 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 production is fluctuating as well. It is important to note, for example, that Myanmar's neighboring countries of China, Lao PDR and Thailand have seized significant amount of methamphetamine originating from Myanmar since 2009. Seizures of methamphetamine pills in Myanmar and neighboring countries in 2011 was more than 140 million pills. The preliminary data suggests the total seizure in these four countries would surpass 150 million in 2012. This indicates the manufacture of methamphetamine pills in Myanmar remains high. In fact, the seizures of Myanmar meth (pills and crystal) in Northern Thai are multi-millions in the first 3 months of 2014.

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. However, in 2012, Myanmar authorities seized more than 153kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 274 liters of liquid crystalline methamphetamine (or, semi-finished product). Most of the crystalline methamphetamine that has been seized in northern Thailand in 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, located in Eastern Shan State at the Myanmar-China border, in July 2012, may support this indication. A significant amount of finished product, semi-finished product and precursor chemicals also were seized together with equipment used in the production of crystalline methamphetamine.

(3) Drug use and Treatment

The prevalence of all three drugs, opium, heroin and ATS, was higher in 2013 than in 2012, with the greatest difference observed in ATS prevalence.⁷ The UNODC estimates that there are between 300,000 to 400,000 drug users in the country, while the Government of Myanmar's estimate is 75,000-150,000. In Myanmar, heroin and opium maintain high usage rates, though ATS is now considered the primary drug of use by the Myanmar Police Force. Opiate use has decreased over the past six years, a reduction which coincides with a reported increase in the use of methamphetamine pills. 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. Approximately 4,700 patients are on MMT, and another 1,500 are in drug treatment centers.

(4) Challenges in border areas

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 regularly affected 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 security environment of these areas. Therefore unless the underlying security factors are addressed and resolved, Myanmar authorities will find it difficult, if not impossible, to achieve their stated goal of eliminating illicit drug production by 2019.

4-4-2 Update on Myanmar's Anti-Drug Strategy

(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.

⁷ UNODC (2013) Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) and Other Drugs - Challenges for Asia and the Pacific 2013

(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. Currently, the law stipulates that an illicit drug user who fails to register at a medical center recognized 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. It is proposed that that the law be revised to impose a less severe punishment in recognition that drug dependent individuals should be treated as patients rather than criminals.

(3) Assessment of Myanmar's anti-narcotics strategy

The Myanmar Government is implementing a three phase, 20-year drug control plan (1999-2019) aimed at a drug-free country by 2019. In the first two phases, the main priorities were assigned to the eradication of opium poppy cultivation. The remaining phases will see the Government set priorities on: the rehabilitation of illicit drug users; the establishment of further special anti-narcotic task force units; local participation in the implementation of the drug control process; and, cooperation with international organizations. 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 program. More recently, however, cultivation has again begun to increase. After a 10-year low in 2006, poppy cultivation has steadily increased in Myanmar, with 2013 cultivation level 2.7 times that of 2006 (UNODC, SE Asia Opium Survey, 2013).

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 currently operates 26 Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) units across the country. In September 2013, the Union Ministry for Home Affairs announced the name change of the Anti-Drug Department to Anti-Drug Police Force, which will be headed by a Police Brigadier General (as yet unannounced).

The Union Ministry for Home Affairs also announced the creation of 24 new ANTF units, which will take the total number of ANTF units to 50. 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, the seizure of illicit narcotics and precursor chemicals significantly increased in 2012, in contrast to 2011, however was still lower than total seizures in 2009. In 2013, the Myanmar Government reported that it had seized 239 kg of heroin; 1792kg of opium; 467 vials of morphine injection vials; 10.2 million methamphetamine pills; 142 kg of crystalline methamphetamine (also called 'ice') & 274 liters of semi-finished crystalline methamphetamine; 80 kg of cannabis; 358 kg of ephedrine (ATS precursor chemical); and, 6,946 kg of cold/flu medicine tablets containing pseudoephedrine (ATS precursor chemical). Other seizures of precursors in 2013 includes Pseudoephedrine (3,581kg), Ephedrine (170kg), and Caffeine (13,482kg), which are not domestically produced but smuggled across its porous borders from the neighboring countries. In addition, the CCDAC has reported the eradication of 12,257ha (2012/2013) and 12,774 (2013/2014) of opium poppy field, and the arrest of almost 6,000 persons for illicit narcotic-related offences.

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

4-4-3 Update on Major Bilateral and Multilateral Counter Narcotics Programs

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.

Current interventions in Myanmar are being consolidated into a new UNODC Country Program for Myanmar (2014-2017). The Country Program has been conceptualized on consultations with Myanmar Government counterparts, civil society, and Member States meeting their needs. The Country Program initially covers four years, from 2014 to 2017; however, it is anticipated that most of its outcomes and outputs will remain relevant over a much longer timeframe. Current Country Program thematic areas of support include assistance in illicit trafficking and law enforcement; anti-corruption; criminal justice reform; HIV and drug demand reduction; and, alternative livelihoods for opium growing communities.

Drug Demand Reduction, HIV/AIDS prevention and care: Currently, UNODC's HIV programming is implemented with support from the Three Millennium Development Goals (3MDG) Fund. Under this support intervention activities are implemented in Sagaing Region, Shan State, and Mandalay Region. 3MDG-supported and UNODC-delivered programming is implemented through drop-in and outreach modalities and provides access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services for thousands of injecting and non-injecting drug users.

Alternative Livelihoods: Building on 30 years of work in the Greater Mekong Region, UNODC has been delivering 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, enabling them to transform their agricultural livelihood following bans on opium poppy cultivation imposed by Wa authorities. Currently UNODC is supporting farming communities in Hopong, Loilen, and Pinlon townships in southern Shan State to transform farming practices that will see more of the communities' resources spent increasing and diversifying food crop production and ultimately ending of opium poppy cultivation. This assistance is being expanded to communities in Mong Nai and Mong Pan townships in southern Shan in a program being implemented collaboratively by UNODC, the Myanmar Government, the Myanmar Army, and the Restoration Council for Shan State/ Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) ceasefire group. The program is funded by the European Union, Japan, and Germany.

Research and Survey: UNODC has been carrying out the Myanmar Illicit Crop Monitoring Program (ICMP) in cooperation with the Myanmar Government since 2003. This program 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 and the United States. The 2013 Opium Poppy Survey report was released in December 2013.

Additionally, UNODC also monitors synthetic drugs through the UNODC Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Program, which was launched in September 2008. The overarching objective of the program is to support Member States to make effective evidence-based decisions for designing responses to address the problems associated with illicit synthetic drugs. The program supports this through three primary steps:

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

Myanmar has been one of the priority countries for the SMART program in this region, and in this country the program focuses 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.

A regional SMART report update was released in November 2013. The current phase of the Global SMART Program is being supported by Australia, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States.

Other relevant UNODC programs include:

UNODC Computer-based Training (CBT) Program

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 Centers in 52 countries. More than 100 of these Centers 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 Centers 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 Centers 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 program 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 totaled about US\$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.

To cope with recent gradual increase of poppy re-cultivation, as succeeding alternative development activities in Northern Shan State, JICA and Ministry of Border Affairs had signed the Record of Discussion on a new five-year technical cooperation project in order to support ex-opium poppy farmers to stabilize their livelihood through strengthening farming skills and diversifying income sources. The project, which targets Namsan Township in Kyaukme District, Kutkai, Muse and Namkham Townships in Muse District, and Laukai and Konkyan Townships in Laukai District, commenced in May 2014.

The Japanese Government has contributed US\$4.43 million (total in 1996-2007) to the UNODC project for drug control and development in the “Wa” Self-Administered Division of Shan State, and US\$2.5 million (total in 2002-2014) to the UNODC project for illicit crop monitoring in Myanmar. The Government of Japan contributed US\$750,000 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 US\$5 million to WFP PRRO in Myanmar including Northern Shan State in 2010. The Japanese Government funded in 2009 US\$130,000 to AMDA, a Japanese NGO, for their project for upgrading a rural health center in Kokang Region.

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

World Food Program (WFP)

WFP has continued providing food and livelihood support to the most vulnerable populations through its 10 field offices across the country. As a consequence of the Myanmar government poppy eradication efforts by destroying poppy fields throughout the country, the livelihood of the poppy farmers was severely affected. Among its numerous activities, WFP, in cooperation with its partners, carried out food assistance to the ex-poppy farmers to alleviate the negative impacts brought by the opium eradication and enhance their resilience and coping capacity.

In February 2012, WFP restarted its partnership with UNODC to assist the ex-poppy farmers with general food distribution. The food assistance was initially provided to 45 villages in central Ho Pon and Pinlaung Townships where farmers' poppy fields had been destroyed. In 2012, an emergency food security assessment had been conducted in 10 villages in Pekon and Pinlaung townships in Southern Shan State. The objective was to assess the extent to which household food security status was impacted by the poppy eradication intervention. The main findings indicated that the food security situation of the communities affected was stable and no immediate assistance was deemed necessary. The majority of the impacted households have sufficient income for their basic food needs while few households were reportedly forced to purchase food on credit or borrow from friends and relatives. WFP had closely monitored the affected communities for their resilience and if assistance is needed, food or cash based programs had been carried out for these vulnerable communities. The WFP food assistance project in partnership with UNODC was successfully completed in 2013 reaching over 16,500 people with 766 metric tonnes of food in Shan State. WFP hopes to continue cooperation with UNODC in the near future.

In 2013, WFP continued its assistance to the ex-poppy farmers through asset creation activities of pond renovation and water supply system, which increase the agricultural production in the water-scarce and hilly mountain areas. In addition, under its current three-year countrywide protracted relief and recovery operation, launched in 2013, WFP introduced a new activity in support of HIV/TB patients, many of which are drug addicts.

WFP provides nutritious food to people living with HIV on anti-retroviral (ART) and TB patients on directly observed treatment short course (DOTS). In 2014, WFP is planning to reach 670 HIV/TB patients suffering from drug addiction in Kachin and Shan States as well as Yangon. If funds allow, WFP will extend the programme to other areas of Myanmar.

Australia

Australia, through the Australian Federal Police (AFP), continues to support counter-narcotic efforts in Myanmar, through police-to-police cooperation with a specific focus in Shan State..

Australia is also a major contributor to efforts to counter HIV/AIDS in Myanmar through the 3 MDG Fund. The Fund is supporting HIV harm reduction projects in Sagaing, Magway, Shan and Kachin.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria is also providing significant funding for HIV prevention treatment and care in Myanmar, including HIV harm reduction services.

Australia is also contributing to the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT). LIFT is funded by Australia, Denmark, the European Union, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Australia is the third largest donor to LIFT. Through LIFT approximately US\$200 million has been invested to improve the food and livelihoods security of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Myanmar. Shan State is one of the target regions for LIFT.

Australia is investing AUD12 million in livelihood and rural development research through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). This research will eventually be incorporated into developing future livelihood activities throughout Myanmar.

European Commission

The European Commission (EC) 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 behavior and improved access to comprehensive services, specifically among intravenous drug users.

The EC 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 delays and activities on the ground only started in early 2011. The EC and UNODC reviewed the strategy following the decision from the Myanmar Government to intensify the poppy eradication campaign in Southern Shan State. Project support has been channeled 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 labor in poppy fields), regardless of whether eradication has occurred in, or is planned for, these villages. An evaluation of the projects is foreseen for the end of October.

The EC is also one of the donors contributing to the LIFT fund and to the 3MDG.

4-4-4 Place and Date of Meeting of Mini-Dublin Group in Myanmar

This year's Mini-Dublin Group meeting in Myanmar was held on 31 March, 2014 at Signature Garden Restaurant. The members shared the narcotic situation updates by UNODC, and discussed the planned and on-going projects of each donor.

4-4-5 Prioritized Identification of Needs for External Assistance

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

4-4-6 Mini-Dublin Group Assessment of Needs

(1) Emerging Threats/Trends

Opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has continued to see year-on-year increases in cultivation area since 2006. Further, the production and trafficking of other illicit drugs, most notably ATS and its precursors, increased in 2013, with ATS now considered the primary drug of use in Myanmar by the Myanmar Police Force. Continued inaccessibility, due to security 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.

(2) Political Initiatives

The Myanmar Government continues to publicize their determination to tackle narcotics production through its extended 20-year narcotics elimination plan, and has revised the structure of CCDAC anti-narcotic teams across the country, which has included the creation of 24 new ANTF units. However, its activities have been hampered by insufficient funds and inaccessibility to many areas where illicit drugs cultivation and production takes place. The successful implementation of the 20 year plan will depend also on the situation in the Special Region border areas, the political will of the new government continuing through the 2015 election, and continued, expanded assistance from the international community.

4-4-7 Recommendations

- That the joint chairs, Japan and Australia, continue to update the document which outlines current and previous anti-narcotics programs in Myanmar and which can be used as a resource to avoid duplication of effort and identify key gaps, and that a draft of this document be available for comment at the next Mini-Dublin Group meeting.
- That the completed report of the Myanmar Mini-Dublin Group committee be forwarded to the Myanmar Government.
- That members urge Myanmar to provide greater access to UN agencies and INGOs into areas of illicit drug cultivation and production concern in order to provide assistance to opium poppy farmers, including through the timely provision of necessary visas and travel authorizations for international staff.
- That members encourage Myanmar and its neighbors, chiefly China, India 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 neighbors to work more closely with the international organizations 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, concentrating support in centers 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 people who use drugs in Myanmar, and in particular, people who inject drugs.
- That members remain alert to the impact of recent and future political developments on counter-narcotics efforts, particularly in Shan State.

4-5 Thailand

There is no follow-up report from Thailand.

4-6 Vietnam

4-6-1 General situation

(1) Drug trafficking

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2014 World Drug Report identifies that:

- Drug use prevalence is stable around the world, with around 243 million individuals, or 5 percent of the world's population aged 15-64 having used illicit drugs in the past year. Problem drug users meanwhile numbered about 27 million, roughly 0.6 per cent of the world's adult population, or 1 in every 200 people. The US, some European, Asian and Australasian countries have seen users switching between heroin and pharmaceutical painkillers, a trend largely dictated by low prices and accessibility;
- East and Southeast Asia, and South Asia continue to be a source of supply of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine used in illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in the region and other parts of the world. At the same time, Asia has increasing numbers of intermediary companies providing opportunity for diversion. The largest portion of licit precursor chemical export in Asia was by the Republic of Korea, followed by Japan, Singapore, Thailand, China and India.

In the Drug Control Brief in June 2014 of the UNODC's Global SMART Programme, it was indicated that:

- **Demand:** Heroin remains the most widely used illicit drug. Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) use continues to increase, and in 2010 ATS overtook opium as the second most widely used drug. Most of the heroin originates from Myanmar and is trafficked into Viet Nam through Lao PDR. In addition, drug trafficking organizations from West Africa continue to recruit air passenger couriers to smuggle heroin from Southwest Asia as well as cocaine and other drugs into Viet Nam⁸.
- **Supply:** Crystalline methamphetamine use has risen considerably since it was first reported in 2008. During the past few years, a number of new psychoactive substances (NPS) have emerged on the illicit drug market⁹.
- **Transnational Organized Crime:** Involvement of transnational organized crime (TOC) groups in drug trafficking from West Africa is on the rise. West African drug trafficking organizations are most active in Ho Chi Minh City and elsewhere in the southern part of the country¹⁰. There are indications that African drug traffickers are increasingly recruiting Vietnamese students and men rather than adult Vietnamese women to smuggle illicit drugs to markets in the region¹¹.

⁸ Drug Control Brief, June 2014, UNODC SMART Programme

⁹ Drug Control Brief, June 2014, UNODC SMART Programme

¹⁰ Drug Control Brief, June 2014, UNODC SMART Programme

¹¹ Drug Control Brief, June 2014, UNODC SMART Programme

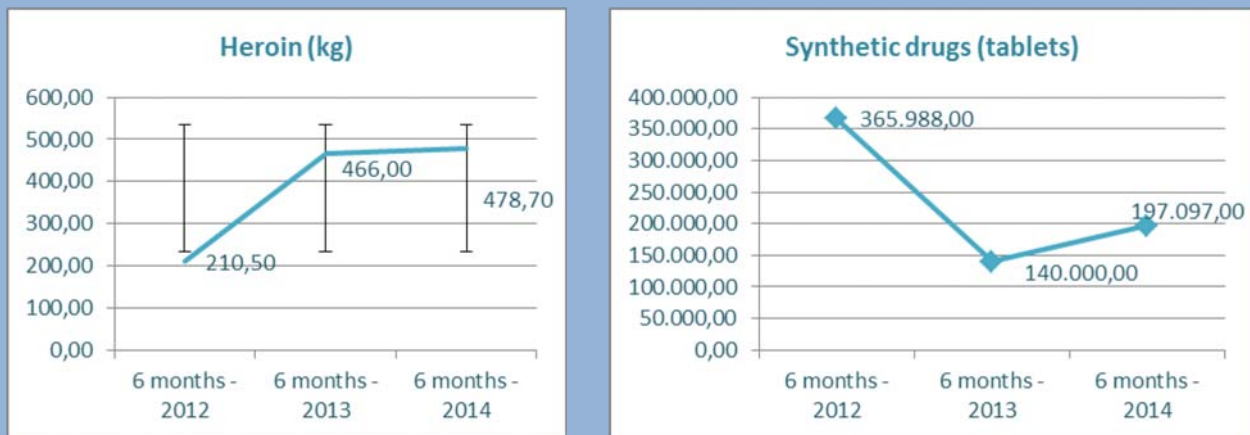
According to the National Committee, in the first 6 months of 2014, law enforcement agencies investigated 10,256 drug trafficking cases and arrested 15,298 drug offenders. They seized 478.70kg of heroin, 14.10 kg of opium, 909.10 kg of cannabis, 127.50 kg and 197,097 tablets of synthetic drugs. These figures reflect an increase in a number of illicit drug trafficking cases as well as an increase in heroin seizure, synthetic drugs and cannabis but a decrease in opium when compared with the same period of 2013 (466 kg of heroin, 83 kg of cannabis, 46 kg and 140,000 tablets of synthetic drugs and 83 kg of opium)¹².



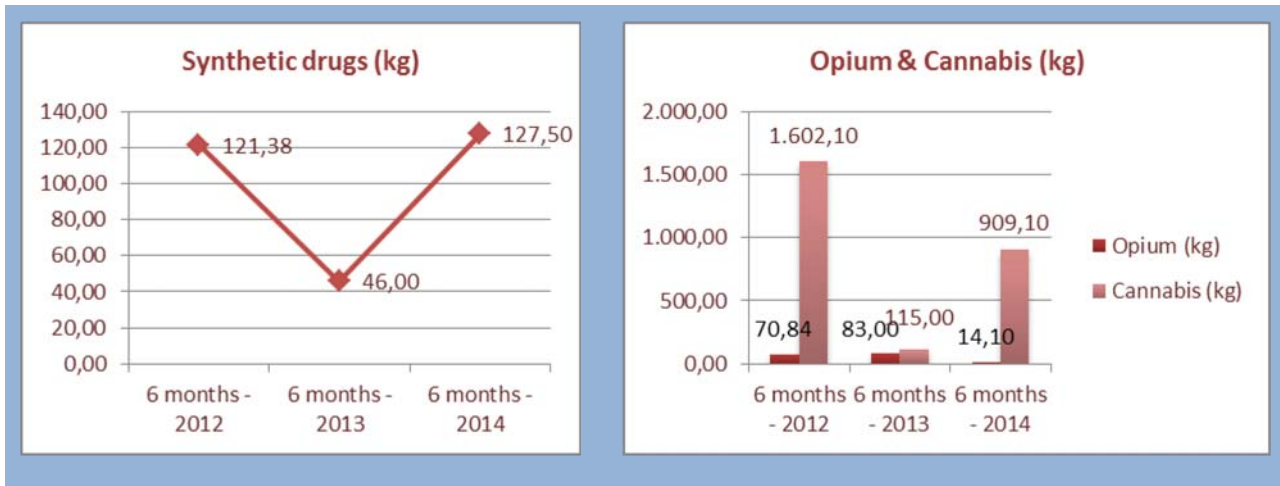
Figure 1: Number of cases and persons in the first

6 months of 2012, 2013 and 2014

Figure 2: Illicit drugs seized in the first 6 months of 2012, 2013 and 2014



¹² Report of the National Committee on AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution Control and Prevention, June 2014



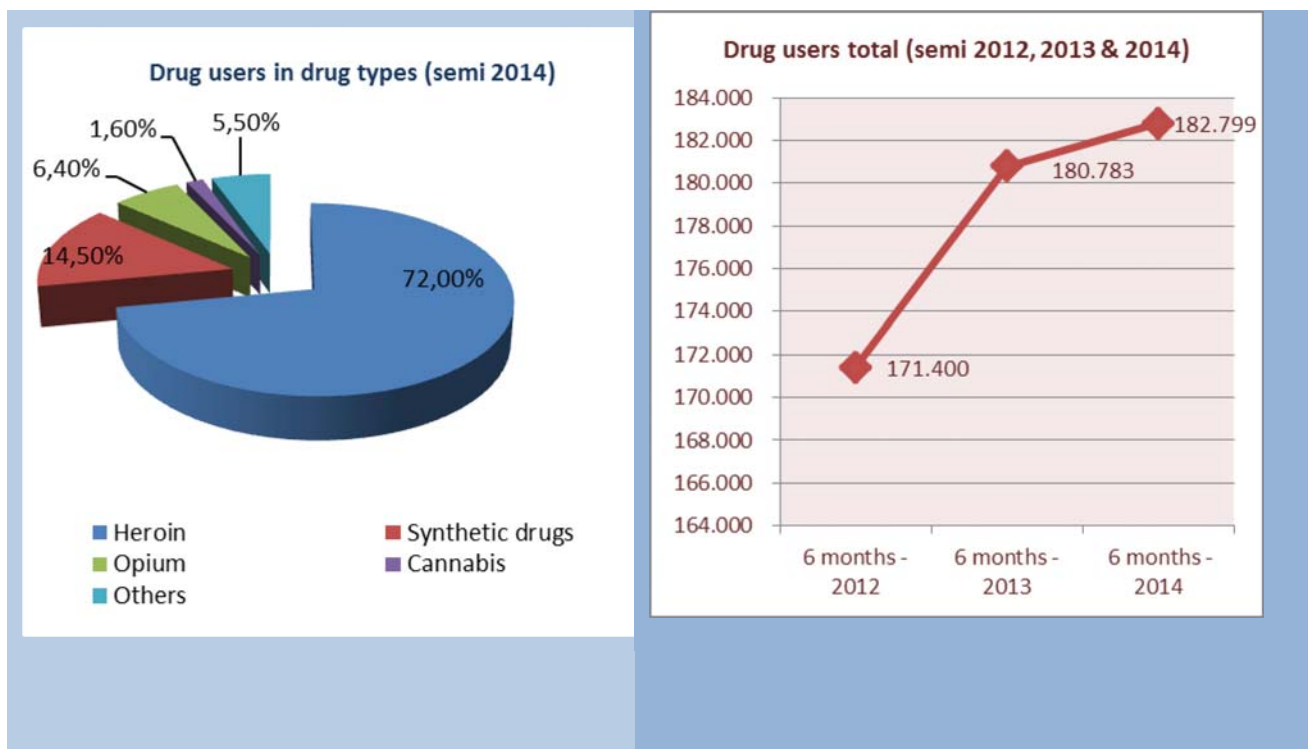
(2) Drugs and health

As of June 2014, there were 182,799 registered drug dependent people (reported by the Ministry of Public Security). By drug type, heroin users accounted for the largest proportion of illicit drug users (72%), followed by users of synthetic drugs (14.5%), opium (6.4%), cannabis (1.6%) and other drugs (5.5%)¹³. The Government estimates that the actual number of drug dependent people is much higher. Although the seizures of synthetic drugs were decreased, the number of synthetic drug users was increasing, that created a serious concern to the Government of Viet Nam.

Figure 3: Drug users in drug types in the first 6 months of 2014

Figure 4: Total of drug users in the first 6 months of 2012, 2013 & 2014

¹³ Report of the Vietnam Administration for AIDS Control (VAAC) of the Ministry of Health at the National Conference "Towards a Comprehensive Care for Substance Users: Integration of SUD, HIV and Other Services"



Injecting drug use (IDU) is widespread and highly correlates with heroin use. IDU is the major cause of HIV transmission in Vietnam. In 2013, the estimated HIV zero-prevalence among IDUs was 10.3%, a decrease compared to 2012 (11.6%)¹⁴.

According to VAAC, there were 219,163 people living with HIV/AIDS in the country by May 2014¹⁵. The HIV epidemic remains highly concentrated, with the highest prevalence among men who inject drugs (18.8%).

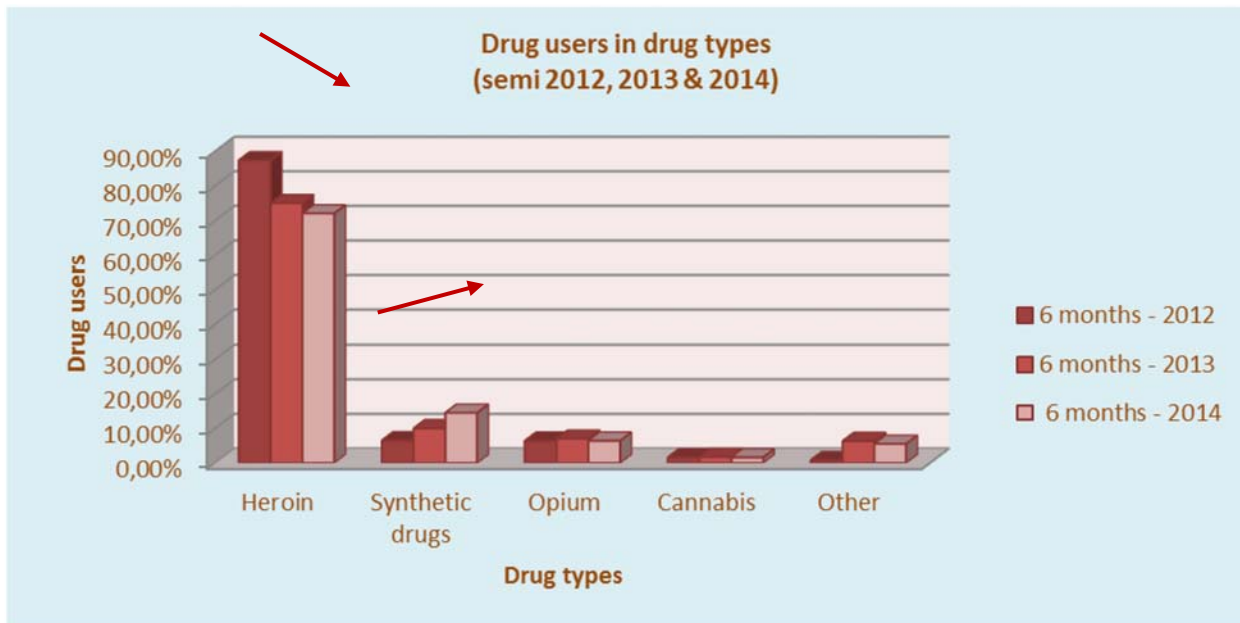
By August 2014, there were 95 MMT clinics in 32 provinces/cities with 17,521 people receiving treatment¹⁶. It is expected that by 2015, 245 methadone clinics will be operational in 61 provinces and cities and 81,000 opiate dependent people will receive treatment.

¹⁴ Ministry of Health report at the Annual Review Meeting of the National Committee on HIV/AIDS, Drugs, and Prostitution Prevention and Control

¹⁵ Report of the Vietnam Administration for AIDS Control (VAAC) of the Ministry of Health at the National Conference "Towards a Comprehensive Care for Substance Users: Integration of SUD, HIV and Other Services"

¹⁶ The Bell Viet Nam

Figure 5: Drug users in drug types in the first 6 months of 2012, 2013 & 2014

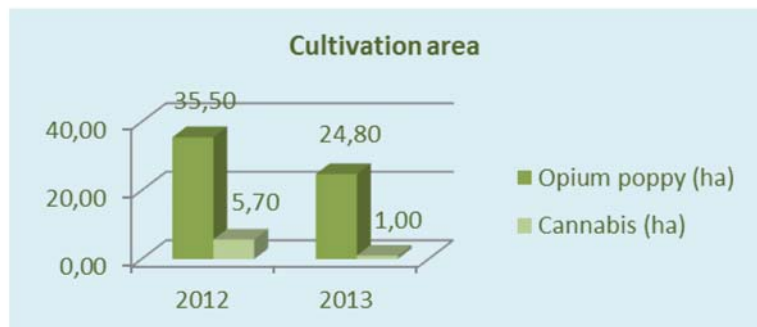


(3) Cultivation of narcotic containing plants

There was a decreasing trend in cultivation of narcotic containing plants in 2013 comparing to 2012 (8%). 25.8ha of narcotic containing plants were detected and eradicated in 2013, including 24.8ha of opium poppy and 1ha of cannabis¹⁷.

Figure 6: Total area of narcotic containing plants and crops

In 2012-2013 (hectare)



¹⁷ Report of the National Committee on AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution Control and Prevention, January 2014

4-6-2 Update on the Country's Anti-Drugs Strategy

The 'National Strategy on Drug Control and Prevention in Viet Nam to 2020, with a Vision to 2030' was approved by the Government in June 2011. Following this, in August 2012, the Prime Minister signed the 'National Target Program on Drug Prevention and Control – 2012-2015'. The Government also issued Decree 96/2012/ND-CP, on 'Regulating Substitution Treatment of Opioid Addiction' (known as the Methadone Decree) in November 2012. The Decree provided for expansion of Vietnam's MMT program. The Law on Administration Violation was approved by the National Assembly on 20 June 2012 and has come into effect since 1st July 2013. A Court Ordinance establishing court process for sanctioning compulsory treatment to drug dependent people and several Government Decrees guiding the implementation of this Law were also developed.

On 27 December 2013, the Government approved the Decision on Drug Rehabilitation Renovation Plan (Renovation Plan) for the period 2013-2020. The plan aims to diversify drug dependence treatment models, scale up community-based and voluntary treatment centers (including for MMT clinics) and gradually reduce the number of people who use drugs in compulsory "06 centers". To that end, it introduced a phased approach with specific targets to be achieved in 2014-15 and in 2016-20. The plan describes responsibility of relevant national agencies, e.g. in increasing professional capacity for better treatment and care of drug dependent people, in establishing professional standards in drug treatment and care and in developing sufficient legislative and institutional frameworks to support these efforts. However, the Renovation Plan still foresees a number of 06 centers to exist in 2020, which is of serious concerns for the UN and the development partners.

Viet Nam ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its supplemental Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (known as the Palermo Protocol) in 2012. MPS is in the process of developing a 'National Strategy on Crime Prevention and Suppression-2020 – 2030', which will set out national crime and drug control priorities.

As part of a broader legislative review project, the Government is also in the process of revising Vietnam's Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and other laws regulating drugs and organised crime issues.

4-6-3 Update on Major Bilateral and Multilateral Counter-Narcotics Programs

Australia

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has offices in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and is actively involved with the Narcotics Investigations Department of the Vietnamese Police General Department for Crime Prevention and Suppression. Heroin remains the most trafficked commodity, the amount of methamphetamine continues to increase but trafficking of precursor chemicals from Vietnam to Australia has reduced in recent months.

The major criminal connections between Australia and Vietnam remain between the Vietnamese communities in Sydney and Melbourne and those in HCMC, primarily because of the historical links between Vietnamese communities in Australia and southern Vietnam, coupled with direct air and sea cargo routes to Australia. As a result, HCMC acts as a funnel for illicit drugs and/or precursors trafficked from or through Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and China.

Significant joint counter narcotics investigations continue to be conducted, highlighting the effectiveness of the working relationship between the AFP and the Narcotics Investigations Department.

Trafficking routes from Laos into Vietnam, especially in Son La Province are areas of concern for the AFP and increasing the capacity of law enforcement in these areas has been identified as a priority. A multi-agency visit arranged has been arranged as an initial step.

The laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking activity (including border controlled substances imported into Australia and as the result of domestic cannabis cultivation by Vietnamese groups in Australia) back to Vietnam is an area the AFP continues to progress with their Vietnamese counterparts. One recent matter saw the forfeiture of multiple premises in HCMC that were identified as proceeds of crime as a result of a joint investigation.

European Union

The European Union currently has no specific cooperation programs on drugs or crime in Vietnam but maintains liaison contact with the authorities. One of the stated aims of the EU-Vietnam Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, signed in 2012, is collaboration in the areas of combating organised crime, money laundering and illicit drugs, so closer cooperation over the medium term is a possibility. Vietnam was included in the 2009-2012 EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Program, created to support the development of an efficient and coherent Integrated Border Management System at selected main border crossing points. One of its main objectives was to facilitate the legal movements of goods and persons, whilst combating transnational crime, illegal migration and people trafficking. The EU also funds targeted health programs empowering populations at higher risk of HIV infection, strengthening HIV care, prevention and treatment in the country. Vietnam is also part of the EU-UNODC Joint Initiative for Supporting Southeast Asian Countries to Counter Terrorism that delivers expertise and training in related activities, including combating transnational organised crime and anti-money laundering.

France

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

United Kingdom

The UK has strengthened its law enforcement footprint in Vietnam, and has continued to build on existing relationships. UK co-operation with Vietnam is currently very good but organised crime continues to evolve and it is essential that the UK and Vietnam work even more closely to tackle shared threats. To that end, the UK opened a National Crime Agency Liaison Office (NCA) in Hanoi in 2012, covering Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. This allowed for a more dedicated relationship with the Ministry of Public Security and other facets of law enforcement in Vietnam, which to date has yielded a number of joint operations and successful arrests and prosecutions.

Although there is little intelligence to show that controlled drugs manufactured in, or transiting through, Vietnam are destined for the UK, Vietnamese nationals dominate cannabis cultivation in the UK with most UK cannabis farms staffed or run by Vietnamese illegal immigrants. The money generated by cannabis cultivation in the UK is estimated to be between GBP 300 million and GBP 800 million per year. Proceeds of Vietnamese-run criminal enterprises are known to be sent back to Vietnam through the use of individual couriers or via legitimate Vietnamese businesses. Moreover, abuse of UK and Vietnam banks, and in particular the accounts of legitimate students, is not uncommon.

The laundering of the proceeds of crime generated by the cultivation and distribution of narcotics is a key area of work for NCA. NCA has identified opportunities for joint work with the State Bank of Vietnam's Anti-Money Laundering Department, with whom the NCA will sign an intelligence exchange MOU in 2014. The NCA also actively works with the MPS Economic Crime Command and Vietnam Customs, and is currently looking at other joint initiatives with UNODC. In February 2014 the NCA, with UNODC delivered a financial investigation training module to the People's Police Academy of Vietnam, which has now been incorporated into the curriculum for new entrants.

Criminal vendettas and rivalry between crime groups involved in cannabis cultivation have also resulted in a number of kidnappings and murders in the UK Vietnamese community. NCA and the UK Human Trafficking Centre work closely with ACPO Forces in England and Wales, with significant operational support from Vietnamese law enforcement, to tackle this criminal threat.

Japan

There has not been a reported narcotics trafficking case from Vietnam to Japan since 2001. In Japan, most drug trafficking arrests relate to ATS cases. The recent increase in ATS trafficking cases in Vietnam is a trend to which we should pay attention.

Japan currently has no specific bilateral cooperation programs on drug-control issues. But the Government of Japan 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 Vietnam in efforts to control drugs in collaboration with UNODC.

United States of America

U.S. counter-narcotics objectives in Vietnam are aimed at improving cooperation in cross-border, regional, and international enforcement efforts and assisting Vietnam to expand the capacity of its domestic counter-narcotics law enforcement agencies. Operational cooperation between Vietnamese and U.S. authorities has improved, in particular between the Ministry of Public Security Counter-Narcotics Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Hanoi Country Office, 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 Vietnamese government participation at international and regional events and conferences, as well as conducting some basic training activities. In addition, the DEA and the Department of Defence Joint Interagency Taskforce - West (JIATF-W) partnered with the MPS Counter-Narcotics Department to construct a joint training facility in Vinh, Vietnam, which was completed in January 2013. DEA and the JIATF-W have since conducted three training seminars with the Ministry of Public Security's Counter-Narcotics Department, in June 2013, September 2013, and August 2104 at the new facility. The seminars provided tactical and emergency medical training to 150 counter narcotics police officers.

The Department of Treasury's Office of Technical Assistance is helping Vietnam's Ministry of Finance implement new accounting and financial reporting objectives as part of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) program.

The U.S. Department of State's Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program supports the comprehensive development of Vietnam's operational capabilities to deter, detect, interdict, investigate, and prosecute illicit transfers of WMD, WMD related items, and conventional arms.

The bulk of EXBS assistance to Vietnam has focused on building awareness of the criminal threats associated with the misuse of dual-use goods, WMD production and transit threats, and UNSCE 1540 mandates. Maritime border enforcement/law enforcement and security assistance remains a top priority for the USG and the Government of Vietnam. The U.S. Coast Guard is the primary implementer for the aforementioned assistance.

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Vietnam has received approximately \$69 million for implementation in 2014 for a targeted program of health systems strengthening and HIV prevention, care, and treatment among key populations including people who inject drugs (PWID), sex workers, and men who have sex with men (MSM). Injecting drug use plays a significant role in driving HIV transmission. Approximately 45% of all HIV infections in Vietnam are directly associated with injecting drug use. The HIV prevalence rates in the country vary by province with some as high as 60% for this key population.

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 contributes the majority of support for methadone for over 20,028 patients in 114 clinics in 38 of the 63 provinces (as of mid-September 2014). PEPFAR also supports HIV counselling 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, 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

UNODC assistance to Viet Nam is provided through regional and national projects. The UNODC's Country Program for Viet Nam was signed by the Government of Viet Nam in August 2013. The Programme sets out priorities for cooperation with the Government from 2012-2017 under five sub-programmes:

- Transnational organised crime and illicit trafficking;
- Corruption and anti-money laundering;
- Counter terrorism;
- Criminal justice; and
- Drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS.

In the area of illicit trafficking, UNODC has helped enhance national capacities through organization of training courses, legal review and provision of office equipment to national agencies, including 4 training courses on anti-smuggling for border frontline officers at the border between Viet Nam and Laos, Viet Nam and China as well as office and communication equipment under Partnership Against Transnational Crime through Regional Organized Law Enforcement (PATROL) project. Most recently, the UNODC Global Container Control Programme (CCP) has been approved by Prime Minister of Viet Nam. The CCP has a global reach and aims to fortify the structures and processes which allow for the application of sustainable laws for States and selected ports, so as to minimize the exploitation of maritime containers for the illicit trafficking of drugs, and other transnational organized crime activities

Through a dedicated program against money laundering, including training on basic investigative techniques, money laundering and financial investigation, UNODC has helped to increase the capacity of both the MPS's Economic Police Department to identify, investigate and prosecute economic crimes and follow the financial flows from organized crime. In a long running program of support to the General Department of Customs, during the period 2012-2014 UNODC has delivered 12 bulk cash smuggling detection training courses at a number of land border crossings in the north, centre and south of Viet Nam in addition to 3 international airports and 2 sea container ports. In August 2014, Customs Officers in Tay Ninh province conducted the largest ever seizure of criminal cash when \$860,000.00 was detected in Vietnamese Dong (VND18.2 billion) being smuggled into Cambodia from Viet Nam. The officers involved in the cash seizure had previously been trained by UNODC.

UNODC has supported the Government of Viet Nam in consultation process in formulation of National Strategies and Target Programs on drug control and crime prevention, and the National Program against Human Trafficking addressing drugs, crime and illicit trafficking in persons. These documents set priorities for national action against drugs and crime, including establishing robust law enforcement measures, fostering cross border cooperation, addressing newly emerging crimes such as environmental and cyber-crime, and strengthening community-based treatment of drug users as an alternative to compulsory treatment.

UNODC aims to address the impact of drug dependence on individuals, families and communities, through diversification of evidence-based, voluntary, drug treatment and care services in communities.

UNODC is also implementing a project on addressing HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users, including in prisons, and is considering piloting MMT in prisons. Further information on these projects is available upon request.

4-6-4 Prioritised Identification of Needs for External Assistance

Advocacy, policy advice and continued technical assistance are needed to help the Vietnamese government pursue political, social and economic reform. Public administration and judicial reform processes in particular need to be promoted, to ensure protection of rights and access to justice for Vietnam's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Mini-Dublin Group members may consider supporting:

- Law reform, including the current Penal and Criminal Procedure Code review process;
- Development of drug law enforcement agencies' interdiction, investigation, and intelligence collection and sharing capabilities in relation to serious trafficking criminal cases;
- Improving drug analysis for forensic agencies to analyse all types of drugs, including impurity profiling and precursors.
- Data analysis to identify trends in drug abuse and seizures;
- Drug prevention activities, with an adequate focus on synthetic drugs;

- Diversification of services for drug users at the provincial level and phasing out of compulsory treatment through closure of 06 centres; and
- HIV prevention and other harm minimisation measures for injecting drug users, including methadone maintenance therapy.

4-6-5 Mini-Dublin Group Assessment of Needs

Illicit drug trafficking and other types of transnational organised crime have become more complex, with offenders adopting more organized and sophisticated modus operandi.

The production of synthetic drugs in Vietnam, particularly “ice”, has decreased, however, the potentiality of domestic production remains high. In 2013, there were 3 laboratories dismantled in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City compared to 9 labs in 2012.

Heroin is still the dominant type of drug in Viet Nam in terms of use and trafficking. Volume of cocaine trafficked into Viet Nam was not much, however, cocaine from South America trafficked into Viet Nam showed a trend that criminal syndicates in South America are trying to expand market to Southeast Asia, including Viet Nam.

4-6-6 Recommendations

To the Government of Viet Nam:

- Inter-agency coordination and cooperation should be further strengthened in implementing action plans and activities under its National Drug Control and Crime Prevention strategies;
- Cross-border cooperation activities should be improved, including mutual legal assistance, information sharing and cross-border operations;
- New rules and regulations on the treatment of drug dependent people based on the evidence and respect of human rights should be developed;
- Involvement in supporting the Mini-Dublin Group in Viet Nam through information sharing, and keeping the group updated on national initiatives to address illicit drugs issues should be increased.

Current and Previous Anti-Narcotics Programs in Myanmar

(Compiled by Mini Dublin Group Myanmar)

As of: October 2014

	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 poverty 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)	Project for the Eradication of Opium Poppy Cultivation and Rural Development in Northern part of Shan State	\$5,500,000		To stabilize ex-poppy farmer's livelihood through support in substitute crops, strengthening farming techniques in close cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and diversifying their income sources by non-farm activities	Kyaukse, Muse and Laukai districts	2014	2019	On-going.
3	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, Kyaukse District)	1997	2005	Buckwheat cultivation component was merged into the Kokang Project (only technical support). Private sector (local company) took over the activities and is continuing in Kokang, Kyaukse and extended to PaO areas (Southern Shan State).

	Donor	Recipient Agency	Project/Program Title	Budget (USD)	Other currency	Description	Region(s)	Start Year	End Year	Status
4	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 NaTaLa.	Mainly Kokang and Wa region	1998	1999	Completed
5	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
6	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, wheel loader, 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
7	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, strenghten 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.

	Donor	Recipient Agency	Project/Program Title	Budget (USD)	Other currency	Description	Region(s)	Start Year	End Year	Status
8	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.
9	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	
10	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	
11	Japan, USA, Italy	UNODC	Illicit Crop Monitoring in Myanmar	\$2.530.389		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 and Kyah states.	2002	2014	On-going.

Donor	Recipient Agency	Project/Program Title	Budget (USD)	Other currency	Description	Region(s)	Start Year	End Year	Status
12 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	755 mt of rice and 112.5 mt of blended food were procured.
13 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	Completed
14 Japan	World Food Programme	Improving the food security, nutrition status and 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
15 Japan	World Food Programme	Improving the food security, nutrition status and 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
16 Japan	World Food Programme	Emergency Operation	\$500.000			Northern Shan State	2004	2004	Completed
17 Japan	World Food Programme	Emergency Operation	\$300.000			Kokang	2003	2003	Completed
18 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

Donor	Recipient Agency	Project/Program Title	Budget (USD)	Other currency	Description	Region(s)	Start Year	End Year	Status
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
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
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 contribute to the achievement of MGD 1 in Myanmar and reduction of opium poppy cultivation. Improve household food security and income from legal activities in three village tracts of Hopong Township.	Hopong, Southern Shan State	2009	2014	On-going.
European Commission	UNODC	2007 Food Security Programme for Burma/Myanmar in 4 village tracts" Hopong Township, South Shan State	\$2.325.000	1275000 Euro	To contribute to the achievement of MGD 1 in Myanmar and reduction of opium poppy cultivation. Improve household food security and income from legal activities in two village tracts of Hopong Township.	Hopong, Southern Shan State	2009	2014	On-going.

	Donor	Recipient Agency	Project/Program Title	Budget (USD)	Other currency	Description	Region(s)	Start Year	End Year	Status
23	Germany	UNODC	Increasing Food Security and Promoting Licit Crop Production and Small Farmer Enterprise Development in Lao PDR and Myanmar	\$1.933.900	1.469.764	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	Loilen, Pinlon, Southern Shan State	2011	2013	Ongoing
24	Germany	Welthungerhilfe/ German Agro Action	Improvement of Basic Infrastructure and Livelihoods in 49 Villages in Former Poppy Growing Areas		500,000 EURO		Wa Special Region Northern Shan State	2009	2012	Ongoing, expatriate access impossible since August 2010
25	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.
26		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.
27	3DF	UNODC	UNODC Partnership for the Reduction of Injecting Drug Use, HIV/AIDS and Related Vulnerability in Myanmar	\$3.324.800		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

Donor	Recipient Agency	Project/Program Title	Budget (USD)	Other currency	Description	Region(s)	Start Year	End Year	Status	
28	Australia	UNODC	Reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users through the HAARP Country Flexible Programme in Myanmar	\$2.635.000		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.
29	Australia	UNODC	KOWI (the Kokang and Wa Initiative)	\$1.200.000		UNODC's Kokang and Wa initiative in Shan State aims to provide for the basic human needs of poor farmers and their families to curb opium production	Kokang and Wa	2006-2007	2007	Completed
30	UNAIDS	UNODC	Harm Reduction Review	\$66.380		Analysed present situation in the Union of Myanmar including best practices and provide possible strategies and recommendations for expansion of services.		2010	2010	Completed.
31	Multi-donors	World Food Programme	"Improving the Food Security, Nutritious Status, and Livelihoods of Vulnerable Populations in Myanmar" (Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, PRRO 200032)	6,200,778 (January 2010 – March 2011)		The activities include the provision of food assistance to integrated livelihood activities for vulnerable people and to primary schoolchildren, as well as nutrition support to children under 3, pregnant and lactating women and HIV/TB patients under treatment.	Lashio, Kokang, Wa and Taunggyi	2010	2012	Completed
32	Multi-donors	World Food Programme	"Assistance to Vulnerable Families" (Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, PRRO 10066.3)	\$15.961.000		Food assistance was provided to highly food-insecure and vulnerable groups, through food for work, food for training, food for education, and nutrition support to children under 3, pregnant and lactating women and HIV/TB patients.	Lashio, Kokang, Wa and Taunggyi	2007	2009	Completed

	Donor	Recipient Agency	Project/Program Title	Budget (USD)	Other currency	Description	Region(s)	Start Year	End Year	Status
33	Multi-donors	World Food Programme	Supporting Transition by Reducing Food Insecurity and Undernutrition among the Most Vulnerable (Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, PRRO 200299)	\$204,455,828 (total cost for 3 years)		Food assistance is being provided to highly food-insecure and vulnerable groups, through food/cash for work, food for education, and nutrition support to children under 5, pregnant and lactating women and HIV/TB patients.	Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Magway Region	2013	2015	