



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**THE 11th MEETING OF THE AIPA FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE
(AIFOCOM)**

TO COMBAT THE DRUG MENACE

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Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORT OF VIET NAM

Prevention and combat against drug and drug-related crimes

in the period 2011 - 2013: Process and outcomes

I. Introduction: Overview of achievements (2011-2013):

Policy and Law System on drug prevention and drug offenses has been improved:

- Law on Handling of Administrative Violations (2012), which stipulates the authority of the People's Court at district level to decide applying administrative remedies to keep drug user in compulsory detoxification centers; further clarify the remedies against administrative violations for drug addicts...;
- Ordinance 09/2014/UBTVQH13 of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to review procedures, decisions to apply administrative remedies at People's Court (2014), which provides a more sequence proceeding on the decision to apply remedies to keep drug user in compulsory detoxification centers;
- National Strategy for drug prevention and combat in Vietnam to 2020 and vision to 2030;

- National target program on drug prevention in the period 2012-2015 ; Planning and implementing the national target program on drug prevention and 6 projects of the program;
- Decision 2596/QĐ-TTg dated 27th December, 2013 approving the Scheme for innovation in drug rehabilitation in Vietnam to 2020 .
- Gradually expand treatment programs for opiate addiction with substitution drugs (methadone) . As of the date of 30.11.2013 , the nation had 75 methadone treatment facilities deployed in 29 provinces / cities and expected to expand more methadone treatment facilities to be opened in the near future;
- Research and propose Law on Treatment of drug addiction;

Prevention and combat against drug process has been focused and steered drastically to implement 3 reductions: supply, demand and harm reduction thus limiting the increase of drug addiction and getting high results in drug-crime combating. The task forces continue to consolidate. Basically, Vietnam has prevented replanting poppies and cannabis; operated treatment for a large number of drug addicts and expanded treatment programs with methadone. International cooperations on prevention and drug control are extended in-depth and practical, enlisted experience, international resources. Investing in prevention and anti-drug is getting more concerned .

II. Current Situation of Drug and Drug-related Crimes in Viet Nam

Due to the direct effects of the drug crime situations in the region and over the world, the situation of drug crimes in Vietnam is getting more complicated ; number of crime detection increased; Drug-related crimes and evils remained on the rise, both in magnitude and level of severity. The gangs in drug trafficking across the border are equipped with military weapons and fight fiercely when detected , arrested or purged each other when conflicts arised.

Borders between Vietnam–Laos and Vietnam-China are still the most complicated roads . Across the above border lines, the task forces detected and seized 5,339 cases, accounting for 30 % of the total number of drug arrested over the country , with 6,990 trafficker carrying 300 kg of heroin, 70 cases with a large number of drugs. On aviation, in 2013, the Task forces arrested 10 cases with 14 traffickers, seized 20kg drugs in all types, decrease 11 cases compared to 2012.

Heroin remains the main drug in criminals buying, selling, transporting and

using; number of cases and amount of synthetic drugs (mainly methamphetamine) detected and arrested has been accelerating in recent times.

2.1. Drug-related crimes situation in 2011 - 2013

In 2011: The authorities detected 18,623 drug-related cases and arrested 26,687 peoples involved, seizing more than 309.16 kg and 12 bars of heroin, 76.2 kg of opium; nearly 7 tonnes of fresh cannabis and 500 kg dried cannabis; 121.38 kg and 365,988 pills of synthetic drugs; 1,410 tablets of addictive drugs and multiple exhibits.

The courts put on trial 12,989 cases with 16,303 defendants. 212 defendants were sentenced with death penalties or life imprisonment; 499 defendants were sentenced to 15-20 years of imprisonment; 2,662 received sentences of 7-15 years of imprisonment

In 2012: The authorities detected 20,917 drug-related cases and arrested 31,419 drug offenders (a 13% increase of the number of cases and 14% rise in the number of offenders as against 2011), seizing nearly 700 kg of heroin, more than 200 kg of opium; one tonne of fresh cannabis and 164 kg dried cannabis; 192 kg and 500,000 pills of synthetic drugs; 14,978 cases of 18,687 offenders were put on trial.

In 2013: The authorities detected 21,188 drug-related cases and arrested 32,332 drug offenders , seizing 940 kg of heroin, 117 kg of opium and 323,772 pills of synthetic drugs

2.2. Drug addicts and detoxification situation in 2011 – 2013

2.2.1. Drug addicts situation

In 2011: Nearly 160.000 drug addicts (estimated).

In 2012: Over 172.000 drug addicts (estimated). 60/63 of the provinces and cities experienced a rise in the number of drug addicts.

Male forms 96% of the addicts population with age range between 16-30 accounting for 50%; and above 30 years old is 49.8%. Type of drugs: heroin accounts for 84.7% (reduced by 3% against 2011); synthetic drugs: 6.5% (increased by 1.2 % against 2011); opium 6.4%; marijuana: 1.6%; addictive medicines: 0.3%.

In 2013: Over 180.000 drug addicts (estimated), increased by 5.4% with 9,396 cases against 2012; 48 provinces have increasing numbers and 15 provinces have decreasing numbers of drug addicts.

Main types of drugs: heroin (75%), synthetic drugs (10%), opium (7%); marijuana (1.7%), others (6.3%).

The real figure of the drug addicts might have been higher than that documented by the authorities: The National Assembly of Viet Nam found that in the multiple risk reduction interventions and epidemiological surveys conducted in several cities and provinces, the number of drug addicts or the number of people of high risk for addiction all exceeded the documented figures.

2.2.2. Detoxification activities in 2011 - 2013

In 2011: 40,013 drug addicts were treated for detoxification

In 2012: 47,000 drug addicts were treated for detoxification; among which, 29,617 were treated for the first time at detoxification centers, 6,204 were treated at home or in the community.

5,300 drug addicts received vocational training; over 4,100 drug addicts were given financial assistance and employment in the post-detoxification.

The Methadone Alternative Treatment Programme was carried out in 20 cities and provinces for over 12,000 drug addicts.

In 2013: 65,806 drug addicts were treated for detoxification; among which, 23,971 were treated at detoxification centers, account for 76.93% and 7,185 were treated at home or in the community account for 20.07%

14,628 drug addicts received post-detoxification management and 6,983 drug addicts were given vocational training, financial assistance and employment .

The Methadone Alternative Treatment Programme is getting positive result. By December 12th 2013, 15,286 drug addicts were given Methadone in 29 cities and provinces with 75 Treatment Centers.

III. National Strategy for prevention and drug control in Vietnam till 2020 and direction to 2030. National Target Program on Drug Prevention and Combat in period 2012 - 2015

*** Vision :**

- Continuing to specify drug prevention and combat as a key task, urgent as well as regular, continuous and in long term;
- Organizing effective prevention and rehabilitation to constraint the rise of drug abuse and reduce drug demand;
- Strengthening the fight and effective prevention on drugs purchasing, trafficking from abroad to Vietnam;

- Continuing to review and implement the Law system on drug prevention and combat;
- Consolidating the Task force on drug prevention and combat;
- Improve the effectiveness of international cooperation in drug prevention and combat.

*** *National Target Program on Drug Prevention and Combat 2012 - 2015***

Overarching goals:

- Increase the awareness of authorities at various levels and the people on the grave consequences of the drug-related evils, and the responsibilities of communal, ward and district level governments, individuals, families, employers and associations in the drug prevention and fight; engaging non-state actors to mobilize resources for the drug prevention and combats.
- Curb the complex rise of drug-related crimes; reduce the drug addict population; effectively preventing the smuggling of drugs through the borders; downsize the areas having drug-related evils.
- Improve the efficiency of investigation and prosecution of drug-related crimes.
- Improve the efficiency of detoxification and of management in the post-detoxification; reduce the impacts on drugs on the well-being of individuals, families and social law and order.

Concrete goals until 2015:

- Annual reduction of 5% of the current number of drug addicts; Reduce by 10% the number of communes, wards and districts having drug-related evils to attain the figure of 50% of drug-related evils-free communes, wards and districts.
- Improve the efficiency of curbing the flow of drugs into Viet Nam; increase efforts to detect and arrest drug-related cases at border areas so that the number would account for over 30% of cases nationwide; more efforts be placed on detection and arrest of drug-related crimes so that the rate of successful detection and arrest would grow 10% year-on-year nationwide; control strictly the legitimate drug-related activities and zero-tolerance to synthetic drug production.
- Abolish the problematic locations in terms of drug dealing and use; take strong actions to ensure that the drug-related criminals would not dare to

operate openly, causing frustration among the public; double efforts to remove all 'hotspots' in terms of drug crimes and addicts nationwide.

- Do not allow for re-cultivation of poppies and cannabis; detect and destroy 100% of illegally cultivated poppies and cannabis.
- 100% of documented drug addicts receive detoxification under various forms; 100% detoxified drug addicts with high risk of relapse should be managed in the post-detoxification; study the introduction of 4 medicines assisting the addicts to come off drugs as well as other new treatment approaches in detoxification and rehabilitation.
- Estimated funding: VND 2,522 billion (VND 830 billion of investment capital and VND 1,692 billion of performing capital).
- Total fund for the program during the period 2011 - 2013 is about 1,899 billion, accounting for 62.3 % of the total approved funding of the program, in which the central budget is 1,686 billion (55.3 %), local budget is 183 billion, and other sources are 30 billion.

IV. International Cooperation

Viet Nam has signed and acceded to a number of relevant international conventions, such as:

- UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (as amended by the Protocol 1972).
- UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971;
- UN Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1998;
- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes, 2000;

The country has also signed 18 agreements, MoUs, bilateral agreements, including with Myanmar, Hungary, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Russia, China, and the United States.

Appointed many delegations to attend bilateral and multilateral meetings : the Ministerial Conference of the Mekong region countries ; Conference of ASEAN Ministers on anti- drug ; Ministerial Conference of Vietnam - Laos - Cambodia ; The bilateral conference between Vietnam-China, Vietnam-Thailand on drug prevention and combat;

Organized the implementation of the 15- year bilateral cooperation between Vietnam – Thailand;

Developed an action plan to coordinate drug prevention on the border of Vietnam and China ; implemented coordination mechanisms on drug prevention through the international airport among Vietnam and Thailand and ASEAN countries .

V. Direction in regional cooperation

- ***Challenges***

Drug abuse situation is still complicated . Drug crimes involving foreign elements, drug trafficking activities through the border roads and aviation keep growing, thoroughly taking advantage of advances in science and technology to serve criminal activities . The fighting of drug criminal forces is getting more aggressive. Many new synthetic drugs are going to penetrate into Vietnam . The number of addicts in the country has not decreased , the uses of synthetic drugs increase and spread to many places .

- ***Direction for regional cooperation***

Improving the effectiveness of international cooperation among countries shared common borders; countries located on trafficking routes and the international, non-government and intergovernment organizations in the drug prevention and combat.

Implementing the commitments of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on drug prevention and combat, the Ministerial Conference of the Mekong Sub-region (MOU), the Ministerial Conference of Vietnam - Laos - Cambodia , the records of the bilateral agreements.

Developing and implementing sub- programs under the National cooperation program between UNODC and Vietnam Government for the period 2012 - 2017 . / .