

West Africa and Nigeria programme

Situation analysis

Illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime led mainly by Nigerian groups remains the key problem in the subregion. International drug-trafficking routes lead through Nigeria, including its northern territory, but all coastal countries with major ports in the region now serve as transit points for heroin and cocaine. North African cannabis and psychotropic substances mainly from European sources are trafficked through the region in combined sea, air and land routes. Other organized crime, money-laundering and the trafficking of human beings are closely linked to the drugs trade and the political and economic situation in west Africa. Nigeria remains the principal source of cannabis for local consumption and illicit trafficking to other regions.

The increasing availability of illicit drugs has prompted quantitative and qualitative local drug abuse changes. Nigeria, which saw growing abuse of heroin, cocaine and psychotropic substances during the 1980s and 1990s, reported a stabilization of the abuse situation in 1999. But several neighbouring countries report moderate to large increases in drug abuse, including abuse of cocaine and heroin. Eight of 16 west African countries report injecting drug abuse, but only Ghana, Mauritania and Nigeria have reported HIV among injecting drug users. In Nigeria, a recent study concluded that injecting drug use as the mode of intake is actually more prevalent than previously assumed. Growing drug abuse by children and youth is of concern in several conflict-shaken countries in the region.

Objective

The objective is to prevent the spread of drug abuse, illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime through a coordinated action package in and around Nigeria.

Strategy

Two mutually supportive programmes are being implemented in west Africa. Given the magnitude of drug control and related problems and the existence of a national master plan, a national programme is being developed with Nigeria. Regional drug control dimensions are covered by the west African component.

The Nigeria programme supports the expansion of demand reduction action, including the creation of prevention and counselling outreach programmes for risk groups, such as street children and commercial sex workers, and projects combining drug abuse with HIV/AIDS prevention activities. Treatment and rehabilitation services of government institutions and non-governmental organizations will also be improved. UNODC plans to build on considerable government investments in the upgrading of the Jos Training Academy and support the development of best training practices so as to improve national training and assist the Academy in becoming a regional training capacity for west Africa. But additional funding is required to launch this initiative. Drug control assistance will be complemented by new projects undertaken by the Centre for International Crime Prevention against corruption and trafficking in human beings.

For west Africa, regional demand reduction interventions operate at two levels. New data gathered on the extent and patterns of drug abuse in key countries provide the basis for education and prevention activities for youth and vulnerable groups to be implemented in, inter alia, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana and Senegal. In line with national priorities established by nine countries under the previous African Anti-drug Programme of the European Commission, UNODC will support national demand reduction action contained in those action plans. New projects will incorporate gender mainstreaming measures, in particular those that relate to joint drug abuse/HIV/AIDS prevention activities, as women and the female youth are major risk groups.

The ECOWAS secretariat in Abuja is cooperating with ODCCP in new activities against money-laundering, organized crime and other areas. In order to achieve full programme ownership by west African counterparts, ECOWAS needs to become a repository for local drug control information and expertise and, over time, absorb programme implementation and management functions. Therefore, as additional funds become available, UNODC plans to strengthen the regional drug unit.

The UNODC Legal Assistance Programme and GPML supplement country and regional projects. The location of the secretariat of the ECOWAS Regional Task Force against Money Laundering in Senegal and the planned west African regional GAP component, to be opened in Dakar in 2003 if sufficient funds can be secured, will ensure complementarity of national, regional and global activities. UNODC work in Nigeria and west Africa requires close coordination with the assistance of several bilateral donors.

External factors affect UNODC work in west and central Africa more than in other African regions. Conflicts in several countries, lack of political stability and the still vulnerable democratization process in Nigeria have affected both the ability of UNODC to implement projects and the absorptive capacities of Governments. Furthermore, a considerable increase in funding would be required to boost programme delivery.

The progress under both programmes will be subject to mid-term evaluations by late 2003 if sufficient programme components are then under implementation. Major activities, including the Jos Training Academy and the regional demand reduction project in west Africa, will be evaluated at the end of each phase. Two end-of-project evaluations are scheduled during 2002-2003.

Results

Outcome: drug abuse preventive education in national curricula in Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal. Objectively verifiable indicators: availability and quality of training modules; number of teachers and community workers trained and pupils and out-of-school youth reached; number of drug counsellors in youth centres (in 2003).

Outcome: prevention and counselling centres in Nigeria and two other west African countries for vulnerable groups, including HIV/AIDS patients. Objectively verifiable indicators: number of social workers trained (in 2003); increase in client referral; expert assessment of quality of services provided; increase in number of voluntary drug tests (in 2003).

Outcome: community-based treatment and rehabilitation centres in Nigeria. Objectively verifiable indicators: six centres in Nigeria operational; number of clients of centres; expert assessments of quality of services (in 2003).

Outcome: drug abuse situation and specific requirements assessed in at least four west African countries. Objectively verifiable indicators: availability of in-depth assessment reports; increase in quantity and quality of national reports to UNODC (in 2003).

Budget and funding

Both subprogrammes were planned to be implemented over the period 2000-2004, with a notional budget of about \$15 million. Nevertheless, the situation in the region, coupled with severe shortfalls in resources and funding, led UNODC to delay the full launching of both. Only individual components, for which funding and local implementation capacities could be secured, are ongoing. Several activities are in the pipeline for 2002-2003 and need to be developed as funding becomes available. In this situation, and on the basis of current funding prospects, the programme budgets for 2002-2003 are moderately set at \$2.3 million for west Africa and \$860,000 for Nigeria. The tables below provide a breakdown of the budgets by thematic area, ongoing and pipeline activities and special- and general-purpose resources. Should additional funding of \$1.5 million for Nigeria and \$1.1 million for west Africa be secured in time, UNODC could launch its planned regional training activities with Nigeria, the required support to the ECOWAS regional drug unit and a subregional initiative to strengthen the main land and sea borders in and around Nigeria during 2002-2003. Those activities are currently not included in the budget.

West Africa programme budget for 2002-2003

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Thematic area	Activities		Resources		Total
	Ongoing	Pipeline	General-purpose	Special-purpose	
Policy support, legislation and advocacy	16.0	--	--	16.0	16.0
Prevention and reduction of drug abuse	767.2	1 387.0	--	2 154.2	2 154.2
Suppression of illicit drug trafficking	168.0	--	--	168.0	168.0
Total	951.2	1 387.0	--	2 338.2	2 338.2

Nigeria programme budget for 2002-2003

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Thematic area	Activities		Resources		Total
	Ongoing	Pipeline	General-purpose	Special-purpose	
Prevention and reduction of drug abuse	460	400	--	860	860
Total	460	400	--	860	860