



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

Illicit Drug Sector Working Group Report

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
Lao PDR Office

Lessons learned from the Illicit Drug Sector Working Group

- Despite political will, the ambitious agenda set by Lao PDR is undermined by **limited government capacities** to address ever-evolving illicit drugs market and lack of resources. This suggests the need for more **sustainable funding** mechanisms and capacity-building efforts.
- The lack of reliable data on drug production, trafficking and use in Lao PDR has been identified as a significant challenge. **Improved data collection, analysis and monitoring** of trends are essential for the law enforcements' effective resource allocation and targeted interventions.
- **Regional and international cooperation** is vital including partnership with multilateral institutions such as UNODC. The Lao PDR's participation in regional initiatives like the Safe Mekong Joint Operation, ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD), ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap has contributed to a more coordinated regional response to illicit drug matters.
- **Alternative Development (AD)** plays a crucial role in providing sustainable economic alternatives and development opportunities to people in rural areas, by reducing dependence on illicit crop cultivation and strengthening social and economic resilience of the communities involved.



Illicit Drug Sector Working Group key priorities for 2025

1. Re-education and dissemination of legal information and adverse consequences due to drug abuse.
2. Formulation and improvement on drug law and regulation.
3. Data collection, law enforcement.
4. Enhance supervision for implementing Drug Control program.
5. Streamlining the organization for Drug control at Central and Local level.
6. International cooperation program.

Note: Excerpt from National Agenda for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control (2021-2025)



Sector Working Group Key Priorities for the conceptualization of the 10th National Social Economic Development Plan (2026 - 2030)

Address drug trafficking and transnational organized crime (associated human trafficking, and other cyber-enabled crimes) its ill effects including treatment and protection of citizens, under Outcome 6: Effective Government Management, Political Stability, Social Harmony, Justice, and Prosperity. The role of the relevant law enforcement ministries including Police and Ministry of Public Security

1. Strengthen Legal Framework

- Improve drug laws and regulations
- Enhance public understanding of drug laws and their consequences through targeted educational initiatives

2. Strengthen Data Collection and Intelligence Sharing

- Improve coordination between agencies for more effective data usage
- Improve data collection and law enforcement capabilities
- Strengthen existing systems for data gathering and intelligence sharing



Sector Working Group Key Priorities for the conceptualization of the 10th National Social Economic Development Plan (2026 - 2030)

3. Expand Regional and International Cooperation

- Enhance international cooperation programs
- Continue to strengthen and expand Border Liaison Offices
- Expand use of the Mekong MOU on Drug Control

4. Focus on High-Level Organized Crime and Precursor Control

- Shift law enforcement efforts towards high-level organized crime
- Build capacity to disrupt supply of precursor chemicals
- Enhance capacities in financial crime investigation and asset recovery

5. Promote Sustainable Alternative Development

- Continue to expand and strengthen successful alternative development interventions in opium cultivation areas
- Explore regional cooperation on alternative development with Myanmar and Thailand



Sector Working Group Key Priorities for the conceptualization of the 10th National Social Economic Development Plan (2026 - 2030)

6. Enhance Drug Use Prevention, Treatment, and Care
 - Increase access to evidence-based drug use prevention, treatment, and care interventions
 - Build capacity of service providers to offer quality services aligned with international standards
 - Enhance the quality of and access to community-based drug treatment sites
7. Streamline Organizational Structure
 - Optimize the organization for Drug Control at Central and Local levels
 - Enhance supervision for implementing Drug Control programs
8. Public Awareness and Targeted Interventions for Vulnerable Populations
 - Conduct advocacy activities for enabling policy and legal environment
 - Enhance community resilience to address drug use negative impact
 - Focus prevention and awareness activities on vulnerable and high-risk populations, such as children, youth, and women
 - Expand re-education and dissemination of legal information on drug abuse consequences, particularly tailored for at-risk groups





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Thank you!