



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

International Cooperation in Crime Prevention and Community Safety

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The purpose of this presentation is to inform about our approach and projects counteracting drugs and crime for community safety



“In hindsight, we should have put the establishment of the rule of law first, for everything depends on it: a functioning economy, a free and fair political system, the development of civil society, public confidence in police and courts”[\[1\]](#).

[\[1\]](#) Paddy Ashdown, Chief Administrator, United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1995-2002), What I learned in Bosnia, *New York Times*, 28 October 2002



Report of the Secretary-General, The rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies, doc. S/2004/616 para. 4).

“In matters of justice and the rule of law, an ounce of prevention is worth significantly more than a pound of cure. While United Nations efforts have been tailored so that they are palpable to the population to meet the immediacy of their security needs and to address the grave injustices of war, the root causes of conflict have often been left unaddressed. Yet, it is in addressing the causes of conflict, through legitimate and just ways, that the international community can help prevent a return to conflict in the future. Peace and stability can only prevail if the population perceives that politically charged issues, such as ethnic discrimination, unequal distribution of wealth and social services, abuse of power, denial of the right to property or citizenship and territorial disputes between States, can be addressed in a legitimate and fair manner. Viewed this way, **prevention is the first imperative of justice”**



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"A pivotal wedge to leverage global attention and resources into initiatives that can control drugs and crime, it reminds States of their commitments and helps them with implementation. As an incubator of ideas and prevent crime and terrorism. As custodian of key international instruments on drugs and crime, it reminds States of their commitments and helps them with implementation. As an incubator of ideas, a source of evidence-based research and facilitator of contacts, it seeks to promote fresh approaches and better networks to effect change in coping with some of the planet's most sinister challenges."

Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, (in:) UNODC Annual Report 2007.

"The countries of Central America are diverse. But they have one thing in common. They are all affected - to varying degrees - by drugs, crime and poverty. Where crime and corruption reign and drug money perverts the economy, the State no longer has a monopoly on the use of force and citizens no longer trust their leaders and public institutions. As a result, the social contract is in tatters, and people take the law into their own hands either to defend themselves or commit offences. The warning signs are evident in this report - gun related crime, gang violence, kidnapping, the proliferation of private security companies. But these problems are in no way inherent to the region. They can be overcome. To break the vicious circle, countries need development, justice, good governance, and security. Strengthening their justice systems should be a priority in order to root out corruption and restore public confidence in the rule of law. This would create a fertile environment for economic growth and attract foreign investment, thereby promoting development."

Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the Crossfire, Vienna, May 2007.

Six United Nations guiding crime prevention principles*

- I. Pursue the rule of law;
- II. Include marginalized people in the legitimate socio-economic activities;
- III. Focus on community;
- IV. Work on interagency basis;
- V. Make crime prevention sustainable and accountable;
- VI. Apply knowledge through the evidence-based practice.

*Summarized on the basis of *Guidelines for the Prevention of Organized Crime* (E/CN.4/2000/17/Add.1, paras. 6 & 7) and *Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime* (E/CN.4/2000/17/Add.1, Annex).



Where to find more about UNODC publications, documents and United Nations resolutions relating to crime prevention and criminal justice responses to urban crime?

Publications

UNODC Annual Report 2007

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/annual_report_2007.html

Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the Crossfire, Vienna, May 2007
Crimen y Desarrollo en Centroamérica: Atrapados en una Encrucijada, Viena, Mayo 2007

<http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Central%20America%20Study.pdf>

<http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Estudio%20de%20Centroam%20E9rica.pdf>

Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Costs, and the Policy Options in the Caribbean.

A joint report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Latin American and Caribbean Region of the World Bank, March 2007

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Cr_and_Vio_Car_E.pdf

Violence, Arms and Illegal Arms Trafficking in Colombia, Vienna, 2006, (English/Spanish)

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Colombia_De06_en.pdf

Documents

Note by the Secretariat on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to urban crime, including gang-related activities, and effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses to combat sexual exploitation of children. Respuestas en materia de prevención del delito y justicia penal a la delincuencia urbana, incluidas las actividades relacionadas con bandas y respuestas eficaces en materia de prevención del delito y justicia penal para combatir la explotación sexual de los niños. Nota de la Secretaría

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime_cjcp_commission_session_16.html

Resolutions

Guidelines for the Prevention of Urban Crime (ECOSOC Resolution 1995/9, Annex)

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N96/148/51/IMG/N96/14851.pdf?OpenElement>

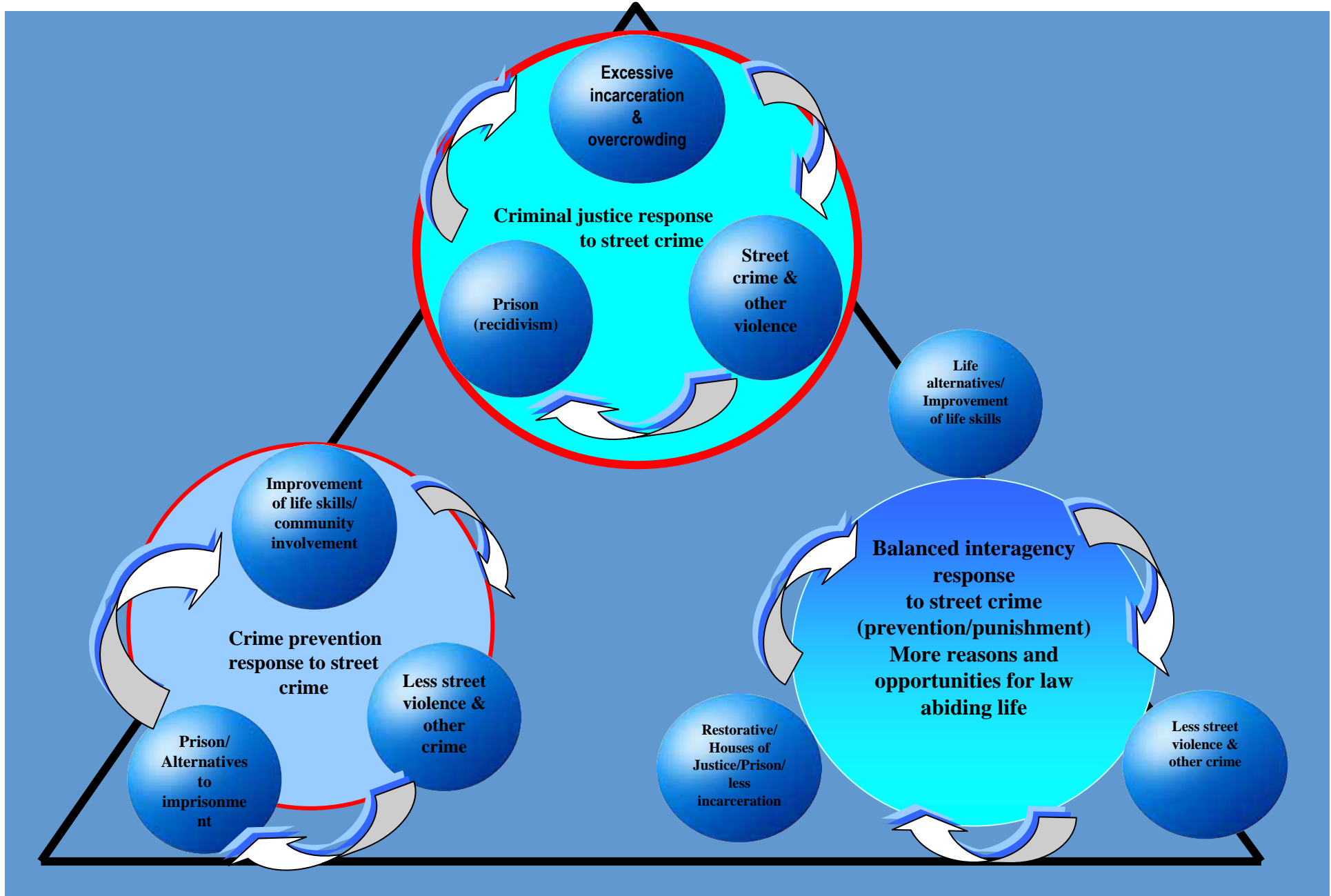
Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (ECOSOC Resolution 2002/13, Annex)

<http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/documents/2002/resolutions/res2002-13.pdf>



For the practice differs...

Three models to respond to urban crime





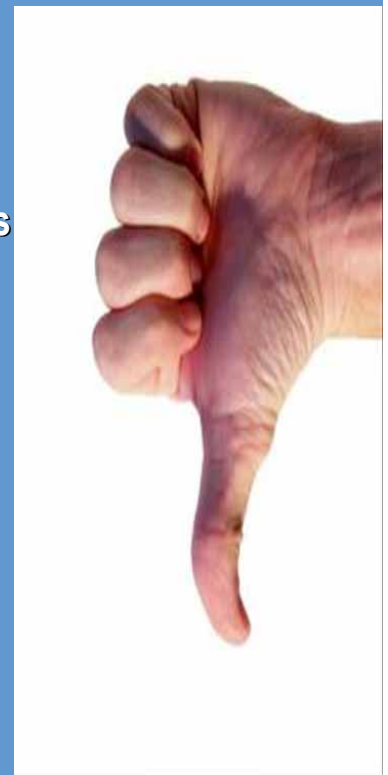
What does **NOT** work in drugs & crime prevention ?

There are many more examples of programmes which have been shown not to work than those which do. Quite a while ago, research has found that the following does not work:

- * individual casework;
- * individual and peer group counselling / therapy (the latter may even be counter-productive);
- * pharmacological interventions (except for specific forms of violent offending);
- * corporal punishment, suspension from school;
- * information campaigns (especially in relation to substance abuse);
- * fear arousal (e.g. “scare ‘em straight”) and moral appeals.

To be effective, prevention programmes need to comprise a range of complementary measures which target multiple risk factors within the primary domains of a child’s life (the family, the school, the peer group and the local neighbourhood), preferably at different developmental stages (early childhood, primary school, adolescence).

Quoted from: *Reducing offending: an assessment of research evidence on ways of dealing with offending behaviour*. A Research and Statistics Directorate Report, directed by Christopher Nuttall, ed. by Peter Goldblatt and Chris Lewis, Home Office, London 1998, p. 16





While employment is superficially beneficial, as to detract from the criminogenic nature of unemployment, questions exist as to its blanket appeal in the reduction of youth crime; there are conditions of youth employment which may induce criminal behaviour^[1]. These factors relate to the meaningfulness of the work. Youth employment may be low skilled and low paid. Where the employer interest in the youth is merely economic and there is no opportunity for personal growth, where there is no mentoring, where the youth is largely unsupervised and the work is not mentally challenging, the likelihood of criminality can be enhanced, and the inclusion process remains on paper only.

[1] Nicolas Williams, Francis T. Cullen, John Paul Wright, Labour market participation and youth crime: the neglect of "working" in delinquency research, Social Pathology, Fall 1996, Vol. 2, No 3, 195.



What works in drugs & crime prevention ?



Project stage of dev.	Risk factors targeted	Length of intervention	Length of follow up	Outcomes	Cost benefit
1. Pre-natal	Parenting and family planning	2 years	2 years	Reductions in abuse, neglect, improvements in parents-child relations. IQ and parental discipline	1.06
2. Pre-natal and birth	Parenting and family planning	4 years	None	Reductions in abuse and neglect	0.38
3. Age 3-4	Cognitive development	1-2 years	23 years	Reductions in arrests and contact with social services, improvements in IQ and school achievement.	7.16
4. Age 5 - 15	Family environment	32 months	16 months	Reductions in arrests, improvements in self-concept, pro-social skills and community integration	2.55
5. Age 15 (av.)	Education	4 years	6 months	Reductions in arrests and contacts with social services, improvements in school achiev.	3.68
6. Age under 15 (av.)	Delinquency and behavioural problems.	10 weeks	None	Reductions in arrests	1.40
7. Age 18 (av.)	Education, unemployment	Not avail.	18 months (average)	Reductions in arrests and substance abuse improvements in employment, wages and school achievement.	1.45

Quoted after Welsh from: Reducing offending: an assessment of research evidence on ways of dealing with offending behaviour. A Research and Statistics Directorate Report, directed by Christopher Nuttall, ed. by Peter Goldblatt and Chris Lewis, Home Office, London 1998, p. 19



Based on such an evidence, the UNODC's response to drugs and crime, is as follows:



In two UNODC projects:

**South-South Regional
Cooperation for
Determining
Best Practices for
Crime Prevention
in the Developing
World (2004-2006)
has drawn on the
above evidence.**

**Special
Programme for
labour market
(re-)integration
of youth at risk
in Honduras
(2004-2007).**



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Thank you for your attention



The **South-South** project, which review more than forty urban-youth-at-risk projects from the Caribbean and Southern Africa, responded to the question

what works in gang-related gun violence ?

*Apply coordinated leverage to gangs through highly publicised multi-agency targeted crackdowns aimed at gangs using firearms;

*Enhance community relations to obtain neighbourhood support for the targeted crackdowns;

*Engage gang-members in eliciting information and transmitting consistent messages about targeted crackdowns;

*Develop inter-gang mediation services to head off and diffuse tensions;

*Protect victims and repeat victims.





The ongoing **Honduras** project (2004-2007) will benefit approximately 100 unemployed young people between the ages of 15 and 23 (50 per cent female). The target group has no professional training and are in high-risk situations. The reintegration model consists of a two-year vocational training programme, with one year of both theoretical and practical training in a school environment plus one year at the workplace.





“In hindsight, we should have put the establishment of the rule of law first, for everything depends on it: a functioning economy, a free and fair political system, the development of civil society, public confidence in police and courts”^[1].

Without the rule of law no institution - economic, civic or legal, e.g., arbitration, plea bargaining, crown witness, mediation/restorative justice can succeed. But even in societies where the rule of law is well established its full success depends on continuous and relentless monitoring of its performance locally and nationally.

^[1] Paddy Ashdown, Chief Administrator, United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *What I learned in Bosnia, New York Times*, 28 October 2002



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Say No to Violence !

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