



Regional framework for action to strengthen the public health response to substance use

Domain	Strategic interventions	Proposed indicators
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include evidence-based, cost-effective interventions in the universal health coverage priority benefit package • Develop/update evidence-informed national substance use policies with a strong public health component, in consultation with stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors • Develop/update substance use-related legislation(s) in line with international covenants, treaties and conventions, in consultation with stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors • Set up an intersectoral coordination mechanism to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of evidence-based substance use policies and legislation • Allocate specific budget allocations within the health and welfare sectors to address the prevention, management, rehabilitation, recovery, and monitoring and evaluation of substance use disorders • Develop programmes offering alternatives to incarceration for drug offenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational multisectoral public health-oriented substance use policies are endorsed and published • Relevant national legislation(s) is updated in line with international covenants, treaties and conventions • Intersectoral (inter-ministerial) coordinating mechanism is in place reflecting public health leadership • Specified budgetary allocations are in place to cover the prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation of substance use disorders • Depenalization/decriminalization of drug use, and drug courts are available in major cities • Treatment services for substance use disorders and related health problems are available for incarcerated populations across the continuum of care
Health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate screening and brief interventions for substance use disorders and management of overdose within primary health care and emergency rooms (intervention packages) • Develop/strengthen specialized services for the holistic and integrated management of substance use disorders, including pharmacological and psychosocial interventions • Introduce and/or rapidly scale up the comprehensive package of services for harm reduction (needle and syringe exchange schemes, opioid substitution treatment, voluntary counselling and testing for HIV/hepatitis C, hepatitis B vaccination, antiretroviral therapy, tuberculosis care and treatment, sexually transmitted infection diagnosis and management, and overdose prevention and management) • Ensure that essential medicines for the management of substance use disorders are available • Develop the capacity of health and social welfare personnel in substance use prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation by integrating it into pre- and in-service teaching/training and as a part of continuing professional education/recertification processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary health care and emergency services staff are trained to deliver screening and brief interventions for substance use disorders and to manage opioid overdose • Multidisciplinary specialist teams are available for out- and inpatient treatment and care of substance use disorders, including the provision of pharmacological and psychosocial interventions • Referral guidelines and pathways between primary and specialist services are in place • United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)/WHO treatment standards for ensuring quality are adopted/adapted • A comprehensive package of services for harm reduction is in place • Methadone, buprenorphine, naloxone and other medications for detoxification and maintenance treatment are available as a part of a comprehensive package for the management of substance use disorders • A substance use component is integrated into pre- and in-service education/training programmes for health and social welfare professionals and in continuing professional education/recertification programmes



Regional framework for action to strengthen the public health response to substance use *(continued)*

Domain	Strategic interventions	Proposed indicators
Health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and promote the establishment of self-help and mutual aid groups Develop/strengthen capacity to conduct and utilize implementation research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-help/mutual aid groups are available National and regional networks are established to undertake priority implementation research, including a focus on complex emergency situations
Promotion and prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed universal substance use prevention programmes within broader health policies and strategies based on rigorous local needs and resource assessment Design and implement age-specific substance use prevention programmes in community, education and workplace settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multicomponent community intervention programmes are available, including parenting skills and family strengthening programmes Life skills education programmes are integrated into school curricula Workplace education and intervention programmes are in place Targeted campaigns are developed using multiple media channels to improve literacy about substance use and substance use disorders Updated UNODC/WHO prevention standards for ensuring quality are adopted/adapted
Monitoring and surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a standard set of comparable core indicators (guided by the Lisbon consensus)* to monitor the substance use situation, including for inclusion in existing surveys Develop a national substance use monitoring and surveillance system to collect and report on the core set of indicators using standard data collection tools and methodologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National monitoring and surveillance systems are in place Regular reports are published and shared with national/international stakeholders and partners using the core set of indicators Monitoring and registration systems are in place for prescription drugs
International cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the active sharing of information and evidence between professionals and civil society organizations from countries of the Region at national and international policy forums on substance use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regional network to coordinate the public health response to substance use is activated and facilitated

*United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, United Nations Economic and Social Council. Drug information systems: principles, structures and indicators. Vienna: United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs; 2000 (E/CN.7/2000/CRP.3; https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Drugs/lisbon_consensus.pdf, accessed 14 July 2019).