

Documentation

Dataset M12. The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Harm Reduction in Northern Shan State, Myanmar, 2021

Collection of five online interviews with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in northern Shan State, Myanmar, on their responses to drug issues and the harm reduction initiatives they take. This research was motivated by the findings of the Drugs and (dis)order project indicating high levels of drug harm in northern Shan State, with a lack of access that people have to support and criticisms surrounding harm reduction.

Dataset owner: Kathy Win and SOAS

Context

The conflict-affected region of northern Shan State has become the epicentre of Asia's illegal opium/heroin and methamphetamine drug production. Levels of drug harm have worsened significantly over recent decades, with rising drug use amongst young people viewed as a particular crisis. In response, there are a number of actors that play a crucial role in undertaking harm reduction work, including several CSOs. Whilst most CSOs operate with very limited facilities or resources and have limited knowledge and organisational capacity, they are often the only frontline service providing any kind of support for drug-related issues. Even so, most services are available only in urban areas.

Methodology

The purpose of these interviews is to understand the role of CSOs in providing harm reduction programs and to assess the challenges and opportunities surrounding attempts to respond to drug issues in northern Shan State. Interviews focus on usage and access to harm reduction services, the role of harm reduction programs led by CSOs, the extent to which there is collaboration between different actors, and the challenges faced to improve harm reduction and community resilience to drug harm.

Interviews were carried via teleconference, using a question list. They were held in Burmese, audio-recorded, then transcribed and translated to English.

Location

Northern Shan State, Myanmar

Time period

Interviews were carried out during July - August 2021.

Anonymisation

The dataset has been anonymised by leaving out names and detailed locations.

Acronyms used in interviews

CBO Community Based Organisations
CCDAC Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control
CSOs Civil Society Organisations
EAOs Ethnic Armed Organisations
GAD Government Administration Department
GVB Gender Based Violence
HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KIO Kachin Independence Organisation
LGBT Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
MANA Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Action
MMT Methadone Maintenance Treatment
MNDAA Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army
NGO Non-Governmental Organisations
NRC National Registration Card
NSP Needle and Syringe Programmes
NSS Northern Shan State
NUG National Unity Government
RCSS Restoration Council of Shan State
SAC State Administration Council
SSA Shan State Army
SSPP Shan State Progress Party
STI Sexually Transmitted Infection
TB Tuberculosis
TNLA Ta'ang National Liberation Army
TWO Ta'ang Women Organisations
TYO Ta'ang Youth Organisations
UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WPS Women Peace and Security