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What works in reducing reoffending?

The development of the model strategies on reducing reoffending

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Today's outline

- ✓ **Background of the development of *model strategies on reducing reoffending***
- ✓ **What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?**
- ✓ **Discussion (invitation to share participants' experiences)**



Background (development of *model strategies on reducing reoffending*) (1)

- **Reducing reoffending is one of the main goals of criminal justice system around the world**, which leads to fewer victims, community safety as well as less pressure on and lower costs for the criminal justice system.
- **Reducing reoffending can be achieved through rehabilitation and social reintegration offenders**. Ensuring rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders as productive and law-abiding citizens is an **essential measure to achieve Goal 16 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which emphasizes peaceful and inclusive societies as well as rule of law  **No one left behind**
- The relevant **United Nations standards and norms** in crime prevention and criminal justice
 - The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoner (**the Nelson Mandela Rules**)
 - The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (**the Tokyo Rules**)
 - The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (**the Bangkok Rules**)



Background (2)

The 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (March 2021, Kyoto, Japan)

- ❖ Deliberations among Member States and dedicated workshop
- ❖ Kyoto Declaration



→ Surge of interest in the development of **new United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice focused on reducing reoffending**



Background (3)

- **General Assembly resolution 76/182 “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”** (December 2021)

Encourages Member States to:

- **Develop comprehensive strategies or action plans to reduce reoffending** through effective interventions for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders
- Promote a **rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities** based on an individual assessment of the needs and risks of offenders
- Promote a **rehabilitative environment in the community** to facilitate the social reintegration of offenders
- Promote **multi-stakeholder partnerships** to reduce reoffending

Requests UNODC to:

- Convene an expert group meeting to share information on promising practices to reduce reoffending, with a view to developing **model strategies on reducing reoffending**, which can serve as useful tools for Member States



Background (4)

➤ Expert Group Meeting

- UNODC organized two rounds of **expert consultations** in December 2021 and April 2022 to **gather the feedback of subject matter experts and exchange information on promising practices to reduce reoffending.**
- [A report](#) of the expert group meeting in April 2022 (Presented to 31st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: CCPCJ)

➤ **CCPCJ resolution at its 31 session “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration” (E/CN.15/2022/L.4/Rev.1) (May 2022)**

- Member States agree to convene **a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group**, with a view to **developing model strategies on reducing reoffending** that can serve as a useful tool, taking into consideration:
 - ✓ Existing UN standards and norms , Current developments, } research and tools
 - ✓ **Written contributions from Member States**
 - ✓ **Outcome of the expert group meeting (6-8 April 2022)**



Detailed information is available at the following website:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/cpcj-model-strategies-on-reducing-reoffending.html>



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What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Individualized approaches to criminal justice interventions
- 3) Effective use of non-custodial measures
- 4) Rehabilitation in custodial environments
- 5) Supervision and support of offenders in the community
- 6) Multi-stakeholder partnerships and community support
- 7) Capacity building
- 8) Measuring impact of strategies to prevent recidivism



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(1) Introduction

- ✓ **Promoting rehabilitation and individual desistance** by addressing root causes of offending (socio-economic exclusion, marginalization, systemic discrimination, etc.) and individual risk factors
- ✓ **Proportionate and individualized intervention**, based on an individual assessment of risk, needs, responsivity as well as protective factors
- ✓ **Least restrictive** sanctions, taking into account the need to balance the rights of offenders, rights of victims and the protection of society
- ✓ Implementation of **Effective, evidence-based, offender rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes**, which are **age-, gender- and culture-responsive**
- ✓ **Rehabilitative approach** at every stage of the criminal justice process
- ✓ Need of **Comprehensive and Multisectoral** approach



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(2) Individualized approaches to criminal justice interventions

- ✓ Criminal justice interventions and decisions which are tailored to address the **individual risks, needs and responsivity of offenders** as well as **protective (resiliency) factors**
- ✓ Assessment is **ongoing** process at each stage and as necessary throughout criminal justice process
- ✓ **Collecting reliable information** on offenders' current offence, criminal history and personal background
- ✓ **Providing offenders with information** on process and outcomes of assessment and **promoting active participation** in process of assessment
- ✓ Effective measures of **information sharing** and **protection of confidentiality** among relevant agencies in the process of individual assessment



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(3) Effective use of non-custodial measures

- ✓ **Rehabilitation and reintegration interventions can be delivered more effectively in the community**
(e.g., keep family & social relationships, job, accommodation, make use of community resources, avoid collateral effects of imprisonment)

- ✓ **Promoting Non-custodial measures at various stages:**
 - Before criminal justice involvement - Diversion**
 - To minimize contacts with the formal criminal justice process to avoid stigmatization and social exclusion
 - In particular, consideration shall be given to children in conflict with law (CRC 40.3 (b), Beijing Rules 11)
 - As an alternative or complement measures of criminal justice
 - Referral to community-based organizations, treatment/recovery facilities (e.g., drug use, mental health)



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(3) Effective use of non-custodial measures (continued)

✓ **Promoting Non-custodial measures at various stages:** (continued)

Pre-trial stage

- Pre-trial detention shall be used as a means of last resort (Tokyo Rules 6.1)
- Need to support individuals who are awaiting trial as well as those who are released from detention

Restorative Justice Programmes

- Assist the recovery of victims and offender reintegration, and prevent crime and recidivism
- Give offenders an opportunity to understand and recognize the consequences of their behaviour
- As an alternative or a complement measures at every stage of criminal justice



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(3) Effective use of non-custodial measures (continued)

✓ **Promoting Non-custodial measures at various stages:** (continued)

Sentencing stage

- Preventing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration is one of objectives of sentencing
- Wide variety of community-based sentencing
E.g., judicial supervision, probation, community service order, commitment to treatment program, house arrest
- Individualized and proportionate sentencing
- Developing sentencing guidelines and policies
- Ensuring the judicial authorities have at their disposal information (e.g., social inquiry reports, pre-sentence report)
- Specialized courts (e.g., problem-solving courts, mental health/ wellness courts, community courts)



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(3) Effective use of non-custodial measures (continued)

✓ **Promoting Non-custodial measures at various stages:** (continued)

Post-sentencing stage

- Gradual return from custody to the community to ensure smooth transition from custody e.g., Conditional release (including parole), conditional pardon, work/education release, home leave, statutory release, day/full parole, open-prisons, Halfway houses
 - Seamless intervention, especially between prisons and probation/parole offices
 - Collaboration between prisons and community-based organizations (e.g., housing, employment, social welfare, education, medical care, treatment of drug use)
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- #### ✓ **Avoiding net-widening /mass probation**
- Unnecessary interventions may increase the risk of reoffending
 - Excessive use of alternatives to imprisonment may lead to the use of non-custodial measures as an addition to imprisonment, rather than instead of imprisonment



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(4) Effective rehabilitation in the custodial environment

Imprisonment is generally less conducive to the rehabilitation of offenders, However, when a **rehabilitative approach** is taken, imprisonment can have a positive impact on reducing reoffending

✓ **Rehabilitative prison environment**

- Not only provision of rehabilitation programmes, but also **safe and secure prison conditions**, humane treatment by qualified staff, prison management in line with international standards and norms
- “Principle of Normality”

✓ **Individualized assessment and classification**

- Ongoing manner during imprisonment / Gender-, age-, culturally- informed manner
- To determine security level, as well as to identify the factors related to criminal behaviour
- Basis of sentence planning and intervention

✓ **Maintaining Family contacts**

- Flexibility of visiting hours & measures (e.g., phone calls, video calls)
- Expanded family contacts in preparation for parents’ release
- Support for family members (e.g., access to public services, emotional support)



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(4) Effective rehabilitation in the custodial environment (continued)

✓ **Programmes delivered in prison**

- Based on root causes and individual needs of offenders

E.g., Education, vocational training, work, physical and mental health care, cognitive behavioural therapy, enhancing motivation, faith-, arts-, sports-, spiritual-, cultural-based programmes, relapse prevention programme, life-skills programme

- Gender-responsive (trauma-informed, mental-health care needs, caretaking roles)
- Help prisoners to make post-release plan from the beginning of incarceration
- Cooperation with the community (relevant agencies, peers, volunteers)

✓ **Continuity of care, support for social reintegration**

- Ensure that care and interventions continue until reintegration is successfully completed
E.g., Coordination mechanism among stakeholders within and outside criminal justice
- Review existing policies and practices concerning eligibility for various forms of social assistance



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(5) Effective supervision of offenders in the community

- ✓ **Balance between surveillance/control and support/assistance**
 - Manage risk, monitor, curfew, enforce consequence for adverse behaviour
 - Arrange social resources (**employment, accommodation, social welfare, mental health care, education, etc.**), providing practical support (**meals, cloths, transportation, etc.**), develop constructive & humane relationship, develop offender' motivation and capacities for change, reinforcing positive behaviour

- ✓ **Various modality**
 - E.g., **face-to-face meeting, counselling, delivering treatment programmes, Therapeutic Community, curfew, testing for use of drug/ alcohol, Community service activities, Sports-based activities, Electronic Monitoring**

 - ❖ **Electronic Monitoring (EM)**
 - One of the measures of supervision, rather than supervision itself
 - Should be used in conjunction with supervision provided by humans or other effective interventions
 - Balance between the rights of offenders against the protection of society



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(5) Effective supervision of offenders in the community (continued)

✓ **Collaboration and partnerships among relevant stakeholders**

- Coordination with relevant agencies and individuals is necessary to meet multiple needs of offenders, and so that offenders can be supported in the community even after supervision has completed

*Relevant stake holders include Criminal justice agencies, other government agencies (employment, housing, social welfare, medical care, education), local government, community service organizations, peers, volunteers

✓ **Conditions of probation/parole, non-compliance of conditions**

- Conditions aim to promote offender rehabilitation and reintegration as well as reducing reoffending
- Conditions should be reasonable, proportionate, achievable, individualized
- Non-compliance of conditions should be used as opportunities to intervene
- Adverse action (e.g., revocation) should be done only after careful examination



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(6) Multi-stakeholder partnerships and community support

✓ **Involvement of All relevant stakeholders**

- Efforts to reduce reoffending cannot be achieved by criminal justice authorities alone
- **Whole government and society approach** among all relevant stakeholders that provides a clear vision, goals, respective roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, and mechanism in delivering services

E.g., Community Action for Rehabilitation of Ex-offenders (CARE) network (Singapore)

Act for Prevention of Recidivism, National/local government Recidivism Prevention Plan (Japan)

- Developing interagency agreements and protocols

✓ **Support and Acceptance from the community**

- Promoting public understanding of harmful effects of stigmatization and social isolation of offenders, and of the importance of offender rehabilitation and reintegration for public safety, through dialogue among stakeholders

(E.g., National campaign, public symposia, using art pieces/music to engage citizens in public dialogue, mascot character, essay contest)

E.g., Yellow Ribbon Project

- Effective use of media/social media





What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(6) Multi-stakeholder partnerships and community support (continued)

✓ **Indispensable role of Community volunteers**

- Community-based and faith-based organizations, peers, employers and community volunteers E.g., Hogoshi / Volunteer probation officers (Japan, Korea, Philippines, Thailand)
CoSA (Canada, Netherland, UK and other jurisdictions), Volunteer mediator (Norway)
- Recognition of their indispensable role in offender rehabilitation
 - Befriending, providing practical support, building bridge with the community
 - Platform for community engagement in criminal justice, promote public understanding
 - Support for safe and resilient community
- Develop legal and administrative mechanism to make their activities sustainable (Recruitment, Training, Guidance and support, evaluation, etc)
- Enhance Public Recognition of the work of community volunteers such as, Celebration of their contribution, Award for dedicated volunteers, establish national/international day, Develop international networks of community volunteers



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(7) Capacity building

- ✓ **Recruitment of qualified staff & training for all criminal justice officers**
 - Careful selection taking into consideration persons' integrity, humanity, professional capacity, personal suitability, diversity of offenders
 - Training for Criminal Justice officers, include Police, Prosecutor, Judge, Correctional officer, Probation/parole officer E.g., *Judges to Jails (Canada)*
 - Multi-dimensional training
E.g., National legislation and policies, Ethics, Roles and Responsibilities, Human rights, International standards and norms, Victim perspective, Cultural-, gender-, child-sensitivity, evidence-based assessment and management, Treatment programmes, Therapeutic relations with offenders, Interagency cooperation, Staff safety, staff stress management, keeping motivation
- ✓ **Training for other relevant stakeholders**
 - Other relevant government officers, Community-based organizations, Community volunteers, etc. E.g., *Joint training among organizations involved in juvenile justice (Kenya)*
- ✓ **International cooperation and technical assistance**



What are the key elements in reducing reoffending?

(8) Measuring the impact of strategies to prevent recidivism

- ✓ **Regular and consistent data collection, research and evaluation**
 - Need to collect and analyse data regularly and consistently to attain reliable empirical evidence base, which can inform policymaking
 - ✓ **Various measures to measure reintegration of offenders**
 - Instead of using reoffending rate as a sole measure, using measures of **progress in the offender rehabilitation and social reintegration** (e.g., achievement in employment, housing, education)
 - ✓ **National and international cooperation**
 - Sharing of data, research and evaluation outcomes
 - International comparative studies
 - International exchange and technical assistance (e.g., data collection, assessment, evidence-based programmes, evaluation)
- *Careful consideration of transferability of programmes, taking into consideration differences among jurisdictions, such as population, culture, religion, and crime trend



Please share your experiences on reducing reoffending!

What are **National strategies / action plans to reduce reoffending** in your jurisdiction?

How are **effective non-custodial measures** promoted ?

What kind of **evidence-based approaches** are taken ?

What are **characteristics or qualities of successful rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes**?

- How is **throughcare from custody to the community** secured?
- How is **cooperation and coordination among stakeholders** promoted?

How is **public awareness** raised to reduce **stigmatization** and promote reintegration?

- How is “**recidivism**” defined?
- How is **recidivism data collected and analysed** ?

- What is **important skills & qualifications** of staff?
- What is **effective measures for staff training**?

