

Group B

Presentation title: Preventing Reoffending through a Multi-stakeholder Approach

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Summary

Group B presented on 1) issues of recruiting from gangs, 2) prevention of reoffending, c) non-custodial measures and d) sustainability of programmes.

Association with gangs is an issue commonly seen in many countries and closely related to criminal conduct among young offenders. Gangs are formed mostly in areas of extreme poverty, and members are recruited from the time they are very young by being offered things that their family cannot afford. To prevent recruiting from gangs, it is important that government programmes ensure full access to public education for children, as well as employment support allowing families to have stable lives.

Regarding prevention of reoffending, identifying the cause of offending is essential for thinking of a suitable approach. Appropriate treatment plans for inmates should be prepared based on adequate assessment. In addition, government should inform the public about the consequences of offending, conditions in prison and treatment provided for inmates.

Regarding non-custodial measures, law and policy must be reviewed by criminal justice agencies in view of prioritizing non-custodial measures with a rehabilitative perspective to reduce reoffending. To promote rehabilitation in the community instead of imprisonment, all law enforcement agencies must work together with relevant agencies providing rehabilitation services in the community, and feedback on services should be periodically given to improve them.

Regarding the sustainability of programmes, lack of financial resources severely affects the continuity of programmes. Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, continuous awareness raising about the programmes, periodic consultations with stakeholders and capacity-building for service providers are also important.