International Day Against Drug Abuse and Anti-trafficking

26 June is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit trafficking. The day seeks to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse.

Addiction can be an unending, agonizing struggle for the person using drugs; suffering is needlessly compounded when people cannot access evidence based care or are subjected to discrimination. The consequences of drug use can have ripple effects that hurt families, potentially across generations, as well as friends and colleagues. Using drugs can endanger health and mental health and is especially harmful in early adolescence.

We all want our children and loved ones to be healthy, and we want neighbourhoods and countries to be safe.

Solutions to these shared threats and challenges to achieve our shared goals must also be shared and based on evidence.

Ghada Waly, Executive Director United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

5% of global deaths attributed to substance use

284 million people worldwide aged 15–64, used a drug within the last 12 months. The majority of these were men

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2022)

60% of patients admitted to mental health institutions were due to drug-related problems

Source: Ministry of Health and Child Care (2020)

Drug and substance abuse is a major, recurring issue across CivActs communities.

98% of respondents who reported the prevalence of drug and substance use in their community. Most reported that it was ‘very high’

Most Commonly Abused Drugs and Substances:
- Mutoriro (Crystal Meth) 49%
- Mbanje (Marijuana) 24%
- Musombodhiya (Methanol Alcohol) 16%
- Bronco (Broncleer) 10%
- Glue 1%

96% of respondents who reported that it was ‘easy’ to acquire drugs or illicit substances

91% of respondents who felt that more needed to be done to deal with drug dealers

30% of respondents said they had reported drug dealers to the authorities

60% found the authorities were unresponsive
In 2020, Zimbabwe introduced the Zimbabwe National Drug Master Plan. In the plan, the government lays down a plan to mitigate rising drug and substance abuse using an integrated and comprehensive approach. The plan provides a national framework for addressing drug abuse by reducing:

**DEMAND**
- Reducing demand for drugs through primary interventions (awareness raising programs in schools, in the workplace and family support programs)
- Secondary prevention (establish and disseminate National Treatment Guidelines for Alcohol and Substance Abuse and improve training of health workers on the management of drug and substance abuse problems)
- Tertiary interventions – establish rehabilitation from community level.

**SUPPLY**
- Reducing supply of drugs through legislative changes, strengthening law enforcement and strengthening monitoring systems for controlled substances.

**HARM**
- Reducing harm associated by use of illicit substances in the community by using harm reduction strategies.

The government must walk the talk and turn these commitments into meaningful action. It is our role, right, and responsibility to hold them accountable.

#WalktheTalkonDrugs
Tell us what you think

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is your experience? Have you tried to report drug activity in your community to the authorities? What did they do?</th>
<th>Are there affordable treatment services available to your community?</th>
<th>What do you want the government to know about this issue?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="#">Ask for Help</a></td>
<td><a href="#">Private Centers</a></td>
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**Private Centers**
- Highlands Halfway Home 08644210999
- Ruwa Rehabilitation Center 0273790238
- Serenity Mind Center 0716825245
- Mandipa Hope Rehabilitation 0776991153/55, 07144775601/23
- Tirivanhu Rehabilitation 0773593014
- Kubatirapamwe Trust 0772379751
- Beatrice Rehabilitation Center Harare
- For Youths by Youths, Harare & Mash West 0775462468/077323891

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