

Documentation

Dataset A5. Interviews on Drug Addiction in Nimroz province

Data collection resulting from 46 interviews on drug addiction and its social, political and health implications in Nimroz province, Afghanistan. Interviews were held with drug users injecting drugs, community leaders, religious leaders, health professionals and NGOs who deliver services to drug users.

Dataset owner: Organization for Sustainable Development and Research (OSDR)

Context

In Afghanistan, the goal of the Drugs and (dis)order research is to develop a robust and dynamic understanding of the actors, commodities and events that shape the borderlands of Nangarhar and Nimroz, in particular with regards to opium production, trading and use. Afghanistan is the global leader in opium production through a combination of factors: the land produces opium poppies with a high morphine content, chronic insecurity and institutional weakness have meant no, or inadequate, regulation, and poor infrastructure and poverty prevent the development of alternative livelihoods.

Within the wider context of all research carried out by the project in Afghanistan, these interviews focus on actual drug use in the borderlands studied. Interviews investigate drug use in the studied districts, the impact of drug supply on drug use, stigmatisation and discrimination of drug users in the community, the impact of drug use on people's health, the provision of health services to drug users (or lack thereof), and the influence of the political situation on the provision of those health services.

Methodology

The question list for interviews was developed in a SOAS – OSDR collaboration in English and Dari.

Interviews were held in four districts with:

- 7 district-level health professional or NGOs delivering services for people who inject drugs
- 17 district-level community leader or Religious Leader:
- 22 people who inject drugs (PWID)

Handwritten responses were noted by the field researchers in Pashto or Dari. Responses were then typed out in Word and later translated to English.

These interviews are complemented with household surveys carried out in the same districts.

Location

Interviews were carried out in Chakhansoor, Kang, Khashrood and Zaranj districts in Nimroz province.

Time period

Interviews were carried out in October - November 2021.