

Field Governance: Drug Policy Reform

Update on Fostering a New Era in Global Drug Policy Shared Framework

Johanna Chao Kreilick

Director, Strategy Unit

Greg Taylor

Budget Director, Finance Office

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THIS UPDATE PROVIDES a summary on progress related to the Drug Policy Reform Shared Framework since its approval at the September 2014 Global Board meeting. It includes a description of the shared framework's leadership and governance model, a schedule of approved and proposed budget allocations for 2014 and 2015, and examples of activities already underway in 2014 through an initial \$750,000 shared framework allocation approved in October.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The leadership and governance structure of the Drug Policy shared framework draws from the African Food Security and Post-2015 shared framework model in which a senior director with relevant issue-area expertise is appointed to exercise strategic and budgetary oversight across the life of the shared framework.

Leonard Noisette, long-time director of the U.S. Programs' Justice Fund, will lead the Drug Policy shared framework. Noisette's appointment also accompanies two new innovations in the overall shared framework governance system. Starting in January 2015,

all shared framework directors—including Noisette on Drug Policy, Pedro Abramovay on Post-2015, and Akwe Amosu on African Food Security—will meet together on a monthly basis with Chris Stone. This monthly meeting will provide all shared framework directors with a regular opportunity to review emerging strategy and budget issues in a team setting that draws from the knowledge and experience of each member.

Leonard Noisette will be supported by a team of advisors that includes Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch, Global Drug Policy Program director; Daniel Wolfe, International Harm Reduction Development program director; Afia Asare-Kyei, OSIWA program manager; Gregg Gonsalves, Open Society Fellow; and the Strategy Unit. This governance group will consult and liaise regularly with the wider set of programs and foundations engaged in the shared framework, and a dedicated full-time shared framework coordinator will be hired on a term basis to support this effort and manage daily project operations. The drug policy coordinator will receive ongoing support with other shared framework coordinators from the Strategy Unit to foster joint learning related to implementation. Regular progress reports will continue to be provided on a quarterly basis to the Global Board by each shared framework director with assistance from the coordinator, input from participating Open Society entities, and support from the Strategy Unit’s results assessment team.

STRATEGY, BUDGET PROGRESS, AND TIMELINE

On October 20 at the 2015 Budget Review meeting in Budapest, George Soros and the Global Board Committee on Strategy Budget and Performance recommended for approval, as part of the 2015 budget, \$3 million of central reserve funds for work toward the approved shared framework’s goals and objectives.¹ Chris Stone also reviewed work described

in 14 concept notes developed by participating Open Society offices, programs, and regional foundations and approved an initial allocation of \$750,000 to support activities requiring urgent action in 2014. Illustrative examples of activities that are already underway are provided below. A second allocation will be made in 2014 by Leonard Noisette in early December.

Participating entities continue to develop and refine their individual and collective proposals under this shared framework. Two examples of proposals that will be considered for funding in early December include a public communication support plan that would fund a few organizations in Eastern Africa, Latin America, and Western Africa to lead communications and advocacy work alongside our Open Society communications team. This work would help strategically package and promote regional drug policy reform efforts to international media, to partners, and to other parts of the network.

The Latin America Program is also shepherding a shared proposal for a high-profile “End the Drug War” caravan from Panama to New York City with participants from up to 21 Latin American countries, including members of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, former heads of state, and prominent civil and human rights leaders. During the four weeks leading up to UNGASS, the caravan would traverse Central America, Mexico, and the United States, including some of the most damaged countries in the Americas such as Guatemala and El Salvador. The caravan would cast a light on the violence and chaotic conditions caused by the drug war. It would have a strong media component that would target local journalists and international media at each stop. The caravan’s arrival in New York City one week prior to UNGASS would feed a series of events leading to major civil society mobilization timed with the opening of the UN session.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERWAY

The following activities are advancing now through Chris Stone's approval of the first budget tranche of \$750,000 in October 2014:

- \$60,000 for Phase 1 of "Find Solutions Together" (Africa, Latin America): Representatives from OSIWA, OSIEA, OSISA, the Latin America Program, and the Global Drug Policy Program will undertake exchanges to three countries (Colombia, Guinea, and Tanzania) to meet with government officials and civil society representatives in order to gain a better understanding of the real challenges and successes in each region. Colombia will provide insight into a host of enforcement and criminalization policies that have succeeded and failed; Guinea will demonstrate the challenges of transit responses in West Africa; and Tanzania will provide a good example of a reform-minded government supporting localized policies for harm reduction.
- \$150,000 for OSIEA to hold a high-level regional symposium hosted by the government of Tanzania before April 2015 in order to discuss regional strategies and engagement with UNGASS 2016. This will include senior government representatives from Ethiopia, Comoros, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, and Uganda, as well as civil society (national and international), the African Union, and the West Africa Commission on Drugs.
- \$150,000 for the Global Drug Policy Program and International Harm Reduction Development to reclaim the moral position of children and drug policy by creating a global campaign targeted at documenting the costs of the drug war to children and families; organizing advocates for children and families; and raising public awareness through media.
- \$150,000 for U.S. Programs and International Harm Reduction Development to commission focus group and messaging work targeting youth and parents, faith communities, communities

of color, and medical professionals to mobilize street action before UNGASS.

- \$100,000 for the Global Drug Policy Program and International Harm Reduction Development to support research and leading-scientist commentary on the negative impact of drug policy on efforts to combat HIV, Hepatitis C, environmental poisoning, and disruption of family structures. This research will model effects in five cities and lead to publication in the *Lancet*.
- \$50,000 for the Washington, D.C., advocacy office to build an umbrella coalition to bridge the disconnected faith-based drug policy reform advocacy efforts of allies like Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Sojourners, and the United Methodists Church's D.C. interfaith-based coalition and engage new faith groups and leaders to promote a health-based approach to drug policy as a coordinated new moral authority.
- \$27,000 for OSIWA to hire a consultant to staff the shared framework activities and undertake advocacy work leading up to UNGASS.
- \$60,000 for OSIEA to hire a consultant to undertake advocacy, implement the proposed activities, and work with identified stakeholders to prepare for UNGASS.

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS WITH THE DRUG POLICY SHARED FRAMEWORK

We understand the importance of distinguishing between activities that are already being pursued as part of a program or foundation's regular strategy, and those supplemental or new activities enabled by the infusion of additional reserve funds provided through a shared framework. The following table shows each participating entity's committed resources toward their regular ongoing drug policy work, as well as supplemental funds received through funds approved to date under the drug policy shared framework.

DRUG POLICY WORK BY OPEN SOCIETY PROGRAMS/FOUNDATIONS/OFFICES

Open Society Foundations Unit	Shared Framework Objectives Addressed in Proposed Activities*	2015 Proposed Budget for Drug Policy Reform	2014 Approved Shared Framework Budget (As of November 10, 2014)
U.S. Programs	1b, 2a, 2b	10,279,049	150,000
Global Drug Policy Program**	1a, 1b, 2a, 2b	6,140,723	125,000
Public Health Program (International Harm Reduction Development Program)	1a, 1b, 2a, 2b	6,018,669	125,000
Latin America Program***	1b, 2b	3,314,298	60,000
Human Rights Initiative	—	751,541	—
Washington Advocacy Office	1b, 2a, 2b	101,731	50,000
Communications	2a	84,282	—
OSIWA	1b, 2a, 2b	100,000	27,000
Open Society Georgia Foundation		85,000	—
OSISA	1b, 2b	—	—
Renaissance Foundation	1b, 2b	—	—
CEU	1b	—	—
Scholarships	2b	—	—
Afghanistan	1b, 2b	—	—
OSIEA	1b, 2a, 2b	—	210,000
TOTAL		\$26,875,293	\$747,000

* See endnote below for description of approved shared framework goals and objectives.

** Amount shown for Global Drug Policy Program is the program's full 2015 budget.

*** The \$60,000 for the drug policy shared framework in 2014 shown against the Latin America Program is a joint project involving OSIWA, OSIEA, OSISA, the Latin America Program, and the Global Drug Policy Program. The unit/s responsible for management of the \$60,000 has not yet been determined.

ENDNOTE

- The Fostering a New Era in Global Drug Policy shared framework seeks to achieve the following approved goals and objectives by 2017:
 - Increase the number of national government and UN champions:** Fracture the drug war consensus at the UN by increasing the number of governments willing to publically embrace a more flexible and progressive position, and by bringing other UN entities into the drug policy debates as equals of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
 - Influence governments in Africa to join with Latin American countries, as well as governments in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to join with Western European countries in supporting decriminalization and harm reduction.
 - Persuade the secretary general and several UN agencies to take up drug policy within their mandates, ending the monopoly currently exercised by UNODC.
 - Broaden civil society support in the reform movement:** Sharply expand the range of civil society allies who are shaping their national drug policies and calling for a new international consensus on regulation, decriminalization, and harm reduction.
 - Bridge civil society leaders and groups with distinct outreach and mobilization potential to UNGASS debates through preparatory and corridor meetings and delegations (specifically religious leaders/faith organizations, formal and informal youth organizations, and military leaders/veterans organizations).
 - Raise public support in targeted countries through a coordinated communications campaign including new and traditional media, viral campaigns, and media partnerships to expand the reach of the reform message in specific countries.