

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY: APPLIED BUSINESS AND EDUCATION RESEARCH

2024, Vol. 5, No. 12, 5125 – 5141

<http://dx.doi.org/10.11594/ijmaber.05.12.16>

Research Article

Project Double Barrel: Crime Rate and Experiences of the Implementers in the Municipality of Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay

Antonette F. Precillas¹, Rowell B. Pallega^{2*}

¹Faculty, Department of Criminology, Western Mindanao State University, Malangas Campus, Philippines

²Faculty, College of Criminal Justice Education, Jose Rizal Memorial State University, Philippines

Article history:

Submission 30 November 2024

Revised 07 December 2024

Accepted 23 December 2024

*Corresponding author:

E-mail:

rowellpallega@jrmsu.edu.ph

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the crime rate in the Municipality of Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay in the calendar years 2013-2015 and 2016-2018. Specifically, this study described the index and non-index crimes prior to and during the implementation of the project double barrel and whether significant differences existed on the crime profiles prior to and during the project. It also aimed to identify the experiences encountered by the implementers of the project under CMC 16 2. 2016. Archived data were taken from police blotters and crime statistics given by the PNP Personnel in Diplahan Police Station and employed the qualitative design using in-depth interview to generate and explore the experiences of the PNP Personnel and Barangay Captains before and during the implementation of the project. Thematic analysis was then applied to generate codes and themes that described the experiences of the participant-interviewees. Findings revealed the decrease in index crimes, which include serious offenses like murder, theft, and robbery, suggests an improvement in public safety. The heightened police presence and visibility likely acted as a deterrent to violent and property crimes, contributing to a more secure environment in public areas. There is a need for a multifaceted approach to improving law enforcement's effectiveness and ethical standards in addressing drug-related crimes. Integration of advanced technologies and enhanced coordination among agencies to improve operations and monitoring capabilities and collaboration with external organizations focuses on rehabilitation and prevention, while independent oversight mechanisms and regular reviews are also needed to ensure accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement of policies and drug related operations. Stronger collaboration between police, local governments, NGOs, and health organizations is also necessary to reinforce community-

How to cite:

Precillas, A. F. & Pallega, R. B. (2024). Project Double Barrel: Crime Rate and Experiences of the Implementers in the Municipality of Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary: Applied Business and Education Research*. 5(12), 5125 – 5141. doi: 10.11594/ijmaber.05.12.16

based rehabilitation efforts and preventive measures. Providing mental health support for officers is equally important, as it improves their well-being, reduces burnout, and fosters ethical decision-making under high-pressure situations. Comprehensive training for officers is vital to prepare them for the complexities of the drug campaign, improving operational effectiveness and promoting accountability within the force.

Keywords: *Project double barrel, Crime rates, Experiences of the implementers*

Introduction

Dangerous Drugs is a social ill. It is a crime that corrupts humanity as the use thereof results in various nefarious crimes. Victims are from different walks of life, and it affects the Filipinos core values, way of life, welfare and well-being. For over two decades law enforcement has been on the front line in the "war against drugs". The government spends billions of pesos each year on drug enforcement efforts, and state and local police agencies spend a significant percentage of their total budgets on drug enforcement activities (Dangani & Tamayo, 2017).

According to recent World Drug Report 2019 findings, substance addiction may appear to simply impact the individual who is consuming. However, because addiction is a harmful condition that may harm the community, family, and person, it is extremely uncommon that other individuals be unaffected. Neglecting obligations because of drugs can have a detrimental impact on a person's job, children's schooling, or family's financial stability (Whichard & Felson, 2016).

Consistent with the study entitled Problems Encountered by Police Personnel in Conducting Drug-Related operation in San Jose Batangas stated that the use of illegal drugs will spread at an unprecedented rate and has been reached every part of the globe. No nation has been immune to the devastating problems caused by drugs abuse. At the same time, a broad spectrum of the world community has demonstrated intense concern over the problem: the insidious long term of chronic drug use and its import on the user, the family, the community, and the society. Reasons for this concern include related increase in crime, drug-related

automobile incidents, those which take on the job, learning disabilities and other mental health problems, family disruption and health problems, including interference with normal reproductive function and long-term damage of the brain, heart and lungs (Alog 2018).

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2019) no country is untouched by the drug scourge, whether it is used as a production base, as a transit point or as a market". Truly the problem of drug abuse and trafficking cannot be solved overnight, but only through continuous co-operation among countries. Drug traffickers must understand that strong measures will be taken, laws will be enacted and enforced, and strict drug control will become a reality.

Memorandum Circular No. 89 entitled "Implementation and Institutionalization of the National Anti-Drug Plan of Action" dated December 17, 2015, directed the conduct of project tokhang in all drug-affected barangays throughout the country in coordination with the LGUs particularly the Provincial/City/Municipal/Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (ADACs), NGOs, stakeholders, and other law enforcement agencies.

The study evaluates the crime profile of the Municipality of Diplahan, Zamboanga del Sur before and during the implementation of Project Double Barrel. This is to examine the frequency of crime commission during these two periods and evaluate the experiences of the implementors of the said program.

The "Project Double Barrel" is a practical and realistic means of accelerating the drive against illegal drugs in affected barangays. This concept involves the conduct of house-to-house visitations and other stages/procedure

to persuade suspected illegal drug personalities to stop their illegal drug activities. It involves five accelerated stages (1) Collection and Validation of Information Stage; (2) Coordination Stage; (3) House to House Visitation Stage; (4) Processing and Documentation Stage (5) Monitoring and Evaluation Stage (Command Memorandum Circular (CMC) No. 16-2016).

Methods

The study employed a descriptive research method to analyze data on non-index and index crimes. Data were collected for the calendar years 2013–2015 (before the implementation of Project Double Barrel) and 2016–2018 (during the implementation period). This secondary data was obtained from the police station. The data were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages, while the chi-square test was applied to determine significant differences in the frequency of crimes recorded.

Results, Analysis and Discussion

Table 1. Crime Profile in terms of index and non-index crime before and during the implementation of Project Double Barrel

Index and non-index crimes before the implementation of project double barrel					
Index Crimes			Non-Index Crimes		
2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
60	62	74	43	71	80
Index and non-index crimes during the implementation of project double barrel					
Index Crimes			Non-Index Crimes		
2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
52	37	50	105	95	107

Index crimes decreased during the implementation of Project Double Barrel compared to the period before the project began. Police personnel attribute this decline to the heightened police presence and visibility, particularly in public areas. Conversely, the number of reported non-index crimes increased during the implementation of Project Double Barrel. According to police personnel, this rise is a direct result of the intensified drug operations under the program, as drug-related crimes fall under the non-index crime category.

The decrease in index crimes, which include serious offenses like murder, theft, and robbery, suggests an improvement in public safety.

The study also utilized purposive and convenience sampling techniques to select participants from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and barangay captains. Participants were specifically chosen based on their direct involvement in the implementation of the program. Given the busy schedules of police personnel, interviews were arranged at the police station at times convenient for the participants.

In-depth interviews were conducted using a semi-structured interview guide to explore the experiences of the PNP personnel and barangay captains in Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay. Thematic analysis was employed to generate codes and themes that captured the experiences shared by the participants. The study involved 12 PNP personnel assigned to the Diplahan Police Station and six barangay captains from the six central barangays of the municipality. All police participants were directly involved in the implementation of Project Double Barrel.

The heightened police presence and visibility likely acted as a deterrent to violent and property crimes, contributing to a more secure environment in public areas. While the reduction in index crimes during Project Double Barrel signals success in crime deterrence, the increase in non-index crimes, particularly those related to drugs, highlights both the focus and strain of law enforcement efforts under the anti-drug campaign.

The study of Macapagal (2018) states that the most common index crimes are crimes against person such as physical injury while the most common type of crimes committed against person are theft and robbery. The

result also implies that crimes can happen at any time depending on the mood, motive and the chance of committing the crime (Tupas, 2019). While Curran (2021) supported this, saying that any crime can happen at any rate or

anytime because of greed, wrath, jealousy, revenge, or pride. Some people decide to conduct a crime and meticulously organize every detail in advance to maximize profit while minimizing danger.

Experiences of the Participant-interviewees Before and During the Implementation of Project Double Barrel

Challenges Before the Implementation of Project Double Barrel

Table 2. Themes and codes on the Challenges before the Implementation of Project Double Barrel

Codes	Themes
Noncooperation and resistance	
Rampant drug activities and crimes	Dominance of illegal drug activities
Powerful and elusive drug dealers and users	
Dismissal of suspects	
Monitoring and encouragement	
Identification and arrest of drug suspects	Implementation of illegal drug campaign
Operation and campaign	

The table above shows the codes that are grouped together under a theme. There were two themes which described the challenges experienced by the participants before the implementation of project double barrel. The first theme is *Dominance of illegal drug activities* and *implementation of illegal drug campaigns*.

Theme 1: Dominance of illegal drug activities

As law enforcers before the implementation of the Project Double Barrel, dominance of illegal drug activities became a challenge among the participants. This challenge is supported by the noncooperation and resistance of drug suspects, rampant drug activities and crimes, and powerful and elusive drug dealers and users. For instance Interviewee 18 said, “*Wala pod mi mahimo igo ra mi sa pagpasabot, ug dili gyud mi mo batbat ug maayo ug mosukol sa ilaha kay kahibalo na man ta kung ato silang suklan lahi napod ang mahitabo* (We can't explain enough, and we can't be good and resist them because we already know that if we oppose them, things will be different).” Further he said, “*Mo sita mi sa ilaha, naay resistance sa mga ginikanan nganong naapil ilang mga anak sa ingon anang illegal nga buhat* (we call their attention, there is resistance from parents as to why their children are involved in such illegal activities).” The experiences of Interviewee

18 before the Project Double Barrel clearly depicts that those suspects of illegal drugs-related activities have a sense of resistance to authority and were not readily want to stop their activities. The noncooperation and resistance among suspects made setbacks among the implementers to curb down illegal drugs activities.

There are reasons why suspects resist authorities. The study of Whichard and Felson (2016) revealed that resistance of suspect is not related to race, education or unemployment. Suspects resist more when they carry contraband which corresponds to an argument that they become risk-seeking when sure loss is an alternative. Resistance is also related to mental illness, drug use and intoxication of alcohol.

Further, Interviewee 15 uttered the lack of cooperation among the barangay residences, “*Naa gyuy tawo nga dili mokooperar, naay pila ka percent nga dili gyud mokooperar, pero peaceful na gyud ang barangay karon ma'am* (There are people who will not cooperate, there are some percent who will never cooperate, but the barangay is really peaceful now ma'am).” The situation calls for a reality that barangay residence does not want to get involved in any problem in the future regarding the operation on illegal drugs. Truly, before the mentioned project, there is rampant drug activi-

ties and crimes, this is confirmed by Interviewee 8 who pronounced, "*rampant kaayo ang drugs before sa tokhang, naa silay gitawag ug langob nga didto ang trading sa drugs, ang drugs gikan sa neighboring town* (the drugs were very rampant before the *tokhang*, they have the so called a 'cave' where there was drug trading, the drugs were from the neighboring town)." It was also confirmed by Interviewee 7 who mentioned, "*Grabe kadaghan ang transaction sa wala pay tokhang. Dako kaayo ang kalahian kay sa una dili gyud mahadlok ang tawo nga mag buhat ug drug trade* (Too many transactions before *tokhang*). The difference is so much that at first the person is never afraid to do drug trade)." Moreover, other criminal activities were also rampant side by side with illegal drugs. Interviewee 6 confirmed this when he said, "*Before sa project double barrel, daghan mga kaso sa pangawat, pagpatay, mang-rape nga makita sa komunidad. Mahasol ang community kung naay respondihan ug magabii* (Before the project double barrel, there were many cases of theft, murder, rape that can be seen in the community. It's a hassle to the community to respond during nighttime)." This is the reason that Interviewee 4 explained that there was a high crime incidence at that time. Likewise, Interviewees 11 and 12 revealed that selling and trading of illegal drugs was open to the public before the project double barrel was implemented.

The use of illegal drugs created negative effects on the users' mental functioning which prompted them to do crimes. This situation in the country before the Project Double Barrel is consistent with the study of Hembra (2004) discussed that based on the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report 2003, Philippines has an estimated 1.8 million drug users (2% of the population).

The rampant drug activities and crimes can be explained by the powerful and elusive drug dealers and users. Interviewee 6 mentioned that people before the project had no fear and said "*Naay mga gahi ug ulo nga dili gyud ma control* (there were really hardheaded who cannot be controlled)." Even Interviewee 13 attested, "*Maglisod ug control kay kusog kaayo powerful kaayo ang mga pusher powerful kaayo ang mga supplier* (It's hard to control because

[they] were so strong. The pushers are so powerful, the suppliers are so powerful)." Interviewee 15 who is one of the law enforcers related his being uncertain and fear, "*Unya lisod pod ug kuanon nimo unya naay naka abang basig naay pusil ba unuya pamilyado man pod ta... mao nga mosumbong lang pod ta inig meeting nimo, mahisgutan sya inig meeting. Lisod pod sitahan sila kay basin ug naay dala unya madisgrasya hinuon mi, pamilyado mi, lisod pod* (Then it's hard that [you will arrest them] what if they have accomplices lurking, maybe they have a gun, then we have a family too...so we'll just report it when we have a meeting, we'll talk about it during the meeting. It's hard to find them because maybe someone [has a gun] and we will be killed, we have our family, it's hard too)." "

Due to the resistance of suspects and rampant illegal drug-related activities, crimes associated with them became widespread. These problems were even facilitated by the powerful and elusive drug dealers and users. Knowing that they cannot be immediately infiltrated and arrested, they tend to expand their influence and acquire arms to protect themselves. May *et al.* (2005) in their study confirmed that even in their respondents, two-thirds admitted having access to weapons and one-third said they carried guns. In addition, the activities on illegal drugs proved that it has an economic value and is lucrative. This is one of the reasons that there is really a proliferation of illegal drugs before the Project Double Barrel as related by the interviewees.

Theme 2: Implementation of illegal drug campaign

The situation before the implementation of Project Double Barrel was further described in the experiences of the participants during the implementation of their usual campaign against illegal drugs. They faced legal uncertainties which led to the dismissal of suspects. Interviewee 13 said, "*Dili ma pursue ang kasu kay sa piskaliya pa lang ma dismiss na dayon. Ang pinaka problema nga ug ma-filelan ug kasu pero ma dismiss ra gihapon kay kulang ug ibidensya* (The case will not be pursued because at the level of prosecutor it will be dismissed immediately. The biggest problem is

that a case can be filed but it can still be dismissed due to lack of evidence)." This can be one of the reasons why there was rampant illegal drug activities before the project double barrel since suspects can still escape the law. In addition, monitoring and encouragement towards drug suspects to surrender is also a challenge. Interview 16 related, "*Ang mga hagit ni-adto maam sa pagpatuman sa wala pa ang tokhang mao gyud ang kanunay nga pag anha pagbisita sa ilang balay, kanunay pag hatag nila ug inspirasyon nga kon sila moundang nianang mga aduna silay* (The challenges ma'am before the implementation of *tokhang* is really to always come visit their [suspects] house, always give them inspiration that when they quit those (illegal drugs) they have [benefits/opportunities])." He continued: "*Sa wala pay tokhang kami gyud mismo ang nag hangyo. Bisan ilang mga asawa gihagit sa paghangyo sa ilang bana sa pag undang sa maong bisyo ug tungod sa kawahan usab. Sila mitabang sa paghangyo nianing mga tawhana* (Before, when there was no *tokhang*, we were the ones asking/begging. Even their wives are challenged to ask for their husbands to stop the habit and because of the people too. They helped plead with these people.)"

Implementers of law on anti-illegal drugs were hesitant to file cases against the suspects for fear of facing a counter case especially when evidence is not enough. This made them more careful in filing cases against the suspects, otherwise the latter would be dismissed and could continue their drug trade freely. There was monitoring and encouragement done to help suspects to change their lives, but often before the *tokhang*, these suspects were very hard to convince to surrender. For instance, Pulta (2021) reported that a man convicted of illegal drugs in Cotabato court was acquitted due to lapses in handling evidence. This proves a challenge among implementers to make sure that they possess enough verifiable evidence to press charges among illegal drug suspects.

The interviewees also experienced the challenge of identifying and arresting drug suspects. This is what Interviewee 2 experienced, "*Prior sa tokhang, dili kaayo nag identify sa drug personalities sa barangay* (Prior to the *tokhang*,

there was little identification of drug personalities in the barangay)." On the other hand, Interview 10 pointed to the challenge of arresting those illegal drug suspects when he said, "*Pag-identify ug pagdakop sa mga drug identified individuals* (Identify and arrest drug identified individuals)." Identification of illegal drug suspects became problematic when lead informants could not give verifiable and accurate information. Identifying an individual being involved in illegal drug activities without sufficient information could rebound to scenario that the implementers would face charges instead.

In general, operation and campaign were a really a challenge on the part of the authorities before the project double barrel. The lack of political will and support for an anti-drug campaign is one of the reasons together with the IEC materials dissemination. This is what Interviewee 5 confirmed, "*Kulang sa support, political will to support the anti-drug campaign. Walang legal service. Yung IEC before, di masayadong pina practice. Halos compliance lang lahat during the past administration* (Lacking support, political will to support the anti-drug campaign. No legal service. The IEC before, was not very well practiced. Almost everything was just compliance during the past administration)." Interviewee 8 added, "*wala nag implement ug checkpoint ang neighboring town - maong di ma address ang problem asa drugs kay police ray bantayan* (the neighboring town has not implemented a checkpoint - so the problem of drugs cannot be addressed by the police)." This is supported in the study of Simbulan *et al.* (2019) who also viewed drug problem in the Philippines as an issue of law enforcement and criminality. This is the reason that the country enforced a policy of criminalization and punishment utilizing more punitive means to curb illegal drug activities.

Challenges during the Implementation of Project Double Barrel

Despite the good intention of the Project Double Barrel, there were challenges experienced by the law enforcers on its implementation. There were shortcomings and loopholes in the implementation that resulted in some in-

efficiency in the accomplishment of the project's main objectives. Below shows these challenges represented by the codes and categories

under three themes, namely, *communication, coordination and monitoring, mission demand, and safety and security*.

Table 3. Themes and codes on the Challenges during the Implementation of Project Double Barrel

Codes	Themes
Accuracy of profile information	
Reluctance to surrender and cooperate	
Monitoring of suspects	Communication, coordination and monitoring
Miscommunication	
Source of drug supply	
Job pressure	
Lack of operational resources	Mission demand
Accomplishment of directives	
Life and legal threat	
Resistance	Safety and security

Theme 6: Communication, Coordination and Monitoring

The communication, coordination and monitoring as a challenge is brought by the *accuracy of profile information, reluctance to surrender and cooperate, monitoring of suspects, miscommunication and source of drug supply*. The accuracy of profile information is a challenge although there were validations processes undertaken. Getting accurate information takes time and resources and even the courage to approach key informants. This is crucial as it can damage the reputation of the suspects if they are picked up mistakenly. For example, Interviewee 18 mentioned: "Nag problema gyud mi sa ingon ana nga sitwasyon, mag sige ug pangita na pod ug asa sila ni adto. Kay gusto mi ang papel nga ihatag namo sa PDEA accurate gyud ba nga dili tumo-tumo. Gitagsa tagsa ug adto ang mga balay gakuyog ug barangay officials. Pero syempre dili man gyud na mawala ang problema pero kung totokan lang gyud naay mga meeting didto, amo sila ma patch up ma identify ug makita namo ug asa sila ug kaloy-an lang gyud nga ug unsay gipangita nila, mahatag ra gyud namo (We really have a problem in that situation, go ahead and find out again where they were going. Because we want the paper, we would give PDEA is really accurate and not fictitious. The houses were visited one by one with barangay officials. But of course, the problem will never go away but if we really have meetings there, we can patch

them up and identify them and we can see where they are and thankful that we can really give them what they are looking for).

On the other hand, Interviewee 2 revealed, "Dili gyud makahatag ug sakto nga data ang barangay officials. PNP naay data sa barangay, mohatag pod sila ug ilahang data Dili magka coincide ang data Kulang ug cooperation (Barangay officials can never provide accurate data. PNP has data on the barangay, they will also provide their data, but the data do not coincide. Lack of cooperation)." These inconsistencies led to confusion as to who is really the suspects. Interviewee 8 said, "I-identify kung user ba or pusher. Nag libog sa lista kung user ba or pusher gumikan sa paglista sa daghan nga mga implementers (To identify whether user or pusher. The list is confusing if it is whether for users or pushers due to the listing of multiple implementers)."

Aside from the inaccuracies of some listing, there were also reluctant surrenderee and did not want to cooperate which slowed down the implementation of the project. Some went to other places to avoid fear for the project. Interviewee 15 confirmed, "Nilakaw lang gyud to sila, pero kuan to sila, kanang, nanarbahon sa mga lagyo mao to nga pagsulod sa ingon nga ma tokhang sila, dili gyud, milangyaw sila since 2016 until now wala na sila nakabalik (They just really left, but when they did, that, they were already working in the distance so they came in so they could be surprised, not really, they went

abroad since 2016 until now they haven't come back)." Moreover, Interviewee 13 has an explanation on their decision to move away and never surrender. He said, "*Basin magka problema sila sa employment. Ang uban nilakaw sa uban nga lugar. Di sila gusto mo surrender. Nahadlok sila nga dili na maka tarbaho. Ang uban nilakaw sa uban nga lugar. Di sila gusto mo surrender* (They may have employment problems. Some walked elsewhere. They don't want you to surrender. They were afraid of not being able to work anymore. Some walked elsewhere. They don't want you to surrender)." Even Interviewee 18 said that they transferred elsewhere due to poverty that they need to work. Incooperation of some suspects was also apparent in the experience of Interviewee 16, "*Mahitungod sa pagpatuman sa double barrel, kasinatian ma'am nga mao ang kalisod gyud sa pagpasabot sa atoang mga naggamit sa droga* (As for the implementation of the double barrel, it is an experience ma'am which is really hard to explain to our drug users)." This implies that there were still many who did not understand the main purpose of the program which resulted to incooperation of some. This is what Interviewee 10 wanted to express, "*Dili lalim pagpasabot sa project double barrel* (it is not easy to explain/let them understand about Project Double Barrel)." On the other hand, the case study conducted by Pajarillo *et al.* (2016) found that among the population where they conducted the case study, awareness of Oplan Tokhang is highly effective which means that it is manageable and easily be addressed by conducting symposium, dialogue, meetings, and information campaign.

Further, Interviewee 4 mentioned their barangay was not cleared of drugs due to some who would not surrender due to economic reason. Attending programs of the PNP can impede their living. He said, "*Adtoon nalang sa police. Dili voluntary ang participation. Wala na drug cleared ang barangay gumikan kay wala ni voluntary surrender.* (they were just approached by the police. Participation is not voluntary. The barangay is no longer drug cleared due to no voluntary surrenderee)." Interviewee 17 emphasized the economic need of these suspects, "*Isa ka adlaw nga dili sila ka trabaho, wala pod silay makaon, mao nga daghan sila ug*

pasangil (If one day they don't work, they don't even eat, so they have a lot of excuses)."

Although many surrendered and attended the rehabilitation institution, it a challenge for the implemented to monitor these surrenderees since some could return to their old ways. This is what Interviewee 3 mentioned, "*Dili ma control ang tawo nga moadto sa laing lugar nga mamaligya na pod ug druga. Naay mga panahon nga cleared na ang surrenderee unya naay mangutana ug namaligya pa ba, unya namaligya na pod ug balik. Maoy nakahatag ug labad sa PNP. Dapat ang LGU maoy mag cater sa mga skilled nga mga surrenderees para mabantayan ra sila permi* (It is uncontrollable for people to go to another place to sell drugs again. There are times when the surrenderee is cleared and then someone asks if he is still selling, then he is selling again and again. That gave the PNP a blow. The LGU should cater to the skilled surrenderees so that they are constantly monitored)." This experience of Interviewee 3 emphasized the significant role of the LGU to help monitor these surrenderees and cater to those skilled ones for a descent livelihood. Thus, Interviewee 13 expressed the challenge of monitoring, "*Monitoring ang pinakahagit. Naa lang gihapoy chance nga naay kapalitan. Nagpadayon gihapon ang pag hatag ug information sa PNP para validation* (Monitoring is the most challenging. There is still a chance that they can still buy [illegal drugs]. The PNP is still providing information for validation)."

Miscommunication is also a challenge among the implementers. This challenge is experienced by Interviewees 5 and 1 who said "*there was a time when PDEA and PNP had a misencounter. The higher ups had created a program to coordinate the different groups involved in tokhang operation.*" and that some surrenderees transferred residence and could no longer be communicated. Moreover, it is still a challenge among implementers to stop the supply chain of illegal drugs. This continuous supply is due to some did not wanting to reveal the supply source. Interviewee 15 said, "*Ug pangutana dili man pod mosugot ug kinsay ga supply sa ilaha* (when asked [the surrenderees] they would not agree to tell who supplied them)." Hence, Interviewee 7 claimed, "*Usually ang magigo ang katong na asa pinaka-ubos, dili gyud ang*

katong mga amo. Wala pa gyud kaayo naputol, hinuon na minimize tungod kay ang PNP nag look out sa area nga known nga naa ang kusog nga palit sa droga (Usually those who will be affected were at the bottom, not really their employers. It hasn't really stop, but rather minimized because the PNP is looking out for the area known to have strong drug purchases).

Theme 7: Mission Demand

The demand of the mission to accomplish the objectives of the program is really challenging as well. The demand of the mission of the implementers is due to *job pressure, lack of operational resources, and accomplishment of directives*.

Job pressure is experienced by those who implemented the project. For instance, Interviewee 9 stated, "*multi-tasking sa trabaho sa opisina. Sa isa ka personnel daghan ang trabaho* (Work in the office is multitasking. On one personnel there are a lot of work)." The demand of their job pressured them the reason that Interviewee 6 related, "*Naa masinati nga experience nga modakop gyud ug mga not law-abiding citizen sam asa tigbaligya, tiggamit ug katong mga sugo-sugoon lang sa pagpamaligya* (We have the experience to actually arrest not law-abiding citizens such as sellers, users and our sales orders)." He even expressed the tiredness of continuously accepted orders from the top. Further, Interviewee 18 felt the strenuous work of the project when he said, "*Kauban nako ang mga kagawad aning double barrel, ang kapoy naa gyud* (With me the councilors of this double barrel, the fatigue is really there)."

The job pressure is coupled with the lack of operational resources such as human resources, equipment and vehicles. This is experienced by the Interviewee 11, "*Kulang sa tawo nga mo man sa implementation sa project double barrel* (There is a lack of manpower to implement the double barrel project)." Likewise, Interviewee 7 mentioned, "*Kinahanglan ug pinansyal nga suporta kay sa kadaghan sa population, kinahanglan labi na sa mga look out. Kinahanglan ug budget despite nga ang intel makakita sa mga prospect, pero kinahanglan sa gihapon ug budget* (There is a need for financial support due to the population. It is needed es-

pecially for the lookouts. Budget is needed despite that intel can see prospects, but still budget is needed)." In terms of human resources and quality of augmentation, Interviewee 9 expressed, "*Depleted ang number of personnel 7 per day ang duty karon nag request ug laing personnel nga wala pay experience. Ang augmentation dili pa trained ug wala pay experience* (The number of personnel is depleted where 7 per day is on duty and is now requesting other personnel with no experience. The augmentation is untrained and has no experience yet)." This is the reason Interviewee 5 emphasized the need for resources in the implementation where he said, "*Resources, financial, equipment, transportation, personnel depende sa lugar kasi malaki ang area of responsibility* (Resources, financial, equipment, transportation, personnel depending on the area because the area of responsibility is large)." The lack of personnel created a problem where some surrenderees escaped and pushers were not controlled as uttered by Interviewees 8 and 14 respectively.

However, regardless of the job pressure and insufficiency of operational resources, the implementers faced the demand and challenge to accomplish the directives of top officials. Even Interviewee 1 expressed, "*Grabe ang mga memo ug directive nga gikan sa taas. Gikinahanglan nga naay accomplishment sa drugs* (Memos and directives from the top [officials] are too many. There is a need to have an accomplishment in drugs)." Often due to pressure to accomplish directives, procedures were not followed as claimed by Interviewee 5, "*Most of the times ang procedure hindi talaga nasusunod* (Most of the times procedures were not really followed)." Further, the pressure on accomplishment is a reality when he added, "*During reporting of accomplishment results of operation, like sketching. Once naunahan ng municipal police station, the credit is given to the municipal police station... Nag-aagawan sa accomplishment* (During reporting of accomplishment results of operation, like sketching. Once preceded by the municipal police station, the credit is given to the municipal police station... There is a struggle for accomplishment)."

In the report of Amnesty International (2017) the pressure on the part of the police officers is great especially that it is encouraged by incentives. In the interview conducted by Amnesty International, there is an under-the-table payment when police fatally shoot drug offenders and at the same time pressured to have results in anti-drug operations. It means that results are expected from every police unit on this campaign. Further, aside from incentives they were pressured due to direct orders from their chiefs of police who were also directly involved in the anti-drug operations. The pressure to accomplish the directives is a result of President Duterte's vow to eradicate illegal drugs in three to six months when he rose to power in 2016. Despite the project being blamed for extrajudicial killings which results in the 2017 suspension of its operation due to some accusations against the police, it resumed its operation several months after which led to a surge of drug-related killings in Metro Manila (Palatino, 2018).

The lack of operational resources really had an influence in the implementation of the project. It is expected that the more equipped implementers could be, the better they can readily respond to any illegal drug cases. This is also what Dio *et al.* (2019) concluded in their study that due to constraints in the number of police personnel, "there is no significant change of increase in the crime solution efficiency" (p.41).

In terms of rehabilitation programs, there were also reports of having no effective treatment and rehabilitation services because of the massive number of surrenderees which the existing rehabilitation centers cannot fully cater for. For instance, according to Amnesty International (2017), See, founder and president of Cebu Plus said that the operation of Oplan Tokhang is fast without regard to proper planning in terms of care for the drug user. Health and right liberty are very alarming in this condition. When community leaders were asked about the drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes, they mentioned that "Zumba" is one of the usual programs. Although this is part of the program, Amnesty International emphasized the need to have a holistic approach. There was also a barangay captain in Metro Manila whose plan primarily revolved on job

training and placement which is consistent in the experiences of the interviewees as to how they treated surrenderees as well.

Theme 8: Safety and Security

The accomplishment of directives is coupled with threat to life and legal repercussions among the implementers of Project Double Barrel. There is *life and legal threat* and *resistance* among drug suspects. This shows how critical and sensitive the situations of the implementers. There is really danger during operation as mentioned by Interviewee 12, "*Naa gyuy gubot, delikado sa part sa police ug sa civilian* (there is really a chaos, danger on the part of police and civilian)." This is the reason that Interviewee 11 said about their security and that of those who identified as drug suspects during operation. Hence, Interviewee 7 stated, "*Lisod lisod gyud labi nag naay mga protector nga usahay naa sa government, naa sa posisyon* (It's really hard especially having protectors who are sometimes in government, in position)." On the side of the Brgy. Captains, they were also looking after their safety. Interviewee 16 said, "*Kuyaw sa barangay captain simbako kon kuanon sila kon magdumili gayod sa paghangyo sa pag undang sa maong droga...basin ang mga financier masuko namo kay ang ilang negosyo dili naman ma halin, pero sa kanunay kami nagbantay* (It is dangerous for the barangay captain to ask them to cease especially if they refuse ... maybe the financiers will get angry with us because their business will not be sold, but we are always vigilant)." As to legal threat, the experience of Interviewee 6 expressed this, "*Mag verify gyud ug tarong kay aron inig file ug kaso, mahasa na ug unsaon pag counter sa mga kasos...Ang uban molikay kung dili maoy na assign kay mahadlok ug makasuhan* (It is assured to verify and be honest so that when you file a case, you will be able to learn how to counter the cases...Some avoid when they are not assigned there out of fear for legal case)."

In some cases, implementers of the project faced resistance among the suspects. Interviewee 1 said, "*Naay surrenderee nga naigo sa tiil kay nisukol* (There was a surrenderee who was hit in the foot for resisting)." He added, "*Giimbitar, dili mo adto. Naay gahi, masuko ug*

ikuan, gi kontrahan ang mga barangay officials (They were invited, but didn't go. There were who became angry, go against the barangay officials)." Even Interviewee 9 witnessed a form of resistance during their operation where he shared, "*Naay time nga yawyawan pa mi. Maayo bya ang approach, bisag unsaon ug explain. Cooperation ang number one reason nga dili gyud makuha ang targets* (There was a time when they complained. Our approach is good, no matter how we explain. Cooperation is the number one reason why targets are not achieved).

The tendency of these suspects to resist is confirmed in a report of the Department of the Interior and Local Government [DILG] (2017), DILG Assistant Secretary Densing III said that before there is about one drug suspect died in every 20 police operations since they fought back endangering the lives of the operatives.

The result shows that police personnel have faced a range of challenges in maintaining peace, order, and safety, both before and during the implementation of the war on drugs. Prior to the campaign, the proliferation of illegal

drugs and the lack of an aggressive anti-drug policy presented significant obstacles. With the launch of the campaign, new challenges emerged, such as issues with communication, coordination, monitoring of suspects, meeting operational demands, and ensuring the safety and security of police officers.

There is a notable contrast between the experiences of police personnel before and during the war on drugs. Before the project, drug-related crimes were not the primary focus of previous administrations. It was only during the presidency of Rodrigo Duterte that an explicit war on drugs and other criminal activities was declared. However, the implementation of this policy posed numerous challenges for law enforcement, affecting both the effectiveness and ethical conduct of operations.

These challenges underscore the complexity of executing a large-scale, aggressive anti-drug campaign, where logistical, operational, and ethical issues compounded the difficulties faced by those responsible for its implementation.

Experiences of the Participants in the Implementation of Project Double Barrel

Table 10. Themes and codes on the Experiences of the Participants in the Implementation of Project Double Barrel

Codes	Themes
Validation of listing	Identification Process
Profiling of surrenderees /suspects	
Activating partnership	Execution Process
Mixed emotions	
Suppression of illegal drug-related activities	
Rehabilitation program	Re-integration Process
Training and support from government	

The experiences of the participants during the implementation of Project Double Barrel with exception to the challenges they experienced which were discussed separately, were categorized into three themes, namely: (1) identification process, (2) execution process, and (3) re-integration process.

Theme 3: Identification Process

The implementation of the Project Double Barrel started with the identification process for surrenderees and illegal drug suspects and

information gathering for verification. It is supported by codes such as validation of listing and profiling of surrenderees/suspects. Among the interviewees, four of them mentioned the validation of listing either secured by the PNP or barangay officials. This process was done to make sure that persons listed and identified were the suspects of illegal drugs and not the victims of mistaken identities. Interviewee 3 said, "*Kung nag surrender ang tawo, ang data ihatag balik sa barangay for verification* (If the person surrenders, the data will be given back

to the barangay for verification)." Similarly, Interviewee 1 mentioned, "*Naghata ug listing sa mga drug users and pushers. Gi validate ug tinuod ba. There are testimonies. Gi invite sa police station ang katong naa sa listing ni cooperate* (There was a provided listing of drug users and pushers. It was validated if true. There are testimonies. The police station invited the persons in the list, [they] cooperate)." The barangay also played a significant role in the validation of the list. This is what Interviewee 11 related, "*Naay nakuha nga listahan, unya gi-verify sa barangay kung tinuod ba ang naa sa lista anha i-approach ang nakalista isip pag-pahibalo sa project double barrel* (A list is obtained, then the barangay verifies if what is on the list is true and will approach those in the list and informed them of the double barrel project)." This validation was further confirmed by Interviewee 6, "*During sa operation, mag susi gyud kung pananglitan ug naay mga dakponon like kanang mga namaligya. Dili basta basta mosuong sa mga suspect. I-verify sa gyud daan ang information, I-follow ang script sa tokhang* (During the operation, it was made sure to check if for example there are to be arrested like those pushers. Not just to confront the suspects. The information must be verified in advance, then follow the *tokhang* script)."

These experiences of the participants in the validation process of the lists denote that the law enforcers are careful in identification of illegal drug suspects and pushers where observation and confirmation were done before approaching them. This can also signify that they ensure that only the confirmed persons in the list will be approached. In connection to this, profiling of surrenderees/ suspects was also done to acquire valuable information among them. As part of profiling, visitation was done by implementers of the project. Interviewee 2 uttered, "*Nag conduct ug visitation sa mga barangay para ma identify ang mga drug personality sa area* (Visitation to barangays was conducted to identify drug personalities in the area)." Even those surrenderees were also profiled as what Interviewee 1 said, "*Ni surrender. Gi kuhaan ug profile, name. Adunay mga more than 1000 ka surrenderees sa Diplahan* (They surrendered. Profile was taken, their name. There were more than 1000 surrenderees in

Diplahan)." This information was subject to scrutiny by the PNP. This is mentioned by Interviewee 13 who said, "*Gisala ug gisubmit sa PNP ang information* (Information was scrutinized and submitted to the PNP)." Interviewee 12 further mentioned, "*Ang barangay officials maoy tig identify. Didto magkuha ug data ang mga police* (Barangay officials are the identifiers. There, the police will collect data)."

Theme 4: Execution Process

The implementation of Project Double Barrel is not only the sole responsibility of the PNP but as well as by the Barangay officials who worked hand in hand for its success. Hence, the theme execution process of the project involved activating partnership, mixed emotions and suppression of illegal drug-related activities. The role of barangay officials cannot be disregarded as they helped in identifying and validating the list of drug users and pushers and even took part in encouraging them to surrender and by offering attractive programs to change the lives of the latter. This is the significance of activating partnership in the project implementation. Interviewee 16 revealed, "*Among hangyo sa kapulisan sa pagtabang sa paghangyo nila gani kauban namo ang mga pulis sa paghangyo nila* (We ask the police to help with us in begging/encouraging [drug suspects])." As a barangay official, Interviewee 13 said, "*Nangayo ug information sa employer sa mga employees nga naggamit sa illegal nga droga. Gipa surrender, ang wala ni surrender muy gi tokhang* ([we] requests employer information on employees using illegal drugs. They were asked to surrender, the ones who did not surrender were subject for *tokhang*)."

This partnership between bgy. and PNP was further confirmed by the same interviewee, "*Kay busy ang PNP namalihog sila sa barangay ug ningon si PNP nga kamo nalang Kap maoy tokhang didto* (Because the PNP was busy, they begged the barangay and the PNP said that [Captain] please do the *tokhang*)."

According to Interviewee 15, when the Project Double Barrel started, the bgy. captain and all barangay officials monitored the listing of police.

This partnership is consistent in a press release no. 190/17 of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (2017) that based on the

Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 and the Local Government Code, barangay officials carry the role in the national campaign on anti-drug otherwise they can be labeled as protectors if they would not take action to clear the barangays from illegal drugs.

Despite the demand of work, one interview expressed that he cannot identify his emotion in implementing the project. For example, Interviewee 17 mentioned, "*Nalipay nga naguol. Nalipay nga nawala, nisurrender ang mga addict. Ang problema lang kami nga barangay captain, kami maoy nadukdokan sa tanan* (Happy sad. Glad that they were gone, the addicts surrendered. The only problem was we barangay captains, we were the ones who were blamed by everyone)." It suggests that the implementation of Project Double Barrel has two sides, the positive side of curbing down illegal drug suspects but on the other hand, the negative side lies in how the families of these suspects take the process.

One of the end results of this project is the suppression of illegal drug-related activities. This result is experienced by the interviewees due to the implementation of the Project Double Barrel unlike before where illegal drugs are rampant in the community. Interview 16 supported these results when he said, "*Apan sa sige ug adto sa mga opisyal ug pagbantay sa tibuok nga palibot sa barangay, na kuan gyud ang illegal nga droga napahunong, labi na kay bantayan gyud sa mga opisyal* (But by going to the officers and guarding the whole area around the barangay, the illegal drugs have been stopped, especially since the officers are guarding)." Even Interviewee 1 confirmed this status, "*Bintaha na karon kontra sa una, labi na ang mga bana. Naay isa ka bana nga dili matulog ug magabii dayon na niwang Ang uban nигamit sa droga tungod sa panarbaho tungang gabii mag tractor sa basakan* (it is advantageous now compared to before, especially to the husbands. There is a husband who can't sleep and stays up late at night. Some used drugs for work at midnight by harrowing the field)." Illegal drugs were used to sustain the work demands of some husbands, but this has been suppressed by the law enforcers. Meanwhile, Interview 13 also supported the process

of suppressing the illegal drug activities" "*Ang katong gipang gukod nalang ang mga pusher nga mosulod diri nga gikan sa lain nga llungsod hantod nga nawala. Ug naa man gani, nag tago tago gyud. Naay ni admit nga sila nигamit ug illegal nga droga. Nahadlok sila kay mahadlok nga dili na tokhang basin ug tokbang na, so nisurrender sila...* (We are just chasing the pushers who come in here from another town until they disappeared. And if they're still there, they are hiding. Some even admitted that they used illegal drugs. They were afraid because they were afraid that it would no longer *tokhang* but *tokbang* [be shot], so they surrendered)"

The experiences of the interviewees support the study of Alao & Bañoc (2021) where they found out that the Double Barrel Plan delivered an impressive result in reducing the index and non-index crime rate in the City of Baybay. Moreover, Dio *et al.* (2019) supported the with the implementation of Project Double Barrel, crime activities decreased while the number of drug personalities who surrendered increased. They said that these drug pushers usually came from urban areas and big municipalities in the Province of Sorsogon. Those areas with a higher number of surrenderees were also having higher crime incidence recorded. These surrenderees came from the marginalized sectors.

Theme 5: Re-integration Process

One of the results or outputs of the Project Double Barrel is not only to diminish illegal drug activities but also to give a chance for illegal drug suspects to change their lives and be integrated back into a moral society. This is what the *Re-integration Process* is all about, which is *rehabilitation program and training and support from the government*. Those who decided to surrender and acquire a new life were given a chance to be rehabilitated and be equipped with livelihood skills and have a clean source of living. This is confirmed by Interviewee 13 who said, "*Naa poy wala mi surrender Instead mag bag o nalang mi kap. Di lang mi mo surrender. Ang mga drug pusher karon nag undergo ug training sa Bahay Silangan* (There were also those who did not surrender. But they said that they will just change. Drug pushers are now undergoing training at the *Babay*

Silangan [rehabilitation center])." Hence, Interviewee 18 expressed, "Sa pagkakaron, wala pa ma declare ang barangay nga drug free kay ang mga drug pusher naa pa sa balay silangan (So far, the barangay has not been declared drug free because the drug pushers are still in the *Balay Silangan*)." Some surrenderees were just being convinced to surrender because programs good for them will be offered as related by Interviewee 2. This *Balay Silangan* according to Interviewee 1 is a rehabilitation institution for drug users. Interviewee 1 further described this institution: "Tulo ka bulan ang pag rehabilitate sa mga drugs users sa balay silangan. Duol na duha ka bulan ang pag implement sa *Balay Silangan*. Ug mahuman sa training, delisting ang resulta. Naay lista sa mga dapat maka avail, para sa drug clearing. (It takes three months to rehabilitate drug users in the *Balay Silangan*. The implementation of the *Balay Silangan* is almost two months already. And after training, delisting is the result. There is a list of those who should be able to avail, for drug clearing)."

The training and support from the government as part of the re-integration process is a crucial step for surrenderees to acquire a new life and never come back from illegal drug addiction. Interviewee 1 described this training: "Naay mga training sa TESDA. Adunay support gikan sa gobyerno. Gitagaan silag chance nga mag-bag-o pinaagi sa mga training. Mao ni buhaton. Gitagaan silag training sa tesda nga pwede nila magamit inig gawas. May gani kay ang atong honorable mayor, suportado. Naay allowances nga gihatag sa LGU isip tabang sam ga drug users inig human sa pag rehabilitate aron dili na sila mobalik sa ilang bisyo (There are TESDA trainings. There is support from the government. They were given a chance to change through training. That's what to do. They are given TESDA training that they can use upon their release. It is good that our honorable mayor is supportive. There are allowances provided by the LGU to help drug users after rehabilitation so that they do not return to their vices)."

Interviewee 8 expressed the positive results of the program, "naay mga surrenderees nga naa sa *Bahay Silangan*. Nagpasalamat pod sa local government sa *Bahay Silangan* aron naay programa sa mga surrenderees aron sila

mag-bag-o (there were surrenderees who were in the *Balay Silangan*. Thankful to the local government of *Bahay Silangan* for having a program for surrenderees so that they can change)." This program in *Balay Silangan* helped the surrenderees to acquire skills for their livelihood especially that their families to support. This is what Interviewee 10 mentioned, "Ang mga surrenderees dili ra I i-house kay naa man silay mga pamilya nga gibuh. Gina train sila sa SMAW para inig graduate nila, puyde sila makapangita ug trabaho (The surrenderees were not only housed because they have families to support. They would be trained in SMAW so that when they graduate, they can find a job)." These experiences of the interviewees or participants proved that the government saw to it that the project Double Barrel does not only curtail illegal drug activities but as well as discouraged surrenderees to go back to their old vices for a better life. The government looked into the economic needs of these people.

The experiences of the interviewees above are consistent to how the Project Double Barrel or Tokhang must be implemented. In the study of Alao and Bañoc (2021) on Oplan Tokhang Operation in Police Regional Office XI, he discussed that the project works in a manner that the barangay captains will submit the list of persons involved in illegal drugs. Then the police intelligence proceeds to the validation of the list. Once the list is validated, persons involved in illegal drugs will then approach in their houses and ask them to stop their activities.

The Command Memorandum Circular (CMC) No. 16-2016 presented in detail how the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan-Project: "Double Barrel" shall be implemented. Based on the CMC, the "Project Tokhang" will be conducted in five stages, namely: (1) collection and validation of information stage; (2) coordination stage; (3) house to house visitation stage; (4) processing and documentation stage; (5) monitoring and evaluation stage. In the first stage, "the identity and criminal activities of each target must be properly documented and verified with all possible sources to equip the team with accurate and solid proofs when confronting suspects during house-to-house visitation" (p.4). This identification and validation

of any information related to the illegal drug suspects were manifested in the experiences of the interviewees. The second stage requires the government agencies, stakeholders, and non-government organizations to have coordination prior to house visitation for the success of the activity. This is when the interviewees revealed that the implementers worked together to achieve a common purpose. The third stage refers to the actual house to house visits of suspected drug personalities. In the fourth stage, all suspected drug personalities who will voluntarily surrender shall fill-out a Voluntary Surrender Form and shall be required to cooperate with the authorizers. The last stage points to the monitoring of the activities of suspected drug personalities despite house visitation.

The findings reveal that police personnel faced significant challenges in verifying the accuracy of drug suspects on government watchlists, raising concerns about wrongful targeting and operational inefficiencies. The large volume of surrendered drug personalities and suspects further complicated effective profiling and monitoring, hindering efforts to track their rehabilitation and reintegration. Additionally, while collaborations with local governments, NGOs, and other organizations were essential, they were often inconsistent, underscoring the need for stronger partnerships to bolster rehabilitation and community-based interventions.

Police officers also reported experiencing a range of emotions, including stress and anxiety due to the campaign's high-risk nature, balanced by a sense of duty to combat drug-related crimes. Although the campaign successfully suppressed drug-related activities, it was overshadowed by allegations of human rights violations and extrajudicial killings, which raised serious ethical concerns.

Efforts to rehabilitate drug offenders were further impeded by insufficient resources and infrastructure, limiting the overall effectiveness of rehabilitation programs. Furthermore, despite receiving some government training, many officers felt ill-equipped to navigate the campaign's operational and ethical complexities, highlighting the need for more comprehensive training and support.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it could be concluded that implementation of Project Double Barrel, which targeted drug-related crimes under the presidency of Rodrigo Duterte, resulted in both successes and challenges. The initiative led to a decrease in index crimes, attributed to heightened police presence, but also saw an increase in non-index crimes, largely due to the intensified focus on drug-related offenses. Police personnel faced significant operational, logistical, and ethical challenges, particularly regarding the verification of suspects and the large volume of drug surrenders, which complicated efforts to rehabilitate offenders.

The aggressive nature of the anti-drug campaign exposed police officers to high levels of stress and anxiety, despite their sense of duty to maintain peace and order. Furthermore, allegations of human rights violations and extrajudicial killings overshadowed the campaign's achievements, raising ethical concerns. Collaborative efforts with local governments and NGOs were inconsistent, and the lack of resources and infrastructure hindered rehabilitation programs.

Ultimately, while Project Double Barrel succeeded in addressing drug-related activities, it also highlighted the need for stronger partnerships, better training for police personnel, and more comprehensive support systems to ensure ethical conduct and the long-term effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts.

Recommendations

1. Project Double Barrel or a similar strategy should continue, along with sustained police presence, especially in public places. This initiative has clearly reduced the number of index crimes, such as crimes against persons and property.
2. A multifaceted approach to improving law enforcement's effectiveness and ethical standards in addressing drug-related crimes.
3. Integration of advanced technologies and enhanced coordination among agencies to improve operations and monitoring capabilities.

4. Ethical training, mental health support for officers, and increased funding for modern equipment are need prioritized to ensure law enforcement is both efficient and responsible.
5. Collaboration with external organizations focuses on rehabilitation and prevention, while independent oversight mechanisms and regular reviews to ensure accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement of policies and operations.
6. Stricter verification processes to reduce wrongful targeting, enhance public trust, and improve operational efficiency, minimizing both legal and ethical risks and implementation of advanced data management tools for streamlining the profiling and tracking of suspects, enabling more effective rehabilitation and reintegration while optimizing resource allocation.
7. collaboration between police, local governments, NGOs, and health organizations to reinforce community-based rehabilitation efforts and preventive measures, shifting the focus from punitive actions to reintegration. Providing mental health support for officers is equally important, as it improves their well-being, reduces burnout, and fosters ethical decision-making under high-pressure situations.
8. Ethical training to prevent human rights violations, ensuring operations are conducted within legal and ethical boundaries and increase resources for rehabilitation programs that will enhance their impact, reduce recidivism, and ease the burden on the criminal justice system.

References

Alao, V.M., Bañoc, N.M.T. (2021). Impact of Double Barrel Plan on the Crime Rate. *Journal of Research and Multidisciplinary*, 4 (1), 442-455. <http://journal.alhikam.net/index.php/jrm>

Curran, D. J., Renzetti, CM. (2021) Theories of Crime. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon. [/journal](#)

Dio, R., Apostol, S.G.G., Madrazo, A. (2019) *Drug Surrenderers and Crime Statistics During the Implementation of Project Double Barrel (PDB) in the Philippines*. DOI: 10.18488/journal.136.2019.41.31.43

Simbulan, N., Estacio, L., Dioquino-Maligaso, C., Herbosa, T. and Withers, M., 2019. The Manila Declaration on the Drug Problem in the Philippines. *Annals of Global Health*, 85(1), p.26. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.28>

Whichard, C., Felson, R.B. (2016). Are Suspects Who Resist Arrest Defiant, Desperate, or Disoriented? *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022427816632571>

Alog et al. (2008). *Problems Encountered by Police Investigators on Crime Scenes in Three Cities of Batangas*. Batangas State University.

Command Memorandum Circular Number 15-016 (2016). "PNP Anti-Illegal Campaign Plan Project Double Barrel. National Headquarters, Office of the Chief, Philippine National Police, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Memorandum Circular Number 2015-63 entitled "Revitalization of the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) and their Role in Drug Clearing Operations dated June 16, 2015", Department of the Interior and Local Government, NAPOLCOM Center, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Memorandum Circular (MC) Number 89 entitled "Implementation and Institutionalization of the National Anti-Drug Plan of Action" Dated December 17, 2015.

Amnesty International (2017). *If you are poor, you are killed: Extrajudicial executions in the Philippines' war on drugs*. Amnesty International, Ltd. <https://www.amnesty.org.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Philippines-EJK-Report-v19-FINAL.pdf>

Dangani, A., Tamayo, M. (2017). *Capabilities of Anti-Illegal Drug Enforcement Operatives in Cavite, Philippines*. Retrieved https://www.academica.edu/32973170/Capabilities_of_Anti_Illegal_Drug_Enforcement_Operatives_in_Cavite_Philippines

Department of the Interior and Local Government (2017 May 15). *Oplan Tokhang 2 greatly improves PH's campaign vs. drugs – DILG*. <https://www.dilg.gov.ph/news/Oplan->

Tokhang-2-greatly-improves-PHs-campaign-vs-drugs-DILG/NC-2017-1115

Hembra, M. (2004). Social, Political and Economic Context of Illegal Drug Abuse in the Philippines. *National Institute on Drug Abuse: Advancing Addiction Science*. <https://nida.nih.gov/international/abstracts/social-political-economic-context-illegal-drug-abuse-in-philippines>

Macapagal, M. (2018). *PNP: Crime rate drops, but murder rate up in 2 years*. Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/19/18/pnp-crime-rate-drops-but-murder-rate-up-in-2-years>

May, T., Duffy, M., Few, B., & Hough, M. (2005). *Understanding drug selling in communities: Insider or outsider trading?* Joseph Rowntree Foundation. <https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/3914/1/2875-Understanding-drugselling.pdf>

Palatino, M. (2018 February 6). *Duterte's Drug War in the Philippines: New Campaign, Old Problems*. The Diplomat. [https://thediplomat.com/2018/02/dutertes-drug-war-in-the-philippines-new-campaign-old-problems/](https://thediplomat.com/2018/02/dutertes-drug-war-in-the-philippines-new-campaign-old-problems)

in-the-philippines-new-campaign-old-problems/

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (2017 April 6). PDEA Chief Challenges Barangay Officials to Intensify Efforts vs. Illegal Drugs Either You Are With Us or Against Us. *Press Release No. 190/17*. <https://pdea.gov.ph/2-uncatego-rised/242-pdea-chief-challenges-barangay-officials-to-intensify-efforts-vs-illegal-drugs-either-you-are-with-us-or-against-us>

Philippine Statistics Authority (2015). *Crimes Statistics*. Retrieved from https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/2015%20PIF_0.pdf

Pulta, B. (2021 December 14). *Cases dismissed due to sloppy handling of evidence*. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1162680>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2019). *World Drug Report 2019*. Retrieved from <https://wdr.unodc.org/wdr2019>