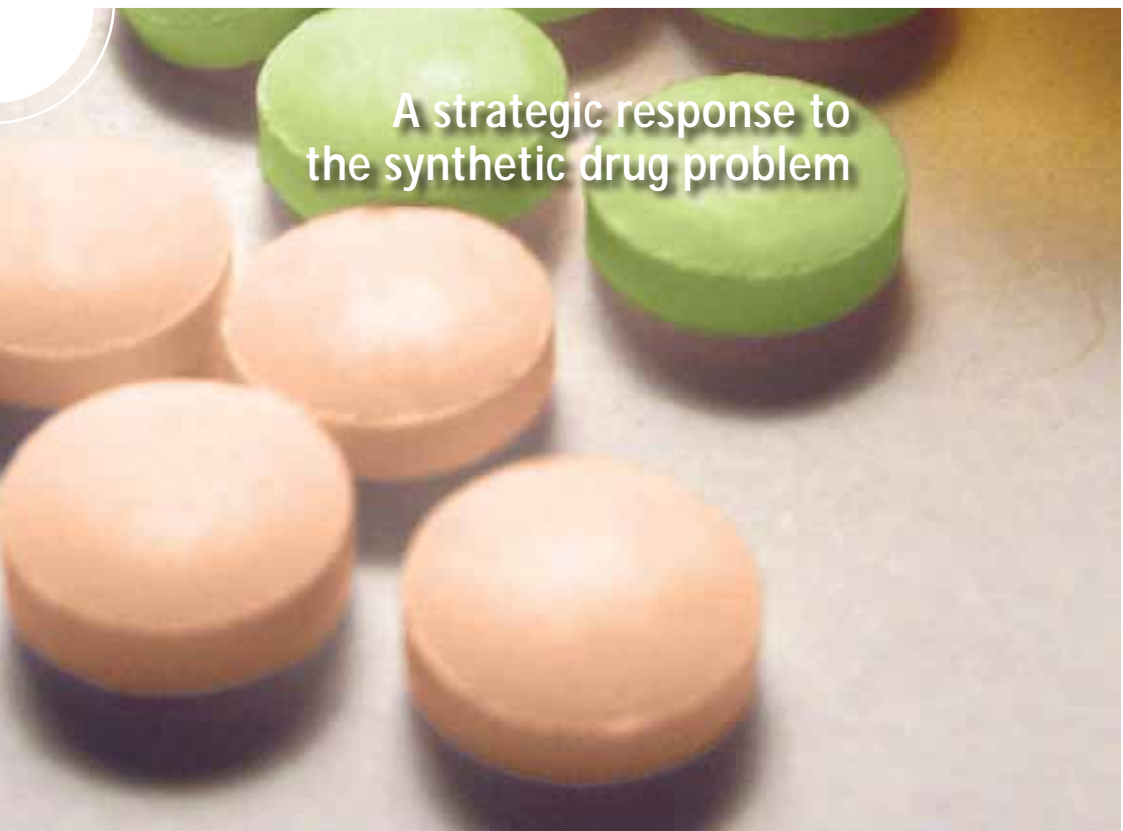




UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

The Global **SMART** Programme

A strategic response to
the synthetic drug problem





ATS users undergoing treatment, Lao PDR

Situation

The use of synthetic drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) like methamphetamine and ecstasy, has been one of the most significant drug problems worldwide in recent years, with the estimated use of ATS exceeding that of heroin and cocaine combined. The negative impact of synthetic drugs on society is profound.

Compared to other drugs, the synthetic drugs market is flexible because:

Production does not depend on a raw plant material

There are a variety of starting materials and manufacturing processes

Production is mobile

Trafficking routes and use patterns change rapidly



For these reasons, monitoring, assessing and strategically responding to synthetic drugs is particularly challenging.

Strategic Response

As a response to the synthetic drug problem, the United Nations Office and Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has developed the Global SMART Programme (Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends Programme). This programme will enhance the capacity of Member States and authorities in priority regions to generate, manage, analyse, report and use synthetic drug information to design effective policy and programme interventions.

The Global SMART Programme aims to provide:

- Quality information on synthetic drugs, including patterns of trafficking and use
- Targeted support to Member States to generate, manage, analyse, report and use synthetic drug information
- Mechanisms to detect and report emerging trends
- Improved methods for exchanging comparable synthetic drug information in priority regions

The Global SMART Programme will support Member States to better understand and tackle the synthetic drug problem.





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