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The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is proud to present our Strategic Vision for Nigeria 2030. Building on UNODC’s Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 launched in early 2021, the Strategic Vision for Nigeria seeks to leverage this revitalized approach to the continent, while focusing more closely on Nigeria’s particular priority areas.

Our aim is to take our partnership with the government and people of Nigeria to a new level in our shared mission to tackle crime, drugs, terrorism and corruption, and their effects on the economy, environment and people.

Through this Strategic Vision for Nigeria, we will support the country in developing a fairer and more effective criminal justice system, countering the insidious activities of terrorist groups, promoting integrity and transparency across institutions, protecting Nigeria’s precious resources from exploitation by criminals, and supporting the health of Nigerians affected by drug use.

To do this, we will look to empower women, children and youth as critical actors, build new partnerships, enhance our focus on prevention, and leverage science and technology as key enablers for change.

The Vision underscores our commitment to assisting Nigeria in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

Since the establishment of UNODC’s country office in Nigeria, we have taken important steps together in developing robust legal and policy frameworks, building stronger institutions and enhancing the operational skills and capabilities of thousands of law enforcement officers and judges. The Strategic Vision aims to help us better employ those capabilities and frameworks towards peace, security and prosperity.

This document is the result of extensive consultations with UNODC’s government counterparts, civil society, academia, the private sector, and development partners, as well as the members of the United Nations Country Team.

I thank all stakeholders for their valuable input in developing this Vision for Nigeria. Going forward we will count on you, our partners, to work with us in the design of programmes, projects and initiatives aiming to translate this Vision into tangible results.

GHADA WALY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME
FOREWORD

UNODC has been a trusted partner of the Government of Nigeria since its very first establishment in the country in 1991. For more than three decades it has supported the Government through several initiatives aimed to assist us in protecting our people, strengthening our laws, building the capacity of our law enforcement agencies in preventing and countering the harmful effects of drug-abuse, crime, corruption and terrorism.

We have partnered with UNODC in strengthening institutions, such as the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission which today are a model for many countries within and beyond the continent. It has promoted evidence-based policy development and data-driven decisionmaking through research, training, and surveys. UNODC has also worked with us in the design and implementation of national strategies and action plans, such as multiple Drug Control Master Plans, the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, the various iterations of the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking as well as the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime. By working with our institutions and the civil society, UNODC has supported a whole-of-society approach to tackling insecurity and upholding the rule of law.

UNODC’s 2030 Strategic Vision for Nigeria, however, is novel, as for the first time it spells out a comprehensive and long-term strategy aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework - in particular its Goal 16.

The Government of His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu welcomes this new approach as it supports our vision to end insecurity in the country, strengthen criminal justice approaches, address the vicious nexus between organized crime and terrorism, reform our law enforcement agencies, restore peace in communities affected by violence, and to uphold the rule of law for the benefit of all Nigerians.

NUHU RIBADU
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
The menace of drugs, crime and terrorism threatens our social fabric, economic stability, and the safety of our citizens. From corruption, organized crime, to crimes against the environment, criminals exploit vulnerabilities leaving devastation in their wake, undermining our peace, security, and sustainable development.

To protect our Nation from these threats and uphold the rule of law, we are continuously fortifying our criminal justice system by strengthening our legal frameworks and building the capacity of our justice and law enforcement institutions. Our collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has played a pivotal role in these endeavours. Over the past decades, UNODC has supported Nigeria to build relevant capacities, facilitate the exchange of best practices and assist international cooperation to counter crime and terrorism.

Success in our fight against crime necessitates the harmonization of our powers and the coordination of our strategies. Therefore, I am pleased to introduce the 2nd Edition of the Strategic Vision for Nigeria 2030 (SVN), a collaborative effort between the Nigerian Government, civil society and UNODC. Building on the Nigerian Government’s Renewed Hope Agenda, UNODC’s Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027, this vision is designed to support our efforts to tackle the specific challenges we face.

Our mission is clear: to counter crime, drugs, terrorism, and corruption, while safeguarding our economy, environment, and people. Empowering women, children, and youth as critical actors, forging new partnerships, and leveraging science and technology will drive our success. This strategic vision provides a comprehensive roadmap to address these issues head-on. As we continue our cooperation with UNODC, this vision will guide our actions, creating an environment where justice prevails, criminals are held accountable, and victims find support.

FOREWORD

LATEEF OTASUNKANMI FABGEMI, SAN
HONORABLE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE
UNODC NIGERIA CONTRIBUTES TO PEACE AND SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT BY MAKING NIGERIA SAFER FROM DRUGS, CRIME, CORRUPTION AND TERRORISM BY WORKING FOR AND WITH THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO PROMOTE JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW AND BUILD RESILIENT SOCIETIES.
UNODC STRATEGIC VISION FOR NIGERIA 2030

The mission of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism by working for and with Member States to promote justice and the rule of law and build resilient societies.

UNODC has unique and complementary mandates that distinguish it from others in the same field: it serves as the guardian of international conventions and UN standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice as well as the secretariat to global policy bodies; provides strong research and policy analysis; and combines global expertise and a wide field presence to provide specialized assistance to Member States.

In order to capitalize on its unique advantages and to help achieve its mission, UNODC recently published its Strategic Vision for Africa 20301 as well as its Strategy 2021-2025.2 Both provide a roadmap for action and manifest UNODC’s wish for strengthened coordination and integration – both globally and in Africa – to ensure that the normative, research and technical assistance work are mutually reinforcing and able to draw on each other.

To further align this overarching strategic framework with the specific needs, challenges and development aspirations of Nigeria, the UNODC Country Office Nigeria developed this Strategic Vision for Nigeria 2030, following consultations with government stakeholders, civil society and academia, the private sector and development partners (see Annex 1).

As such, this Strategic Vision will guide the development and implementation of programmes, projects, and activities of UNODC carried out in partnership with the Government and people of Nigeria.

Moreover, this Strategic Vision supports Nigeria in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most notably SDG 16, aimed to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. As such it also aligns with the Federal Government’s Renewed Hope 2023 Action Plan for a Better Nigeria, in particular as concerns the fight against terrorism and various forms of organized crime, the repositioning of the Nigeria Police Force, the promotion of judicial reform, and the prevention of corruption, inefficiency and waste in Government.

To collaboratively work towards sustainable development with other UN Agencies, the Strategic Vision for Nigeria aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 and contributes most notably to its Strategic Priority Area 3 “PEOPLE: Increased and equitable access and utilization of quality basic social services” and 4 “PEACE: Governance, Peace and Security, access to justice and rule of law”.

The Strategic Vision for Nigeria 2030 underscores our commitment to human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to protecting children and harnessing the transformative power of youth. It lays out a people-centred approach to achieving sustainable improvements in the lives of the most vulnerable and promotes a balanced approach to drug control.

A key to the successful implementation of the Strategic Vision for Nigeria will be the expansion of our partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders. Effective communication internally, to improve cross-fertilization across thematic areas, and externally, to showcase the impact of our work, will also be critical. We will employ innovation, leverage science and new technologies, and nurture an organizational culture that is based on trust, respect and accountability. We will continue promoting and contributing to sustainable development and will work towards the 2030 Agenda.
OVERVIEW OF UNODC STRATEGIC VISION FOR NIGERIA 2030

MAKING NIGERIA SAFER FROM DRUGS, CRIME, CORRUPTION AND TERRORISM AND PROMOTING JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

- Enhancing the ability of the criminal justice system to uphold the rule of law, ensure access to justice and protect victims of crime
- Safeguarding people, institutions and the economy from corruption and illicit financial flows
- Promoting people’s health through drug and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care
- Securing the safety of people from terrorism and violent extremism
- Protecting people, the economy and the environment against organized crime
- Youth inclusion, participation and empowerment
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN #SEE THE CHILD
BY STRIVE JUVENILE

Let’s unite as Next generation peace

K3lakndewa k3llew1
jit3bulinmisoro nalewa

to
UNODC’s three core lines of work are comprised of normative support, research and analysis, and technical assistance:

### OUR VALUE PROPOSITION

**Normative and Policy Support**
We support Nigeria in effectively implementing its obligations and commitments under the international conventions on drug control, transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, as well as under the UN standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice.

**Research and Analysis Evidence**
We collect and receive data from numerous institutions on issues related to drugs and various forms of crime, which we use to produce impartial and independent analyses. We also sponsor research and build data collection, retention, analysis and visualization capabilities of our counterparts and produce reports, policy briefs and issue papers.

**Technical Assistance**
We assist the government at federal, state and local levels in strengthening institutions, enhancing cooperation and coordination domestically, regionally and internationally, and building skills and capacities as well as providing logistical and operational support. We also work with civil society, NGOs, academia, community-based organizations, traditional and religious leaders as well as youth and women’s groups to strengthen their capacity for advocacy, research and community-based service delivery.

### KEY NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

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<th>Crime Related Treaties</th>
<th>Drug-Related Treaties</th>
<th>Terrorism-Related Instruments</th>
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<td>United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988</td>
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UNODC Nigeria will contribute to peace and security, human rights and development by making Nigeria safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism to promote health, justice and the rule of law, and build resilient societies. To this aim, UNODC Nigeria will support the Nigerian Government and other stakeholders in their efforts across five Priority Areas by:

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PRIORITY AREA 1.

ENHANCING THE ABILITY OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW, ENSURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PROTECT VICTIMS OF CRIME

Nigeria’s criminal justice system struggles with effectively responding to the deteriorating security situation across the country and the access to justice needs of a large proportion of the population. Widespread impunity appears to have become one of the main drivers of insecurity and severely undercuts public confidence in the rule of law. The police and other law enforcement agencies suffer from a severe trust deficit fuelled primarily by human rights violations, poor service delivery and both actual as well as perceived corruption. The courts are slow in dispensation of justice and difficult to access for many Nigerians, in particular women and the poor. Nigerian custodial centres are overcrowded, primarily due to a large number of prisoners awaiting trial. According to the 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance Report, Nigeria ranked 36 out of 54 African countries in the Security & Rule of Law category, scoring 42.6 (continental average of 49).

Building on Investment Area 5 of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, UNODC Nigeria’s efforts in the first Priority Area focus on enhancing the ability of the Nigerian criminal justice system to uphold the rule of law, ensure access to justice and protect victims of crime while adopting a gender-sensitive approach. In line with the UNSDCF for Nigeria, this Priority Area contributes particularly to Output 4.2.1: Rule of law and access to justice, and respect for human rights advanced through improved capacity of institutions and right holders.

1.1 INCREASED INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, FAIRNESS, RESPONSIVENESS AS WELL AS GENDER-EQUALITY ACROSS THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Police and other law enforcement agencies play a critical role in upholding the rule of law, promoting good governance, detecting and investigating as well as in preventing crime, protecting citizens and property, and responding to victims. The legitimacy of and public trust in law enforcement agents is key to addressing any form of crime.

UNODC’s second corruption survey in Nigeria of 2019 suggests that the institutions of the criminal justice system, including the police, prosecutors and the courts, are more affected by bribery than other institutions of government. Moreover, law enforcement and security agencies have repeatedly been accused of human rights violations, and in 2020 there were sustained national demonstrations calling for the dismantling of the Special Armed Robbery Squad (SARS). A judicial enquiry resulted in remedies for some of the victims of abuse by SARS personnel in many states and succeeded in placing police reform high on the government’s agenda.

Women remain grossly underrepresented across the criminal justice system, with the imbalance being the most profound in the police, where less than 10 per cent of officers are female. This is of particular concern in the light of a 2020 UNODC report on gender and corruption in Nigeria, which found that female public officials have proven to be less frequently engaged in bribe-seeking behaviour than their male colleagues.

Overall effectiveness of the criminal justice system is also a serious concern. The Nigeria Police Force is ill-equipped, poorly motivated, insufficiently trained and often unresponsive. Evidence collection and storage as well as forensic capabilities are underdeveloped, with investigations still predominantly based on confessional or witness statements.

OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Support criminal justice reform, including through enhancing integrity, accountability, human rights compliance, professionalism and responsiveness as well as gender parity.
- Improve the capacity in particular of the police to carry out effective investigations and to collect, store, retrieve, forensically analyse and present evidence for prosecution.
- Support the institutions of the criminal justice system to develop and utilize technological solutions for improved dispensation of justice.
- Sensitise right holders on their right to receive a fair, transparent, and effective treatment from the criminal justice system.

1.2 ENHANCED ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

It is paramount to fully safeguard the rights of alleged and sentenced offenders and ensure their humane treatment during and after criminal proceedings, and to protect and assist victims affected by crime, while also ensuring that the rights and needs of particular groups are respected and prioritized to achieve equity in access to services and substantive equality.
Between 2016 and 2019, the level of satisfaction with the formal justice system increased from 54.6 per cent to 59.3 per cent, while the level of dissatisfaction decreased from 30.4 per cent to 22.5 per cent. Major concerns regarding access to criminal justice, however, continue to persist. For example, pretrial detainees account for more than 70 per cent of the prison population in Nigeria – for women, the percentage of detainees awaiting trial is as high as 79 per cent. Delays in the administration of justice are due to limited capacity of the law enforcement agencies to carry out efficient investigations and prosecution, absence of witnesses to testify in criminal trials, non-attendance of accused persons in court due to transportation challenges on the part of the custodial centres, and absence of adequate legal support and representation coupled with long adjournments of cases.

Moreover, women, children, people living in poverty, and other groups who face specific challenges and intersecting forms of discrimination that make them more vulnerable to abuse and human rights violations, lack the support, familiarity or access to resources that would allow them to fully exercise their rights in criminal justice processes, whether as victims or alleged offenders. Gender-responsive approaches, and special emphasis on assistance to women and vulnerable groups, are priorities for effective criminal justice reform.

Reliable and affordable access to legal defence and assistance, including provision of free of charge legal aid services to those who lack the means to pay or where the interests of justice so require, is critical. Access to legal defence and assistance ensures the protection of human rights, provides defence against discriminatory traditions and laws, and ensures adequate compensation for bodily and psychological harm suffered as well as for the violation of other rights.

**OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:**

- Enhance access to legal defence and assistance for groups with vulnerabilities, such as pre-trial detainees, women and children, and victims of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Strengthen specialized child justice systems to ensure that children are better served and protected throughout the administration of justice.

### 1.3 WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTED FROM SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), abuse and harassment of women and girls is prevalent across Nigeria. According to the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health survey, 31 per cent of women aged 15-49 reported to have experienced physical violence and 9 per cent to have experienced sexual violence; 6 per cent of women have reportedly experienced physical violence during pregnancy.

The UN Secretary General’s Report on Conflict Related Sexual Violence of 2021 indicates that women and children living in
areas directly or indirectly affected by armed conflict are particularly vulnerable to different forms of age- and gender-specific exploitation. For Nigeria, the report highlighted that conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) has been alarming in the northeast of the country, primarily committed by members of Boko Haram.

Of the many common forms of gender-based violence in Nigeria, intimate partner violence and child marriage are of particular concern. The Nigerian Federal Ministry of Women Affairs estimated in 2015 that nationwide 6 million girls were married by age 15 and 36 million girls were married by age 18. Child marriage is more prevalent in the northwest and northeast regions, where 48 per cent of girls were married by age 15 and 78 per cent were married by age 18. Northern Nigeria has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, with an estimated 65 per cent of children below the age of 18 being married.

While addressing issues of sexual and gender-based violence, including in connection with conflict, has been a priority for the Nigerian government, the justice arm of the response has been the weakest.

OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Improve capacities related to data collection, research and analysis on prevalence of discriminatory gender and social norms, sexual and gender-based violence and links with organized crime, terrorism and trafficking in persons.
- Strengthen existing legal and policy frameworks relevant to the prevention and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Build capacity of the criminal justice system on prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence.

1.4 IMPROVED WELFARE, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF PRISONERS

As the United Nations System Common Position on Incarceration of 2021 highlights, overcrowding, poor conditions and the serious neglect of prison services are causing prisons to be a weak link in criminal justice systems and a low priority in reform efforts. The consequences for public safety, health and human rights, as well as the financial and socioeconomic costs resulting from these deficiencies, are immense.

In Nigeria, many prisons house potentially vulnerable persons, particularly youth, at risk of transitioning into more serious forms of crime, including violent extremism. Various mounting security challenges put additional pressure on correctional facilities and their ability to effectively rehabilitate prisoners, and to ensure equitable access to educational, vocational, recreational and psycho-social support services.

Hundreds of women and children who have been recruited and exploited by terrorist groups are currently either in detention or state care. The absolute majority of these will require help in rehabilitating and reintegrating into society. Moreover, even the most fundamental needs of female prisoners are not fully met and reflected in prison management and operations.

In addition, increased public safety can be achieved together with safeguarding the humane treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders by rationalizing sentencing policies, promoting alternatives to imprisonment where suitable, processing cases efficiently and providing post-release support.

OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Strengthen the capacity of the Nigerian Correctional Service to provide safe, secure, humane and gender-sensitive custody, and to promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of people in detention.
- Promote restorative justice and non-custodial measures.
- Strengthen child-sensitive approaches to the treatment of boys and girls in conflict with the law.
PRIORITY AREA 2:

SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE, INSTITUTIONS AND THE ECONOMY FROM CORRUPTION AND ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

As the United Nations Common Position to Address Global Corruption stressed, corruption and the looting and laundering of staggering amounts of assets undermine the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and have a negative impact on peace, stability, security, the rule of law, gender equality, the environment, and human rights. Corruption also contributes to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism.

In Nigeria, corruption continues to constitute a major stumbling block to the country’s development aspirations. While successive governments over the past two decades have built a formidable legal and institutional anti-corruption framework, as well as created the operational capacities to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption cases, these achievements have only very gradually started to translate into reduced levels of corruption.

The country reviews of Nigeria under the UN Convention against Corruption identified a number of challenges and recommendations with regard to the legal, institutional and operational frameworks to address corruption. Gaps were identified in areas such as prosecution and sanctioning of corruption, the freezing, seizure and confiscation of assets, as well as witness and whistle-blower protection and institutional arrangements to combat corruption and cooperate internationally. Support for anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria will continue to build on the outcomes of the review mechanism to assist the country in effectively implementing the Convention and to address identified technical assistance needs.

Besides corruption, illicit financial flows (IFFs) are reducing Nigeria’s resources, depleting valuable resources and revenue and threatening opportunities for trade, output and growth. Moreover, IFFs are linked to criminal activities that contribute to fragility. In 2015, the Report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa estimated Nigeria’s losses to IFFs at between 15 and 18 billion dollars every year.

In line with Investment Area 4 of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, the second Priority Area of UNODC Nigeria consists of safeguarding people, institutions and the economy from corruption and illicit financial flows. This Priority Area aligns especially with the UNSDCF for Nigeria Output 4.2.3: Strengthened systems, institutions, and capacities, including civil society, for enhancing good governance.

2.1 INCREASED INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF NIGERIAN INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

UNODC’s second corruption survey in Nigeria of 2019 found that 30 per cent out of those Nigerian citizens who had at least one
contact with a public official in the 12 months prior to the survey paid a bribe to or were asked to pay a bribe by a public official.\textsuperscript{20}

While this represented a slight improvement in comparison to the prevalence of bribery established in 2016, the overall level of corruption remains high and is deeply affecting the economy, access to public services, and the relationship between Nigerians and the state. It is estimated that some 117 million bribes are paid in Nigeria on a yearly basis.

Attitudes towards bribery continue to improve and increasingly citizens, especially the youth, find corruption unacceptable. However, these attitudinal changes seem only to some extent to translate into behavioural changes. While there was a marked increase in persons refusing to pay a bribe on at least one occasion during the 12 months prior to the survey – from 16 per cent in 2016 to 19 per cent in 2019 – Nigerians remain reluctant to report such incidents (only 3.6 per cent of all persons who paid a bribe or were asked to do so went on to report the incident).

The only area of citizen-public sector interaction in which bribery and other corrupt practices seem to have significantly increased is in public sector recruitment. Here, in 2019, 32 per cent of all successful applicants for a public sector position indicated that they had paid a bribe to secure their job, as opposed to only 16 per cent in 2016.

Another critical area that requires attention is that of elections. In 2019, 21 per cent of the adult population of Nigeria reported that in the last national or state election they were personally offered money or a favour in exchange for their vote.

**OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:**

- Promote effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

- Increase active participation and representation of all sectors of society in preventing and countering corruption, in particular women and youth groups, community-based institutions, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and the media, as well as state governments.

- Enhance capacities for corruption-related research and innovation, while fostering the adoption of a gender-sensitive and socially inclusive perspective, in support of improved evidence-based anti-corruption interventions.

### 2.2 ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO RECOVER AND RETURN STOLEN ASSETS AND TO PROTECT THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM FROM ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

Tackling illicit financial flows has been a challenge in Nigeria. According to the UNCTAD Economic Development in Africa Report 2020, notable progress has however been made through improved financial institutions and enhanced supervision.\textsuperscript{21} Deficiencies remain in countering the financing of terrorism, investigating suspicious transaction reports, freezing funds or other property and effectively prosecuting the financing of terrorism.

Moreover, while Nigeria has been leading globally the effort to trace, freeze, recover and return stolen assets internationally, as well as to conduct successfully financial investigations, seize and confiscate assets domestically, there remains a considerable gap between the estimated scope of proceeds of corruption and other forms of organized and economic crimes and the amounts being successfully recovered.

Challenges also persist when it comes to cost-effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets, and while new legislation has been developed and is pending adoption, it is unlikely to resolve all practical complexities and gaps in terms of the skill sets and tools as well as the ability to transparently account for seized and disposed assets and the respective profits realized through their sale.

**OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:**

- Strengthen information systems to better understand, estimate and develop responses to address illicit financial flows.

- Scale up efforts to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute money laundering and illicit financial flows.

- Strengthen stolen asset recovery, management and disposal.

- Facilitate cooperation between Nigeria and other countries in the recovery of the proceeds of crime.
Nigeria faces multiple challenges posed by various terrorist and violent extremist groups with devastating human costs, in terms of lives lost or permanently altered, internally displaced persons, and immensely negative consequences for economic and social development. In addition, a multidimensional and quickly deteriorating security crisis has developed, including banditry, escalating farmer-herder clashes, kidnappings and a renewed increase of political violence by separatist movements.

In line with Investment Area 2 with a particular focus on sub area 2.1 of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, the third Priority Area of UNODC Nigeria focuses on securing the safety of people from terrorism and violent extremism. This Priority Area goes hand in hand with the UNSDCF for Nigeria Output 4.1.2: Strengthened security sector institutions to reduce insecurity in Nigeria and promote solutions to cross-border threats and challenges.

3.1 PEOPLE PROTECTED FROM TERRORISM

The terrorist insurgency in the northeast of Nigeria has displaced almost 2.6 million people, creating an ongoing humanitarian emergency that continues to obstruct both national and international attempts to rebuild and develop communities in the region. Since the start of the conflict in 2009, more than 36,000 people have been killed in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States – almost half of them civilians. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that in 2021, 1.7 million people were still internally displaced. Tens of thousands of children have been turned into orphans or simply been abandoned. There are thousands of victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Many require psycho-social support, economic empowerment and social protection as well as access to legal assistance to help them rebuild their lives. The Nigerian Government has detained thousands of people in connection with terrorism violence, putting significant strain on the criminal justice system to bring these individuals to justice and ensure accountability for the victims of terrorism violence.

Furthermore, an increasing digital space is providing opportunities for radicalization, recruitment and training by terrorists. Transitioning into violent extremism is often a journey marked by marginalization, lack of opportunities and grievances with the state. Terrorist groups often seek to exploit and recruit the more socioeconomically vulnerable. With 43.3 per cent of Nigeria’s population under 14 years of age, children and youth are targeted and especially vulnerable.

OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Strengthen effective, accountable and human rights-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism.
- Support increased regional and international cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism.
- Promote initiatives to support the victims of terrorism, in particular women and children recruited and exploited by terrorist organizations.
- Raise awareness of the gender aspects of countering terrorism and promote the greater involvement of women in the national security arena.
- Support the screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons associated with terrorist groups.
3.2 VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND CRIME PREVENTED AND COUNTERED

In addition to the terrorist insurgency, a multidimensional and escalating security crisis has developed across all geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

The so-called farmer-herder conflict has escalated significantly since the beginning of 2018, heightening instability and criminal activity in the country. It is fundamentally a contest over land use, exacerbated by conflict entrepreneurs and criminal gangs seeking to take advantage of the insecurity. Over time, the conflict has, however, also taken on dangerous religious and ethnic dimensions because most of the herders are from the traditionally nomadic and Muslim Fulani, who make up about 90 per cent of Nigeria’s pastoralists, while most of the farmers are Christians of various ethnicities. The unrest has claimed an estimated 10,000 lives in the past decade and 300,000 people were reportedly displaced by the unrest between the end of 2017 and June 2018 alone.\(^{24}\)

Another aspect of Nigeria’s deteriorating security situation is kidnapping for ransom, which has been a crime of serious concern in the country for more than a decade. The current pattern of mass abductions of school children, in particular in the north of the country, is however new and unique in its complexities and attributes as well as in its devastating effects on children, parents and teachers alike. Girls are disproportionately affected as parents are typically more concerned about their safety while their education is less of a priority. As a result, their schools are more likely to be shut down, take longer to reopen and school closures are more likely to end the girl child’s formal education prematurely.

**OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:**

- Develop effective, holistic and evidence-based interventions to prevent the emergence of violent extremism.
- Scale up support to community-based and youth crime prevention and enhance resilience to violence and crime.
According to ENACT’s Global Organized Crime Index 2021, Nigeria is the fifth highest-scoring country for criminality globally. Transnational organized crime constitutes a multidimensional threat to Nigeria’s people, economy and environment. Over the past two decades, Nigerian transnational organized crime has evolved structurally, grown more sophisticated and become both more violent and better organized.

Spanning across Investment Areas 2 and 3 of UNODC’s Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, the fourth Priority Area of UNODC Nigeria’s engagement focuses on the protection of Nigeria’s people, the economy and the environment against organized crime. This Priority Area addresses a wide range of UNSDCF for Nigeria Outputs, in particular, 4.1.2: Strengthened security sector institutions to reduce insecurity in Nigeria and promote solutions to cross-border threats and challenges; 4.1.3: Strengthened institutions and systems to better protect people, environment, and the economy from crime, including organized crime; as well as, 4.2.2: Capacities strengthened to protect women and children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence.

4.1 ENHANCED COORDINATION IN COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

Transnational organized crime affects Nigeria’s people and economy. Its evolution has been facilitated by a constantly growing pool of unemployed young men, a large and geographically widely distributed diaspora, porous borders, Nigeria’s growing integration with global supply chains and shipping routes, a largely uncontrolled inflow of small arms and light weapons, and a weak criminal justice system as well as widespread corruption that has both hindered the effectiveness of countermeasures and continued to delegitimize the political elites, the state and its institutions.

While Nigeria over the past decades has created a legal framework, established specialized law enforcement agencies, and gradually developed investigative and prosecutorial capacities as well as international cooperation arrangements to counter various forms of transnational organized crime, the present approach suffers from institutional fragmentation and weak domestic coordination.

Nigeria is party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols. As such, Nigeria is currently reviewing its legal, institutional and operational frameworks to fight transnational organized crime.

Together with ongoing work to assess the transnational organized crime threats to Nigeria, this review will provide a significant opportunity to identify strengths and weaknesses of the current system and support Nigeria in further developing a more integrated and effective response to transnational organized crime affecting people, the economy and the environment.

OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Support data collection, analysis and research for a deeper understanding of transnational organized crime, its actors, markets, trends, and implications for women, youth and the most vulnerable, including for the realization of their human rights.
- Strengthen the legal, institutional and operational capacities as well as domestic and international cooperation in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- Strengthen the inclusion of civil society in efforts to tackle organized crime in Nigeria.

4.2 NIGERIA PROTECTED FROM PIRACY AND OTHER MARITIME CRIME

Nigeria has a legacy of piracy, armed robbery and armed criminality at sea. From politically motivated early militant groups staging attacks against oil and gas infrastructure to modern-day criminal groups taking foreign crew members for ransom from international vessels transiting deep off the West African coast, piracy and maritime criminality have proven to be elusive to the many efforts to counter them.
As the UNODC report Pirates of the Niger Delta shows, since the end of 2015, the focus of piracy activities in Nigeria and across the Gulf of Guinea has shifted from pirate groups targeting vessels to steal oil cargo (petro-piracy) to kidnap-for-ransom piracy, with abductions increasing from 70 in 2015 to 103 in 2016, 110 in 2017, 162 in 2018, 169 in 2019, and 167 in 2020. In addition, pirate attacks have increasingly taken place outside of Nigerian waters, meaning Niger-Delta based criminal groups have adapted and expanded their range further offshore.

Various enabling factors make combatting piracy and other maritime crime difficult. First, a small number of arrests, investigations, prosecutions and convictions for the suspects involved in piracy and other maritime crime in Nigeria is giving the appearance of impunity for pirates and may serve as a motivating factor for would-be pirates who see vast opportunity with little risk. Furthermore, although the adoption of a standalone piracy law in 2019 was an important step, so far there has been only one successful prosecution under this new legislation. Second, alleged connections between pirates and high-level actors in powerful political positions are possibly established through secretive partnerships in illicit economies. Third, the Niger Delta has a long history of socioeconomic underdevelopment and environmental degradation. This very juxtaposition was a major motivating factor for early militant groups, such as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta and the Niger Delta Avengers. Many socioeconomic conditions are largely unchanged despite purported efforts to prioritize the development of coastal communities.

**OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:**

- Promote and support the development and implementation of relevant national maritime security strategies and policies.
- Support state authorities and the criminal justice system in addressing the root causes of maritime crime through community-based approaches.
- Strengthen the criminal justice response to maritime crime.
- Strengthen international cooperation against maritime crime.
- Improve Maritime Domain Awareness by leveraging new technologies and innovative approaches.
- Promote research to deepen the understanding of maritime crime and related phenomena.

### 4.3 NIGERIA’S ENVIRONMENT PROTECTED FROM CRIME

Nigeria has emerged as a key source, destination and transit country for the international illegal wildlife trade over the last decade. Forest crime, and the corruption facilitating it, is depriving Nigeria of a significant source of revenue, threatening forest-resource dependent communities, contributing to climate change, and perpetuating the cycle of poverty and social vulnerability. The value chain for forest products is vulnerable to exploitation by criminal groups and corrupt actors, and risks include fraud, forged licenses and permits, bribery, extortion, land grabbing and other economic crimes.

UNODC’s World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 found that the most criminally significant and likely most lucrative illegal forest crime trade that Nigeria is involved in is the illegal rosewood trade. Fifty-eight per cent of rosewood coming from West African countries in 2017 came from Nigeria, an increase of one-third from the previous year. The trafficking and illicit trade of wild fauna and marine species and waste trafficking contribute to a significant loss in biodiversity, limit opportunities for income generation (from tourism and sustainable use), prompt insecurity and instability, and potentially compromise public health.

In 2019 alone, at least 51 tons of pangolin scales seized globally originated from Nigerian ports, compared to only 2 tons in 2015. More than half of all seizures of pangolin scales worldwide could be traced back to Nigeria in 2019. As the UNODC report on pangolin scales highlights, Nigeria serves as the primary point of export of pangolin shipments worldwide and acts as one of the most popular transit countries and logistical hubs for pangolin and wildlife trafficking more generally. Data suggests, for instance, that Nigeria is playing an increasing role in the illicit ivory trade. Despite a global decline in trafficking in ivory since 2011, Nigeria has been identified in a growing number of incidents as part of the illegal trade chain.

Illicit trafficking in minerals and precious metals and illegal mining are further threats to Nigeria’s environment and growing sources of profits for transnational organized criminal groups. In the northern states of the country, an estimated 80 per cent of mining is reportedly carried out illegally by clandestine organizations and criminal syndicate groups, often involving women, girls and minors as labourers and carriers of illegally extracted gold.
OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Promote and support the implementation of the National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime, including through research and data collection as well as the establishment and support of multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Strengthen the legal framework and capacities to prevent, detect, interdict, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate wildlife and forest crimes, crimes in the fisheries sector, as well as other crimes which may affect the environment.
- Promote efforts to combat illegal mining and the trafficking of precious metals.
- Enhance research and data collection and analysis on the nexus between climate change, the environment and crimes that affect the environment.

4.4 PEOPLE PROTECTED FROM TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

Despite considerable efforts in recent years, trafficking in persons (TIP) and smuggling of migrants (SOM) in, from, through and to Nigeria remain topics of concern for the country, and for transit and destination countries. High levels of unemployment, poverty, corruption, climate change and violence further contribute as push factors to these phenomena. These factors place Nigerians, especially women and girls, and people with disability, at a disproportionate level of vulnerability to trafficking by organized criminals and to abuse in the context of migrant smuggling.

The weak law enforcement response remains one of the main obstacles to efficiently tackle TIP and SOM. Between 2017 and 2019, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) detected 4,215 trafficked victims in the country. Over these three years, NAPTIP recorded 2,165 persons suspected of or arrested for trafficking in persons. But the number of successfully prosecuted cases remains low, at only 101. The gap between the prosecution and conviction signals the need to better align law enforcement practices with criminal justice responses and to ensure more targeted and effective prosecution.

Furthermore, the criminal justice response to Nigerian trafficking and smuggling networks operating outside Nigeria also remains insufficient, in particular in the wider ECOWAS sub-region, North Africa and the European Union (EU). Published in October 2020, the EU’s third report on the fight against trafficking in persons indicates that Nigeria is the most represented nationality of non-EU victims registered in the 27 EU countries. In 2017 and 2018, 3,112 Nigerian victims were detected in the EU, accounting for over 20 per cent of the total number of trafficking victims detected in the EU during that period, most of them female (nine out of 10 Nigerian victims were women or girls) trafficked for sexual exploitation (68 per cent of Nigerian victims in the EU). However, the conviction rate of Nigerian traffickers in the EU remains much lower than the prosecution rate and the number of identified victims of suspected Nigerian traffickers. In 2017 and 2018, Nigeria ranked first among non-EU suspects of trafficking in persons, with 1,096 suspects (close to 10 per cent of total number of suspects). Out of them, 324 were facing prosecution charges but only 60 had been convicted. The low conviction rate reflects inefficiency in the adopted investigation and prosecution techniques, which calls for a more in-depth analysis of the traffickers’ profiles and modus operandi, as well as more effective measures for victims’ participation in prosecutions while ensuring their access to trafficking victims’ rights.

UNODC’s Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants of 2018 found that in 2016 and 2017, Nigerians represented the highest share of smuggled migrants arriving in Italy by the Central Mediterranean Route. The number of Nigerian smuggled
migrants arriving to Italy significantly decreased since 2018 – following the entry into force of bilateral border control agreements between Italy and Libya. Insufficient data prevents us from knowing whether the decrease in smuggler-facilitated sea arrivals in the EU of Nigerians is due to a diversion of smuggling flows to other regions. Nigerians travelling irregularly through North Africa and across the Mediterranean are also more likely than other nationalities to engage more sophisticated smuggling networks and are highly vulnerable to trafficking in persons in the mixed migration context.

Sufficient reliable data and information on the emerging trends and patterns of TIP and SOM are key for the Nigerian government – in particular its specialized agencies NAPTIP and the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) – to formulate relevant evidence-based policies and thus to better prevent TIP/SOM and related abuses and crimes, and to better inform the Nigerian population on TIP and SOM.

**OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:**

- Promote and support the implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking and other relevant policies.
- Strengthen the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, with a specific focus on intelligence-led investigations.
- Strengthen the prevention of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
- Increase international cooperation with transit and destination countries.
- Promote research and build knowledge of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

**4.5 PEOPLE PROTECTED FROM THE HARMs OF FIREARMS**

Firearm-related violence in Nigeria involves the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons imported illegally, trafficked illegally or manufactured by local artisans. Terrorism and the farmer-herder conflict drive the demand for illicit arms further. The effects of the proliferation of firearms weaken rule of law and reduce authorities’ ability to manage both national stocks and confiscated firearms, as well as their capacity to enforce regulations, thereby contributing to the illicit supply of firearms. The UNODC Global Study on Firearms Trafficking reveals significant numbers of seized arms in Africa linked to trafficking – despite underreporting of certain types of firearms.

In contrast to some other countries in the region, Nigeria has a long history of codified weapons management policies and practices upon which to draw, particularly within its armed forces, and has significant experience in collecting, seizing and destroying illicit weapons and ammunition in the Niger Delta and elsewhere. However, a weapons and ammunition management assessment of Nigeria conducted in 2020 by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research identified key areas for needed support in the country, including updating the national legal framework, strengthening transfer controls, weapons marking and record keeping as well as the processing of seized weapons. In addition, it is important to work with local communities on preventive and awareness-raising measures.

**OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:**

- Intensify efforts against illicit firearms trafficking.
- Strengthen the legal framework on firearms and enhance capacities in firearms identification, detection and seizures, and related investigations and prosecutions.
- Enhance awareness of illicit firearm trafficking and strengthen its evidence-base to monitor illicit trafficking flows and their criminal context in Nigeria.

**4.6 CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO DRUG PRODUCTION AND DRUG TRAFFICKING STRENGTHENED**

The World Bank identifies drug trafficking as one of the most significant risks to peacebuilding in post-conflict, conflict and fragile states, underlining the need for strengthened countermeasures to contribute to peace and security. Moreover, for West Africa – including Nigeria – evidence suggests that the proceeds of drug trafficking contribute to financing insurgent and extremist groups, underscoring the need to strengthen the judicial response.
UNODC’s World Drug Report 2020 suggests that the production capacity of the clandestine methamphetamine manufacturing facilities detected in Nigeria has been on the rise in recent years, which in turn shows that Nigeria is increasingly a production and origin country. Other research indicates that Nigerian syndicates still control most of the meth production and upper-level distribution in Southern and East Africa and are able to shift large quantities of their own “Mexican” meth (allegedly originating from laboratories affiliated with Mexican cartels) from West African sources into local South African markets as well as to markets further afield, creating a strong and competitive supply chain.

Also worrisome is cocaine trafficking from Latin America to Europe via West Africa, a phenomenon that started emerging in the beginning of the 2000s. The trend has since continued, becoming a major problem in the region. In addition, sizable quantities of opioids have also been seized in Nigeria.

Cannabis is cultivated and produced in Nigeria on a significant scale for both domestic consumption and export. While, like in many other countries, it constitutes the most widely consumed illicit drug, the UNODC-supported Drug Use Survey in Nigeria (2018) also showed that, unlike elsewhere, in Nigeria a third of the cannabis users indicated that they felt the need for counselling and/or treatment in order to overcome their drug use disorder.

Consumption and trafficking of pharmaceutical opioids has also reached an alarming state. The scale is reflected in the amount of tramadol seized in Nigeria between 2016 and 2017, almost doubling from 53 tons to more than 92 tons, as UNODC research on the trafficking of pharmaceutical opioids highlights. Controls of pharmacies are poor, partly owing to underfunded health monitoring systems, despite initiatives to better regulate the legal distribution sector.

The production of drugs and pharmaceutical products in clandestine labs is also not a new phenomenon. The control of national supply chains remains poor, and despite the multitude of regulatory systems strengthening initiatives in the region, a number of challenges remain, including the increasing circulation of falsely labelled medical products.

**OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:**

- Support the criminal justice response to drug production and trafficking and related organized crime.
- Enhance the institutional capacities for international and cross-border cooperation.
- Support research on drug cultivation, manufacturing and trafficking, as well as on trafficking and use of falsified medical products.
PRIORITY AREA 5.

PROMOTING PEOPLE’S HEALTH THROUGH DRUG AND HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

Nigeria’s response to issues of drug control has long emphasized supply reduction through law enforcement. The primary aim was to stop the flow of drugs being trafficked by Latin American cartels and Nigerian organized crime groups from South America through West Africa to Europe. As a result, the growing drug use epidemic remained hidden and largely unnoticed, until the phenomenon started to affect people across the entire socioeconomic spectrum, in all geopolitical zones and in both urban and rural areas.43

Furthermore, limited policies, strategies and programmes aimed at HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use and inject drugs – and those in prison settings – are hindering Nigeria’s efforts towards ending the AIDS epidemic.

In line with the National Drug Control Master Plan 2021-2025, developed with the support of UNODC, we stand ready to assist Nigerian authorities in their efforts to improve access to and appropriate use of controlled medicines for medical and scientific purposes.

UNODC is also supporting the government of Nigeria in implementing drug prevention, treatment and care policies that are based on sound research and evidence, and which are inclusive, gender-sensitive and human-rights compliant.

Building on Investment Area 1 of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, the fifth Priority Area of UNODC Nigeria’s engagement lies in the promotion of people’s health through balanced drug treatment, rehabilitation and drug use prevention capacities as well as in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs and those in prison settings. To achieve these objectives, UNODC will work collaboratively with other UN agencies that seek to improve access to inclusive, high-quality and comprehensive health services in Nigeria. As such, the fifth Priority Area contributes especially to the UNSDCF for Nigeria Output 3.1.2: Essential preventive, treatment care, health security and support services systems strengthened to address priority diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB Malaria, Hepatitis), gender-based violence, sexual reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, adolescent, older persons, for people who use drugs and people in prison settings’ health and nutrition (RMNCAH +N), emerging epidemics/pandemics, and non-communicable diseases.

5.1 STRENGTHENED DRUG USE PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

The UNODC-supported Drug Use Survey in Nigeria revealed a drug use prevalence of 14.4 per cent in Nigerians aged between 15 and 64 years, which is almost three times the global drug use prevalence of 5.5 per cent. Drug use was most common among those between the ages of 25 and 39 years. The survey also found that a total of almost 3 million persons were suffering from some form of drug use disorder.46

Although significant efforts have been undertaken by the Nigerian government in response, the overall trend points towards an increase in the number of people who use drugs and thus people with a drug use disorder who are in need of drug counselling and/or treatment. Deteriorating socioeconomic conditions, high unemployment – in particular among the youth – the youth bulge and a high percentage of out-of-school children, as well as most recently the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the relative ease of accessibility, are all factors potentially pushing an increasing number of people into using drugs.

While the government, both at federal and state levels, as well as NGOs, including with the support of the EU and UNODC, have gradually increased drug treatment and counselling capacities, access remains a challenge, in particular for women and girls. While women and girls make up 25 per cent of the drug user population, they only constitute 5 per cent of drug users in treatment. Moreover, 40 per cent of drug users indicated in the
drug user survey that they could not access drug treatment facilities in the past despite the desire to do so. Poor access to treatment is further compounded by the presence of a host of counselling and treatment offers that are neither evidence based nor comply with internationally accepted quality standards.

Other UNODC research on the prevalence of drug use among internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants and out-of-school youth also revealed important statistics. For example, the study on IDPs found that 25.4 per cent were using different categories of drugs and 4.5 per cent were suffering from drug use disorder. The study on migrants reported a 61.3 per centage of drug use in people during the migration phase.

Further research supported by UNODC analyses consumption levels, formulations and the spread of medicinal opioids, psychotropic substances and precursors for medicinal and scientific use in Nigeria, thereby providing the data that is necessary to regulate and assure availability of these drugs.

In line with a truly balanced, comprehensive, integrated, evidenced-based, human-rights based, development-oriented and sustainable approach to drug demand and supply reduction, as outlined in the United Nations System Common Position Supporting the Implementation of the International Drug Control Policy, UNODC aims to complement its above mentioned efforts to strengthen Nigeria’s criminal justice response to drug production and trafficking (see 4.6) by enhancing drug use prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation.

OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Promote and support the implementation of the National Drug Control Master Plan, including through multi-stakeholder platforms and other cooperation arrangements for improved drug demand reduction.
- Expand drug prevention programmes and activities, in particular into schools, communities and workplaces.
- Support the increase of coverage and quality of gender-sensitive, human rights- and evidence-based drug prevention, treatment and care services.
- Strengthen quality control and assurance on drug treatments.
- Promote alternatives to punishment and conviction for people with minor drug-related issues with the criminal justice system.
- Build youth resilience to drug use, engage youth in drug prevention initiatives and include their perspectives in drug policy making.
- Strengthen capacities in data collection, research and analysis for improved drug control.

5.2 STRENGTHENED HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

In 2019, UNAIDS estimated that there were 1.9 million people living with HIV in Nigeria. The prevalence of HIV is particularly high for people who inject drugs (PWID) and those living in detention and other closed settings.

The UNODC-supported Drug Use Survey in Nigeria revealed that the self-reported HIV prevalence among PWID was 9.2 per cent in 2017, while a trend analysis of HIV prevalence among the group showed a significant increase from 3.4 per cent in 2014 to 11 per cent in 2020. With a HIV national prevalence of 1.3 per cent, PWID are more than eight times more likely to be living with HIV compared to the general population.

For people in prisons, the National Situation and Needs Assessment of HIV and AIDS, Drug Use and Related Health Services in Nigerian Prisons, conducted in 2018 with the support of UNODC, showed that the HIV prevalence was 2.8 per cent, double the prevalence among the general population (1.4 per cent). Moreover, the prevalence among females (6.9 per cent) was higher than among males (2.7 per cent).

The situation and needs assessment furthermore showed that about one in two persons and one in 20 persons had a lifetime history of use of cannabis and non-medical use of opioids, respectively. The estimated proportion of PWID in prisons was about 3 per cent and about 2 per cent of respondents reported initiating injecting drug use in prison. Injecting drug use in prison was higher than the reported prevalence among the general population of less than 1 per cent.

Less than 66 per cent of the respondents reported the availability of HIV testing, hepatitis prevention and treatment, sexual and reproductive health services. Moreover, only 37 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the quality of services received at the prison health facility.

Implementing prevention interventions in prison settings as well as improving the availability and quality of health services are crucial to ensure that people in prison are included in the national HIV response.

OUR STRATEGIC ACTION:

- Support increased and uninterrupted access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services for people who use drugs and people in detention and other closed settings.
To fulfil the ambitions of this Vision, we are committing to a deeper role as facilitator, convener and connector of partners and networks. Partnerships will be expanded to develop innovative and multi-stakeholder responses to organized crime, terrorism and corruption, orientated towards comprehensive and improved conflict management and violence prevention. We will work closely with other development partners, the African Union, ECOWAS, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and the United Nations System in Nigeria to promote peace and security and to support through the implementation of this Strategic Vision the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Nigeria.

In support of the UN Development System reform and as part of the UN Country Team in Nigeria, we will deliver more of our work through joint UN programmes and through a coherent system-wide approach in direct support of Nigeria’s development goals.

We will collaborate with Nigeria’s private sector and diaspora, which can play catalytic roles in supporting this Vision’s goals. Partnerships with civil society and academia will also be crucial in developing the multi-stakeholder engagement needed, as well as for bringing increased transparency, accountability and inclusion to programme design and delivery. We will intensify our collaboration with key influencers to prevent violence and corruption and to reduce stigma and discrimination.

Finally, we will strengthen, diversify and intensify partnerships with our donor base to address the many and complex global challenges relating to drugs and transnational organized crime in Nigeria, with a view to securing more funding to implement activities in support of this Vision and our ambitions.

We will leverage the perspectives of all genders and identify new opportunities and responses that place Nigerian women at the heart of our interventions. We will continue focusing our research efforts on understanding the gendered forms of crime and the impact crime has on women and girls.

Women are uniquely positioned to be agents of change, but their potential to help solve issues and innovate is not sufficiently utilized. New opportunities will be identified to engage further with Nigerian women and to place Nigerian women at the heart of this investment to achieve transformative change.

We will work harder to reduce the exclusion of women and girls in the criminal justice system, particularly as professionals in the field of law enforcement, as well as for victims and perpetrators. In recognition of the pivotal role that women play in violence prevention, conflict resolution and sustaining peace, new opportunities will be created that promote women’s participation and leadership and enhance their access to justice. We will partner with women’s civil society organizations and communities and support grassroots efforts to empower women and girls to challenge gender discrimination and actively contribute to societal and institutional change and reform.

We will support Nigeria in enhancing the capacities of its criminal justice system to combat violence against women and girls, challenge stereotypes, gender discrimination and cultural bias, and enable increased access to justice for women and girls and to health services for women and girls in custody.
YOUTH INCLUSION, PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Empowering children and youth as key agents of transformative change is a cornerstone of how Nigeria can fulfil the ambitions of this Vision. We will support the development of strategies and policies that build on, and are informed by, young people’s views, integrating dimensions that advance human rights, equity, equality, tolerance and respect and more effectively challenge harmful sociocultural norms and stereotypes linked to crime, including gender-based violence. Such approaches will also empower women, girls, and other groups that are subject to discrimination and exclusion to speak up and, in parallel, empower men and boys to abandon harmful stereotypes and embrace respectful, healthy relationships.

In fragile, conflict and post-conflict contexts, empowering and involving youth as agents of change in efforts to promote rule of law and to prevent crime, terrorism and corruption can build collective and individual resilience, safe, just and inclusive societies, and help alleviate the causes of violent conflict.

We will support Nigeria to build responses that include the perspectives of youth in drug policy making and increase their participation and inclusion in preventing and countering organized crime, terrorism and corruption. We will partner more closely with youth-led grassroots organizations, youth diaspora organizations and youth-focused volunteer organizations, including the UN Volunteer Programme and the AU Youth Volunteer Programme.

Fostering stronger connections with Nigeria’s youth will enable us to better understand their challenges. We commit to a decade of programming that will target, involve and empower children and youth, particularly those with disabilities, the most vulnerable and at-risk, and those more likely to face exclusion and discrimination.

PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE

We will strengthen capacities at all levels to predict, pre-empt and prevent threats related to drugs, (organized) crime, terrorism and corruption. We will scale up our support to Nigeria’s prevention capacities in order to address the drivers of threats related to drugs, transnational organized crime, terrorism, corruption and money laundering. We recognize that effective prevention requires multisectoral responses at the individual, community and society levels.

Evidence-based prevention strategies at national and regional levels will be scaled up to support and build the resilience of communities, institutions, and at-risk and vulnerable groups. Increased collaboration between law enforcement and other government entities and justice actors with community- and faith-based organizations and key influencers (such as families, children, youth and sub-groups and their religious, traditional and indigenous leaders) will be a priority, alongside continued engagement with the education and youth sector, including schools, academic institutions and the media.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

We will identify more effective solutions and implement innovative approaches to contribute to Nigeria’s resilience to, and safety from, threats relating to drugs, crime, violence, terrorism, corruption and money laundering.

Rapid technological change, which addresses economic, social and environmental challenges across Africa and Nigeria, has been widely celebrated and welcomed. The use of digital technology and services provides Nigeria with opportunities to combat crime and drugs.

By partnering with Nigeria’s vibrant private, scientific, academic and civil society sectors, we will invest in innovation-based approaches utilizing science, including behavioural science, technology and digital means across our programming to enhance our impact.
ANNEX 1
CONSULTATIONS PARTICIPANTS LIST

In the development of this Strategic Vision for Nigeria, two rounds of technical consultations took place: a first round with Government stakeholders in August 2021 and a second round consisting of three separate consultation meetings in January 2022 with stakeholders from civil society and academia, the private sector and development partners. The following entities were consulted in that process:

GOVERNMENT

• Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)
• Federal High Court
• Federal Ministry of Environment
• Federal Ministry of Health
• Federal Ministry of Justice
• Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC)
• National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
• National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA)
• National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)
• National Assembly (NASS)
• National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)
• National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)
• Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)
• Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)
• Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS)
• Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU)
• Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)
• Nigerian Navy
• Nigeria Police Force (NPF)
• Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA)
• Office of the Vice President (OVP)
• Senate Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes Committee
• Technical Unit on Governance & Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR)

• Milestone Rehabilitation Foundation
• Neem Foundation
• Network of Civil Society Organizations Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL)
• Nigerian Conservation Foundation
• Obafemi Awolowo University
• Pangolin Conservation Guild
• Pathfinders Justice Initiative
• People Against Drug Dependence and Ignorance (PADDI)
• Public Enlightenment Projects
• Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN)
• Trac Development Hub
• University of Abuja
• University of Lagos
• Web of Hearts
• Women’s Consortium of Nigeria (WoCoN)
• YouthRise

PRIVATE SECTOR

• Ajulu Anagbogu Consultants
• Alpha Reach
• Chapel Hill Denham
• Coalition for Business Integrity (CBI)
• Deloitte Nigeria
• First Bank of Nigeria
• Lagos State Economic Summit
• MTN Foundation
• Oando

CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACADEMIA

• African Network of Adolescents and Young People’s Development (ANAYD)
• African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention (AYICRIP)
• Centre for Research and Information on Substance Abuse (CRISA)
• Charis Healthcare and Community Support Initiative
• Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)
• Creative Media Centre for Development
• Drug Harm Reduction Advocacy Network, Nigeria (DRHAN)
• Fullness of Life Counselling and Development Initiative (FULIFE)
• Genius Hub
• Heartland Alliance Nigeria
• Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA)
• Independent experts Godwin Morka, Dr. Eleanor Ann Nwadinobi and Eke Tobechi
• Legal Advocacy Response to Drugs Initiative (LARDI)
• Life at Best Development Initiative (LABI)
• Managing Conflict in Nigeria (MCN)

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

• Arab Republic of Egypt
• Federal Republic of Brazil
• Federal Republic of Germany
• Kingdom of Belgium
• Kingdom of Denmark
• Kingdom of Norway
• Kingdom of Spain
• Kingdom of the Netherlands
• State of Qatar
• Swiss Confederation
• United Kingdom
• United States of America
• European Union
• African Development Bank (AfDB)
• International Monetary Fund (IMF)
• Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
• Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
• MacArthur Foundation
### ANNEX 2
OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS AND BUDGETS (STATUS DEC 2023)

**PRIORITY AREA 1. ENHANCING THE ABILITY OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW, ENSURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PROTECT VICTIMS OF CRIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PROJECT ID</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENT PARTNER</th>
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<th>REMAINING BUDGET IN USD AS OF DEC 2023 (INCL. PSC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Support to the Deployment of the Transitional Police Unit in Northeast Nigeria (TPU)</td>
<td>GLOTP1</td>
<td>09/2021-09/2026</td>
<td>US INL</td>
<td>5,385,637</td>
<td>2,170,770</td>
<td>3,214,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Strengthening the Capacity of the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) to Effectively Rehabilitate and Reintegrate Prisoners Held for an (Alleged) Association with Boko Haram (Phase III)</td>
<td>GLOJSB</td>
<td>01/2023-12/2023</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,353,275</td>
<td>1,317,152</td>
<td>36,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Strengthening the Capacity of the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) to Ensure the Safe, Secure and Human Custody of Pre-Trial Detainees and Sentenced Prisoners in Selected Facilities in the North-Eastern States</td>
<td>GLOJSB</td>
<td>08/2021-08/2024</td>
<td>US INL</td>
<td>3,498,032</td>
<td>1,399,967</td>
<td>2,098,065</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Priority Area 2: Safeguarding People, Institutions and the Economy from Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Development Partner</th>
<th>Total Budget in USD (incl. PSC)</th>
<th>Total Budget Spent in USD as of Dec 2023 (incl. PSC)</th>
<th>Remaining Budget in USD as of Dec 2023 (incl. PSC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Reducing Grievances Through Strengthening the Conflict and Gender Sensitive Oversight Mechanisms of the Nigerian Police Force</td>
<td>GLOZ99</td>
<td>12/2022-11/2024</td>
<td>PBF</td>
<td>685,000</td>
<td>327,077</td>
<td>357,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Strengthening the Internal Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms of the Nigerian Police Force</td>
<td>GLOZ99</td>
<td>11/2022-11/2024</td>
<td>US INL</td>
<td>1,150,000</td>
<td>485,352</td>
<td>664,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Third Corruption Survey in Nigeria</td>
<td>GLOU34</td>
<td>11/2022-08/2024</td>
<td>MAF</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>597,164</td>
<td>402,836</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PRIORITY AREA 3. SECURING THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE FROM TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Strengthening the Capacity of Nigeria to Collect Evidence and More Effectively Prosecute Terrorism and Other Serious Crimes with Respect for the Rule of Law, in Northeast of Nigeria (NE)</td>
<td>GLOTP1</td>
<td>09/2020-09/2024</td>
<td>US INL</td>
<td>3,866,045</td>
<td>3,619,727</td>
<td>246,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Strengthening the Capacity of the Joint Investigation Centre in Maiduguri to Collect Evidence and Bring Terrorists to Justice with Respect for the Rule of Law</td>
<td>GLOTP1</td>
<td>12/2022-11/2023</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>152,041</td>
<td>148,027</td>
<td>4,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Children by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups (STRIVE Juvenile Nigeria)</td>
<td>GLOZ43</td>
<td>04/2021-04/2024</td>
<td>EU</td>
<td>2,154,328</td>
<td>2,134,443</td>
<td>19,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Protecting Children from Violence in Contexts of Insecurity, in Northeast of Nigeria (NE)</td>
<td>GLOJSB</td>
<td>01/2024-06/2025</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Strengthening Reconciliation and Reintegration Pathways for Persons Associated with Non-State Armed Groups, and Communities of Reintegration, Including Women and Children, in Northeast of Nigeria (NE)</td>
<td>GLOTP1</td>
<td>03/2023-03/2025</td>
<td>PBF</td>
<td>304,950</td>
<td>39,101</td>
<td>265,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Strengthening the Capacity of Nigeria to Collect Evidence and More Effectively Prosecute Terrorism, Kidnapping, and Other Serious Crimes in Nigeria’s Middle Belt (MB)</td>
<td>GLOTP1</td>
<td>08/2021-08/2024</td>
<td>US INL</td>
<td>2,949,209</td>
<td>2,393,345</td>
<td>555,864</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PRIORITY AREA 4. PROTECTING PEOPLE, THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME

### NIGERIA PROTECTED FROM PIRACY AND OTHER MARITIME CRIME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (SWAIMS Nigeria)</td>
<td>GLOW63</td>
<td>12/2018-06/2024</td>
<td>EU</td>
<td>2,617,443</td>
<td>2,339,119</td>
<td>278,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Support to Transnational Crime Units under the West Africa Coast Initiative</td>
<td>XWSV33</td>
<td>02/2019-12/2023</td>
<td>EU</td>
<td>134,431</td>
<td>129,154</td>
<td>5,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Regional Responses to Criminal Justice Systems Responses to the Threat of Maritime Crime for Civilian &amp; Military Personnel (Civilian)</td>
<td>GLOX99</td>
<td>05/2022-12/2026</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1,044,721</td>
<td>434,633</td>
<td>610,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Regional Responses to Criminal Justice Systems Responses to the Threat of Maritime Crime for Civilian &amp; Military Personnel (Military)</td>
<td>GLOX99</td>
<td>06/2022-12/2024</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>889,368</td>
<td>515,331</td>
<td>374,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Support to Establish Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) Training Centres in Ghana and Nigeria within Zone E &amp; F to Research Activities on Regional Piracy Networks</td>
<td>GLOX99</td>
<td>09/2021-06/2024</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>717,698</td>
<td>687,176</td>
<td>30,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Combating Piracy and Maritime Insecurity in Nigeria through Community-based Crime Prevention Strategies</td>
<td>GLOX99</td>
<td>06/2021-12/2023</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2,199,646</td>
<td>2,093,414</td>
<td>9,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>VBSS Support and Evidence Collection Project to Counter Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea</td>
<td>GLOX99</td>
<td>10/2022-12/2023</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>130,684</td>
<td>126,646</td>
<td>4,038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NIGERIA’S ENVIRONMENT PROTECTED FROM CRIME**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Strengthening Nigeria’s Response to the Trafficking of Wildlife and Forestry Products (Phase II)</td>
<td>GLOZ31</td>
<td>04/2023-12/2024</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,985,435</td>
<td>919,591</td>
<td>1,065,844</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Combating Wildlife Trafficking in West and Central Africa – Nigeria Project</td>
<td>GLOZ31</td>
<td>09/2022-09/2024</td>
<td>US INL</td>
<td>804,630</td>
<td>420,210</td>
<td>384,420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PEOPLE PROTECTED FROM TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>Strengthening Nigeria’s Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (PROMIS)</td>
<td>XAWW36</td>
<td>11/2020-11/2024</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>2,043,320</td>
<td>1,559,168</td>
<td>484,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.11</td>
<td>Strengthening Fact-Based and Data-Driven Migration Governance and Management in Nigeria</td>
<td>GLOX64</td>
<td>02/2023-02/2025</td>
<td>Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund</td>
<td>480,000</td>
<td>25,554</td>
<td>454,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Criminal Justice Response to Drug Production and Drug Trafficking Strengthened

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>Global Rapid Interdiction on Dangerous Substances (GRIDS Nigeria)</td>
<td>GLOW95</td>
<td>09/2021-12/2024</td>
<td>US INL</td>
<td>851,412</td>
<td>762,493</td>
<td>88,919</td>
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</table>

### Priority Area 5. Promoting People’s Health Through Drug and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for People Who Use Drugs and People in Prison Settings</td>
<td>GLOG32</td>
<td>01/2022-12/2023</td>
<td>UNAIDS (UBRAF)</td>
<td>84,000</td>
<td>75,147</td>
<td>8,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Technical Assistance to the Government of Nigeria on Interventions to Prevent and Treat HIV Infections among People Who Use Drugs and People Living in Custodial Centres in Nigeria</td>
<td>GLOG32</td>
<td>10/2021-12/2023</td>
<td>Global Fund</td>
<td>519,600</td>
<td>512,294</td>
<td>7,306</td>
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### Totals

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>TOTALS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38,701,267</td>
<td>25,691,662</td>
<td>12,913,270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENDNOTES

3. As functionally defined by relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1566 (2004), as well as the 19 international legal instruments that address aspects of terrorist practice.
5. As highlighted by all stakeholders during the 2022 Justice Sector Summit organized by the Nigerian Bar Association, the Judicial Reform Project, the Justice Research Institute, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and UNODC.
16. The UN common position to address global corruption: Towards UNGASS 2021, August 2020.
22. 36,000 is the figure widely used in UN documents. The Council on Foreign Relations Nigeria Security Tracker puts the death toll on all sides of the conflict between May 2011 and May 2020 more precisely at 38,584 individuals, see Council of Foreign Relations Nigeria Security Tracker, accessed online at https://www.cfr.org/nigeria/nigeria-security-tracker/p29483.
28. Although abductions decreased again in 2021 to 57, see ICC International Maritime Bureau, Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships, report for the period 1 January – 31 December 2021, 2022.


34. UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants, West and North Africa and Central Mediterranean, 24 May 2021 accessed online at https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9b5bd34d6624d4465ddae6aa5af1da3. In early 2022, the UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants will issue its latest research findings and analysis on Smuggling of Migrants from Nigeria.


42. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), At the Crossroads of Licit and Illicit: Tramadol and other pharmaceutical opioids trafficking in West Africa, 2021.


47. United Nations system common position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration, Annex I to UN Document CEB/2018/2.


