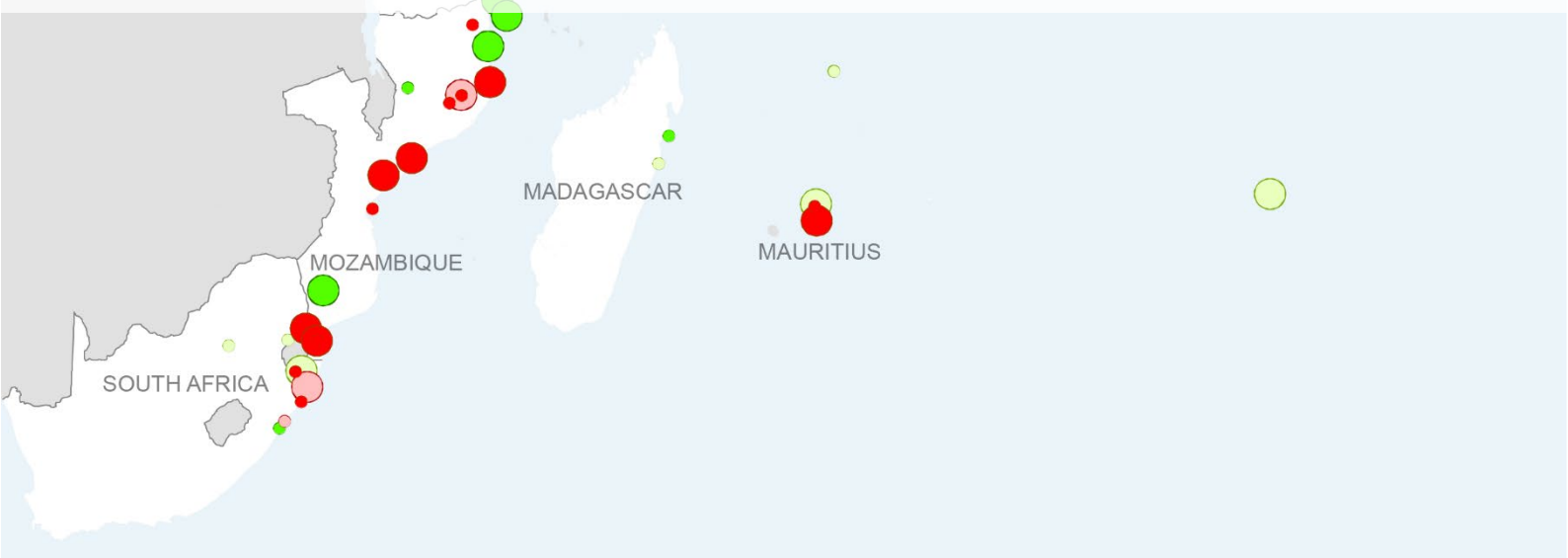


UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform Brief:

Patterns and trends in trafficking routes of heroin and methamphetamine originating in Afghanistan



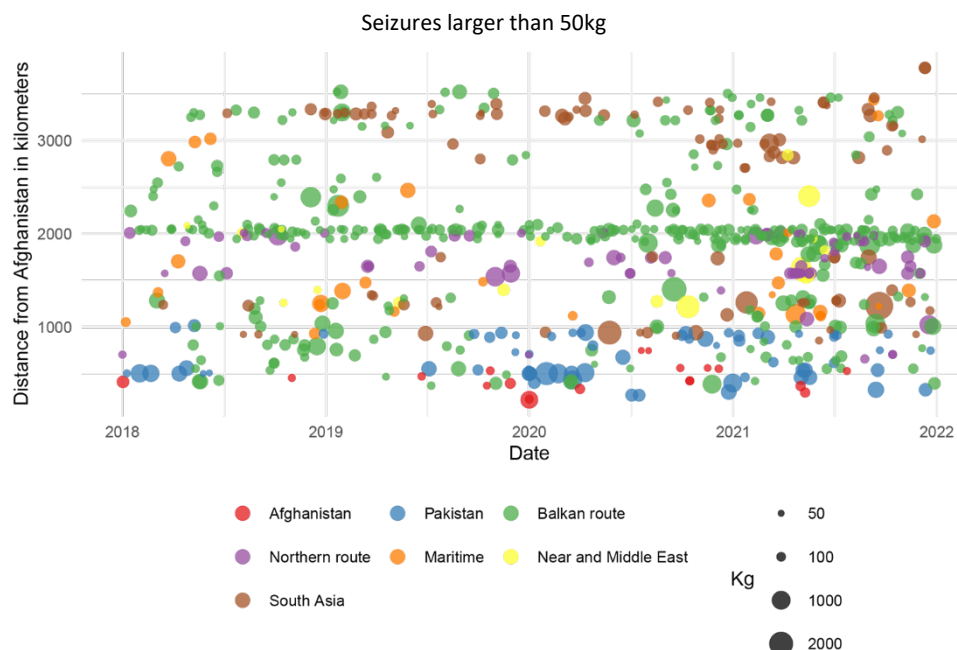
May 2022

1

Heroin and methamphetamine seizures increased in terms of the number of shipments and seizure weights over the course of 2020-2021.

Methamphetamine maritime seizures grew from late 2020 into 2021 as did seizure events in the Near and Middle East.

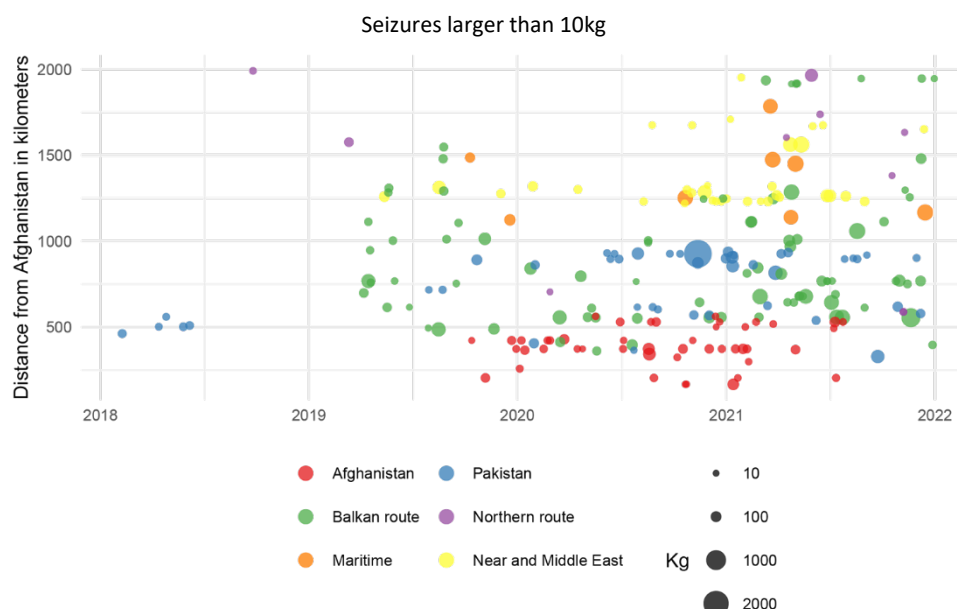
SIGNIFICANT HEROIN SEIZURES UP TO 4,000 KILOMETERS FROM AFGHANISTAN, 2018-2021



Note: The Balkan route includes: the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey; the northern route includes: Central Asia and Transcaucasia; South Asia includes: India and Sri Lanka; Near and Middle East includes: Iraq, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. Maritime seizures occur in international waters or areas where country is not readily determined.

Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform

SIGNIFICANT METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZURES UP TO 2,000 KILOMETERS FROM AFGHANISTAN, 2018-2021



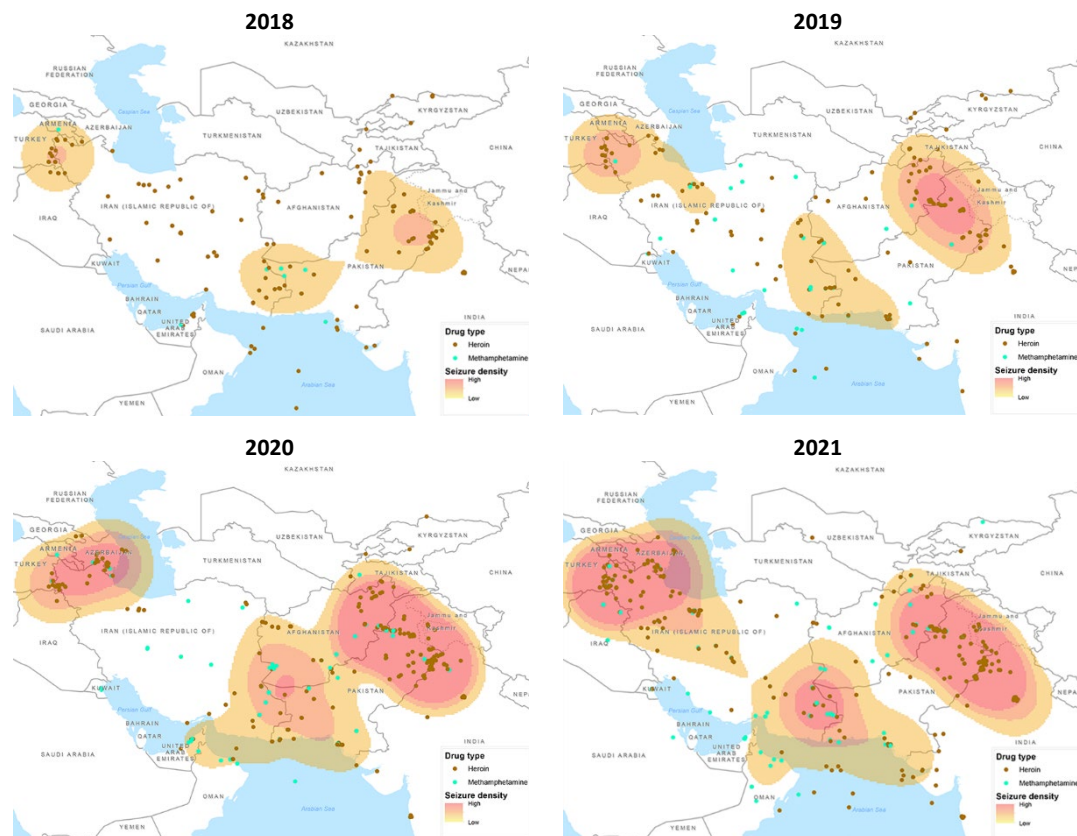
Note: The Balkan route includes: the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey; the northern route includes: Central Asia and Transcaucasia; Near and Middle East includes: Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Maritime seizures occur in international waters or areas where country is not readily determined.

Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform

2

Seizure events suggest an eastward and southward intensification in trafficking out of Afghanistan including the traditional westward movement through the Balkan route.

SIGNIFICANT HEROIN AND METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZURES UP TO 2,000 KILOMETERS FROM AFGHANISTAN, 2018-2021



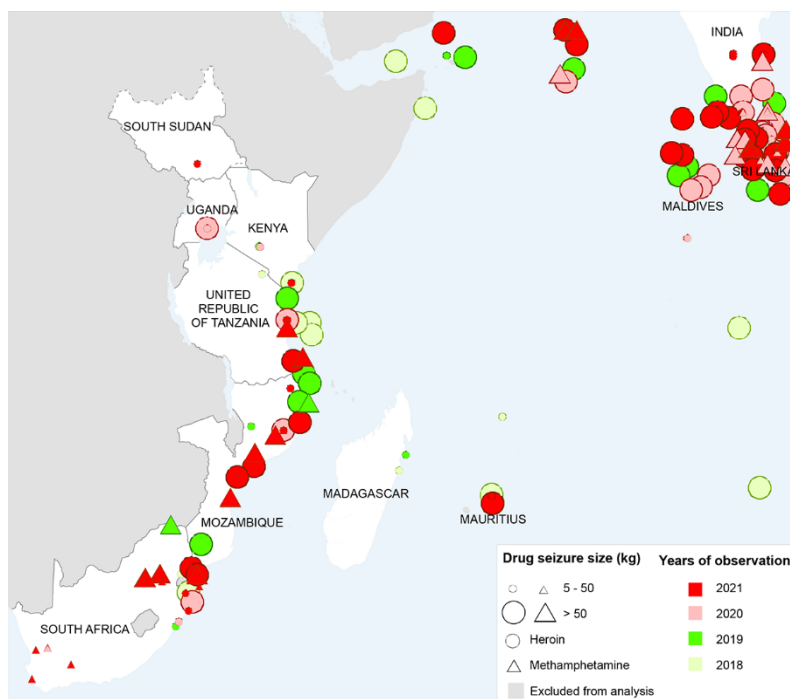
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform

3

Seizures events suggest increased trafficking into Southern India, Sri Lanka, and East and Southern Africa between 2018 to 2021 for both heroin and methamphetamine. Seizure events also indicate an increase in maritime seizures of heroin in the Indian Ocean or Arabian Sea from 2021 onwards.

SIGNIFICANT HEROIN AND METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZURES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, 2018-2021



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Source: UNODC, Drugs Monitoring Platform.

Introduction

Building on earlier efforts of the UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform, this brief examines dimensions of seizure event data to enable early assessments of possible changes in trafficking patterns.¹

This analysis is based on select countries situated along the southern route in East and

Southern Africa and along the Balkan, Caucasus, and northern routes, particularly observations within 2,000 km of Afghanistan. The specific intention is to reflect the platform's attributes by focusing on trafficking in heroin and methamphetamine from Afghanistan, a major source of illegally produced drugs.

UNODC ACKNOWLEDGES THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THIS BRIEF

To read more, please visit <https://dmp.unodc.org/>

¹ The analysis contained here is based on a continually updated set of individual drug seizure data captured by the Drugs Monitoring Platform. The Drugs Monitoring Platform and its analytical outputs aim at providing knowledge based on a constantly evolving and expanding dataset, bearing in mind that several data caveats should be considered (see Scope and limitations of the data used in the analysis).