

Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

# TOCTA for Southeast Asia: major findings and challenges

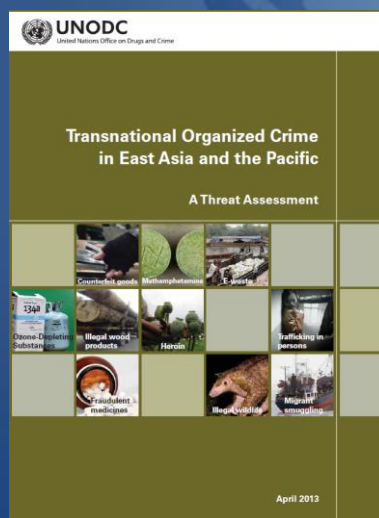
IFF Kick-off Meeting, May 2021



# Concept of Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (TOCTA)



- UNODC has been mandated by Member States to conduct threat and risk analysis on emerging trends in drug and crime issues
- It has also been asked to provide “support for the development and implementation of the regional programmes” in its field office network
- TOCTAs look at the illicit flows affecting a region using various credible data sets
- The aim to provide a better understanding of the mechanics of these flows, their size, and the implications of this information for law enforcement policy.



# TOCTA (2019) development process

Data collection through meetings / desk review

Consultation with UNODC experts / national authorities

Comments provided/ addressed

Comments provided/ addressed

Comments provided/ addressed

Mar, 2018

May, 2018

Dec, 2018

Feb, 2019

Mar, 2019

July, 2019



## Methodology: TOCTA consultations



Dang Thu Trang, Officer of Criminal Police Department, Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam



Sieng Lapresse, Secretary of State and Special Adviser to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia Ministry of Interior on Transnational Crime in the ASEAN framework

- Types of sources used
  - In-depth questionnaires
  - Official notices, case files and intelligence shared by national authorities
  - Focused interviews with law enforcement officers and experts in relevant fields
  
- Two consultations
  - Briefing on plans and the concept of the TOCTA
  - Agreed on timeline, thematic areas and data collection and analysis process
  - Participation of a HQ expert
  - Reconciled inconsistencies and gaps



## Thematic areas for the TOCTA

- Illicit drugs and precursor chemicals
  - Heroin and precursor chemicals
  - Methamphetamine and precursor chemicals
- People
  - Trafficking in persons
  - Smuggling of migrants
- Environmental crimes
  - Wildlife
  - Timber
- Counterfeit goods
  - Counterfeit goods and illicit tobacco
  - Falsified medicines

Enablers

Corruption

Money  
laundering

Cybercrime

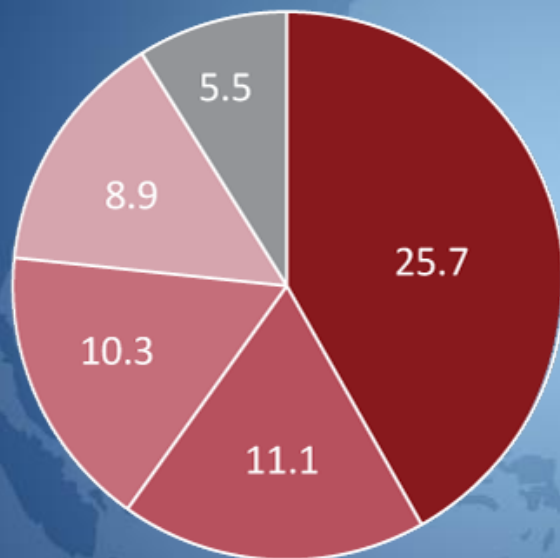


## Market size estimate

- No pinpointing estimate, providing a range (variables)
- Not perfect but used available data by triangulating demand and supply data
- Not all crime types were able to be quantified (i.e. wildlife, human trafficking, and etc.)
- Even those illicit commodity markets with the market size estimate, such as methamphetamine and heroin, limitations exist

## Example 1: methamphetamine

Retail methamphetamine market estimate (high-end) in billion USD



■ Southeast Asia

■ Australia and New Zealand

■ China\*

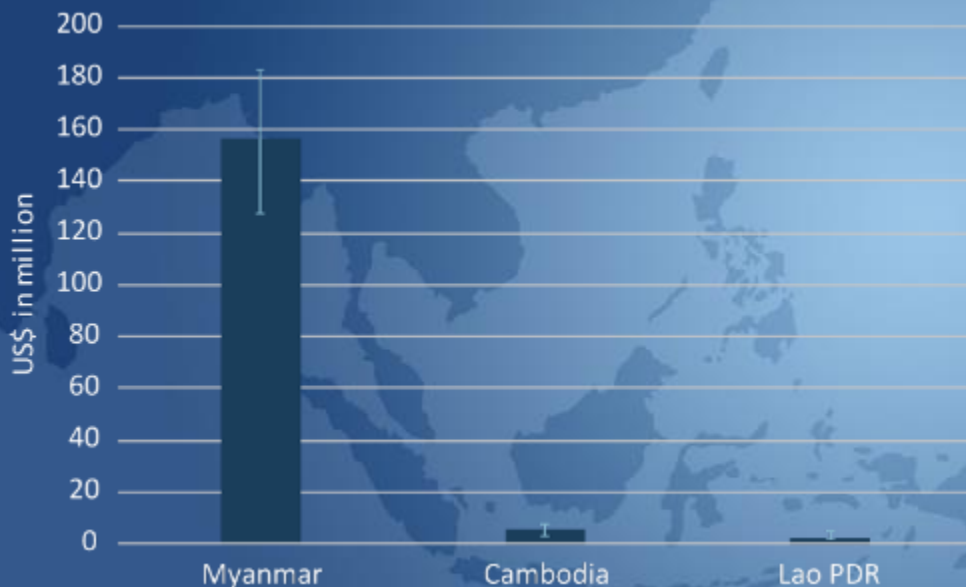
■ East Asia, excluding China\*

■ Bangladesh

- Drug use prevalence, est. amount of meth consumed per user, purity adj. price (limited to only a few countries)
- Drug trafficking: transnational nature yet not able to conduct inward /outward flows (i.e. wholesale price)
- No price data for chemicals

Note: \* China includes Hong Kong, China, Macau, China and Taiwan Province of China.  
Source: UNODC elaboration based on government data.

## Example 2: smuggling of migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR to Thailand



Market size estimate: US\$ 132 – 196 million

- Est. number of irregular migrants / est. proportion of those used smuggling services / avg. cost for smuggling services
- Estimates for other major migrant smuggling flows not possible due to no data





## Conclusions: identified challenges

- Data kept by various national institutions and authorities at provincial levels sometime incomplete, unreliable or difficult to access
- Not able to provide est. of inward / outward flows
- The illicit income management concept was not considered (i.e. money laundering)
- The IFF pilot study in Asia Pacific will support countries to identify data gaps and develop / improve measures to generate IFFs / also for the next TOCTA



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Thank you

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