

To support countries in addressing the ongoing synthetic opioids crisis affecting mainly North America, with fentanyl and its analogues, and parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East with tramadol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched an integrated strategy in June 2018.

The UNODC Opioid Strategy is a five-pillar, integrated, inter-agency response to the global opioid crisis. Led by UNODC, the Strategy integrates the unique expertise housed within the Office with complimentary specialized knowledge across the UN system.



## Pillar 4 - International Law Enforcement Operations to Disrupt Trafficking

The fourth pillar of the UNODC Opioid Strategy focuses on enhancing international law enforcement operations to prevent the diversion and trafficking of synthetic opioids.

To disrupt the illicit supply and flow of synthetic opioids and the traditional opiate trade, UNODC runs several flagship projects that continuously develop co-operation activities to counter drug trafficking and organized crime at international and inter-agency level.

These projects include: the Container Control Programme (in collaboration with the World Customs Organization), which also includes air cargo operations;

the multi-agency Airport Communication Programme between UNODC, INTERPOL, and the World Customs Organization; and the CRIMJUST Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNODC, INTERPOL and Transparency International.

The work done under this pillar enhances Member States' capacity to identify, disrupt and investigate illicit trafficking through regional and inter-regional law enforcement cooperation, and thus criminal intelligence exchange. Capacity building is also needed for States to trace and counter the criminal use of cryptocurrencies, which are often used in online sale of synthetic drugs.

