

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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UNODC CALLS TO ACTION TO SAVE LIVES



Care in crises and conflicts:

- » Ensure access to the controlled medicines included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines as part of humanitarian response efforts.
- » Guarantee continuity of evidence-based care, treatment and services for drug use disorders, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and related infectious diseases.
- » Prevent negative coping behaviours such as substance use, especially among children and youth, through family skills support and psychosocial support.

Leave no one behind:

- » Improve the collection and analysis of data, disaggregated by gender and age, to strengthen early warning and evidence-based responses.
- » Tailor interventions to women, youth and at-risk groups and close treatment gaps so that everyone can access the services they need without stigma or discrimination, in line with the UNODC/WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders.
- » Mobilize all sectors and industries, including health, justice, social welfare, education, media and entertainment, for a whole-of-society-approach to strengthen evidence-based prevention, building on the UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention.

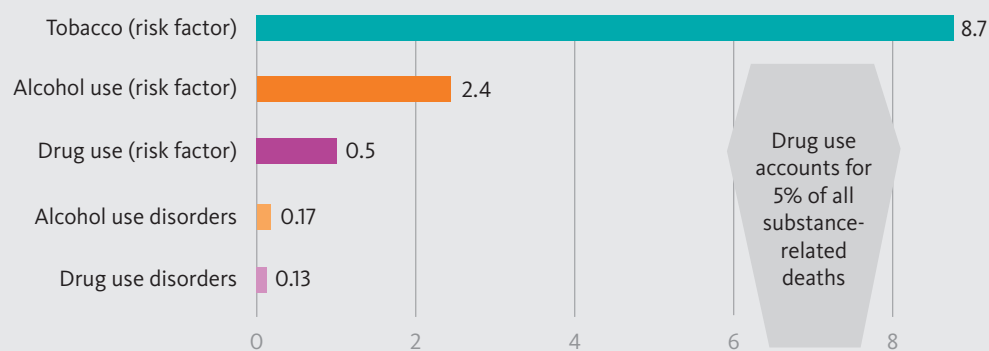
Cooperate to contain criminal markets:

- » Step up cross-border law enforcement and criminal justice cooperation and intelligence-sharing to disrupt transnational trafficking enterprises.
- » Target increasing drug trafficking via waterways by strengthening container control and interdiction capacities at ports and sensitizing port authorities and commercial shipping companies to the related risks.
- » Increase technical assistance to developing countries to facilitate their engagement in international cooperation and joint operations, including to tackle drug trafficking on the dark web.



HEALTH HARM OF DRUGS IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Substance use-related deaths in 2019 (in million)



Years of “healthy” life lost due to disability and premature deaths (DALYs), 2019



Tobacco



Alcohol



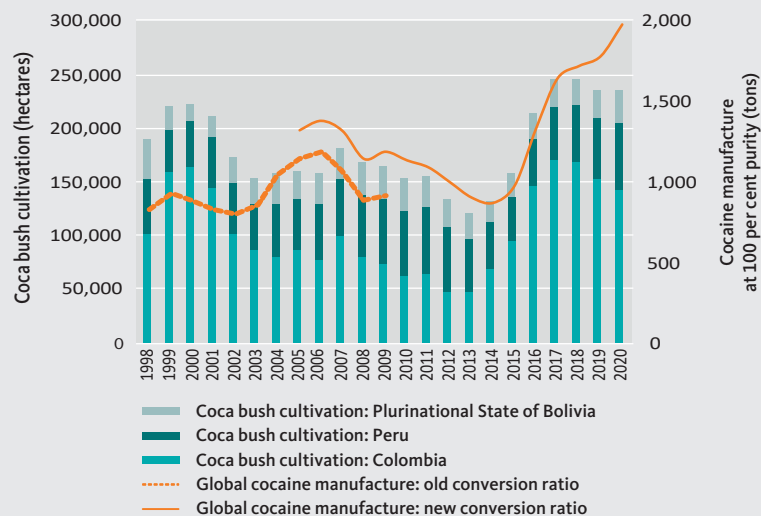
Drugs

Drug use accounts for 9% of substance use-related DALYs

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

FINDINGS

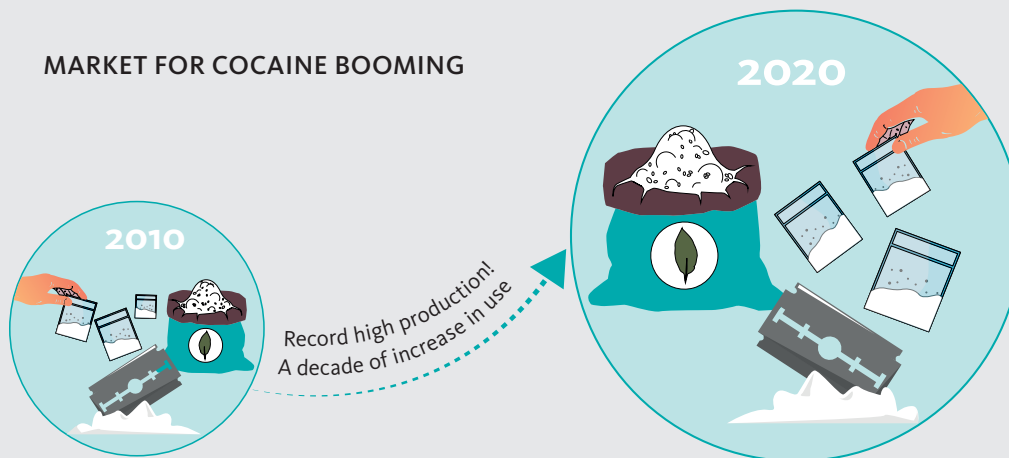
The market for cocaine is booming, with new record highs in manufacture and high levels of use



POSSIBLE RESPONSES

- » Tailor holistic drug-supply reduction strategies encompassing economic development and alternative livelihoods in countries where coca bush is illicitly cultivated.
- » Direct law enforcement resources to target maritime and container trafficking.
- » Increase technical assistance to enhance the capacity of law enforcement authorities to detect and interdict cocaine.
- » Promote and facilitate post-seizure backtracking investigations with improved international cooperation.
- » Tackle demand by increasing investment in evidence-based prevention and research into treating cocaine dependence.

MARKET FOR COCAINE BOOMING



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

FINDINGS

While the majority of people who use drugs are men, women use some drug types nearly as much as men; and women continue to be underrepresented in drug treatment

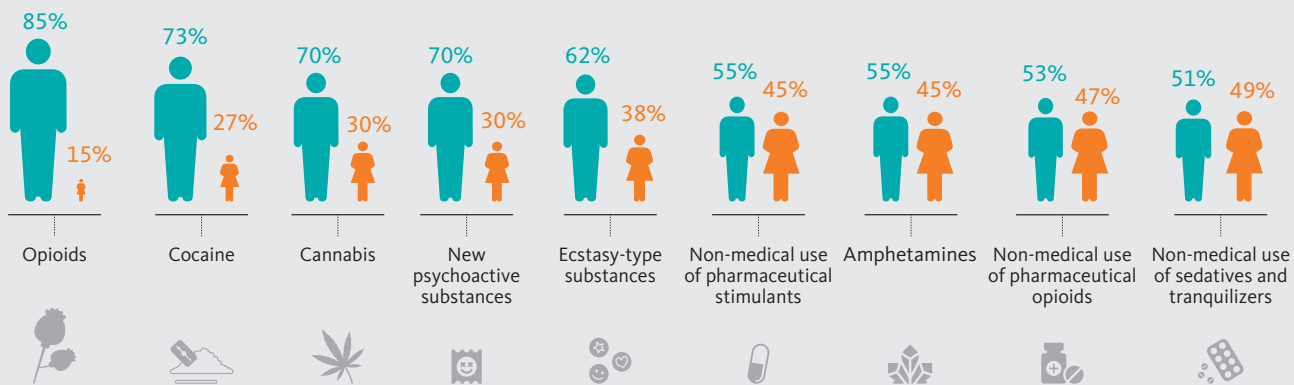
EVEN THOUGH ALMOST ONE IN TWO AMPHETAMINES USERS IS A WOMAN, LESS THAN ONE IN FIVE PERSONS IN TREATMENT FOR AMPHETAMINES IS A WOMAN



POSSIBLE RESPONSES

- » Invest in research to better understand the role of sex and gender in pathways to drug use and drug use disorders.
- » Expand gender-sensitive services for drug treatment and HIV prevention, treatment and care to ensure that women feel safe and not stigmatized, can exercise their childcare responsibilities and are supported with regard to other needs.

DISTRIBUTION OF USERS OF SELECTED DRUGS BY SEX



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

FINDINGS

Young people continue to use more drugs than adults, and have higher levels of use than in past generations

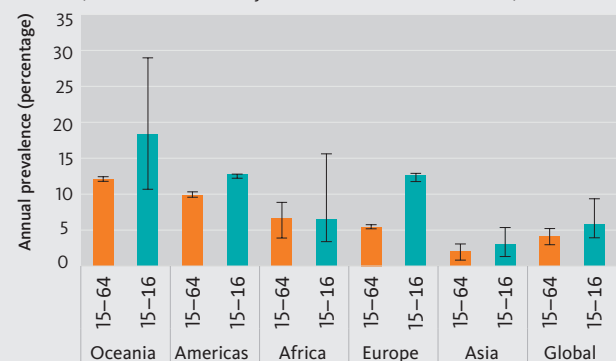
YOUNG PEOPLE CONTINUE TO USE MORE DRUGS THAN ADULTS



POSSIBLE RESPONSES

- » Develop national drug prevention systems that reach children as early as possible in their development and focus on building resilience.
- » Reach out to and involve adolescents, disseminating prevention messages on social media and other online platforms.
- » Promote prevention and treatment options for young people who use drugs and young people with drug use disorders that are backed by evidence, including mental health services; screening, brief interventions and health services referral; and family therapy.
- » For children and youth that have been exposed to drugs at a very young age and/or are in particularly deprived circumstances, provide educational opportunities, vocational skills training and other socioeconomic support.

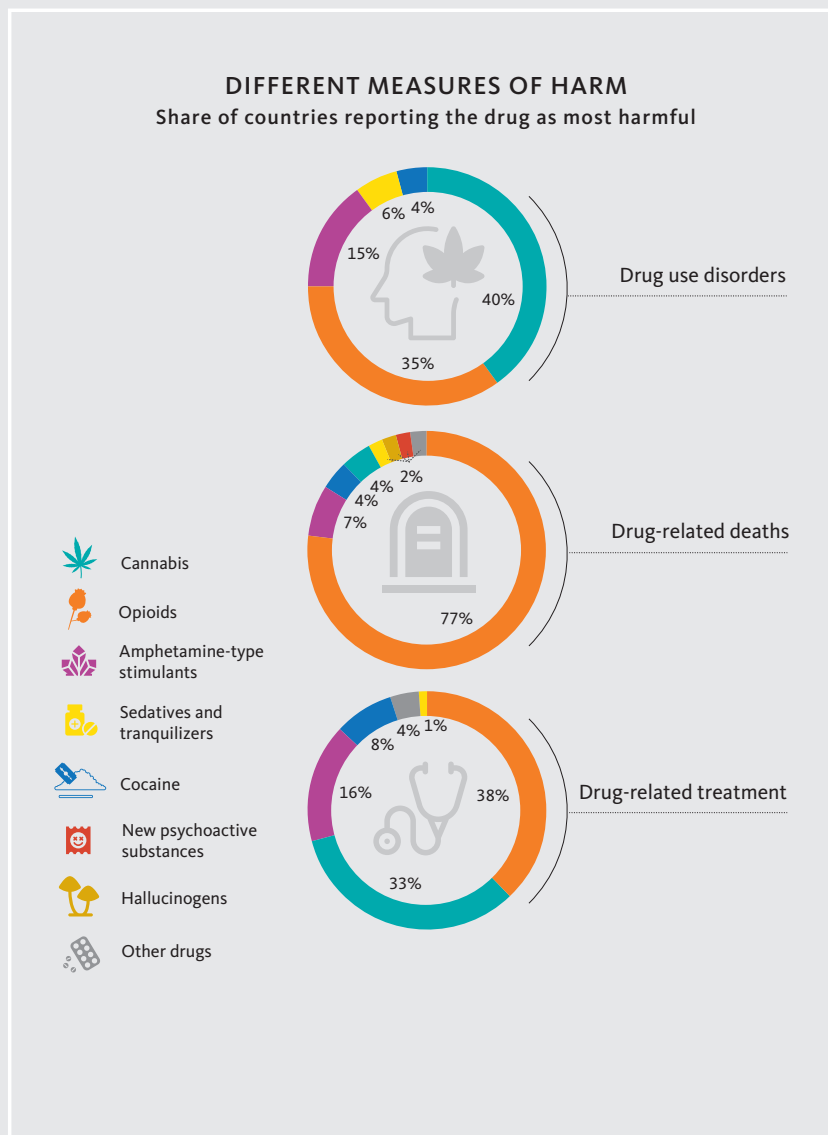
Global and regional use of cannabis among people aged 15–16, and among the general population aged 15–64 (2020 or most recent year for which data are available)



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

FINDINGS

Different drugs pose different demands on healthcare systems



POSSIBLE RESPONSES

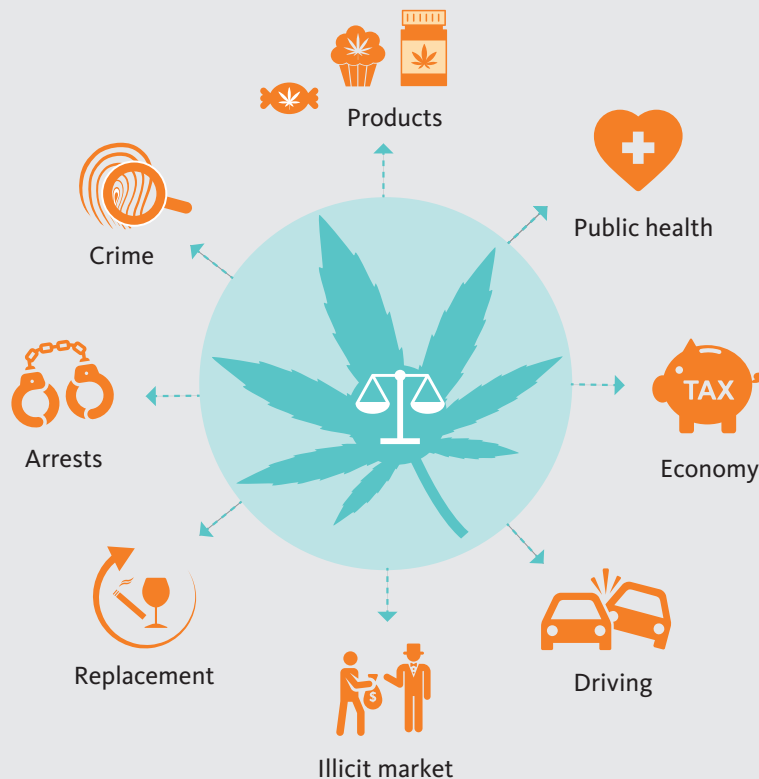
- » Provide more resources to increase access to evidence-based and voluntary services.
- » Integrate outreach, psychosocial, pharmacological, healthcare and social support services to better protect the health of people who use drugs and people with drug use disorders and promote their recovery.
- » Promote opioid-assisted therapy, supporting recovery and preventing overdose, and the community-based provision of naloxone.
- » Invest in research on the treatment of stimulant use disorders, while advancing the dissemination of effective psychosocial therapies.
- » Develop a clear and comprehensive methodology to more accurately estimate the social costs of cannabis use and its impact on public health.
- » Ensure that drug treatment services, as well as HIV prevention, treatment and care, are available in prison settings.

INSIGHTS

FINDINGS

Early indications suggest that cannabis legalization has had a wide-ranging impact on public health and safety, market dynamics, commercial interests and criminal justice responses

IMPACT OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION



POSSIBLE RESPONSES

- » Continue to monitor the impact of cannabis legalization, in particular on public health, the rule of law, public safety and the parallel illegal market, to better understand associated social and economic costs.
- » Invest in research into the effects of cannabis use, especially the health consequences of the use of cannabis products with high THC content.
- » Address misperceptions of the risks of cannabis use through evidence-based prevention messages.
- » Prioritize public health and safety as commercial interests lobby to expand the market for legal cannabis.
- » Draw from the lessons learned from the tobacco, alcohol and ultra-processed food industries as well as the pharmaceutical industry and documented cases where the pursuit of commercial interests has targeted vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, and competed with public health concerns.

INSIGHTS

FINDINGS

Illicit drug economies can flourish in situations of conflict and weak rule of law, and can, in turn, prolong or fuel conflict

CONFLICT CAN BECOME A MAGNET FOR THE ILLICIT
MANUFACTURE OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS



POSSIBLE RESPONSES

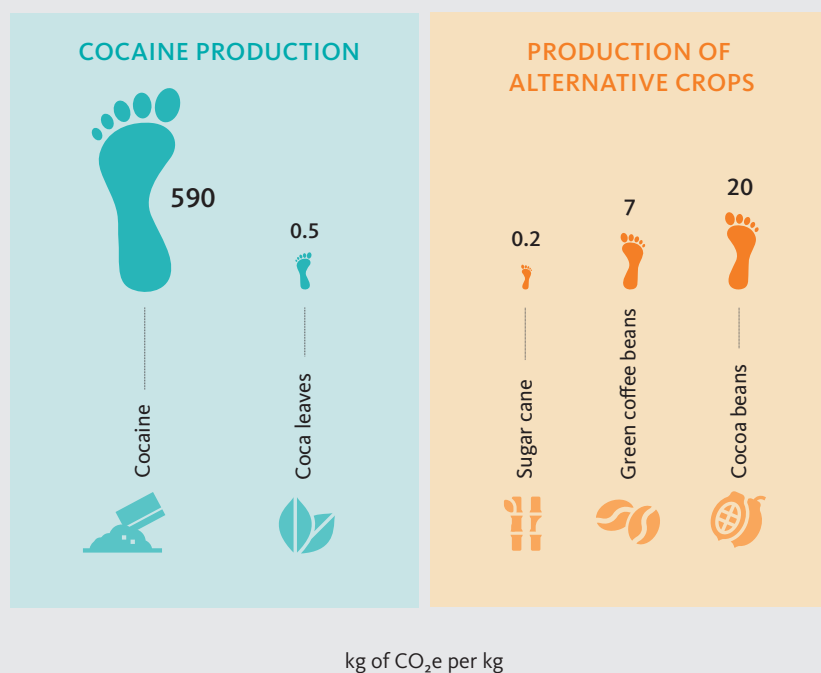
- » Integrate drug policy approaches into conflict and peacebuilding responses, and when addressing crises and weak rule of law.
- » Encourage more complex and deep investigation of transnational crimes, aimed at revealing and dismantling related financial flows that could otherwise fuel the conflict.
- » Monitor conflict situations for emerging drug threats, for example synthetic drugs manufacture in Ukraine.
- » Strengthen information-sharing and law enforcement capacity-building to prevent and counter challenges emerging from conflict situations.

INSIGHTS

FINDINGS

The impact of drugs on the environment can be significant at the local level

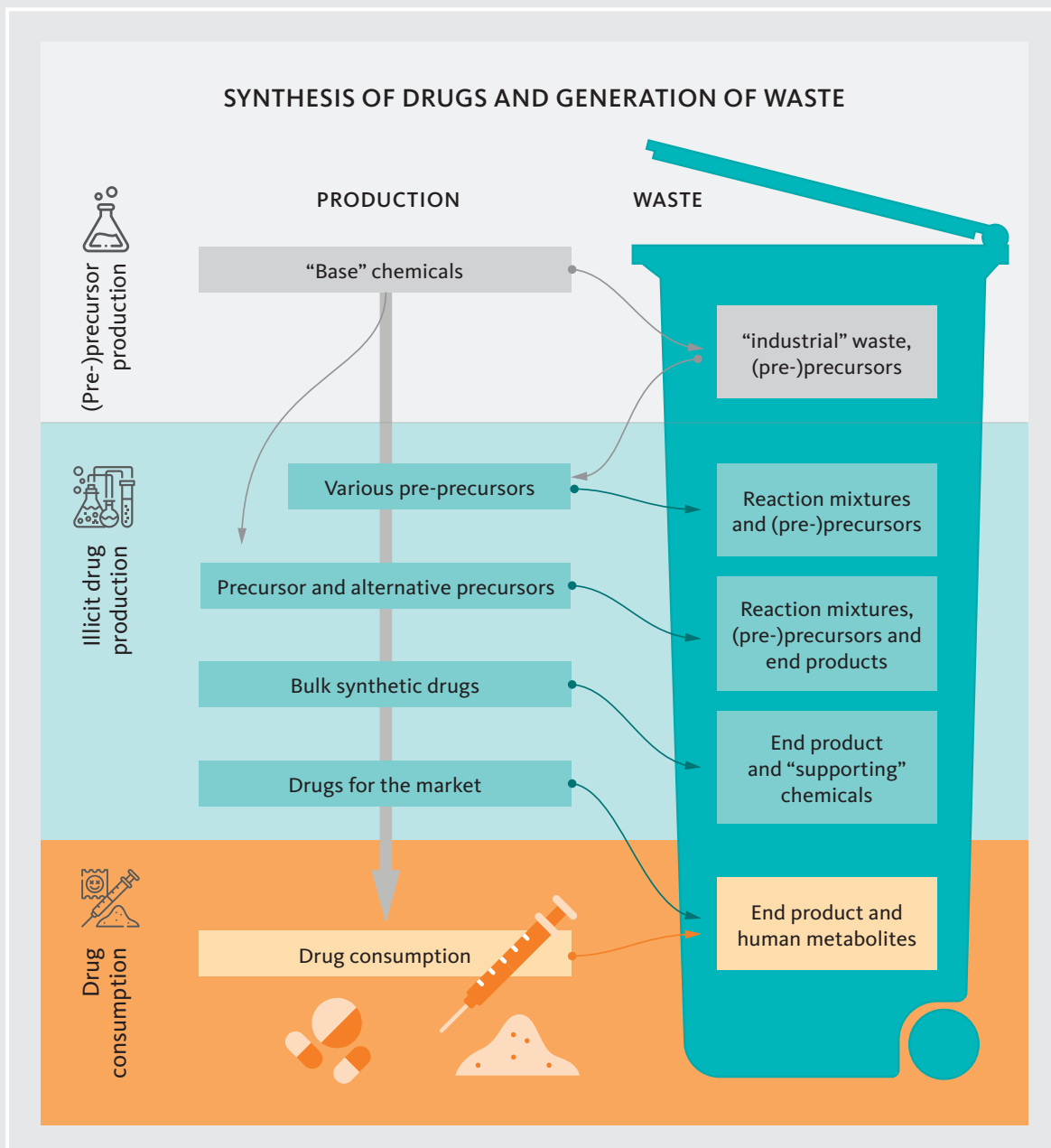
CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COCAINE PRODUCTION
COMPARED WITH THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE PRODUCTION
OF A SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVE CROPS



POSSIBLE RESPONSES

- » Mainstream the objective of “do no harm to the environment” in drug policy responses.
- » Develop new, dedicated international standards to systematically integrate environmental protection into the design and monitoring of alternative development programmes, building on recent experience and existing tools.
- » Bring the environmental impact of the illicit cultivation of plant-based drugs into the broader debate about alternative development and agricultural production to balance environmental concerns with commercial, production-related objectives.
- » Consider specific complementary strategies that can be adopted in alternative development programmes, such as carbon credit schemes, payment for environmental services and agroecology to strengthen their environmental components while bringing financial benefits.
- » Adopt legal frameworks that encompass the environmentally responsible disposal of equipment and chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, and enhance the capacity of authorities to safely handle and dispose of such materials, and to destroy seized drugs.
- » Undertake targeted research to better understand the extent and dynamics of the links between drug trafficking and deforestation, and the longer-term effects of drugs on biodiversity and on the food chain.

INSIGHTS



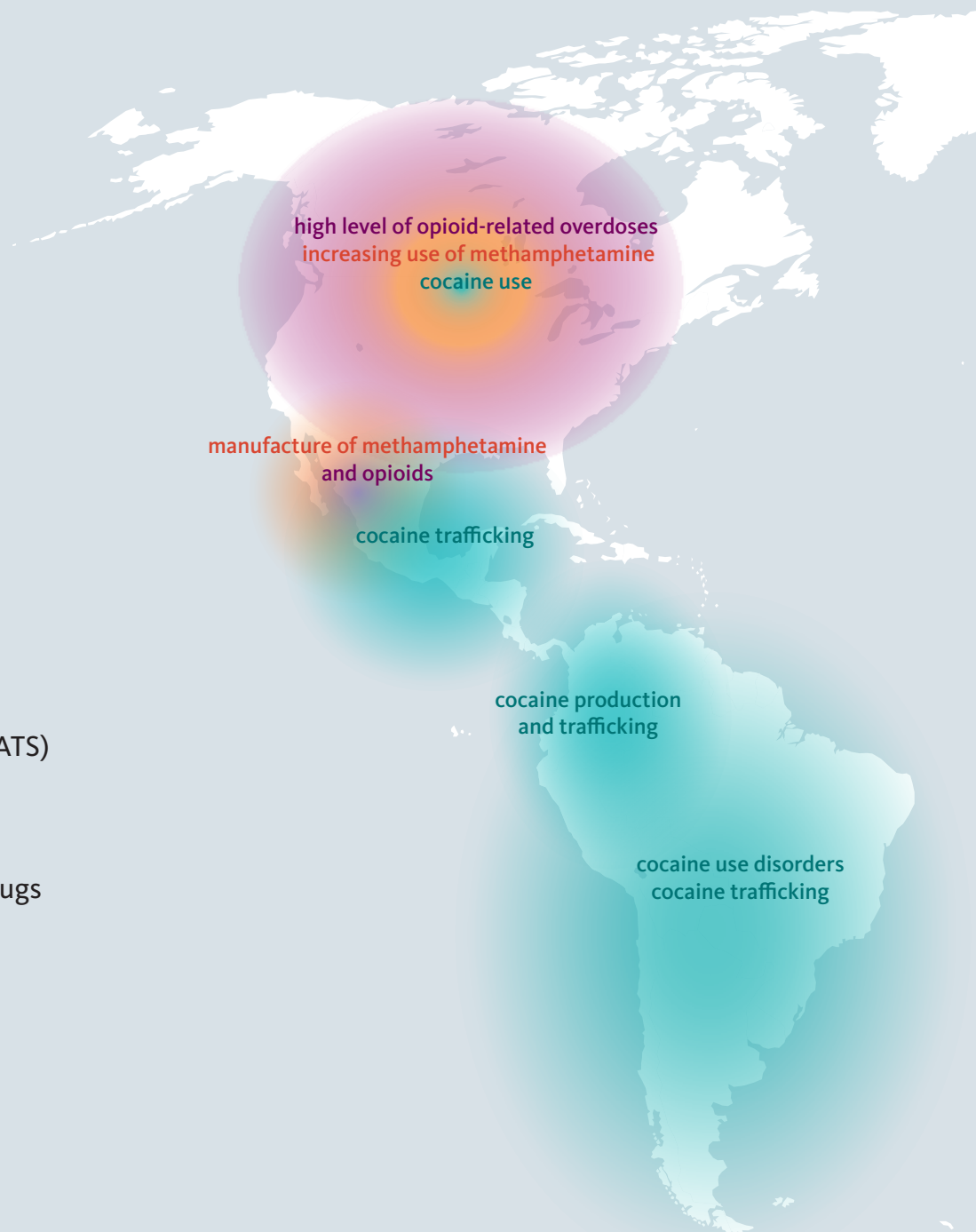
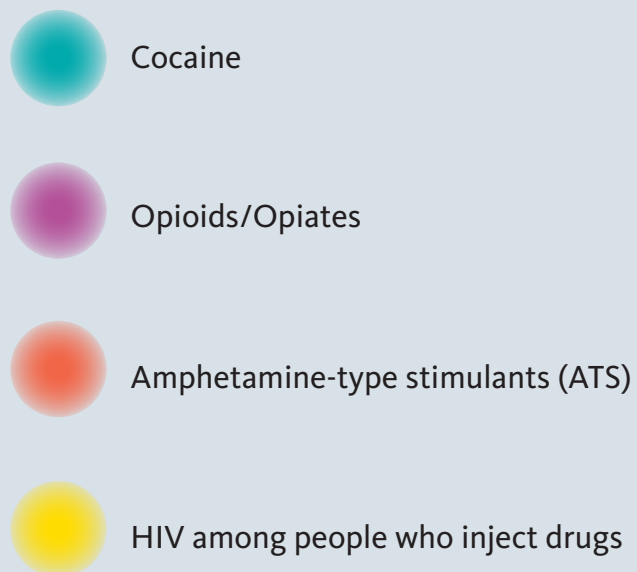
THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM
COMMON CHALLENGE
LOCAL DYNAMICS

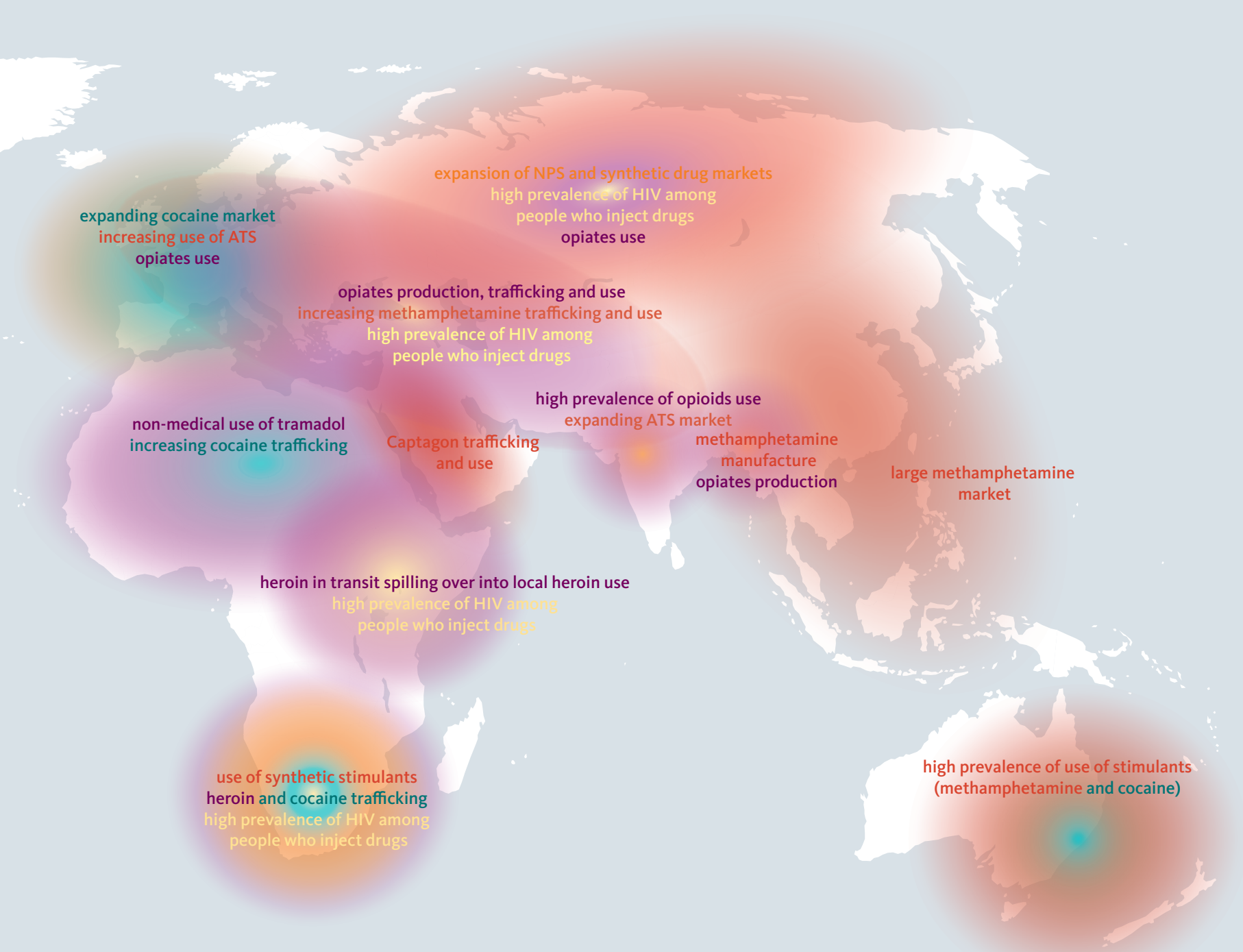


THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

COMMON CHALLENGE, LOCAL DYNAMICS

While cannabis trafficking and use affect all regions worldwide, other drug issues pose additional threats in different geographical locations.





DRUG-BY-DRUG DEVELOPMENTS IN BRIEF

	Demand	Supply	Key issues
CANNABIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Cannabis remains by far the world's most used drug › An estimated 209 million people used cannabis in 2020, representing 4 per cent of the global population › The number of people who use cannabis has increased by 23 per cent over the past decade › Use remains the highest in North America, where 16.6 per cent of the population use the drug › Cannabis remains the main drug of concern for the majority of people in treatment in Africa › The percentage of women who use cannabis varies across regions, among those 9 per cent in Asia to 42 per cent in North America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Cannabis cultivation is reported to be on the increase in 2020 › Seizures of cannabis resin increased to a record high in 2020 › Seizures of cannabis herb increased substantially in 2020, following a downward trend over the last decade, driven by large decreases in seizures in North America › The carbon footprint of indoor cannabis cultivation is considerably larger than that of outdoor cannabis cultivation (between 16 to 100 times higher), mostly owing to differences in energy consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Periods of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic drove increases in the use of cannabis, in terms of both amounts used and frequency of use, in 2020. Cannabis accounts for a substantial share of global drug-related harm, owing in part to its high prevalence rates. Some 40 per cent of countries reported cannabis as the drug associated with the greatest number of drug use disorders, and 33 per cent reported it as the main drug of concern for those in drug treatment › Early indicators point to wide-ranging impacts of cannabis legalization in jurisdictions in North America on public health, public safety, market dynamics, commercial interests and criminal justice responses
OPIOIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › An estimated 61 million people used opioids in 2020, representing 1.2 per cent of the global population. Half of them resided in South Asia and South-West Asia › Of these, an estimated 31 million people used opiates, mainly heroin › The level of opioid use remained stable in 2020 › The estimated number of people who used opioids in 2020 was double that of 2010, owing partly to improved data from countries with large populations › About 40 per cent of all people in drug treatment in 2020 cited opioids as their primary drug of use › Opioids remain the most lethal group of drugs, accounting for two thirds of deaths related directly to drugs (mostly overdoses) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The area under opium poppy cultivation decreased by 16 per cent in 2021, but opium production continued its long-term upward trend, increasing by 7 per cent from 2020 › Afghanistan continues to account for most (86 per cent) of global illicit opium production. Changes in opium production in the country will have implications for opiate markets in virtually all regions of the world › The Balkan Route remains the main trafficking channel for opiates, with individual drug seizures for 2021 rebounding after being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 › Seizures of pharmaceutical opioids decreased in 2020, interrupting a long-term upward trend. However, the decrease in 2020 was mostly due to gaps in reporting coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The share of women among people who misuse pharmaceutical opioids, compared with most other drugs, is notably high (47 per cent) › The two epidemics of non-medical use of opioids, one related to fentanyl in North America and the other related to the non-medical use of tramadol in North Africa, West Africa, the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, continue to pose great health risks › In Africa, there have been signs of increases in the non-medical use of tramadol and related harms in recent years › In North America, overdose deaths, driven by the use of fentanyl, reached unprecedented levels during the COVID-19 pandemic › Access to pharmaceutical opioids for pain management and palliative care continues to be very unequal between low- and middle-income countries and high-income countries
COCAINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › An estimated 21.5 million people used cocaine in 2020, representing 0.4 per cent of the global population › North America and Europe remain the two main consumer markets for cocaine › Demand in Africa and Asia has risen over the past two decades, but regional demand remains uneven and lack of data prevents a clear understanding of the level of use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The level of cocaine manufacture reached a record high in 2020, amounting to 1,982 tons (pure cocaine) › Seizures are increasingly being carried out closer to production sites in South America, where the total quantity seized is now three times higher than in North America › Cocaine is increasingly being trafficked by sea and via a wider geography of routes, with almost 90 per cent of quantities of cocaine seized linked to maritime trafficking › Cocaine manufacture has a sizeable carbon footprint, significantly higher than that of the alternative crops frequently used in alternative development projects › Cultivation of coca bush is also playing a role in deforestation, in particular as a catalyst enterprise that enables other economic activities along the agricultural frontier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The global market for cocaine is expanding: use has been increasing worldwide over the last decade, and trafficking is also on the rise, with record highs in manufacture and seizures › Markets for cocaine are also expanding outside the traditional markets of North America and Western Europe, in Africa and Asia › Large quantities of cocaine are trafficked from Latin America to Europe through West and North Africa

	Demand	Supply	Key issues
AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS (ATS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An estimated 34 million people used amphetamines in 2020, representing 0.7 per cent of the global population ➤ Qualitative assessments suggest an increase in the use of amphetamines in 2020 ➤ While the prevalence of use is highest in North America, the largest number of users of amphetamines are found in East and South-East Asia ➤ An estimated 20 million people used “ecstasy”-type substances in 2020, representing 0.4 per cent of the global population ➤ “Ecstasy” seems to have been the drug whose use was most affected by restrictions on movement imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Record-high quantities of ATS were seized in 2020, dominated by methamphetamine at the global level ➤ Trafficking in ATS, in particular methamphetamine, has spread geographically ➤ The market for “captagon” in the Near and Middle East continues to flourish, with seizures reaching a record high in 2020 ➤ Seizures suggest a shift in the manufacture of methamphetamine towards the precursors of P-2-P and away from the use of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, although the use of the latter two substances remains widespread ➤ Traffickers continue to attempt to circumvent existing rules and regulations and international controls by seeking out non-controlled chemicals for use as precursors, pre-precursors and “designer precursors” in the manufacture of ATS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The gender gap in treatment is particularly acute for women who use ATS, as women represent almost one in two ATS users but only one in five people in treatment for ATS disorders ➤ Methamphetamine manufacture and use have continued to spread beyond the “traditional” markets in East and South-East Asia and North America, notably in South-West Asia, Western Europe and South America ➤ The recent increase in the use and manufacture of methamphetamine in Afghanistan is of growing concern in South-West Asia, where trafficking in the substance is expanding ➤ Waste from the manufacture of ATS is considerable, with its weight estimated to be between 5 and 30 times greater than the weight of the end product. Dumping in forests and discharge into rivers or sewers represent a significant environmental threat for local communities
NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The level of use of NPS is lower than that of drugs under international control ➤ NPS were consumed in most countries in 2020 ➤ The most frequently used NPS are synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (“synthetic cannabinoids”) and ketamine ➤ Use of NPS may be decreasing in North America and Europe, but Eastern Europe, Asia and, possibly, Africa are likely experiencing mid-term increases in use ➤ Many users of NPS use them unknowingly, consuming the substances as adulterants of other drugs, sometimes with fatal consequences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seizures of plant-based NPS, dominated by kratom and khat, fell in 2020 from a record high recorded in 2019. ➤ A total of 57 countries reported seizures of synthetic NPS in 2019-2020, almost double the number from a decade earlier. These seizures were small and primarily involved ketamine, followed by synthetic cannabinoids ➤ The number of NPS on the market has stabilized; 548 NPS were reported in 2020, of which 77 were identified for the first time ➤ The number of NPS classified as “novel benzodiazepines” is a growing concern. Such NPS are often sold at low prices, sometimes in packaging that mimics that of existing medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Control systems have succeeded in containing the spread of NPS in high-income countries, but the geographical reach of NPS trafficking continues to expand ➤ In some subregions, such as Eastern Europe and Central Asia, NPS have become a major drug problem ➤ Opioid NPS, which include fentanyl analogues, continue to emerge. They represented the fastest growing group of NPS identified for the first time at the global level in 2020 and constitute the most harmful group of NPS.

REGION-BY-REGION DEVELOPMENTS

	Demand	Supply	Key issues
AFRICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Use of cannabis is particularly high in West and Central Africa, with past-year prevalence of use of nearly 10 per cent (28.5 million people), largely reflecting prevalence of cannabis use in Nigeria➤ Non-medical use of tramadol remains a threat, especially in North and West and Central Africa➤ The majority of opioid users in other parts of Africa are opiate users, mostly heroin and, in a few countries, also codeine and opium➤ Cocaine use is rather widespread in West and Southern Africa and appears to be generally increasing across the continent, as evidenced by people in drug treatment, though actual data is scarce➤ While the use of khat, a plant-based NPS, is widespread in East Africa, the use of synthetic NPS is mostly reported in Southern Africa, but data are scarce about both➤ Of the 920,000 people who inject drugs in Africa, around 100,000 or 11 per cent are living with HIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ North Africa is a hub for interregional cannabis resin smuggling to Western Europe➤ Africa accounted for more than half of global quantities of pharmaceutical opioids seized between 2016 and 2020, largely due to the ongoing tramadol crisis➤ Most cocaine in Africa is seized near coastlines. The region, in particular West Africa, is used as a transshipment area for cocaine from South America en route to Europe➤ Heroin from South-West Asia is trafficked through all African subregions, often via East Africa as an entry point, onwards to consumer markets in Western and Central Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Africa has a large gender gap in the use of drugs, with 1 woman for 9 men using cannabis➤ The majority of people treated for drug use disorders in Africa are under the age of 35➤ Cannabis is the drug for which most people with drug use disorders (more than half) seek treatment in Africa➤ Africa remains a key transit region for i) cocaine in the west, ii) heroin in the east and iii) cannabis, mostly produced within the region, in the north➤ The opioid epidemic related to non-medical use of tramadol continues to pose great health risks, with treatment demands for tramadol use disorders increasing in some countries in Africa➤ With an average of 42 standard daily doses per million population, West and Central Africa remains the subregion with the lowest access to internationally controlled medicines for pain management and palliative care
AMERICAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In North America, cannabis products with high THC contents are proliferating; average THC levels continue to increase while levels of CBD are falling➤ Cannabis legalization in North America has taken place in a context of an already ongoing expansion of the cannabis market➤ Opioid use in North America remains high, with 3.4 per cent of the adult population reporting past-year use (11 million users)➤ South and Central America and the Caribbean are the subregions with the highest proportion of people in drug treatment due to the use of cocaine products worldwide➤ Non-medical use of pharmaceutical stimulants is comparatively high in the Americas compared to other global regions➤ There has been a significant increase in the number of people in treatment for methamphetamine disorders in North America in recent years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Interceptions of cannabis are declining substantially in North America despite a rapidly growing cannabis market, as cannabis interdiction has become less of a priority➤ Cocaine is manufactured in South America and reached a record high in 2020 at 1,982 tons (pure cocaine)➤ Cocaine seizures have shifted closer towards production sites in South America, where total quantities seized are now three times higher than in North America➤ Most of the methamphetamine manufactured in North America is for consumption within that subregion. Seizures data suggest that laboratories may be becoming larger and their output increasing➤ Seizures of methamphetamine in North America reached a record high in 2020, despite short-term disruptions of the market at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The opioid epidemic related to illicitly produced fentanyl in North America has been driving the number of overdose deaths to record highs, with an acceleration during the COVID-19 pandemic➤ A quadruple convergence of increase in cannabis use, increased intensity and frequency of use and high potency of cannabis products has led to a rise in related harm and adds a substantial burden to health systems in jurisdictions that have legalized cannabis in North America➤ The gender gap in cannabis use is closing in North America, where level of use is particularly high➤ North America remains the main market for cocaine globally, but the whole region is impacted by increasing cocaine trafficking with record manufacture in South America➤ The methamphetamine market is expanding in North America

	Demand	Supply	Key issues
ASIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While methamphetamine is the main drug of concern in East and South-East Asia, opiates, in particular opium and heroin, predominate in South-West Asia and in South Asia, and “captagon” (amphetamine) in the Near and Middle East Methamphetamine use has risen in Afghanistan in recent years, and accounts suggest that use of methamphetamine and “captagon” tablets is rising in South-West Asia and the Gulf, although no recent estimates are available South-East Asia has a long-established ketamine market The gender gap in drug use is the largest in Asia where 9 out of 100 people who used cannabis in the past year are women Asia accounts for the largest number of PWID worldwide (5.2 million), and among them of those living with hepatitis C (2.8 million), while the highest prevalence of HIV among PWID is found in South-West Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The production of opiates increased in 2020 in South-West Asia and South-East Asia, with these two subregions accounting for more than 90 per cent of global production Methamphetamine manufacture has increased in Afghanistan in recent years, and the drug is being trafficked beyond, into South-West Asia, while seizures in the Gulf suggest that a methamphetamine market may emerge there, too The market for “captagon” in the Near and Middle East continues to flourish, with seizures reaching a record high in 2020 There is a large manufacture of methamphetamine in South-East Asia. Methamphetamine seizures in South-East Asia continued to rise rapidly in 2020 but fell slightly in East Asia Cocaine seizures suggest a geographical expansion in the trafficking of cocaine to Asia, with large seizures made in the region in the period 2020–2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The effects of the ban on opium poppy cultivation, announced in Afghanistan in April 2022, its application and enforcement remain to be seen but changes in opium production in Afghanistan will have implications for opiate markets in virtually all regions of the world The market for methamphetamine is expanding from Afghanistan to South-West Asia and beyond The methamphetamine market continues to expand in South-East Asia NPS use in Central Asia and Transcaucasia appears to be increasing “Captagon” tablets manufactured in the Levant continue to supply large consumer markets in the Gulf The opioids crisis related to the non-medical use of tramadol in North and West Africa also extends to the Near and Middle East
EUROPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western and Central Europe remains the second largest cocaine market worldwide Amphetamine is the second most used stimulant in Europe after cocaine Recent trends point to an increase in methamphetamine use in the region Europe remains a major consumer market for “ecstasy” Opioids remain the main drug type for which people are in drug treatment in Europe, but cannabis follows closely Use of NPS, which appears to remain contained in Western and Central Europe, seems to be increasing in Eastern Europe, where it has become more common 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trafficking of cannabis, both herb and resin, remains an issue in Western and Central Europe, mostly intra-regional although there are substantial imports of cannabis resin from North Africa Western and Central Europe remains a hub for manufacture of synthetic drugs, in particular “ecstasy” and amphetamine, although there are signs of an expansion of the manufacture of methamphetamine in the subregion Hydra Market, the world’s largest “Russian speaking” darknet market, emerged as the world’s largest market on the dark web in 2019 and remained a major player until its dismantlement in 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cocaine use paused in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic but it appears to have rebounded in 2021 in Western and Central Europe THC content has increased by 50 per cent in herbal cannabis and nearly tripled in cannabis resin over the past decade in Western and Central Europe, causing increasingly apparent health harms There has been an increase in the number of people in treatment for cannabis use disorders in Western and Central Europe; around one-third of people accessing drug treatment services are being treated for cannabis use In Eastern Europe, the NPS market is expanding, likely owing to the expansion of online supply, in particular of cathinones Drug injecting and infectious diseases contamination are a key concern in Eastern Europe where 1.3 percent of the population is a PWID (1.7 million), the highest prevalence rate of PWID among the population worldwide. More than a quarter of these PWID are living with HIV, the second highest prevalence rate of HIV among PWID in the world
OCEANIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past-year use of cocaine in the subregion of Australia and New Zealand remains the highest worldwide However, consumption of the drug (based on wastewater analysis) is lower than in other parts of the world, suggesting that most users of cocaine are occasional users Cannabis use is significantly higher than the global average, with prevalence of use exceeding 10 per cent in the subregion of Australia and New Zealand People regularly using cannabis were likely to have increased consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia Australia and New Zealand had clear drops in use of stimulants during periods of lockdown, potentially due to the lack of availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seizures of heroin and morphine and of cocaine increased in 2020 Overall methamphetamine seizures were the lowest since 2012, however, border seizures were at a record high in 2019-2020, suggesting a growing role of imports Most of the methamphetamine used in the region is manufactured within the region. However, seizures of methamphetamine based on P-2-P precursors became more common in 2020, suggesting an increased importance of imports from North America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methamphetamine has become the main drug of concern in Oceania, where half of the people in treatment are being treated for methamphetamine use disorders Annual prevalence rates of methamphetamine use in the general population of Australia have fallen, but among remaining users, consumption has become more intensive and is causing greater health harms



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Consisting of five separate booklets, the *World Drug Report 2022* provides an in-depth analysis of global drug markets and examines the nexus between drugs and the environment within the bigger picture of the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and environmental sustainability.

Booklet 1 summarizes the four subsequent booklets by reviewing their key findings and highlighting policy implications based on their conclusions. Booklet 2 provides an overview of the global demand for and supply of drugs, including an analysis of the relationship between illicit drug economies and situations of conflict and weak rule of law. Booklet 3 reviews the latest trends in the global markets for opioids and cannabis at the global and regional levels, and includes a discussion of the potential impact of changes in opium poppy cultivation and opium production in Afghanistan, and an analysis of early indications of the impact of cannabis legalization on public health, public safety, market dynamics and criminal justice responses in selected jurisdictions. Booklet 4 presents the latest trends in and estimates of the markets for various stimulants – cocaine, amphetamines and “ecstasy” – and new psychoactive substances, both at the global level and in the most affected subregions, including an analysis of different coca bush eradication strategies and a focus on the expansion of the methamphetamine market in South-West Asia. Booklet 5 delves into the nexus between drugs and the environment, providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of research into the direct and indirect effects of illicit drug crop cultivation and drug manufacture, as well as drug policy responses on the environment.

The *World Drug Report 2022* is aimed not only at fostering greater international cooperation to counter the impact of the world drug problem on health, governance and security, but also, with its special insights, at assisting Member States in anticipating and addressing threats from drug markets and mitigating their consequences.

The accompanying statistical annex is published on the UNODC website:
www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2022.html



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