

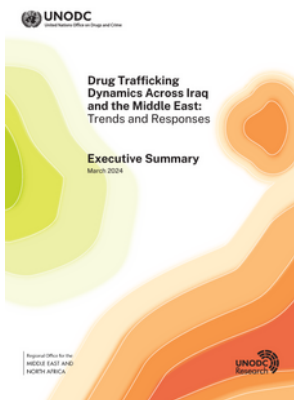
RESEARCH



Mission and Synergies

UNODC’s research function is integral to the Office’s strategic positioning, institutional credibility, and engagement, as highlighted in the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025. This strategy calls for “stronger research, evidence-based policy, and data analysis”. UNODC research generated by the Research and Trend Analysis Branch (RAB) and across field offices aims to enhance knowledge on several thematic areas such as organized crime, drugs, and terrorism, to support counterparts in improving data availability and quality, and to produce evidence to inform programming, resource allocation, and policies. Ultimately, research supports UNODC in delivering and communicating for maximum impact.

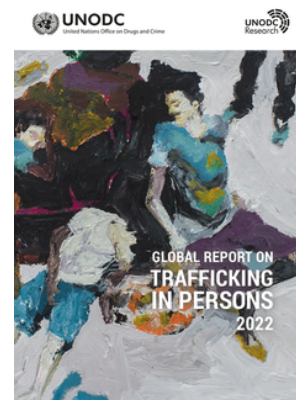
UNODC research benefits from joint efforts spanning from the global to regional and national levels. The production of UNODC flagship reports, such as the World Drug Report (WDR) and the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP), entails collaboration among different field offices and teams to ensure the collection of high-quality data and the provision of comprehensive analysis. While flagship publications are carried out by UNODC researchers based in the Vienna Headquarters, field offices play a role in engaging Member States to contribute to the data collection process.



Drug Trafficking Dynamics Across Iraq and the Middle East, 2024



World Drug Report, 2024



Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2022

Our research strives to build shared knowledge on drugs and crime to make people safer globally and locally. By working together and supporting everyone who can help achieve this goal, we present facts in a timely, accurate and transparent manner, and provide reliable and impartial evidence for better policies.

A shared vision for UNODC Research

A Regional Focus: Middle East and North Africa

The UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) and RAB at HQ/Vienna strategically work together to generate knowledge and inform policymaking with up-to-date field data. This includes for example joint efforts in completing the annual data collection cycle.

Annual data collection cycle:



UNODC ROMENA Research Capacities and Work

- Production of a Study on Illicit Drug Use in Palestine, including a Size Estimation Study (2017).
- Capacity-building initiatives have been undertaken in Algeria to enhance data management in trafficking in persons.
- Production of Rapid Situation Assessments (RSA), such as:
 - RSA of Women who Use Drug in Egypt (2023).
 - RSA of risk behaviour of HIV/STI/TB, viral hepatitis and drug abuse, and service responses in selected prisons in the Republic of South Sudan (Upcoming).
- Production of the very first report on drug trafficking in the Middle East, focusing on Iraq, in response to Iraqi authorities' request to improve understanding and foster cross-border cooperation (March 2024).
- Production of a second report on drug trafficking in the region (with a focus on Libya) (Upcoming).
- Cooperation and partnerships:
 - ROMENA engages in cooperation with external partners, such as UNICRI for research and capacity-building endeavors on the nexus between organized crime and terrorism in the Sahel and Algeria.

Looking ahead, ROMENA aims to:

- Explore the possibility of developing a first Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (TOCTA) for North Africa, covering various illicit activities.
- Forge stronger partnerships with regional research institutions and engage independent researchers from the region in collaborative efforts.
- Expand research to address current and emerging threats in the region, including wildlife trafficking, illicit trafficking in cultural property and environmental crimes.

For more information, please visit:

