



Response to Drugs and Related Organised Crime in Nigeria

UNODC Innovative Approaches to Drug Demand Reduction in Nigeria Following COVID-19 Pademic

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Extent of Drug Use in Nigeria 2017

THREE COMPONENTS

- ✓ **National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health:** 38,850 households in rural/urban areas
- ✓ **Interviews:** 9,344 problem drug users
- ✓ **Key Informant Survey interview:** 2,787 persons

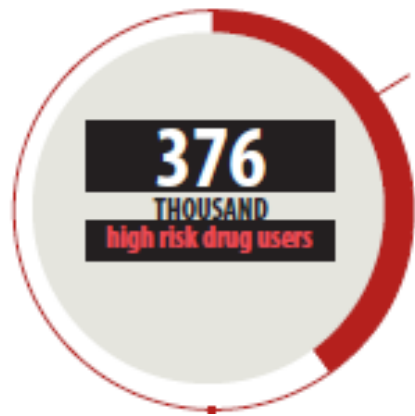


DRUG USE IN NIGERIA

2018

- Estimated 14.3 million people (aged 15 and 64 years) had used drugs, *excluding* alcohol & tobacco (2017)
- 14.4% of population in Nigeria used drugs (2017).
Global annual prevalence of drug use estimated at 5.6 % (2016).

Major Barriers to Drug Treatment in Nigeria



40% of high risk drug users wanted treatment, but were unable to get it

Key Barriers

- Prohibitive cost
- Fear and social stigma
- Treatment not available
- No information on where to find local treatment



Drug Dependency – Problematic Drug Use in



Overall 1 in 5 drug users is dependent



1 in 5 pharmaceutical opioid users is dependent



1 in 3 cannabis users is dependent

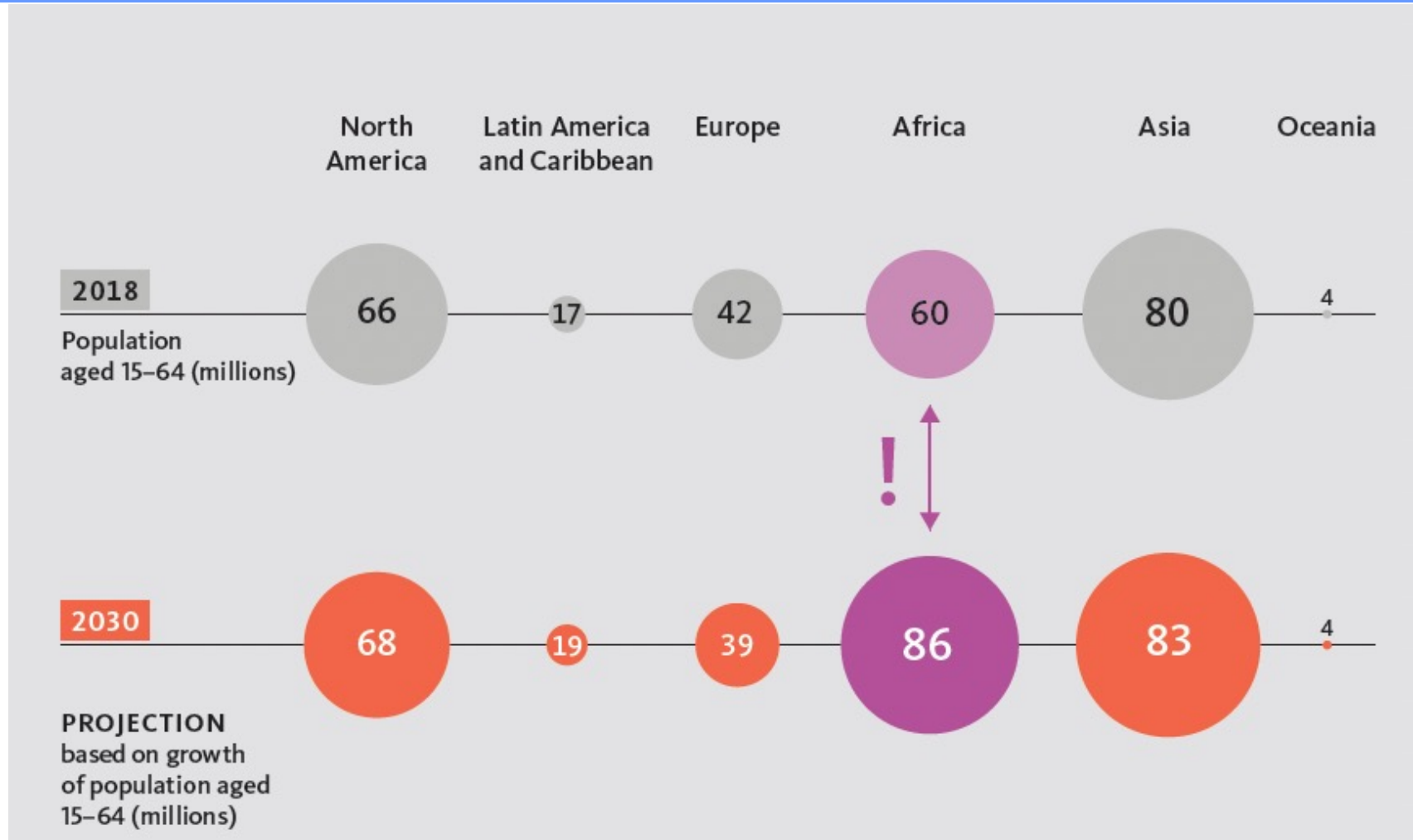


1 in 7 amphetamine users is dependent

Note: Extent of drug use disorders of those using drugs in the past 12 months is only suggestive of a sign, and does not reflect a *clinical diagnosis* of dependence

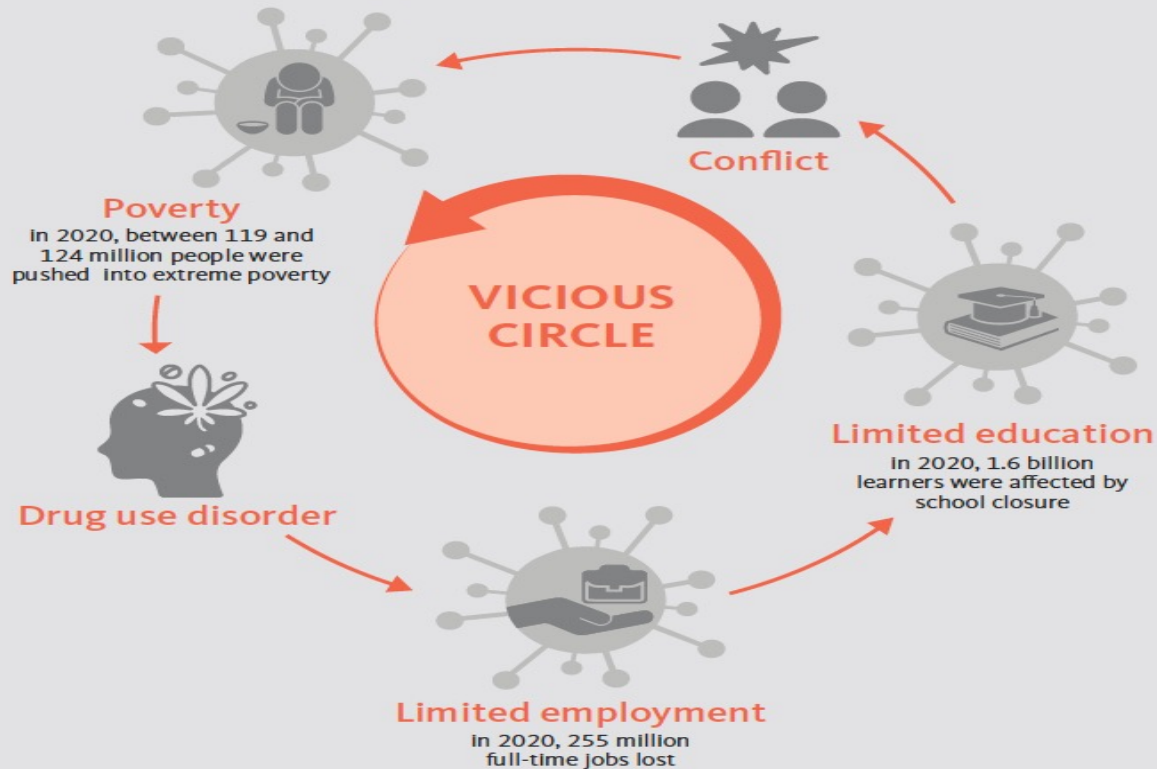
In Nigeria more than 80% of high-risk drug users had severity of dependence that would require some intervention to address their problematic drug use.

Projected Increase in Drug Use in 2030





THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS EXACERBATED THE FACTORS THAT FUEL THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY AND DRUG USE DISORDERS





COVID-19 Outcomes for People Who Use Drugs

- Of 73m patients in 360 facilities and found that people with SUD made up only 10.3% of the sample overall, they accounted for 15.6% of patients diagnosed with COVID-19.
- People with a previous diagnosis of a substance use disorder at any point in their lifetime were 1.5 times more likely to have COVID-19
- More likely to experience severe outcomes of COVID-19
- More than 93,000 drug overdose deaths were estimated to have occurred in the United States in 2020. nearly 30% increase from 2019

UNODC Prevention Initiatives

Unplugged



- 104 Federal Government Colleges
- Kebbi state
- Bayelsa
- Kaduna

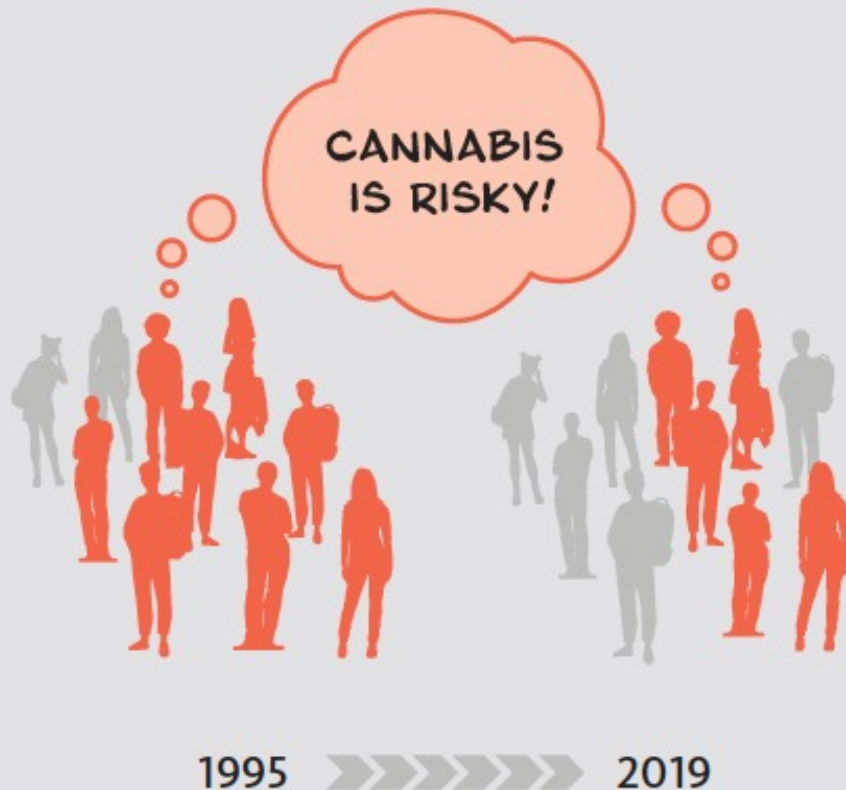
Line Up Live UP (LULU)



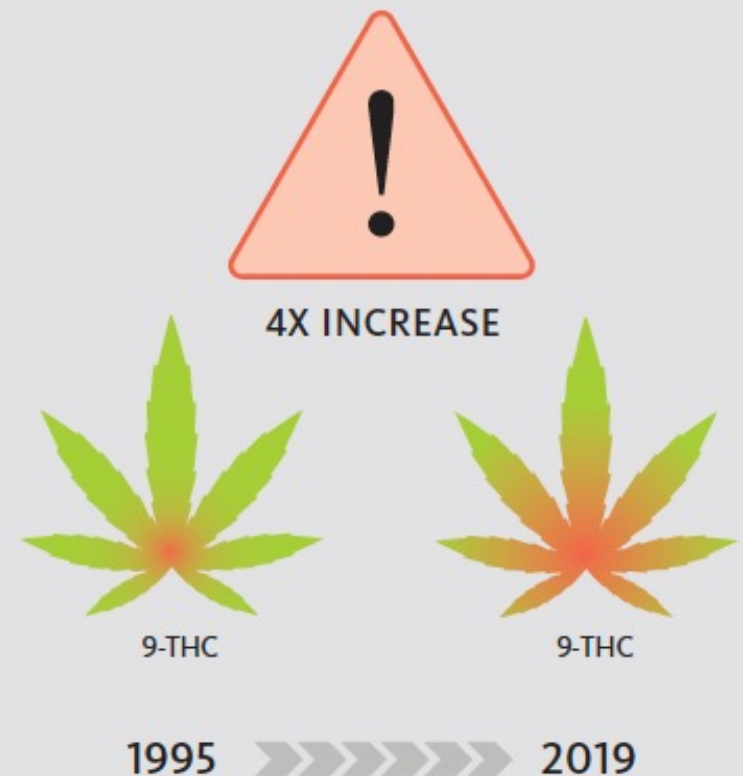
- 6 Trainers in training nationally
- Borno Kaduna
- Gombe Sokoto
- Ekiti

Cannabis: Young People's Perception of Harm

PERCEPTION AMONG ADOLESCENTS

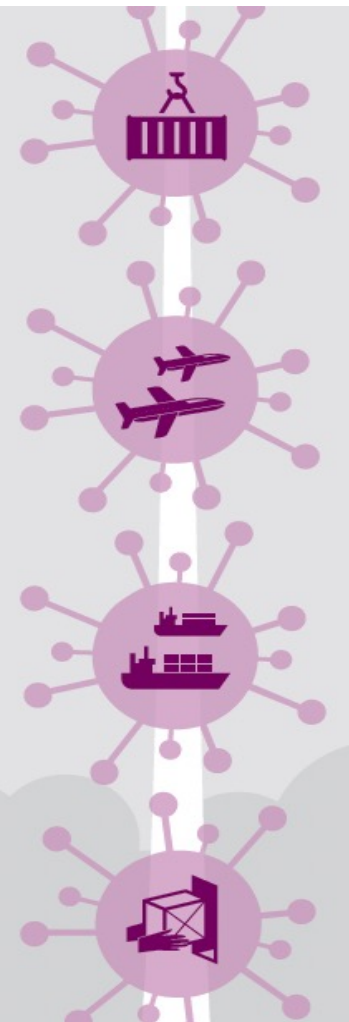


CANNABIS HERB POTENCY

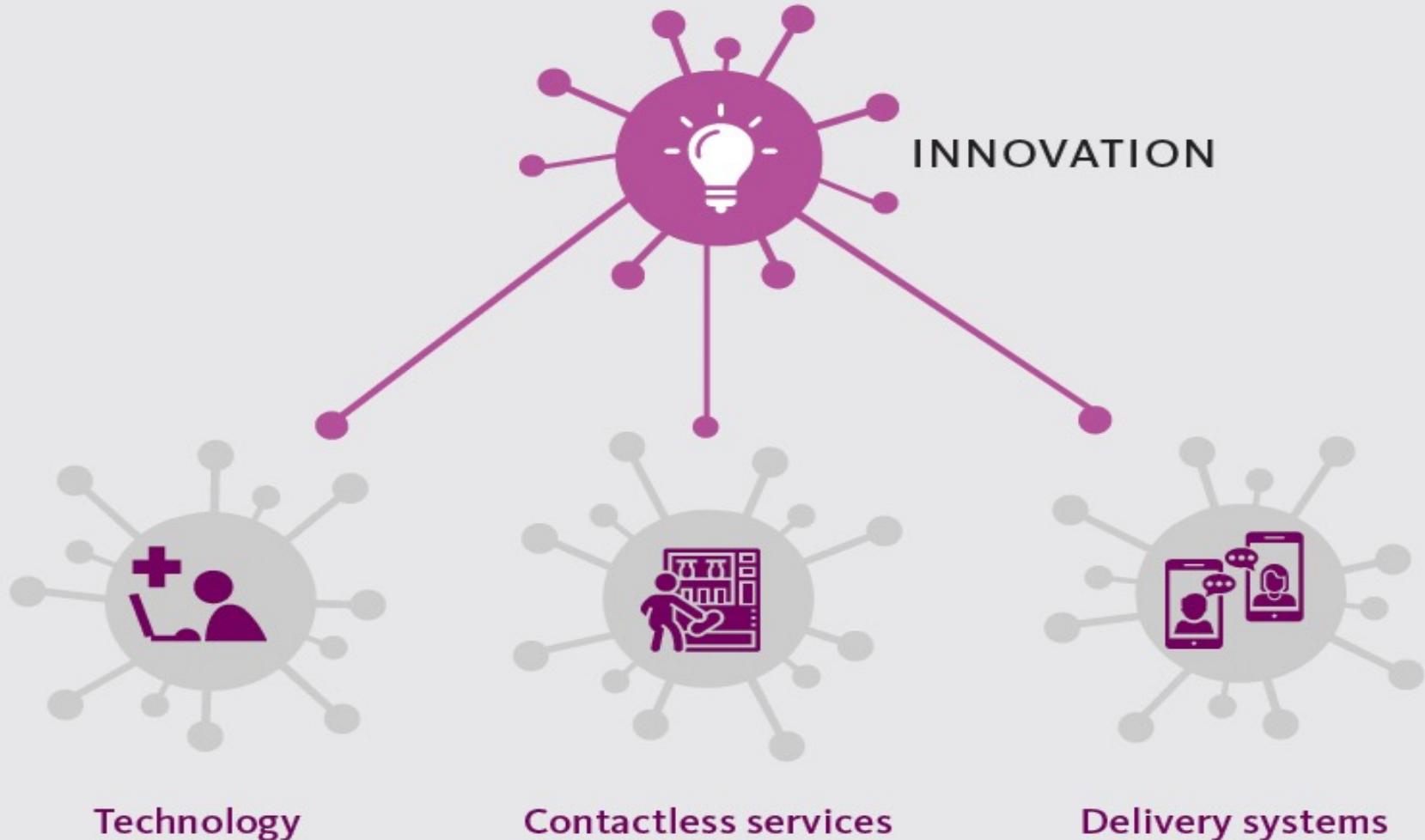


Drug Traffic Patterns Accelerated by COVID-19

- Larger shipment size
- Increased use of private aircraft
- Increased use of waterway routes
- Contactless methods to deliver drugs to end-consumers



Innovation in DPTC Triggered by COVID-19



The Internet: Clear Web, Deep Web And Dark Web

Internet

Infrastructure consisting of a standardized set of data transfer protocols for digital information exchange.

Clear web (surface web)

Content indexed by standard web-search engines, accessible to anyone using the Internet.

- social networks
- public pages /profiles

Dark web (darknets)

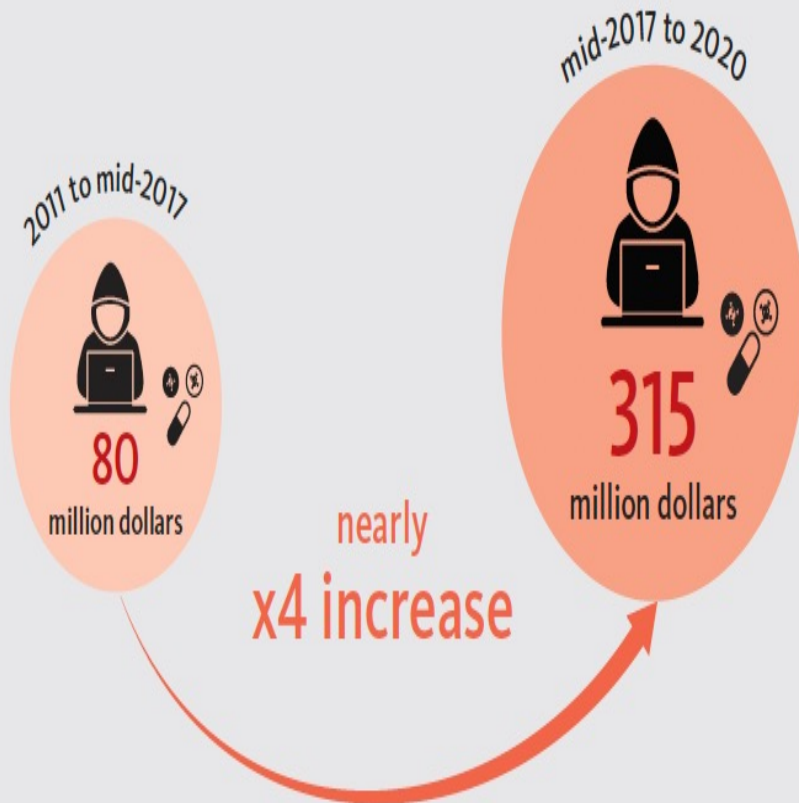
Darknets, or overlay networks within the Internet that can only be accessed with specific software, configurations, or authorization, and often use a unique customized communication protocol. Two typical darknet types are social networks (usually used for file hosting with a peer-to-peer connection), and anonymity proxy networks such as Tor via an anonymized series of connections.

Deep web

Content not indexed by standard web-search engines; content can be located and accessed by a direct URL or IP address but may require a password or other security access to get past public-website pages; includes many very common uses such as web mail, online banking, private or otherwise restricted access content and profiles.

- online banking
- social networks
- restricted pages /profiles

Increase in Drug Sales Over the Dark Web



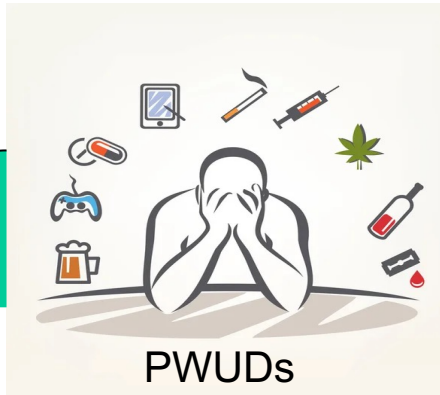
The transnational nature of online drug markets requires a law enforcement capacity that is agile and can have an impact across borders

All states will need to be equipped with expert access to the darknet and the investigative capability to proactively take down online markets and platforms.

Requires innovative solutions and international cooperation.

COVID-19 and The Drug User

People with substance use disorders are at increased risks for poor COVID-19 outcomes



Personal Protective Equipment



Health care practitioners



UNODC Response

- Ensuring personal protective equipment are supplied to services for which people who use drugs often come in contact with.
 - Centres doing drug treatment (with a drug ward)
 - CSO run drop-in-centres
 - Nigeria prison service
- Manual for police on how to interact with people in the wake of COVID-19
- Setting up and strengthening state Drug Control Committees
- Alternative to incarceration



The UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030

- Is to support this continental response with an integrated, people-centred and human rights-based approach, empowering African societies as they develop sustainable solutions to drug-related challenges.
- The strategy focuses on prevention to address the drivers of threats related to drugs and transnational organized crime, supporting and strengthening societies, institutions and at-risk and vulnerable groups. It supports specific and effective responses to drug trafficking and drug use, as well as drug-related HIV prevention, treatment and care.
- Strong partnerships will be key in supporting Africa to stop the expected increase in the number of people who use drugs and the possible negative impact on health and security. African Member States can work closely with United Nations partners, leveraging the efficiency provided by the United Nations development system reform, to deliver more through joint United Nations programmes.



Concluding Remarks

Evidence showing the health vulnerability of people who use drugs and with drug use disorders, including of those living with infectious diseases and those in prison, point to the need to prioritize these groups for COVID-19 screening and vaccination.

Adaptations made as a result of COVID-19 to the delivery of services for drug use prevention and the treatment, care and rehabilitation of drug use-related disorders and HIV have great potential to increase the accessibility and coverage of services if they remain in place after the pandemic.



The light

