



WARMUN 2022

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Agenda 1:

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Alleviation

Agenda 2:

Developing a way to combat illicit drug trafficking in South-East Asia

WARWICK
Model UN Conference



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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Letter From Chairs

Dear Delegates,

A warm welcome to the 2022 Warwick Model United Nations (WARMUN'22) Conference and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)! Our names are Chingiz Abidov, Jasper Boyle, and Syed Abbas Akbari, and we are delighted to be your Chairs for 2022 UNODC.

The WARMUN Executives Team as well as Chairs have tried their best to ensure that delegates get the best possible experience during the conference. We anticipate that you will have a blast at this conference, engaging in respectful conversation while creating arguments, forming allies, and enjoying your time here.

We would also like to remind you that you should not worry if you do not possess any previous MUN Experience, as WARMUN is a beginner-friendly conference with a very supportive environment! On the other hand, if you are a delegate with a rich experience in being a MUN delegate, we are also excited to have you here and are expecting to see your great contributions into the work of our committee.

We have worked closely with WARMUN's Secretariat Team and chose the selected topics, as these are meaningful issues that are affecting the world right now; therefore, we would like to encourage you to actively participate in committee sessions, exchange arguments with other delegates to find the best possible solutions for the given topics.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Once again, welcome to WARMUN'22 and welcome to UNODC!

We are looking forward to meeting everyone.

Best regards,

Chingiz Abidov, Jasper Boyle, and Syed Abbas Akbari

Your Chairs

Chingiz Abidov



Currently in his second year of Computer Science at the University of Warwick. Chingiz started his MUN journey 6 years ago and is also the Conference Manager this year at the Warwick UN Society. He hopes to make WARMUN the best MUN experience for all delegates in UNODC!

Syed Mohammad Abbas Akbari

Currently doing his second-year studies of Civil Engineering at the University of Manchester. Started actively doing MUN in year 9 and grew his own virtual MUN club in 2020. Abbas cannot wait to see how well the delegates perform!



Jasper Boyle

A first-year History and Politics Student at Warwick, he has done MUN since 2017 and has helped to chair a few conferences before. Jasper is looking forward to having a great conference with informative debate!

Introduction to UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a United Nations office that was established in 1997 as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division. It was renamed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2002. It has helped make the world safer by tackling threats and promoting peace as well as sustainable deterrents to these threats.

The role of UNODC is to focus on the trafficking of illicit drugs, criminal justice, crime prevention, terrorism, and political corruption. The mission is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights, and development.

The UNODC offers practical assistance and encourages transnational approaches to action. They do this in all regions of the world through global programmes and a network of field offices.



Agenda 1: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Alleviation

Statement of the Issue

Human trafficking is the process of entrapping and exploiting people for financial or personal gain through force, deception, or coercion. Trafficking in persons has many different forms with most common being sex trafficking, forced labour, and debt bondage. Other forms include organ removal, forced marriage, and child soldiers. All of these activities can be described as multi-billion-dollar international organized crime that constitutes the modern-day slavery. It is necessary to understand that with hidden nature of human trafficking, it is not possible to understand globally full scale of this crime, but it is estimated that there are around 40 million people trapped in modern day slavery. This number essentially means that there are 40 million people who cannot travel freely, who are forced to do labour work, and whose human rights are grossly violated. With this catastrophic implication in mind, it is necessary to act into creation of more effective counter-trafficking projects and frameworks.

Introduction to the topic:

The main aim of this topic is to address, explore, and try to further solve the current situation of human trafficking globally within the scope of work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Therefore, the scope of the debate is to find possible measures that would effectively contribute to reducing the amount of organised crime globally. It is crucial to find such measures, as modern slavery does not only lead to illegal financial/personal gains for the smugglers, but also results into various consequences for the victims. This includes, but is not limited to injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sexual health problems, and more.

When it comes to legislative processes, one could argue that the UN's strategy was effective as now most of the member states have criminalised most forms of trafficking of persons in line with the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol; however, when looking into more depth of the issue, it becomes clear that states with relatively new measures for prosecuting traffickers are not effective (Figure 1). Thus, one could argue about the creation of frameworks that would lead to higher smugglers conviction rates globally.

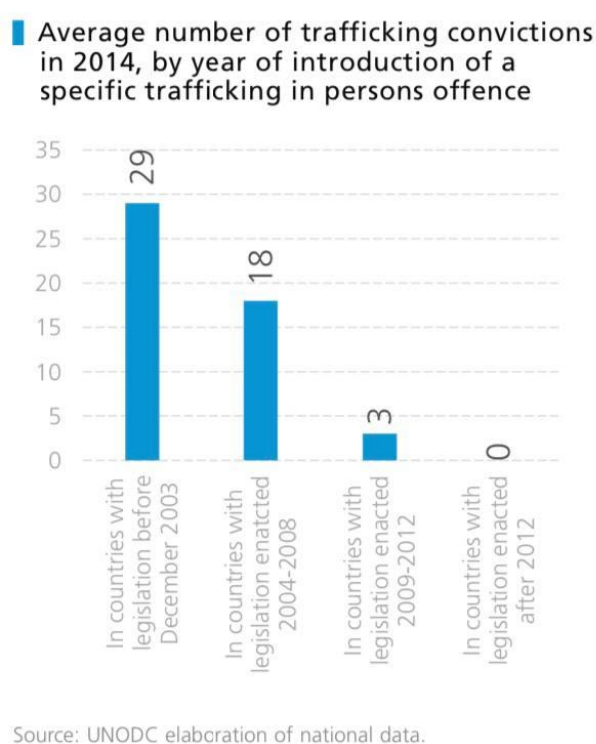
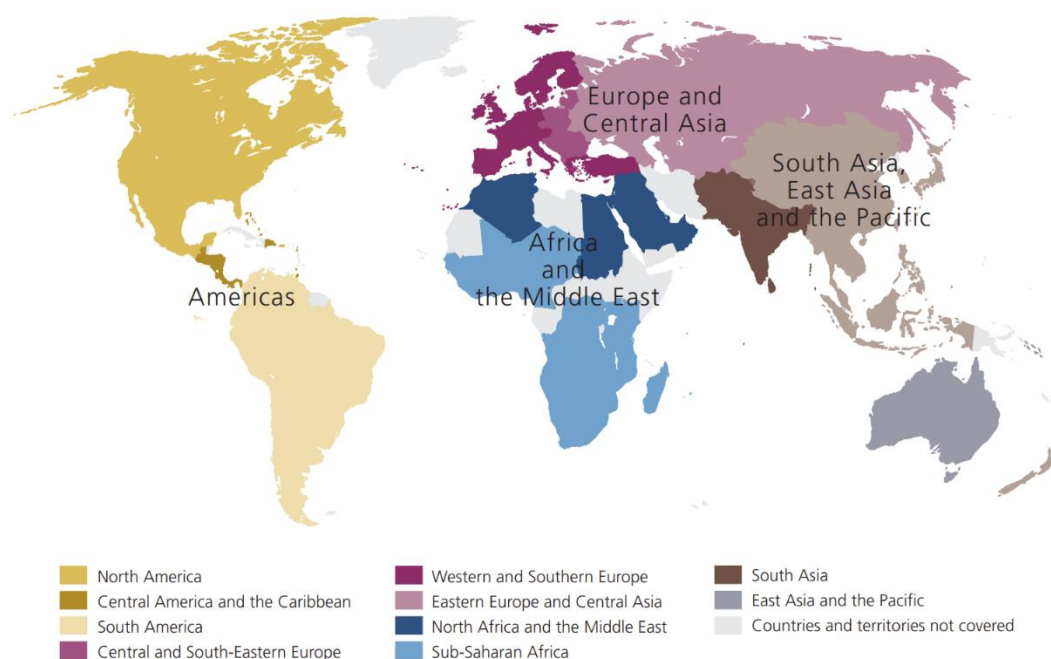


Figure 1

It is also essential to understand the roots of this problem, which may assist in preventing the crime in the first place. In most of the cases, victims of trafficking are those who were vulnerable looking for ways to improve their lives and were lured into a trap by smugglers. Additionally, child victims are usually not properly

aware of the human trafficking due to the lack of proper education and understanding.

Although it is not essential, when conducting the research on separate world regions, we recommend delegates to use the following regions (Figure 2) in line with the UN's report on human trafficking. This study guide will also follow the same structure when reporting about the current global situation.



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Figure 2.

Historical Situation

The first appearance of human trafficking has been recorded in the 1500s and marked the so-called Transatlantic Slave Era period, when European empires sent people from Africa to Americas for forced labour. Given this, the first international initiative on stopping modern slavery was recorded in the early 20th century, when International Agreement for the Suppression of "White Slave Traffic" was signed. Several more agreements, which changed their focus from "White Slave Traffic" to "traffic in women and children", have been signed in following years, but none of them were legally binding.

The United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others was adopted in 1949 and entered into force in 1951. It was a legal turning point as it was the first legally binding document on human trafficking. However, as of the present day, only 66 nations have ratified it. After the Convention entered into force, the international community has adopted several non-binding instruments that continue to focus on trafficking women. Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995,

the Beijing Platform for Action calls for an effective curb on the trafficking of women and girls for the purposes of prostitution.

The United Nations Protocol against Trafficking in Persons was adopted in 2000 and it entered into force in 2003. The Protocol defines human trafficking for the first time. This is the only international legal instrument that criminalises trafficking of persons, including all forms of exploitation. It is also the first crime-fighting tool that balances law enforcement efforts with victim rights. Based on the trafficking protocol, a 'three-P' approach was developed, suggesting that prevention, protection, and prosecution must be addressed when combating trafficking. Since 2003, UNODC has collected information on approximately 225,000 identified trafficking victims worldwide. Countries around the world are discovering and reporting more victims and convicting more traffickers. This may suggest that actions taken by the UN lead to enhanced victim identification, but due to the hidden nature of trafficking, this may also demonstrate that the global amount of human trafficking has further increased.

In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, calling on governments around the world to take a coordinated and coherent action to combat this scourge. The plan calls for integrating the fight against human trafficking into broader UN programs to promote development and enhance security around the world. One of the key provisions of the plan is the establishment of a UN Voluntary Trust Fund (UNVTF) for victims of trafficking, especially women and children.

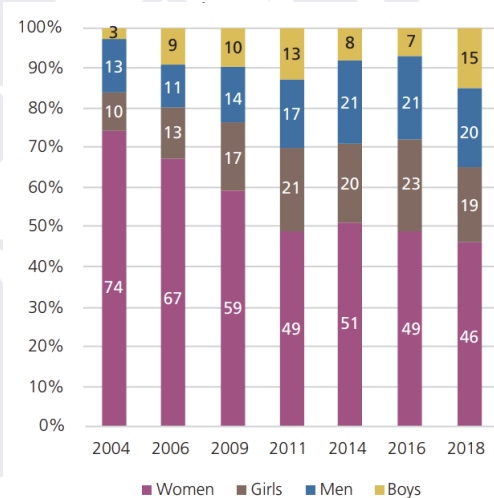
The Trust Fund provides effective field assistance and protection for victims of human trafficking through grants to specialised NGOs. It aims to prioritise victims coming from the context of armed conflict and victims identified within large refugee and migrant flows. Great success achieved by the UNVTF can be easily shown by the fact that 5000 individuals were supported every year by this initiative. Moreover, through the Small Grants Programme, the UN was able to fund more than 140 projects worldwide, with totalling 6 million US dollars in funds.

Current Situation

According to UNODC's latest Report on Trafficking in Persons, female victims continue to be particularly affected by human trafficking. In 2018, for every 10 victims found globally about five were adult women and two were girls. About one third of the overall detected victims were children, both girls and boys, while 20% were adult men.

However, victim profiles vary greatly in different parts of the world. In Sub-Saharan Africa, more child victims were found than adults. Conversely, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, adults accounted for a much higher percentage of total victims than in the rest of the world. When debating about measures to alleviate the issue or this topic in general, we strongly recommend delegates to take into consideration the most prevalent trafficking forms, age, and gender of victims for different regions, as this might give delegates a greater insight into specific points that can be raised during the debate.

According to Figure 3, findings also confirm the 15-year trend of changing age and sex composition of identified victims. Adult women are becoming, in proportion, less commonly detected, and the share of children has increased to over 30 per cent of detected victims. The share of boys detected has risen significantly when compared to girls.



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Figure 3.

As the world continues to transform digitally, it is essential to note that the number of traffickers using internet to perceive victims is rising. Traffickers regularly utilise digital channels to advertise false job postings and pitch exploitative services to potential paying customers. Through social media, traffickers find their victims by contacting them using publicly available personal information and the anonymity of online forums. Digital platforms have also changed exploitation patterns since webcams and livestreams have made it easier to exploit victims without having to physically move them. Traffickers have learned to modify their tactics with the aid

of the internet in order to target particular victims more effectively, either actively "hunting" those they believe to be at risk of becoming victims of trafficking or passively "fishing" for potential victims by posting advertisements and watching for responses.

UNODC also reported 3 ways in which traffickers tend to most commonly use the digital space to find new victims such as:

- **Social media**, including Facebook, Myspace, Skype, WhatsApp and V Kontakte;
- **Classified webpages for advertisement**, referring to generic websites where individuals post advertisements or browse for items or services to buy or sell;
- **Free-standing webpages**, referring to websites created by traffickers that do not form part of larger domains

Now we will cover the current situation in different regions with key data and statistics.

Western and Southern Europe:

- Adult women are the most frequently found victims, although men and boys (share of child male victims increased from 6% to 21% in comparison to 2016) are now becoming more frequently found
- Although trafficking for forced labour and other purposes, mostly for criminal activity and exploitative begging, are being identified more frequently, sexual exploitation is still the most prevalent type of trafficking
- Most convicted human traffickers are adult men. Citizens of the nation of conviction make up the majority. However, a sizable portion of those found guilty of human trafficking are foreign nationals
- The majority of victims found are immigrants. In comparison to earlier times, victims from Central and South-Eastern Europe are less frequently discovered. Sub-Saharan African victims continue to make up a sizable portion of the victims found in this subregion
- The number of times that this subregion's nations identify one of their own citizens as a victim of trafficking is rising

Overall, around 12000 victims were identified in 21 countries of Western and Southern Europe (44% sexually exploited, 32% had to undergo through forced labour).

Central and South-Eastern Europe:

- Adult females are the victims most often found
- The victims' characteristics does not seem to have altered considerably over time
- Convicted traffickers are mostly adult men

- The majority of found victims are still being trafficked for sexual exploitation, notwithstanding slight rises in the shares of victims trafficked for forced labour
- Nationals of the country of conviction make up the majority of citizenship groups. Western and Southern Europe's major sources of human trafficking come from this subregion
- This subregion is characterised by substantial levels of domestic trafficking, while victims from East Asia and from Eastern Europe have also been detected in these countries. Victims from these countries are rarely found in other areas of the world

Overall, around 2000 victims were identified in 16 states of Central and South-Eastern Europe (64% sexually exploited). Relatively low number of victims in this region does not necessarily show that there is less human trafficking in this region, since all states constituting this region introduced a specific policy on offence of trafficking of persons according to the UN guidelines in 2012.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia:

- Adult women are the most frequently found victims, while adult men have also been found in substantial numbers
- Compared to adults, detection of adolescents as victims of trafficking is still relatively rare
- Most victims who have been found have been trafficked for forced labour
- This subregion is distinguished by a large proportion of women who have been charged with and found guilty of human trafficking
- This subregion's nations are distinguished by high rates of domestic trafficking
- This area is a significant source of human trafficking for Central and South-Eastern Europe. Victims from these nations have been found in the Middle East, Western, and Southern Europe

Overall, around 1500 victims were identified in 12 countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (66% had to go through forced labour). Relatively low number of victims does not necessarily show that there is less human trafficking in this region (same case as Central and South-Eastern Europe), since all states constituting this region introduced a specific policy on offence of trafficking of persons according to the UN guidelines in 2012.

South Asia:

- Children and adult women make up nearly equally as many victims as all other victims combined, with 45% and 44%, respectively
- Most victims who have been found have been trafficked for forced labour
- In the Middle East, victims from this subregion are frequently found. Additionally, victims are transported to North America, Western and Southern Europe, and East Asia

- This subregion's nations are distinguished by high rates of domestic trafficking

It is pertinent to mention that data on trafficking is very scarce and limited in this region. For example, regarding the trafficker's conviction rates, the last time such data was reported is in 2014 only by the state of Nepal. Furthermore, even in 2020 there were still countries from the region that have not established policy on conviction of traffickers. The victim detection rates data was also not continuously reported.

East Asia and the Pacific:

- Adult women make up almost half of the victims that have been found in this area. About one-third of all detected victims are children
- The bulk of victims who have been identified are still being trafficked for sexual exploitation in East Asia and the Pacific
- About half of those found guilty of human trafficking are women, who also make up the majority of those under investigation and being prosecuted
- Worldwide, victims from East Asia and the Pacific have been found in all regions and the majority of their subregions. The majority of East Asian victims have been found in East Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas
- Significant levels of domestic and intraregional trafficking are seen in this area

Overall, around 6000 victims were identified in 19 states of East Asia and the Pacific (64% sexually exploited). Out of 29 states in the region, there are still 2 countries who are yet to implement a policy on prosecution of traffickers, according to UNODC's last report in 2020.

North and Central America and the Caribbean:

- Countries in North America detect adult women more frequently than any other victim profile, although adult and underage girls are significantly more frequently detected in Central and the Caribbean (79% of victims)
- The majority of victims found in North America, Central America, and the Caribbean are being trafficked for sexual abuse
- A rising percentage of victims are being trafficked within North American nations; primarily female victims being trafficked for sexual exploitation
- Countries in Central America and the Caribbean identify their own citizens as well as victims from a few South American nations. At the same time, victims from these nations are found in North and South America's wealthier nations

Overall, only 500 victims detected for 9 countries in Central America and the Caribbean (81% sexual exploitation), but such a low number might not necessarily show that these countries have been effective in their fight against human

trafficking. In contrast, for 3 countries in North America, about 9000 victims were identified (72% sexual exploitation).

South America:

- In South America, women make up the bulk of victims found, with men making up one in every four
- More than one third of discovered victims in South America are trafficked for forced labour, while the majority are trafficked for sexual exploitation
- Numerous victims from South America have been found there as well as in Central America, the Caribbean, and South America
- There have also been discoveries of repatriations of victims in this subregion from North America, Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia

Overall, 3200 victims found in 10 countries in South America. According to the United Nations definition of trafficking of persons, the majority of South American nations have a specific crime for it. Between 2004 and 2012, the majority of nations enacted laws designating human trafficking as a separate offence. Only one country in the subregion has incomplete laws as of August 2018, while every other country had created a specific offence for all types of human trafficking.

Sub-Saharan Africa:

- Most victims found in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in West Africa, are children. Adults are typically found in greater numbers than children in countries in Southern and Eastern Africa
- Sub-Saharan African victims are trafficked mostly for the purpose of forced labour (77% of victims), according to data
- The victims of trafficking that originate in Sub-Saharan Africa have been found in Western and Southern Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Additionally, victims from Sub-Saharan African nations have been found in North America and East Asia
- Most of the victims found in this subregion as a result of trafficking flows were either trafficked within their own countries or over the border from neighbours

Overall, around 5000 victims were found in 26 states of this region, most of which were from West Africa. The estimated number of victims could be much higher due to the hidden nature of this crime and the fact that this region consists of 35 countries in total, rather than 26.

Generally speaking, Sub-Saharan Africa has lower conviction rates per 1,000,000 persons than the rest of the globe. In addition, there has not been a discernible increase in the conviction rate per 1,000,000 people over the past 15 years, which has been varying between 0 and 1. Most countries in this subregion introduced a specific offence on human trafficking in line with the United Nations Trafficking in Persons definition after 2009.

North Africa and the Middle East:

- In North Africa and the Middle East, victims of trafficking are more typically identified as adult women and men. In comparison to the other countries in the subregion, North African nations identify youngsters more frequently
- Nearly equal amounts of detected victims are trafficked in North Africa and the Middle East for sexual exploitation (30%), forced labour (30%), and exploitative begging (29%), which is very different in comparison to other regions
- The vast majority of victims found in North African nations are victims of domestic trafficking. Relevant flows from East and West Africa enter these nations
- Victims trafficked from Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia end up in the Middle East and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries

Major Stances:

UNODC Member States: the main goal of UNODC Member States is to make the world safer from drugs, organised crime, corruption, and terrorism by combating these threats to achieve health, security and justice for all and by promoting sustainable peace and well-being. Regarding the trafficking in persons, member states have been collaboratively working on finding measures to prevent trafficking and prosecute the people committing this crime. Countries have been working to follow the UN's latest guidelines on trafficking of persons.

United States of America: Although USA still is one of the UNODC Member States, this is the only state that in addition to following UN's policies, has also created a separate framework in 2000 called Victims Protection Act and uses it to rank other countries in 3 Tiers. For example, according to their latest report, the USA has identified countries (some currently also members of UNODC) that are states sponsoring trafficking in persons, which are

- Afghanistan
- Burma
- People's Republic of China
- Cuba
- Eritrea
- Iran
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Russia
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Turkmenistan

In general, if USA considers some state to be a Tier 3 trafficking in persons country, then sanctions might be imposed on them.

Possible Solutions/Focus Questions:

- How can the profile of victims in different regions be used for creation of better measures for prevention of human trafficking?
- How can member state's (especially those with no identified victims or low number of them) legislative systems be modified to increase number of found victims of trafficking?
- How is it possible to make people less vulnerable to traps of traffickers?
- What should be done to curb the growth of rate of traffickers using the internet (especially social media) for the purpose of committing the crimes?
- Should the UN work closely with social media platforms to help integrate technological solutions that will help against the traffickers of persons?
- Is it possible to create new initiatives leading to better/faster recovery of human trafficking victims?

Additional Research:

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. (2021) *Successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons*. Available at:

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Agenda 2: Developing a way to combat illicit drug trafficking in Southeast Asia

Statement of the Issue:

The drug trade in Southeast Asia has led to the exploitation of thousands and had detrimental effects on the people, livelihoods, and economy in the region. It has proved to be a serious problem that successive governments have been unable to solve. Current methods of harsh punishments, imprisonment and the death penalty have proved ineffective. Recent reports from the UNODC suggest that the trade is ever-expanding, and the pandemic has only exacerbated this problem. Drug traffickers and traders have become even bolder in their methods over the last few years making the issue even more pressing and serious. Ultimately a lack of successful methods to combat the issue has caused production and trafficking to reach record levels displaying that action must be taken to combat this illicit trade.



Introduction to the topic:

The main aim of this topic is to address, explore, and solve the current situation in southeast Asia within the scope of work of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Therefore, the debate must aim to find measures that can combat the illicit drug trade and reduce trafficking levels across the region. The debate should focus on developing successful methods that can actually address the root of the drug trade rather than punishing those who participate in it. Organised crime should be targeted above lower-level criminals.

The UNODC has a specific regional programme for southeast Asia to develop a clear framework for tackling the drug trade. Transnational organised crime groups that manufacture drugs, smuggle and enslave need to be dealt with. These groups have been aided by weak border controls and a lack of cooperation by countries in the region.

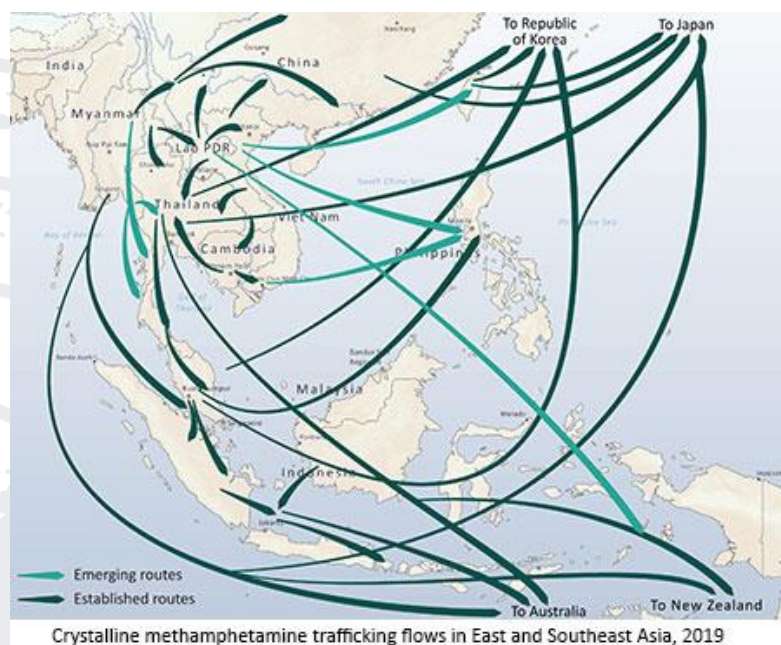


Figure 1

Figure 1 displays new emerging routes in the region. The trade has started to expand towards China and India in recent years due to a complete lack of measures in the region. The figure displays that this is an inherently regional problem and is not an issue that can be solved by one country alone. There must be international cooperation, especially when considering that drug trafficking ties into other areas such as human slavery and pirating.

Ultimately delegates need to come up with clear strategies to combat illicit drug trafficking. They should also conduct research on how the trade affects countries outside of southeast Asia such as the United States and Western Europe with much of the products eventually ending up there.

Historical Situation

The current situation dates back hundreds of years and was mainly an issue in China. In the 1700s the Chinese government suffered issues with opium due to British influence and this was an early example of the problems to come. After the rise of the CCP in China they attempted to combat the issue by cracking down on opium production and use. This policy was successful and significantly reduced drug death rates in China; however, it simply moved the problem south.

A so-called 'Golden Triangle' was created in southeast Asia between Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar. During the 1950s it was the world's largest opium-producing area and supplied a significant amount of the world's heroin. It proved extremely lucrative for groups in the region and supply boomed in this period. However, this led to the exploitation of tribespeople in areas such as Myanmar with a lack of basic human rights and resources. The government were unable and unwilling to take any action against these groups and accusations were made that the Myanmar army itself was involved in the drug trade.

The UNODC heavily targeted Myanmar leading to a large decrease in opium production in the region. This successful campaign took place over a 20-year period and was primarily pushed by the United Nations. However, this would simply lead to an increase in synthetic drug production and trafficking in the region. This will be discussed later in the current situation part of the guide.

The fight against the drug trade in the Philippines dates back over 50 years ago. The Dangerous drugs act was signed in 1972 and marked the beginning of the country's aggressive attitude against drugs. Multiple presidents have enacted legislation such as the Comprehensive Dangerous drugs act (2002) and arrested thousands in their push against the trade. Opium trade in the colonial Philippines significantly changed the drug-taking culture in the country and led to high drug use among young people. International organisations attempted to take advantage of this lucrative group and expanded trafficking routes.

Other nations in southeast Asia such as Indonesia were historically transit countries for drugs so that they could move to Europe and North America. However, in recent decades Indonesia has become a worldwide provider of MDMA consumption and ecstasy.

Historically heroin and methamphetamine have increased in value and as a result production of these drugs has increased. It was estimated that the market for crystal meth has led to the trade in Thailand being at \$61 billion having previously been at low levels.

The historical situation has fluctuated so much which illustrates that drug trafficking in southeast Asia follows demand. The popularity of certain products led to more or less production in the region depending on global events.

Current Situation

The current situation is very different to the historical perspective. The opium trade is no longer the focus of drug traffickers and as mentioned above, a successful campaign by the UNODC has almost eradicated the production of opium in the region.

Synthetic drugs mainly methamphetamine is now the major problem in southeast Asia. The 'Golden Triangle' production of methamphetamine has boomed in recent years with methamphetamine being exported to Australia, other areas of Asia, and the United States. Different triads have staked their claim on drug trafficking in the region and it's estimated one gangster alone earns up to \$8 billion a year.

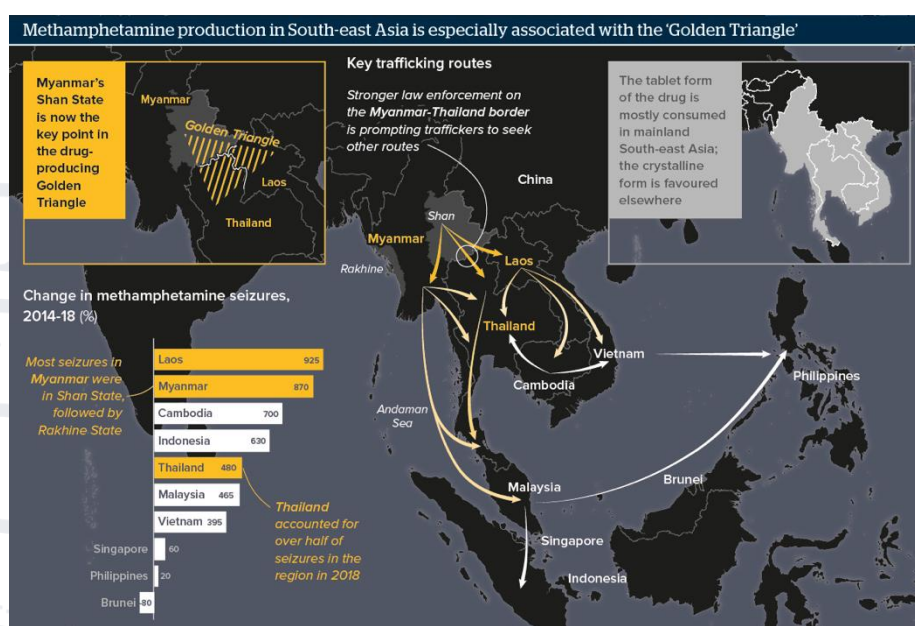


Figure 2

A recent UNODC report highlighted that over one billion methamphetamine tablets were seized in southeast Asia in 2021 displaying the continued expansion of the trafficking. Supply has surged in the last year with a significant price drop in Malaysia and Thailand being particularly "concerning". This is expected to lead to increased use of drugs and therefore all of the risks associated with drug use will increase.

The global SMART (synthetics monitoring: analyses, reporting, and trends) programme has improved the capacity of countries to generate, manage analyse, and report information on illicit synthetic drugs. However, the UNODC is only able to provide advice and help countries collaborate with each other. It is clear that new methods to combat the illicit drug trade must be used as the current ones have proved ineffective and useless as made clear by recent statistics.

The Philippines has emerged as the leading power in the fight against drug trafficking. The government under Rodrigo Duterte declared a 'Philippines Drug War' aimed at the neutralisation of illegal drug personalities nationwide. This war has been internationally condemned and it's thought over 20,000 people were killed in 2018 alone. Police actively shoot suspects involved in drugs and systematically target anyone suspected of dealing drugs. This policy has been praised by Sri Lanka and Indonesia as an "example to the whole world" with large percentages of Filipinos believing the campaign to be successful. It has proved to be extremely controversial internationally with investigations by the ICC and UNHRC being mounted against the country. Allegations of extrajudicial killings, abuse of human rights, and executions of drug suspects have not affected the war and the new president Bongbong Marcos has pledged to continue this campaign. The government managed to target Chinese triads in the area and local based drug dealers.

Away from the Philippines, the UNODC has encouraged cooperation between nations. ASEAN has sought to deal with the problems of drug production, trafficking, and consumption together. However, it has become clear that the existing cooperative structures have not proved effective. Furthermore, the instability in Myanmar has become very problematic for cooperation. The coup in 2021 was estimated to have increased drug flow in the 'Golden Triangle' and contributed to worsening problems. This illustrates that political factors must be considered when addressing these issues. This has led to other countries considering their own 'War on Drugs' to follow the Philippines. The perceived success of their policy has the potential to be extremely damaging to the region.

Major Stances:

Philippines: In the Philippines the 'War on Drugs' is seen as extremely successful. The intense campaign has been ongoing for the last 6 years and according to the government led to drug use falling dramatically. The death toll could be as high as 50,000 with the President urging citizens to "shoot to kill" if they see drug dealers. Executions, the death penalty, and killings have all been carried out in this war. Allegations of crimes against humanity have been brought to the ICC. The current government maintains this strict policy and will continue to advocate for a harsh response to the drug trade and drug use. However, they have started to shift towards drug abuse prevention and education under Marcos. Any new tactics coming from the Philippines are expected to have zero tolerance and will attempt to cut off the drug trade from its centre.

China: China plays a key role in the movement of drugs in this region. The closure of Chinese borders during the Covid-19 pandemic did affect the Golden Triangle's trade initially. It is in the government interest to stem the drug trade as it is destabilising nearby nations such as Myanmar and exploiting many of its citizens in the south. There is still a largescale network between China and Myanmar to this day despite efforts by the Chinese governments. Although large quantities of shipments have decreased, fragmented competition between street dealers is on the rise. Furthermore, many of the triads operating in this area originate in China and base their operations in Chinese cities. This means they are clearly linked to the issue. The Chinese government has been successful in capturing large shipments of drugs and increasing policing at ports. Their policy is to continue this and work with local governments. China also lent financial support to the Philippines in their drug campaign

United States, European nations, and Australia: These areas are where many of the drugs produced in southeast Asia end up. Although in recent years demand has increased within Southeast Asia itself, the primary market is North America, Europe, and Australia. This means that the drug trade in Southeast Asia is of significant importance to the stem of the flow of drugs. The policy of the United States was to lend financial support to the Philippines in their fight with the hopes that it would decrease the worldwide drug trade. Many European nations were shocked at the methods used in the Philippines and brought them to the ICC. They do support stricter regulations and more cooperation in the area.

Possible Solutions/ Focus Questions

How can cooperation be increased in Southeast Asia so drug trafficking can be better prevented?

Should the UNODC play a larger role in combatting the drug trade in southeast Asia or leave it to individual member states?

How should the Philippines' strict drug policies be dealt with, and should they be replicated across the continent?

What should be done to prevent the new synthetic drug trade from increasing even further?

Is cooperation with other committees needed to address issues such as human trafficking caused by the drug trade?

Should global powers such as the United States and China be doing more to help the region?

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