# ABInBev The role of the private sector in combatting illicit trade

### John Blood

Chief Legal and Corporate Affairs Officer & Corporate Secretary AB InBev

> UNCTAD Illicit Trader Forum Geneva, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD

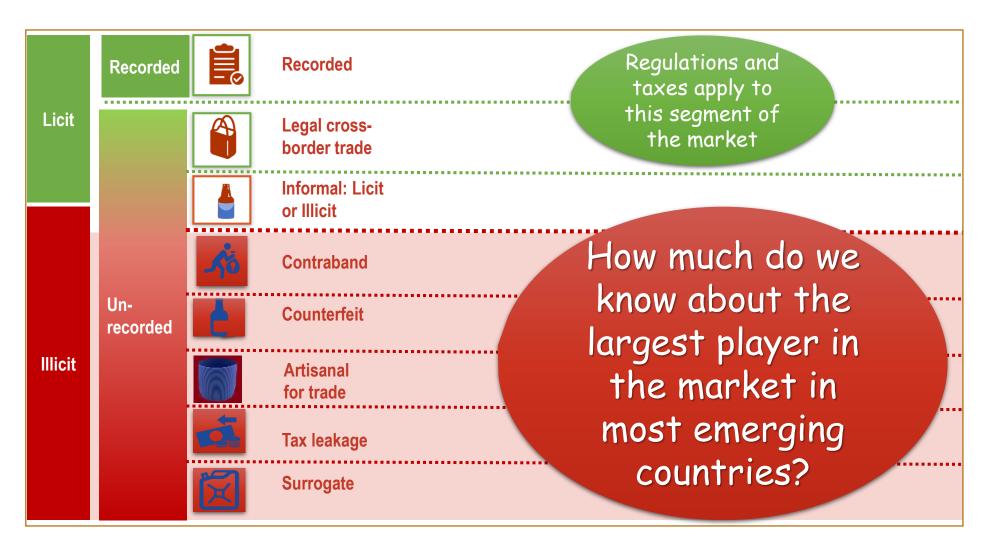
# Contents

- 1. Definitions
- 2. Size & shape of the market
- 3. Root cause, drivers & enablers
- 4. Case studies
- 5. Our commitment



# 1. Definitions – What is the alcohol beverage market composed of?

Includes distilled (spirits) and fermented beverages (wine, beer, etc.)



A closer look into the illicit alcohol categories:



Illegal artisanal alcoholic beverages manufactured for commercial purposes.



Illegal imports of ethanol as raw material and illegal imports of alcoholic beverages as finished product.



Alcohol not intended for human consumption - i.e.: pharmaceutical alcohol, mouthwash, perfumes/colognes

### Counterfeit



Illegal alcohol sold as legal brands, refilled bottles, illegal brands or illegal unbranded alcohol.



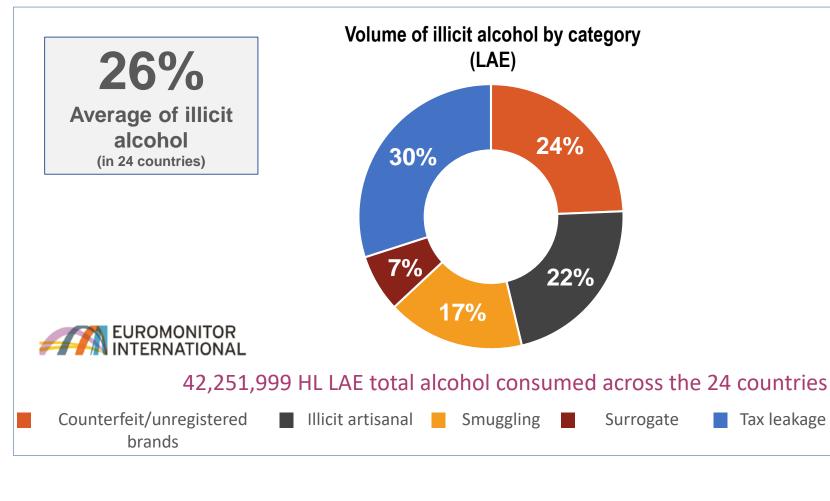
Legal alcoholic beverages for which consumption taxes are not paid.

# The illicit trade of alcohol inhibits the achievement of **5** UN Sustainable Development Goals



## 2. Size & shape of the market:

# Study by Euromonitor shows that more than 1 out of 4 bottles is illicit



#### Studies available at: https://www.tracit.org/alcohol.html



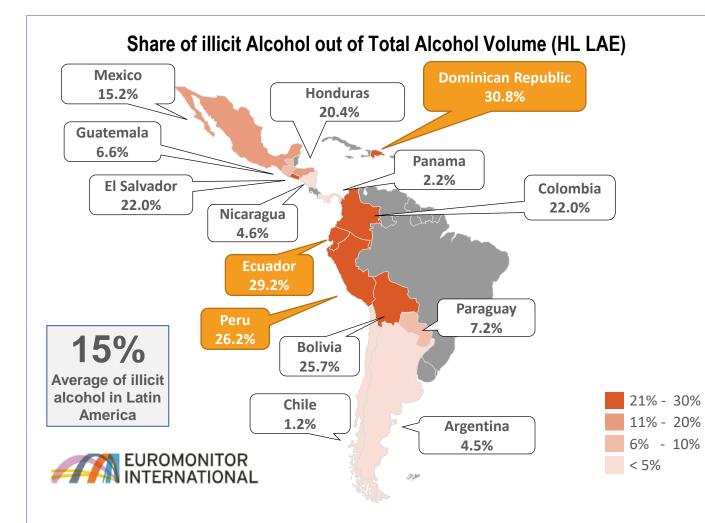
Source: Euromonitor International - Note: Market sizes for both licit and illicit alcohol include both on-trade (restaurants, bars, etc.) and off-trade (retail). \* Excise per liter LAE excludes Russia (2014) as no fiscal loss data is available.

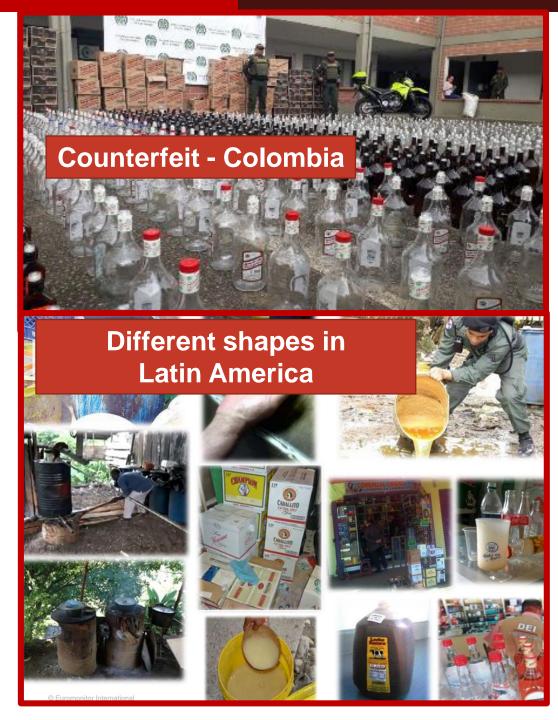


Smuggled finished product & raw material Colombia



# There are huge differences in the share of illicit within Latin America

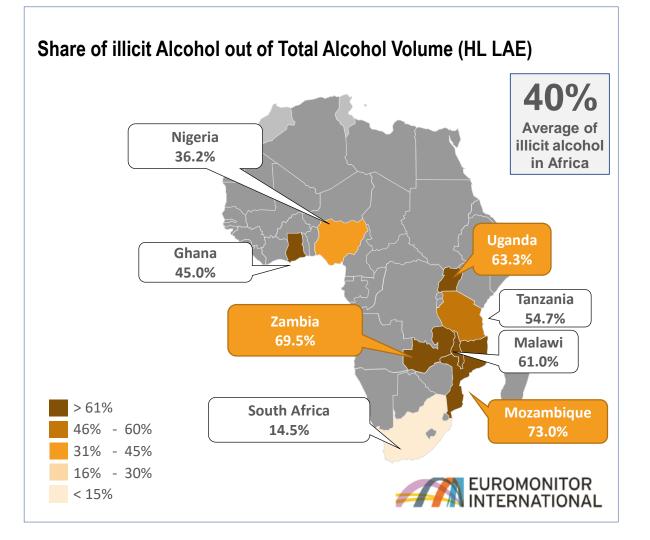




### ABInBev

Source: Euromonitor International - Note: Data for alcohol value sales, consumption volume and fiscal loss use latest-year sizes for Argentina (2013), Bolivia (2016), Chile (2015), Colombia (2017), the Dominican Republic (2016), Ecuador (2017), El Salvador (2015), Guatemala (2015), Honduras (2015), Mexico (2017), Nicaragua (2011), Panama (2015), Paraguay (2017), and Peru (2017)

### **Mozambique, Zambia, Uganda** Highest shares in Africa







## 3. Root cause, drivers and enablers:

# The illicit alcohol market can be unintentionally stimulated by public policy initiatives

		<u>æ</u>			<b></b>
	PRICING	STRONG CONSUMER PREFERENCES AND LOW AWARENESS	INADEQUATE LEGAL & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK	LACK OF ENFORCEMENT AND COLLABORATION	POORLY REGULATED DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS
Key Takeaway	Price is the main driver of the illicit alcohol market.	Society in general (including consumers, authorities, industry) are <b>unaware of the</b> <b>health and fiscal risks</b> associated with illicit alcohol.	Complex regulatory environment <b>enables</b> illicit market.	Efforts to stop illicit trade are thwarted by weak or inexistent enforcement and in some cases, corruption.	Illicit players take advantage of weakly enforced distribution channels (e.g.: smuggling of ethanol and of finished products).

... creates <u>serious safety risks</u> for consumers, <u>erodes the rule of law</u> and fiscal income and <u>inhibits growth for legal</u> businesses

### Counterfeited beverages India (top), Zambia (bottom)



## 4. Case studies

# The process applied to tackle illicit markets:

- Identification of size, shape and drivers
- Learn best and worst practices from international benchmark
- Establish alliances and work together with governments, trade associations, communities, academia, etc.
- ✓ Raise level of awareness on the issue
- Work on a continuous campaign to reduce the illicit market
- Championing legal alternatives

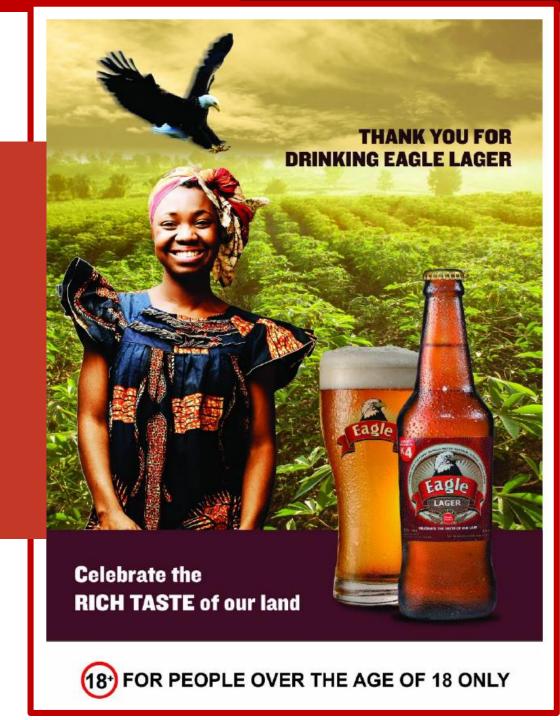
# ...contributing to the UN SDGs

## Sorghum and Cassava Lager in Zambia and Uganda

A smart regulatory framework brings:

- A higher income to formerly subsistence farmers (mostly women)
- An increase in fiscal revenue
- Affordable beer that closes the price gap between licit and unrecorded/illicit trade;
- Consumers to a safer and higher-quality product





# A better future for local cassava producers in Brazil



- Working with 5,000+ farmers
- 8,800 tons of cassava purchased in 2019;
- 5 of 30 cities in Maranhão State that we have purchased cassava from farmes are the **lowest HDI** (Human Development
- Index) in Brazil.
- 2020: plan to buy cassava from all 30 cities



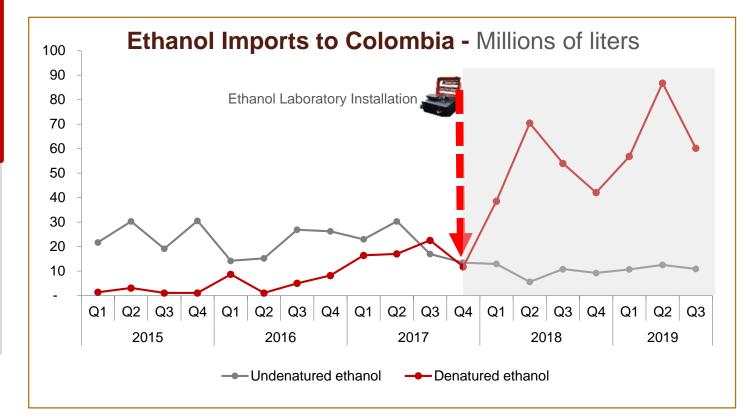


- Magnífica beer from the state of Maranhão, one of the poorest states in Brazil
- Brewed with cassava from local farmers
- Regional beer that promotes local crops, fostering local economy
- Excise tax reduction
- Enhancing social engagement and regional output
- Together, we're improving lives, creating income and dignity arounf Maranhão.



Denatured Ethanol treated with added chemicals to unpalatable

## **Colombia: Denaturing on ethanol**



- New regulation introduced and enforced
- Effective ethanol control resulted in increased importation of denatured ethanol
- **Raised** awareness
- Price gap between licit and illicit decreased

# Who wins when illicit alcohol is reduced?

	Consumers and communities	Licit businesses	Government	
* * * * *	<ul> <li>Public health protected</li> <li>Local licit economy</li> <li>promoted</li> <li>Employment</li> <li>generation</li> <li>Greater affordability of</li> <li>licit products</li> <li>Formalization of value</li> <li>chain</li> <li>Support to local</li> <li>agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓ Enabling environment for licit business activity</li> <li>✓ Availability of licit products increased</li> <li>✓ Promotion of new licit players in the market</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓ Increased fiscal income</li> <li>✓ Reduced smuggling</li> <li>✓ Decreased corruption</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Who loses?</li> <li>Smugglers</li> <li>Counterfeiters</li> <li>Money launderers</li> <li>Corrupt officials</li> </ul>

## There is no silver bullet or "one-size-fits-all" solution to control illicit markets

- ✓ Find solution according to shape
- ✓ Close price gap between licit and illicit
- ✓ Implement solutions aiming illicit players

Counterfeit	<ul> <li>Incentives for local crop production</li> <li>Ethanol control through denaturing</li> <li>Regulate and monitor online channels</li> <li>Enforce intellectual property rulings</li> </ul>
Contraband	<ul> <li>Introduce/enforce strict penalties to smugglers</li> <li>Stronger controls at customs</li> </ul>
Artisanal for trade	<ul> <li>Formalize artisanal producers</li> <li><i>\$</i>implified regulations for small businesses</li> </ul>
Surrogate	<ul> <li>Ethanol control through denaturing</li> <li>Regulate and enforce pharmacy alcohol market</li> <li>Raise awareness</li> </ul>
Tax leakage	<ul> <li>Introduce electronic invoicing systems</li> <li>Incentives for local crop production</li> <li>Fiscal control at source of leakage</li> <li>Higher penalties for tax leakage</li> </ul>

## 5. Our commitment:

- We are committed to the SDGs; our footprint makes us a key partner
- Private sector has the responsibility to play a positive role to support SDGs in an effective way (knowledge, insight + action)
- Illicit alcohol trade negatively affects the achievement of the SDGs
- We are ready to co-create a practical toolkit to tackle this issue, including support for formalization processes.



Strong alignment of interest between community and our business



# Thank you