Roundtable discussion on
Trade in falsified medicines: a danger to health and development

Presentation
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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD
The UNODC – WCO - ICAO Container Control Programme
The Container Control Programme (CCP)
UNODC and WCO Initiative

• Launched in 2004
• Developed jointly by UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO)
• Assists Governments establish and maintain effective container controls
• Focused at seaports, dry ports, land borders, railways and airports
• Prevents trafficking in drugs and other illicit goods
• Facilitates legitimate trade and protects revenue
Background

International trade routes—sea, land, rail and air— are exploited by criminal organizations which pose a threat to the security of the international trade supply chain.

1. Trade Expansion
More than 800 million container movements in the maritime trade supply chain every year, transporting 90% of the world’s cargo.

2. Illicit Trafficking
The containerized trade supply chain is exploited to traffic illicit goods.

3. Security
Organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations seek to exploit weak, ineffective and inconsistent border controls.
Supply Chain Security

CCP activities strengthen the security of the international cargo supply chain by building and improving national capacities.

- Establishment of specialized units in more than 70 countries.
- CCP interacts with relevant national agencies, as well as other international organizations (e.g. ICAO, Interpol).
- Use of UNODC and WCO training material on topics such as precursor chemicals, STEC, COPES, etc.
CCP assists Member States to equip, train and mentor Customs, Aviation Security (AVSEC) and other law enforcement officials to refine the selection of high-risk cargo shipments.
2021 Results & Successes

- 102 PCUs
- 27 ACCUs
- 73 Participating Countries
- 356 Total Training
- 5375 Training Participants
- 1438 Training Participants
- 618 Online
- 161 In-person

- Training Delivered
- Middle East and North Africa: 63
- North America: 39
- Southeast Asia and the Pacific: 45
- East and South Africa: 36
- South East Asia: 33
- Europe: 31
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 29
- South Asia: 25
- Black Sea: 25
- West Africa: 19
- Madagascar: 10
- Oman: 19
- Pakistan: 79%
- 78%
**2021 Results & Successes**

**Total in 2021**
- **1,086** kg of cannabis
- **171** tons of cocaine
- **341** kg of heroin
- **2.2** tons of precursor chemicals
- **166** tons of synthetic drugs
- **60** kg of hashish

**Environmental Crime**
- **55** tons and **55 containers**

**Strategic Goods**
- **14,000,000** items

**Drug Seizures**
- **100.4** tons of ammonium nitrate
- **500** tons of radioactive materials
- **1,000** drones
- **50,000** military knives
- **10,000** rifle scopes and optics
- **3,000** items of ammunition

**Other**
- **32** tons
- **56,000,000** items

**Cash**
- **$650,000**

**Other Items**
- **4,000,618,030** items
- **55,000,000** items

**GLOBAL SEIZURE CASES BY YEAR**
- **2015**: 251 cases
- **2016**: 332 cases
- **2017**: 252 cases
- **2018**: 365 cases
- **2019**: 384 cases
- **2020**: 800 cases
- **2021**: 1404 cases
Seized:

- > 619 tons of cocaine
- 14 tons of heroin
- > 74 tons of cannabis
- 2.8 tons/121,200 liters of precursors for drugs and explosives
- 1.1 tons (946,300 units) of psychotropic substances
- 325 tons of tramadol
- 2,481,854,900 units of cigarettes

There have also been seizures of 90 shipments of strategic and dual use goods, 152 cases of environmental crime, 1,230 cases of IPR goods and 3 instances relating to fisheries crime.
The Container Control Programme (CCP)
UNODC and WCO Initiative participated in WCO operation ‘STOP’

• To get the products from the market: we organize targeted controls, like the WCO Operation STOP, in close cooperation with Health Authorities and Private sector
• Operation STOP was launched with the aim of enhancing cooperation between Customs Administrations, in collaboration with international organizations such as INTERPOL, UNODC, Europol, OLAF, WHO and some private sector actors, focusing on falsified/illicit medicines and medical supplies while also maintaining a general focus on all goods related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may pose a threat to consumer health and safety
• Facemasks, sanitizing gel, thermometers, testing kits, gloves, protective garment, falsified and expired medicines were detained during the operation
• Awareness raising of officers is key
The Container Control Programme (CCP) participated in Interpol operation ‘Pangea’

- Pangea targets the online sale of counterfeit and illicit medicines and medical devices
- Participating agencies carry out coordinated operational activities against illegal websites during the same week in order to identify the criminal networks behind the trafficking
- PANGEA focused on the Southeast Asian and African region
- Awareness raising of officers is key
Cooperation with WHO and other stakeholders

• Final draft of the Training Guide on the Detection and Investigation Of Falsified Medical Products
• WHO has extensive experience in working and sharing intelligence data with the national regulatory agencies. As a result, we feel there is a need to include the national regulatory agencies along with customs and LE agencies in the efforts aimed to prevent and combat trafficking in falsified medical products.
• WHO and UNODC conduct joint training events.
• During a plenary meeting of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP) held in Dakar, two days were devoted to awareness raising and information sharing from 15 participating countries, the World Customs Organization (WCO), World Health Organization (WHO), INTERPOL and an NGO on the problems of investigating and prosecuting falsified medical product related crime
• The MOU between UNODC and the WHO was amended to include cooperation on the trafficking of falsified medical products.
Fiji: Parcel Post Intercepted with Tramadol destined for Australie
Central Asia: Bendax goods wrongly declared as “natural oils (black cumin seed oil)” weighing 5 tons 920 kg, no approval documents for import