

KINNAIRD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, LAHORE



**HUMAN INSECURITY: SOCIO-POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRUG
AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA (2000-2022)**



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SESSION 2019-2023

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**A THESIS/ DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO KINNAIRD COLLEGE
FOR WOMEN IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF BACHELORS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

BY

ALINA MINHAS & KAINAT DURRANI

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
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2019-23**



RESEARCH COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that Ms. Alina Minhas and Ms. Kainat Durrani of BA/BSc (session 2019 – 2023), Department of International Relations have carried out research work entitled “**Human Insecurity: Socio-Political Implications of Drug and Human Trafficking in Africa (2000-2022)**” under my supervision.

It is assured that research work is original and has not yet been published anywhere else.

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ABSTRACT

This research paper investigates the sociopolitical ramifications of drug and human trafficking in Africa from the year 2000 to 2022. The significance of this research stems from the fact that these illegal activities have a considerable impact on human insecurity, undermining the African continent's development. For a number of decades, drug and human trafficking has been a big issue in Africa. The illegal drug and human trafficking trade not only earns billions of dollars for criminal organizations, but it also drives corruption, undermines governance, and perpetuates poverty. Policymakers have struggled to implement effective combating strategies due to a lack of credible data on the scope and effects of these crimes in Africa. The study used a mixed-methods strategy that incorporated qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques to address this issue. A survey was used to acquire qualitative data. Secondary sources for quantitative data included government publications and databases from international organizations. The study's findings demonstrated that drug and human trafficking have significant sociopolitical consequences for Africa. The study also discovered that human trafficking is frequently linked to other forms of organized crime, such as terrorism and money laundering.

This study has far-reaching implications. First, the findings emphasize the critical need for African countries to create and implement effective drug and human trafficking policies and programs. These policies should be founded on trustworthy data and informed by important stakeholders' experiences, particularly victims of human trafficking. Second, the study emphasizes the necessity of regional and international cooperation in the fight against human trafficking. Third, the study advocates for enhanced public awareness and education about the hazards of drug and human trafficking in order to keep vulnerable populations safe from these crimes. Finally, this study work offers important insights into the sociopolitical repercussions of drug and human trafficking in Africa. The study emphasizes the significance of regional and international cooperation in combating human trafficking, as well as improved public awareness and education to keep vulnerable groups from becoming victims. This study is a call to action for policymakers, civil society organizations, and the international community to collaborate in order to address this important issue.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AfCHPR	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
AU	African Union
AUCPCC	African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
UN TIP Protocol	African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons
UN.GIFT	United Nations Global Initiative to Combat Human Trafficking
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WACI	West Africa Coast Initiative

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INTRODUCTION

Human rights cover a wide range of rights, such as the freedom from slavery and torture, the right to life and liberty, the freedom of speech, the right to a job and an education, among many more. These rights are universal and unalienable for everyone. Human security is a perspective on national and global security that prioritizes people and their intricate social and economic relationships. The idea of human security deviates from traditional security theories, which concentrate on the protection of the state. The protection of people from conventional and unconventional dangers is the ultimate objective of the human security concept, which treats persons as its subjects. The African region has been always a little behind in terms of development and modernity, the lack of useful resources has kept the region behind the rest of the developing world. Africa is considered to be the poorest continent of the world. It has multiple challenges in terms of food crisis, health issues, availability of basic necessities, high crime rate, drug and human trafficking, and various other challenges that are causing hurdles in the development of the region. West Africa is considered to be a hub for drug trafficking and a suitable drug trade route for the European and American drug cartels. Areas like Guinea-Bissau and Ghana are famous for being Narco states of Africa, reported by the UNODC executive director Antonio Maria Costa. West Africa has had become a hub for trafficking of cocaine from South America to Europe, according to the UNODC reports.

The area of Guinea-Bissau became the narco-state when the President of the country allowed the Columbian drug cartels to seize the country and use it as a hub for transportation and trading of drugs from South America to Europe. The biggest Columbian cartel is the Medellin Cartel founded by the famous drug lord Carlos Lehder, who is now in prison in the USA. Although, there has been a decrease in the drug trafficking in the years 2008-09, but the trading has not eradicated. States like Ghana and Guinea-Bissau are underdeveloped and drug trafficking is their only survival. Due to this high rate of trafficking, crime has also increased immensely, causing life threats to the people inhabiting the region. Not only the excessive use of drugs among the localities is a big issue for the West Africa, but the side effects in the form of criminal activities are also a threat to the human security of the region.

The activity of drug and human trafficking goes back to the late twentieth century. The trafficking continued over the years and increased exponentially in the 21st century, taking a new turn. Early in the new millennium, traffickers learned that West Africa offered a lucrative and less watched entry point to the drug trade. Due to the discovery of significant cocaine shipments passing through the area on their route to Europe in the mid-2000s, organized crime in West Africa came to the attention of the international community. West Africans were paid in cocaine for their assistance in organizing shipments during the boom years of 2005 to 2007, and they then smuggled these drugs to Europe on their own account. In this decade, the rest of international community became familiar with the trafficking issues in Africa. Between 2007 and 2011, 59 African couriers were found at Japanese airports, the majority of whom were Nigerian. In 2010, 24 Africans were detained nationwide for selling drugs similar to amphetamines. Such incidents kept on happening and still continue till date.

Human security concept is significant in terms with the African region as the challenges faced by the Africans include that of Human rights violation laws and practices. Drug abuse and drug trafficking is one of the most common illegal activities done in the region. Human trafficking is a partner to these illegal crimes. Under the UNODC fifth Global Report in Trafficking in Persons, more than 75% of the trafficking is of Children in West Africa. Moreover, nearly 80% of the victims of trafficking in West Africa are for forced Labor, which has been a major form of exploitation in African region. Drug trafficking is commonly practiced as an easy operated activity. Drug usage is causing serious public health issues that are not being addressed. Drug usage is on the rise, particularly among younger generations, as a result of the flow of cocaine, heroin, and amphetamines through West Africa. According to private survey conducted in 2014 by Kofi Annan Foundation, 11.8 percent of the 1.8 million estimated injecting drug users in West Africa are HIV positive.

This research will discuss the human rights issues, human security concept in relevance to human trafficking and drug trafficking in the West African region. It will also in compensate the origin and history of the drug trafficking and human trafficking. Moreover, the activists involved in such gruesome crimes will also be discussed and analyzed. The issue of human security and human rights will be reflected under these issues.

1.1. Significance of the Study

This research will contribute to the literature of the respective field by discussing the causes and impacts of human trafficking and drug trafficking in the region of West Africa. The research will relate the concept of human insecurity with the gruesome activities going on in the African region. Although the trafficking has been going on long before the slave trade era, the focus of this research will be on the contemporary times. The time period of the research is from 2000 to 2022. Concepts of human insecurity and human rights will be discussed comprehensively along with International laws and African laws that cover them. For further understanding, popular drug cartels will be taken as case studies and their impact on the socio-political aspects of African society.

1.2. PURPOSE AND DESIGN

1.2.1. Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study is to explore Human Insecurity: Drug and Human Trafficking in Africa (2000-2022) and to examine the role of Drug and Human Trafficking in threatening Human Security in Africa.

- To explore the Human Insecurity challenges in Africa 2000-2022.
- To explore the historical linkage of drug and human trafficking from late 20th century to early 21st century.
- To examine the linkage between human trafficking and drug trafficking 2000-2022.
- To analyze the socio-political factors that contributes to human trafficking threatening human security.
- To explore the causes of origin of drug and human trafficking in the West African region.
- To discuss the implementation of International and African laws in the region.
- To develop effective resolutions for encountering these crimes for UN and African Union.

1.2.2. Research Questions

- How drug and human trafficking in Africa is becoming Human security challenge in Africa?

- What are the socio-political factors that contribute to human trafficking creating human insecurity in Africa?
- What are the social and political impacts of these trafficking in the development of the region?
- What measures can UN and AU take to resolve these problems?

1.3. NATURE OF THE STUDY

Through the utilization of historical, explanatory and qualitative research types, this research is conducted. Through both the primary and secondary means of data collection the historical, social and political aspects of Human Insecurity: Drug and Human Trafficking in Africa (2000-2022) are covered in this research. Articles along with books were also reviewed in this research.

1.4. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the book “Human Trafficking and Human Security”, edited by Anna Jonsson; the authors in different chapters analyze and identify the factors that contribute to Human Trafficking. Louise Shelley in the 2nd Chapter describes Human Trafficking as a human security problem. The important concepts of drug smuggling, human trafficking, terrorism and their interconnectedness are discussed in this book. The concept of human security is also defined in detail that includes human rights violation, demographic decline and various factors that undermine quality of life etc. The reason behind continuation of human trafficking according to Louise Shelley is the lack of human security. The human security policy as a method to establish a more secure environment for individuals is also discussed. This book very thoroughly discusses basic concepts making it easier for the reader to understand which indirectly adds to the literature on the field. This book explored various aspects relating to human trafficking and human security very comprehensively which can be termed as strength. However a historical overview could’ve been added for better understanding.

In his article, “*Human Trafficking: A South African Perspective*”, *Shaka Yesufu* mainly talks about Human Trafficking as a global crime and threat to human security by focusing on South Africa. He mentions various kinds of human trafficking i.e. body parts trafficking etc. The causes of human trafficking along with the role of various policies and international and regional

organizations are also discussed in his researched work. He takes an innovative approach as compared to the existing work on this topic by highlighting the impact of human trafficking on the victims. This publication also mentions the laws regarding human trafficking adding to the literature on the field. The in depth analysis of human trafficking concept and suggestions for the issue can be regarded as a strength. However in the global context this issue could have been explored better.

The article “Challenge of Drug Trafficking to Democratic Governance and Human Security in West Africa” by Olayemi Jacob Ogunniyi and James Onochie Akpu, historically discusses human and drug trafficking by focusing on West Africa as the important destination and site for the growing problem. Important aspects like the history of drug trafficking in the region, partnership of Latin American drug dealer and West African criminals and global routes for drug trafficking via West Africa have also been discussed. This article focuses on the history and background of West African states' governance and human security concerns. It takes an extensive approach while talking about the drug trafficking cartels in regards to West Africa and globally as well. The article concludes by stating that a coherent approach is required by both West African governments and international community to counter this issue. The statistics of drug abuse and trafficking and its impact on society definitely add to the literature on the field. However by mentioning the political aspect of this problem the readability could have been improved.

Jane Reeves' edited book "Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking" provides a detailed summary of contemporary occurrences in human trafficking and modern slavery. The chapter "The Conundrum of Human Trafficking in Africa" by Paul O. Bello and Adewale A. Olutola delves into the scope, mystique, and nature of human trafficking in Africa. They define human trafficking and provide an outline of human trafficking in Africa, its various types, the involved forces and the contributing factors in human trafficking. They also define how Africa has been dealing with major problems like poverty, internal displacement and migration flowsetc and human trafficking adds fuel to such problems. By linking it to the concept of globalization they take an innovative approach in the research. The historical evidence of human trafficking in Africa and its connection to post-Cold War wars has also been explored. The government's lack of political will and institutional corruption, while the three variables, namely desire for cheap labor, exploitation, and the need for survival, have all been highlighted as the root causes of this issue. Numerous solutions

to the challenges identified and emphasized could be considered one of the strengths that significantly add to the reader's knowledge.

CHAPTER 2

DRUG AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEADING TO HUMAN INSECURITY

2. Introduction

When thinking of the African region, the first image that comes to mind is poverty, diseases, under development, illiteracy, violence, drugs and human rights violations. The problem with this image is that it is true to much extent. Africa is a neglected region that is a creator of various problems that are spread towards the rest of the world. The issues do not only just originate from there, but Africa also acts as a pathway for such activists to use the region for their illegal activities. Drug trafficking and Human trafficking are the major two problems that are mainly relevant to African region. Africa does not only create these issues in itself but provides others with a safe space to exercise them. Both these phenomenon of illegal activities do not only damage the African region but the rest of the humanity as well.

Security is a well know concept in International studies, but mainly the term is affiliated with states and national level situations. Here, the concept of security will be discussed in terms of human security. Human security is not restricted to Africa only, it is a global concept that is affected by any harmful instance conducted at any area of the world. This effect on human security, usually in a negative manner, is addressed as human insecurity. The chapter will highlight the concept of Human Insecurity in relevance with the activities of human trafficking and drug trafficking in the region of Africa, or more particularly, West Africa.

Drug trafficking is a commonly known illegal enterprise which not only involves the distribution of drugs but its production and sale as well. Africa is popular region in terms of drug trafficking especially the West African region. Drug trafficking costs around tens of thousands of lives every year around the world. Cocaine, heroin, marijuana, meth, cannabis are the easily available and commonly used drugs that are distributed from Africa. This chapter will highlight the commonly used drugs and the recent statistics regarding the usage of drugs. The impacts of usage of drug will also be discussed along with the causes behind the rising drug influence.

Human trafficking is an illegal activity which is practiced regardless in various regions of the world including Africa as the largest hub for human trafficking. This activity is a direct violation of human rights and is ultimately a threat to the human security concept. Human trafficking is often done for the purposes of domestic slavery, forced labor, sex trafficking, forced child labor, and child sex slavery. All these activities are illegal and prohibited in every law. Even in some cases, the recruitment of children as soldiers by the state government, state sponsored human trafficking, and instances like penalization of victims are against the human rights laws. All of these activities will be further discussed in this chapter.

2.1. Concept of Security

Security has drawn numerous definitions, just like identity, peace, and multiple such terminologies in the domain of international relation studies. Sadly, many people approach these concepts from the viewpoint of their own beliefs. Consequently, the term "security" can be defined in a number of different methods. It shouldn't be surprising that working within security's ambit is so vague if comprehending it is this challenging. In the context of security, both the public and the government have taken action in ways that have rendered it difficult to deal with both anticipated and unanticipated repercussions. Due to the seeming absence of intellectual limits, the concept of security is used to recruit and stir up support for a wide range of political initiatives at both the international and national levels of politics. Paul D. Williams said, "Security is therefore a powerful political tool in claiming attention for priority items in the competition for government attention". (Osisanya)

A nation's perception that its physical and political survival, as well as the survival of its population, are not at risk from the acts of other nations is referred to as security in international relations. A number of strategies, such as military alliances, commercial agreements, diplomatic talks, and international law, can be used to attain security. Security may also be threatened by the actions of terrorist organizations, rogue nations, and weapons of mass destruction. Since states must safeguard their citizens and uphold the international order, security is a crucial component of the international relation studies.

Samuel Makinda describes security as, “the preservation of the norms, rules, institutions and values of society”. He also talks about the defense of society's structures, ideals, and institutions—along with its members—against "military and non-military threats". The word "preservation" suggests purposeful, planned, and explicit behaviors and deeds, which is a fundamental component of this description. Therefore, the breadth and depth of a society's security agenda reflect how that society regards its leadership and how it focuses its behaviour and activities. (Osisanya)

2.1.1. Traditional and Non-Traditional Security

National security serves as the lens through which traditional security studies view security. The integrity and sovereignty of the state are the focus. Before the Cold War, efforts to defend the country from other countries were concentrated on weaponry, disarmament, and increasing deterrence. In order to grow and protect the state, alliances, forming pacts and treaties with foreign governments was another idea covered in traditional security studies. The widespread use of nuclear weapons and the Cold War era are sometimes mentioned as the roots of security studies. Humans continue to be the primary focus of security studies. The field of security studies has widened beyond its strict militaristic confines thanks to non-traditional security studies. Numerous academics defend the NTS against the claim that non-traditionalist approaches to security studies render them incoherent, and they offer a constructivist strategy for reintegrating security studies among the three branches of the field—Traditional, Critical Studies and Wideners.

The idea of nontraditional security (NTS), which first appeared in post-Cold War international relations theory. It is used to define security issues that are more complicated and call for a variety of answers rather than ones that are purely military in nature. These difficulties include deteriorating environmental conditions, poverty, population increase, globalization, organized crime, terrorism, and pandemics. According to NTS, these issues frequently have regional or worldwide repercussions and call for an integrated interdisciplinary strategy to be addressed. It is frequently maintained that conventional security strategies, such as the use of military force, are inadequate to handle these problems. NTS recommends placing more focus on non-military tactics like diplomatic, economic, social, and developmental initiatives in addition to conventional security measures.

NTS frequently emphasizes the necessity to address security of individuals and communities in addition to state security and to understand the connections between security and development. In

this regard, it is viewed as a means of expanding the traditional security's state-centric orientation and incorporating fresh security concepts into policymaking. NTS has been used to analyze a wide range of topics, including food security, cyber-security, migration, and climate change. Additionally, it has been used to encourage closer cooperation between states and various societal groupings, including the commercial sector and civil society organizations. (Caballero, 2016)

2.2. The concept of Human Security and Insecurity

Many people believe that there are constant threats in today's environment, making it hazardous. Long-lasting crises, brutal conflicts, calamities, pandemics, persistent poverty, and economic recessions are challenging and they jeopardize prospects for long-term prosperity. These crises are complex and touch on many different aspects of human insecurity. They have the ability to spread enormously when they come together, destroying entire villages and crossing international borders.

As stated in UN General Assembly resolution 66/290, human security is a method to assist States detect and address persistent and inter-sectorial risks to the lives, livelihood, and dignity of their populations. It promotes the following in order to improve everyone's protection and empowerment for "people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific, and prevention-oriented approaches." (UNTFHS, 2022)

Human security indicates that in order for security policy and analysis to be valid and effective, they must place an emphasis on the individual as the referent and main benefit. Human security is, "freedom from hunger" and "freedom from fear". According to human security, it is ethically necessary to refocus security around the individual in conformity with commonly accepted standards of human rights and governance. Despite the fact that the term "human security" is debatable, UNDP's 1994 Human Development Report used it first, which is where it is most frequently quoted today.

The term "human security" was defined in this report as "a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode in violence, a dissident who was not silenced," and it was also stated that human security is universal in nature, its parts interacted, it was founded on proactive rather than reactive actions, and it was inherently people-centered. The UNDP clarified human security in its broader concept of security as, "safety against

such chronic dangers as starvation, sickness, and repression” and “protection from unexpected and harmful changes in the rhythms of everyday life.”

This changed it from the state-centric paradigm that had previously ruled by expanding it to include seven crucial individual-centric components: economic security, personal security, health security, food security, environmental security, community security, and political security. The two equally unlimited basic rights specified in the 1945 UN Charter served as the foundation of this movement: "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear." As a consequence, inclusion and the necessity for ambiguity were taken into consideration when developing the concept. According to the research, "human security is more readily discernible by its absence than through its existence, like other fundamental notions. And the majority of people have an innate understanding of what security is. (Johns, 2014)

2.3. Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking, according to the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, is a worldwide illegal enterprise that involves the production, distribution, and sale of drugs that are illegal under international law. (UNODC U. N., 2010)

Tens of thousands of lives are lost each year as a result of the overuse of prescription drugs and the proliferation of illegal drugs. Numerous chemicals can be abused as drugs. Others, particularly strong narcotics like heroin, cocaine, and crystal meth, have no discernible medical value. Some are legal medications used for medical purposes. One thing all of these have in common is that they have the potential to be fatal and can be addicting. Like other companies, illegal drug trafficking depends on both supply and demand, and Mexico's cartels are among the biggest global providers of these substances. (Bartsch, 2019) Drug trafficking, which generated \$88 billion in cocaine alone in 2008, is one of the unlawful industries with the fastest rising global market share, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2012). Drug-related violence has wide-ranging effects and has an impact on people on a variety of different levels. Drug trafficking violence affects millions of people's human rights globally and goes beyond just drug sales. (Shirk, 2010)

Drug trafficking is a crime that has an impact on the nations, cities, and communities where it occurs in addition to the people who become hooked to narcotics. Due to the nature of

manufacturing, distribution, and the frequently desperate measures that addicts and dealers alike will take to obtain the high they so desperately need or to make large sums of money, illegal drugs, drug abuse, and violence frequently go hand in hand. A serious issue in the United States and other nations is the connection between illegal drugs, violence, and victimization. Illegal narcotics and prescription drug abuse are becoming more prevalent as the ease of manufacturing and obtaining the chemicals necessary to produce them become easier (Bartsch, 2019). With that abuse, victimization occurs on all levels, and the creation of the Dark Web has only solidified the problem. Trafficking implies moving drugs across continents. In the past, however, in most under-developed nations, drug trafficking took place close to home. Research data shows that intra-regional and domestic trafficking were the primary forms of - 6 - trafficking in drugs (UNODC, Global report on trafficking in persons, 2012). This would often include persons (usually poor and uneducated) to carry drugs across open borders. Cartels would also invest millions into tunnels and semi-submersible vehicles to transport drugs across borders. (Bartsch, 2019)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Report UNODC is one of the most renowned and comprehensive studies on trafficking. It was first published in 1998, and modifications have been made over the years with the most recent one occurring in 2022. The first of its type, the report provides a global evaluation and includes data on national statistics, trafficking trends, victim surveys, and updates on prosecutions. Drug statistics that are hard to find elsewhere are provided in the report. In order to gather information and gain a deeper understanding of their dynamics, UNODC continuously monitors and studies illicit drug markets from around the world. (UNODC, World Drug Report 2022, 2022)

2.3.1. Usage of Drugs

According to the most recent UNODC World Drug Report 2022, an estimated 284 million people worldwide, primarily men between the ages of 15 and 64, used drugs within the previous 12 months in 2020. This is equivalent to almost 1 in every 18 persons in that age bracket, or 5.6%, and represents a 26% increase from 2010, when it was projected that 226 million people took drugs, and the frequency was 5%. The increase in world population is partly to blame for this. These global estimations' broad uncertainty bands should be taken into account when comparing them throughout time.

Qualitative data indicates that the usage of amphetamines and cannabis, the two drugs that remain by far the most commonly used worldwide, increased globally in 2020. Most reporting countries

reported no change in the use of opioids. Due in significant part to the forced shutdown of entertainment and hospitality facilities, the epidemic appears to have reversed the previously rising tendency for cocaine and ecstasy-type drugs. (UNODC, World Drug Report 2022, 2022)

2.3.2. Commonly used Drugs

Twenty-nine million people used cannabis worldwide in the previous year, making it the most widely used substance globally. An overall increase in use has been identified as a qualitative trend for 2019–2020. According to quantitative trends, cannabis use will rise by 23% between 2010 and 2020. In 2020, 61 million individuals will have taken opioids for non-medical purposes in the previous year, according to UNODC data. 31 million of them—mostly heroin users—used opiates in the previous year. Opioid usage continues to be a major health concern owing to its negative effects. In 2019–2020, the overall patterns of consumption remain unchanged. Quantitative trends suggest a doubling of opioid usage between 2010 and 2020.

In 2020, there are expected to be 34 million amphetamine users. According to the qualitative trends, there has been a rise in use in 2019–2020 and during the preceding 10 years. Quantitative trends indicate that the 2010–2020 era has been relatively constant, although there is a great amount of uncertainty given the volume of data. In 2020, 20 million people are anticipated to consume substances that are similar to "ecstasy." Numerous polls revealed a decline in usage, which was most likely brought on by the closing of nightclubs where "ecstasy"-like chemicals were often used as a result of COVID-19. According to reports, 21 million people used substances comparable to cocaine in 2020. Between 2010 and 2019, quantitative measures reveal a steady, long-term increase in cocaine usage. (UNODC, GLOBAL OVERVIEW DRUG DEMAND SUPPLY , 2022)

Due to their stimulant effects on the central nervous system, cocaine, ATS, ecstasy-like compounds, cathinones, and some other NPS can all be considered stimulant drugs. The most popular stimulant drug differs significantly among regions and countries. These variances are the result of a complicated interplay between the dynamics of the drug industry and other elements (such as norms, social context, etc.). For instance, higher production can also lead to increased use and wide availability of particular stimulants at relatively low rates can correspond with increased use (e.g. methamphetamine in Mexico). Price influences drug use to some extent, as shown by

increases in emergency room visits following declines in cocaine prices. Drug substitution can also be caused by drug pricing, as shown by cross-price elasticity. The removal of a particular drug from the market might also alter the favored stimulant substance; in Hungary, for instance, the decreased availability of amphetamines and heroin resulted in a shift toward injecting more readily available synthetic cathinones. (UNODC, GLOBAL OVERVIEW DRUG DEMAND SUPPLY , 2022)

PWID suffer from numerous serious negative health effects as a result of injecting drugs, which is a high-risk practice and a significant source of drug-related suffering. The use of injectable drugs carries a significant danger of both fatal and non-fatal overdose as well as the emergence of serious and potentially fatal infectious infections. According to estimates from UNODC, UNAIDS, WHO, and the World Bank, 11.2 million people will inject drugs globally in 2020. The anticipated global prevalence of injecting drug use has not changed appreciably from the previous estimate for 2019, which was similarly 0.22% of the population between the ages of 15 and 64. (UNODC, GLOBAL OVERVIEW DRUG DEMAND SUPPLY , 2022)

A wide range of pharmacological combinations can be used concurrently or sequentially as part of poly-drug use. It is challenging to identify common ground when contrasting different studies since poly-drug use is difficult to measure in studies and routine data collects. People who use multiple drugs do so for a variety of reasons, including to increase the overall psychoactive experience, to achieve a cumulative or synergistic effect, to counteract the negative effects of the drugs they use by combining drugs with opposite effects, or simply to avoid the accidental use of multiple drugs caused by the adulteration of substances sold on the black market mixed with other substances. Acute and long-term dangers associated with poly drug usage include those due to drug interactions. The danger of drug toxicity, which can lead to overdoses that are deadly or non-fatal⁸, accidents, hepatotoxicity, codependency, and poor treatment outcomes are some of the most serious effects. ⁹ Co-use of substances like alcohol that are not internationally controlled, in addition to controlled substances, raises health hazards. (UNODC, GLOBAL OVERVIEW DRUG DEMAND SUPPLY , 2022)

2.4. Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is defined by the UNODC as "the recruitment, transit, transfer, housing, or receiving of individuals by means of coercion, fraud, or deception with the intention of utilizing them for financial gain." This crime occurs all throughout the world and can affect men, women, and kids of different ages and socioeconomic situations. To deceive and coerce their victims, traffickers frequently resort to violence, dishonest employment agencies, and false promises of possibilities for education and employment. (UNODC, Human Trafficking)

"Human trafficking, often known as trafficking in persons, is a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide work or services, to engage in commercial sex acts, or both," according to the US Department of Justice. (Justice, 2022) The exertion of pressure may be covert or overt, physical or psychological. Regardless of whether deception, compulsion, force, or any kind of coercion was employed, exploiting a minor for commercial sex is considered human trafficking.

Human trafficking is defined as "the recruiting, housing, transportation, providing, or acquisition of a person for either work or services, or a commercial sex act by force, fraud, or coercion" under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). (Congress, 2000) Human trafficking is defined similarly under the UN TIP Protocol and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as modified (TVPA). A three-element framework centered on the acts, means, and purpose of the trafficker can be utilized to explain the components of both definitions. It takes all three components to constitute a human trafficking violation.

The various forms of human trafficking. These include being exploited as a domestic worker or in forced unions, as well as in the sex, entertainment, and hospitality industries. Inhumane working conditions, living in fear of violence, and being compelled to work in factories, on construction sites, or in the agricultural industry sometimes result in victims being paid little or nothing for their labor. The removal of some victims' organs is forced upon them or misled onto them. Children are compelled to serve as soldiers or conduct crimes so that the criminals can profit. The act, the method, and the purpose are the three main components of the crime of human trafficking. Traffickers use a variety of tactics to keep their victims under control, including physical and sexual abuse, blackmail, emotional manipulation, and the removal of official documents. Exploitation can take place. (State, 2022)

2.4.1. Forced Labor

When someone employs coercion, fraud, or force to take advantage of the labor or services of another person, this is known as forced labor, which is also frequently referred to as labor trafficking. Some forms of forced labor are typically singled out for emphasis or because they are prevalent.

2.4.2. Domestic Slavery

Domestic servitude is a type of forced labor when the trafficker makes the victim do tasks in their own home. Such conditions lead to particular vulnerabilities. Domestic employees may work alone in a home and are frequently alone. Their access to food, transportation, and shelter is frequently dictated by their employer. There are obstacles to victim identification because what occurs in a private home is hidden from the public, particularly from law police and labor inspectors. Due to linguistic and cultural problems, a lack of ties to the society, and other factors, foreign domestic employees are particularly susceptible to abuse. Some criminals exploit these kinds of circumstances as part of their coercive plans to force domestic employees to work without being discovered.

2.4.3. Forced Child Labor

The phrase "forced child labor" refers to programs where child traffickers coerce children into working. Children are a popular target for traffickers since they are more susceptible. Even though some types of child labor may be performed legally, forcing or coercing minors to work is still prohibited. Despite governmental restrictions and popular condemnation, there are still instances of slavery and practices that are similar to it, such as the sale of children, forced or mandatory child labor, debt bondage, and serfdom of children. When a child appears to be under the care of a person who is not a family member and their job generates income for someone who is not a family member that is one sign that the child is being forced to work; another sign is when a child who is working is denied access to food, rest, or education. (State, 2022)

2.4.4. Sex Trafficking

When a trafficker forces another person to perform a commercial sex act or coerces a kid to perform a commercial sex act, they are engaging in sex trafficking, which includes a wide range of related acts.

2.4.5. Child sex slavery

Regardless of whether there is proof of force, fraud, or coercion, the methods aspect is immaterial when someone engages in any of the above "acts" with a child (under the age of 18). In the United States and most other nations, it is against the law to utilize children for commercial sex.

2.5. Key Principles and Concepts

These key principles and concepts relate to all forms of trafficking in persons, including forced labor and sex trafficking.

2.5.1. Consent

Even if the victim initially agreed to perform commercial sex acts, provide labor, or other services, human trafficking might still occur. The study focuses more on the actions of the trafficker than the victim. After a victim seeks for a job or moves to earn a living, a trafficker may decide to target them. What counts is the trafficker's exploitative plan, not the victim's prior consent or future capacity for meaningful consent. Similar to this, when a perpetrator uses force, deception, or coercion to exploit a victim and force them to continue engaging in the same activities, it is irrelevant whether the adult victim first agreed to engage in commercial sex acts.

2.5.2. Movement

Neither U.S. law nor international law stipulates that a human trafficking offence must involve a victim or trafficker crossing a boundary. The crime of human trafficking is one of exploitation and coercion, not of mobility. Traffickers may employ plans that transport their victims hundreds of kilometers from their homes or take advantage of them in the communities where they were born.

2.5.3. Debt Bondage

Debt bondage focuses on crimes involving human trafficking in which the trafficker's primary method of coercion is debt manipulation. According to U.S. law, it is unlawful for criminals to utilize debt as part of an approach, strategy, or pattern to coerce someone into working or engaging in commercial sex. Traffickers prey on certain people by having them take on an preliminary debt voluntarily as a requirement for future work, while in some nations they claim the loan was "inherited" from family members. Once an economic relationship has been established, debts can still be manipulated by traffickers by depriving victims of their wages or compelling them to take

out loans to cover costs such as transportation, housing, or food. They are also capable of faking obligations that a victim owes to others.

2.5.4. Non-Penalization

Governments shouldn't punish or prosecute human trafficking victims for the illegal actions that traffickers forced them to carry out. With this approach, Victims are protected from being prosecuted for crimes they did not commit but rather followed traffickers' orders. If the government has penalized or persecuted a victim in this manner, it should vacate the conviction and/or seal the victim's record.

2.5.5. State-Sponsored Human Trafficking

While the UN TIP Protocol and the TVPA encourage states to combat trafficking by taking proactive steps, some nations knowingly subject their nationals to forced labor or illicit sexual activity schemes. Whether through the employment of forced labor in regional or national public works projects, economically momentous sectors, military operations, or as part of government-funded programs or overseas missions, officials abuse their positions of authority to exploit their people. Governments use coercion to obtain this work by threatening to revoke public benefits, withhold wages, violate national service requirements, threatening to punish family members, requiring services or freedom of travel to be conditioned on labor or sex, or otherwise taking benefit of the absence of legal standing of stateless persons and other members of marginalized groups. Specifically mentioning a "government policy or pattern" of human trafficking, Trafficking in government-funded initiatives, forced labor in government-connected healthcare or other industries, sexual servitude in government camps, and the use or recruitment of children as soldiers are all examples of this. Congress amended the TVPA in 2019 to recognize that governments can also be traffickers.

2.5.6. Unauthorized use or recruitment of child soldiers

Another example of human trafficking is when Government forces or any other armed entity that isn't a state illegally enlists minors as soldiers or employs them in wartime labor or services, or does so by coercion, deception, or force. In addition, children are enslaved for sex. When armed organizations compel or persuade minors to "marry" or be assaulted by leaders or soldiers, it is considered sexual slavery, as the phrase is employed here. Armed group members frequently sexually abuse or exploit youngsters, and all genders suffer the same horrific physical and mental

impacts as sex trafficking. According to the UN, 2.4 million people are trafficked into forced labor worldwide, and children, women, and men are all being exploited and trafficked. Each year, 12,000 children are compelled to work as slaves on cocoa farms, while 600,000 to 800,000 young people are trafficked across borders. In West Africa, although it is impossible to come to a consensus on the precise magnitude of the issue, it is crucial to note that human trafficking is pervasive and on the rise. Every number represents a lost human life. None of us can say that our area is wholly untouched by human trafficking, whether it is a cause, destination, or a transit place. It happens on every continent and in almost every nation.

(State, 2022)

2.5.7. Victim-Survivors

The victims of human trafficking vary greatly. No matter one's country origin, race, handicap, religion, gender, age, sexual preference, or status of citizenship, anybody can fall victim to human trafficking. Human traffickers frequently prey on members of marginalized communities and other vulnerable people, including children in the juvenile justice system, child welfare system, runaway youth, homeless youth, people who do not possess legal immigration status in the United States, unaccompanied children, and children who are currently in or have been involved in the child welfare system, as is the case with many crimes of exploitation and abuse. People of color, particularly Black people and other people of color, as well as Alaska Natives, American Indians, Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, and other indigenous peoples of North America, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) individuals, migrant workers, individuals with disabilities, and those with substance use disorders. (Justice, 2022)

The impact of human trafficking continues to be particularly severe on female victims. Around five adult women and two girls were found among every ten victims who were discovered in 2018 across the globe. Approximately one-third of the victims were minors, including both girls and boys (15% and 19%, respectively), while 20% were adult adults. The major targets of traffickers are those who are vulnerable or in difficult circumstances. People in severe need of employment and undocumented immigrants are particularly vulnerable to being exploited or trafficked for forced labor.

Targets of child traffickers include children from very low-income households, children from dysfunctional homes, and kids that were abused or abandoned and are without parental care.

Children represent approximately half of the victims identified in low-income nations, and they are typically trafficked for forced labor (46 per cent). In better income nations, the main reasons why children are trafficked are for sexual exploitation, coerced crime, or begging. Children make about one-third of individuals who have been designated as victims of trafficking. However, low-income countries are disproportionately affected by child trafficking, which is linked to the broader issue of child labor. In Sub-Saharan Africa, children have been compelled to work in plantations, farms, mines, quarries, markets, and streets. In South Asia, children under the age of twelve have been made to work against their will in kilns for bricks, hotels, the garment industry, and agriculture. In addition, there have been instances of kidnapping for forced labor. (UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020, 2020)

50% of people have been trafficked for sexual assault overall, 38% experienced being subjected to forced labor, 6% were compelled to engage in criminal activities, and more than 1% were made to beg. Fewer people were moved for organ harvesting, forced unions, and other purposes. The victims of forced labor trafficking are exploited by a number of different economic sectors, including construction, agriculture, the fishing industry, street trade, mining, and domestic slavery. (UNODC, Human Trafficking)

2.6. Security or Insecurity?

Even among its most ardent detractors, the relative successes of the human security concept have not gone unnoticed. However, the idea of human security has drawn criticism from several academics across a variety of fields, from global governance to peacekeeping. The most frequent criticisms center on the lack of a precise definition and conceptual ambiguity. According to Paris, "sustainable development" and other similarly nebulous terms may be compared to human security since "everyone is for it, but few people have a clear sense of what it entails." Even Lakhdar Brahimi, a former special representative to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Haiti as well as the director of the UN Panel on Peacekeeping, is reported as saying: "I don't use the word human security because I don't know exactly what I mean, and I worry that someone would come up and dispute me." by broadening the meaning of security to cover everything from unemployment and homelessness to pollution and destruction of the environment. (Johns, 2014)

People who believe that nations have been successful in advancing their own goals by utilising the human security narrative, rather than opposing or altering them provide an alternative line of critique. Instead of really caring for the emancipation of the most vulnerable and underprivileged people, non-military "middle powers" like Japan, Canada, and Norway have used the advancement of the human security agenda to protect their places in the international state system. Human security has adopted the metaphor of "the velvet glove on the iron fist of power" in response to criticism that "the icy monster of the sovereign country has hijacked human security in order to further establish its own." It doesn't give the formerly "marginalized" a voice. The development and security of "those over there" are now understood as nothing more than a sources to the security of "us over here," which is a particularly troubling issue. Western governments have privatised assistance and development organizations instead.

Last but not least, Contrary to the proponents' alternative narrative, which portrays human security as emancipatory, some opponents of the idea have claimed that it pathologies and delegitimizes weak and impoverished countries. According to Duffield and Waddell, there is a gap between governments that can provide for the needs of their citizens via human security (i.e., "developed" western nations) and those that cannot (i.e., undeveloped third-world states, or "weak" states). They do this by tying security and development together. (Johns, 2014)

Two of the most common causes of human insecurity are human trafficking and drug trafficking. The practice of trickery, force, and coercion to push people into labor or sexual exploitation is known as human trafficking, which is a kind of contemporary slavery. People who are victims of human trafficking lose their liberty, dignity, and independence. Additionally, it exposes victims to abuse, exploitation, and severe violence. Drug trafficking is the clandestine manufacture, transfer, and sale of drugs. It is frequently linked to multinational organized crime groups that are active in the manufacture, sale, and distribution of illegal substances. By encouraging addiction, crime, and community violence, drug trafficking leads to human insecurity. Since traffickers frequently use narcotics to manipulate and take advantage of their victims, it has also been related to human trafficking. Due to the fact that drug revenue is frequently diverted into criminal activity rather than being used to enhance social and economic circumstances, drug trafficking also contributes to poverty. Further endangering the security and safety of nearby communities, drug trafficking

can draw in criminal gangs who employ violence and intimidation to maintain control over the drug trade.

Two of the most common causes of human insecurity are human trafficking and drug trafficking. Trafficked individuals are susceptible to exploitation, abuse, and severe violence. Drug traffickers frequently target their victims in an effort to dominate and take advantage of them, which adds to human insecurity by encouraging addiction, crime, and violence in communities. Instead of being used to better the social and economic circumstances in the areas affected, the proceeds from the sale of illicit narcotics are frequently used to fund criminal activities. Drug trafficking can also draw in criminal gangs, who maintain control over the drug trade by violence and intimidation, further endangering the security and safety of nearby communities. In addition, victims of both human and drug trafficking often suffer from severe psychological and physical health problems as a result of their exploitation and abuse. All of these factors contribute to a lack of human security and safety in affected communities.

CHAPTER 3

CAUSATIVE FACTORS BEHIND DRUG AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING: CREATING HUMAN INSECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

3. Introduction

Africa is a big and diverse continent in the southern hemisphere noted for its lively cultures, diverse wildlife, and breathtaking landscapes. It is the world's second-largest continent, with 54 countries, each with its own distinct history, languages, and traditions. Despite popular belief, Africa is a place of tremendous beauty and complexity, with a rich cultural past and a diverse population of over one billion people. Africa is home to some of the world's most famous sights, such as the Nile River, the Sahara Desert, and Mount Kilimanjaro. Furthermore, Africa is a culturally significant region with numerous ethnic groups and languages, including Arabic, Swahili, and Bantu. Despite having various assets, Africa has numerous obstacles, such as poverty, political instability, and health issues such as HIV/AIDS and malaria. However, there have been recent initiatives to solve these challenges, and there is optimism for the continent's future. Africa is a region with plenty to offer and much to explore, with its rich history, cultural diversity, and magnificent scenery.

Africa is a geographically significant continent, particularly in the West African region. West Africa is home to a broad range of natural resources and species, ranging from the Sahara Desert to lush tropical rainforests, making it an important area for ecological conservation and development. Furthermore, the region is ideally placed along the Atlantic Ocean, allowing access to vital commercial routes and worldwide markets. Nonetheless, despite the region's potential for economic growth and development, West Africa's human quality of life remains low. Poverty, insecurity, and terrorism are significant concerns for the region, with many communities unable to meet their basic necessities. Despite efforts to alleviate poverty through initiatives such as microfinance and foreign aid, poverty rates in West Africa remain high, with millions of people living on less than \$1.90 per day.

West Africa's security is also a key problem, with some countries facing political instability and armed conflict. Terrorist organizations such as Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb have carried out strikes in the region in recent years, further destabilizing already fragile populations. Another key concern for West Africa is population increase, with the region experiencing one of the world's fastest rates of population growth. This puts a considerable pressure on already few resources and has the potential to aggravate poverty and instability. Despite these challenges, there remains optimism for West Africa's future. To address these concerns, initiatives like as sustainable development and conflict resolution are being explored, and there are signs of progress in reducing poverty and improving stability. However, considerable effort remains to be done to improve the region's residents' quality of life.

In Africa, both Drug and Human Trafficking are serious issues and offences which have a major contribution towards the social and political unrest of the continent. These two crimes are a danger to not only human welfare and human rights but they also lead to such activities that cause violence and destruction in society. In order to briefly discuss this dimension of Drug and Human Trafficking, the social and political arena are taken in to consideration along with the data in the form of tables collected via surveys and reports conducted by various UN affiliated organizations like UNODC in this chapter. The main social and political factors behind drug trafficking and human trafficking are discussed and the ways through which they cause human insecurity in Africa and challenge the human security in are also explained. The Human Insecurity paradigm is taken as the lens through which all these phenomenon are studied and evaluated.

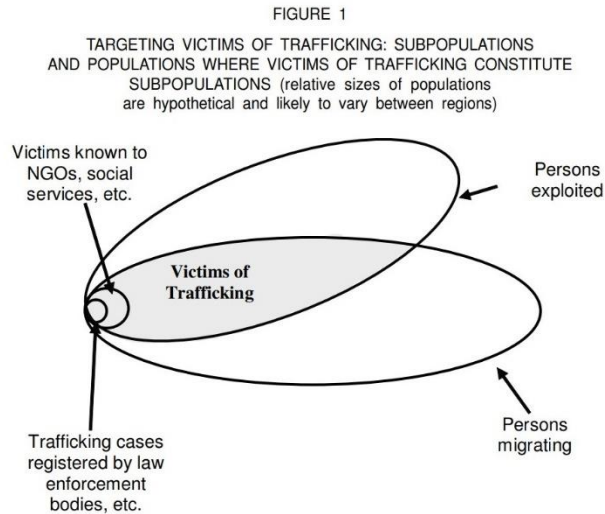
3.1. The Main Social Factors behind Human Trafficking In Africa

In the social arena, the issue of human trafficking can arise from a variety of developmental problems especially in case of Africa more specifically West Africa. Factors like absence of earning opportunities, lack of alternative ways of employment and poverty create such a social environment that forces children and young women in to sex work and human labor and trafficking and they are more prone to these crimes as they are among the vulnerable groups of society. While explaining the reasons and the main factors behind human trafficking, Linda Davis and Rika Snyman talk about the variety in human trafficking based on exploitation and vulnerability potential of the victim. Even though human trafficking can't be associated to one single root cause

as there are many different political, economic and other factors that contribute to the making of an environment which creates issues like human trafficking. There are however some factors that are widely known as the main contributors or causes of human trafficking (Davis L. & Snyman R., 2005). These include; Absence or lack thereof a political will and efficient legislative body to deal with human trafficking, growing influence of the sex industry, limited immigration opportunities, globalization of the transnational organized crime networks, escalated conflict circumstances, social and financial inequality, poverty, tolerance to child abuse and gendered abuse especially towards women, deep rooted gender discrimination among families and wider community.

These mainly social factors that contribute to human trafficking are classified by Lerato Langa-Mlambo and Priya Soma-Pillay, in to two basic categories i.e. primary causes and secondary causes. Natural disasters, growing demand and influence of sex industry, culture, collapse of family system, conflict, unstable political environment, HIV/AIDS are among the primary causes (Langa-Mlambo, L., & Soma-Pillay, P., 2014). The secondary causes however include lack of immigration opportunities, inefficient laws, unaccountability and prevalence of corruption. Among the other economic, social and cultural causes women trafficking is also a factor that further leads to serious social problems such as the absence of the primary caregiver in many African households which are women and this increases the vulnerability of children because of the neglect that they endure. But again if the trafficking of women was to be traced, it leads back to the other primary and secondary social causes like poverty, family breakdown and domestic violence, which signals to the reality that human trafficking and drug trafficking are such brutal cycles from which release seems like a myth when a person gets entangled in them.

Fig 3.1 Invisible victims of trafficking



Source: BENJAMIN, 2014, p.7.

3.2. Contributive Elements towards Human Trafficking in West Africa

It is quite significant to note that the issue of trafficking either human or drug doesn't start with the traffickers but it is a much more complex issue advancing due to the surrounding environment which forces the victims to look for survival opportunities even if it exposes them to exploitation and feeds on their vulnerability (Chuang, 2006). It is often perceived that a trafficked person must either be forced in to leaving their households or are kidnapped, but in reality mostly the victims often take the initial decision of migrating consciously however it is typically without them reflecting upon or knowing the consequences. Studies and reports via UNICEF and UNODC have shown that human trafficking in West African region prevails mainly due to war and conflicts which have kept most of the West African countries occupied for quite some time. In Western Africa, the countries that have been involved in conflicts or wars have the higher ratio of child trafficking. These children are forced in to labor or are often sold as slaves and later work in factories and plantations of cocoa, cotton and tea. The conditions that these children work in show clear violation of human rights and it can be regarded as modern slavery. To work as house help or domestic servants, girls especially from Togo are trafficked to various other states. According to the study reports, girls from Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe are sold as brides. These girls can be

as young as eight years old, and because they are virgins, they are thought to be pure and less likely to infect others with HIV/AIDS, which is one of the region's major health challenges.

3.2.1. Additional Causative Factors

In addition to the social factors, human trafficking in Africa (South Africa, Nigeria) and particularly West Africa is because of a variety of different factors but the two important factors that can be narrowed down are regarded as the push and pull factors. These two factors are inversely proportional to each other i.e. causes of one factor can be the consequences of the other and in simple terms push and pull factors can be regarded as the two sides of the same coin. The Push Factors are mainly the situations and problems that push people to accept such demands that makes them subjected to trafficking (both drug and human). The Pull Factors however are the ones that cage those people by influencing them in such a way that they accept those degrading propositions. It is very important to note that even though these factors have international unanimity but their implications and implementation on the local level differs. The dynamics of these factors depend upon the setting according to which a state operates. The most prominent push factors that have been responsible for the escalating human trafficking in West African region include child neglect, unstable economic and political circumstances, sustenance of backward traditions, exploitation in the name of religion, gender and other socio-cultural inequalities. Additionally, lack of educational accessibility, absence of employment opportunities, prevalence of corrupt practices and insufficient knowledge etc. also come under the push factors (Bello, 2018). The pull factors however are the increasing trends of globalization, growing need for body parts and organs in the healthcare milieu, the demand for cheap yet skilled labor increasing constantly etc. In addition to this, growing influence of transnational crime groups across borders, the huge economic differences among the developing and the developed world etc. are some of the other pull factors. (Anderson, B., & Davidson, J. O. C., 2003)

3.3. Political factors behind human trafficking in Africa

In the African continent, in regards to human and natural resources and in comparison to other states, both South Africa and Nigeria (which is in the West African region) are better yet a big portion of their population are still underprivileged (UNESCO, 2006). The political environment of many West African states has driven many people mainly children and women to become

victims of the most basic tricks of drug and human traffickers. The huge economic contrast among the rich elite and the poor commoners is primarily due to the inefficient politicians and political systems that has allowed poverty to prevail fueling human trafficking in Nigeria. Human trafficking in West Africa is essentially due to the corrupt law making and enforcing institutions such as Police and Immigration officers, which are political pawns in this whole corrupt cycle (Agbu, 2003). In various studies and surveys, the corruption of the political system has found to be the major factor that escalates human and drug trafficking, for instance the study by Bello (2015) on “Examining human trafficking and the response of the South African Justice System” suggests that institutional corruption nullifies the previously done efforts of the Legal and other Judicial systems to combat human and drug trafficking in Africa.

In case of Nigeria (West Africa), the institutional corruption is prominent in the police department. Deeply rooted in the social and political arena of Nigeria, political corruption in the West African region has been prevailing for quite some time and it seems rather difficult to eliminate this problem. The political factors like corrupt political system, unaccountability of the criminals by the inefficient police etc. are the reason why criminals especially traffickers are able to get away with crimes. In Nigeria many criminals are able to escape jail time by bribing the local police officers and in various cases they arrange the bribe money beforehand to settle after committing the crime (Elechi, 2017). In addition to this, to avoid being searched by the police, human traffickers have used these techniques in their advantage. They also dodge various checkpoints to not let their vehicles loaded with victims get searched by the police particularly when they are transporting those trafficked people. It is both the social and political environment that defines the legislative, political and other institutions of the state and only via a detailed analysis of trafficking can help one in understanding how police corruption is just a by-product of many other ongoing issues in the wider setting. Until or unless these identified social and political factors are not addressed and dealt with efficiently, combating human and drug trafficking would be hopeless chiefly in case of West Africa.

A few other political factors that contribute to human trafficking include civil unrest, instability of the political milieu, internal military battles, and natural catastrophes. Any of these factors can cause displacement and disruption among populations forcing them to relocate and become subjected to poverty, forced labor and human trafficking. The vulnerability of these people

increases as dislocation of huge portions of populations can make many children orphan and poor exposing them more to the brutal racket of trafficking and crimes. Even though these factors cannot be ruled out once and for all yet they can be limited and the probability of children and women being less vulnerable to them can be ensured by simple steps like strengthening the educational system, legislative structure, accountability measures, political institutions and social milieu.

3.4. Socio-political causative factors of drug trafficking

Similar to Human Trafficking, Drug Trafficking is also caused by some essentially prominent factors that contribute to its prevalence and sustenance. In West Africa, drug traffickers have found it really easy to sufficiently produce synthetic and other high demand drugs like amphetamines and cannabis respectively. Various political and social factors like corrupt leaders, unstable political system, gender, economic and social inequality and impact of criminal rackets on transnational level are responsible for this. Young people are mainly targeted for drug trafficking because of their vulnerability and inability to comprehend the consequences of such drugs and after some time the addiction acts as the pull factor that forces the victims to stay involved in this cycle. Because of injecting drugs and mostly using unsterile ways to do so have caused a rapid increase of HIV/AIDS in West Africa. Reports suggest that among the 1.8 million people of West Africa who inject drugs, about 11.8 % are the ones who are living with AIDS.

Fig 3.2 Annual prevalence of the use of cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants and "ecstasy" by region and globally, 2020

Region or subregion	Cocaine ^a						Amphetamines ^b and prescription						"Ecstasy"					
	Number (thousands)			Prevalence (percentage)			Number (thousands)			Prevalence (percentage)			Number (thousands)			Prevalence (percentage)		
	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate	Lower	Upper
Africa	1,990	530	4,380	0.27	0.07	0.58	2,720	690	5,810	0.38	0.10	0.82	1,950	100	8,520	0.26	0.01	1.13
East Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Africa	414	315	492	0.27	0.21	0.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West and Central Africa	445	73	998	0.15	0.02	0.34	780	50	1,810	0.28	0.02	0.66	-	-	-	-	-	-
Americas	11,500	10,520	12,580	1.69	1.55	1.85	15,390	13,340	17,480	2.30	1.99	2.61	3,750	3,500	4,050	0.55	0.51	0.60
Caribbean	100	60	250	0.35	0.23	0.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	30	100	0.23	0.10	0.36
Central America	310	140	530	0.96	0.44	1.62	310	190	440	0.98	0.61	1.41	60	20	110	0.17	0.07	0.33
North America	6,350	6,050	6,620	1.95	1.86	2.03	12,480	11,140	13,790	3.87	3.45	4.28	2,940	2,840	3,070	0.90	0.87	0.94
South America	4,740	4,260	5,190	1.62	1.46	1.77	2,350	1,990	2,550	0.82	0.69	0.89	690	600	770	0.24	0.21	0.26
Asia	2,040	1,620	2,650	0.07	0.05	0.09	12,730	11,950	13,580	0.42	0.39	0.45	10,100	1,970	18,240	0.33	0.06	0.59
Central Asia and Transcaucasia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
East and South-East Asia	780	530	1,040	0.05	0.03	0.06	9,860	9,510	10,280	0.61	0.59	0.64	3,670	1,220	6,120	0.23	0.08	0.38
South-West Asia/Near and Middle East	150	10	480	0.04	0.00	0.15	690	380	1,000	0.19	0.12	0.32	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Asia	1,070	1,070	1,070	0.10	0.10	0.10	1,970	1,960	1,970	0.19	0.19	0.19	-	-	-	-	-	-
Europe	5,200	4,740	5,740	0.96	0.88	1.06	2,900	2,460	3,430	0.53	0.45	0.63	3,640	3,160	4,680	0.67	0.58	0.86
Eastern and South-Eastern Europe	650	270	1,110	0.29	0.12	0.50	570	370	780	0.25	0.16	0.35	710	250	1,720	0.32	0.11	0.77
Western and Central Europe	4,550	4,480	4,630	1.43	1.41	1.45	2,330	2,090	2,650	0.73	0.65	0.83	2,930	2,910	2,960	0.92	0.91	0.93
Oceania	730	700	740	2.70	2.59	2.72	330	320	340	1.26	1.21	1.29	590	550	600	2.17	2.04	2.22
Australia and New Zealand	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	240	240	1.25	1.25	1.25	560	550	570	2.84	2.79	2.90
Melanesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Micronesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polynesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GLOBAL ESTIMATE	21,470	18,120	26,090	0.42	0.36	0.51	34,080	28,770	40,650	0.68	0.58	0.81	20,040	9,280	36,080	0.39	0.18	0.71

Source: UNODC World Drug Report 2021

Even though in the West African region, drug trafficking has not causes some serious violence yet it can lead to many other crimes that may have devastating effects. Typically drug trafficking is either related to bribery and corruption instead of other intense violent approaches and even if violence has occurred it has mostly been in regards to getting rent from the drug traffickers and in between the political officials and police. However the impact that drug trafficking has, should never be underestimated as various drug cartels around the world have had such close ties with the government officials that they have spurred some significant military and political turmoil. So it can be seen that both social and political factors are at play here, either it's the political forces that give way for drug trafficking to sustain or the social circumstances that allows traffickers to get away with it. Sometimes it's the crime itself which gets involved in the political system or the social arena but at times, like mentioned previously it's the elements of these backdrops that contribute to such heinous crimes. The former is prominent in case of Guinea Bissau when in the year 2009 and 2010, it was some political personnel that intentionally tried associating with the trafficking circle with the aim of controlling it yet in the result of this struggle for gaining benefits certain arrests and assassinations happened. Both the President and Vice President were arrested and a coup de'tat came in action in 2012 to make sure that the tensions do not escalate to a violent conflict situations. This example makes it quite obvious that even though drug trafficking causes all sorts of upheaval yet some essential socio-political contribute to drug trafficking. In both

situation, one crime leads to another and long before it can be known, an escalated problem comes at hand. Even though most of these factors have been identified yet what is important here is to do something and take the necessary steps to stop this from happening. With the developing patterns of drug trafficking in West Africa, it appears that all parts of society will be affected, and violence may expand in this region, as it has in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3.5. Drug and Human Trafficking as a Human Insecurity Challenge in Africa

Drug and human trafficking are severe human insecurity concerns in Africa that threaten the continent's social, economic, and political stability. According to human insecurity theory, these challenges are not just criminal actions, but also symptoms of bigger social and political crises such as poverty, inequality, and conflict. This theory emphasizes the interconnection of many types of insecurity, with drug and people trafficking both contributing to and being influenced by other types of insecurity. Owing to the increasing recognition to the concept of global security further than the nation state notion, the paradigm of human security emerged as a result with the aim of incorporating both the individual health and the security of living (Chegraoui, K., Lyammouri, R., & Skah, M., 2020). The human security theory mainly became popular because the traditional security theories typically dealt with state and territory threats and military yet the crucial issues of human vulnerability were undermined by them (Owen, 2004). For this purpose, human security theory came as a response to the traditional theories in both epistemological and ontological sense. It also aimed to fill the gaps and insufficiencies of the traditional security theory which undermined the wellbeing of individuals and emphasized more on state (Ehiane, S., & Moyo, P. , 2022). The crux of this theory is to broaden the conceptualization of security which has for a long time been state centric and ignored the individual level grievances.

Now if we were to assess Human Insecurity then it can be stated that everything that causes a threat to human security in any way and is a human rights or humanitarian issue particularly on individual level then it contributes to human insecurity. In this research, it is both drug trafficking and human trafficking that contribute to human insecurity by compromising on humanitarian conditions and causing human rights issues. They are caused by various factors but they also lead to many more grave crimes and then it again contributes to the causative factors, making it an ongoing cycle of

human (in) security issues (Barnett, J., & Adger, W. N., 2007). Human Insecurity therefore is a phenomenon caused by negative effects of human and drug trafficking associated with other political, economic and social elements. The drivers of human insecurity in West Africa also differ on the basis of interaction, accessibility and the socio-political milieu. The ongoing increase in human insecurity in West Africa has crafted such an environment where the potential for conflict and violence has escalated and if not addressed properly it will all continue to undermine the human security paradigm.

The surge in drug trafficking has also resulted in an increase in drug abuse, which contributes significantly to human insecurity in Africa. The availability of low-cost narcotics has increased addiction rates, resulting in health issues, criminality, and societal instability. Drug misuse is associated with poverty, unemployment, and inequality, and it disproportionately affects vulnerable populations such as young people and women (Floyd, 2007). Other forms of insecurity, such as poverty, conflict, and gender inequality, contribute to and are influenced by human trafficking. Because of a lack of economic opportunities and displacement caused by conflict and other forms of violence, populations are more prone to trafficking. Gender inequality, such as discrimination and violence against women, raises the risk of human trafficking.

Fig 3.3 Annual prevalence of the use of cannabis, opioids, opiates by region and globally, 2020

Annual prevalence of the use of cannabis, cocaine, opioids, opiates, amphetamine-type stimulants and "ecstasy" by region and globally, 2020																		
Region or subregion	Cannabis						Opioids (opiates and prescription opioids)						Opiates					
	Number (thousands)			Prevalence (percentage)			Number (thousands)			Prevalence (percentage)			Number (thousands)			Prevalence (percentage)		
	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate	Lower	Upper	Best estimate		
Africa	49,200	29,240	66,440	6.54	3.88	8.83	9,290	6,530	12,470	1.23	0.87	1.66	3,680	1,460	8,140	0.49	0.19	1.08
East Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Africa	7,970	7,000	9,340	5.26	4.62	6.16	1,610	1,070	2,140	1.06	0.71	1.41	1,610	1,070	2,140	1.06	0.71	1.41
Southern Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West and Central Africa	28,510	15,400	31,710	9.69	5.24	10.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	540	140	1,010	0.18	0.05	0.34
Americas	66,640	64,830	69,860	9.81	9.54	10.29	11,950	10,690	13,100	1.76	1.57	1.93	2,790	2,150	3,480	0.41	0.32	0.51
Caribbean	1,080	700	2,620	3.79	2.48	9.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central America	1,010	350	1,780	3.12	1.07	5.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North America	54,100	53,590	54,600	16.60	16.44	16.75	10,970	9,890	11,810	3.37	3.03	3.62	2,350	1,780	2,890	0.72	0.55	0.89
South America	10,450	10,180	10,860	3.58	3.48	3.72	800	710	860	0.27	0.24	0.29	390	340	420	0.13	0.12	0.14
Asia	60,860	24,230	94,350	1.97	0.79	3.06	35,770	15,310	48,000	1.16	0.50	1.56	21,480	9,120	29,570	0.70	0.30	0.96
Central Asia and Transcaucasia	1,530	460	2,520	2.58	0.77	4.25	590	520	690	1.00	0.87	1.17	580	490	660	0.97	0.83	1.11
East and South-East Asia	19,420	8,810	24,050	1.20	0.54	1.49	3,110	2,230	3,860	0.19	0.14	0.24	3,110	2,230	3,860	0.19	0.14	0.24
South-West Asia/Near and Middle East	10,110	7,430	12,030	3.07	2.25	3.85	10,520	8,650	13,150	3.20	2.63	3.99	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Asia	29,800	7,540	55,750	2.77	0.70	5.19	21,550	3,910	30,300	2.01	0.36	2.82	12,010	2,240	16,840	1.12	0.21	1.57
Europe	29,260	27,960	30,950	5.41	5.16	5.72	3,610	3,410	3,830	0.67	0.63	0.71	3,120	2,920	3,320	0.58	0.54	0.61
Eastern and South-Eastern Europe	4,550	3,310	6,180	2.04	1.48	2.77	1,720	1,620	1,810	0.77	0.73	0.81	1,490	1,390	1,570	0.67	0.63	0.70
Western and Central Europe	24,710	24,650	24,770	7.76	7.74	7.78	1,890	1,790	2,020	0.59	0.56	0.63	1,630	1,520	1,750	0.51	0.48	0.55
Oceania	3,260	3,200	3,370	12.00	11.78	12.42	660	590	710	2.44	2.16	2.61	30	20	30	0.11	0.08	0.12
Australia and New Zealand	2,370	2,370	2,370	12.14	12.14	12.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Melanesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Micronesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polynesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GLOBAL ESTIMATE	209,220	149,450	264,980	4.12	2.94	5.21	61,290	36,520	78,100	1.21	0.72	1.54	31,100	15,680	44,550	0.61	0.31	0.88

Source: UNODC world Drug Report 2020

According to human insecurity theory, drug and human trafficking are not isolated phenomena but are linked to bigger social and political issues. Poverty, inequality, violence, and poor governance all contribute to the expansion of drug and human trafficking, and these illegal activities compound the problems (Onuoha, 2011). Drug and human trafficking jeopardize economic progress, social cohesion, and political stability, adding to the region's insecurity. According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, human trafficking generates more than \$150 billion in revenue each year, making it one of the world's most profitable criminal organizations. The COVID-19 epidemic has exacerbated the problem of human trafficking, with lockdowns and travel restrictions complicating discovery and prevention. In certain situations, the outbreak has increased demand for forced labor, particularly in the agriculture and construction industries. Governments, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, and foreign partners must all work together to combat drug and human trafficking.

CHAPTER 4

THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IMPACTS OF DRUG AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEST AFRICA

4. Introduction

Many obstacles to growth exist in Africa. Even if the continent has improved its governance over the past ten years, more work still has to be done to raise the socioeconomic standards of the African people. More than half of the people on the continent still live on less than one US dollar a day, making it difficult for all African nations to provide basic services like education, water, and sanitation. Significant resource constraints continue to jeopardize public health systems' ability to combat a variety of fatal illnesses including TB and malaria. This scenario has become significantly more problematic in recent years due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which also poses a danger to further deplete the continent's people resources. There is reason for optimism given recent initiatives made by the political elite of the continent to address these and other issues.

The transition of the Organization – for African Unity (OAU) through into African Union (AU) as well as the growing political willingness to actually adopt the good governance principles established with in New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) are inspiring advancements. Yet, a variety of societal evils have the power to undo these encouraging trends and thwart efforts to address socioeconomic issues. Drug misuse, smuggling, and clandestine manufacturing are a few of these evils. The drug problem has grown to be a significant barrier to African countries' combined and individual efforts at development. Drug control and anti-drug efforts must be integrated into developmental programs due to the harmful effects that drugs have on a number of developmental areas as well as their role in igniting crime and conflicts. This implies that among other things, national and continental development programs should strengthen nations' ability to prevent drug usage by fostering an unfavorable environment.

Smuggling of migrants and human trafficking inside Africa as well as to and from the continent have increased during the last few years. Earlier, the media, activists and non-governmental

organizations (NGOs) began raising awareness of the issue in the late 1990s., little was known about the epidemic, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) study, *Crime and Development in Africa*, 89 percent of African countries are involved in human trafficking; however, a search of various NGO websites on the internet reveals that almost all of the continent's nations are affected.

A backup strategy should be in effect, especially if you want to travel. Despite the horrible toll that human trafficking takes on its victims, it also poses a threat to the safety and security of every nation it touches since it endangers the world's health and promotes the growth of organised crime. One of the largest industries in the world, the trade in children¹ generates annual revenues in the billions of US dollars. Child trafficking in Africa is also an important aspect of human trafficking. (Allais, 2006)

It is suggested that tackling the drug problem could be a crucial step in improving the capacity of African countries to handle development challenges and avert conflicts. This is because drugs have the potential to negatively affect a number of developmental areas as well as other types of crime. In light of this, the report provides a number of suggestions that call for a comprehensive strategy to combat the drug problem.

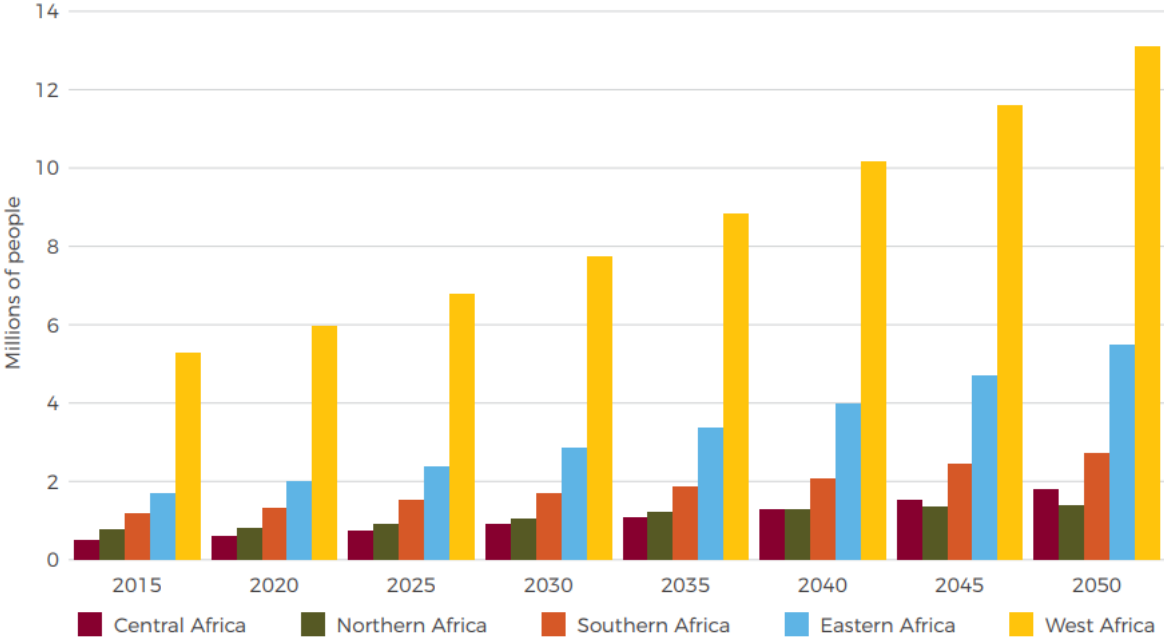
4.1. Social impacts of drug and human trafficking

4.1.1. Social Effects of Drug trafficking

The African continent is impacted by the global drug business in a variety of ways. It is especially true of Africa since a regional assessment of drug trends includes generalizations that do not hold for any individual member state. There are numerous ways that the illicit drug phenomena is felt in African nations. This does not, however, mean that there are no typical problems or obvious drug trends. International drug trafficking organizations frequently use African nations as transit hubs for the transportation of drugs from the Americas and Asia to European markets. Particularly, the syndicates target nations along the shore. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) states that cocaine from South America, mostly exported from Brazil, is still passing through Southern and Western African nations on its way to Europe. South Africa, Angola and Nigeria are still important drug transit nations.

Because there are spillover effects, this is a concerning phenomenon for the entire continent as well as the impacted nations. The issue with using African nations as transit hubs is that it presents these nations with a new set of difficulties. Most African nations now have new consuming markets thanks to the transit phenomenon, which has led to an increase in drug misuse and several related criminal issues. These issues may also spread to states that border the transit nations that are directly impacted.

Fig 4.1 Drug Usage in sub regions of Africa



Source: UNODC World Drug report

In the above figure, we can see the estimated usage of drugs in the future, in various regions of Africa. Here, West Africa has by far the largest number of people using illicit drugs. Such high dosage of drugs by a large population of an area, indicates the upcoming negative impacts on the society.

4.1.1.1. Health sector

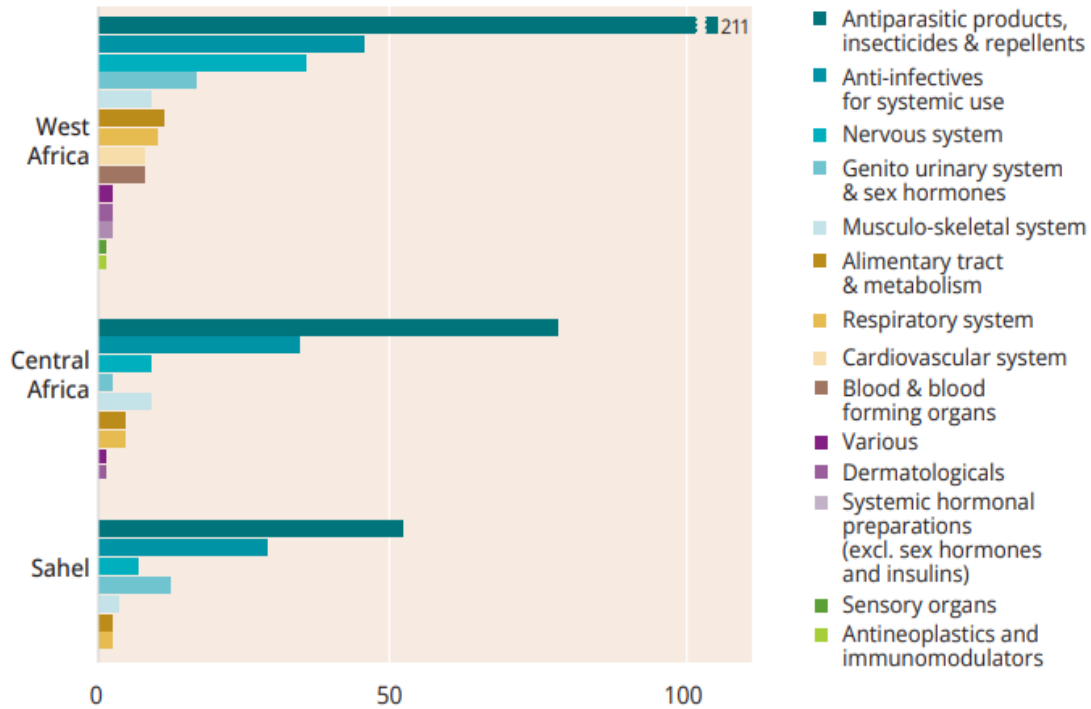
It is well known that abusing drugs can have a variety of negative effects on the body. Substance misuse affects and changes how the human brain functions, which leads to health issues for the abuser. Drug abuse affects people of all ages, socioeconomic classes, races, and genders, but young

people are the most vulnerable. Street children, school-age children, and young adults who abuse glue, alcohol, and cigarettes are all examples of young drug users, as are adolescents in their late twenties and early thirties who use more deadly substances like heroin, cocaine, and mandrax. Alcohol addiction is damaging to unborn children, according to studies. Pregnant women drinking excessive amounts of alcohol is apparently common in South Africa. This frequently results in obstetric problems and changes in the foetus's developmental traits, which have long-lasting effects on children. A nation's health resources will be further taxed by the need to treat these children. Even more concerning are the rising rates of drug addiction including injection in various regions of the continent, with North Africa taking the lead in this regard. With the HIV/AIDS pandemic, this tendency is very concerning. Drug usage is on the rise, particularly among younger generations, as a result of the flow of heroin, cocaine, and amphetamines through West Africa. 11.8% of the 1.8 million estimated injecting drug users in West Africa are HIV positive. Currently, Senegal is the only nation in the area with programs to stop the spread of hepatitis and HIV among drug users.

Drug misuse fuels risky sexual behavior, which exacerbates the AIDS issue. The growing occurrence of licit drugs being diverted to the criminal market is another unsettling development. As a result, it is challenging for health officials in African nations to accurately account for the pharmaceuticals that are made available to the public through their healthcare systems. Health professionals' cooperation makes situations more difficult. To address this issue, tighter systems are required.

The health sector is utilized in the trafficking of drugs in the form of medicine supplies. In the controlled supply chain, 40% of the inferior and fake medical products that were reported in African countries during 2013 and 2021 were found. The ability of illegally produced medical products to enter authorized pharmaceutical stores, just as controlled medical supplies can be diverted, demonstrates how intricately linked the supply chains for regulated (legal) and unregulated (illegal) goods are. Up to 267,000 deaths per year in sub-Saharan Africa are attributed to counterfeit and subpar antimalarial drugs. Additionally, up to 169,271 are connected to counterfeit and subpar drugs given to infants with acute pneumonia. The following chart demonstrates the quantity of falsified medical supplies in the time period of 2013-2022 in the African region.

Fig 4.2 Quantity of falsified medical supplies in the African regions, 2013-2022



SOURCE: UNODC World Drug Report 2022

4.1.1.2. Education and Job Sector

Drug misuse contributes in many issues with education. Research have demonstrated that drug addiction, particularly the abuse of cannabis, can affect young people's emotional and social development as well as their short-term memory and other cognitive abilities like their capacity to track and their sensory and perceptual skills. Students who are high can be challenging to manage since they frequently disrupt the classrooms of their teachers. Drug usage may be a social issue, but schools cannot afford to ignore it because it directly affects how they conduct their daily operations. Schools are forced to address the issue as a result and develop ways to do so. As drug addiction problems in schools vary by country in Africa, most nations opt to abandon schools in favor of creating their own solutions. While some schools use drastic measures like expulsion, others use proactive rehabilitative strategies.

It is becoming more and more obvious that governments must implement national strategies to address drug-related issues in their educational institutions. As an organized strategy to address drug misuse in schools, the South African Department of Education, for instance, created a national Drug Abuse Policy Framework in 2002. This is a noble action that other nations could emulate. Most importantly, countries would gain from the creation of platforms for knowledge sharing and experience exchange. Not all children of school age attend school. Many young people in some African nations do not attend school. Despite their importance, traditional school-targeted interventions do not serve this enormous population of young people. Thus, it's critical that African nations broaden the scope of their youth-focused drug prevention, control, treatment, and eradication programs. Other entities like nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) could play a significant role. The problem of guiding out-of-school kids into a successful economic existence is arguably one of the most difficult. Youth are disproportionately impacted by structural unemployment in many African nations, which affects all of the continent's nations.

This presents a significant obstacle for anti-drug policies and initiatives aimed at this population, as it would be difficult for such initiatives to be successful without a solid economic foundation. A key component of national juvenile drug recovery might be providing the children with skills that are applicable to their local economy. Such training programs must, however, be in accordance with more comprehensive national economic development objectives.

4.1.1.3. Street crime

The street crime associated with local drug sales and use, including thefts committed by drug users to pay for their narcotics, is another adverse social effect of drug trafficking. In much of Africa, drug use and related street violence are still at low levels, but there are some areas where these issues are becoming more serious, and there is a chance that they will spread along trade routes. In Ghana, Kenya, and Liberia, assessment teams discovered that drug users admitted to committing crimes, mainly theft and even armed robbery, in order to pay for their narcotics. Urbanization is on the rise, which is concerning since it could lead to competition over drug sales prospects due to the high number of young people without jobs.

The risk of gang-related violence is currently mitigated by low levels of competition in urban retail markets and a scant history of gang activity. However, South Africa, which has a more developed retail drug market and gangs engaged in drug sales, may serve as a cautionary tale for the dangers

of expanding retail markets on the continent. By demand reduction and harm reduction initiatives, such as education and treatment programs, development actors can significantly contribute to plummeting the spread of challenging usage of drug and the associated criminality and violence.

Economic growth may slow down as a result of more risks and poorer investment when the drug trade is associated with violence, instability, and weakening rule of law. The World Economic Forum's "Global Competitiveness Report" data on firms' perceptions of the cost of organized crime in a nation can be used to estimate the size of this cost. Uncertainty about how much instability and a weakened legal system have discouraged investment in Africa, but Ghanaian and Kenyan interviewees expressed concern about this. Drug trafficking has multiple effects that can cause economic instability even in the absence of other factors. Secondly, illicit profit inflows have the potential to devalue the currency and reduce the competitiveness of lawful exports. Drug traffickers may avoid paying customs excises while also avoiding having their containers inspected. This enables them to undercut their rivals' prices and drive them out of business. The business community in Mozambique expressed special worry about this unfair competition. Third, drug traffickers may invest in real estate or front businesses like hotels to launder money. This can lead to disproportionate expansion of the financial, real estate, and construction industries as well as increased real estate prices, which raises the cost of doing business in all areas of the economy. Concerns regarding inflated real estate prices as a result of drug revenues being laundered in this industry were expressed by interviewees in Ghana, Liberia, Kenya, and Sierra Leone. Last but not least, the illegal profits from drug trafficking can spur investment in unproductive industries, noticeable ingestion at the cost of long-term growth, and an increase in income inequality.

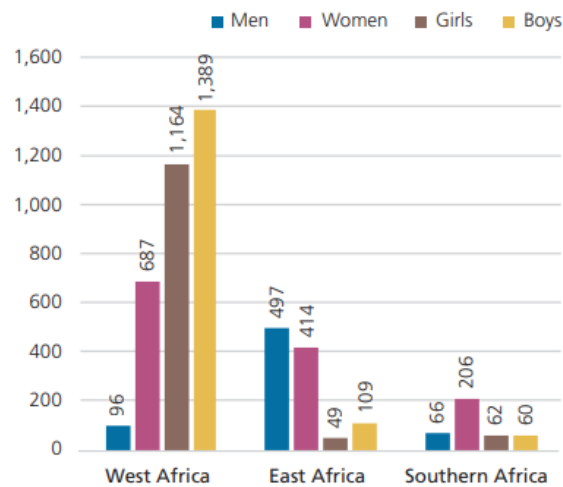
4.1.2. Impacts of Human Trafficking

Trafficking is one of the main sources of income for organized crime in Africa, as it is in the rest of the countries, developing as well as developed. Due to the widespread corruption, the lack of legislation, and the low probability of prosecution, it is maybe the lowest risk activity for criminal organizations. The majority of human trafficking occurs in Africa. Children, women, and men are trafficked for domestic work and farm labor; Young girls are sold as child brides, women are trafficked to South Africa to work as "wives" in the mining industry, and for the illegal purposes of child labor, child soldiers, and child sex slavery, children are trafficked. Children and women

are also trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation such as for pornography, for prostitution, underage sex tourism trade and pedophile rings,). These trafficking trends occur both within and between nations.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) UK, some 200 000 children are abducted from their homes in West Africa every year and sold into domestic slavery, prostitution, labor exploitation, or bought as sacrifices in Western black magic rituals. A major aspect of the phenomenon of trafficking in Central and West Africa is the abuse of the tradition of leaving children with extended family or other caregivers if their guardians are unable to care for them. The epicenter of this regional trafficking market is Nigeria. For trafficking women and children, it serves as a key source, transit point, and destination. For the aim of forced labor, domestic slavery, and sexual exploitation, people are trafficked to the Middle East, Europe, and also other African nations. Teenage girls and young women from Nigeria are transported for sexual abuse to countries including South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Italy, France, and Spain. Throughout Nigeria and to nations in Central and West Africa, children are trafficked for street hawking and household work. Children trafficked from Togo, Benin, Ghana, and Cameroon for forced labor also end up in Nigeria. Senegal and Ghana are other nations where trafficked women and children originate, transit, and end. Before being trafficked, most of the youngsters are from underprivileged, rural families and have received very little formal education. Most were given the assurance that by traveling abroad, they would get a formal education or a skill they could use to support themselves or their family. Following the passing of at least one parent, children are frequently sold into slavery. Some had divorced parents or minimum one guardian parent who worked far from home. In Togo, AIDS or HIV has been noted as a growing component in orphan hood and as a potential risk factor for trafficking of children.

Fig 4.3 Number of Human Trafficking Victims in African regions, 2018



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020

The figure demonstrates the number of victims of human trafficking in different regions of Africa. The data is from the year 2018, where we can see that West Africa has the highest number of human trafficking regardless of age and sex of the persons.

4.1.2.1.Economy

The exploitation of natural resources is the foundation of most West African economies. The main economic sectors in the majority of West African nations are mining and agriculture. Human trafficking has become more prominent as a means of escaping poverty as a result of the rapid population expansion in West Africa, the unchecked urbanization of the region, poor security, and economic challenges brought on by the large disparities in wealth distribution. For instance, the unrest and violence that erupted in West African region in the time period of end of March and start of April 2008 could have been a catalyst for intercontinental and transnational human trafficking as a way for traffickers along with the people they trafficked to deal with rising food prices, improve their economic situation, and end hunger.

Commodity price inflation is still a security danger, as reported in the African continent and everywhere else in the world, as it can destabilize weak regimes and force individuals to act in ways that may even go against social norms in an effort to escape their dire circumstances. Without a doubt, the current economic crisis and rising food costs will continue to be favorable conditions for international people trafficking in West Africa and throughout Africa.

4.1.2.2.Culture

Along with poverty, West African cultural practices foster the expansion of people smuggling. In the framework of the larger family, group, and religion, for example, children are commonly sent outside of their immediate family for improved educational and job opportunities. Parents' ignorance of the risks involved in leaving their kids to others adds inevitably to the growth of international human trafficking in this age of a voracious ambition for economic achievement combined with young people's yearning for emancipative adventure. In Africa, for example, the importance of family relationships may be so great that parents typically give little thought to the moral standing of the family they entrust with raising their children.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which validates the ILO's figures, estimates that between 200,000 and 300,000 minors have been trafficked annually into West and Central Africa for forced labor and sexual exploitation. The cocoa agricultural industry employed over 330,000 children in Cameroon, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria, according to a 2001 research on child labour in West and Central Africa. Of the 230,000 teenagers working in Côte d'Ivoire, 12,000 had no familial connections to the cocoa grower or any nearby plantations, and 2,500 had been hired by intermediaries in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria. It is a distressing truth that girls are more commonly victims of trafficking in children, than boys.

Children are trafficked by both men and women, and they are frequently related to the sufferers. Their lethal motivation is to maximize profit. One of the main ways that organized human trafficking makes money is through the trafficking of people for forced labor or sexual exploitation. Transnational human trafficking is also challenging to quantify due to its covert nature. Nonetheless, Antonio L. Mazzitelli has suggested that in a classic child trafficking situation, the trafficker may receive from \$50 to \$1,000 for each child that is given to the "employer." Earnings vary depending on the place of origin, the final destination, and the "use" of the trafficked individual. Mazzitelli went on to say that, by taking it a step further, "An African

youngster taken to the United States might net a trafficker \$10,000-20,000," referencing the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. 20 A UNODC analysis from July 2006 states that the annual revenue from the smuggling of migrants from Africa into Europe exceeds \$300 million. Mazzitelli clarified the situation by stating: A lady is recruited and transported to Europe for commercial sexual assault. The recruiter spends around \$2,000 to bribe the necessary individuals, secure travel papers and safe homes, and transfer the victim to a "madam," who charges the victim approximately \$12,000.

4.2. Political Impacts of Drug and Human Trafficking

4.2.1. Impacts of Drug trafficking

Since the 1970s, Nigerian organized crime groups have played a significant part in drug trading. They have arisen as the major contractors of "mules" (human traffickers) that are for the illicit trade beginning from South Asia to the United States. Additionally, they are credited with creating the "swallow" technique of drug smuggling, in which couriers ingest narcotics concealed within condoms and transport them inside their bodies as they cross borders. Although the contemporary drug trade is escalating a number of negative impacts, including corruption, the predatory conduct of political instability, political elites, It would be wrong to believe that such circumstances and connections between crime and illicit economies are unique to the area given the deterioration of the rule of law, and law enforcement and maybe even fueling armed conflict and terrorist operations. Instead, inadequate institutional improvement, from law enforcement and judiciary to community assistance, and predatory and greedy behavior on the part of the ruling elites have defined West African administration for decades. Government has frequently been founded on very specific, local interests that put family, tribal, or even merely personal interests ahead of community interests. The presence of insufficient representation, such as tribal systems that are unable to access post-colonial, official government mechanisms, frequently results in the failure to even conceive and communicate the collective interests.

The rapid increase in West Africans held for drug offenses both domestically and overseas, as well as the increasing number of drug seizures made the public initially aware of the issue thanks to traffickers from the sub-region. No region of the world was spared in this regard, with increasing numbers of West African citizens being apprehended in Asia, North America, Europe, the Middle

East, and even Latin America while acting as mules for barons both domestically and internationally. Additional information revealed that West Africa was growing as a local pharmaceutical market. All indications now point to the sub-region serving as a base for the international redistribution of pharmaceuticals as well as a growing market for their use. Drug cartels profited from the previously mentioned economic and political turmoil in addition to the relatively simple nature and speed with which they were able to take root in West Africa. Once the drug cartels had established themselves in the sub-region, it was anticipated that their presence and activities would have a substantial effect on politics.

Public institutions are distorted, and state structures are weakened, either directly or indirectly, through the involvement of a network of powerful individuals who exercise strategic control over or within those structures and institutions. Because of this impact, drug trafficking might be seen as a new or enhanced form of institutional and governmental instability. Similar to Nigeria, Mali has also undergone a systemic breakdown that began in 2012 and has persisted to the present day as a result of a confluence of narcotics, religious extremism, and politics.

Corruption and cooptation of elected officials and public employees through the direct purchase of their services for a high price or the distribution of stock stakes in the earnings of the illicit drug trade, which makes the misuse of authority a regular, essential component of how government functions. High-level corruption and drug trafficking combine to form one entity in this fashion. Instances of law enforcement and security professionals being bribed at various junctures in the drug trade in return for their silence, agreement, or cooperation are frequently reported in the daily news.

Cartels, as a powerful, well-resourced, and organized special interest group, control policy-making through their proxies, sponsor political advocates and protectors, whose day-to-day dealings effectively put criminal interests first, and institutionalize criminality in the management of public affairs. These actions are manifestations of abduction of the establishing policies and political processes of governments and states as well as institutionalization of criminality in the management of public affairs. And above all of Drug cartels successful infiltration of political parties and security organizations is the most overt manifestation of their appropriation of politics and policy. Once again, Guinea Bissau stands out in West Africa, but Mali and Ghana have also been mentioned as places where institutional infiltration, if not open hijacking, has occurred.

Corrupting the administration of justice from the first inquiry all the way through the prosecution, trial, sentencing, and incarceration. It is not unusual for drug traffickers' interests to obstruct police investigations by making case files and crucial witnesses "disappear," hire the best attorneys to represent them, and systematically abuse court procedures in order to prevent the possibility of (successful) prosecution, obtain sentences that are completely out of accordance to the urgency of the crimes committed, and incorporate prison warders to facilitate jailbreaks for drug offenders. These misuses of the justice system therefore diminish the public's faith in the court system, police the jail system, and the legal community.

State officials' shifting the focus of their administration away from serving the public interest and the common good and toward defending and advancing a small network of embedded interests, which has the effect of undermining the mutually beneficial relationship between the public and the government that should be the foundation of a functioning political system, are two examples of the wearying of the relationship of state- and society along with the erosion of citizenship. Because of this, Drug trafficking poses a danger to the successful creation of democratic scrutiny and accountability. Drug lords regularly utilize the proceeds of their illegal business in countries like Ghana and Nigeria to buy social status in the form of traditional titles and prizes given to traditional authorities.

The polarization of domestic elites and the establishment of coalitions with opposing factions, particularly when law and order is in disarray, are major contributors to the emergence and escalation of violence, insecurity, uprisings, and wars. Other considerations include giving money to various factions so they can buy weapons or even give them along with narcotics; encouraging rebel organizations to serve as drug dealers so they may get the money they need to further their goals. Drug trafficking has historically been served by violence and instability. This has been observed in all of West Africa's conflict zones over the past 25 years, from Cote d'Ivoire, and Mali, Liberia and Sierra Leone to Guinea Bissau.

The multiple negative effects that drug trafficking has had on West African government pose severe obstacles to tackling some of the fundamental issues that the people of the region and their leaders must deal with if they are to ensure a better and more promising future for themselves. Given that most governments must deal with a variety of attention-grabbing and energy-sapping fragilities that constantly put the very possibility of the center holding in jeopardy, It is now more

difficult to revitalize and fortify public institutions, which are important engines of economic and political advancement. Additionally, it is still vitally important to build the basis of electoral plurality by giving it socioeconomic advantages and brand-new civic and political cultures based on justice and equality. Impacts of human trafficking

4.2.2. Impacts of Human Trafficking

Although it occurs frequently on many different continents, human trafficking is endemic in Africa. Unemployment rates that are high, hunger, poverty, political unrest, corruption, and economic instability are just some of the crises that have plagued Africa. Tensions and insurgences, that have caused relocation of internal population, make these issues worse. In the midst of these socio-political and economic problems, there has been a significant amount of migration from one African State to another, from one African region to another, and from Africa to other continents. Even while certain migration-related activities are lawful, many more are done so illegally. In the meantime, criminals frequently trick migrants and drag them into a world of various forms of exploitation. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports frequently offer estimates of the certainties despite the fact that the precise calculations and statistics of people trafficked from Africa are unclear. For instance, a 2016 UNODC report found that between 2012 and 2014, 69 different nations discovered human trafficking victims from Africa.

West Africa has complicated trafficking traits and routes. Women and children that have been trafficked go through and to Senegal, Ghana, Cameroon, and other nations. Literature has also recorded the trafficking of teenage girls from country areas of nations like Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo, to labor on plantations of cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire. The amount of trafficking from and via eastern Nigeria to Gabon has increased recently. According to UNICEF's 2017 report, minors made up nearly a quarter of all victims of trafficking that had been identified globally, and 64% of those victims were from sub-Saharan Africa. Due to recent political and economic difficulties in sub-Saharan Africa, this number likely climbed as more people, especially women and children, were forced to leave their homes in pursuit of better chances in neighboring nations.

The main effects of human trafficking on the society of West Africa can be explained as;

1. Exploitation of people: Vulnerable populations are exploited as a result of human trafficking in West Africa, which includes women, children, and those who are impoverished. Forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other types of maltreatment are examples of this exploitation.
2. Loss of Human Rights: As a result of being coerced into circumstances against their will, victims of trafficking in West Africa frequently lose their human rights. Lack of access to health care or education, as well as a lack of basic necessities like food and shelter, are examples of this.
3. Trafficking-related Violence: In West Africa, trafficking in persons frequently results in violence. This includes kidnapping and torture in addition to physical, psychological, and sexual abuse.
4. Disease Transmission: Due to a lack of access to healthcare, victims of human trafficking in West Africa may be at risk for contracting life-threatening conditions like HIV or AIDS and various other sexually transmitted diseases.

The economic and social implications of human trafficking have been especially devastating in West Africa. Trafficking has resulted in the displacement of thousands of individuals, with many of them being forced into labor exploitation. In addition, trafficking has caused a decrease in economic growth and development, as well as a decrease in educational opportunities for those living in the region. Trafficking has increased poverty levels and the risk of exploitation for vulnerable groups including women and children. Human trafficking has caused an increase in violence, including physical and sexual abuse, and has perpetuated gender inequality in the region.

As per the International Labor Organization, an estimated 1.8 million victims of human trafficking are present in the region, and 60 percent of them are women and children. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates that the majority of these victims are subjected to forced labor, and 40 percent of them are exploited in the sex industry. In addition, a report led by the International Labor Organization estimated that the economic losses due to human trafficking in West Africa can exceed \$4 billion annually. Along with that, a report by the International Organization for Migration found that the number of West African migrants being trafficked to Europe has increased by more than 400 percent in the last five years. These figures demonstrate the devastating effects of human trafficking on the region.

CHAPTER 5

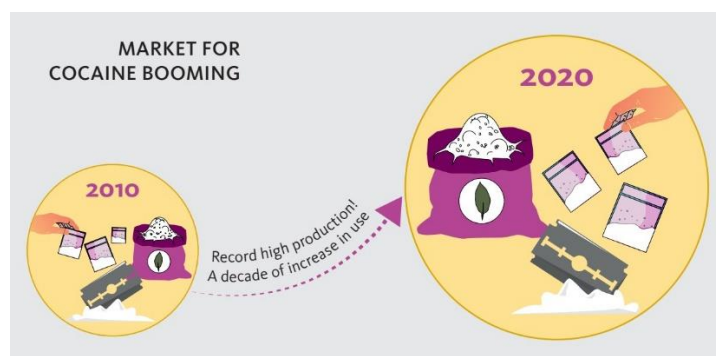
LAWS, CONVENTIONS & ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING DRUG AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA

5. Introduction

One of the main problems that Africa is currently dealing with is drug and human trafficking. These crimes endanger not only the safety and stability of the continent but also the health of people, communities, and entire countries. To counter drug and human trafficking in Africa, a number of laws, agreements, and organizations have been developed. We shall look at some of the major organizations and legal tools developed to address these crimes in this chapter. The global phenomenon of drug trafficking does not exclude Africa. (Bello, P. O., & Olutola, A. A., 2022). Drugs travelling from the region of South America to the European region and other parts of the world frequently pass via the continent. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) claims that cocaine from South America primarily travels through West and Central Africa, whereas heroin from Southwest Asia travels through East Africa. The UNODC also notes that African nations are increasingly turning to production of illegal substances including synthetic narcotics and cannabis.

Another significant issue in Africa is human trafficking. The continent serves as a source, a transit point, and a final destination for the exploitation of men, women, and children through forced labor, prostitution, and other means. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that 40.3 million people were victims of modern slavery worldwide in 2016, with 7.5 million of those victims living in Africa. According to the UNODC, Africa captured 17.7 metric tons of cocaine in 2019, a 45% rise from the previous year. Moreover, 1.8 metric tons of heroin were intercepted in African nations, an increase of 59% from the previous year. In accordance with the International Organization for Migration, about 9,403 victims of human trafficking received assistance in Africa in 2019. 34% of them were kids, and 53% of them were women. Following forced labor and forced marriage, trafficking for sexual exploitation accounted for the bulk of victims.

Fig 5.1 Drug Market Trends of Cocaine, Amphetamine- Type stimulants and New Psychoactive substances



Source: UNODC World Drug Report 2022

5.1. Laws, Conventions & Organizations Addressing Drug and Human Trafficking In Africa

5.1.1. The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption

A crucial piece of legislation in the battle against drug trafficking in Africa is the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. The convention adopted in 2003 intends to reinforce and encourage the creation of systems for preventing, detecting, looking into, and punishing corruption and related offences, such as drug trafficking (Ortuño, M. M. T., & Wiriyachai, M. A., 2009). The agreement mandates that nations take action to deter and punish corruption, including by creating anti-corruption organizations and putting preventive measures such promoting accountability and transparency into place.

5.1.2. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Another crucial piece of legislation in the fight against drug trafficking in Africa is the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The 1988-adopted treaty seeks to advance global collaboration in the fight against drug trafficking and the lowering of the demand for illegal substances (Fidler, 2001). States must cooperate with one

another in the sharing of information and the extradition of criminals, as well as take steps to prevent and prohibit the illegal production, distribution, and cultivation of narcotic narcotics and psychoactive substances.

5.1.3. The West Africa Coast Initiative

The United States government launched a program called the West Africa Coast Initiative to fight drug trafficking in West Africa. The program, which was started in 2009, aims to increase the ability of West African nations to deal with the threat posed by drug trafficking. The program covers a wide range of tasks, including supplying law enforcement agencies with training and equipment, aiding in border security and administration, and fostering regional and global collaboration.

5.1.4. The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons

Undoubtedly the most important piece of legislation in Africa's fight against human trafficking is the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons. The 2014 agreement aims to protect and assist victims of human trafficking, prevent and combat human trafficking, and enhance cooperation internationally in this field (Aronowitz, 2001). The agreement mandates that governments implement policies to prevent and combat human trafficking, including the creation of national coordinating organizations, the defense of victims, and the prosecution of perpetrators.

5.1.5. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

Another crucial legal tool in the struggle against human trafficking in Africa is the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. A supplement to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the protocol was approved in 2000 with the goals of preventing and combating human trafficking, particularly that of women and children, as well as of protecting and assisting those who have been the victim of it (Omelaniuk, 2005). In accordance with the convention, states must prosecute human trafficking, take action to stop and prevent it, protect and support victims, and work together to combat it.

5.1.6. The Regional Conference on Migration

An organization called the Regional Conference on Migration deals with migration-related issues in Africa, such as human trafficking. Together with nations from Europe and North America, the group was founded in 1996 and consists of nations from North, West, Central, and East Africa. The group wishes to promote regional cooperation on migration-related issues such as the protection of immigrants' human rights and the prevention and abolition of human trafficking.

5.1.7. The International Organization for Migration

An additional agency that deals with people trafficking in Africa is the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an UN-affiliated agency that promotes safe and orderly migration, notably through preventing and combating human trafficking. The IOM provides victims of human trafficking with a range of services, including housing, medical and psychological support, and reintegration help. In order to develop regional and national responses against human trafficking, the organization also collaborates with governments and other partners.

5.2. Prevention of Drug and Human Trafficking by UN

The United Nations has taken many actions to address the problems of drug and human trafficking, which are still major problems in Africa (Gallagher, 2010). These solutions include everything from laws to initiatives that help individuals impacted by trafficking. This chapter will look at the steps the UN has taken to combat human and drug trafficking in Africa.

5.2.1. Programs and Initiatives

The UN has also put in place a number of initiatives and programs to fight drug and people trafficking in Africa. Regional offices for the UNODC have been established in Africa to aid in the execution of the UN drug control conventions. The UNODC collaborates with African governments to create and implement regional drug control plans. The UN has established the United Nations Global Initiative to Combat Human Trafficking to foster international cooperation and coordination in the fight against human trafficking. The UN.GIFT helps African nations strengthen their legislative frameworks to combat trafficking and create and implement national anti-trafficking strategies. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) also strives to protect and rehabilitate child trafficking victims as well as to prevent child trafficking.

Fig 5.2 Access & functioning of police responsible for trafficking prevention

Region	Subregion	Country	Category	Sex	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Americas	Latin America and the Caribbean	El Salvador	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total			16,556	16,511	16,918	17,483
		Guatemala	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total						562
		Mexico	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total	354,739	358,407	351,121	382,425	356,070	
		Paraguay	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total						17,863
Asia	Eastern Asia	Mongolia	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total			8,000	8,000	4,000	
Europe	Eastern Europe	Hungary	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total	24,868	25,163	26,050	27,005	26,381	24,779
		Poland	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total	61,191	61,232	62,372	61,691	61,606	60,801
		Slovakia	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total	60	60	60			
	Northern Europe	Latvia	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total	5,774	5,761	5,605		5,342	5,155
		Lithuania	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total			3,065			
	Southern Europe	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total			498			548
		Kosovo under UNSCR 1244	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total			7,070			
		Spain	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total			95,060	94,403	94,290	95,314
	Western Europe	France	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total			131,700			
		Netherlands	Police personel - responsible for prevention	Total	51,442	50,509	50,747	50,316	50,389	50,402

Source: UNODC Global Report On Trafficking In Persons 2021

5.2.2. Challenges and Limitations

Drug trafficking and people trafficking remain major problems in Africa despite the UN's actions. One of the biggest obstacles in the fight against trafficking is the absence of political will and funding. Numerous African nations struggle with serious economic, social, and political issues, which may make it more difficult for them to effectively combat trafficking (Okogbule, 2013). However, certain countries' ineffective legal and law enforcement institutions might obstruct efforts to convict traffickers. The lack of coordination and cooperation among African nations is another problem.

Many African nations have open borders, which makes it easier for narcotics and trafficked people to traverse borders. The effectiveness of international efforts to combat trafficking may be hampered by a lack of coordination and cooperation (Sawadogo W. R., 2012). The African Union (AU) has taken a number of actions to prevent human and drug trafficking throughout the continent. These problems seriously jeopardize the continent's stability, security, and peace. To address these issues, the AU has enacted legislation, put plans into action, and formed alliances.

5.3. Measures taken by AU for the Prevention of Drug and Human Trafficking

5.3.1. Programs and Initiatives

The AU has put in place a number of measures and programs to fight drug and people trafficking throughout Africa. The 2007 adoption of the AU's Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention intends to encourage member states to work together in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime (Aransiola, J. O., & Zarowsky, C., 2014). The strategy calls for strengthening the criminal justice and law enforcement apparatuses, as well as fostering drug misuse prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

The African Union Border Program, which attempts to encourage collaboration among member nations in border management and security, was also formed by the AU. The initiative involves steps to thwart and combat cross-border trafficking in drugs and people.

5.3.2. Partnerships

To fight drug and human trafficking in Africa, the AU has forged alliances with various organizations. To encourage global cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking, the AU collaborates closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Many cooperation projects between the AU and UNODC have been initiated to improve drug control policies in Africa (Ndifon, C. O., Apori, K. A., & Ndifon, R. A., 2012). Moreover, the AU collaborates with the EU to fight human trafficking. In order to encourage cooperation among member states in the fight against human trafficking, the AU and EU have developed a number of cooperative initiatives, including awareness-raising campaigns and capacity building programs.

Fig 5.3 Persons persecuted for trafficking in persons in Africa

Country/ Territory	Dimension	Category	Gender	Age	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Algeria	Total	Total	Total	Total	<5	<5	<5	<5		<5		<5	12	6	22	7	16	<5
Angola	Total	Total	Total	Total								5						
Botswana	Total	Total	Total	Total				<5	<5	<5	<5							
Burkina Faso	Total	Total	Total	Total		7												
Burundi	Total	Total	Total	Total		7												
Cabo Verde	Total	Total	Total	Total				<5	<5	<5	<5	<5						
Cameroon	Total	Total	Total	Total							8							
Comoros	Total	Total	Total	Total				<5	<5	<5								
Côte d'Ivoire	Total	Total	Total	Total								18	27	11				
Djibouti	Total	Total	Total	Total								<5	<5	<5				
Egypt	Total	Total	Total	Total			22		8			93	38	57	17	75	137	
Ethiopia	Total	Total	Total	Total			156	136										
Ghana	Total	Total	Total	Total			<5	<5										
Guinea	Total	Total	Total	Total							22	10	18	13				
Kenya	Total	Total	Total	Total				<5	<5			31	32	18				
Lesotho	Total	Total	Total	Total						14	<5		10					
Mali	Total	Total	Total	Total		6	<5											
Mauritania	Total	Total	Total	Total				<5	<5	<5	<5							
Mauritius	Total	Total	Total	Total	9	<5	<5	<5		28	10	7	21	39				
Morocco	Total	Total	Total	Total								<5	<5	<5				138
Mozambique	Total	Total	Total	Total				231		15			58	17				
Namibia	Total	Total	Total	Total	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5							
Niger	Total	Total	Total	Total										<5				
Nigeria	Total	Total	Total	Total				94	85	39	62	56	54	48				
Rwanda	Total	Total	Total	Total					<5		10	29	49	51				
Senegal	Total	Total	Total	Total				<5	<5	<5		<5	<5					
Seychelles	Total	Total	Total	Total				<5	<5	<5	<5							
South Africa	Total	Total	Total	Total				82		27	43	11	<5					
Swaziland	Total	Total	Total	Total						<5	<5	<5	<5					
Togo	Total	Total	Total	Total			46	51	71	80	62	80						
Uganda	Total	Total	Total	Total					<5		56		15					
United Republic of Tanzania	Total	Total	Total	Total						<5								
Zambia	Total	Total	Total	Total			9											
Zimbabwe	Total	Total	Total	Total				<5	<5	<5	<5							

Source: UNODC Global Report On Trafficking In Persons 2021

5.4. Why the problem still persists?

Drug and human trafficking are severe problems that have plagued many countries for decades. African countries are not immune to these issues, and the continent is still struggling to regulate them today, despite the different legal structures and regulations in place. There are various reasons why Africa is unable to manage drug and human trafficking, and we shall discuss them in this essay. Corruption is one of the primary reasons Africa is struggling to regulate drug and human trafficking. Corruption is firmly ingrained in many African countries, permeating all sectors of society, including law enforcement. Drug and human trafficking gangs take advantage of this by

bribing officials to ignore their activities. They even collaborate with corrupt officials in some circumstances to facilitate their activities. This makes it difficult for legal institutions such as the African Union (AU) to successfully combat drug and people trafficking since they cannot rely on law enforcement agencies' cooperation.

Poverty is another reason Africa is struggling to manage drug and human trafficking. Poverty is pervasive in many African countries, putting people at risk of drug and human trafficking. Drug traffickers frequently target impoverished regions where individuals are desperate for money and offer them attractive offers to become drug mules. Human traffickers, likewise, prey on vulnerable people hoping for greater economic prospects. Poverty has thus created a demand for drug and human trafficking, making it difficult for legal institutions to manage these operations.

Inadequate resources and infrastructure impede Africa's ability to combat narcotics and human trafficking. Many African governments lack the resources and infrastructure required to tackle narcotics and human trafficking effectively. Law enforcement organizations frequently lack the tools and technology needed to detect and disrupt drug and people trafficking activities. Furthermore, many African countries lack appropriate border controls, making it simple for narcotics and human traffickers to cross borders unnoticed. Because of a lack of resources and infrastructure, legal authorities struggle to effectively combat narcotics and human trafficking. Finally, the physical position of Africa makes it a useful transit site for narcotics and human trafficking. Because of its location between the drug-producing regions of South America and Asia and the rich markets of Europe and North America, Africa is an ideal transit site for drug and human traffickers. This transit route allows narcotics and people traffickers to cross borders covertly, making it difficult for legal institutions to effectively manage these activities.

CONCLUSION

The two main issues that are primarily significant to the African region are human and drug trafficking. Africa not only generates these problems on its own, but also offers others a secure environment in which to confront them. Both of these illicit activity phenomena harm not only the continent of Africa but also the rest of humanity.

Although the phrase "security" is frequently associated with events at the state and national levels, it is a well-known subject in international studies. In this context, the term "security" will be used to refer to human security. Human security is a worldwide notion that is impacted by any negative activity that takes place everywhere in the world, not just in Africa. The term "human insecurity" refers to this impact on human security, which is typically negative. The concept of human insecurity will be highlighted in relation to the operations of drug and human trafficking in the African continent, and specifically in West Africa.

Drug trafficking is a well-known unlawful business that includes not only the delivery of drugs but also their production and sale. Africa is a well-known region for drug trafficking, particularly in West Africa. Every year, the world loses tens of thousands of lives to drug trafficking. The commonly used drugs that are readily available and imported from Africa include cocaine, heroin, marijuana, meth, and cannabis.

Africa is the world's largest hub for human trafficking, despite the fact that it is an illegal business that is carried out there and in other parts of the world. This behavior directly violates human rights and poses a threat to the idea of human security. Forced child labor, domestic slavery, sex trafficking, and child sex slavery are all common uses of human trafficking. All of these actions are against the law and are forbidden by all laws. The government's use of juvenile soldiers as soldiers, state-sponsored human trafficking, and situations where victims are punished are all against the law.

Both drug and human trafficking rackets have established such strong networks in West African countries that it has made the already inefficient and weak governments worse and created some prominent gaps in the legislative sector. The traffickers greatly benefit from such loopholes as they allow them the space to perform their activities easily and get access to transportation, airports,

fake documentation and communication systems. And even though certain states have been successful in limiting these activities yet they haven't been able to completely stop their flow. If the traffickers face any kind of constraints in their working then they relocate. It is therefore very difficult to nip this evil in the bud which is why measures at grass root level should be taken and gradually these activities can be limited and stopped once and for all. In conclusion it can be analyzed that drug and human trafficking are caused by various social and political factors that fuel them and they further lead to many grave crimes. Some of these factors are identified as push and pull factors and all of this creates a non-stop cycle of trafficking which makes it difficult for the victims to escape. The impacts that drug and human trafficking have in West Africa will be explained further in detail in the next chapter.

The socio-political impacts of drug trafficking in West Africa are far-reaching. Drug trafficking has enabled the growth of powerful criminal networks and gangs, who have become increasingly influential in the region. These gangs are heavily involved in corruption and bribery and use these tactics to increase their power and influence. This has led to weak or absent governance, as well as a lack of trust in state institutions. Drug trafficking has also been linked to money laundering and other financial crimes, leading to a lack of economic development. In addition, drug trafficking has exacerbated the rift between the region's governments and its citizens, leading to widespread distrust and insecurity. The effects of drug trafficking in West Africa have been devastating, and the region is still struggling to combat its effects. Human trafficking has had a devastating impact on the socio-political landscape of West Africa. It has fostered an environment of exploitation and abuse, where those who are most vulnerable are preyed upon. This has led to a lack of trust and security in the region, as well as an overall weakening of the rule of law. Trafficking has also contributed to a number of human rights abuses, such as forced labor and sexual exploitation, which have had a profound effect on West African society. Victims of trafficking have often been subjected to violence, intimidation, and other forms of psychological and physical abuse. This has had a direct impact on the mental and physical health of those affected, and has had a lasting negative effect on their social and economic wellbeing. In addition, human trafficking has had a negative effect on economic development in the region. Traffickers often take advantage of poverty and lack of opportunity in West Africa to lure victims into their schemes. This has led to a decrease in the number of skilled workers in the region, as victims are often forced to work in inhumane conditions for little or no wages. This has had a negative impact on the local economy,

as well as on the overall quality of life in the region. Finally, human trafficking has had a detrimental effect on the political landscape of West Africa. Traffickers often have ties to organized crime and corrupt government officials, which has led to an erosion of trust and accountability in the region. This has resulted in a lack of public confidence in government institutions.

Africa has significant issues from drug and human trafficking, and a variety of organizations and legal frameworks have been developed to combat these crimes. While the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons and the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children are key legal instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption are key legal instruments in the fight against drug trafficking. Among of the major groups battling drug and human trafficking in Africa include the West Africa Coast Initiative, the Regional Conference on Migration, and the International Organization for Migration. Although improvements have been made in tackling these crimes, much more work has to be done to guarantee that all of Africa's residents are living in a safe and secure environment.

The UN has implemented a number of initiatives to address the problems of drug and human trafficking in Africa. An important step in the battle against trafficking is the adoption of legal instruments like the African Union and UN agreements on corruption and trafficking and the UN conventions on drug control. Additionally, the adoption of initiatives and programs like UNGIFT and the UNODC supports African nations in their effective fight against trafficking. Yet, in order to effectively combat trafficking, issues including a lack of political will and financial support, inefficient legal and judicial systems, and a lack of coordination and collaboration across African nations must be addressed. In summary, the UN and AU have made various steps to tackle drug and human trafficking, which are still major problems in Africa. An important step in the battle against trafficking is the adoption of legal instruments, such as the African Union treaties on corruption and trafficking and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. Also, the implementation of policies and programs like the African Union's Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the African Union Border Program helps African nations combat human

trafficking. Partnerships between the AU and other institutions like the UNODC and the EU. To summarize, drug and human trafficking are important problems that affect many countries throughout the world.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to combat the devastating impacts of drug and human trafficking, the African Governments need to practice number of activities to prevent these illegal activities. To counter drugs and human trafficking, initially, the states need to cleanse their system of governments, eradicate corruption and maintain a just environment where rule of law is superior to all. After that, a series of important and useful steps can be opted to fight drug and human trafficking.

States need to;

- View drug use as a public health issue with socioeconomic origins and consequences, rather than a criminal justice one.
- Adopt drug treatment policy frameworks that adhere to the fundamental values and minimal legal and ethical requirements such as extending drug treatment and related health services and facilities, are included in this paper, establishing community-based prevention programs, and implementing decentralized treatment.
- Adopt harm reduction measures and make sure they are incorporated into national development strategies in order to reduce the worst effects associated with drug use.
- States should take action to stop the trafficking of human beings by criminal organizations (WACD, 2014). Effective legal action should be taken against anyone suspected of participating in human trafficking, and those who do so should face severe consequences.
- Actively combat the political and governance issues that fuel corruption in the government, the security forces, and the legal system, which drug and human traffickers take advantage of.
- Support the establishment of inter- and intra-party forums to investigate the effects of drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal party funding on West African political systems in order to construct measures to protect these institutions from illicit money.
- Strengthen parliaments' oversight function over the design and implementation of drug laws.
- Organize national, regional, or interregional meetings of independent electoral organizations or electoral tribunals to discuss ways to protect electoral processes against drug trafficking and to share expertise about how to make the system more resilient to such

activity. Existing networks of election administration organizations should be encouraged to take on this problem.

- As well as providing them with the necessary safeguards, support initiatives aimed at enhancing the ability of academia, the media, and civil society to track and analyze the connections between drugs trafficking and party and campaign financing.
- Develop, modify, and reconcile drug laws with human rights laws on the basis of current and emerging basic standards, and strive towards the decriminalization of drug consumption and low-level, nonviolent drug offences.
- Ensure that actions to construct, revise, and/or unify drug legislation are carried out in compliance with existing and emerging minimum standards, with the primary goal of preserving the security, health, and well-being of all people.
- Decriminalizing the use of drugs and minor drug offences via national law amendment should be explored to relieve the pressure on already overburdened law enforcement authorities and protect citizens from further harm.
- Enhance law enforcement to target high-level targets for more targeted deterrence. Support ongoing initiatives to create vetted units within specialist agencies while also seeing to it that measures are taken to keep these units from being infiltrated by organized crime or engaging in abusive behavior.
- Enhance methods for obtaining and analyzing intelligence, and create longer-lasting operational systems for exchanging data between and within regions.
- Better align resources and ensure stronger integration of regional anti-narcotics activities with those against corruption, money laundering, and human trafficking.
- Make efforts to assess the trends, objectives, and efficiency of outside help should be strengthened further, and serious effort should be made to identify what particularly has failed.
- Investigate the possibility of setting up an inquiry or a special provincial tribunal to look into or consider high-profile criminals, involving government and law enforcement personnel convicted of drug and human trafficking.
- Make sure such initiatives shouldn't take the place of the requirement to guarantee that national judicial systems have the impartiality, specialized knowledge, and resources necessary to bring charges for such crimes. At the regional and national levels, information

regarding who is doing what in the region should be centralized in one organization and made available to the public.

- Avoid militarizing drug policy and anti-human trafficking initiatives like other Latin American nations have done at enormous expense without lowering supply (Union, 2006). Maintain a balance between foreign help for public health initiatives, particularly in relation to the provision of medical care and prevention programs, and support for justice and safety measures.
- Make sure that operational initiatives, especially the exchange of expertise between officials from impacted nations in and outside of West Africa, reflect the joint accountability of manufacturer, shipment, and consumer states.
- Look out for ethical approaches to lower the need for such drugs, particularly in countries where a high percentage of the population uses illicit narcotics.
- Consider establishing cooperative examining teams and passing extradition laws against the offenders.
- Invest in drug research and the collection of baseline data on drug use, human trafficking, and drug consumption.
- Include human trafficking in national poverty reduction programs, and set aside the necessary funds to combat this crime.
- Promote cooperation between governments, intergovernmental organizations, international and non-governmental organizations, as well as relevant members of civil society, in order to improve the overall ability to assist victims, including through empowerment-promoting educational initiatives and/or employment opportunities.
- Create a regional structure to monitor the Action Plan's implementation, collaboration between states, global intergovernmental, and non-profit organizations, as well as the public sector.

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