

**International Seminar
“Challenges in addressing the illicit drugs problems in
the context of withdrawal of international forces from
Afghanistan in 2014”**



**Organized by UNRCCA in co-operation with UNODC and with
the support of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
on 23-24 April 2013 in Dushanbe**

Publication “Challenges in addressing the illicit drugs problem in the region in the context of withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan in 2014”

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The publication represents a compilation of materials of the international seminar “Challenges in addressing the illicit drugs problem in the region in the context of withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan in 2014”, which was organised by the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy (UNRCCA) in cooperation with the UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 23-24 April 2013.

The purpose of the seminar was to exchange information, views, ideas on overall security related dynamics in the region, possible trends in illicit drug production and drug trafficking, the increased linkages between drug trafficking and terrorism and extremism, impact of drugs related organized crime on state functioning as well as the role of international and regional organizations in addressing illicit drugs problem. The event brought together representatives of institutes of strategic studies and governmental bodies of Central Asian states, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Russia and the US. Other relevant UN entities, the EU, CSTO, SCO, CARICC, OSCE, and well-known independent experts took part in the seminar.

The opinions expressed in the publication do not necessary reflect the views of UNRCCA.

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TO READERS

Illicit drugs are increasingly undermining stability in Central Asia. While drugs had previously flowed through the States of the region on their way to Russia, Western Europe and beyond, in recent years more and more illicit drugs are being consumed within Central Asia itself, with dire consequences for societies and public health. Drug trafficking through Central Asia is profoundly affecting the countries of the region – it is breeding corruption and hindering socio-economic development. The majority of drugs trafficked through Central Asia originate in Afghanistan. For this reason, developments in Afghanistan can impact the countries of Central Asia and the wider region and are therefore of great concern, particularly in the context of the drawdown of international forces in 2014. Regional and international co-operation is required to address the complex set of problems related to illicit drugs production and trafficking and partnerships between Afghanistan and the neighbouring Central Asian countries must be encouraged and fostered.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) actively supports dialogue and consultation as the basis of jointly responding to drug-related issues. The tools of preventive diplomacy, the concept that forms the core of UNRCCA's mandate, can contribute to building the trust and mutual understanding that are required for individual countries, regions and the world to reap the benefits of multilateral efforts. More specifically, they can be used to increase the efficiency and efficacy of national, regional and global counter-narcotics initiatives

In this regard, UNRCCA, in co-operation with UNODC, organised a seminar on the theme “Challenges in addressing the illicit drugs problems in the context of withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan in 2014” in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 23 and 24 April 2013. The papers included in this publication are the result of these two days of discussions amongst representatives of institute of strategic studies, academia, international and regional organizations and Government bodies from the five Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, the Russian Federation and the United States.

This seminar was the fifth in a series organized by UNRCCA within the framework of its “**Strategic Dialogue Series**” with the **Institutes of Strategic Studies of the five Central Asian countries on key issues related to peace, security and stability in the region**. The papers presented in this seminar are compiled in this publication together with a final report that summarizes the main outcomes of the discussions and presents a set of recommendations. The presentations and discussions cover such topics as the geo-political dynamics in the region and illicit drug production and trafficking, the influence of the drug problem on economies and the impact of drug-related organized crime on peace and stability in the region. They all underline the need to increase the role of civil society in countering the illicit drug trade, while also intensifying bilateral and regional cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and promotion of good governance and alternatives for farmers.



The purpose of these materials is to stimulate further discussions on the best ways to mitigate any possible negative consequences of future developments in the region related to the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, particularly in the context of the on-going drawdown of international forces from Afghanistan.

I hope you will find it useful.

Miroslav Jenča
The Special Representative
of the UN Secretary -General
Head of UNRCCA



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***Opening Remarks by Ambassador Miroslav Jenča,
SRSG and Head of UNRCCA***

Dear participants of the seminar,

I would like to welcome all of you here in Dushanbe to exchange views and discuss ways to address the illicit drug problem in the region taking into consideration very important and crucial developments in Afghanistan.

For our Centre it has already become a tradition to organize these kinds of strategic dialogue series with institutes of strategic studies, other state structures, regional organizations, independent experts and academia on important topics related to security and stability in Central Asia. This time we are doing it together with UNODC, which is the key UN entity in fight against illicit drugs, and with the support of Tajik authorities.

As we know drug trafficking and other forms of transnational crime have serious implications for political, economic and social stability in the entire Eurasian region. Criminals, operating along the drug trafficking routes from south to north through Central Asia at times infiltrate and weaken government structures, penetrate and influence national politics and vulnerable economies, spawn conflict, fuel terrorism and extremist activities and, in some cases, can even foment civil strife and ethnic tensions. Using their illicitly acquired profits, criminals are able to corrupt and undermine public trust in government and the rule of law.

Illicit drugs and their precursors transit the entire region - from Afghanistan through Central Asia to Russia and further to Western Europe. The problem is transnational and creates shared responsibility by all those affected. It also demands stronger regional partnership and joint involvement in a regional solution, including integrated border management.

There is a large scope for a possible increase of cross-border cooperation between Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and the Central Asian states in the case when it comes to the fight against drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime. This issue becomes even more important in the context of the withdrawal of international combat forces from Afghanistan in and beyond 2014.

In this regard I would like to mention such positive initiatives as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC)-representative is here-which serves as a platform for cooperation. The UN has fostered development of CARICC. CARICC gives its member states new means and opportunities for collaborative action against the transnational threat of trafficking in narcotics.



Notwithstanding such positive steps, there is still a lot of work to be done to achieve effective exchange of information and coordinated actions facing the region in the next few years. We need more effective sharing of intelligence information and the adoption of common coordination mechanisms. For example, the legal basis for regional counter-narcotics cooperation in Central Asia was established through the Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-regional Drug Control Cooperation signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan back in 1996 in Tashkent. The MoU could be reactivated as a vital political and legally-binding document and as an important tool for promoting regional counter-narcotics cooperation.

I want to particularly stress that a crucial factor in implementing these tasks is the political will of the states in the region to make real cooperation happen, as a solution to all the aforementioned problems can only come from the region itself. At the same time UNRCCA stands ready to assist countries in building this trust.

For example, the Centre together with the UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and with support from the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway, assisted states in the region in strengthening their capacities to jointly counter terrorism within the framework of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In November 2011, at a senior level meeting a Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia on implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted. Cross-border cooperation in fight against drug trafficking is particularly singled out in the plan.

To secure strong and sustained support in the form of practical steps for the implementation of the Action Plan in the region, a project proposal for the following years has been developed.

Dear participants,

Allow me to conclude by encouraging you to exchange views, ideas and proposals which could be useful for policy makers in the region. As you know as the result of this seminar we are planning to publish a brochure with the final report containing conclusions and recommendations as well as individual presentations, and distribute it to the wider audience.

Thank you for your attention.



Welcome Address

By Rustam Nazarov

The Head of the State Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan

Dear Chairman,
Dear Seminar Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First I would like to welcome you to the sunny environs of our ancient Tajik homeland and express my genuine appreciation for your cooperation in fighting illicit trafficking in drugs. I also take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this seminar.

The issues we will be discussing today are of tantamount importance, since the world community must pool its efforts to find more effective forms and ways to deal with the present challenges and threats.

Illicit drug circulation, which goes hand in hand with transboundary organized crime, terrorism, and extremism, has become a global threat to the preservation of peace and stability on our Planet.

Today, it is obvious that the drug business and drug mafia have direct links with international terrorism, which is using the funds from drugs sales to purchase all kinds of weapons and carry out wide-scale terrorist acts. Terrorists have laid their hands on the most dangerous type of weapon—drugs, since they have a capacity greater than any other mass destruction weapon to kill millions of innocent people.

The main flow of drugs, generating a multibillion revenue, is passing to the world markets through those areas where terrorists are most active.

Finding ways to combat the laundering of illegal money is also an important avenue to pursue in opposing the drug business. We must establish real and proper control over financial flows in the regions that are the main producers, transit countries, and end consumers of narcotics.

Narcoterrorism is one of the gravest dangers currently facing the world community.

The attempts currently being made to resolve it have proven insufficient, often being nothing more than restraining factors.

Dear Colleagues,

A large amount of opium poppy is still grown in the southern and western regions of Afghanistan, accounting for 95% of the country's total cultivation area. In recent years, there has been a notable increase in the area of cannabis fields in Afghanistan. This can explain certain changes in the structure of drugs confiscated in Tajikistan.

The drug situation in our region is dictated by the striving of transnational drug groups to enlarge the drugs sales market. Drugs are being transported to Russia along a new



route through Iran, the South Caucasian republics, and Ukraine, bypassing the Northern Route.

The unique location of Central Asia at the crossroads of the commercial routes joining Asia and Europe is promoting an increase in trade and the establishment of ties that are benefitting both our region and neighboring countries, including Afghanistan. Moreover, our trade routes are also being used for illicit circulation of drugs, precursors, and weapons.

Tajikistan is interested in reinforcing antidrug cooperation with all countries whose consumer markets are targets for the drugs produced in Afghanistan. We are taking active part in all the international antidrug operations. A priority vector in the operations of the Tajik law-enforcement agencies and defense and security structures is not only intercepting the smuggling of drugs into the country and combating their illicit turnover inside the country, but also carrying out the toughest and most decisive measures to prevent drugs from being exported beyond Tajikistan.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We hope that during our productive exchange of opinions today, the seminar participants will make constructive proposals permitting the states and international organizations concerned to designate new joint ways to resolve these global problems.

I am also certain that today's meeting will give a new boost to fighting transnational illicit trafficking in drugs, combating organized crime, and further strengthening mutually advantageous cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.



Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen!

Esteemed colleagues!

On the eve of a fresh cardinal transformation of the situation in Afghanistan following the pull-out of the bulk of NATO forces it seems necessary to make a profound and systematic analysis of the current situation and develop Russia's most efficient position in close cooperation with Afghanistan and the entire global community – above all, with regional states, among which Pakistan and Iran, certainly, deserve special mentioning.

What is the key factor of instability in Afghanistan?

Beyond any doubt, this main factor is, above all, illicit drugs production of truly planetary scope developed over the past ten years, in which Afghanistan is the absolute leader, not only in respect of heroin, but now also in respect of hashish (cannabinoids).

Unfortunately, any unbiased observer will have to admit the deplorable fact that following a colossal increase in heroin production in Afghanistan as a result of Operation Endurable Freedom in 2001 – more than 40 times! – the world community has failed to reverse the situation with illicit drug production for the better.

During the years of the new Millennium, starting from the moment of launching of Operation Endurable Freedom in 2001, Afghan heroin has killed over a million people around the world, and, what is more, over one trillion dollars in proceeds from heroin trafficking is invested in transnational organised crime.

The transit of Afghan heroin seriously affects almost 100 UN Member States in all continents. In other words, 154 thousand hectares of opium poppy plantations in Afghanistan are a source of deadly hazard for 10 billion hectares of the territories of the aforementioned countries and their populations.

Moreover, according to the United Nations data, last year has witnessed a new substantial increase – this time of the opium poppy plantation areas – by 18%, from 131,000 ha to 154,000 ha. It was only an outbreak of a fungus disease and poor weather conditions that prevented the production of record-breaking amounts of opium. However, such seasonal fluctuations cannot conceal the continuing triumphant boost of heroin production in Afghanistan and a relevant increase in the number of peasant holdings involved in illicit drug production, which is evident from the 18% increase in the area of opium poppy plantations.

This means that socioeconomic degradation in the country continues while the social base of illegal drug production becomes wider. Apparently, the situation has experienced a fresh radical negative break point, and this needs to be comprehended.

The geopolitical instability of the 2000's has led to the emergence by 2007 of a planetary centre of illicit drug production of phenomenal scope, whereas during the past several years it turned from a consequence of tension into the prime cause of destabilisation – the key factor determining the situation in the region.

All other negative elements – military, terrorist, extremist and criminal ones – have in fact found themselves crucially tied up with illicit drug production and the absolute interest of the system of transnational crime in continuing the existence of this drug production centre.

The Afghan drug production has turned into a generator of the entire spectrum of hazards and a system-forming factor of the political and military situation in Eurasia as a whole.

Relevant analysis shows that the pull-out of the bulk of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the giving up of the world community's responsibility for security in Afghanistan in 2014 would be insufficient to change the catastrophic situation with illegal drug production.

On the contrary, in the event of our inaction transnational groups of drug dealers will continue protecting their global drug farm in the interests of preserving the colossal volumes of opium and hashish production.

Hence, the reasoning that the pull-out of the basic corps of NATO forces will stimulate an increase in drug production in Afghanistan disregards the fundamental fact that the already existing production capacities of the drugs infrastructure are beyond all possible limits and, in fact, destructive to Eurasia both politically and biologically. Therefore the objective to be set is not deterring the enormous as it is traffic of drugs, but a radical, truly revolutionary cut in drug production in Afghanistan, ten-fold in the least.

This requires a new philosophy and social development paradigm based on implementation of the fundamental right advocated by the United Nations – the right for development.

Dear colleagues!

There have been insistent attempts of late to impose a new paradigm of legalisation, speculating on inefficiency of the anti-drug policy.

However, this is nothing but an illusion. The experience of free sale of opium in China in the 19th century by the British East India company has vividly demonstrated rapid



extinction of a whole nation.

In our opinion, an effective paradigm should be based on the understanding of the root causes and specifics of the drug problem.

Analysis of illegal drug production in two global centres and the specifics of transcontinental transit of heroin and cocaine clearly highlights the dominant factor – a sort of system integrator of the drug problem – socioeconomic depressiveness of countries involved in drug production and transit forming significant segments of society as the social base of the population involved in reproduction and transit of narcotic drugs.

Research shows the deadly impact of depressiveness both on individuals or groups of people and on entire regions.

A truly symptomatic situation involves poor dehkans in Afghanistan who are forced to cultivate opium fields for a hand-to-mouth remuneration, bringing immense profits to their landlords to the delight of financial and banking institutions.

A similar situation with urban users of the drug produce of Afghan dehkans in the streets of the European metropolises leads to the formation of the same depressive social base.

Therefore, the support and cultivation of such depressive zones constitutes political and economic basis for on-going drug production and the existence of the drug mafia itself.

Within this context, applying merely police measures to illicit drug production in Afghanistan is definitely not enough.

Drug laboratories and tonnes of drugs are being regularly destroyed in Afghanistan. But there are no tangible changes, which are understandable, because – I repeat – the very social base of drug production has not been liquidated, but, on the contrary, is being reproduced on an even greater scale.

The 18% increase in the area of opium poppy plantations registered in Afghanistan last year means, in fact, a relevant increase in the number of peasant holdings involved in illegal drug production.

In other words, degradation continues, and the social base of drug production is growing wider.

It is quite obvious that the termination of drug production is connected with Afghanistan's alternative development through the implementation of the rights of individual persons and the entire people to development, which should become the



priority of the anti-drug policy and the core of the new paradigm.

It is precisely sound alternative development that Afghanistan needs most of all today.

What is this supposed to mean in practice?

Promotion of industrialisation and electrification of the long-suffered Afghanistan, enabling new technologies and infrastructures to become the main source and driver of public wealth.

I am convinced that the solution of the illicit drug production problem consists precisely in the promotion of socioeconomic progress through the creation of next-generation infrastructures technologically capable of providing access of the main part of the countries' population to modern global living standards.

The creation of next-generation infrastructures with universal, rather than restricted access is the true key to meeting the global challenge posed by the drug business.

The world of today is actually facing the need to leave behind the ailing neo-liberal economy generating inequality and global drug addiction and switch over to a new model of socioeconomic development implementing the UN-sponsored right to development and social progress.

It is an open secret that today's situation in Afghanistan is an absolute result of the global economy that is in critical need of money from any sources, including the dirty narco-dollars, to pay for its giant liquidity deficiency.

Apparently, cultivation of the narco-economy is an indispensable condition of the very existence of the present-day global economy.

This means that by developing Afghanistan we will be working to the benefit of the whole world.

At the conference held in Lima (Peru) in May last year we proposed making the main focus on implementation of the right to development and alternative development.

Last November, this proposal was registered at the high-level expert conference, also held in Lima.

Russia's initiatives were taken into account and included in the draft resolution of the meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March this year, entitled UN International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, to be adopted by the General Assembly.

Hence, the following actions seem expedient:



First. Making full use of the entire capacity of such a unique mechanism as the UN Economic and Social Council for rooting out socioeconomic causes of illicit drug production.

Let me recall that the ECOSOC competence includes the consideration of international economic and social problems, and the Council itself has been established as a central forum for discussing such issues and developing political recommendations.

We suggest that on the threshold of 2015, the General Assembly should vest ECOSOC with a new function of alternative accelerated development of Afghanistan to be discharged jointly with the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum and the Peace-building Commission, to organise accelerated post-conflict recovery and development of the country – possibly, by setting up a new special ECOSOC mechanism in the form of a special consultative group on Afghanistan's development.

Second. We consider it expedient to schedule the Global Antidrug Summit to be held next year under the UN General Assembly auspices and securitise its decisions by the UN Security Council.

Third. Setting up of an international operational headquarters for organising industrialisation and elimination of illicit drug production in Afghanistan. If the Afghan leadership displays goodwill, the conceptual and organisational aspects of this headquarters could be performed, first and foremost, by the regional powers – Russia, Pakistan and Iran.

Afghanistan Development Corporation could become the operator of industrialisation and develop and implement Afghanistan development projects.

Specifically, it is necessary to step up the launching of transit pipeline projects.

Intensification of the pipeline geo-economy would give a powerful boost to regional integration and help oust illicit drug production from Afghanistan's business life.

Russia is prepared to take part in the “Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – Iran” (TAPI) gas pipeline construction project, and supports progress in promotion of the IPI (Iran – Pakistan – India) pipeline, as it will not only contribute to strengthening regional stability, but will also help raise the economy of provinces inhabited by the Baluchi.

Fourth. Three key regional powers – Russia, Iran, and Pakistan – should develop antidrug strategy jointly with Afghanistan within the shortest timelines in order to coordinate common actions and proceed to practical elimination of the global drug production in Afghanistan. I propose holding the first conference of the competent authorities with support of our Foreign Ministries in Moscow in the next few months.

Thank you for attention.





UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Opiate flows through northern Afghanistan and Central Asia

-UNODC, Afghan Opiate Trade Project
-Surveys and Statistics Section, 2013





UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Presentation by Hakan Demirbuken Programme Manager Afghan Opiate Trade Monitoring Project Statistics and Survey Section

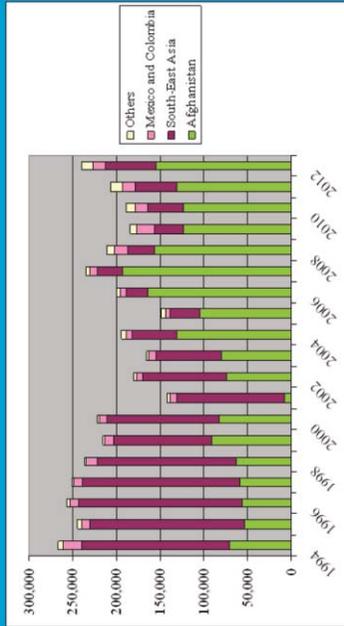




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Supply and Demand

SUPPLY : Global Opium Poppy Cultivation 1994-2012



2002 : 179, 653 ha (41% in Afghanistan).
 2012 : 240,000 ha (64 % in Afghanistan)
 Net increase in 10 years : Global (33%),
 Afghanistan (107%)

DEMAND - USERS
 Estimated number of
 opiate users :
 2002 : 15 million
 2011 : 16 million

Region	2002	2011	Change	Percent Change
Western Europe	1,270,000	1,070,000	-200,000	-16%
Eastern Europe	2,760,000	1,880,000	-870,000	-32%
N. America	1,480,000	1,260,000	-210,000	-14%
S. America	1,030,000	210,000	-820,000	-80%
Asia	7,770,000	9,600,000	1,830,000	24%
Oceania	100,000	40,000	-60,000	-60%
Africa	800,000	1,020,000	1,020,000	128%
Total	15,220,000	15,910,000	690,000	5%





Challenges on Demand data

- While cultivation increased, number of users remained stable more or less. **How can we explain this ?**
 - **Consumption per capita of opiate users increased ?**
 - **Consumption statistics are underestimated ?**
 - **Production statistics over estimated : Indeed, UNODC revised 2006-2009 production figures in 2013. Total amount of production decreased by 6300 tons in those years (from 28,900 tons to 22,600)**
 - **Other uses of illicit opium or morphine ?**
- Almost no data on consumption of opiates (opium / heroin) per user per year
- Especially data on number of users provided by the Member States in Africa and most of Asia is very low.
- Unknown purity of heroin both consumed and trafficked

Without understanding DEMAND, how can we understand the dynamics of trafficking and trends ?



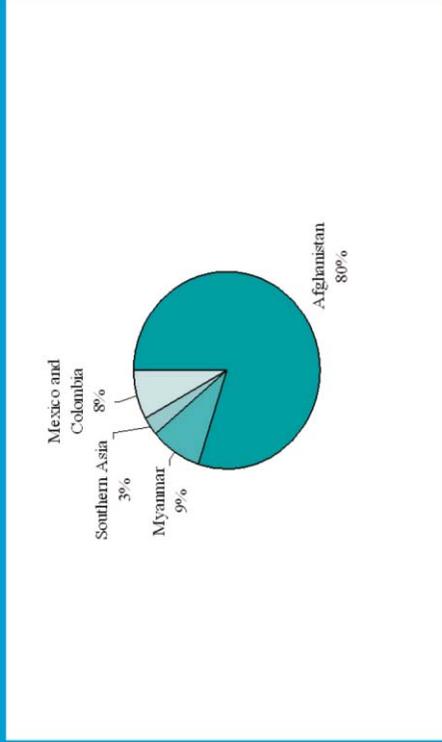


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Opiate Trade : Global Overview : Demand and Supply

Source of Global Opiate



Global Opiate Market value
2011 : US\$ 65.5 billion

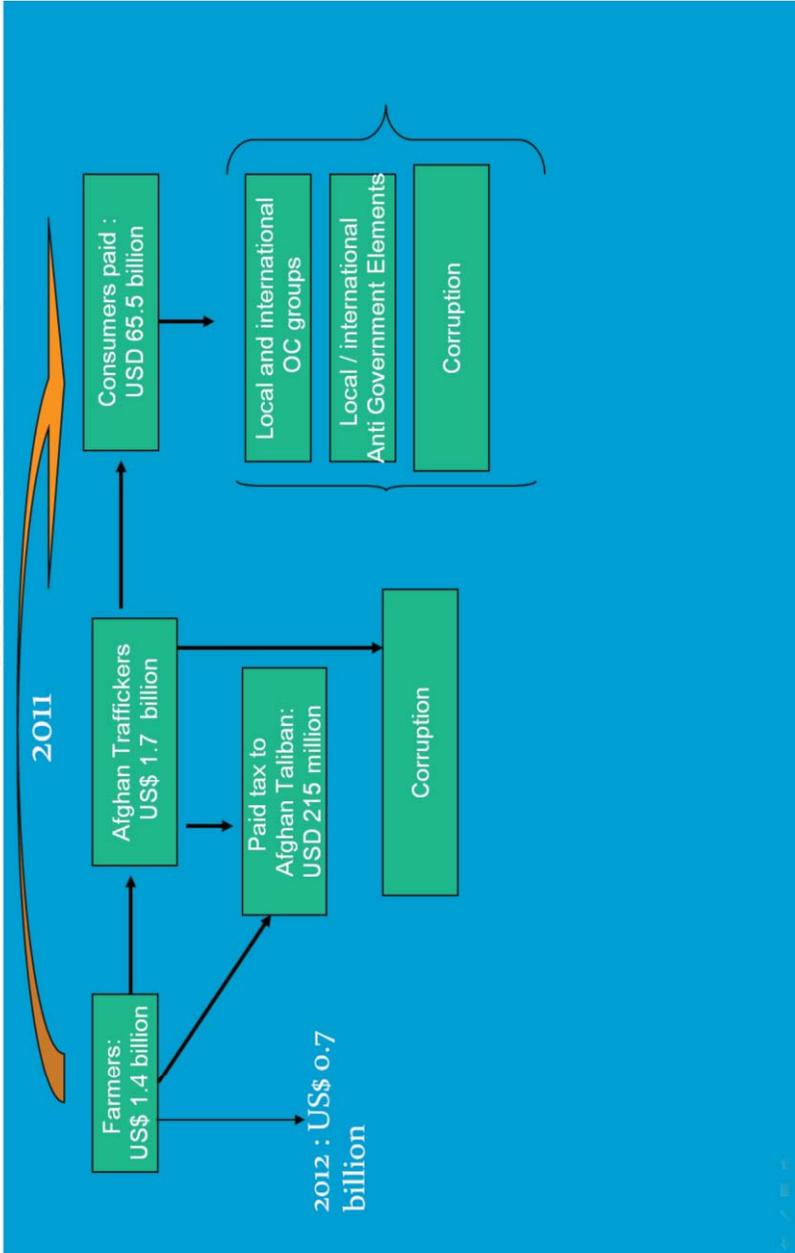




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Opiate Trade : Global Overview : Beneficiaries



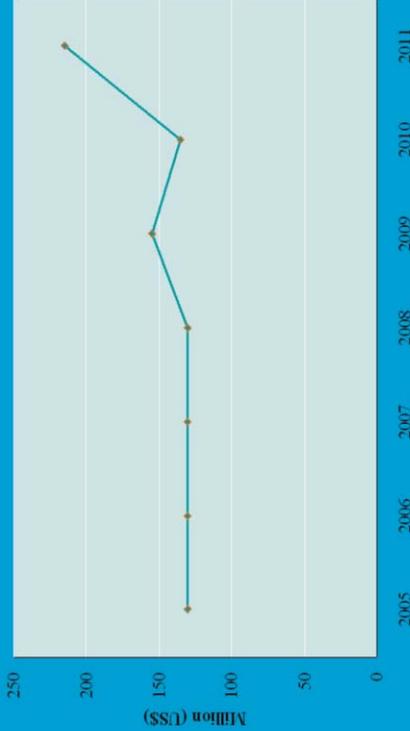


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Beneficiaries : Afghanistan

Estimated income for Afghan Taliban (other AGE) from opiate trade



In Afghanistan, Anti-Government Elements, drug lords, drug dealers, traffickers, local commanders and opium farmers are the main groups that benefit from the opiate trade

The informal nature of hawala, a lack of strict law enforcement to prevent misuse of the system and the close-knit nature of Afghan society mean that drug traffickers, the Taliban and other AGE can use hawala to launder money

- Hawala (also known as *hundā*) is an ancient money-transfer system that relies heavily on trust and relationships such as family ties





Opiate Trade : Global Overview : Market Value

Global heroin and opium market supplier shares (billion US\$)

Origin	Heroin	Opium
Afghanistan	45	1
Myanmar	6	0.3
Colombia and Mexico	11	n/a
South Asia	2	0.1
Other	n/a	0.1

- Most of the global opiate market continues to be supplied by Afghanistan
- Afghanistan supplies 80% of the world's heroin market and almost 70% of the global raw opium market
- In 2010 the global heroin and raw opium market had a total estimated value of US\$ 65.5 billion, of which Afghan opiates represented US\$ 46 billion
- Afghanistan supplies:
 - 100% of the European, African, Middle Eastern market
 - 50-70% of East Asian market
 - 50% of the East and South-East Asian market as well as Oceania

