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INTERNATIONAL

# ILLICIT TRADE BY THE NUMBERS

## A SIZEABLE GLOBAL ISSUE

**\$1.6 - \$2.2**

TRILLION TRILLION

worth of illicit products flow globally from cross-border criminal operations, such as the smuggling of arms, tobacco, or pharmaceuticals.<sup>1</sup>

UP TO **3.3 PERCENT**

of world trade is estimated to be counterfeit and pirated products, equivalent to up to

**\$509**  
BILLION<sup>2</sup>

## TOBACCO: ONE OF THE MOST ILLEGALLY TRAFFICKED GOODS IN THE WORLD

**10-12 PERCENT**

of tobacco products consumed globally every year are illicit, corresponding to an estimated **400 - 460 BILLION CIGARETTES<sup>3</sup>**

The value of illicit tobacco trade is estimated to be greater than that of oil, wildlife, timber, arts and cultural property, and diamonds combined.

**\$40 BILLION TO \$50 BILLION**

are lost globally every year in tax revenues due to illicit tobacco trade.<sup>4</sup>

## A HIGH-PROFIT, LOW-RISK COMMODITY FOR CRIMINALS

**\$0.20**

Estimated cost to produce one illicit pack of cigarettes.

**\$100,00**

Cost of smuggled container of 10 million illicit cigarettes.

**\$2,300,000**

Potential profit to smugglers from one container of illicit cigarettes.

## ILLICIT TOBACCO TRADE: A PROBLEM WITH FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES

-  Exposes consumers to unregulated products, often manufactured in sub-standard, unsanitary conditions
-  **18** Undermines efforts to reduce smoking prevalence and protect youth from smoking
-  Hurts government tax revenues
-  Harms legitimate businesses and trade
-  Encourages corruption and threatens the rule of law
-  Finances transnational criminal organizations

<sup>1</sup> Munich Security Conference (MSC), Transnational Security Report, 2019. <sup>2</sup> OECD/EUIPO (2019), Trends in Trade in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods, Illicit Trade, OECD Publishing, Paris/European Union Intellectual Property Office. <sup>3</sup> PMI estimate based on Euromonitor and WHO statistics. <sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of State, The Global Illicit Trade in Tobacco: A Threat to National Security, 2015. <sup>5</sup> StopIllegal.com, Drivers of Illicit Trade.