

AN INVESTIGATION INTO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY: A CASE STUDY OF KHOMAS
REGION, NAMIBIA

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Abstract

The present study investigated drug trafficking and its implication for national security, using Khomas Region as a case study. Illicit drug trafficking is one of the variables that offer a bigger threat to a country's national security since it has evolved into an international problem that threatens international peace and security. In recent years, the smuggling of illegal narcotics has increased in Namibia. According to Lieutenant-General Sebastian Ndeitunga, Namibia is in serious jeopardy due to the alarming increase in drug trafficking, (De Klerk, 2018, p.6). Statistics from Namibian Police's Drug Law Enforcement Division show that between 2017 and 2020, 7151 persons were detained in Namibia for drug-related crimes (Namibian Police, 2020). In addition, according to a declaration made by the Minister of Health and Social Services, Kalumbi Shangula, for the Commission on Narcotic Substances' 64th Session, Namibia seized 843,892 kg of cannabis; 4,930 tablets of Mandrax; 1,072g of cocaine powder; 650 units of crack cocaine and 2,922 g of crystal meth in 2020. This study employed a qualitative research methodology, using a case study research design. The study found among others that, drug trafficking in Namibia could lead to the spread of small arms and other weapons; a high possibility of violence and extremism; a threat from international terrorism; a pervasive culture of corruption and other security challenges. Moreover, an additional burden on government spending to address the problem was uncovered in this study. Based on the findings, the study put forward the following recommendations. A strong legislative structure that addresses the problem is necessary to control and prevent drug trafficking; a public health and intelligence approach to raise public awareness of the threat of drug trafficking on the country's national security is equally necessary. The Government should also derive ways to address the high unemployment rates among the youth to deter the majority of them from succumbing to the allure of drug trafficking in the country.

Key Words: 'Illicit, Drug Trafficking, National Security, Transnational'

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this study to the following people: my mother, Kuku Paulina Hango and Mbushandje, Kuku Moses Auala; they have always supported me and believed in me. I would also like to dedicate this study to my family and friends who have contributed to my study in any way.

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Furthermore, I would like to thank my dear husband Mr. Phillipus Sikongo and my dear daughter Paula- Pearl Sikongo for their moral and psychological support; they encouraged me every day and availed our home as a second library for me to complete this study. Finally, I would like to thank all participants for agreeing to take part in the study and for providing me with the necessary information.

DECLARATION

I, Metumo Nangula Olye Hango, hereby declare that this Research Project titled “An investigation into illicit drug trafficking and its implications for national security: A case study of Khomas Region, Namibia” submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Master’s degree of Arts in Security and Strategic Studies of the University of Namibia is my own work and has not been submitted to any other institution of higher education for award of any academic degree. Sources of information I have used in this research paper have been acknowledged.

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A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow rectangular background. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'Metumo Nangula Olye Hango'.

Metumo Nangula Olye Hango

October 2024

Date

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AQIM - Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States

ICC - International Criminal Court

IMF- International Monetary Fund

Nampol – Namibian Police Force

NDF- Namibian Defence Force

NSA – Namibia Statistics Agency

SADC – Southern Africa Development Community

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNODC - United Nations Office on Drug and Crime

US - United States

WHO - World Health Organization

INCB - International Narcotic Control Board

KIA - Kotoka International Airport

UK - United Kingdom

UN - United Nations

UNDCP - United Nations International Drug Control Program

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The stability of all states around the world is fundamentally dependent on national security. Governments are responsible for making sure that their territorial integrity, as well as the safety and security of their populations, are fully preserved. This is, by far, the main goal of national security. Since the notion of national security is too broad to have a distinct definition, several definitions have been coined and substantiated by scholars in an effort to suit the dynamics it is being applied in. For instance, national security, is described by Brown (1983:38) as "the ability of a state to preserve the country's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institutions, and governance from disruption from outside.". On the other hand, according to Cohen and Tuttle (1972:12), national security is also "a protective condition that statesmen either try to acquire, or preserve, in order to guard the various components of their polities from either external, or internal threats.". This definition of national security can be considered applicable in this study.

It should be highlighted that national security concerns itself with both the welfare of individuals and the region in which they reside. This is because illicit drug trafficking operations are one of the variables that offer a bigger threat to a state's national security; drug trafficking has evolved into an

international problem that threatens international peace and security. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2013) defines drug trafficking as an illegal universal practice that includes the cultivation, production and distribution of illicit drugs. The end of the Cold War, the emergence of a new global political and economic environment, the existence of weak, vulnerable states as a result of the breakdown of state structures and the rise of organised crime, in the opinion of experts, are all factors contributing to the increase in drug trafficking (Haefele, 2000). The three major international drug control treaties namely, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 (as amended in 1972), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of

1971 and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances illustrate that the effects of drug trafficking have been recognized throughout the world. As a result, the United Nations has adopted various drug policies, such as the 1988 Convention aimed at fortifying and improving effective legal methods for international cooperation in criminal matters so as to reduce the global criminal activities of illicit trade in complementing and reinforcing earlier conventions (Fox & Mathews, 1992).

Namibia is a developing country in the southern Africa and is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It is one of the least populated countries in southern Africa with an estimated population of approximately 2.1 million and with an annual growth rate of about 1.4%, as

indicated in the 2011 Namibian Population and Housing Census. In addition, Namibia is a large country with a total surface measuring (824,116 square kilometres) and 14 political regions that share borders with countries, including South Africa, Angola, Zambia and Botswana (NSA, 2018). Like many other countries in the region, Namibia is dealing with an increase in the use and trafficking of illegal drugs, which has substantially impacted social issues like crime, domestic violence, road accidents, suicide, family disintegration and other social problems (Namibian Police, 2020).

Crimes related to drugs are criminalised under the *Abuse of the Dependence-Producing Substances and Rehabilitation Centers Act*, No. 41 of 1971 and the *Drug Trafficking Act*, No. 140 of 1992, as part of the United Nations and in an effort to fight against illicit drug trafficking activities.

However, despite these policies, in recent years, there has been a concerning increase in illicit drug trafficking and drug use incidences in the country. Although Namibia is not a drug producing country or originator of chemicals as there is no known drug production facilities in the country, traffickers continue to use the country as a destination and a transit route for drugs to more lucrative markets in the SADC region, the rest of Africa, as well as the rest of the world (Kazembe & Neema, 2016).

Namibia cannot really be classed as a consumer country on a global basis; however, consumption does occur but on a lower scale. Cannabis and the methaqualone containing substance Mandrax were the narcotics that were initially most commonly abused. Additionally, since the late 1990s, narcotics

cartels have been successful in bringing in illegal narcotics like heroin, ecstasy, amphetamines, crack cocaine and crack. Due to its multicultural population, Namibia has developed a tiny but lucrative market for almost all types of illicit narcotics produced across the world (Kazembe & Neema, 2016).

Kazembe and Neema (2016) reiterated that local drug dealers built relationships with their international counterparts who then frequently visited Namibia and stayed there for the sole purpose of trafficking drugs. Since Namibia is not a country that produces drugs, they are also imported from other producing countries. Across the region, South Africa supplies roughly 95% of the cannabis used domestically, with the remaining 5% coming from Angola, Zambia and Tanzania. Internationally, countries like South Africa and Brazil exports majority of the hard narcotics used in Namibia, including cocaine, heroin and ecstasy.

Namibia can be considered mostly a transit country because it serves as a route for drugs like cocaine, heroin and Mandrax that are headed towards neighbouring countries. Road smuggling of this contraband occurs via furniture trucks (hidden among regular freight), public transportation (hidden among passengers' personal luggage) and even cross-border parcel delivery services. To smuggle drugs into or through a country, truck and courier drivers may be bought off and paid by drug traffickers. International drug couriers also travel to neighbouring countries via Namibia with drug shipments gathered from manufacturing countries like Brazil (Brown, 1996).

Drug abuse has become a major social issue on a global scale; as a result, many lives are being lost. The sale of both legal and illicit drugs has grown into an incredibly lucrative business, and as more traders enter the market, more people are persuaded to use drugs. Drug usage has alarmingly increased in Namibia, as it has in other African countries. All societal indicators that favourably influence the rise in drug misuse such as unemployment, crime, poverty and poor housing are present in Namibia.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Othman (2004) explained that like conventional military and other external security concerns, transnational threats are also capable of disrupting law and order and creating devastating political military, economic and social repercussions. Drug trafficking is one of these threats. Therefore, these dangers breed unrest within a state and throughout its community. Even though they go by various names, these threats share some traits. They are all connected by an extremely intricate global network of contemporary transportation, information and communication. Therefore, it is argued that drug trafficking concentrates on the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution and consequently, trading of drugs, all of which are against the law (Frederick, 2017).

In recent years, the smuggling of illegal narcotics has increased in Namibia. According to Lieutenant-General Sebastian Ndeitunga, Namibia is in serious jeopardy due to the alarming rise in drug trafficking (De Klerk, 2018, p.6). Additionally, in June 2018, a container containing 480 kilograms of cocaine

valued at N\$206 million was intercepted at the port of Walvis Bay when the Namibian port authorities discovered the largest drug shipment in Namibian history, drawing attention from around the world. According to a 2019 evaluation used to drive the creation of the National Drug Control Master Plan (2019/20-2023/24), drug trafficking and misuse have risen at an alarming rate (Magadza, 2019).

Statistics from the Namibian Police's Drug Law Enforcement Division show that between 2017 and 2020, 7151 persons were detained in Namibia for drug-related crimes (Namibian Police, 2020). Furthermore, marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug product followed by cocaine powder, crack cocaine, ephedrine powder, methamphetamine and tablets containing Mandrax (Kazembe & Neema, 2016). In addition, according to a declaration made by the Minister of Health and Social Services, Kalumbi Shangula, for the Commission on Narcotic Substances' 64th Session, Namibia seized 843,892 kg of cannabis; 4,930 tablets of Mandrax; 1,072g of cocaine powder; 650 units of crack cocaine and 2,922 g of crystal meth in 2020 (Shangula, 2021). Unengu (2017) draws conclusions that are backed up by empirical data, press coverage, and legal precedent that drug trafficking is on the increase in Namibia, and Khomas Region is one of the regions with the highest recorded drug trafficking related cases.

According to the Namibian Police's Drug Law Enforcement Section, the Khomas Region alone saw 1942 arrests and 1500 drug-related crime cases filed between 2016 and 2020 (Namibian Police, 2020). Despite the fact that

a number of techniques have been implemented to address this phenomenon, it is difficult to find a solution to the developing issue. Therefore, it is essential to accurately identify and address the reasons of illegal drug trafficking into Namibia and offer solutions that could be used to solve the issue. Therefore, the present study is one of many strategies that will help close this gap.

1.3 Objectives of the study.

The main purpose of this study is to examine illicit drug trafficking as a security threat in Namibia.

With this in mind, the study seeks to fulfil the following four objectives.

- To determine the extent to which drug trafficking affects national security in Namibia
- To identify the conditions which facilitate drug trafficking in Namibia
- To examine the challenges faced by state security and law enforcement institutions in the fight against drug trafficking in Namibia
- To recommend pragmatic policy measures that may be employed by law makers and law enforcement agencies to effectively address drug trafficking in Namibia

1.4 Research questions

The main research questions for the study are:

- To what extent does drug trafficking affect national security?

- What are the favourable conditions that facilitate drug trafficking in Namibia?
- What challenges do state security and law enforcement institutions face in the fight against drug trafficking in Namibia?
- What policy measures can be employed by lawmakers and law enforcement agencies to effectively address drug trafficking in Namibia?

1.5 Significance of the study

The study is predicted to serve as an essential framework from which law enforcement agencies may implement recommendations to more effectively manage and curb drug trafficking and its overall threat to national security in Namibia. Additionally, recommendations that will be made by the study may assist decision-makers in resolving the drug trafficking problem and its impact on national security by developing policies that take into account the contemporary global context. The results of this study may also be used by other researchers to look into related topics in other contexts and then compare their findings. The study's findings could also serve as a benchmark for academics working in the same field as they create new departure points for researchers.

1.6 Limitations of the study

Some participants were not ready to answer the researcher's questions because illicit drug trafficking is a sensitive and criminal activity in Namibia. Furthermore, all participants had demanding schedules; responders' time was also limited; as a result, the process of gathering data was delayed.

Additionally, the researcher could not collect data from senior officials of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) who were one of the targeted participants in the study. The permission letter to collect data was submitted on three (3) occasions; however, no response was received from the NDF, and this also contributed to the delay in the completion of this study. Despite the unavailability of respondents from the NDF, the research finding is not significantly affected, as the NDF is not directly involved in the operations of combating the trade of illicit substances and documenting of such incidences.

1.7 Delimitations of the study

Despite the fact that the concept of national security encompasses both state security and human security, the present study primarily focused on the implications of drug trafficking on national security in the Khomas Region, with information gathered from predetermined key informants.

1.8 Definition of key terms

Illicit drugs- The term “drug” is defined by the World Health Organization as any substance with the potential to enhance physical or mental welfare and any chemical agent that alters the biochemical or physiological processes of tissues or organisms. When this definition is considered, there may be nothing wrong in the production, trade, transportation and consumption of drugs. However, the use of some drugs such as meth cat, Mandrax tablets, cocaine and cannabis have destructive effects on users and are thus referred to as illicit drugs (UNODC, 2013, p.21).

Therefore, illicit drugs refer to highly addictive and illegal substances that are prohibited by law.

Drug trafficking- In the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic, “illicit drug traffic” is defined as:

The production, manufacture, extraction, preparation. Offering, for sale, distribution, sale, and delivery on any terms whatsoever, brokerage, dispatch, dispatch in transit, transport importation or exportation of any narcotic drug or any psychotropic substance contrary to the provisions of the 1961 or the 1971 Convention. The manufacturing of narcotic substances by the cultivation of coca plants, opium poppies, or cannabis plants in violation of the 1961 and 1971 as modified laws. The possession or purchase of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance for the purpose of any of the activities enumerated above. The manufacture, transport or distribution of equipment, materials or substances [chemical essentials and precursors] knowing that they are to be used in or for the illicit cultivation, production or manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances; the organisation, management or financing of any of the activities enumerated above (UN, 1988).

National security- For a long time, national security has largely meant military security. However, that definition has come under question since the end of the Cold War coinciding with numerous non-militant threats to security across the globe. An adequate definition of national security in the post-Cold War era according to Romm (1993. p.85) has two possibilities. First, a threat to national security is whatever threatens to significantly (1) degrade the quality of life of the people or (2) narrow the range of policy choices available to their government. Second, the objective of national security is to sustain freedom from foreign dictation and improvement of living standards in an environmentally sustainable fashion.

1.9 Outline of the study

This study consists of the following chapters.

Chapter 2: Literature review – reviews the literature related to the research topic.

Chapter 3: Research methodology – describes and explains the research design and the methodology used in the study.

Chapter 4: Findings– outlines the data presentation, analysis and interpretation of the general characteristic of sample participants. The chapter outlines the result of the study.

Chapter 5: Conclusion and recommendation – presents the final statement of the project and makes some recommendation.

1.10 Chapter summary

This chapter provides an overview of the study. It begins by describing the background of the study, explains the research problem and outlines the aim and research objectives. It further explains the identified problem of illicit drug trafficking in Namibia and its implications on national security. The next chapter reviews the literature related to the study.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This section covers the literature that is currently available on drug trafficking and how it affects national security. Jit, Aveyard, Barton and Meads (2010) defined a literature review as an extensive analysis and synthesis of the literature that tackles a particular subject. It can be a simple summary of the sources, but a literature review typically has an organisational structure and includes summary and synthesis. It covers published information on a certain topic and occasionally information in a specific subject area within a specific time frame. The ideas of national security are discussed in this chapter as well as how drug trafficking affects national security.

2.2 Theoretical framework

The notion of illicit drug trafficking has been explained by a number of theories; however, this study will focus on the " securitization " theory. Ole Waever developed the theory in 1993, and the Copenhagen school later advanced it. The merger of constructivism and traditional political realism served as the inspiration for the idea (William, 2003). Buzan et al. (1998) specified that, securitisation is a particular grammatical process that entails a speech act in which a problem is presented as an existential threat to a chosen referent object, and extreme actions are then finally justified in order to resist this threat. Since the usage of illegal drugs poses a threat to society and is a

security concern, the study adopts this theory. In addition, drug trafficking harms the economy, political institutions and sociocultural structures of a society over the long term. Furthermore,

Kushlick (2011, p. 2) emphasises that "illicit drug trafficking is a local and global security issue in which its manufacturing, distribution and usage, endanger most especially fragile and weak states." This serves as the rationale behind the study's adoption of the "securitization" theory.

Drug trafficking has served as a source of income for organised criminal groups over the previous decades. Damage caused by violence to societies and economies as a result of drug trafficking is significant. Furthermore, there are multinational drug trafficking organisations that prioritise the gain of profit from the trafficking of drugs. However, the threat's nature is evasive, persistent, and incredibly sensitive to security strategies taken by governments. The threat of drug trafficking slowly erodes the society from within adding to the battle against external military threats (Rios & Sabet, 2008). Therefore, It is clear that a more complex theoretical framework is necessary for the investigation of drug-related security concerns. Buzan (1991a) claims that military issues are a branch of strategic security studies and that old realism frameworks are no longer capable of handling contemporary, complex and wide-ranging security issues in international politics. For him, the agenda of security policy makers is complicated by multipolarisation, blurring of the centre-periphery line, the death of ideological conflict, the importance of Cold War military alliances,

strengthening of the international community and the development of non-state threats.

In this context, he offered a paradigm that shows promise and can be applied to more general national security concerns (Buzan, 1991a & Buzan, 1991b; Buzan et al. 1998). Buzan (1991a) clarified that, "the national security challenge involves people, governments and the system as a whole, and economic, social, and environmental variables are just as significant as political and military ones" (p.368). Buzan et al. (1998) presented a more thorough and coherent analytical framework of national security in this setting- one that considers political, military, economic, social and environmental factors. Each security pillar is closely linked to the others according to its epistemological methodology, and none of them can solve the problem of national security on their own. Buzan et al. (1998) argued that non-state entities like transnational criminal organisations and terrorist groups should be seen as additional important issues in international security discourse, in contrast to the statist realism viewpoint.

Threats to territorial integrity, threats to the "system of norms," threats to institutions and threats to "people" are the four categories used to operationalise organised crime and national security (Wohlforth, 2009)). The author added that international criminal organisations have the ability to "challenge the state's monopoly of coercive power"; "replace the rule of law with the rule of violence"; "intimidate judges and law enforcement" and "threaten commerce" (Wohlforth, 2009,

p.27). Shelley (1995), in a research paper on transnational drug trafficking, created a four-dimensional framework. The author postulated that drug networks: (i) weaken the rule of law and the legitimacy of the state; (ii) encourage corruption; (iii) impair economic growth and financial stability and lead to widespread drug use that imposes significant societal costs. In this study, the analytic theories of Barry Buzan, Phil Williams and Louise Shelley are combined within an integrated framework.

2.3 Conceptual framework

With the realist approach, state security was traditionally the primary emphasis of security conceptualisation. As the dominant actor in the international system, the state has the exclusive right to defend its borders in order to safeguard the security of its inhabitants. This means that the traditional conceptualisation of security aimed to understand that a state's population are safe if its borders are guarded from external threats, specifically other states. However, after the Second World War, the UN coined the concept of “human security” which is a paradigm change that emphasises on protecting people within a state rather than just its borders or territory. Human security theorists argue that just because a state's borders are secure from outside aggression does not necessarily mean that its citizens are free. They contend that despite the state's physical boundaries being safeguarded and secured, there may still be other hazards to its citizens (Human Security Report, 2005). These dangers include, among others, chronic illnesses, starvation, poverty, and restrictions on fundamental rights

imposed by autocratic authorities. Human security is a novel security concept that is now widely accepted and used to define the complexity of international risks connected with genocides, poverty, starvation, refugee crises and civil wars (Human Security Report, 2005).

The basic components of human security from the 1994 Human Development Report include the following.

- Economic security – emphasises on appreciable basic income that could be obtained from productive work or public financial systems for individuals to be able to provide for their basic needs.
- Food security – connotes having the physical and economic capabilities to obtain basic foods in their appreciable qualities and quantities.
- Health security - suggests minimum security from diseases and avoidance of lifestyles that are detrimental to the health of people.
- Environmental security – stipulates avoiding practices which lead to the deterioration of the natural environment and its associated consequences.
- Political security – stresses the extent to which individuals within a state are allowed to exercise their political liberties, such as the freedom to vote for any political party of one's choice without coercion or restrictions.
- Personal security – focuses on the extent to which individuals within a state could be protected from physical violence or harm.

- Community security – expounds the efforts taken by a government in protecting and enhancing the traditional relations and values which bond together and promote harmony among individuals in a state.

The basic claim of human security is that the traditional understanding of security, which has focused exclusively on the defence of territorial boundaries, needs to be expanded to include assuring the protection and safety of individuals within a state. Therefore, human security theorists believe that the conventional idea of security has become overly simplistic and inclusive; therefore, it is time to give security issues a wider consideration that will also pay attention to individuals within a state, rather than focusing solely on the protection of territorial boundaries (Chandler, 2008).

For a number of reasons, the idea of human security has been contested or questioned. The majority of those who disagree with the idea of human security claim that it is too vague to be used as a useful theoretical framework for study in international relations (Chandler, 2008). For instance, in his book titled *Human security: The dog that didn't bark*, (Chandler, 2008) contends that human security has been strengthened but has had little influence on the creation of policies. He added that it indicates "what should be" rather than "what is actually happening," that is, and it is normative rather than descriptive. Additionally, Chandler demonstrates that the idea of human security has been exaggerated and that challenges to human security are typically located in emerging countries, particularly those in Africa.

Owen (2004) criticised human security on a few different fronts in a publication titled *Human security: Conflict, critique, and consensus*. He notes that the concept has no threshold definition and that focusing on people just serves to spread the idea more without providing any further analytical value. In response to the aforementioned objections, Paris (2001) argues that human security is not wholly ineffective but has instead resulted in some successes that have improved the chances of human survival. These include altering the character of war-fighting such that civilians are safeguarded throughout conflicts and that soldiers captured by winning countries are not immediately executed or subjected to brutal treatment as was the case in the past. In order to ensure that governments do not subject their own population to torture, suffering, or famine, he also explains that the need for human security led to the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Despite the foregoing criticism of the concept of human security made by the aforementioned authors, the concept is still viewed as the best theoretical framework for the study. This is due to the fact that it is a perfect fit for the investigation of drug trafficking and its implication for Namibia's national security because it contributes to a better understanding of the effects that drug trafficking has on national security. This will facilitate the presentation of an in-depth analysis of the drug phenomena and present well-informed suggestions based on the study's findings.

2.4 Global perspectives on the impact of illicit drug trafficking on national security

Drug trafficking has existed since the early 20th century when opium use began to spread globally. The production, trade and consumption of hazardous narcotics is not a new global issue (Trocki, 2012). Between 1912 and 1988, a number of international accords were ratified with the goal of reducing the variety and manufacturing of dangerous pharmaceuticals. The UN framework acknowledged that drug manufacturing and consumption had turned into a concern for

international peace and health that no state could resolve on its own (Dreyfus, 2002). Additionally, drug trafficking has a severe impact on the human security of the areas where young people are radicalised and recruited (Chacón, 2006).

Ekici and Ozbay (2013) argue that drug trafficking is a problem for international security that is only becoming worse. They note that international crime networks have proven to be very resistant to anti-drug initiatives. They continue to say that despite regional, national and international efforts to combat the problem, drug trafficking still exists and poses a threat to the safety of citizens. They claim that increased government regulation of already-available drugs has led some international crime organisations to produce new psychoactive chemicals. Ekici & Ozbay (2013) further note that the number of drug-related deaths each year has risen to 250,000 worldwide and that illicit drug trade has become a serious threat to human security.

Using Turkey as a case study, Ekici and Ozbay (2013) show that in several countries throughout the world where drug trafficking is not really seen as a national threat concern, counter-terrorism and geopolitical conflict frequently overshadow counter-narcotics strategy. However, they make the point that high-level security authorities view the threat posed by drugs as a significant security issue, just as governments do with the fight against corruption, terrorism, economic development challenges and threats to state security.

Felbab-Brown (2019) posits that the impact of illegal economy on armed conflict around the world is increasing, necessitating counterinsurgency and the war on drugs. He further demonstrates significant and negative effects of illicit economic activities on states. He makes the argument that the majority of high-level drug traffickers are able to get elected to positions of authority and exercise influence behind the scenes. Further, he maintains that corrupt practices are widespread and that politicians supported by illegal funds have a higher chance of success. This is evident in Afghanistan, Guatemala and El Salvador where endemic corruption is rife in these large illicit economies controlled by prominent traffickers. Furthermore, his claims also postulate that corruption has negative consequences on the effectiveness of law enforcement and the court system.

Along with the foregoing, Felbab-Brown (2009) expands on the damaging impacts of drug trafficking on economies. He claims that while the cultivation and processing of illegal crops for drug trafficking has provided employment for some rural poor people, it also contributes to inflation and destabilises a

country's currency, endangering legitimate, export-oriented industries and a state's ability to earn foreign exchange. According to him, the production of legal goods and services is replaced by the manufacturing of illegal drugs, which also promotes real estate speculation. Finally, he detailed that, more often than not, money from the illicit drug trade is lost on unsuccessful business initiatives rather than being invested in thriving businesses.

Additionally, it is posited that facilitated transnational organised criminal networks that are united and affiliated with illicit commerce in weaponry and narcotics, drug trafficking will further jeopardise state security and limit human development by weakening the rule of law and posing a threat to public safety (Bewley-Taylor, 2005). Ekici (2014) notes that despite national and international efforts to combat this threat, drug trafficking continues to exist and poses threat to national and human security in many nations. Transnational crime syndicates have also proven to be extremely resilient to counter-narcotics initiatives. Moreover, transnational crime syndicates foster widespread corruption, terrorism, difficulties with economic development and dangers to state security; the illicit drug trade has established itself as a significant threat to worldwide human security.

Moreover, Awudu (2016) asserts that a number of studies have circumspectly forecasted the connection between drug trafficking and insurgency in various countries such as Guinea Bissau and Mali (Aning & Pokoo, 2014; Bury, 2011; Bybee, 2006; Ellis, 2009). Likewise, Vanda (2009), notes that, illegal economic activities have grave and far-reaching effects for states. He added

that, corrupt practices are widespread, and politicians supported by illicit funds are more successful. This has been noted in Afghanistan, Guatemala and El Salvador where endemic corruption is rife. Large illicit economies controlled by strong traffickers, according to him, also have a negative impact on the effectiveness of law enforcement and the justice system because it gives the impression that traffickers are above the law. Using the examples of Mexico and Colombia, Awudu (2016) further claims that drug trafficking can corrupt and immobilise law enforcement thereby further destroying the legal system where law enforcement officials are on the pay roll of these drug lords.

A study carried out by the UNDOC in 2021, depicted in Figure 1, indicates the amount of hectares that were used for the cultivation of illicit drugs in 2019 globally, which shows a decline of 5%. However, contrary to these statistics, the figures indicate an increase in both the global production and global seizures of illicit drugs; this shows that the aforementioned claims regarding failure in controlling the production, distribution and usage of illicit drugs is substantiated.

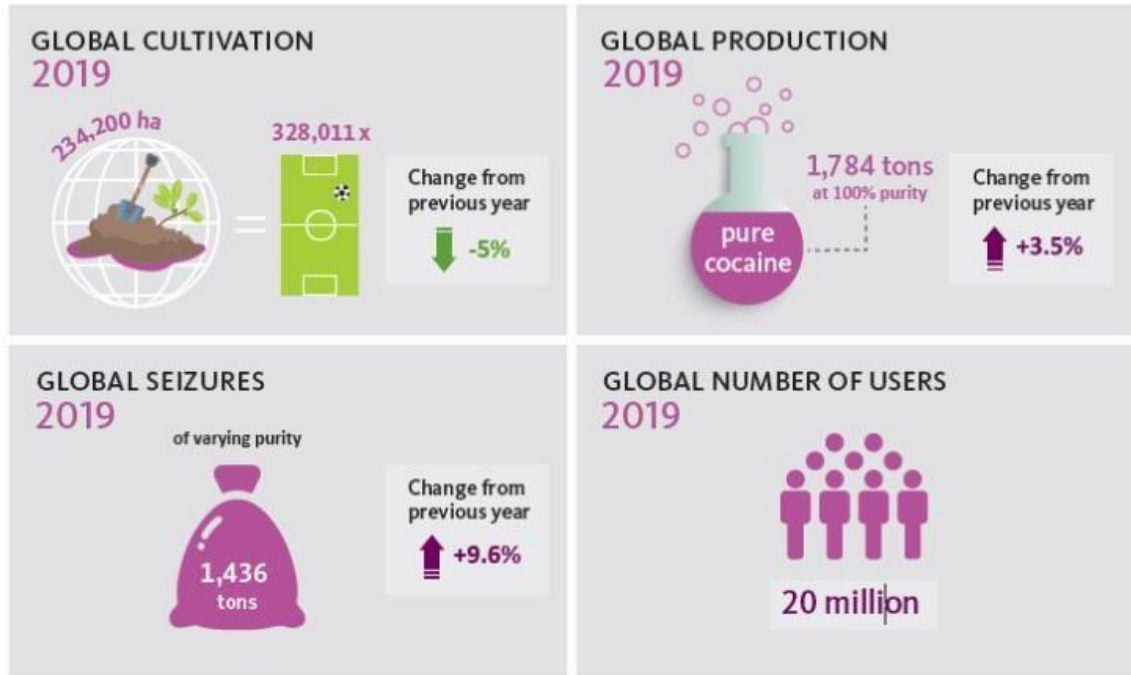


Figure 1: Global illicit drugs supply 2019

Source: UNODC (2021)

Figure 2 articulates the high inflow of drugs into different states; a dampening picture shows high volumes of illicit drugs flowing into states with known high security and intelligence agencies. This shows that illicit drugs producing countries are not necessarily the biggest consumers; more so, there is a significant flow of drugs into Europe, while South-West Africa records the highest flow in Africa. It is thus conclusive that illicit drug smuggling is rife internationally, and the destinations are evenly distributed.

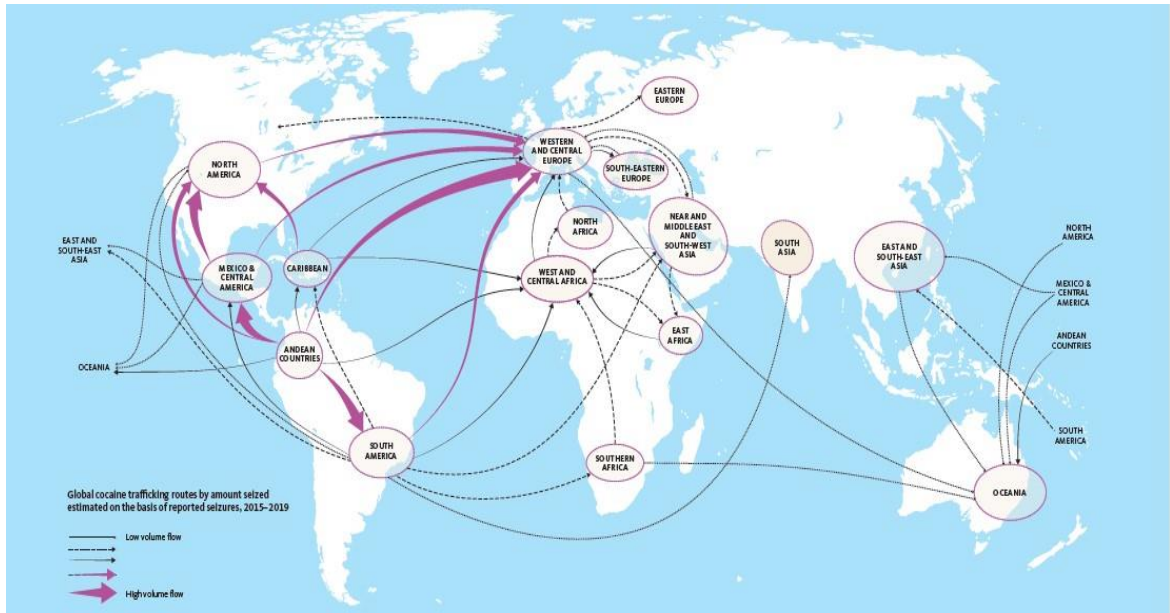


Figure 2: Main Global Cocaine flows 2015 – 2018

Source: UNODC (2021)

2.4.1 African perspective

Since the turn of the 21st century, the illegal drug trade in Africa, particularly in Nigeria and South Africa, has grown enormously, posing a serious threat to both national and international security. In Nigeria, 14.4% of the population or 14.3 million persons between the ages of 15 and 64, have taken drugs, excluding alcohol and cigarettes (Proshare, 2018). Proshare (2018), emphasises that cannabis was revealed to be the substance that Nigerians consume the most frequently. Yusuf (2015) asserts that rising rates of juvenile drug usage in the country are to blame for the recent upsurge in criminal activities among young people. Drug traffickers have completely taken over the political and policymaking processes of governments and states throughout West Africa, including Nigeria (Stephen, 2016). The researcher

also emphasises the destruction of human capital, which is a crucial element of a country's power, as another effect of drug trafficking.

Contrary to international efforts, drug trafficking has harmed national security as a result of law enforcement officials siding with drug lords rather than defending it due to their low pay (William & Brown, 2012).

In the modern international system, it is evident that countries of Africa's west coast, including Ghana, have evolved into major regional hubs for cocaine smuggling. This assertion is supported by the UN World Drug Report (2007) which shows that while global drug production, trafficking, and consumption have remained stable, they have substantially surged in West Africa. According to some academics, the sheer number of drugs has caused narco-barons to divide the sub-region into two hubs, with Ghana and Nigeria taking care of the southern hub and Guinea-Bissau taking care of the northern hub.

The main transportation channels for drugs in West Africa involve air and/or sea shipments. Smaller amounts of drugs are flown into West Africa by tiny planes, whilst bigger amounts are loaded into ships and sailed there, and they are then transported by smaller boats and further delivered inland by agents. Once in West Africa, the drugs are transferred to Europe via Morocco by fast boats or couriers known as drug mules who ingest the drugs or hide them in their luggage before flying to Europe on regular flights. However, new viable channels for this illicit international commerce have been found in Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea Bissau.

In its report, the West African Commission on Drugs (2013) notes that as a result of enforcement efforts, the modes of transportation for cocaine from South America to Europe through West Africa have changed over time. The report further indicated that, at present, the majority of cocaine that travels to West Africa comes from Brazil where Nigerian criminal organisations are exporting the drug. In addition, the research notes that these groups have been implementing ocean shipping and containerised consignments in addition to their conventional methods of air couriering and postal mailings. It therefore highly noted that drug traffickers have developed new ways of transporting drugs by combing conventional and traditional ways into modern ways to evade law enforcers. Moreover, the capturing of some law enforcers by drug lords/cartels is a big hindrance for African efforts.

The World Drug Report (WDR) (2012) reveals that drug users are more likely to engage in acquisitive crime and exhibit aggressive or violent conduct. While the aforementioned revelations cast doubt on the nature, viability and resilience of the current institutional and legal framework for combating drug trafficking in West Africa, the rising levels of drug use in the sub-region raise concerns about the potential impact of drugs on human security in the region. Although unsubstantiated, most unstable regions in Africa are noted to be the biggest destination of drugs; therefore, one is left to question whether there is a relationship between volatility of security and drugs.

More significantly noted and substantiated facts are that numerous elements or circumstances continue to support drug trafficking in Africa. For example,

illegal drug trafficking in Nigeria is motivated by weak border controls. Therefore, there are various ungoverned areas that drug traffickers can use as points of entry and where control comes in, they exploit new areas that are not governed (Gail, 2016). The researcher detailed that large porous land borders, seaports, and institutional corruption all serve as perfect conditions and shelter for drug traffickers. In addition, the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria claims that Nigeria's rising unemployment rate is also driving more individuals into unlawful ventures, including the trafficking of illegal drugs. This thus means that drug lords can easily recruit those who are deepest in socio-economic turmoil.

However, proceeds made from these businesses are what philosophers of economic would term “hand to mouth feeding”.

The expansion of the transnational drug trade in Africa in the twenty-first century and the effects drug trading has on the security of states and their inhabitants are examined by Bybee (2012) in the article titled *The twenty-first century expansion of the transnational drug trade in Africa*. The author detailed that before the mid-2000s, Africa's role in the global drug trade was primarily limited to West African heroin distribution networks, but it has since seen an unremitting expansion over the entire continent. The author claims that Africa's changing attitude toward drugs may be to blame for the surge in illicit drug trade. Furthermore, the author contends that rather than viewing the trade in illicit drugs as a severe crime, some Africans see it as a means of supporting their families, friends and other members of their social

networks. The author's claims, while partially accurate, present a skewed picture of the spread of illegal drugs in West Africa because only a small percentage of people are actively participating in the syndicate. However, these claims by those participating can be disputed as these informal markets only breed corruption, inequality, and the proceeds are not recorded as national incomes. Therefore, the biggest factor is the threat to national security rather than economic incentives for the community.

Bybee (2012) notes that the serious effects of drug trafficking on Africa's developing democracies and government officials are what should most concern people. The author also mentions increased addiction rates and the financing of terrorism as alarming repercussions. The author adds that drug revenue has aided and strengthened ethnic divisions and cleavages and has frequently been a factor in the current upheaval in several areas. Furthermore, Bybee (2012) detailed that the proliferation of international drug trade in Africa in the 21st century threatens the rule of law and the steady economic growth that are essential for progress and stability. The author finds the developing patterns of the illicit drug trade on the continent to be one of the most fascinating situations that generate concerns for Africa. These findings substantiate the claims that drug traffic has an indirect effect on national security as tribal wars have caused unrest in many western and central African countries. Although imperial research must be carried out to note the synergy between the research topic and the instability of these countries, the patterns can be loosely interlinked.

However, Bybee (2012) draws the conclusion that rather than internal conflicts and underdevelopment, many Africanists think that illicit drug trade will be the main problem plaguing the African continent in the near future. This is because the continuation of the illicit drug trade on the continent might be facilitated and ensured by the integration of the African continent with other regions of the world through the mechanisms and processes of globalisation. Therefore, it is imperative that the world community directs more resources towards containing the situation before it worsens and becomes a global problem that may be exceedingly challenging or nearly impossible to address. It is factual that despite globalisation having positive effects globally, it has its negative effects as well, and the effect of drug trafficking on national security cannot be ruled out. This is because we live in a global village, and what affects one region will definitely spread to the next region, if their kingpins find a market or clientele and or where enable factors are welcoming.

Furthermore, it is reported that, more and more victims of the drug trade and smuggling choose Kenya as a supplier, transit point and final destination, while using Somalia and Tanzania seaports to reach their selected locations; other people also pass through Malawi and Mozambique. With a centralised government now in place in Somalia, there will be more opportunity for illegal activities like the trafficking of weapons, drugs and money. Similarly, illegal immigrants are being transported through Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Moi International Airport (MIA) and Wajir International

Airport from West Africa and the countries that produce heroin in South West Asia and South East Asia. Along with a growth in the usage of postal and courier services for meth, bhang, cocaine and heroin, these airports act as entry points for drugs coming from Ethiopia and Kenya (UNODC, 2013).

Kenya, as opposed to West Africa, falls under the category of "weak however functioning states"

Drug Trafficking Organisations (DTOs) value more for conducting their business. For this reason, Kenya is playing a significant role as both a destination and a transit country for cocaine smuggled by West African criminal cartels. Drug trafficking is encouraged in Kenya by high levels of corruption in the political and criminal justice systems, limited law enforcement resources, effective banking services, a strong communications infrastructure and generally dependable transportation options. Due to these traits, Kenya has for more than three decades been a point of entry for drugs coming from South Africa, Europe, and Afghanistan (UNODC, 2013).

UNODC (2013) further reports that, Cannabis sativa and illegally produced alcohol dominate the drug trafficking sector in Kibera, Nairobi. The trade in heavy drugs like cocaine and opiates generate a lot of revenue and is occasionally dominated by multinational trafficking dealers, while hard narcotics can be found in Nairobi's middle-class districts since they are more expensive.

In East Africa, especially Kenya, drug traffickers have completely gained control of the political and policymaking processes of state institutions. When it comes to public affairs, cartels control policy-making through their political proxies, sponsors and protectors who effectively prioritise criminal objectives above all other interests in their day-to-day transactions. Drug cartels' successful infiltration of political parties and security organisations is the most overt manifestation of their appropriation of politics and policy (UNDC, 2013).

Therefore, in view of the above, Bybee (2012) concludes that the growing trend of drug trade in Africa is responsible for terrorists financing, and it negatively affect democratic institutions and government officials and has led to compromised national security in most African states. She also clarifies that, profits accumulated from the sales of drugs have enabled and extended ethnic conflicts and divisions in most African states. More significant is that this substantiated conclusive research that supports many researches that argue that there is a strong correlation between drug trafficking and national security factors in Africa.

2.4.2 American perspective

The effects of drug trafficking in North and South America are rising exponentially and control across borders continues to decline despite policies put in place to discourage its operations. Angel (2020) states that the United States is faced with alleged challenges from drug trafficking organisations and this is supported by the US National Security Council (2022) indicating

that Central America is considered the main region of converging threats where illicit trafficking in drugs, people and weapons exacerbate instability. In Colombia, for example, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) is a communist insurgency group established with the aim of overthrowing the government. However, after the death of their ideological leader who fought against drug trafficking in 1990, the group began taking a great part in narcotics trafficking. Pablo Escobar of Colombia was known as the most feared wealthiest drug lord until his arrest and death in 1990. On the other hand, Otoniel was the leader of Colombia's most powerful criminal gang for more than nine years and was arrested in his Colombia hideout in October 2021 and extradited to the US in 2021. The 51-year-old agreed to hand over \$216m (£173m) in drug proceeds to the US government. This indicates how lucrative the drug traffic business is; however, these proceeds are used to fuel the capturing of state and destabilisation of national security. Ciffullo (2000) added that, the FARC played the role of middleman between cocaine farmers and the refining labs owned by the drug cartel leaders. The author reveals that revenues from drug trades have increased over the years which has had great effects on FARC's strength in terms of significant power and influence. FARC has taken over a significant area of Colombia under the pretext of it being a demilitarised zone. They have, however, turned it into a zone for narcotics cultivation and a ground for violence against the Colombian military force. Other than that, FARC has also managed to build relationships with Russian mafias since the early 1990s, which culminated in the Russian mafias supplying the FARC with a great number of sophisticated

weapons in exchange for illicit drugs to fight against the Colombian Government.

Furthermore, FARC is reportedly extending its influence towards the US borders (Cilluffo, 2000). Despite efforts to combat drug supply routes, the United States has been, for decades and still remains, the global leader in illicit drugs consumer market (Bagley & Rosen, 2015). As such, Angel (2020, p. 10) stresses that drug trafficking organisations pose apparent threats to the United

States; therefore, the U.S policy has focused more on counter narcotics efforts (Rabasa & Chalk, 2001). This, however, is undermined by countries of origins as they do not conform to the USA policies nor their campaigns. Drug abuse was declared a critical domestic problem as well as a national security threat by President George H.W. Bush in 1989, a fact that motivated the U.S Department of Defence to declare detection and countering of the production, trafficking and the use of illicit narcotics a high national security mission priority (Cantrell, 1992).

Furthermore, Cruz (2017) indicates that non-medical or scientific uses of drugs became a security concern for the Latin America in the 1980s. More specifically, in Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, the activities and benefits of illicit production and commercialisation of cocaine had exacerbated economic, social and political conflicts and tensions (Rodrigues and Labate, 2016). In 1982, in Bolivia, civic associations of the Chapare area held protests

and demonstrations against Government policy on drugs; as a result, violence erupted, and it was said to have been caused by the state force officers. The resistance to constraints on illegal coca crops generated a delicate political and social unrest in Bolivia (Lehmann, 2006, as cited in Cruz, 2017).

There are many challenges that are hampering law enforcers from effectively curbing the rise in drug trafficking. The Report by the International Narcotics Control Board (2012) states that by identifying new routes and exploiting weak law enforcement capacities, traffickers continue to try to avoid national efforts to reduce drug trafficking, which in the Latin America is worsened by the poor living standards as well as captured national governments. Another challenge that frustrates law enforcers who are trying to control the predicament of drug trafficking is the use of modern technology by drug traffickers. The global reach of the internet as a platform both for communication and coordination between traffickers is impacting upon the movement of illicit operandi employed by trafficking groups. The 4th Industry Revolution has brought about technological changes in many countries, and drug traffickers are exploiting the use of new means as they have the funds to invest into new technologies, whilst some governments do not have such budgets to equip law enforcement agencies with both human resource and the technological equipment.

The National Drug Threat Assessment Document (2020) stresses that local law enforcement agencies in Puerto Rico estimate that over 60 per cent of homicides are drug related. The document further asserts that approximately

52 murders per 100, 000 people in 2018 were drug related. However, the Congressional Research Service (2021) states that there has been a decline in drug trafficking incidents from Mexico to the USA due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite limitations and hurdles created by drug cartels to discourage law enforcers from protecting the wellbeing and the national security of the American people, small victories and solutions cannot be undermined. For example, Berro (2020) states that the priorities of the White House Office on National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the 2020 National Strategy seek to accelerate access to people who are on assisted treatment as well as helping those recuperating with peer services; availability of housing; education and employment; access to housing; training; education and employment. The researcher further stress that there is an increasing need to mobilise resources to reduce all substance use.

2.4.3 European perspective

Estievenart (2020) posits that it is estimated that one in five (20%) adult Europeans have used cannabis at least once in their lifetime. Figures for young people aged between 15 and 34 are generally even higher, up to 44% – Spain (35%), France (40%), the UK (42%) and Denmark (44%). He further notes that the prevalence of the latest use of cannabis is recorded to be the highest among 15-25-year-olds (over 20% in Germany, Spain, France, Ireland and the UK).

Europe among other continents remains to be the world's biggest market for cannabis, contributing three quarters of global seizures in the past. As indicated in Figure 2, there is a lucrative market for the distribution of drugs in Europe, which is also a good ground for illegal African immigrants; despite countries such as France and the UK spending a lot of money on protecting their territorial borders and or on their security cluster in general.

Despite these efforts of preventing illegal entry and in particular illegal drug entry, evidence from various health and drug institutions reports indicates that the average potency of cannabis in the

EU has increased and now arrays from around 5% to 10% for both resin and herbal varieties (Estievenart, 2020). Both amphetamine and ecstasy annexations increased substantially in the EU in the last decade although such seizures now seem more stable, the author stressed. Moreover, the total number of cocaine annexations in the EU has risen gradually since the 1980s with a noted increase in 2001. In addition, cocaine purity remains generally stable in every member state although Denmark, Germany, Portugal and the UK reported increases in 2001.

Drug management attendance for cocaine use is stated to be relatively high in the Netherlands (30%); this could be attributed to the law which allows soft drugs to be sold in coffee shops. On the other hand, drug management attendance for cocaine is significantly high in Spain (19%), but, in Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the UK, it is lower recorded to be at approximately (6–7%); which could be attributed to the differences in the availability of

cocaine rehabilitation treatment programs and centres in these countries. Furthermore, the prevalence of crack (or base) cocaine in Europe remains low but still in progression (Berro, 2020).

As per the demand and supply model of the economy with references to pricing, the low prices in the local marketplaces were caused by the drugs' high availability. Despite very low heroin and cocaine abuse rates, cannabis and "club drugs" quickly became popular among Turks indicating that drug addicts can easily move on to other available drugs when their popular drug is not available. According to the most recent joint survey conducted in 2011 by the Turkish Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (TUBIM) and the Turkish Institute for Statistics (TUIK), 2.7% of individuals between the ages of 15 and 65 reported ever using drugs (TUBIM, 2012). Male lifetime use was higher (3.1%) than female lifetime use (2.2%). According to several empirical studies and official reports, Turkey's starting age for drug abuse has dropped to 10 years (Dilbaz, 2008). In this situation, media "speculations" shocked Turkish society. In particular, families in the metropolitan cities became highly concerned by drug abuse in secondary schools and existence of drug distribution networks within their neighbourhoods. Turkish military leaders are worried about a rise in drug use among their troops (Saymaz, 2013). There is also concern about drug users who join the military not only keep up their bad habits but who also encourage their fellow soldiers to take drugs. Saymaz claims that some of them begin to sell drugs in military housing complexes in order to make money to support

their vices. Despite the fact that the Turkish military has always been highly disciplined, leaders are concerned that drug use could reduce soldiers' ability to fight as well as result in mishaps and false alarms that could put both strategic and tactical forces at risk. This fear is attributed to the effects of drug on these well-disciplined soldiers who may suffer cognitive dissonance but still promote illicit drug dealings that may threaten national security.

Globally, widespread international drug trafficking threatens law and order. Between 50,000 and

70,000 individuals have been killed by drug cartels in Mexico since 2006 (Courtney, 2013). Similar issues also surfaced in Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Nigeria and Afghanistan, all of which experience heavy drug flows. Additionally, the drug trade severely disrupts public order in sophisticated consuming markets. For instance, drug users and traffickers frequently commit homicide, violence, robberies, prostitution and extortion in the United States (Bernett & Halloway, 2007).

Although there are many academic studies on the connection between drugs and crime in the West, Turkish experts' interest in the topic is still relatively fresh. A militaristic organised crime that might lead to widespread unrest has never existed in Turkey. However, heavy drug traffic in some parts of Turkey led to serious issues with law and order. Smuggling has turned into a vocation for hundreds of families in southeast Turkey. Contrary to Iran, Afghanistan, Mexico and the United States, drug distributors and traffickers in Turkey

hardly ever engage in armed conflict with law enforcement personnel. Contrary to Italy, in Colombia and Mexico, drug traffickers never mustered the confidence to kill judges and law enforcement officials. It is highly noted that distribution rings in slums can occasionally be resistant to many campaigns that a country might run. This is because of the socioeconomic upheavals in the slums, which put the community at risk of being both dealers, smugglers and consumers of drugs. However, there haven't been any notable instances of an armed interaction with the detaining team although there have been police operations involving the use of bats and stones in most of the recorded drug bursts.

2.4.4 Asian perspective

The Middle East and South-West Asia are the sub-regions with the highest annual prevalence of opiate use (opium, morphine and heroin) globally at 1.6 per cent of the population. Afghanistan remains the hub of the vast majority of the world's illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production as recorded in 2018 (International Narcotics Control Board, 2020). Further, Cilluffo (2000) points out that the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon continues to use the Bekaa Valley for narcotics cultivation as well as the base of operations for export to Europe where consumption is on the increase. In addition, the manufacturing and trafficking of counterfeit "capagon" continue to seriously affect the countries of the Middle East, which not only are destination markets for the drugs but are also increasingly becoming a source of counterfeit "coptagon".

In South and East Asia, Nepal's Maoist insurgent groups have turned to narcotics trafficking activities as a source of funding. As such, Nepal is considered a hub for hashish trafficking in Asia. The Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka have also become involved in drug trafficking, taking full advantage of Sri Lanka's geographical location as it lies at a strategic narcotic transit point. Meanwhile, in Central Asia, the proximity of the "Golden Crescent" of Pakistan and Afghanistan make Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan the crossroads of the opiate trade to Europe and Russia, where narcotics consumption is increasing (Cilluffo, 2000). Therefore, political instability and unresolved conflicts, poverty and lack of economic opportunities in some parts of the sub-region have contributed to increased drug trafficking in the region, which in itself poses a threat to security.

Asad and Harris (2019) postulate that the Golden Triangle (Burma, Thailand and Laos) and Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran (PAI) have historically produced the majority of the world's opiate supply; the term "golden" here does not accurately describe the economic situation in the area, particularly among the tribes who cultivate opium. However, it is referred to as "golden" because of the money made by international traffickers who participate in the illegal activity in the area. Furthermore, opium in particular, which is an illicit drug, is produced in economically and politically unstable regions of the world where it provides an exceptional and rewarding opportunity in the absence of other appealing options. The isolation of the production locations

combined with the poor management in Pakistan has given drug traffickers a valuable impression.

The Taliban's involvement in drug cultivation, production and trafficking has long been acknowledged by the international community, which includes both states and international organisations and entities dealing with transnational organised crime and drug trafficking, starting with the security implications of the drug business in Afghanistan itself (Bewley-Taylor, 2013).

2.5 Concepts of national security and human security

There have been significant changes to the state-based international system sovereignty as a limited concept. There is no longer any evidence of sovereignty over a specific area; therefore, the idea of security is also changing along with this (Aliu, 2004). Traditional security protects sovereign territory only from outside involvement, with military threats by foreign powers ranking as the most significant. Meaning, national security interests takes precedence over other national interests.

Thus, threats and security discourses are frequently shifting, and military and state security plans no longer incorporate dynamic security patterns. Globalisation, global violence and climate change must all be defined as non-traditional security concerns in this new environment of security, especially in light of the shifting global realities seen with the conclusion of the Cold War (Burgess, 2008). The idea is still far from being widely recognised or

being regarded in the political science environment despite being explored more and more in education and political activities. Although traditional security concerns are well-founded and fiercely guarded, there is no consensus on what non-traditional security is in terms of what it entails and what is still not accepted.

Caballero-Anthony (2005) asserts that challenges to the survival and well-being of people and governments that develop first and then flow from non-traditional security concerns could be described as such non-military sources; like global warming; international circumstances in the ecosystem; depletion of resources; infectious diseases; calamities; unequal migration; shortages of food; illegal immigration; drug trafficking and other types of threats.

Therefore, drug trafficking is an economic activity that poses varying degrees of state threat and has the potential to become a problem for national security, or in other words, drug trafficking has the potential to evoke other factors that are not directly linked to it. Drug trafficking poses a threat, depending on how strongly the danger functions in relation to the specific weaknesses of a certain state, as well as (but not necessarily) in accordance with the opinions of the policy makers of a state over a given time period. This means that just because policymakers are not considering a threat does not mean the threat does not actually exist. This is recorded by different media houses and platforms across the globe where many African countries are accused of not tackling national issues that affect the ordinary residents. On the contrary, in Namibia, social commentators questions the Namibian Defence Force's

allocation of a big share of the national budget whilst Namibia is a peaceful country.

Gaspar (2016) investigates several security nexus facets in *The idea of human security* rather than emphasising the function of any particular security notion that is, not limiting security nexus to just state security or threats to state borders. He explains that human security communicates concerns that are visceral and real, rather than the notion on the later only. So, human security conveys a sense of authenticity personalities and lifestyles of the society in conjunction with the national policies and strategies. Additionally, the author argues that rather than emphasising advantages, human security concentrates on human priorities to prevent losses of many sorts. Significantly, this is thus conclusive that the security niche works on strategies to first prevent, mitigate and recover from a threat or an attack. This thus includes the control of factors which may create a conducive environment to raise these threats.

Gaspar (2016), too, makes the point that by addressing issues of human insecurity, such as inequality, deprivation and social exclusion, the concept of development is given more weight. We can thus deduce that human security is not viewed from one angle only, but it combines a number of concepts, including subjectively and objectively felt security with normative priority for human concerns, in order to achieve a satisfactory view. Despite some critics, the connection of the sequence of ideas about human security provides a discourse rather than viewing it as a mere concept that does not meaningfully contribute to the security nexus of any country.

Added to these is, attention to people's lives with relation to meeting their fundamental necessities, independence and capacity to pursue their ideals and objectives, as well as concerns about stability should be incorporated in this discussion. Gasper 2016, continues by stating that rather than emphasising the defence of territorial boundaries, human security places more emphasis on the concepts of human development, human needs and human rights in connection to the people living in a state. On the contrary to all these positives on human security, (Gasper, 2016) lists several criticisms of human security, including criticisms of its definition; criticisms of its lack of influence in discussions of security issues; criticisms of its broader application and criticisms of its lack of justification for useful analysis in international relations. The author, however, points out that at the supra-individual levels, human security thinking emphasises the interaction of economic, social, political, cultural, military, epidemiological and other systems, which have typically been approached in policies and research in diverse ways. A human security strategy has been used in multilateral activities to address priority risks to specific persons, the author further notes. In response to the aforementioned criticisms, the discussion finally shows that the concept of human security thus offers fresh perspectives on research, directs evaluations of human concerns, directs positive analyses by placing an emphasis on outcomes and values, and, as a result, inspires the creation and implementation of policy; this in turn, fuels and substantiate the point that the larger definition of human security "inspires the more concrete and specific

research policy, and as a result, fosters integration across borders, including organisational, ideological, and disciplinary.

In the book *Human security: Concepts and implications*, Tadjbakhsh (2007) makes the claim that the idea of human security entails a re-scoping of conventional notions of security and development in order to address new security issues that pose threats to human existence beyond those posed by armed conflict, such as violations of human rights and underdevelopment; this view disputes Namibian commentators who question the security budget. The acknowledgement of connections between development, security and human rights; adoption of multi-dimensional solutions based on an interdisciplinary approach and use of academic research in the design of policy ideas are among the requirements that Tadjbakhsh (2007) lists for the scope of human security.

Conclusively, it has been found that human security is people centred as people are placed at the centre of both analysis and action, and in doing so, offers a useful way to assess dangers, anticipate crises, investigate the root of conflict and propose solutions involving the redistribution of responsibilities. To this purpose, Tadjbakhsh (2007) argues that the term of *human security* is not only analytical but also denotes a set of common political and moral principles. Despite the fact that human security analysis might not have drawn attention to the significance of understanding the synergy between a variety of elements that, when brought together cause uneasiness, it has provided explanations of where insecurity comes from.

Tadjbakhsh (2007) responds to criticism of human security by stating that human security offers a viable strategy for stopping the violations of human rights and underdevelopments that endanger people's personal safety. Furthermore, he says that human security shouldn't be assigned a specific definition and should instead be left open to change as our knowledge of the reasons of global insecurity grows and our capacity to address these causes grows. Although human security is frequently criticised for having an overly expansive and ambitious approach, the author suggests that its core purpose is still relatively modest.

The scholarly works mentioned above in this section further support the subject of study by providing more information on some aspects and goals of human security and by emphasising the safety of the individual in terms of human rights, development and security rather than safety within territorial boundaries. They all share a weakness, though, in that they are unable to recognise how some transitional risks, like drug trafficking, may have serious effects on the human security of citizens within a state and how this threat might be avoided, managed or controlled. Examining the effects of drug trafficking on Namibia's national security using the notion of human security, this study aims to fill the gap in the aforementioned literatures. Moreover, there is no single yardstick and or departure point for measuring and commencing the definition and classification of human security.

2.6 The effects of drug trafficking on the national security of Namibia

Just like any other country in the world, Namibia is no exception to the adverse effects of illicit drug trafficking in terms of its national and regional security. It is conclusive from the discussions on drug producing, distributing and consuming countries that there is a need for national collaborations to fight drug trafficking which has adverse effects on national security. In an effort to safeguard and maintain the integrity of its national security and not work in isolation, Namibia is affiliated to drug control systems of the International Drug Control Conventions in conjunction with the International Drug Control System which prioritises attaining targets, provisions and goals set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. However, regardless of the national efforts put in place in Namibia such as affiliating itself with the international drug control system which are aimed at curbing drug trafficking. Namibia has over the past few years been engulfed by rampant usage of illicit drugs with cannabis being the most frequently used, whereas the use of cocaine and synthetic stimulants was also reported, as articulated in a statement made by the Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, at the *64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 12– 16 April 2021, Vienna, Austria*. In addition, research by Strijdom and Angell (1998) revealed that drug use has increased, and it is shown by an increase in the number of drug dealers and illicit drugs most widely used and cheaply available e.g., cannabis, Mandrax and crack cocaine.

Makumi (2004) states that factors like corruption, lack of enforcement agencies, illiteracy, lack of funds and poverty have a great impact on the rising cases of drug trafficking. Thus, one of the major security threats emanating from the proliferating incidences of drug trafficking in African countries is the ability of criminal networks and illicit funding to permeate security and government agencies; transform or influence the motivations of its members; reorient objectives towards the spoils of drug trafficking activities, thus influencing questions of state legitimacy and the legitimacy of democratic processes.

The act of illicit drug trafficking in Namibia over recent years has increased, becoming attractive to drug smugglers and trafficking while slowly turning it into a transit and a consumer country; this was further aided by the health minister in his speech. *In a statement by Honourable Kalumbi Shangula, Minister of Health and Social Services at the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held on 12 – 16 April 2021 in Vienna, Austria*, “in 2020, Namibia confiscated 843,892 kg of cannabis; 4,930 tablets of Mandrax; 1,072g of cocaine powder; 650 units of crack cocaine and 2,922 g of crystal meth “tik”. These statistics are not only daunting but also worrisome with regards to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Namibia. Added to these, a consignment of 412Kg of cocaine was intercepted, and two accused persons were apprehended in 2018 at Walvis Bay. Therefore, the claim that Namibia is becoming a transit and consumer of illicit drug is substantiated. However,

the niche for its effect on national security is an area open for studies, hence this study's interest.

2.6.1 Increase in crime, social unrest and terrorism

The prevalence of drug trafficking in Namibia, along with its links to the spread of small arms and other weapons and its propensity to incite violence, has undoubtedly raised crime rates as well as other social vices like prostitution in Namibia. This is due to the fact that, as already said, the majority of people who consume hard drugs as a result of the illegal drug trade typically disrupt community peace and harmony through behaviours and acts, including rape, defilement, domestic violence abuse and torture, armed robbery and murder. This poses a serious threat to the country's national security.

Namibia is regarded and acknowledged on a global scale as one of the countries in the southern African region that has solidified its democratic practice and implemented policies aimed at safeguarding and sustaining its national and human security. Namibia is also praised for its significant contributions to global humanitarian aid and peacekeeping activities, particularly in Southern Africa. However, the prevalence of drug trafficking in the country taints Namibia's global image and creates an image of a state that fails to uphold and fulfil the mandates of its human and national security provisions. This could or has already attracted terrorist groups, drug lords and money launderers to the country to carry out their covert operations. Because drug trafficking is thought to be related to concerns such as money laundering

and terrorism, the scenario may inhibit foreign direct investments and thus impact the economic sphere which in turn may brew a national security threat as a result of high unemployment or increase in poverty.

Furthermore, international terrorist organisations regard a country's high rate of drug trafficking and the rise of vigilante groups as fertile ground for establishing themselves and carrying out their operations; this is closely tied to the preceding statement. As a result, transnational terrorist groups' acts in relation to drug trafficking result in money laundering, which ultimately undermines a country's economy. This is supported by Aning and Pokoo (2014) who state that terrorist organisations such as Al Qaeda in the Islamist Maghreb (AQIM) reportedly engage in criminal activities in the Sahel, specifically kidnapping and drug smuggling, as forms of revenue generating mechanisms to fund their activities. Namibia is not immune to these international trends, especially where the drivers of these syndicates are well organised; therefore, drug trafficking poses great danger to national security of the country if the menace is not tackled immediately and effectively.

2.6.2 Political security

Political security, as defined by Lever (2010), emphasises the degree to which citizens of a state are free to exercise their political rights, such as the right to cast a ballot for any political party without compulsion or limitations. It also affects how freely citizens can express their opinions on matters that might affect their safety and wellbeing; in countries where drug lords rule or have the politicians in their pockets, they fuel political unrest and intimidate voters,

thus rigging votes and holding undeserved politicians in power. Drug trafficking is against the law in Namibia; as a result, anyone who engages in it faces legal repercussions. Politicians can actively foment violence or play up societal differences, increasing the likelihood of conflict if it serves their interests, even though election violence can occasionally be unplanned. For instance, Gutiérrez-Romero and Iturbe (2023) affirm that politicians may try to reduce voter turnout by using young people, typically drug trafficking victims, to provoke violence. Therefore, as much as there might be no direct physical connection of drug trafficking to political security drug trafficking can be a factor for birthing subsistence variables that fuel political security unrest.

2.7 Enabling factors of drug trafficking and the challenges facing security and law enforcement in the fight against drug trafficking in Namibia

The prevalence of drug trafficking in most, if not all countries, is mostly aided by the involvement of top formal and traditional government officials. This type of involvement makes it an enabling factor for the smooth operation of illicit drug trafficking activities in these countries. Aning and Amedzrator (2013) postulate that top government officials and high-ranking security personnel were engaged in a range of cocaine and heroin trafficking seizures in the late 2000s in West Africa. Furthermore, the findings of Aning and Amedzrator (2013) indicate that recent annexations and apprehensions in several West African countries have deciphered how the work of drug trafficking networks is supported by a diverse range of supportive elements,

such as businesspeople, legislators, law enforcement personnel, judges, clergy, traditional leaders, and young people.

Lacher (2012) enunciates how porous borders, weak government institutions, corruption and political benefaction, poverty and ethnic identities and traffickers easily connect with local leaders and are able to establish and operate informal social networks, allowing them to avoid detection by the formal security apparatus. These conclusions coincide with the findings of Aning and Amedzrator (2013). In some rare cases, the formal security apparatus in Africa also provides cover for traffickers (Lacher, 2012). Since Namibia is a young economy with a stable economy as a result of peace and stability, the country without doubt is evidently prone to some of the above enabling factors which aids illicit drug trafficking.

Another potential drug aiding factor in Namibia is the weak borders, this factor is highly and peripherally influenced by the security officials at the borders; the use of natural rivers which can be crossed at undesignated crossing points at borders renders it significantly difficult to control entrance and exit. Moreover, Namibia, being a developing country, has become a very conducive environment and a lucrative business hub for illicit drug business. This is further aggravated by very high unemployment rates among Namibian youth in many parts of the country. According to data from the *2018 Namibia Labour Force Survey*, Namibia has one of the highest rates of unemployment in Africa, and it could reach more than 50% youth unemployment rate by the end of 2022 (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2019). These overwhelming

statistics may compel many of the youth to resort to drugs smuggling and or dealing to make ends meet.

2.8 Enabling factors of drug trafficking

Enabling factors are known to be aspects that make an environment very conducive for the prevalence of an activity; these could be activities that facilitate a certain behaviour. The enabling factor of drug trafficking will be analysed in relation to the effects it has on national security; therefore, institutional elements and the community as the environment will be analysed.

2.8.1 Poor governance

Governance is loosely defined as the manner in which a state administers its policies, and the framework is laid in structures and powers of how they discharge them (Wilkins & Olmedo, 2018). Hence, a lack of public services; weak democracies; weak checks and balances; the separation of powers; sufficient laws and oversight mechanisms effectiveness are of interest in studying the enabling factors of drug trafficking. Furthermore, a lack in humane law enforcement and inadequate legislation are widespread in most states, preventing progress and eroding citizens' faith in a government and its organisations; therefore, they are deemed as catalyst or enabling factors for drug trafficking (UNODC, 2005). Conflicts that erupt frequently encourage instability in weak regimes. For example, the violence in Somalia has promoted the distribution of drugs and weapons in the area and is to blame

for the large number of refugees, which will have long-term negative effects on the area. The local economy can be disrupted and human rights can be violated as a result of conflicts. Armed conflict threatens democracy and prosperity while eroding the authority and credibility of governmental institutions. These circumstances help organised crime to flourish and offer plenty of chances for criminals to take advantage of the circumstances in the area, make unlawful gains and grow their power (UNODC, 2005).

2.8.2 Porosity of harbours and borders in the country

Gilberto Gerra, head of the UNODC's drug prevention and health branch, stated that political unrest and porous borders are to blame for Africa's rising drug use. This analysis indicates that Africa is used by many drug cartels from Latin America, as siphon for drugs destined to Europe; this is done because west Africa is taunted to be weak with drug control. Gilberto Gerra concluded that, the major drug cartels from Colombia and Latin America have chosen Africa as a way to reach Europe because West Africa is completely weak in terms of border control. Dr. Kwesi Aning, a security expert at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), explains that certain parts of the country's borders and harbours are weak, allowing drug traffickers to use them as routes for moving drugs into and out of the country. This is due to a lack of equipment for adequate surveillance and checks at such ports and borders, together with a high level of corruption, which encourages drug traffickers to exploit these locations for business operations (Okumah, 2014). Namibia has a one of the friendliest and warm currents seas and, as such, is a

lucrative fishing are; this aspect has increased the presence of vessels of which some can be used for smuggling. Moreover, the coastal line is so long, and the length of coastal area can be used to dock speed boats that fetch drugs from vessels where there is no control, as they avoid the designated harbour points. Namibia further lacks coast guard activities, apart from the defence force navy; this substantiated the last claim as they are not law enforcers trained/equipped to search for illicit drugs. Therefore, the Namibian coastal boarder might, to some extent, facilitate the movement of illicit drugs in the country.

2.8.3 Poverty

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) (2021) reported that the incidence of poverty is projected to have increased since 2015, reaching 64 percent in 2021 in Namibia. Many people are unable to break free from the poverty trap on their own because they lack work, social security and education. Added to these, in Namibia, is the fact that the gap between the poor and the rich is one of the highest across the African continent despite Namibian being a mid-income country. Young people are particularly hard struck since they have access to more knowledge about opportunities around the globe yet are still unable to find employment or receive the required education to better their lives. As indicated in the 2018 Namibia Labour Force Survey, Namibia has one of the highest unemployment rates in Africa, and it could reach the peak of more than 50% youth unemployment rate by the end of 2022 (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2019). As a result, to alleviate poverty, a few people have

resorted to drug dealing so as to earn a living first and foremost and then to fit into the forever dynamic and costly economic living standards.

2.8.4 Geographical location

For the transit of illegal products, Namibia has become an ideal location. As a result of the country's extensive coastline and open borders, drugs and illegal weapons can easily enter the continent from this location. High levels of corruption from some law enforcement officials at the border posts in Namibia and neighbouring countries such as Angola further facilitate the movement of products across the borders by allowing access through authorised border crossings, which is another example of Namibia's geographical characteristic.

2.9 The challenges faced by the Government of Namibia in the fight against drug trafficking in the country

Challenges are those factors known to inhibit the proper discharge or application of policies in a country; furthermore, they could also be deemed as impeding factors in the cohesive and smooth running of a system.

2.9.1 Financial Constraints

The cost of providing security is high since more equipment and staff are needed to combat the threat. Thus, to combat drug trafficking, significant funds need to be injected into obtaining advanced monitoring equipment and security personnel or intelligence at ports and harbours, airports and borders. Officials who work with the government and other supportive institutions or

security agencies should be highly compensated in order to reduce the risk of being corrupt. More so, they should have a balanced hygiene and motivating factor scale to be on the job, which could remove temptation of bribery and or partaking in drug trafficking. However, governments' financial resources and other resources in the battle against drug trafficking are insufficient to meet Namibia's evolving patterns and trends in the drugs trafficking arena.

2.9.2 Personnel shortages

Due to the shifting dynamics of the illicit trade of drugs and the current models of operation used by traffickers, combating drug trafficking necessitates a large number of trained and skilled or experienced security professionals. Most security personnel find it extremely challenging to fulfil their primary obligations as a result of lack of training in new methods. Significantly the scope of practice in the security sector is not well defined when it comes to illegal drug trafficking. For example, immigration officials are mandated to control movement into and out of the country and the control of both goods and people; however, the Namibian Police Force (Nampol) is mandated to enforce laws. On the other hand, the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) is responsible for the sovereignty of the country. This personnel mandate restrictions hamper the creation of a coast guard or another form of guard for the sole purpose of controlling illegal drug trafficking. Subsequently, this births the next element of lack of or ineffective collaboration between government institutions despite the availability of legal frameworks that can be used.

2.9.3 Ineffective collaboration between the Government and its supporting institutions

It might be challenging for security organisations to work with supporting institutions in order to properly carry out their mandate due to government meddling or politics combined with pervasive corruption in a country. Top executives of most government institutions would, instead of providing supporting institutions with pertinent information on drug traffickers to arrest and punish by law, tell drug traffickers of every step the government takes to crack down on them.

2.9.4 Ineffective/poor collaboration between Nampol and its supporting institutions

It can be challenging for Nampol to work with its supporting institutions in order to properly carry out its purpose due to government meddling or politics combined with pervasive corruption in the country. Rather of providing Nampol with pertinent information on drug traffickers to arrest and punish them by law, leaders of the majority of these institutions choose to tell drug traffickers of every action taken by the government to crack down on them.

2.10 Suggested measures to deal with drug trafficking in Namibia

At the time of writing (March 2023), Namibia's complete policy and strategy for fighting drug usage had not yet been developed. The researcher learned of the 1987 International Conference on

Drug Abuse's recommendations over the course of the assignment.

2.10.1 Parental assistance

Provision of food, care, and love is the primary responsibility of parents or other caretakers.

According to this study's participants, all parents and caregivers are crucial in helping children recover from illicit drug use. All participants agreed that good parental habits are likely to have a moderating impact on secondary school students' usage of illicit drugs. Ayvasik and Sümer (2010) claim that in a liberal parental environment, drug-experience-related characteristics may go unrecognised. One of the main protective factors linked to excellent outcomes for young people is connectedness to parents, particularly family expectations on school completion (Ruland et al. 2005, p. 4). Effective parenting practices support attempts to reduce the risk factors that lead secondary school students into using illegal drugs.

2.10.2 Rehabilitation

Suldo et al. (2008, p.274) state that teens who deal with stress by venting their feelings or looking for social support were more likely to use tobacco, alcohol or marijuana in comparison to teens who try to resolve family conflicts or seek spiritual advice. Perceived stress was associated with detrimental effects such as substance misuse. According to several contemporary psychology theories of "craving", problematic substance use is brought on by "behavioural cues" or by psychological flaws or deficits that induce people to

behave "unreasonably" (O'Malley & Valverde, 2004, p. 26). Referring such secondary school students to experts will prevent them from acting "unreasonably" by helping them develop effective, problem-focused coping mechanisms.

2.10.3 Strengthening government initiatives

More than 80% of the participants in this study agreed that government programs, including raising awareness of the risks of illicit substances, constructing youth entertainment centres and keeping an eye on cross-border drug dealing operations needed to be accelerated and strengthened. These programs should strengthen racial and cultural identification while challenging preconceived notions about secondary school students. This can be sustained further via connections with community elders and non-governmental organisations that help secondary school students and young people frame their own concerns.

2.10.4 Implementation of international drug policies

Policies are principles adopted as tools that are used by different authorities to guide them in setting a road map for discharging their authorities. Prohibition: use, possession, production, transportation and trade of all substances listed under the three international drug conventions are prohibited in law and in practice. They are frequently considered serious offenses and are subject to a range of prison sentences as well as corporal and/or capital punishment in some states. Frameworks for prohibition-based drug policies are typically built around the three principles of the Vienna

Consensus. These are a decrease in the consumption of these substances (a decrease in demand), a decrease in the supply of these substances and an increase in international collaboration between countries in this area. The drug policy and the legal framework that supports it are typically rigid in their interpretation and application in such circumstances. The organisation of law enforcement resources is focused on pursuing those who use drugs as well as those who possess or trade in them. In some cases, a country will even go as far as to prohibit a substance that is not under international control. In most prohibition frameworks, those who use drugs tend to be the main law enforcement target.

2.11 Chapter summary

This chapter reviewed literature on related subject matter to the study. The chapter discussed the

‘securitization’ theory which is adapted for this study. The chapter equally presents a discussion on drug trafficking on the global perspective assessing the presence and effects of drug trafficking on the core continental regions. The chapter further discussed the effects of drug trafficking on national security in Namibia, enabling factors of drug trafficking and the challenges facing security and law enforcement in the fight against drug trafficking in Namibia. Finally, strategies to address security threats posed by illicit drug trafficking in Namibia are highlighted. The subsequent chapter focuses on the design and methodology used for the study.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter covers the research design and methodology employed by the researcher. Research methodology is the specific procedures or techniques used to identify, select, process and analyse information about a topic. Silverman (2011) states that the entire purpose of methodology in research has been to explain why certain methods are used in a research project by a researcher.

3. 2 Research design

Durrheim and Tredoux (2004) explain that a research design is a framework for strategic action that connects the execution of the research strategy and the research questions. The goal of a research design is to offer a suitable framework for a study. The decision to be made regarding the research approach is a crucial one since it affects how relevant data for a study will be gathered, yet, the research design process comprises several interrelated considerations. The purpose of research design is to provide answers to research question validly, objectively, accurately and economically as well as serve as a control platform, maximise systemic variance, control extraneous variance and minimise error. A case study research design was adopted in the study. Both primary and secondary data sources were employed in the investigation. Primary data was gathered by the use of a case study, using

unstructured survey approach, to conduct an in-depth description of the effects of drug trafficking on Namibia's national security. The empirical field study consisted of personal interviews with identified key stakeholders. Secondary data was gathered from analytical reports and statistics of drug enforcement agencies, published journal articles, books and news websites.

3.3 Population

Population refers to a whole community of individuals or subjects of interest to scholars who are of interest to the research (Fleming & Zegward, 2018). According to the 2011 Namibian Population and Housing Census, Khomas Region was estimated to have a total population of approximately 431,000 (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2012). However, the study focused on persons actively involved in the preservation of national security, drug law administration and enforcement, specifically, officers attached to the Namibian Police Drug Law Enforcement Division, investigators, community police members, senior officials from the Namibian Defence Force and security experts.

3.4 Sample

Sample size refers to the number of participants or observations included in a study, while sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals represent the large group from which they were selected (Pavelko and Grabe, 2017). It is also possible that a sample, as the part of a population, can have characteristics similar to where

it is taken- that is, the population. Sampling is the process of choosing specific individuals or subjects from a community in order to draw conclusions from them statistically and estimate the characteristics of the entire population (Sharma, 2017). A non-probability, purposive sampling technique was used to identify interviewees already known to have information on drug trafficking. Interviewees consisted of 10 officers attached to the Drug Law Enforcement Unit of the Namibian Police, 5 community police members, 5 Namibian Defence Force senior officials and 5 security experts. The total number of the targeted sample was 25.

3.5 Research instruments

Research instruments are measuring instruments designed to obtain the information of research subjects on a topic of interest (Wilkinson & Birmingham, 2003). There are many instruments used in qualitative research (Sandoval & Trigueros, 2023); however, the researcher used interviews to collect data from participants. Simuforosa and Wiseman (2015) describe an interview as an oral information-gathering method. Purposive key informant interviews were conducted using semi-structured interview questionnaires which consisted of a set of predetermined questions which were modified according to what the interviewer perceived to be appropriate

3.6 Procedure

Relevant data was collected from selected participants. Key informants were identified and contacted through the relevant authorities to inform them about

the objectives of the study and ensure that a common understanding of the required data and information is reached. Thereafter, key participants were consulted individually for data collection. The approximated duration of the face-to-face interviews was 20 minutes per participant.

3.7 Data analysis

Data analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical and/or logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap and evaluate data (Walcher et al., 2014). Data analysis is simply done to help find trends and relationships among variables and to provide answers to the research objectives. Data analysis is the methodical application of statistical and logical techniques for describing the scope of the data; modularising the data structure; condensing the data representation; illuminating with pictures, tables and graphs; evaluating statistical tendencies, probability data and drawing meaningful conclusions. The study adopted a qualitative approach to analyse the collected data. Data was organised and managed with the help of the process of summarisation. Summarisation results in a powerful and flexible matrix that allows a researcher to analyse data both by theme and case. Cross-checking was done to ensure that different procedures and sources agree in order to reach accurate conclusions.

3.8. Research ethics

According to Chiromo (2009), ethical issues in research are standards of behaviour that should direct researchers while they conduct their research. In the context of research, ethics is defined as the principles of appropriate

conduct to govern research and as a procedure to protect and respect the dignity, well-being and rights of participants in a wide range of different research disciplines, methods and participants (Abrar & Sidik, 2019). The researcher obtained clearance from the University of Namibia's Research Ethics Committee and only collected data after the approval of the research proposal and granting of ethical clearance. The researcher sought permission from relevant authorities to collect data from targeted institutions and ensure confidentiality and privacy. From the onset, participants were informed of their right to withdraw from participating in the study at any time without any penalty. Lastly, the researcher ensured academic honesty by acknowledging all sources used in the study.

3.9 Informed consent

Each participant was given an informed consent form that guaranteed, among other things, that all responses would remain private. In order to conduct this research, the researcher also received permission from the relevant law enforcement organisations.

3.10 Rights to privacy

Since the nature of their work restricts their ability to disclose information, the majority of the participants preferred to remain anonymous in order to ensure that no one's work was jeopardised. Thus, even though identities were known to the researcher, identities have been protected through anonymisation in the research report by using pseudonyms. The researcher

rigorously maintained the confidentiality of the type and calibre of the participants' work. As a result, each respondent received a unique number that was used to identify them in any written materials.

3.11 Chapter summary

This chapter discussed the research methodology used to investigate illicit drug trafficking and its implication on national security- a case study of Khomas Region, Namibia. The study adopted a qualitative research design. The population of the study, sampling procedures and data analysis and research ethics are also discussed. The next chapter will discuss the findings of the study.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the data collected and analyses information obtained from the field. Data and information obtained from the research is presented through the use of tables and pie charts. The information has been analysed, interpreted and related to relevant literature in the research area. In addition, interpretations and explanations are made so as to improve understanding of the data presented. The researcher makes use of percentages in analysing the data as well as comparing themes to answer the research questions and meet the research objectives. Analysing collected data enables the researcher to draw conclusions and make recommendations.

4.2 Response rate

The response rate is the number or the percentage outcome of the successful questionnaires in relation to those administered or distributed by the researcher (Johnson & Wislar 2012). High response rates allow the researcher to have reliable and meaningful data that enable wider representation of the population. Table 1 below shows the interview response rate of participants during the study.

Table 1: Participants' response rate

Category	Target	Actual	Response rate
Drug law enforcement officers	10	8	80%
Community police officers	5	5	100%
National security experts	5	3	60%
Namibian Defence Force (NDF) officials	5	0	0%

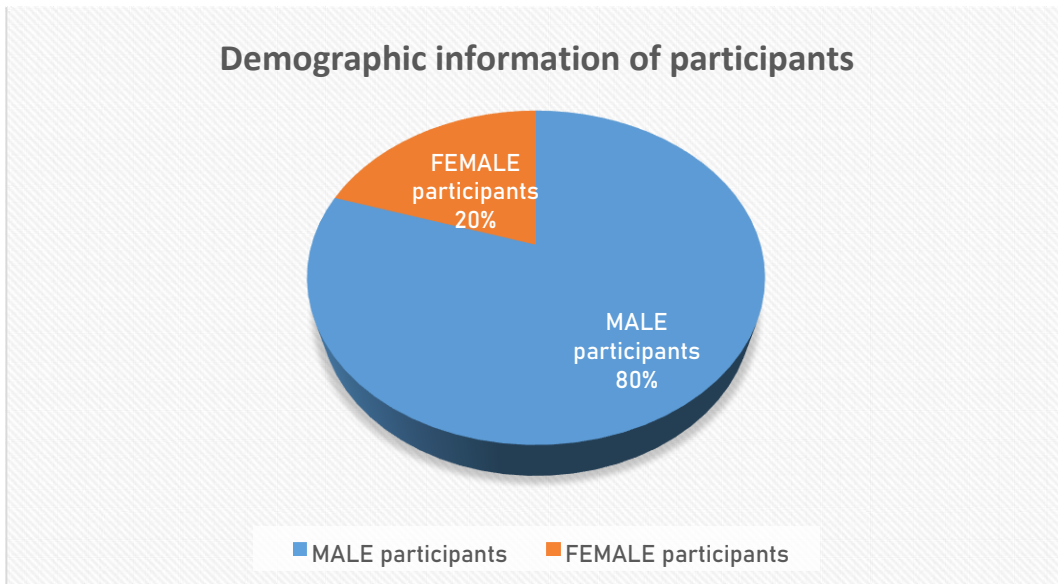
As shown in Table 1, the response rate of participants was high because most participants managed to participate in responding to interviews and questionnaires. The response rate of participants from the drug law enforcement officers was recorded at 80%; 100% for community police officers; 60% for national security experts and 0% for NDF senior officials. However, lack of response from NDF officials did not affect the progression of the research nor the outcome on answering the research question; thus, the value to the outcomes and validity of the study is as high as expected by the researcher.

4.3 Demographic information

Demographics are defined as statistical data about the characteristics of a population such as the age, sex and income of the people within the population (Urdan, 2022). Of the participants, the males made up 80% of

participants who were interviewed, and only 20% participants were female. The researcher found that males were very open and aware to share their experience and knowhow in terms of drug trafficking and its impact on national security in Namibia.

Figure 2: Participants' sex



4.4 Impacts of illicit drug trafficking on national security in Namibia

A country's state security has a number of dimensions due to the variety of threats it faces, including economic security, energy security, physical security, environmental security, food security, border security and cyber security. In this study, the researcher used some of the major elements of national security to analyse how Namibia is affected by the phenomenon of

illicit drug trafficking. The findings highlight some of the impacts of drug trafficking on national security in Namibia.

4.4.1 Proliferation of small arms and other weaponry

Drug trafficking leads to an increase in both legal and illegal possession of small arms such as guns and explosive ammunitions which are used by drug dealers for different reason but can still be deemed to pose a threat on national security. Khan (2019) asserts that small arms and light weapons proliferation has become a threat to political and socio-economic security at all levels because they are normally used by drug dealers to intimidate and even to kill citizens. Therefore, the motive behind arms trade is twofold- both military and non-military which makes it a threat to national security.

In an interview with a police officer from the Drug Enforcement Law Office on arms, the participant said:

Participant 1: "Drug lords who engage in illicit trade sometimes bring small arms and other weapons into the country to employ as defensive or security weapons for their operations.

There are times when state security agents would prefer to make an arrest rather than work with traffickers. Thus, to resist arrest, some traffickers use small arms and other weaponry to counterattack and flee from the law. This poses a great deal of threat to security officials and the national security of the country at large.

4.4.2 Tendency for violence and extremism

In relation with the aforementioned, Williams and Felbab-Brown (2012) affirm that powerful drug traffickers resort to violent means in order to scare off and avoid prosecution through killing or bribing investigators, judges and witnesses. Namibia does not yet have big drug traffickers and has not reached such levels of violence, but Aning and Pokoo (2014) contend that in places where violence resulting from drug trafficking has existed, it has occurred when government and security officials scramble for benefits from drug trafficking. An example is taken from Guinea-Bissau where senior government and security officials have had a strong relationship with drug cartels, which has resulted in political and military chaos given the number of assassinations and arrests in that country in 2009 and 2010 involving the army chief of staff and the head of state who are believed to have been involved in the struggle over the control of drug trafficking.

In this study, one of the participants noted the following.

Participant 2: “Based on studies from countries such as Colombia and Mexico where drug trafficking is rife, it was found that drug traffickers use violence against law enforcement to get things done their way or to protect themselves. Although that is not the case yet with Namibia, currently it is drug consumers who mostly abuse drugs and subsequently committing crimes and violence within their communities. This type of lawlessness can accelerate to become a national security threat.”

Therefore, when an economy is dominated by drug traffickers, law enforcement agencies and the judicial system will be weakened. This means, the more drug trafficking grows, the more law enforcement and judicial system's ability to function independently and effectively decreases (Williams & Felbab-Brown 2012). Law enforcement and security agencies may, arguably, further become entangled in the web of drug trafficking, and this impacts negatively on the security of the state. Therefore, governments who are unable to resist such capture eventually turn into captured states making it suitable grounds for extremists and other forms of criminality (Gastrow, 2012)

4.4.3 Widespread culture of corruption

The majority of drug traffickers use law enforcement officials, including top diplomats; government employees; politicians; high-ranking members of the clergy; customs officers; military personnel; airport security personnel; regular Namibian citizens and the police among others as their agents and accomplices. Underpaid law enforcement and military officers often fight for the drug lords rather than their governments (Williams & Felhab-Brown, 2012). While making a comparison of drug trafficking and police corruption between Colombia and Mexico, De la Torre (2008) validated this statement asserting that the conventional perception is that wherever there is drug trafficking, there is police corruption, and little can be done to combat it and even better wages and education or awareness on integrity can certainly not compete with the option of

“plata o plomo” (“silver or lead”) that narcotic traffickers offer to police officers. According to De la Torre (2008), although this may be true, the level and form of corruption varies among counterdrug police agencies in different countries where drug trafficking is as important as the entire political economy which subsequently affects the security of the entire country.

One participant in the current study made the following observation:

Participant 3: “Some law enforcement officials are no longer morally upright. The reason for this is because drug traffickers tend to undermine government employees and institutions, leading to widespread corruption. A few government agencies and employees become accomplices due to various reasons such as the difficult economic circumstances in the country and low salaries.”

However, to remedy such predicament, specialists in police reform and anti-corruption naturally look at administrative factors such as ethics, salary levels, the purging of corrupt officials and the recruitment and training of new officers as essential elements in the prevention of police corruption de la Torre (2008).

4.4.4 Burden on government expenditure to curb the drug trafficking threat

The prevalence of drug trafficking in Namibia may cause serious consequences for future government spending if it is not addressed today. This is due to the fact that a significant portion of government budget, which could have gone toward socio-economic upliftment and or other projects,

would instead have to be used to combat the threat posed by the illicit drug trade in the country.

In this study a security expert stated that:

Participant 4: “The United States spends nearly US\$4 billion annually to combat the drug trade, which is roughly 20 or more times than Namibia spends to combat drug trafficking both domestically and throughout the southern Africa region, and if the drug trafficking problem is not addressed soon in Namibia, more funds will be directed or redirected to the fight against this problem instead of dealing with other meaningful developmental programs.”

Ekici (2014) asserts that the main agenda of security councils across the globe is economic development. Economic power enables states to purchase weapons, equipment and employ law enforcement and military personnel. Notwithstanding that, states rely on sustainable economic backup for their strategic power projections (Buzan, 1991a). As demonstrated in the cases of Afghanistan and Guinea Bissau, states often fail to provide security for their populations when there is lack of economic resources.

4.5 Factors which facilitate drug trafficking in Namibia

4.5.1 High unemployment rate

High unemployment rates within the country especially among the youth has contributed to an increase in drug dealings so as to earn an income. The aforementioned, coupled with the situation of increasing prices of goods and services, has led to some of the country's residents to engage in illicit drug trafficking as a form of quick income generating business.

In the present study, a community police officer stated that:

Participant 5: "It has been found from all of the drug-related cases we have handled in the past that young people are more likely to engage in drug trafficking due to unemployment. We once caught a group of drug dealers through our operations and found out that it was very young boys below 25 years selling cannabis. After asking them why they were doing such illegal business, most of them pointed out unemployment as a factor."

4.5.2 Porosity of harbours and borders in the country

Gilberto Gerra, Chief of Drug Prevention and Health branch at the UNODC, asserts that Africa's rising illegal drug consumption is due to political instability as well as porous borders (UNODC, 2020). In Namibia, drugs have been smuggled into the country through border entry points. Namibia shares borders with countries such as Botswana along the east; Angola on the north, South Africa in the south and Zambia on the north-east which is a combination of manmade fences and natural borders of rivers. It is estimated that the legal border control entry and exit points are where drugs have been

smuggled into the country. This could be as a result of a lack of advanced technological equipment and skilled personnel to detect illicit drugs smuggled into the country through both conventional and unconventional ways.

In this study's interviews, one of the participants had the following to say regarding Namibia's porous borders.

Participant 6: "There has been an increase in drugs such as cocaine and cannabis which are smuggled through the borders; the challenge is sometimes immigration doesn't involve the police in the control/checks of consignments at the borders. For example, clearing agents get a manifesto from the truck driver, give to customs official; the customs officials declare the content of the truck without seeing what is inside."

The findings show that less involvement of drug law enforcement agents at border posts has led to drug trafficking within the country. This is very clear considering the above notion which was given by one of the participants.

4.5.3 Geographical location

Khomas Region is located in the centre of the country and houses the capital city, Windhoek, and most of the country's roads transit through it to neighbouring countries; as the only city in Namibia, different agencies are found in Windhoek; therefore, this is a pulling factor and enables drug trafficking by receiving drugs from different parts of the country. Added to this is the issues of uncontrolled rural to urban migration especially with the

porous borders which surround the country, people from other countries also migrate to the city under the disguise of rural to urban migration and thus contribute to drug dealings. Moreover, the international airport is also situated in Khomas Region where all large cargo to and from various countries land making the region vulnerable to an influx of illegal substances. Additionally, most logistics transportation routes from other African countries such as South Africa, Zambia e.t.c and those transporting goods from the harbour make a stop or bypass through the capital city; furthermore, an increase in the number of dynamic cultural groups and business activities has given drug trafficking a lift. Thus, drug trafficking increases daily even though efforts are being made to deal with this phenomenon.

In this study, a drug law enforcement police officer had the following to say:

Participant 7: “Khomas Region is where the main drug dealers are and have means to connect from other countries such as Brazil for cocaine. , cannabis is bought in large quantity and Khomas is the receiving point except fine drugs like heroin and cocaine.”

The above findings show that Khomas Region provides the right environment to harbour and nurture drug trafficking and as such, it is the centre of drug dealers, and most of the drugs are distributed from Khomas Region to other regions in the country.

4.5.4 Corruption

Rampant corruption has led to drug trafficking within the country because some drug dealers work with top officials and are always protected; or more so, law enforcers bend the law and release these offenders without ever facing trial even when they are caught. To avoid arrest, when they are caught with drugs, drug dealers also give bribes to police officers. All these types of corruption affect attempts to reduce drug trafficking as drug dealers are left within the society.

One of the participants from the Namibian Police Drug Law Enforcement Division revealed that:

Participant 8: “The administration of justice in Namibia occasionally encourages the smuggling of illegal drugs into the country. This is due to the fact that when prominent individuals or their relatives are implicated in illegal drug activities, the matter is sometimes not even brought to the attention of the public, much less prosecuted. When such incidents become public, the courts and legal systems bend the law to either release the offenders or drastically shorten their sentences by applying the minimum sentences or even fines. This provides some officials and their family members the urge and boldness to participate in the illicit drug trade without fear.”

In addition to that, it has been observed that youth who sell drugs within the community are employed by law enforcers who protect them through alerts

when a raid is planned or even worse, influential people in the country manipulate the system to create cocoons for the drug traffickers.

One of the responded stated that:

Participant 9: “The primary determinant is cash flow, market accessibility, particularly in the entertainment sector, and combining it with the spirit of adventure among young people. To my surprise, even people with prominent jobs are trafficking in drugs and then delivery is done by the distributors.”

4.6 Challenges facing Namibian Police in dealing with drug trafficking

4.6.1 Inadequate resources

The expense of providing security is high since more resources such as equipment and staff are needed to combat the threat. To combat drug trafficking, however, significant funds are required to obtain advanced monitoring equipment and security personnel or intelligence at ports, harbours, airports and borders. In Namibia, there is need for advanced technology such as scanning machines at border posts to detect drugs, and this has been a challenge due to lack of proper machines and scanners used to search for such illicit drugs. In this study’s interviews, one of the participants noted that:

Participant 10: “The major challenge, especially at our border posts, is lack of advanced technology because at times, the scanners are not consistent and

at some point, they won't be functioning, and this has led to drug consignments passing through the borders undetected."

4.6.2 Lack of Personnel

Due to the evolving dynamics of the illicit drug trade and the tactics used by traffickers in modern times, combating drug trafficking necessitates a huge number of personnel in both physical number as well as the skills and knowledge. However, findings of this study show that there is a lack of human resource capacity in terms of trained and skilled personnel, and this has been a major obstacle in efforts to combat drug trafficking by the Namibian Police Drug Law Enforcement Division. In relation to personnel, one participant had noted that:

Participant 11: "Our challenge is that there is a lack of man power; a lack of dedicated and experienced and skilled personnel at the sight positions which has made it more difficult to deal with the issue of drug trafficking."

4.7 Measures to address drug trafficking

4.7.1 Educational campaigns

Effective drug education and awareness programs are crucial because there are numerous known pressure elements on young people to use both legal and illegal substances. In order to create a normative culture of safety, moderation, and informed decision-making, education can act as a counterbalancing force. In order to deal with this problem of drug trafficking,

there is a need for the implementation of more educational and awareness campaigns on drugs in Namibia.

In this study, a security expert stated:

Participant 12: “I think educational campaigns of drugs in schools will help to address this issue of drug trafficking and drug use. Schools must educate learners about the dangers and consequences of trafficking and drug consumption because young people are mostly targeted, and they are victims. Therefore, it only makes sense when they are educated on this deadly pandemic.”

In Namibia, the education system should highlight, among others, the threat of drug trafficking on national security. An example is the awareness campaign carried out by the Nigerian Minister of State for Education, Goodluck Nanah Opiah, whose statement was read at a sensitisation walk that marched through Utako Market to Jabi Lake in Abuja. The awareness campaign was organised by

Drug Free World Africa (DFWA), a non-profit international-African organisation based in Abuja. During this awareness campaign, which included men, women and children, the Minister cautioned the public about the threat of drug abuse on national security (Nzor, 2022).

4.7.2 Community participation

A broad definition of community engagement is when members of the community work together on projects aimed at resolving personal issues. Local communities are crucial in helping to deal with drug trafficking, and

they do this by reporting perpetrators to the police so that the latest success of community policing in Namibia can be applied to root out drug trafficking. Local communities can also participate in awareness programs on the dangers of drug trafficking. In response to that, one of the participants stated the following:

Participant 13: "I think there is need for more community involvement in the fight against drug trafficking and drug use in the country. Everything happens in our communities and homes; therefore, community members should take ownership to protect the futures and livelihoods of their people. This can be done through community-led initiatives and projects against drugs."

Government efforts to curb illicit drug use among secondary school students both in and out of school are likely to be hampered by a lack of community support for the fight against drug usage. The socialisation of these students begins at home and in the community where they live; thus, it is the responsibility of the community to instil values and moral principles so that they do not succumb to drug trafficking and peer pressure.

According to one of the participants, community support is crucial for all the partners. Community based preventative initiatives are required, with a focus on both families and peers (Bahr et al., 2005, p.529). According to research by Bjarnason et al. (2005, p. 82), students drink less in schools where a large number of parents are acquainted. Therefore, it is crucial that parents get to

know one another and make an effort to get to know the friends of their kids. Community interventions against drug use are more effective when they target a variety of young people, reaching more peers and fostering more beneficial social networks (Freeman et al. 2011, p.594). A study on the impact of illicit drugs on national security in Rwanda recommends that community efforts in combating illicit drugs should be carried out by local community leaders, religious institutions and non-governmental organisation. They should join efforts with the government (Moise, 2017).

4.7.3 Inter-state collaborations

Inter-state collaboration is defined by Rozanov et al. (2020) as the process when countries interact inside a framework to coordinate their policies in a harmonised manner with the goal of uniting them and making them effective to attain the set objectives.

Drug trafficking is inherently known to be a transnational crime and fits the call as outlined by the United Nations (UN) and as quoted in Emmers (2003), “offences whose inception, prevention and/or direct or indirect effects involve more than one country”. Drug trafficking is a crime that involves the crossing of borders or jurisdictions. Therefore, the fight against transnational crime should be done collectively by all countries affected. Notwithstanding, a number of international organisations have been formed already, including the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) which currently has 176 member states across the globe. The Interpol network provides a platform for the exchange of information and assistance between police forces to deal

with criminal cases involving multinational jurisdictions. The West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP) was established in 2013 with the aim of facilitating international cooperation in criminal matters against all transnational organised and serious crime, including terrorism in West Africa.

The European Union (EU) formed Europol in July 1999 in an attempt to combat transnational crime in Europe. Apart from regional cooperation, the UN has also established various bodies, such as the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In addition, the UN established agreements like the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which went into effect in 1988. Therefore, interstate cooperation should be considered as a critical tool in the fight against the spread of illicit drug trafficking across the globe, and it can only work if all states are committed at both executive and operational levels.

5. Chapter Summary

Generally, drug trafficking in Namibia has far-reaching effects on both national and personal security. Additionally, drug trafficking is an enabling factor that makes a country's security and criminality more of a threat. The youth's future is thus in jeopardy because they are the ones who typically fall prey to illicit drug trading. In Namibia, drug trafficking poses a threat to national security and undermines government agencies and employees, and

some of them can become corrupt. To remain focused and proactive in the fight against the threat in the Namibia, all stakeholders must adhere to international and national laws. Therefore, there should be effective coordination and communication at all levels for a formidable effort to stop the country's drug trafficking problem.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the conclusion of the overall research with reference to the research objectives and the findings as discussed in Chapter 4; moreover, the theoretical framework underpinning in the study is used to draw to conclusions to both the conceptual framework and pinioned research findings. Based on the research questions and reviewed literatures, this chapter will include recommendations as solutions to the raised concerns.

5.2 Summary of findings

According to the study, drug trafficking in Namibia could lead to the spread of small arms and other weapons, but more so a high tendency for ethnic, religious, electoral, and civil violence and extremism in the country. Furthermore, threats from international terrorism, a pervasive culture of corruption, an increase in crime rates and other social vices in the country will result in a negative public perception of the country in the fight against drug trafficking and an additional burden on government spending to address the problem. The findings from the study shows that the majority of people who consume hard drugs as a result of the illegal drug trade typically sabotage the peace and harmony in their communities by engaging in criminal activities, including but not limited to, rape, defilement, domestic violence abuse, torture, armed robbery and murder.

With the premise that "drug trafficking in Namibia has substantial repercussions on the national security of the country; notably the human security of its inhabitants", the study was conducted under the conceptual framework of human security. Among other theories and concepts, human security was chosen because it is particularly effective at explaining how drug trafficking affects Namibia's national security, with a primary focus on the security of the individual inside the state as opposed to the realist approach whose state security emphasis primarily focused on the state only. As a dominant actor in the international system, the state has the exclusive right to defend its borders in order to safeguard the security of its inhabitants. This means that the traditional concept of security aimed to understand that a state's population are safe if its borders are guarded from outside threats of other governments. Human security, on the other hand, is a paradigm change that emphasises protecting people within a state rather than just its borders or territory. The conceptual framework is a perfect fit for the subject because it aids the research by drawing a better understanding of the effects that drug trafficking has on Namibia's national security, placing particular emphasis on the security of the country's citizens' personal, economic, food, health, environmental, and community safety.

The study finds that in modern international relations, countries and academics have given the issue of national security a lot of thought. This is because it is the duty of governments to guarantee both the protection and security of their citizens' human security, which is the ultimate goal of national security.

The research also notes that the old understanding of security, which placed a premium on state security (ensuring the maintenance of territorial boundaries), presupposed that citizens were not receiving enough welfare. As a result, people-centred security, also known as human security or people-centred security, emerged focusing on safeguarding the safety of citizens within a state- in addition to border security.

This study's findings show that local drug trade has been influenced by issues, including unemployment and poverty. Even while all of these factors appeared to be influencing drug trafficking generally, the increase in the illicit drug trade in Namibia has been attributed to the high unemployment rate.

The U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2018) recorded that approximately 50 tons of cocaine worth over US\$2 billion are trafficked annually globally. The UNODC attributes the expansion of international drug trafficking to wide and permeable borders and coastlines, high levels of support for illicit economies and a lack of governance infrastructure, including poorly regulated airports and insufficient law enforcement capacity in some countries.

Based on the analysis of findings in this study, it is concluded that if the government and other stakeholders do not make concerted efforts to address or handle the prevalence and threat of drug trafficking in Namibia right away, the future of the youth and the economy is at a considerable risk. The study also comes to the conclusion that drug trafficking corrupts some state

employees and institutions in Namibia. As a result, the country's attempts to advance good governance and development for its residents may suffer.

Additionally, it is determined from the study's findings that there is still hope for eradicating the prevalence and threat of drug trafficking in Namibia if deliberate efforts are made by the government and all stakeholders to address the issues. This includes government institutions, private sectors and society at large.

This study's conclusions have established that drug trafficking in Namibia, has significant implications for the national security of the country; particularly the human security of its population. This is because the study provides data to support the dire effects that drug trafficking has on Namibia's national security as well as its people.

The study also shows that there are a number of factors that have made the trade of illicit drugs easier in Namibia. These factors include economic hardship coupled with a high rate of unemployment; the country's porous borders and harbours and institutional failure

The study demonstrates that drug trafficking in Namibia has a negative influence on the country's productivity in terms of economic security. This is due to the fact that drug trafficking is most prevalent among young adults who are capable of contributing meaningfully to the country's growth. In this line, the economy might lack an active labour force that could significantly contribute to development.

In terms of the community security, the study demonstrates that the majority of those who consume hard drugs as a result of the illegal drug trade typically sabotage tranquillity and harmony in the community. Behaviour and offenses such as rape, defilement, abuse and torture during domestic disputes, armed robbery and murder are thus prevalent in the community.

Equally, according to the study, drug trafficking in Namibia could lead to the spread of proliferation in small arms and other weapons; a high tendency for ethnic, religious, electoral, and civil violence and extremism in the country; a threat from international terrorism; a pervasive culture of corruption; an increase in crime rates and other social vices in the country; a negative public perception of the country in the fight against drug trafficking and an additional burden on government spending to address the problem.

Furthermore, the study also shows that since the onset of the illicit drug trade in the country, the dynamics and patterns of drug trafficking in the modern Namibian society have changed over time in terms of actors, drug transportation methods and countries from which illicit drugs are procured.

The study notes that actors have changed from being small-time men traders to students, business people, legislators and even senior diplomats. Additionally, transportation methods and quantities have significantly changed from small-scale drug trafficking to large-scale trafficking, moving from person to road, sea or air transport.

However, the study finds that the Namibian Police Drug Law Enforcement Division and the Namibian Government are confronted by significant difficulties that limit them from effectively combating or addressing the pervasiveness and threat of drug trafficking in the country. Financial and personnel limitations; poor or ineffective cooperation between the Namibian Police Force Drug Law Enforcement Agents and its supporting institutions; difficulty in obtaining accurate information and economic are among the most significant challenges.

5.3 Conclusions

As a dominant actor in the international system, the state has the exclusive rights and tools of power to defend its borders in order to safeguard the security of its inhabitants. The traditional conception of security aimed to understand that a state's population are safe if its borders are guarded from outside threats from other governments. Human security, the other hand, is a paradigm change that emphasises protecting people within a state rather than just its borders or territory. The study is a perfect fit for the topic because it contributes to a better understanding of the effects that drug trafficking has on Namibia's national security, with a focus on the country's citizens' personal, community and economic security as well as political and environmental security. Despite the fact that drug trafficking is a worldwide problem, this study examined how it affects Namibia's national security.

Moreover, both state security and human security are included in the concept of "national security"; this study primarily focused on examining the effects

of drug trafficking from both standpoints. Based on the analysis of the findings, it is concluded that if the Namibian Government and other stakeholders do not make concerted efforts to address or handle the prevalence and threat of drug trafficking in the country right away, the future of the youth and the economy is at a considerable risk. The study also concludes that drug trafficking can corrupt government employees and institutions involved in the fight against drug trafficking. Consequently, the country's attempts to advance good governance and development for its population may suffer at all levels. However, the study's conclusions also suggest that there is still potential for eradicating the prevalence and threat of drug trafficking in Namibia, provided that the Government and all other stakeholders make a concerted effort to address the issues raised by the study.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the findings from the study and suggestions made by participants during interviews, the following recommendations are made:

- A strong legislative structure that addresses the problem is necessary to both prevent drug trafficking since human trafficking, money laundering and financing of terrorism are all connected due to widespread drug trafficking in the country.

In addition to the aforementioned, there should be a public health and intelligence approach to raise public awareness of the threats or perils of drug trafficking to the country's human and national security.

- The Government should also design ways to address the high unemployment rates among the youth so as to deter them from succumbing to the allure of drug trafficking in the country.
- To enable drug law enforcement agents to carry out their duties efficiently, the Government should thus increase the number of personnel and augment their financial base and logistical capabilities.
- To be able to effectively combat the threats, the Government should also work effectively with other states and international organisations. This is due to the fact that drug trafficking has turned into a global danger, making it harder for the Government to only rely on its own resources and capabilities to combat the problem.
- To properly combat the threats, the Government should also work with other countries and international organisations. This is due to the fact that drug trafficking now poses a global threat, making it challenging for the government to combat the problem only with its own resources and expertise.
- The Namibian Police Drug Law Enforcement Division, as the main stakeholder in tackling illicit drug trade in the country, should be more robust in its operations.

- Recruitment of staff for Namibian Police Drug Law Enforcement Division should not be based on politics but rather on competence, merit and the presence of passionate individuals who are truly willing to make sacrifices and devote their time to combating the threats posed by the illicit drug trade in Namibia.

Namibian Police drug law enforcement should be consistent with international laws on drug trafficking so as to effectively counter the menace of drug trafficking in the country.

- Upgrading infrastructure, encouraging the use of participatory strategies like community policing for community-based organisations, and improving living circumstances would help to increase community safety.
- Assure effective coordination and complementarity between the many donor organisations (such as the UNDCP, EU, DFID and USAID) offering the country material, technical, and financial support for its drug policy, policing and treatment.
- Create and manage an information system on substance addiction that will aid in the implementation, assessment, evaluation and continual improvement of interventions for substance misuse.
- The government should ensure that all machinery used for detecting illicit drugs at border posts are of modern technology and functioning well to deter the smuggling of illicit drugs
 - There is a need for NGOs to partake in awareness campaigns regarding drug trafficking.
- There is a need for more community participation in aiding the police to apprehend perpetrators of drug trafficking.

5.5 Research for future studies

Further research with specific focus on drug trafficking should be concentrated on the following.

- Assessing the nature and extent of chemical smuggling for the sole purpose of drug manufacturing
- Identifying links between drug markets and drug supply
- Establishing links between drug abuse and ethnic differences
Establishing links between specific drug types and specific organised crime syndicates, for example, the link specifically between heroin smuggling and foreign syndicates
- Finally, future studies should pay particular attention to how drug mules might be recognised and acknowledged in laws like the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, which recognises and acknowledges both professional and decoy categories of drug mules

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Appendix

Appendix A: Ethical Clearance



ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: SOS-0062 **Date:** 27 April 2022

This Ethical Clearance Certificate is issued by the University of Namibia Ethics Committee (REC) in accordance with the University of Namibia's Research Ethics Policy and Guidelines. Ethical approval is given in respect of undertakings contained in the Research Project outlined below. This Certificate is issued on the recommendations of the ethical evaluation done by the ethics committee.

Title of Project: AN INVESTIGATION INTO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ITS IMPLICATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY: A CASE STUDY OF KHOMAS REGION, NAMIBIA

Student: METUMO HANGO

Student Number: 200538616


Supervisor(s): DR. PEYAVALI MUSHELENGA

Centre for Research Services

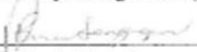
Take note of the following:

1. Any significant changes in the conditions or undertakings outlined in the approved Proposal must be communicated to the ethics committee. An application to make amendments may be necessary.
2. Any breaches of ethical undertakings or practices that have an impact on ethical conduct of the research must be reported to the ethics committee
3. The Principal Researcher must report issues of ethical compliance to the ethics committee (through the Chairperson) at the end of the Project or as may be requested by the ethics committee
4. The ethics committee retains the right to:
 - i) Withdraw or amend this Ethical Clearance if any unethical practices (as outlined in the Research Ethics Policy) have been detected or suspected,
 - ii) Request for an ethical compliance report at any point during the course of the research.

The ethics committee wishes you the best in your research.



Dr. Zivayi Chiguvare (Chairperson Ethics Committee)



Prof. Davis Mumbengegwi (Head, Multidisciplinary Research)

Appendix B: Research Permission Letter

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH SERVICES

Office of the Pro-Vice Chancellor: Research, Innovation & Development

University of Namibia, Private Bag 13301, Windhoek, Namibia
340 Mandume Ndemufuro Avenue, Pioneers Park, Office F223 - Fblock, Second Floor
☎ +264 61 206 4673; E-mail: mbul@unam.na; URL: <http://www.unam.edu.na>



RESEARCH PERMISSION LETTER

Date: 23/05/2022

Student Name: Metumo Hango

Student Number: 200538616

Programme: MASTERS ARTS SECURITY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

Approved Research Title: An Investigation into Illicit Drug Trafficking and Its Implication on National Security: A Case Study of Khomas Region, Namibia.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

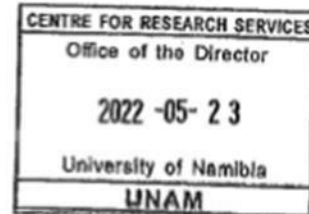
I hereby confirm that the above-mentioned student is registered at the University of Namibia for the programme indicated. The proposed study met all the requirements as stipulated in the University guidelines and has been approved by the relevant committees.

The proposal adheres to ethical principles as per attached Ethical Clearance Certificate. Permission is hereby granted to carry out the research as described in the approved proposal.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "AEE", is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. AEE Shikongo
Head: Postgraduate Support Services
Tel: +264 61 206 3129
E-mail: aeshikongo@unam.na



Appendix C: Namibian Police Force research Permission Letter



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



POL 716

Namibian Police Force

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY

Tel. No: (+264 61) 209 3111
Fax: No: (+264 61) 220 621

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL
Namibian Police Force
Private Bag 12024
Ausspannplatz
WINDHOEK
Namibia

Enquiries: Comm. Mafwila/ Insp Ngesheya

CONFIDENTIAL

Our Ref.: 8/3/1
Your Ref.:

16 August 2022

Mrs. M. Hango
P.O. Box 64179
WINDHOEK

Dear Madam

RE: REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO COLLECT DATA FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN THE NAMIBIAN POLICE FORCE: DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

1. The above mentioned subject matter has reference.
2. Your request to conduct academic research study in the Namibian Police Force titled: "*An Investigating into Illicit Drug Trafficking and its Implication on National Security: A case study of Khomas Region, Namibia*" is hereby approved.
3. You are urged to ensure that information that will be provided to you will be treated with higher level of confidentiality and will not be used for any other purpose except for only this academic research in compliance with condition reflected in the Ethical Clearance Certificate.
4. Your interest and willingness to carry out a research study within the Namibian Police Force is highly appreciated. Hence, this office would appreciate sharing your research findings with the Namibian Police Force.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,


S.H. NDEITUNGA, OMS : LT-GEN
INSPECTOR-GENERAL: NAMIBIAN POLICE FORCE



Appendix D: Instruments (Questions)

Interview questions for members of the Namibian Police Force's Drug Law Enforcement

Division and Community Police

1. Is the problem of drug trafficking present in Khomas Region?
2. How would you describe the problem of trafficking in Khomas Region?
3. What are the main factors or conditions responsible for drug trafficking in Khomas Region?
4. What security threats does drug trafficking pose on the society of Khomas Region?
5. What are challenges faced by law enforcement agents and agencies in addressing the increasing phenomena of drug trafficking in Khomas Region?
6. What gaps exist among the law enforcement agents and agencies in addressing the increasing phenomena of drug trafficking in Khomas Region?
7. What are the short-term measures that the Nampol has taken to address drug trafficking in Khomas Region?
8. What are the long-term measures that Nampol have taken to address drug trafficking in Khomas Region?
9. What is the level of inter-agency cooperation in the security sector in the fight against drugs trafficking?

Thank you so much for your time and participation. I hope this information will be a useful and reliable source of data to help with the successful completion of this study. Your contribution is highly valued.

Interview questions for security experts

1. What are the implications of drug trafficking on national security?
2. What challenges are faced by law enforcement agents and agencies in addressing the increasing phenomena of drug trafficking in Khomas Region?
3. What are the challenges faced by the state in addressing the increasing phenomena of drug trafficking in Windhoek?
4. Do you think enough effort has been made to address the issue of drug trafficking in Khomas Region?
5. What are the best practices in preventing and combating trafficking in drugs?
6. What are the possible solutions to the major challenges faced in the prevention and combating of drug trafficking in Khomas Region/ Namibia?
7. How is the future of Namibia's security, considering, the increasing incidences of drug trafficking?
8. Is there anything else that you would like to contribute?

Thank you so much for your time and participation. I hope this information will be a useful and reliable source of data to help with the successful completion of this study. Your contribution is highly valued.

Appendix E: Academic Language Editor Testimonial

12 July 2023

To whom it may concern

RE: Master's Thesis Language Editing – Ms Metumo Nangula Olye Hango

This letter serves to confirm that the Master's thesis titled *An investigation into illicit drug trafficking and its implications for national security: a case study of Khomas Region, Namibia* by Metumo Nangula Olye Hango was submitted to me for language editing.

The thesis was professionally language edited, and track changes and suggestions were made in the chapters. Changes and suggestions made relate to aspects of language use including: grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, diction, coherence and cohesion. The research content and the author's intentions were not altered during the editing process, and the author(s) has/have the authority to accept or reject my suggestions.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Selma Ashikuti

Email: ashikutisn@gmail.com

PhD in Education: Language Policy and Planning (*Reading University, UK*)

M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (*State University of New York, Stony Brook, USA*)

B.A. in English and French (*University of Namibia*)