

Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse in the Niger Delta

October 23-29, 2022a

Description

This weekly update highlights illicit drug trafficking and abuse in the Niger Delta. According to data (see map below), more than 60 incidents of illicit drug trafficking and abuse were reported in the Niger Delta between January 2019 and September 2022. Recent data shows the prevalence of illicit drug production and trafficking in the region. In September 2022, for instance, officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) reportedly arrested a 25-year-old pregnant female drug trafficker and seized 82 pinches of methamphetamine in Auchi town, Edo State. Also, in September, NDLEA officials reportedly arrested a 72-year-old male drug trafficker and seized 10 grams of cocaine in Oshimili North LGA, Delta State. In October, anti-narcotics officers reportedly arrested three drug traffickers and seized 690 kilograms of cannabis at Ipele forest in Owo LGA, Ondo State. Few days ago, NDLEA officials reportedly arrested 10 drug trafficking suspects, destroyed cannabis farms and confiscated over 4,800 kilograms of cannabis at different locations in Akoko Edo, Ovia South-West, and Umunwonde LGAs in Edo State.

Why it Matters

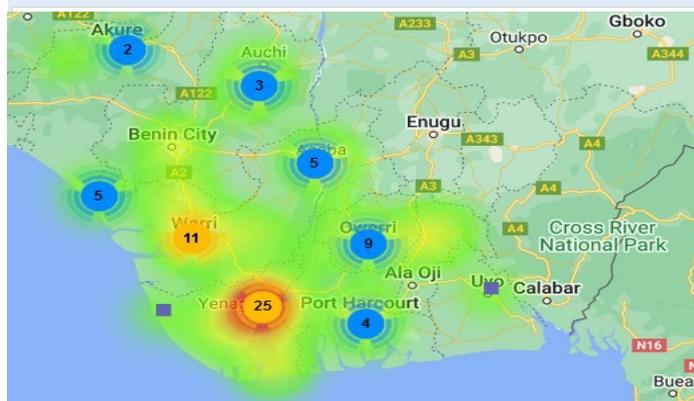
The volume of illicit drugs recently confiscated by law enforcement agencies is an indication of the prevalence of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse in the region. The growing prevalence of illicit drugs could pose serious threats to public health, security, and legitimate economic activities. This could bring about devastating socio-political and economic consequences in the Niger Delta and beyond.

Social: Drug abuse could cause devastating psychosocial and health problems for society. It poses serious health and safety risks to individuals including mental health disorder, emotional instability, reckless behaviour, and loss of self-control. The production of illicit drugs such as methamphetamine could cause serious environmental damage including chemical pollution. Illicit drug trafficking and abuse could also fuel criminal violence and intensify sexual and domestic violence, and other psychopharmacological crimes. Moreover, widespread drug abuse could lead to higher rates of homelessness and destitution.

Economic: The production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs could negatively impact the local economy. Drug trafficking can distort the local economy by diverting resources from legitimate businesses into criminal networks. The health impact of drug abuse could result in manpower and productivity losses. As a clandestine business, trading in illicit drugs could reduce government's revenue from taxation.

Political: Illicit drug trafficking and abuses could have adverse impacts on politics and governance. It could encourage hooliganism and violence during elections. Profits from drug trafficking could also facilitate organized criminal violence and intensify insecurity in the region.

Incidents Heat Map of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of illicit drug trafficking and abuse in the Niger Delta from January 2019 - September 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs is increasingly becoming prevalent in the Niger Delta. Stakeholders should work with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), and State governments to establish an observatory on illicit drug production, trafficking and usage in the region. Stakeholders should also collaborate with media outfits and religious bodies to intensify ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the risks of illicit drug abuse.

Contact Us

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Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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