



**World Customs  
Organization**

# The WCO Strategy to Combat Substandard, Falsified and Counterfeit Medical Products

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Ootam Persand  
[ootampersand@gmail.com](mailto:ootampersand@gmail.com)

**Workshop on Substandard and Falsified Veterinary Products**

4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

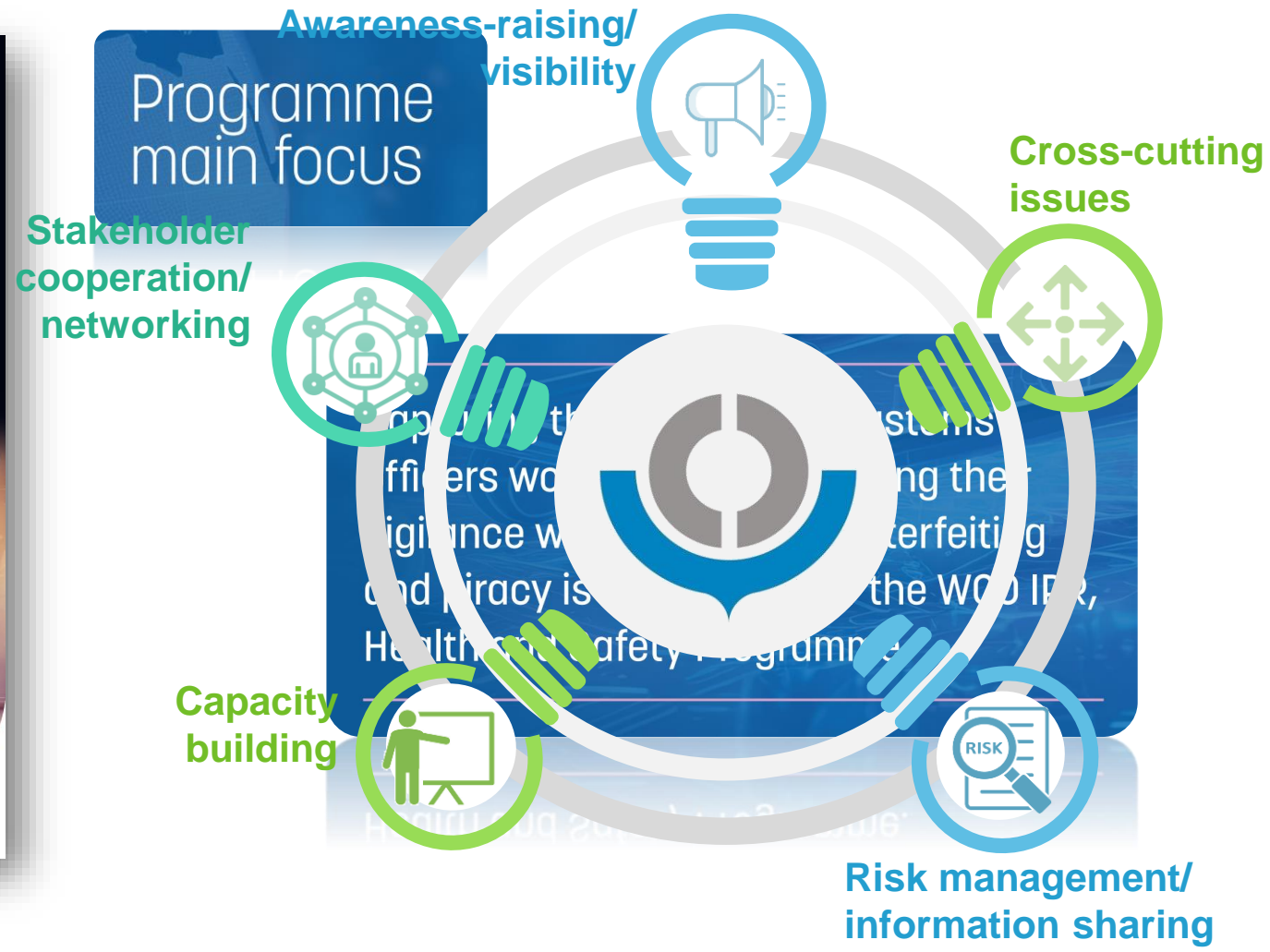
# WCO IN BRIEF



Independent **Intergovernmental body** whose mission is to **enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs** administrations



# WCO IPR, HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMME STRATEGY



## Main tools/ instruments



Help members with:

- targeting and information exchange,
- to deal with the unique challenges posed by e-commerce and environmental crimes.



WCO Model Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Legislation.



Handbook on Legal Measures and Practices against infringement of intellectual property rights (IPR).



IPR Enforcement Self-Assessment Tool for WCO Members.



Case studies and risk indicators to identify IPR, health and safety infringing goods related to e-commerce.



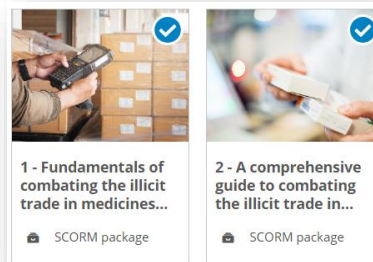
Practical guidelines on “Environmentally safe storage and destruction of intellectual property infringing goods”.



IPR CENcomm, including the Right Holders’ Corner and the pre-arrival template.



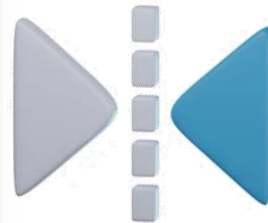
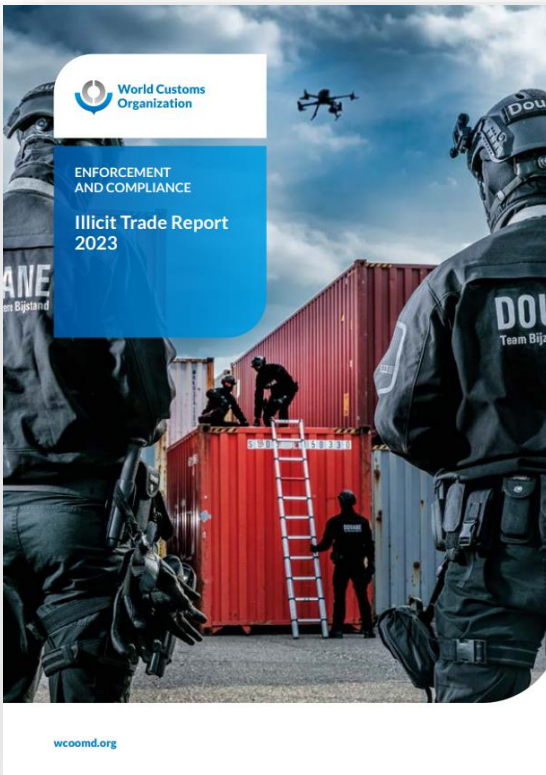
CLiKC! E-learning module on combating illicit medicines and counterfeit or substandard medical supplies related to COVID-19 and other pandemics.



# WCO ILLICIT TRADE REPORT 2023 Presentation



2023



## THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE OF IPR VIOLATIONS

# WCO ILLICIT TRADE REPORT 2023

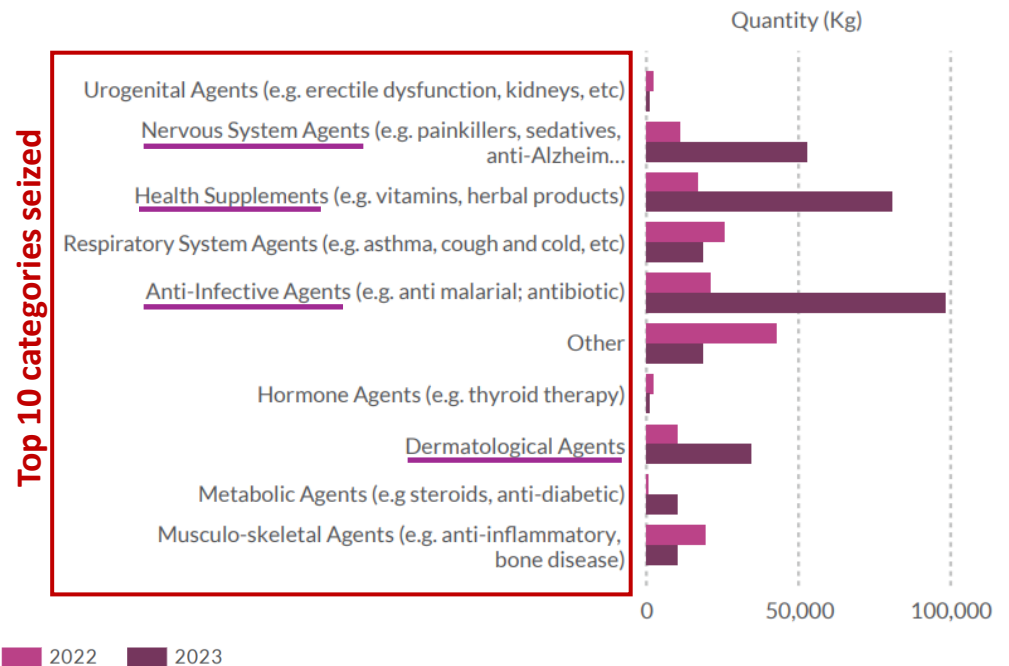
## Seizure Data and Trends



2023



✓ **ILLICIT MEDICINES:** reported seizures amounted to **4,434** with more than **158 million pieces** and **338 tons**,

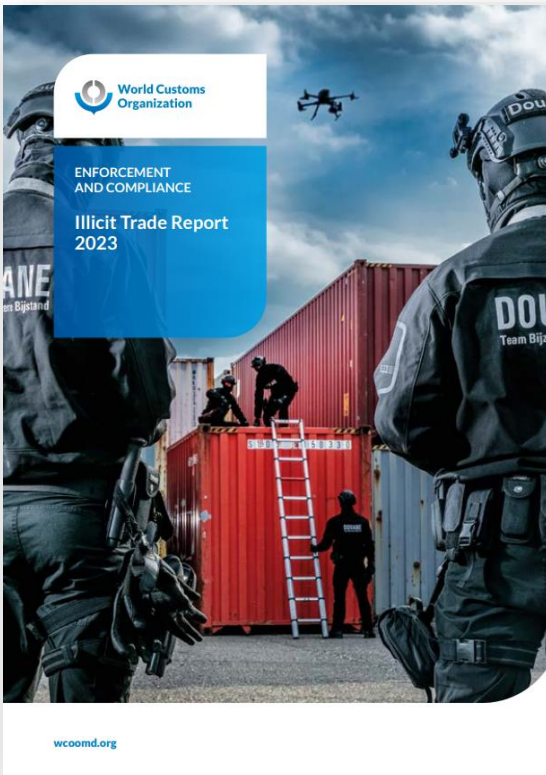


# WCO ILLICIT TRADE REPORT 2023

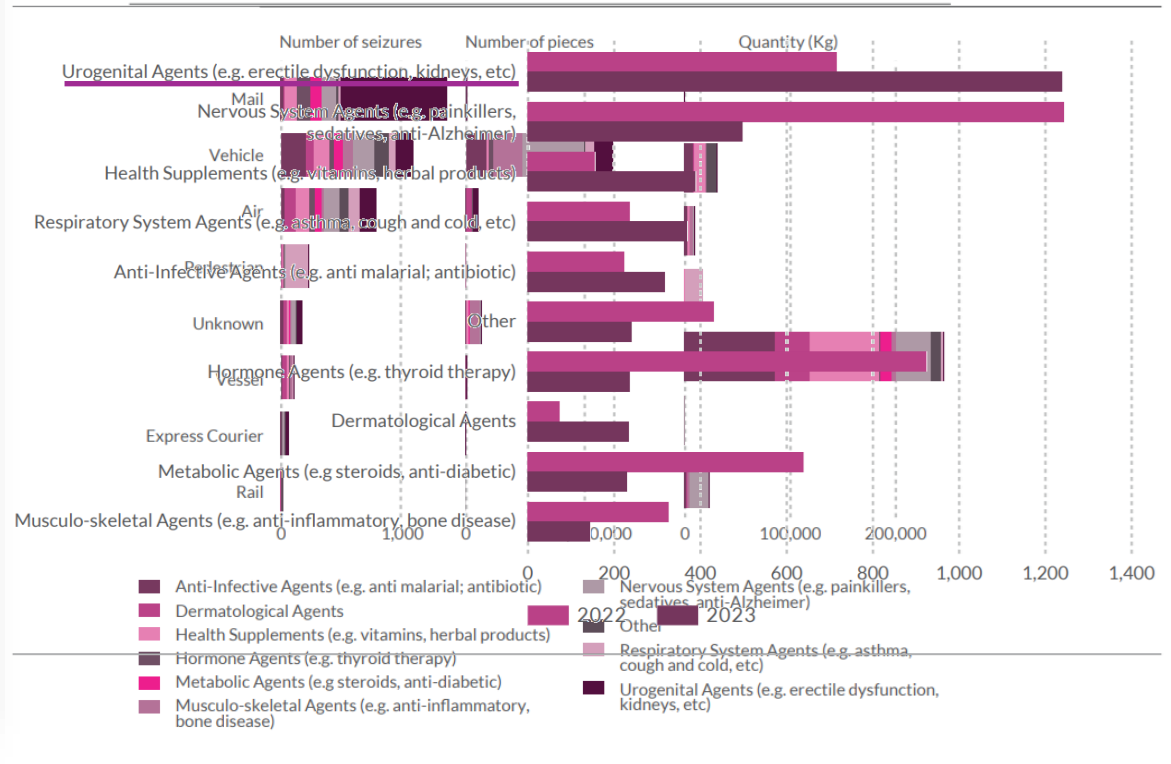
## ITR Key Figures



2023



**Figure 10:** Number of medical products seizures by type, 2022-2023  
**Figure 12:** Number of medical products seizures and quantity seized by type and mode of transport, 2022-2023



# WCO ILLICIT TRADE REPORT 2023

## Seizure Data and Trends

### Medical products trafficking flows by region in 2023



WE was significant both as a **departure** and **destination**

304 flows departing there (9.2%), 225 internal flows (6.8%)

286 flows (8.6%)

**Major source**, with 758 flows (22.8%),

Internal flows within AP totalled 240 (7.2%).

WE received 904 flows (27.2%), making it **the leading destination.**

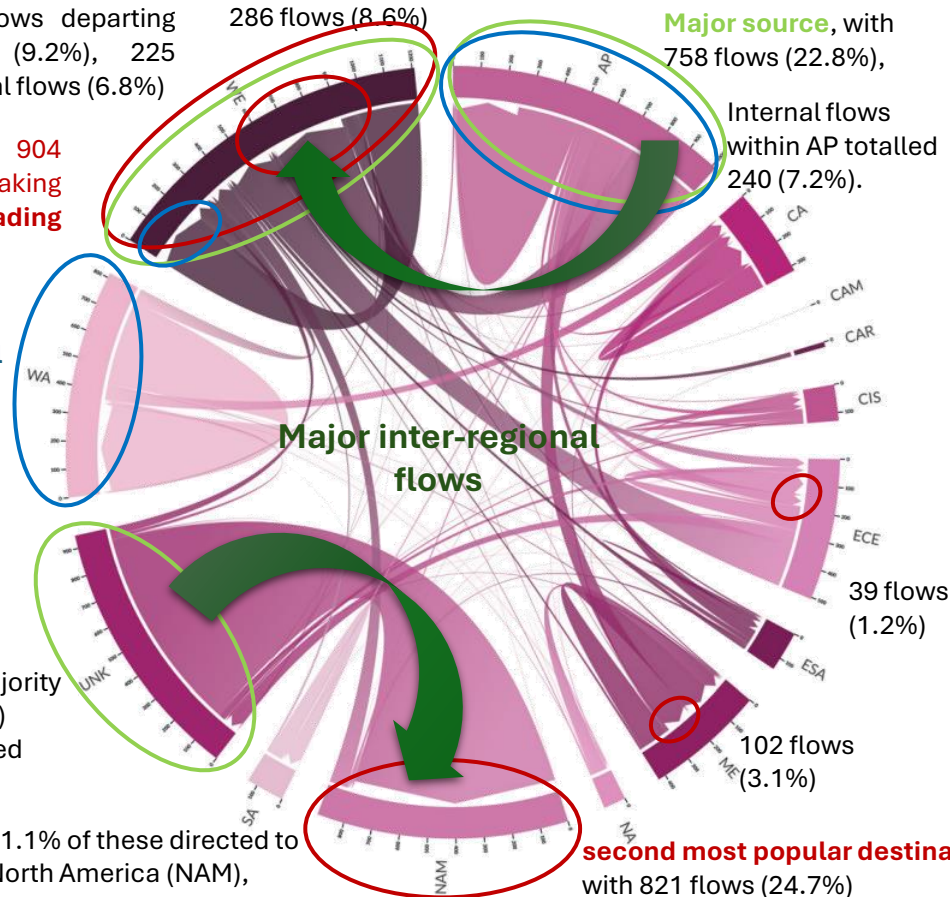
Highest **intra-regional** flow, with 335 cases (10.1%)

**Major inter-regional flows**

The majority (26.5%) departed

91.1% of these directed to North America (NAM), accounting for 802 cases

**second most popular destination** with 821 flows (24.7%)







# STOP III: Key figures



Key figures

STOP III

Findings on e-commerce

894 cases

involving

1488 seizures

were reported by

48 Members

43.5 million medical pieces



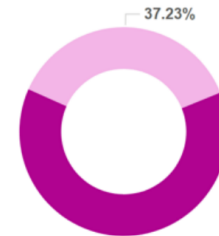
1.1 million IPR pieces



Others

A total of more than 45 million pieces

E-commerce seizures breakdown



# STOP III: Case Studies



Qatar Customs seized 2,380 painkiller (analgesic) tablets. They were concealed inside food packing and were wrapped in black plastic sheets. The tablets were detected by X-ray

# CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD





Thank you

**Ootam Persand**

WCO Accredited Technical Operational Adviser in IPR

