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# Trends in the Area of Drugs

**Billy Batware, UNODC**



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## DRUG USE

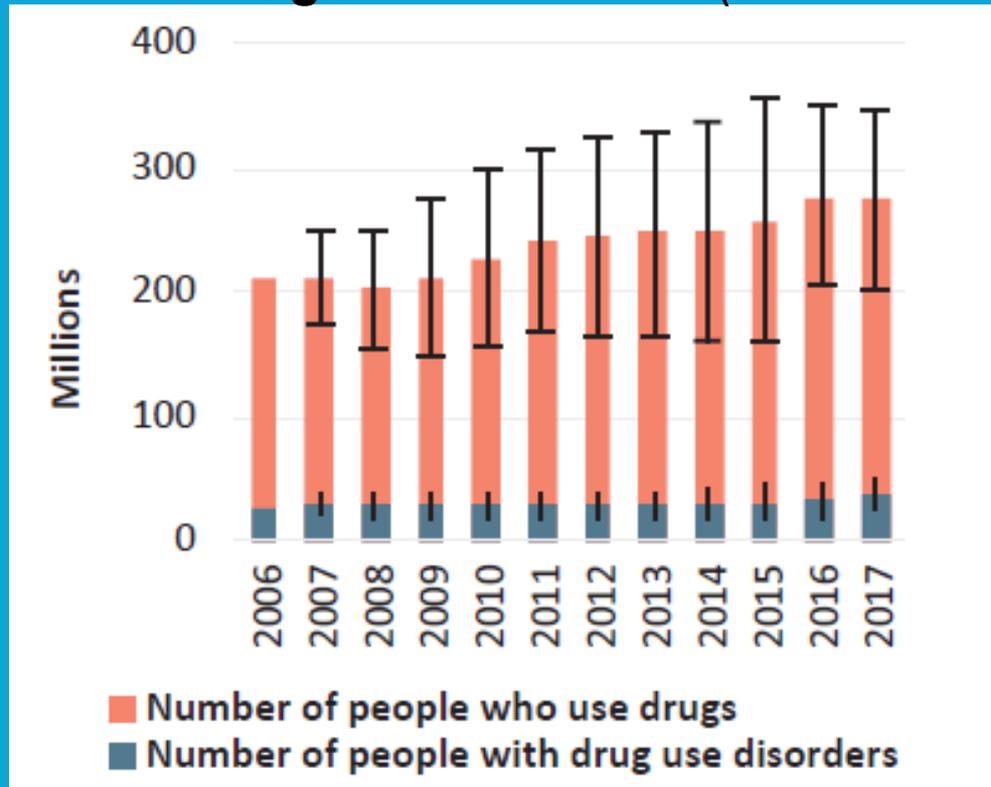


“Drug markets are evolving at unprecedented speed. The range of substances and combinations available to users has never been wider, and the amounts produced have never been greater. [...]. Drug-related deaths are on the rise. At the same time, access to controlled drugs for medical purposes remains a dramatic problem in most low- and middle-income countries.”

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

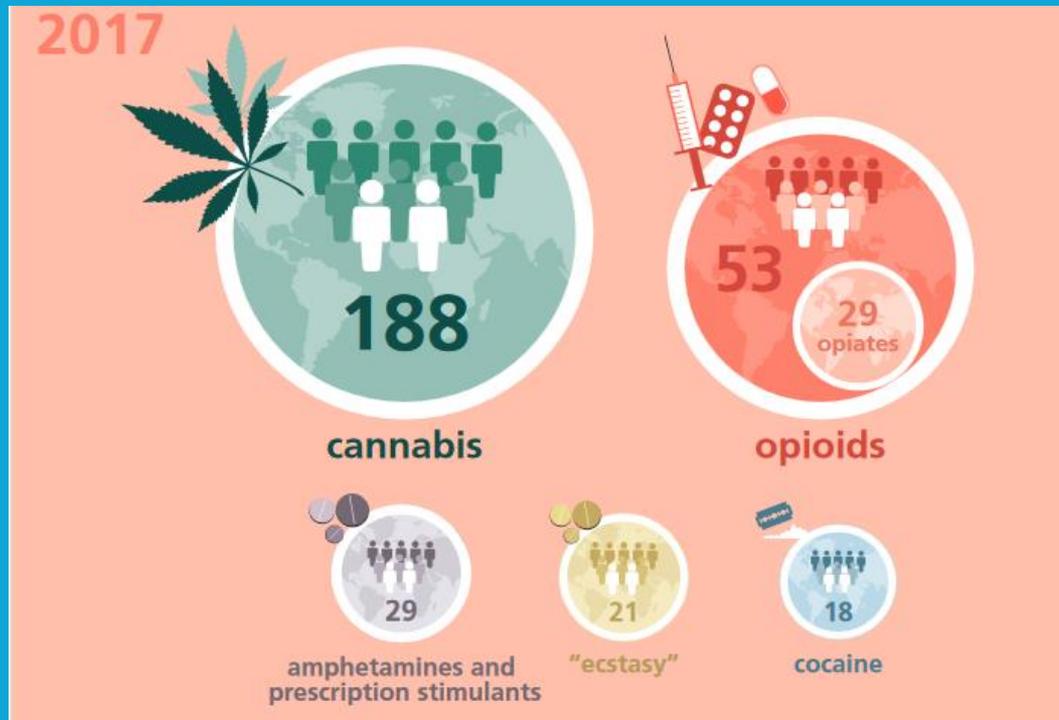
# DRUG USE

Global trends in the **estimated number of people who use drugs and those with drug use disorders (2006–2017)**



Globally, some **35 million** people, up from an earlier estimate of 30.5 million, suffer from drug use disorders and require treatment services.

# NUMBER OF PAST-YEAR DRUG USERS



Among the **estimated 271 million past-year users of any drug**, some 35.0 million, or almost 13 per cent, are estimated to suffer from drug use disorders.

Across all regions, between 43 and 83 per cent of people under the age of 20 reported cannabis as the primary drug of concern.

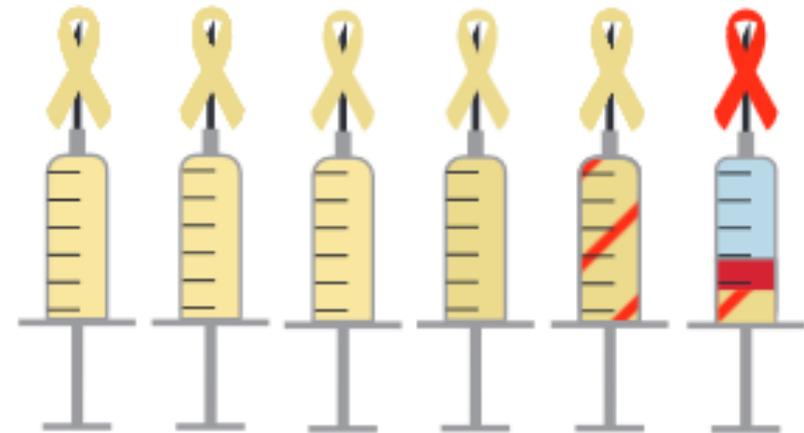
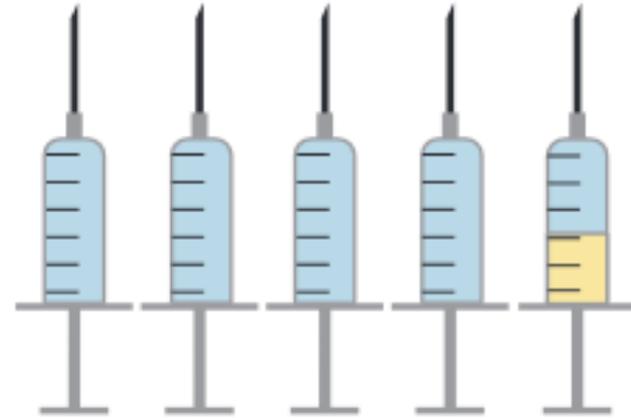


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## HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

More than 11 million  
people inject drugs

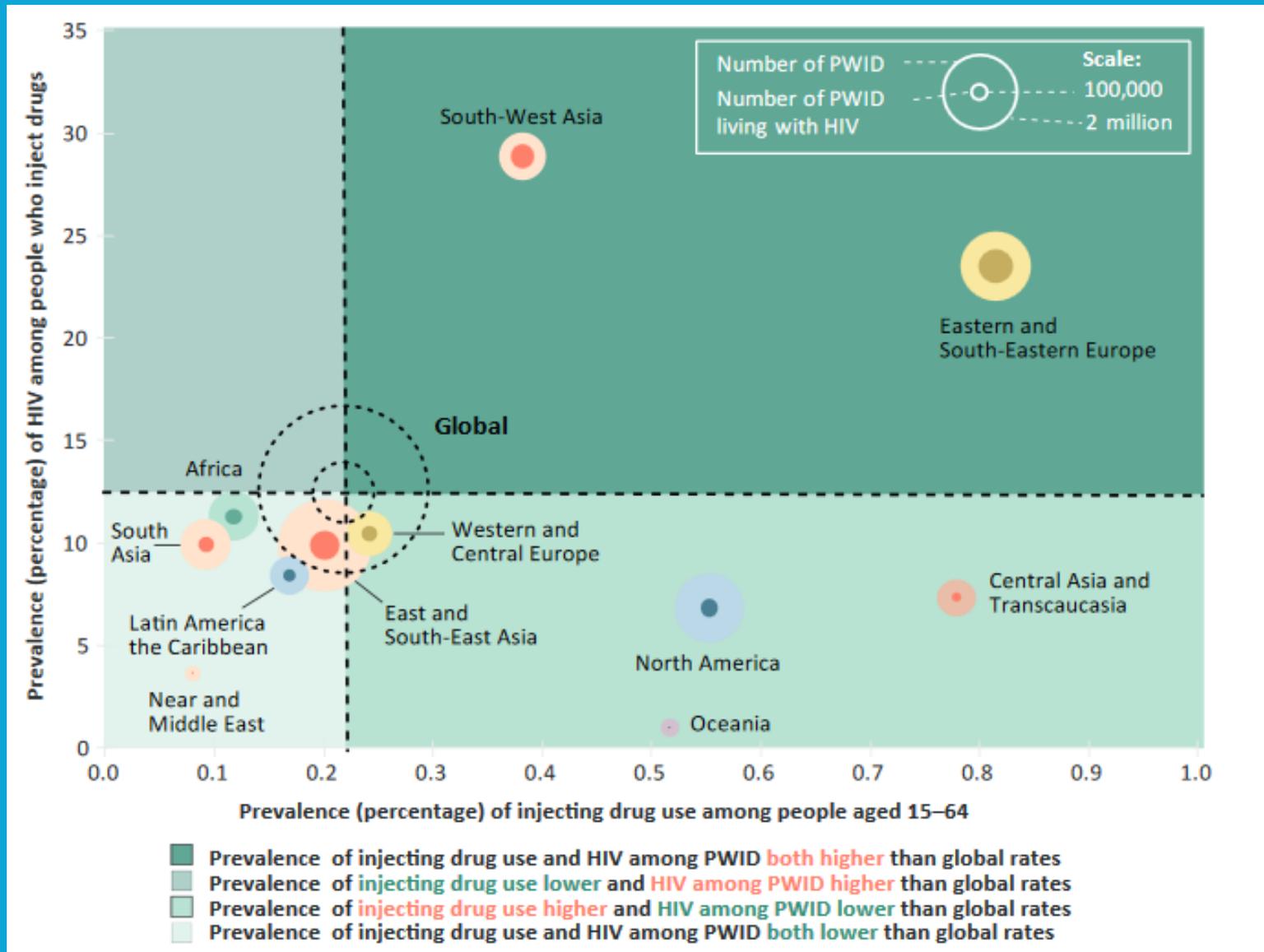


**1.4 million** people who inject drugs  
are living with **HIV**

**5.6 million** are living with hepatitis C

**1.2 million** are living with both  
hepatitis C and **HIV**

# REGIONAL PATTERNS IN INJECTING DRUG USE & HIV





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# DRUG USE AMONG WOMEN



Men are three times more likely than women to use cannabis, cocaine and amphetamines, whereas women are more likely than men to have a non-medical use of prescription opioids and tranquilizers.



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# PEOPLE IN DRUG TREATMENT



For people with drug use disorders, the availability of and access to treatment services remains **limited at the global level**, as **only one in seven people with drug use disorders receive treatment each year.**



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# PEOPLE IN DRUG TREATMENT



Substance use by women tends to progress to drug use disorders in a shorter time period than by men **because women may be afraid to get help or seek treatment** for their drug use.



## PRISONS AND DRUGS

### Use of any drugs during incarceration

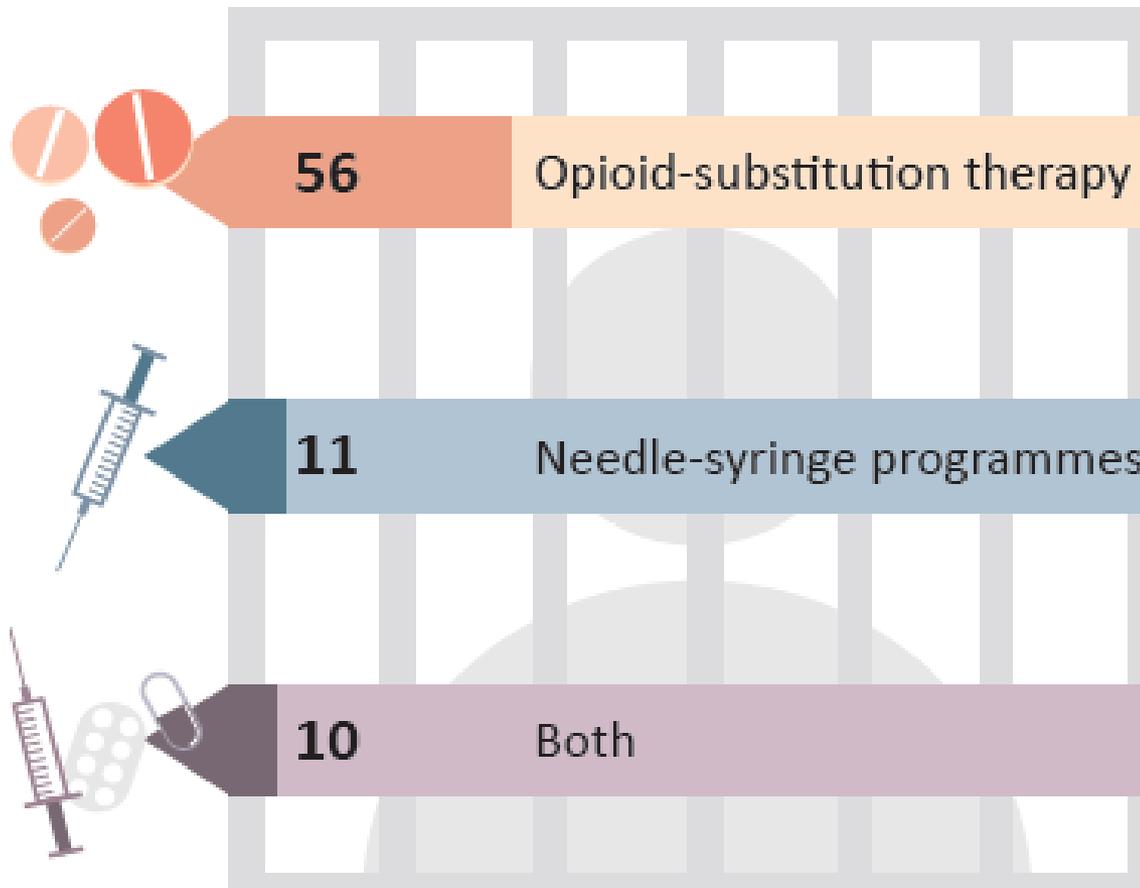


**One in three people held in prisons world-wide report that they have used drugs at least once while incarcerated (31 per cent), with one in five reporting past-month use (19 per cent).**



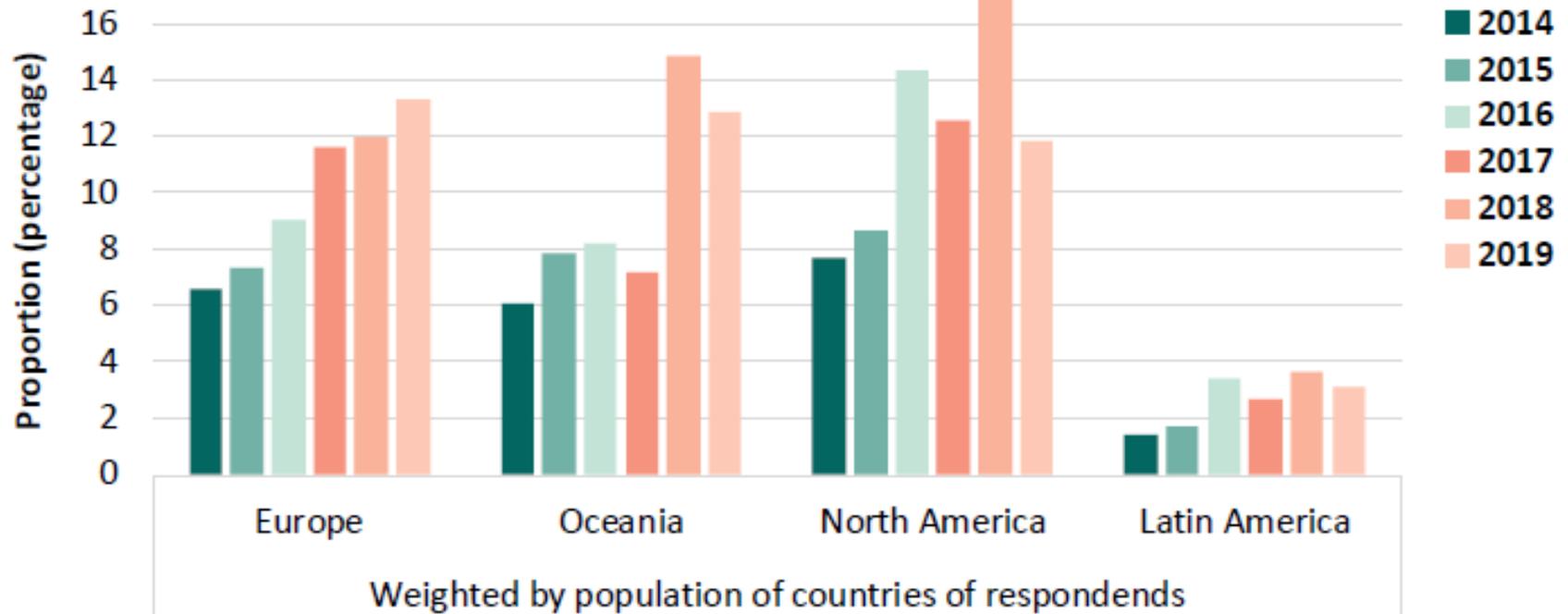
## PRISONS AND DRUGS

Numbers of countries implementing interventions in at least one prison





## DRUGS IN THE DARKNET

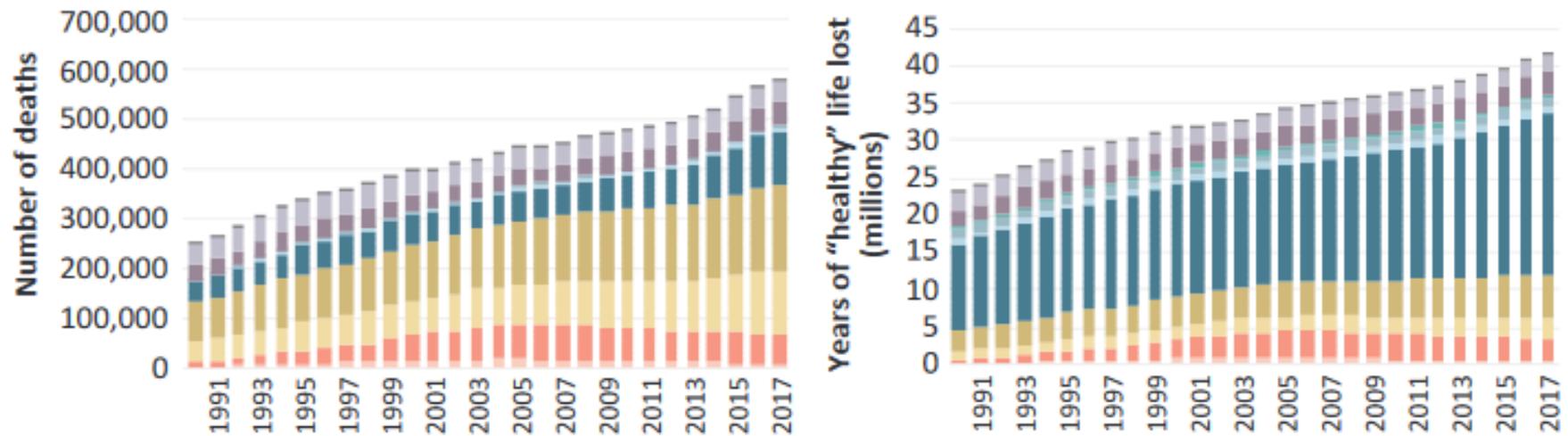


Internet users using drugs who purchased drugs over the darknet **doubled** from 4.7 per cent in January 2014 to 10.7 per cent in January 2019, with increases found in Europe, Oceania, North America and Latin America.



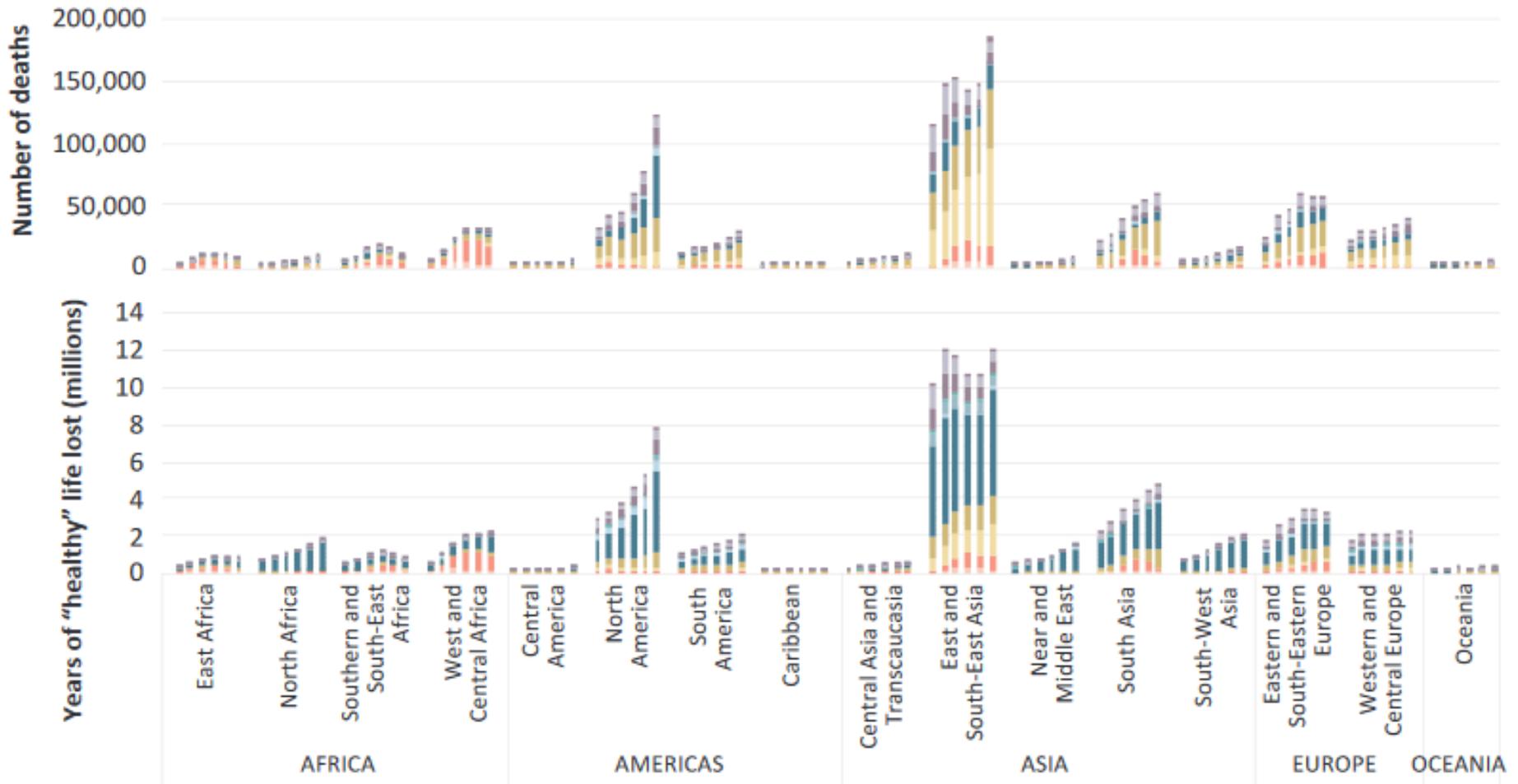
# Mortality and morbidity attributable to the use of drugs

**FIG. 7** Deaths and years of “healthy” life lost (DALYs) attributable to the use of drugs, 1990–2017



Globally, in 2017, there were **585,000** deaths and **42 million** years of “healthy” life lost as a result of the use of drugs. Most of the burden of disease is among males, who contribute to **72 per cent** of deaths and **70 per cent** of DALYs.

# Mortality and morbidity attributable to the use of drugs (per region)





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# A MULTISTAKEHOLDER APPROACH: Prevention of illicit drug use and drug use disorders and promoting healthier populations

PREVENTION

*is key*



Effective prevention starts early and is based on the best available scientific evidence. Many sectors have a role to play, primarily the health sector, but the education sector can also play a key role in protecting children and young people from substance use, and at the same time can promote an environment where seeking treatment for problematic drug use is not stigmatized.

# A MULTISTAKEHOLDER APPROACH: Prevention of illicit drug use and drug use disorders and promoting healthier populations

SDG Target 3.5 “Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol” defines the importance of providing prevention and treatment services in the context of sustainable development.





## Effective Interventions and Policies

- **In infancy and early childhood:** prenatal and infancy visitation, interventions targeting pregnant women, and early childhood education.
- **For middle childhood:** parenting skills programmes, personal and social skills education, classroom environment improvement programmes, [...].
- **In early adolescence:** prevention education based on social competence and influence, school policies on substance use, school-wide programmes to enhance school attachment, [...].
- **In later adolescence and adulthood:** brief intervention, tobacco and alcohol policies, as well as multi-component programmes in the workplace, in the community and in entertainment venues.

# Cost-effective of prevention and treatment and return on investment



Investing in prevention and control of drug use and drug use disorders produce significant returns: [...]. **Every single US\$ invested in effective treatment of substance use disorders can return to societies between \$4 and \$12.97.** This directly contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals.



## Proportionate and effective policies and responses to drug use

- The international drug control conventions expressly allow the **provision of measures such as treatment and education as alternatives** to conviction or punishment for personal consumption offences and for all other relevant offences in “appropriate cases of a minor nature”.
- The provision of **evidence-based treatment and care services to drug-using offenders, as an alternative to incarceration**, has been shown to substantially increase recovery and reduce recidivism.



## UN directions for action

- [...]
- **Promote alternatives to conviction and punishment in appropriate cases, including the decriminalization of drug possession for personal use, and promote the principle of proportionality; address prison overcrowding and over-incarceration by people accused of drug crimes; support implementation of effective criminal justice responses that ensure legal guarantees and due process safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings and ensure timely access to legal aid and the right to a fair trial; and support practical measures to prohibit arbitrary arrest and detention and torture**
- [...]





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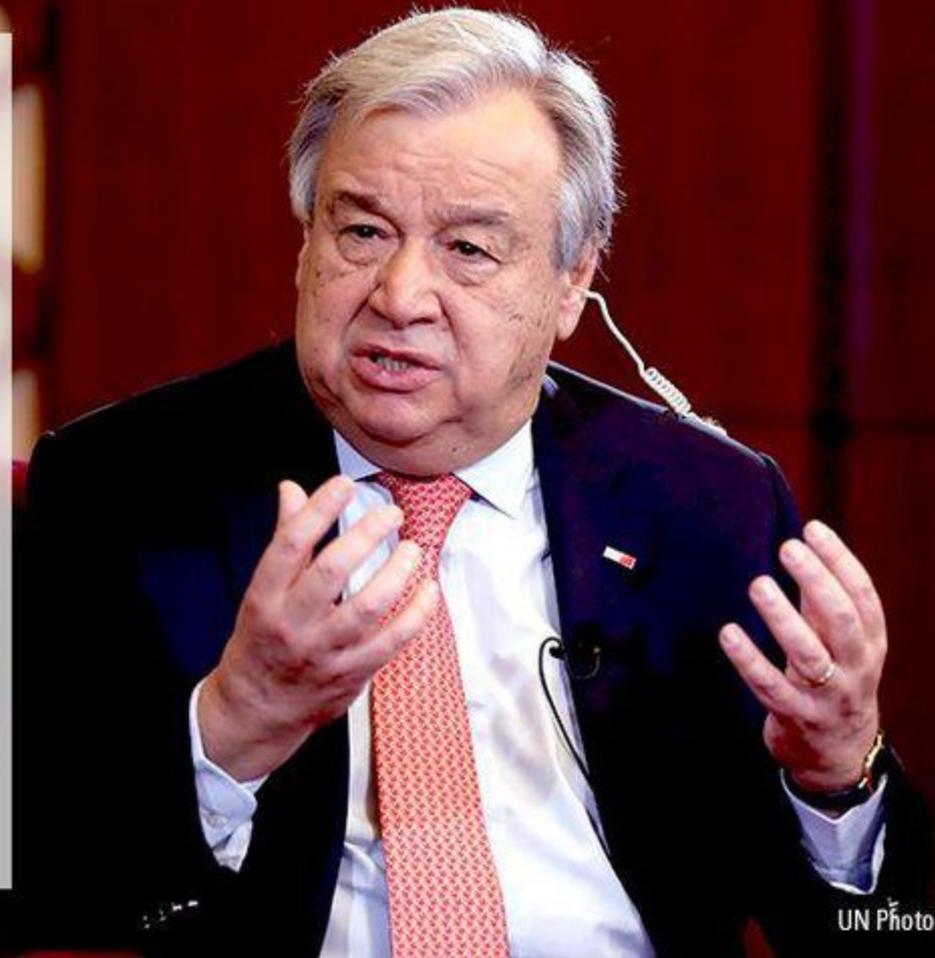
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"Families, schools and communities play a crucial role, especially in supporting youth who may be affected by drug abuse with terrible and long-lasting consequences. Let us work with and for young people to prevent drug use and help young people lead healthier lives and navigate life choices with strength and resilience."

*António Guterres  
UN Secretary-General*

#Health Justice  
Justice Health



UN Photo



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**THANK YOU!**



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# UNODC Work with Communities and Civil Society in Addressing the World Drug Problem

**Billy Batware, UNODC**



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## UNGASS on the World Drug Problem 2016



Member States' recognition of the importance of civil society in addressing the 'world drug problem' was recently demonstrated in the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document, where civil society is reflected eleven times in total. For example, **Member States resolved to take necessary steps to implement the recommendations** in close partnership with other stakeholders, including civil society, through the promotion of knowledge and research, cooperation on effective drug prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, harm reduction, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, among others.



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# Seven Chapters with Recommendations from the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document

- 1. Demand Reduction**
- 2. Access to Medicine**
- 3. Supply Reduction**
- 4. Human Rights**
- 5. Evolving Realities**
- 6. International Cooperation**
- 7. Alternative Development**



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## The 2019 Ministerial Declaration

**“Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem”**



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# The 2019 Ministerial Declaration and Civil Society

As in the UNGASS Outcome Document, **Member States recognized the importance of civil society as an important partner in addressing and countering the world drug problem.** Furthermore, the Ministerial Declaration encouraged the CND to hold inclusive discussions on effective strategies to address and counter the world drug problem at all levels, involving relevant stakeholders such as civil society.

## DEMAND REDUCTION AND RELATED MEASURES

Member States reiterated their resolve, in the framework of existing policy documents, inter alia, to [...] **strengthen effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives covering prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures [...].**

## HUMAN RIGHTS, YOUTH, CHILDREN, WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES

Member States reaffirmed the **commitment to a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based approach to the world drug problem, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, and recognized the importance of appropriately mainstreaming a gender and age perspective [...], with a particular focus on women, children and youth, [...].**



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Communities = Families  
**LISTENING AND PARENTING**



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**Family is key!**

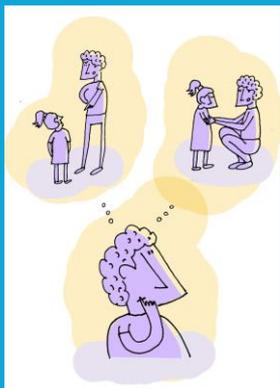
## Healthy parenting is essential to early child development

- Parenting supports a child's adjustment beyond their own individual resilience (Betancourt & Khan, 2008)
- Harsh, inconsistent parenting predicts later poor outcomes: drug use, low school attainment, delinquency, poor mental health
- **Parents need support in all contexts**





## Effective Family Skills Programmes: what are they?



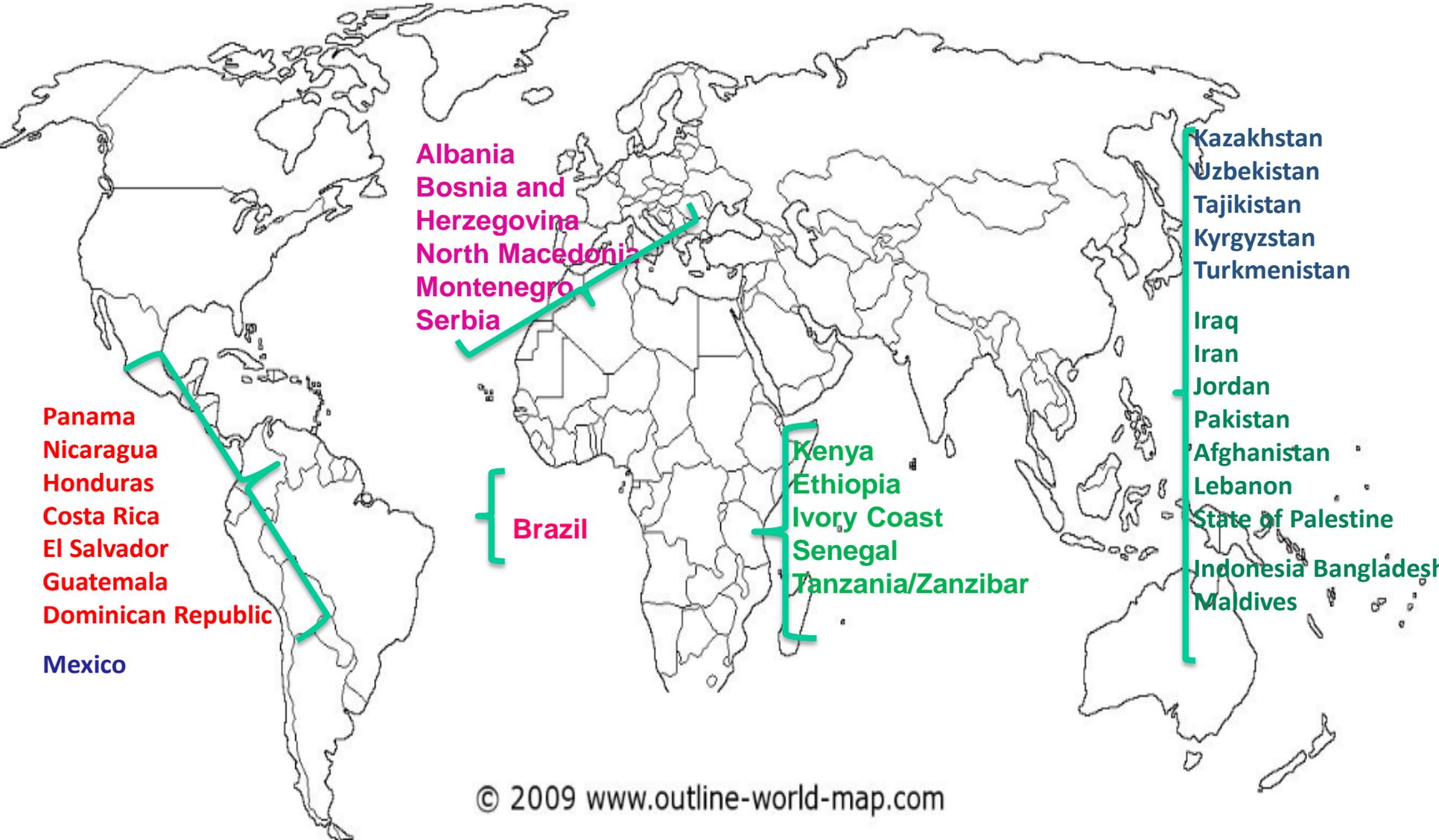
- Programmes that aim to strengthen family protective factors such as **communication, trust, problem-solving skills** and **conflict resolution** that are relevant to their culture

- Often include opportunities for **parents and children to spend positive time together**, as ways to strengthen the bonding and attachment between the two

- Focus on **relationships** and **behaviour change** and **PRACTICE**



## 34 countries currently piloting family skills globally with UNODC





## Implementation of Strengthening Family Programme 10-14 in SEE region

Country in SEE	Total families	Total Family members	Total Fac	Total trainers	Total beneficiaries
Serbia	513	1206	139	26	1623
Albania	190	570	54	17	732
Montenegro	160	370	35	5	475
Bosnia & Heregovina	180	443	55	6	608
North Macedonia	121	267	68	4	471



## Family United

- Open source programme for low and middle income countries
- Developed in Indonesia and Bangladesh, where it will be piloted, thanks to Japan's support
- Tailored for families with children aged 8-15 years old
- Targets children and their respective caregivers through joint sessions.
- Brief in number of sessions and duration for families
- Brief in the requirements for facilitator training
- Delivered by facilitators with minimal experience
- Requires minimal cost for implementation.
- **Will be implemented in SEE in 2020 together with the OSCE mission**



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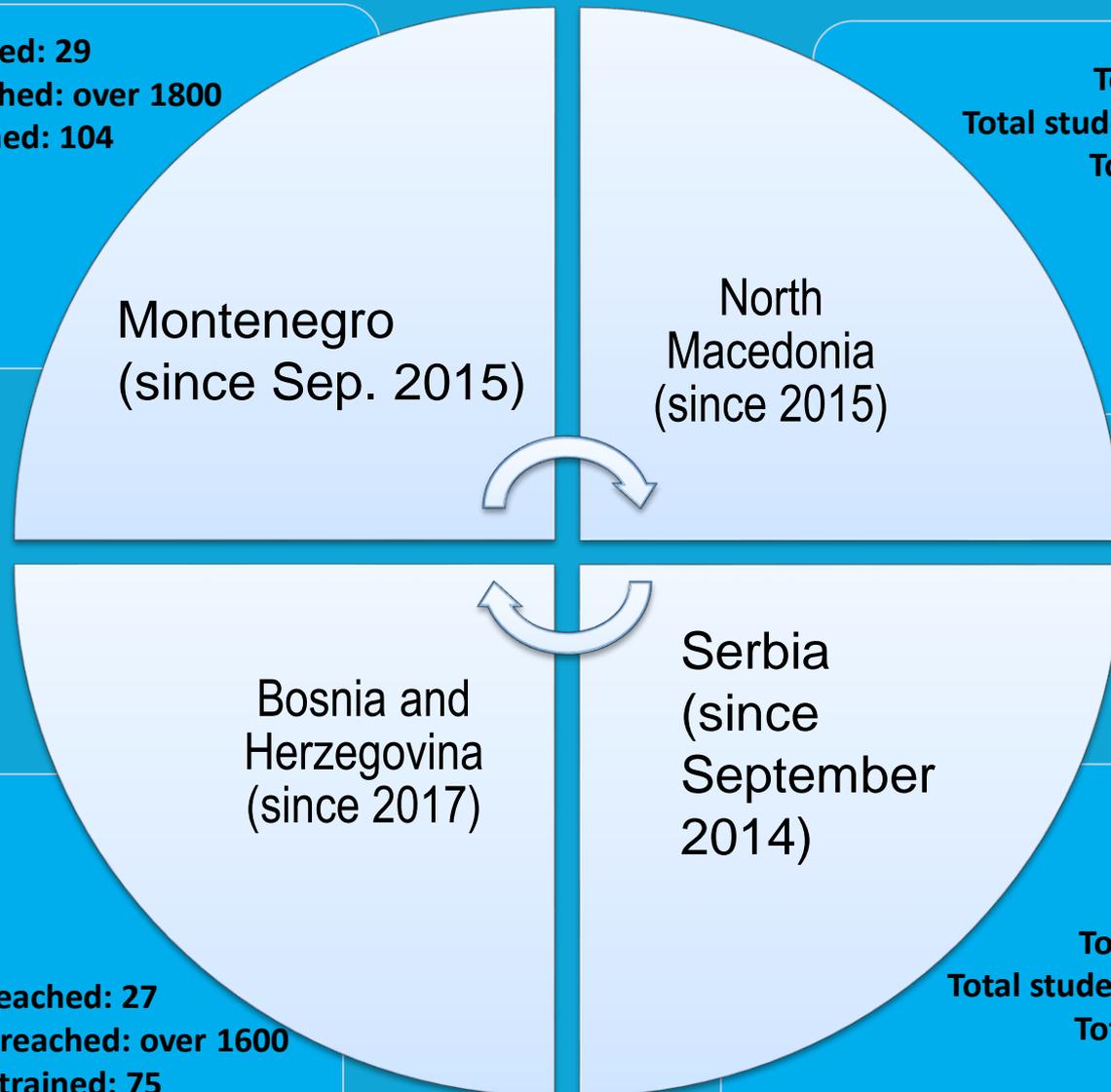
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**EXAMPLES OF UNODC WORK WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN  
ADDRESSING THE MAIN ASPECTS OF THE WORLD  
DRUG PROBLEM IN LINE WITH THE 2019 MINSITERIAL  
DECLARATION**



## Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence Programme

- Evidence-based drug use prevention programme targeting school population by addressing developmental factors with adolescents
  - 40 programme sessions
  - Addresses the strengthening of social emotional skills with students to develop resiliency skills to refuse and delay onset of drug use.
  - Implementation in SEE results from collaboration between Lions Clubs International Foundation and UNODC.
- Sphere of influence:
  - Montenegro (Ministry of Education)
  - North Macedonia (Ministry of Education and Science)
  - Serbia (Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development)
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina (Ministry of Security and local line Ministries)



**Total schools reached: 29**  
**Total students reached: over 1800**  
**Total teachers trained: 104**  
**Total trainers: 2**

**Total schools reached: 57**  
**Total students reached: over 1800**  
**Total teachers trained: 96**  
**Total trainers: 2**

**Total schools reached: 27**  
**Total students reached: over 1600**  
**Total teachers trained: 75**  
**Total trainers: 4**

**Total schools reached: 31**  
**Total students reached: over 2300**  
**Total teachers trained: 96**  
**Total trainers: 3**



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## UNODC Listen First Campaign



Listening to children and youth  
is the first step to help them  
grow healthy and safe



Listening to children and youth  
is the first step to help them  
grow healthy and safe

**LISTEN FIRST** – is a UNODC **initiative to increase support for prevention of drug use** that is based on science and is thus an effective investment in the well-being of children and youth, their families and their communities.

# UNODC Listen First Campaign



Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe



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## Policy Makers



**Listen FIRST**  
Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe

**FACTS FOR POLICY MAKERS**

Children are the most vulnerable group in society. They are also the most affected by violence and drugs. This brochure provides information on the impact of violence and drugs on children and youth, and offers practical advice on how to protect them.

## Parents



**Listen FIRST**  
Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe

**FACTS FOR PARENTS**

Parents have the most influence on their children. They can help their children grow up healthy and safe by listening to them and providing a safe and supportive environment.

## Teachers



**Listen FIRST**  
Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe

**FACTS FOR TEACHERS**

Teachers play a crucial role in the lives of their students. They can help their students grow up healthy and safe by listening to them and providing a safe and supportive environment.

## Prevention Workers



**Listen FIRST**  
Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe

**FACTS FOR PREVENTION WORKERS**

Prevention workers play a crucial role in helping children and youth grow up healthy and safe. They can help them by listening to them and providing a safe and supportive environment.

## Health Workers



**Listen FIRST**  
Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe

**FACTS FOR HEALTH WORKERS**

Health workers play a crucial role in helping children and youth grow up healthy and safe. They can help them by listening to them and providing a safe and supportive environment.



## Inspiration & Directions

- Affinity and need for family skills initiative in LMIC expanding
- Open sourced programmes are becoming available (selective/universal)
- Well trained lay facilitators can implement with fidelity
- Light touch interventions can be effective
- These can help reach many families in need
- Intersections with multi-strategies & global initiatives makes them amenable to raise interest of several stakeholders.
- Supportive to several SDG targets helping healthy and safe development of children
  
- **HELP US USE THEM!**



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# Thank you!

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