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Transnational Organized Crime in Africa Trends and Approaches to Response

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Defining Transnational Organized Crime

Organized criminal groups
have specific **intents and purposes**:

three or more people

existing for a period of time

acting in concert with the aim of
committing at least one crime punishable
by four years' incarceration

in order to obtain (directly or indirectly) a
financial or other material benefit.

Organized crime is
transnational when it is...

planned, prepared, committed, or has significant
consequences in multiple states.

Source: United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto,
<https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>

Actors, Markets, Resilience

5 Types of Criminal Actors

- State-embedded
- Criminal networks
- Foreign actors
- Mafia-style actors

15 Criminal Markets

- Human trafficking
- Human smuggling
- Extortion/protection racketeering
- Arms trafficking
- Trade in counterfeits
- Trade in excisable goods
- Flora crimes
- Fauna crimes
- Non-renewable resource crimes
- Heroin trade
- Cocaine trade
- Cannabis trade
- Synthetic drug trade
- Cyber-dependent crimes
- Financial crimes

12 Resilience Factors

- Political leadership and governance
- Government transparency and accountability
- International cooperation
- National policies and laws
- Judicial system and detention
- Law enforcement
- Territorial integrity
- Anti-money laundering
- Economic and regulatory capacity
- Prevention
- Victim and witness support
- Non-state actors

Source: *Organised Crime Index Africa 2023*, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, <https://africa.ocindex.net/>

Coordination

Process of making different parts of a system and its component actors and organizations work together more effectively.

- Can be a **precursor to cooperation on strategic goals**
- When done well, generates a **whole that is more than the sum of its parts**
- When done well, **avoids competition and increases complementarity**

Sources: B. Guy Peters, "The Challenge of Policy Coordination," *Policy Design and Practice* 1:1, 2018, -1-11, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/25741292.2018.1437946>; Charles Ukeje & Wullsom Mvomo Ela, African Approaches to Maritime Security - The Gulf of Guinea, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Abuja, 2013, <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/nigeria/10398.pdf>



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