

<b>Forum:</b>	General Assembly 3
<b>Issue:</b>	Measures to eliminate illegal medical black markets
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## Introduction

Illegal black markets have become a severe issue as the number has massively increased. The black-market trading system has become popular in recent years, as it avoids all government regulations. Legal medical markets of selling prescription drug are very profitable and highly regulate, thus it appears in both developed and developing countries. Sedatives and hypnotic are frequently sold on the black markets because of their jubilant effects. The severity of this issue is that some of the medicinal quality of these medications can leave consumers to have inevitable bacterial infection or chronic infection. One reason of the illegal black market's existence is that the country's economic crisis has resulted shortage of crucial medicine. Thus, reaching out for the black market is one of their unprofitable accesses. These do not only relate to medicine but more severely, it relates to illegal transplants. This has become more prevalent as people cannot afford their daily needs, thus selling their kidneys at risk.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Illegal

Not according to or authorized by law, also not sanctioned by official rules (Merriam-Webster)

### Black Market

A black market is economic activity that takes place outside government-sanctioned channels. Black market transactions usually occur "under the table" to let participants avoid government price controls or taxes. (Investopedia)

## Price Controls

Price controls are government-mandated legal minimum or maximum prices set for specified goods. They are usually implemented as a means of direct economic intervention to manage the affordability of certain goods. (Investopedia)

## SPIVS

Suspected Persons and Itinerant Vagrants. People who were most associated with the black markets were commonly known as “spivs”. This was thought at the time to be the VIPS access. (History Learning)

## Background Information

### Historical Information

The black market was introduced during World War Two as a response to rationing. These became the driving force in cities where the rich people were located. It first initiated in the German U-boats in the Atlantic. They greatly restricted the amount of food that came into the country, therefore the government had to come up with something so that everyone got a fair share regarding of food. This led gap between markets, thus the black markets started to get involved. Both cigarettes and alcohol were never rationed because of the shortage. However, these commodities were available through black markets. The Ministry of Food investigated into the black markets and all the suspects of being involved had to pay a fine of £500 with a 2 year in prison time for those that were caught.

### Where do all the products come from?

The main source of food that are delivered and being sold at the black markets came from farmers. Farmers were lower class or some richer ones, middle class members. Thus, offering commodities to the black market was a path that leads to making money. In towns and cities, blackouts were the most advantageous event to those selling illegal products since it was easier to break into warehouses undetected.

## Key Issues

## Zimbabwe's Economic Crisis

As the country is currently experiencing an economic crisis, it has resulted a shortage of crucial medical drugs. The officials listed out a few examples of how the citizens there have been cooperating business with medical black markets. The most common situation has to pay double or triple the price for medication nowadays since drugs are in short supply.

### How is the country interfering with black markets?

As the economic crisis in Zimbabwe continues to get more severe, the government came together to a meeting to discuss the problem at hand. A woman named Mwendera said "The drug situation is pretty dying currently, thus our main worry is that if the prevailing situation continues to spread across the country, we will get more complications in our patients and even worse, loose some patients." The police have also taken part in this situation and have initiated strict patrolling around the main areas of illegal medical black-market trades. In those areas, a lot of advertisements were seen to sell and send medication into Zimbabwe.

## Counterfeits

The major problem for the manufacturers, health authorities and the people who are buying medicine from black market is one of fakery. An Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) report into the global pharmacy industry was estimated to have a growth of 8.3% from 2010. The size of the counterfeit drug market ranges from \$75 to \$200 billion, thus meaning that between 8% and 15% of the drugs that are being sold internationally are fake. In some of the Saharan African nations, the ratio of counterfeit drugs is around 50%. Today, it is estimated that more than 800 counterfeit versions of pharmaceutical drugs are flowing in the markets globally. These include drugs that cure conditions such as osteoporosis, cancer, reflux, HIV/AIDS, cholesterol and blood thinning.

### Concerns

Both health and disease control drugs are prevalent, thus these fake drugs are sold at a high endemic rate in both cases of the buyer knowing it is a counterfeit or not. The counterfeits are produced with substandard and improper prescriptions that can prolong an illness and increase death rate. Drugs can kill unswervingly if they contain a massive amount of metal, bacterial or other contamination. According to the

International Policy Network (IPN) report, counterfeit tuberculosis drugs alone causes 700,000 deaths per year.

## Major Parties Involved and their Views

### United States of America

Even though this is an extensive category, out of all the countries in the world, U.S is known for having the most illegal medical black markets in both organ transplants and medicines. Although the government have set policies, black markets cannot be regulated because it exists outside of government regulations.

### International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)

The International Drug Policy Consortium is located in London, United Kingdom and is a global network of over 180 Non- governmental Organizations (NGO) that endorse purposes on drug policy at an international level. The organization upkeep evidence-based policies that are sufficient at decreasing drug associated harm.

## Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

<b>Date</b> <i>MM/DD/YY</i>	<b>Description of Event</b>
January 16 1920	Alcoholic Prohibition of that time lead to smuggling alcoholic drinks. American Gangster, Al Capone smuggled alcoholic beverages and other illegal drugs
September 1 1939	Due to price controls during World War II, more goods were brought into the black markets
June 4 1946	11 men were convicted for illegally selling 11,500 barrels of whiskey in Florida
October 1 1946	More than 16719 raids and investigations into suspected black markets that were operating
January 1 1994	India tries to stop organ harvesting
April 28 2006	Past 19 years, 16,800 families have claimed that their loved one's body parts were taken. The sales of human body parts have topped up to 6 million
April 25 2008	In Bangkok, Thailand, the black markets put up the last 3 rare tortoises for sale illegally

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Previous attempts to aid the illegal black markets include India's actions. The government tried to stop organ harvesting by announcing treaties that involve serious penalty but according to World Health Organizations (WHO) global organ transplant report, 106,879 organ transplants were performed worldwide in 2010. However, another data shows that the proportion of illegal organ trades went up to 10% at approximately 11,000 in 2014. The Indian study showed that the average payment made to purchase illegal organs were at \$1070 starting 1994 due to the activity itself being riskier under serious penalties.

According to a major report made by International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), drug related deaths have increased by over 145% between a decade, along with 71,000 overdose

deaths in the United States in 2017. Even though local governments conducted stricter regulation, taxation and subsidies towards Food and Drug Administration (FDA), black markets still smuggled counterfeit pharmaceutical drugs.

However, both of these solutions were insufficient.

## Possible Solutions

Even though the issue at hand is not considered an issue in some cases, it still affects each country's economy. The public officials can take some actions such as request candid symposium of alternatives to prohibition. As the issue is not yet well recognized, raising awareness is one of the essentials. By using social media and other platforms such as campaigns, commercials and education will produce a high-quality effect.

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a non-governmental organization that offers policies on an international level, thus considering reforming these policies alternatively will be a choice. However, do bear in mind that the organization only upkeeps evidence based policies.

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