GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

THE TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME UNIT (TOCU) REPORT

JUNE 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Transnational Organised Crime Unit (TOCU) remains Sierra Leone's principal inter-agency mechanism for combating transnational organised crime (TOC) and terrorism. Operating under the National Security Council (NSC), TOCU coordinates intelligence collection, investigations, enforcement actions, prosecutions and strategic interventions on Transnational Organised Crime across multiple institutions.

Between 2020 and May 2026, TOCU and its component agencies achieved significant operational successes, including major seizures of cocaine, tramadol, counterfeit pharmaceuticals and other illicit commodities; disruption of organised fraud schemes; freezing of suspicious financial assets; enhanced maritime interdiction; strengthened anti-trafficking interventions; and improved intelligence-led operations. These efforts contributed to protecting national security, strengthening border management, disrupting criminal networks, and safeguarding Public health, economic stability and financial sector integrity.

Despite these achievements, operational effectiveness remains constrained by inadequate funding, limited logistics, insufficient forensic and analytical capabilities, human resource shortages, and gaps in inter-agency coordination. Addressing these constraints will be critical to sustaining gains and responding effectively to increasingly sophisticated transnational criminal threats.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Office of National Security……ONS
- Sierra Leone Police……SLP
- Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces……RSLAF
- Central Intelligence and Security Agency……CISA
- Financial Intelligence Agency……FIA
- Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone……PBSL
- Anti-Corruption Commission……ACC
- National Revenue Authority……..NRA
- Sierra Leone Immigrations Department……SLID
- Sierra Leone Airports Authority……..SLAA
- National Drug Law Enforcement Agency……NDLEA
- Sierra Leone Ports and Harbours Authority……..SLPA
- Sierra Leone Maritime Administration…….....SLMA
- National Minerals Agency……NMA
- National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre……NEWRMC
- Law Officers Departments……LOD
- Joint Drugs Interdiction Task Force……JDITF
- Transnational Organized Crime Unit…….TOCU
- Operational Support Division……OSD
- Special Weaponry and Tactical Team……...SWATT
- Economic Community of West African States……ECOWAS
- United Nations Office on Drug and Crime……UNODC
- International Criminal Police Organization……...INTERPOL
- National Security and Central Intelligence Act……...NaSCIA
- Ministries Departments and Agencies……MDAs
- West Africa Coast Initiative……WACI
- United Nations Office for West Africa…….....UNOWA
- Serious Organized Crime and Counter Terrorism Coordination……SOC&CTC
- Criminal Investigations Department……..CID
- Forces Intelligence and Security Unit……..FISU
- Provincial and Border Security…….....PBS
- Provincial Security Coordinator……PROSEC
- District Security Coordinator……DISEC
- Chiefdom Security Coordinator…….....CHISEC
- Joint Intelligence Committee……...JIC
- Anti-Trafficking in Persons Secretariat…….....ATIPS
- Bank of Sierra Leone…….....BSL
- Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation Financing……AML/CFT
- Law Enforcement Agencies……...LEA
- Transnational Organized Crime……TOC
- Director of Public Prosecution……...DPP
- International Organization for Migration…….....IOM
- Joint maritime Committee……JMC
- Combined Maritime Control Unit……..CMCU
- Trafficking in Persons……TIPs

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BACKGROUND

The Transnational Organised Crime Unit (TOCU) was established in response to the seizure of a Cessna aircraft and 710 kilograms of cocaine at Lungi International Airport on 13 July 2008, an incident that exposed Sierra Leone's vulnerability to transnational organised crime and underscored the need for a coordinated national response **(see photos in Annex A).**

Consequently, the Government established the Joint Drugs Interdiction Task Force (JDITF) in 2008 as a multi-agency mechanism to combat drug trafficking and related criminal activities. The JDITF included specially trained Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWATT) personnel from the Sierra Leone Police Operational Support Division to support high-risk operations.

At the regional level, ECOWAS adopted a Political Declaration on combating transnational organised crime in West Africa in 2008 and subsequently launched the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) in partnership with UNODC, UNOWA and INTERPOL. WACI aimed to strengthen national law enforcement capacities through the establishment of specialised Transnational Crime Units in selected pilot countries, including Sierra Leone.

Within this framework, the JDITF was transformed into TOCU on 17 February 2010 during a WACI Conference in Freetown. Established through a Memorandum of Understanding among participating institutions and operating within the national security architecture, TOCU was founded on the principle that transnational organised crime requires a coordinated, intelligence-led and multi-agency response.

Today, TOCU, a subcommittee of the National Security Council (NSC), serves as Sierra Leone's primary inter-agency platform for preventing, detecting, investigating and prosecuting transnational organised crime. It brings together security, intelligence, law enforcement, regulatory, and prosecutorial agencies to address the threats posed by organised criminal networks to national security, governance, economic stability, and public safety.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPONENT TOCU AGENCIES

The Transnational Organised Crime Unit (TOCU) is a multi-agency framework comprising key security, intelligence, law enforcement, regulatory, border management, maritime, and prosecutorial institutions mandated to prevent, detect, investigate, disrupt, and prosecute transnational organised crime in Sierra Leone. While each institution retains its statutory mandate, they collectively contribute specialised expertise, resources, intelligence, and operational capabilities towards a coordinated national response to organised criminal threats.

The institutions constituting the TOCU Framework are:

1. Office of National Security (ONS)
2. Sierra Leone Police (SLP)
3. Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) – Sierra Leone Navy
4. Central Intelligence and Security Agency (CISA)
5. Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)
6. National Revenue Authority (NRA)
7. Sierra Leone Immigration Department (SLID)
8. Sierra Leone Airports Authority (SLAA)
9. Sierra Leone Ports and Harbours Authority (SLPHA)
10. Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone (PBSL)
11. National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)
12. Sierra Leone Maritime Administration (SLMA)
13. National Minerals Agency (NMA)
14. National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre (NEWRMC)
15. Law Officers' Department (LOD)

A. Strategic Coordination and Oversight

The Office of National Security (ONS), through its relevant structures, serves as the national coordinating authority for TOCU. It provides strategic direction, policy guidance, operational coordination, inter-agency liaison, and oversight of the implementation of TOCU decisions. It also facilitates engagement with regional and international partners and convenes operational and strategic coordination meetings.

B. Intelligence Collection, Analysis and Information Sharing

Intelligence and information functions are undertaken collectively by member institutions with mandates relating to national security, criminal intelligence, military

intelligence, financial intelligence, border management, customs administration, aviation security, maritime security, anti-corruption, drug control, and regulatory oversight.

These institutions are responsible for:

- Collecting, analysing, fusing, and disseminating intelligence relating to transnational organised crime.
- Identifying emerging threats, criminal networks, trafficking routes, and high-risk persons, vessels, cargo, and transactions.
- Producing strategic, operational, and financial intelligence assessments.
- Maintaining relevant databases and information systems.
- Supporting risk analysis, target profiling, early warning, and intelligence-led operations.
- Facilitating information sharing among national, regional, and international partners.

C. Enforcement, Investigation and Interdiction

Law enforcement, security, border management, maritime, customs, immigration, anti-corruption, drug control, and regulatory institutions collectively undertake enforcement functions within their respective mandates.

Their responsibilities include:

- Conducting investigations into transnational organised crime and related offences.
- Executing arrests, searches, seizures, inspections, interceptions, and interdiction operations.
- Enforcing criminal, customs, immigration, maritime, anti-corruption, narcotics, and other relevant laws.
- Securing borders, ports, airports, territorial waters, and other strategic points of entry.
- Disrupting organised criminal networks and preventing illicit cross-border activities.
- Supporting international law enforcement cooperation and joint operations.

D. Technical, Regulatory and Forensic Support

Specialised regulatory and technical institutions provide expert support to TOCU operations through:

- Scientific examination and forensic analysis of narcotics, pharmaceuticals, precursor chemicals, minerals, financial transactions, electronic evidence, and other exhibits.

- Technical assessments, inspections, certification, and compliance monitoring.
- Expert testimony and evidentiary support for investigations and prosecutions.
- Identification of regulatory vulnerabilities exploited by organised criminal networks.

E. Legal and Prosecutorial Support

The Law Officers' Department serves as the principal legal and prosecutorial authority within the TOCU framework and is responsible for:

- Reviewing investigation files and determining prosecutorial sufficiency.
- Providing legal advice on investigations and special investigative techniques.
- Conducting prosecutions and supporting asset recovery proceedings.
- Strengthening legal frameworks relating to organised crime and associated offences.
- Building the capacity of investigators and prosecutors on emerging criminal threats and legal developments.

F. Early Warning, Risk Assessment and Strategic Analysis

Relevant national security and intelligence institutions support TOCU through the monitoring and assessment of emerging organised crime threats and trends. This includes:

- Generating early warning alerts.
- Identifying crime hotspots and emerging criminal methodologies.
- Conducting threat assessments and strategic risk analyses.
- Supporting national preparedness and preventive interventions.

Cross-Cutting Responsibilities of All TOCU Member Institutions

All TOCU member institutions:

- Share intelligence and operational information in a timely manner.
- Participate in joint investigations, operations, and task forces.
- Support evidence gathering, preservation, and chain-of-custody procedures.
- Contribute to prosecution, asset recovery, and disruption efforts.
- Cooperate with regional and international partners.

- Support capacity building, policy development, strategic planning, and institutional strengthening within the TOCU framework.
- Promote professionalism, accountability, confidentiality, and adherence to the rule of law in all TOCU activities.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES OF TOCU

The operational priorities of the Transnational Organised Crime Unit (TOCU) are derived from the prevailing organised crime threats facing Sierra Leone and the subregion. These priorities guide intelligence collection, operational planning, enforcement actions, investigations, prosecutions, and inter-agency cooperation.

A. Counter-Narcotics Operations

1. Hard Drugs

a. Detect, disrupt, and dismantle networks involved in the production, importation, exportation, distribution, and trafficking of hard drugs, including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and synthetic narcotics.
b. Strengthen interdiction efforts at airports, seaports, land borders, and coastal waters.
c. Enhance intelligence-led investigations targeting drug trafficking organizations and their financiers.

2. Cannabis Cultivation, Eradication and Transportation

a. Identify and destroy illegal cannabis cultivation sites.
b. Disrupt the transportation and distribution of cannabis within and outside Sierra Leone.
c. Investigate and prosecute individuals and groups involved in cannabis production and trafficking.

3. Pharmaceutical Crime

a. Combat the illegal importation, manufacture, distribution, diversion, and sale of controlled medicines, precursor chemicals, counterfeit medicines, and other regulated pharmaceutical products.
b. Strengthen oversight of precursor chemicals susceptible to diversion for illicit drug production.

B. Financial and Economic Crime

1. Organised Fraud

a. Detect and investigate organised fraud schemes, including cyber-enabled fraud, investment scams (Ponzi), travel scams, identity theft, advance-fee fraud, and other transnational fraudulent activities.
b. Protect citizens and businesses from financial exploitation.
c. Enhance cooperation with financial institutions and regulatory agencies.

2. Money Laundering

a. Identify, investigate, and disrupt money laundering activities linked to organised crime and terrorism.
b. Trace, freeze, seize, and recover proceeds of crime.
c. Strengthen financial intelligence and asset recovery mechanisms.

C. Human Exploitation and Trafficking

1. Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling

a. Prevent and combat trafficking in persons for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, child exploitation, and other forms of abuse.
b. Disrupt organised migrant smuggling networks.
c. Protect victims and support prosecution of offenders.

D. Arms and Security-Related Crimes

1. Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Trafficking

a. Prevent the illicit manufacture, possession, transfer, and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.
b. Identify and dismantle arms trafficking networks.
c. Strengthen border controls and weapons tracing capabilities.

2. Maritime Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

a. Detect and deter piracy, armed robbery against ships, and other maritime security threats.
b. Enhance maritime domain awareness and coordinated maritime enforcement operations.
c. Protect maritime trade routes and critical offshore assets.

E. Property and Cultural Heritage Crimes

1. Motor Vehicle Theft

a. Investigate and disrupt organised motor vehicle theft syndicates.
b. Detect stolen vehicles entering, transiting, or leaving Sierra Leone.
c. Strengthen international cooperation for vehicle identification and recovery.

2. Theft and Trafficking of Cultural Property and Monuments

a. Prevent the theft, illegal excavation, trafficking, and export of cultural artefacts, historical objects, and monuments.
b. Support recovery and repatriation of stolen cultural heritage assets.
c. Strengthen monitoring of cultural property markets and trafficking routes.

F. Natural Resource and Environmental Crimes

1. Precious Mineral Smuggling

a. Detect and disrupt the illicit extraction, transportation, trading, and export of precious minerals, including diamonds, gold, and other strategic mineral resources.
b. Investigate criminal networks involved in illegal mining and mineral trafficking.
c. Protect national revenue and natural resources.

2. Wildlife Trafficking

a. Combat the illegal hunting, capture, possession, transportation, trade, and export of protected wildlife species and wildlife products.
b. Disrupt transnational wildlife trafficking networks.
c. Support biodiversity conservation and compliance with international environmental obligations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

Since its establishment in 2010 under the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI), the Transnational Organised Crime Unit (TOCU) has evolved into Sierra Leone's principal multi-agency platform for combating transnational organised crime. Through intelligence-led operations, inter-agency collaboration, and international partnerships, TOCU has recorded significant achievements across multiple operational domains.

1. **Institutional Development and International Recognition**
   - Established a robust multi-agency framework integrating security, intelligence, law enforcement, regulatory, and prosecutorial institutions.
   - Developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for intelligence sharing, investigations, enforcement operations, and international cooperation.
   - Recognized as one of the most effective Transnational Crime Units under the WACI framework and a model for intelligence-led, multi-agency crime-fighting in West Africa.
   - Strengthened partnerships with ECOWAS, UNODC, INTERPOL, GIABA, the European Union, and other international stakeholders.

2. **Operational Structures and Capacity Enhancement**
   - Established the Combined Maritime Control Unit (CMCU) under the Sea Port Cooperation Project (SEACOP), an EU-funded initiative designed to disrupt trans-Atlantic cocaine trafficking and strengthen maritime security in West Africa. The CMCU, established at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay, comprises personnel drawn from key TOCU member institutions and serves as an inter-agency platform for intelligence gathering, risk profiling, cargo inspection, vessel monitoring, document analysis, container tracking, and the detection of concealed contraband.
   - The Joint Maritime Committee (JMC), a sub-committee of the National Security Council, continues to serve as the principal inter-agency mechanism for coordinating maritime security operations and safeguarding Sierra Leone's territorial waters and maritime resources. The Committee brings together defence, law enforcement, intelligence, regulatory, and environmental institutions to combat illegal fishing, drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal mining, arms trafficking, and other maritime crimes, while strengthening surveillance, law enforcement coordination, and maritime domain awareness.
   - The Sierra Leone Navy established four regional commands strategically positioned along the country's coastline, extending from the border with Guinea in the north to the border with Liberia in the south. This strategic disposition ensures the effective combatting of transnational crime across Sierra Leone's maritime borders. With constant monitoring at the Joint Operations Centre, the Sierra Leone Navy patrols the coastline based on real-time intelligence.
   - Maintained specialized tactical and operational capabilities to support high-risk law enforcement interventions and coordinated responses to transnational organised crime threats.
   - Enhanced national capacities in intelligence analysis, investigations, border security, maritime interdiction, organised crime enforcement, human trafficking and migrant

smuggling response through sustained training, technical support, and inter-agency collaboration.

- Sierra Leone's response to human trafficking and migrant smuggling continued to be guided by the National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (NAP) and the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Welfare's Anti-Trafficking in Persons (A-TIP) Secretariat. Efforts focused on the "4Ps" framework, Protection, Prosecution, Prevention, and Partnership, through victim identification and support services, enhanced investigations and prosecutions, public awareness campaigns, strengthened community reporting mechanisms, and collaboration with national, regional, and international partners, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNODC
- The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Secretariat continued to serve as the national coordinating body for combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling through public sensitisation, victim protection, inter-agency coordination, policy implementation, and monitoring of trafficking trends. Key support mechanisms included the toll-free "Freedom Line" (134) for confidential reporting and victim assistance, coordination of victim protection, rehabilitation and referral services, and the publication of periodic reports on trafficking trends and response measures.

3. Counter-Narcotics Operations and Terror-Linked Activities

- One of Sierra Leone's most significant organised crime interdictions occurred in 2024 when authorities intercepted 7,847,100 Captagon pills with estimated street value of over US$94 million. The consignment, concealed in refrigerators and air conditioners, also contained bomb-making materials. Seven suspects were arrested and linked to an international criminal network. The operation highlighted Sierra Leone's growing capacity to detect sophisticated transnational trafficking operations and prevent the country from being used as a transit hub for organised crime.

- Recorded historic seizures of cocaine, cannabis, Kush, tramadol, counterfeit pharmaceuticals, precursor chemicals, and other controlled substances at the Queen Elizabeth Quay, airports, and border crossings. A total of eighteen (18) major narcotics interceptions were recorded at Freetown International Airport (FNA) between August 2024 and June 2026. A total of eighteen (18) major narcotics interceptions were recorded at Freetown International Airport (FNA) between August 2024 and June 2026. These operations resulted in the arrest of eighteen (18) suspects of various nationalities, comprising eight (8) Nigerians, one (1) Guinea-Bissauan, two (2) Tanzanians, one (1) Romanian, two (2) Senegalese, two (2) Zambians, and two (2) Sierra Leoneans. No suspects were identified or arrested in connection with the consignments of Tramadol cartons that arrived from India.

- Among the most significant seizures at the FNA were the interception of 68 kilograms of narcotics in 2024 and a further 54 kilograms in 2025, underscoring the continued use of the airport as a transit point for illicit drug trafficking and the effectiveness of ongoing interdiction efforts by law enforcement agencies. Seized thousands of cartons of Royal Tramadol Hydrochloride Tablets and substantial quantities of counterfeit pharmaceuticals.

- In 2025, the National Task Force on Drug and Substance Abuse recorded significant seizures of illicit drugs and counterfeit pharmaceuticals, including 300 kilograms of Cannabis Sativa, 198 kilograms of Kush, 185 kilograms of Royal Tramadol Tablets, and 16,999 kilograms of counterfeit pharmaceutical products, reflecting intensified efforts to disrupt drug trafficking and protect public health.

4. Investigations, Prosecutions and Convictions

- Investigated a total of 448 drug-related and organised crime cases, demonstrating enhanced intelligence-led investigative capacity and inter-agency cooperation within the TOCU framework.
- Progressed 300 cases to formal legal action, including the charging of 202 cases to court and the submission of 20 investigation files to the Director of Public Prosecutions for legal advice and further prosecutorial action.
- Secured 123 convictions nationwide following the introduction of specialised organised crime court procedures, significantly strengthening accountability and the criminal justice response to transnational organised crime.
- Maintained sustained enforcement efforts, with 220 organised crime-related cases remaining before the courts or under active investigation, ensuring continued pursuit of offenders and criminal networks.

5. Financial Crime Detection and Asset Preservation

- Through the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA), administratively froze 285 bank and mobile money accounts linked to suspected illicit financial flows across multiple financial institutions, preventing the dissipation of assets, preserving evidentiary value, strengthening regulatory compliance, and safeguarding funds valued at USD 4,946,621.20, EUR 206,279.26, and SLL 52,892,733.00.
- Conducted a multi-agency investigation into the My Coin Ponzi Scheme targeting retail investors, successfully identifying perpetrators, mapping financial trails, documenting confirmed losses of SLL 5,000,000.00, and referring the matter to law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities for further action.
- Disrupted the Super Advertis Network fraudulent investment scheme through the targeted freezing of 45 mobile money wallets and agent accounts, securing suspect funds valued at SLL 3,434,950.00 and preventing further losses to potential victims.
- Facilitated the transfer of frozen funds to a designated Bank of Sierra Leone holding account, ensuring secure custody of assets, maintaining audit integrity, and preserving funds for potential recovery and judicial proceedings.
- Produced actionable financial intelligence on suspected tax evasion, fraud, and other financial crimes, leading to the identification of suspicious transaction patterns, referrals to the National Revenue Authority and Anti-Corruption Commission, and enforcement actions including the imposition of financial penalties amounting to SLL 30,000,000.00.

6. Maritime Security and Border Protection

- Strengthened monitoring, profiling, inspection, surveillance, and interdiction capabilities within Sierra Leone's maritime domain, enhancing national capacity to combat maritime trafficking, smuggling, illegal fishing, and other transnational organised crimes.
- Coordinated intelligence-led responses to maritime security threats, including the investigation and recovery of a suspected narco semi-submersible vessel along the Black Johnson coastline in early 2025 and a second suspected narco-vessel in 2026, demonstrating Sierra Leone's commitment to disrupting transnational trafficking networks.
- Conducted assessments and coordinated interventions involving grounded vessels, including FV TANDEEN 001, FV SKY 777, and FV TAIBA, with recommendations for salvage, dismantling, or disposal where appropriate.
- Maintained continuous monitoring of abandoned vessels and other maritime security concerns that pose risks to navigation, environmental safety, border security, and national security.
- Strengthened inter-agency coordination and maritime domain awareness through the Joint Maritime Committee Sub-Group (JMCSG), contributing to the protection of Sierra Leone's territorial waters and preventing their exploitation by organised criminal groups.

7. Destruction of Illicit Commodities

- In accordance with the National Drug Control Act 2008 and pursuant to High Court Orders, TOCU successfully conducted several transparent and court-authorized public destruction exercises involving seized narcotics, counterfeit pharmaceuticals, and other prohibited substances valued at millions of United States dollars.
- Key achievements included the destruction of 2,660 cartons of Royal Tramadol Hydrochloride Tablets and other illicit drugs valued at approximately US$21 million (December 2022), large quantities of counterfeit pharmaceuticals including Diclofenac, Tramadol, and Pregabalin products (June 2024), and 7,847,100 Captagon pills with estimated street value of over US$94 million (July 2024).
- These exercises were conducted in the presence of relevant state institutions and the media, demonstrating transparency, strengthening public confidence, and preventing the re-circulation of dangerous substances into society.

8. Strengthening National Security and Rule of Law

- Enhanced inter-agency coordination, intelligence sharing, and operational cooperation across the national security architecture.
- Contributed significantly to the protection of Sierra Leone's borders, financial system, maritime domain, and communities from organised criminal networks.
- Consolidated TOCU's role as the country's leading mechanism for combating transnational organised crime and advancing national, regional, and international security objectives.

KEY CHALLENGES

1. **Operational Capability Gaps**
   Critical shortages of vehicles, maritime assets, surveillance equipment, forensic tools, secure communications systems, and other specialized operational resources constrain enforcement, interdiction, and investigative activities.

2. **Human Resource and Capacity Deficits**
   High personnel turnover resulting from transfers, deployments, and reassignments has reduced institutional capacity. This challenge is compounded by limited specialized training in emerging areas such as financial crime, virtual assets, cyber-enabled crime, intelligence analysis, and advanced investigative techniques.

3. **Intelligence and Information Management Weaknesses**
   The absence of an integrated national organised crime database, coupled with fragmented information-sharing arrangements, limits intelligence fusion, strategic analysis, and evidence-based decision-making.

4. **Forensic and Technical Limitations**
   Inadequate forensic infrastructure, limited technical expertise, and insufficient laboratory capabilities continue to affect the timely investigation and prosecution of organised crime cases.

5. **Inter-Agency Coordination Challenges**
   Institutional silos, overlapping mandates, and inconsistent information sharing occasionally undermine operational coordination and reduce the effectiveness of joint interventions.

6. **Legal and Regulatory Gaps**
   Emerging threats, particularly those involving virtual assets, cryptocurrencies, and other technology-enabled crimes, are not yet fully addressed within the existing legal and regulatory framework. Additionally, gaps remain in asset recovery and proceeds-of-crime management regimes.

7. **Judicial, Witness Protection and Victim Support Constraints**
   Delays in investigations, forensic examinations, and court processes continue to affect timely case resolution. Inadequate witness protection arrangements and limited victim-support facilities, particularly for trafficking victims, also weaken enforcement outcomes.

8. **Border and Maritime Security Vulnerabilities**
   Porous land and maritime borders continue to facilitate drug trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling, illegal fishing, and other forms of organised criminal activity, posing persistent national security risks.

9. Emerging Organised Crime Threats

The rapid proliferation of synthetic drugs, new psychoactive substances, sophisticated financial crimes, and technology-enabled criminal networks is outpacing existing national detection, prevention, and enforcement capacities.

10. Institutional and Partnership Gaps

Certain institutions with relevant mandates remain outside the formal TOCU framework, limiting whole-of-government coordination. At the same time, declining international technical support has reduced opportunities for capacity building, technology transfer, and resource mobilization.

11. Public Awareness and Community Engagement

Limited public awareness and community participation continue to constrain the timely reporting of organised crime activities and reduce opportunities for community-based prevention initiatives.

12. Resource and Funding Constraints

The absence of a dedicated government funding mechanism continues to undermine operational effectiveness, limiting investments in personnel development, intelligence operations, investigations, logistics, equipment maintenance, and tactical response capabilities.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

To consolidate gains and strengthen Sierra Leone's capacity to combat transnational organised crime, the following strategic actions are recommended:

1. **Establish a Sustainable TOCU Funding Mechanism**
   Government should institutionalize a dedicated and predictable funding framework for TOCU to support intelligence operations, investigations, enforcement activities, training, and strategic capabilities.

2. **Strengthen National Operational Capabilities**
   Prioritize investment in critical operational infrastructure, including mobility assets, maritime security platforms, surveillance technologies, secure communications systems, and modern ICT infrastructure to enhance national enforcement and interdiction capabilities.

3. **Enhance Human Capital and Institutional Capacity**
   Implement a long-term capacity development strategy focused on specialized training, staff retention, succession planning, and the development of expertise in emerging organised crime threats, including cyber-enabled and financial crimes.

4. **Modernize Intelligence and Information Management**
   Enhance technical intelligence capabilities with required analytic software for strategic intelligence analysis, threat assessment, and evidence-based decision-making across the security sector.

5. **Accelerate Legal and Regulatory Reforms**
   Fast-track legislative reforms to address emerging threats, particularly virtual assets, cryptocurrency-related crime, asset recovery, and proceeds-of-crime management, while strengthening the overall legal framework for combating organised crime.

6. **Strengthen Forensic and Investigative Capabilities**
   Invest in modern forensic infrastructure, scientific support services, and advanced investigative technologies to improve the quality and timeliness of criminal investigations and prosecutions.

7. **Enhance Border, Maritime and Aviation Security**
   Deploy modern detection, surveillance, and border management technologies at key entry points to strengthen national capabilities against trafficking, smuggling, and other transnational criminal activities.

8. **Strengthen Financial Crime Detection and Asset Recovery**
   Enhance the operational and technological capabilities of the Financial Intelligence Agency and other relevant institutions to better detect, investigate, and disrupt illicit financial networks and preserve criminal assets.

9. **Expand Prevention, Rehabilitation and Victim Support Mechanisms**
   Strengthen national programmes for drug rehabilitation, human trafficking victim protection, witness support, and community resilience to reduce vulnerabilities exploited by organised criminal networks.

10. **Strengthen Criminal Justice Response**
    Deepen collaboration with the Judiciary and prosecutorial authorities to expedite organised crime cases, improve conviction rates, and reinforce the deterrent effect of the criminal justice system.

11. **Reinforce Strategic Partnerships and Whole-of-Government Coordination**
    Expand the TOCU framework to include all relevant institutions, strengthen inter-agency cooperation, and revitalize partnerships with regional and international organizations to enhance technical assistance, intelligence sharing, and resource mobilization.

CONCLUSION

TOCU remains Sierra Leone's principal inter-agency platform for combating transnational organised crime. The achievements recorded during the review period underscore the effectiveness of coordinated intelligence gathering, law enforcement operations, and prosecutorial action in addressing complex and evolving security threats.

Notwithstanding these gains, sustaining and enhancing TOCU's operational effectiveness will require continued investment in human capital, technology, logistics, infrastructure, and institutional strengthening. With sustained political commitment, adequate resourcing, and deeper collaboration with national, regional, and international partners, TOCU is well positioned to consolidate its successes, respond effectively to emerging transnational crime challenges, and contribute meaningfully to regional and global security efforts.

For ease of reference, selected illustrative annexes highlighting TOCU's key strategic achievements and operational successes during the reporting period are appended at the end of this report.

ANNEX A. Cassina Plane Seize at Lungi Airport with 710kg of Cocaine in 2008

The 710kg Cocaine Caught Onboard the Cassina Plane at Lungi 2008

ANNEX B1. INTERCEPTIONS OF DRUGS AND DRUG MAKING MATERIALS AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II QUAY BETWEEN JANUARY, 2021 AND OCTOBER, 2026

S/N	DATE	CONTAINER N0.	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	SUSPECTED ITEM	CONSIGNEE	STATUS
1.	24th/3/2026	**HASU1264025**	India	461 Cartons of Tapentadol	At large	Destroyed through Court Order
2.	5th/5/2026	**HASU 1511531, TCKU2394706, MRKU 9248326 and TLLU 2297785**	India	554 Cartons of Tapentadol	At large	Destroyed with the exception of TLLU2297785 that got missing later.
3.	12th/5/2025	**TCNU 172394(6)**	United Kingdom (South1wampton)	Seventeen 50kg like bags of Marshmallow and 91 Quarts of Precursor Chemicals used for the production of Kush	Yata Lansana of Vantay Clear and Forwarding Agency	Suspect at large and items were handed over to TOCU for investigation and destruction
4.	30th/5/ 2025	**TCNU 267246(3)**	United Kingdom	225 Milligram Royal Tramadol Hydrochloride Tablets	Not stated	Suspects were taken into custody, while items handed over to TOCU for investigation and subsequent destruction
5	4th/10/2025	**MRSU5262870**	United States	26 Cartons of Acetone	Nelson Solomon, Sarah Kabba	Destroyed
6.	4th/10/2025	**MRSU 526287(0)**	United States of America	26 Cartons (10 Liters each) of Acetone liquid	Nelson Solomon Abdulai	In custody of SLPHA
7.	30th /3/2024	**MSMU 855055(0) MSKU 850344(0)**	Netherlands	Assorted Packets of Marshmallow Leaves Six bottles labeled PCP, 8 containers of	Six unnamed individuals (4 male & 2 females)	Handed to TOCU for investigation and destruction

				liquid (5ltrs) labeled Carvo Citroen, 15 Packets of white Seed-like substance labeled Tapiakaperlen		
8.	2nd/4/2024	**MSKU8503440**	United Kingdom	Fitty-one packets of dried leaves suspected to marshmallow and other liquids and powder suspected to be precursor chemicals for the production of kush	Two suspects	The exhibits were destroyed through court order
9.	30th/5/2024	**UETU 278082(3)**	United Kingdom	70 cartons of Tramadol Hydrochloride 225 Mg in a 40ft Container	Mohamed	Items were handed to TOCU for investigation and destruction
10.	5th/9/2024	**MRKU 396206(4)**	India	119 cartons (25 grosses) of Tapentadol	Not Stated	Handed over to TOCU for investigation and destruction
11.	9th/8/ 2023	**NIDU 520859(6)**	United Kingdom	2 bags of Kush	Bobson Perry	Handed over to TOCU for necessary action
12.	13th,14th, 15th /12/2022	**TCKU 758467(1)** **MRSU 449569(2)** **MRSU 569185(3)** **MRSU 524733(0)**	India	2,661 Cartons of Tramadol Hydrochloride Capsules	Baba Pateh Enterprise 29 Passonage Street, Kissy, Freetown.	Handed over to TOCU for destruction
13.	11th/9/2022	**MRSU 356060(1)**	Brazil	229 Cartons of white substance suspected to be Cocaine	PEE CEE & SONS	Items were transferred to TOCU for investigation and subsequentdestruction

14.	6th/4/ 2022	**CMAU 776356(5)**	United States	Two (2) wooden boxes suspected to be precursor chemicals		Suspect at large and items were handed over to TOCU for investigation and subsequent destruction
15.	13th/9/2021	**ACLU 966192(6)**	United Kingdom	36 packets of "Kush", 2 Plastic containers of Precursor Chemicals 19 Pieces of Electronic Scales	Hassan Sesay Deep Eye Water Village, Freetown	Matter was charged to court
16.	13th/9/2021	**ACLU 966192(6)**	United Kingdom	Two Packets powered like substances suspected to be Cocaine	Mohamed Hassan Sannoh 58 Edmans Drive, Malama, Lumley.	Matter was charged to court
17.	9th/8/2021	**TRHU 589730(1)**	United Kingdom	4 Packets of "Kush", One Bottle of Acetone.	Kombrabai Kamara (consignee) 14 Samuels Lane, Kissy, Freetown.	Matter was charged to court

ANNEX B2. INTERCEPTIONS OF NARCOTICS AT THE FREETOWN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BETWEEN AUGUST 2024 AND JUNE, 2026

S/N	DATE	Airline	SUSPECT'S/ITEM'S COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	SUSPECTED ITEM
1.	16 AUG'24	Royal Air Maroc	Nigeria	Cocaine
2.	31 AUG'24	Brussels Airline	Nigeria	Cocaine
3.	29 SEP'24	Ethiopian Airline	Guinea Bissau	Cocaine
4.	25 OCT'24	Brussel Airline	Nigeria	Cocaine
5	22 OCT'24	Kenya Airways	Tanzania	Cocaine
6.	25 OCT'24	Royal Air Maroc	Nigeria	Cocaine
7.	8 DEC' 24	Brussels Airline,	Romania	Cannabis
8.	15 DEC' 24	Royal Air Maroc	Nigeria	Cocaine
9.	3 & 4 JAN'25	Ethiopian Airline	No suspect	Tramadol
10.	12 DEC,25	Royal Air Maroc	Senegal	Cocaine
11.	19 JAN'26	Brussels Airline	Sierra Leone	Tramadol

12.	22 FEB'26	Ethiopian Airline	Nigeria	Cocaine
13.	9 MAR'26	Ethiopian Airlines	Zambia	Cannabis
14.	3 APR'26	Royal Air Maroc	Senegal	Cocaine
15.	2 JUN'26	Ethiopian Airlines	Nigeria	Cocaine
16.	12 JUN'26	Royal Air Maroc	Nigeria	Cocaine
17.	15 JUN'26	Ethiopian Airlines	Sierra Leone	Cannabis
18.	24 JUN'26	Royal Air Maroc	Zambia	Cocaine