



INTERPOL

Annual Report



2020

CONNECTING POLICE FOR A SAFER WORLD



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Secretary General's foreword

The year 2020 was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic which spread around the world. Like all other organizations, INTERPOL had to adapt our way of working and our activities, be flexible and responsive to situations which were changing on an almost daily basis.

The unprecedented health crisis created new vulnerabilities and opened countless opportunities for criminals, the effects heightened by our interconnected and globalized world.

From the onset of the pandemic, INTERPOL's priority was to ensure continuity of its support to police across its 194 member countries, and in turn, the communities they serve.

We also placed special emphasis on the role of law enforcement, producing guidelines to support police officers and developing public awareness campaigns.

This Annual Report outlines a selection of the Organization's various activities and achievements throughout 2020.

As always these were a result of the continued commitment and support of INTERPOL as a whole; our National Central Bureaus, our President and Executive Committee, General Secretariat staff in our duty stations around the world and of course the law enforcement officers on the ground.

One significant evolution was the launch of our Virtual Academy as part of our ongoing commitment to provide police officers around the world with access to high-level training at all times.

By moving most of our support, training and coordination activities online, I am very proud of the fact that INTERPOL continued to deliver all its core services to member countries this year.

Access to our global databases ensured that fugitives did not evade justice, victims of online child sexual abuse were identified and rescued, and terrorist suspects intercepted as they tried to cross borders.

Whilst 2020 moved the world into a 'new normal', INTERPOL's work in continuing to uphold our global alliance for a safer world remained unchanged.

The pandemic demonstrated the need for stronger international policing cooperation, and INTERPOL provides this unique platform.

"Our overarching vision remains to build a global security architecture to serve the policing priorities in our member countries."

Jürgen Stock
Secretary General

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This Annual Report presents some of the highlights of our activities during 2020 which support our 194 member countries to fight transnational crime. More information about all our activities can be found on our website: www.interpol.int





COVID-19



The COVID-19 pandemic forced businesses and organizations around the world to re-think their working practices almost overnight. Thanks to our robust global network, existing digital infrastructure and experience in reacting fast to unforeseen events, INTERPOL services remained running 24/7.

The global law enforcement community faced unprecedented challenges as criminals diversified their activities to exploit the fear and uncertainty surrounding the virus, but we immediately responded by producing warnings and guidelines throughout the year for police and public alike.

INTERPOL is uniquely placed to act as the COVID-19 resource hub for the world's police.

International guidelines for law enforcement

Police, who are in an already dangerous occupation, found themselves faced with additional risks from COVID-19. We released our first set of international guidelines to support the law enforcement response in March, with a second edition published in November to reflect the fast-changing situation.

Law enforcement officials worldwide played a varied and unprecedented role in the effort to control the disease, assisting national health authorities in identifying cases, relaying public health measures to the population and securing deliveries of medical equipment. The guidelines – aligned with World Health Organization recommendations – advise officers on how to protect themselves and their families as well as the communities they serve.



Report highlights changing crime patterns

Our analysts were quick to compile data on changing crime patterns and new law enforcement challenges and we published our first global threat assessment report in early April, shortly after the World Health Organization officially declared the coronavirus a 'pandemic'. The report identified current and evolving crime threats and provided exclusive insight from police in regions at different stages of the health crisis. Four crime-specific reports were published during the year outlining the short- and long-term effects of COVID-19.





COVID-19 CRIMES

- Fraud**
Online or telephone
- Phishing**
Requests for login details or to click on links
- Hacking attempts**
To gain personal information
- Counterfeit**
Medical supplies and medicines
- Deliberate dissemination**
Attempts

BE VIGILANT - BE SKEPTICAL - BE SAFE

The INTERPOL Global Academy goes digital

In April, we launched our Virtual Academy to provide online training for the global law enforcement community during, and beyond, the COVID-19 pandemic. Users can choose from self-paced courses, interactive certified instructor-led modules and webinars on subjects such as cryptocurrencies, drones, digital forensics, cybercrime, the Darknet and counter-terrorism, many of which have taken on a new dimension with the health crisis.

Our network of trusted education institutions, the INTERPOL Global Academy, supports the design and delivery of courses. Additions to this network in 2020 were the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences Saudi Arabia, the National Police College in Rwanda, and the National Police Training and Development Division in Spain.

16,000
self-paced e-learning courses were completed in 2020



Vaccines: no immunity from organized crime

In December, we issued an Orange Notice warning our member countries to prepare for organized crime networks targeting COVID-19 vaccines, both physically and online. The notice outlined potential criminal activity related to the falsification, theft and illegal advertising of COVID-19 and flu vaccines as well as testing kits.



Hunting a fugitive in a pandemic

The pandemic did not provide any respite for criminals on the run as shown by the arrest and extradition of an Argentinian fugitive, hiding out in a remote area of Brazil. The subject of an INTERPOL Red Notice issued in 2009, Gonzalo Sanchez was wanted for crimes against humanity and had evaded justice for more than 40 years.



Staying safe, on- and offline

During the pandemic, we ran a number of generic and targeted public awareness campaigns, starting with calls to #StayHome and #StaySafe to protect both communities and the first responders at the front line.



With anxiety running high, criminals were quick to create new ways to prey on the public. We responded with warnings about new and changing threats including counterfeit medical products and health-related telephone scams. Cyber hygiene is as important as physical hygiene, which is why we urged the public to #WashYourCyberHands.



Events in 2020 underlined the importance of remote access to information as well as the need to collect, process and analyse police data efficiently. Work continued on major programmes to develop new data services to better support frontline policing and international investigations.

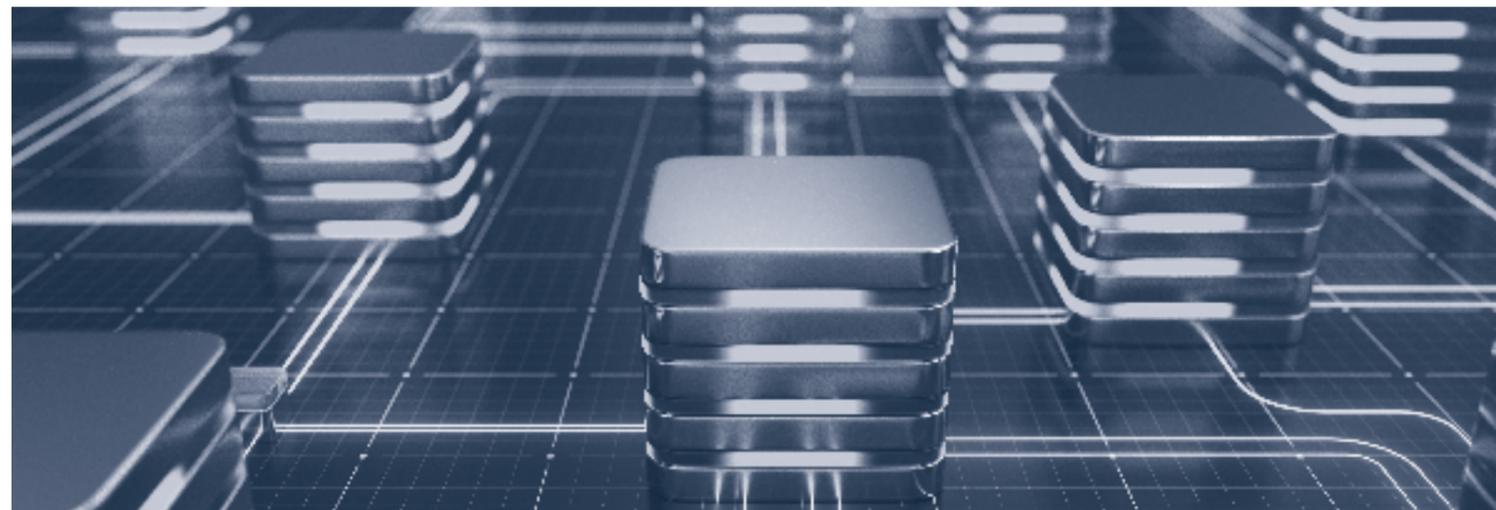
Information for police: faster, smarter, everywhere

2020 saw the I-CORE programme move from planning to implementation phase, bringing us one step closer to our goal of ensuring that frontline police around the world have access to the best data as quickly as possible. The three projects under way focus respectively on biometric data, interoperability between databases, and police messaging services.



New platform for enhanced criminal analysis

We launched phase one of INSIGHT, our new secure intelligence platform for enhanced criminal analysis. Ultimately, INSIGHT will enable the full exploitation of new and existing data, and will provide police worldwide with informed, timely and actionable intelligence which furthers investigations, flags subjects of interest, and fosters greater international police cooperation.



Database statistics 2020

COVID-19 travel restrictions led to a significant reduction in international travel during 2020, and the number of searches against our frontline database saw a corresponding drop (3.5 billion compared to 7.4 billion in 2019). Nonetheless, the number of records contributed to the database continued to grow at a steady rate (+11 per cent).



The enduring power of the Red Notice

As part of the EI PACCTO joint Europe-Latin America Assistance Programme, 21 people subject to Red Notices were arrested, including a Colombian fugitive convicted of rape and murder who had been on the run for 26 years.



Rapid response during a pandemic

Our Incident Response Teams remained on standby throughout 2020 and we deployed disaster victim identification experts to Beirut in August to provide on-site assistance following the port explosion that killed more than 200 people and destroyed part of the city.



A milestone in facial recognition

In December, we made our 1,000th identification thanks to facial recognition, providing major leads to investigators in our member countries. Over the last four years, this technology has helped identify fugitives such as murderers, fraudsters and foreign terrorist fighters.

New partner for data exchange

We signed an agreement with the World Customs Organization (WCO) in May, granting it access to search the 1.4 million records of illicit firearms contained in iARMS database and to consult the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT). Such cooperation is vital to stem the flow of illicit weapons across borders.



Notices



Issued in 2020:
11,094
Valid at end 2020:
66,370



Issued in 2020:
2,554
Valid at end 2020:
12,892

The COVID-19 pandemic created fertile conditions for terrorists to bolster their power and influence, spread disinformation and propaganda, and incite civil unrest. Despite the volatile situation, INTERPOL continued to crack down on terrorist activities on the ground in a number of hard-hitting operations on different continents.

Terrorists – like all criminals – have sought to profit from COVID-19, to make money, strengthen their base and to fuel division.



Disrupting terrorist travel in Southeast Asia and East Africa

Two INTERPOL-led operations successfully disrupted terrorist movements across borders and made hundreds of arrests. They were carried out in February and March, at a time when the coronavirus had gained enough momentum to be officially declared a 'pandemic'.

In Operation Maharlika III, law enforcement officers from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines targeted known terrorist transit routes in Southeast Asia, arresting 180 individuals for a variety of offences including human trafficking.



During Operation Simba II across four countries in East Africa, a number of INTERPOL-wanted individuals were intercepted at strategic points. Countries worked together ahead of field operations to share intelligence and national watch lists to ensure frontline officers had the information they needed to stop terrorists in their tracks.



Biometric data helps join the dots

We helped analyse biometric data from 40 suspects arrested in two joint counter-terrorism operations in Africa. Operation Comoé in May targeted terrorist bases in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, followed by a second operation in response to a terrorist attack in Kafolo, Côte d'Ivoire in June. The weapons, ammunition, USB keys and mobile phones seized yielded a wealth of biometric information which was crosschecked against INTERPOL's Counter-Terrorism Criminal Analysis File. Containing one million entities (suspects, bank accounts, ID documents, weapons etc.), including more than 85,000 foreign terrorist fighter profiles, the Crime Analysis File is vital to identify patterns of terrorist activity across the region and further afield.



Biometric data analysed from

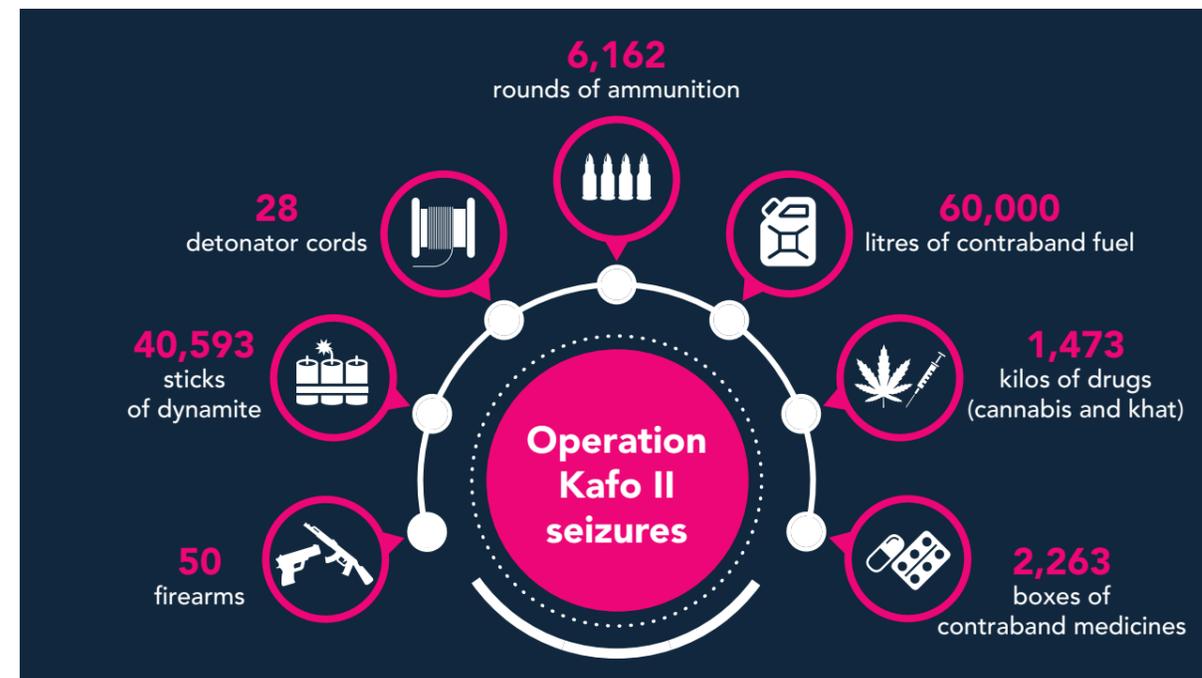
40 suspects arrested

INTERPOL's Counter-Terrorism Criminal Analysis File

85,000 foreign terrorist fighter profiles

International operation reveals new trends in terrorist funding

During Operation Kafo II, coordinated jointly by INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, frontline officers checked more than 12,000 individuals, vehicles, containers and goods against international criminal databases, and carried out physical searches at smuggling hotspots in West Africa and the Sahel.



The trafficked items provided valuable insight into new terrorist funding mechanisms. The large quantities of contraband fuel were intended to both finance and supply Al-Qaida and its affiliates, while the dynamite was intended for illegal gold mining which constitutes an unconventional source of financing, and even a recruiting ground, for armed terrorist groups in the Sahel.



Timely biosecurity training in Guinea

INTERPOL launched Project Rhino in 2014 in direct response to the Ebola crisis and has since trained more than 200 Guinean officials for biosecurity readiness and established a national pool of instructors to continue building biosecurity and biosafety capacity. The lessons learned from the outbreak have proved valuable in the current COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the human toll and threat to law and order, police have to be prepared for the risk of the virus being used for malicious purposes making it all the more important to be properly equipped for future outbreaks – whether natural, accidental or deliberate.



Tackling terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa

An operation at the Libyan seaport of Khoms in October demonstrated the practical support provided by Project Sharaka, an EU-funded project to make INTERPOL policing tools and expertise available to frontline officers in eight countries. Officers screened suspected crew members and inspected vessels, vehicles and cargo, carrying out more than 400 checks against INTERPOL databases and intercepting two containers of illegal substances.





The financial hardship and uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic put already vulnerable communities at even greater risk of criminal exploitation. In parallel, new ways of working and interacting have led to different patterns of behaviour, for victims and offenders alike. We monitored these new trends and tailored our response to protect those in jeopardy.

Minors rescued from sexual exploitation

Police in Niger rescued 232 victims of human trafficking in Operation Sarraounia which targeted organized crime groups in West Africa. In addition to providing support on the ground, our specialists delivered pre-operational training on victim identification, victim interview and how to provide appropriate support for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The skills acquired proved particularly pertinent given that 46 of the people rescued were under the age of 18.



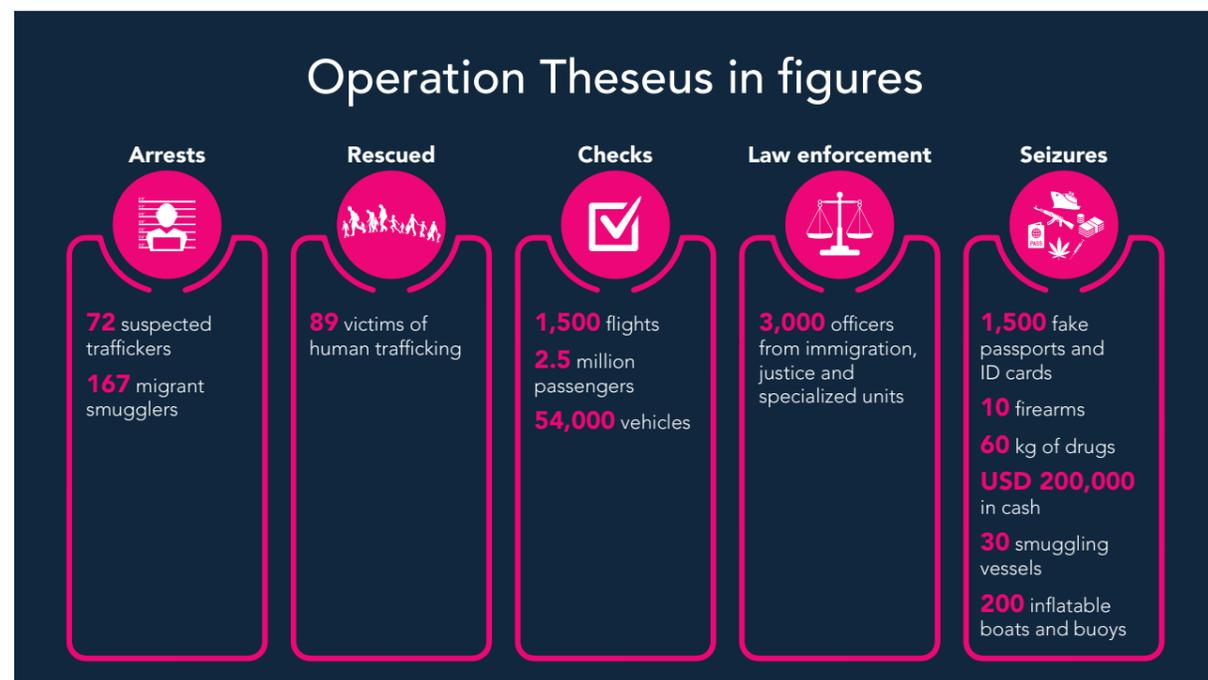
Global operation brings down migrant smuggling networks

Operation Turquesa II in December illustrated the importance of upstream cooperation and careful preparation as authorities in 32 countries across four continents joined forces to follow up national investigations. More than 50,000 checks against INTERPOL databases were made at air, land and sea borders and identified hotspots during the week-long operation leading to more than 200 arrests. The operation provided valuable insights into the modus operandi adopted by criminal networks preying on the new pool of potential victims created by the pandemic.



Barring the Balkan route to organized crime

Operation Theseus dealt a powerful blow to human trafficking and migrant smuggling rings.



Convicted people smuggler caught in South America

Brazilian Federal Police caught a Turkish fugitive convicted of smuggling migrants from Belgium to the United Kingdom thanks to swift, concerted action by INTERPOL and national authorities. The individual had been on the run since 2018, having escaped justice before serving his sentence. The arrest was made possible by a Red Notice, which was published with just hours to spare, enabling Brazilian authorities to detain the fugitive at the airport where he had been due to fly out of the country.



Connecting police across continents is crucial to stem the trail of misery behind migrant smuggling.

Kidnapped Russian boy rescued

A seven-year-old boy was rescued from captivity in November by Russian special forces thanks to intelligence received and analysed by INTERPOL. Following a tip-off from US officers investigating a Darknet user, police forces in several countries rallied to find clues. Our specialized officers sifted through huge amounts of data, providing intelligence that helped Russian authorities to locate the suspect and raid the home where the boy was being held.



Operation Unveiled arrests child sexual abuser

As highlighted in our assessment report on child sexual abuse, COVID-19 isolation measures have led to increased activity on child sexual exploitation and abuse forums on the Darknet. In September, Brazilian police arrested a man suspected of maintaining one of the Darknet's largest Portuguese-language child abuse forums. Operation Unveiled was triggered by material uploaded to our International Child Sexual Exploitation database in 2017, and which the suspect had shared in several Darknet forums with hundreds of thousands of registered users.



As the spread of COVID-19 picked up pace, so did incidents of cybercrime. With countries going into lockdown and remote working on the rise, people spent more time online and became reliant on the digital environment. Criminals were quick to capitalize on these new habits and targeted individuals, businesses, governments and critical health infrastructure with a range of COVID-themed scams and malware.

INTERPOL played a key role in analysing the emerging threats, publishing global alerts and specific guidelines for law enforcement, and more general advice for the public.

In a world where more than 4.5 billion people are online, more than half of humanity is at risk of falling victim to cybercrime at any time.

Purple Notice warns of ransomware threat to healthcare establishments

In a hospital, every second counts and denial of access to vital systems can cost lives. This makes healthcare facilities ideal targets for ransomware attacks by cybercriminals. In 2020, we saw a significant increase in the number of attempted attacks against organizations at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. In addition to monitoring ongoing threats, our cybercrime threat response team provided first-hand technical support to affected countries and analysed data to understand new trends and help mitigate risks.



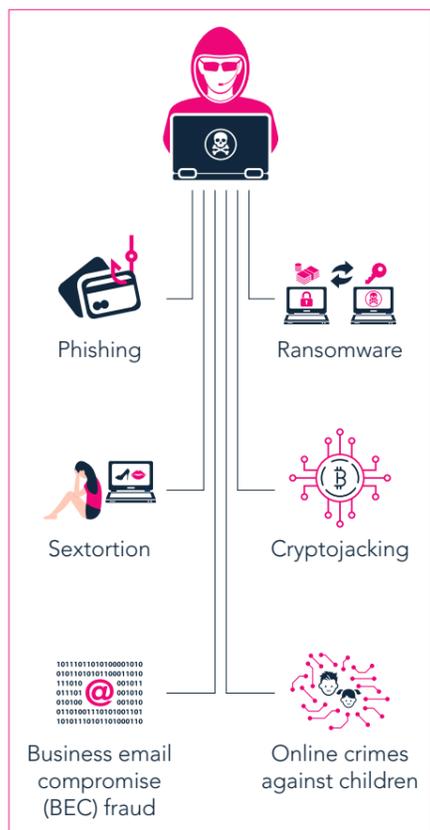
Fictional scenarios prepare for real-world investigations

The fourth INTERPOL Digital Security Challenge in October went virtual this year. Working in teams, 100 cybercrime and digital forensics investigators from 50 countries pooled their expertise to solve a fictional business email compromise scam. Practical exercises such as this annual challenge are invaluable to build the technical capabilities necessary to follow the digital trails left by cybercriminals, helping law enforcement acquire the right reflexes when they encounter these incidents in their everyday work. This year, the challenge went one step further adding drone forensics to the skillset.



#OnlineCrimelsRealCrime

In October, we launched a public awareness campaign to ensure that virtual crimes are taken just as seriously as their physical counterparts. Scams are becoming more sophisticated and even the most Internet-savvy person can fall victim. Videos and infographics published via our social media channels explained six key threats and gave tips on how to stay safe online.



More than 20,000 arrests in operation against telecoms fraud

Operation First Light, a year-long investigative clampdown on criminal networks, highlighted the sheer scale of telecom and social engineering fraud and reaped some impressive results.



Analysis of the criminal techniques revealed new forms of scam directly related to the pandemic which gave rise to the publication of three Purple Notices. Investigators also noted a spike in the number of business email compromise frauds to warn our member countries. The Operation foiled two such schemes that targeted companies in Hungary and Germany, successfully recovering all the funds.



Global alliance against cybercrime

We carried out a joint investigation, codenamed Falcon, with the Nigerian Police Force and a leading cyber products and services provider to disrupt a prolific cybercrime group running a well-established criminal business model believed to have compromised government and private sector companies in more than 150 countries. Three Nigerian nationals were arrested in November, disrupting the group's criminal activities.



This was just one concrete example of the public-private cooperation advocated in a report produced by the World Economic Forum's 'Partnerships against Cybercrime' initiative in which INTERPOL is a key stakeholder.



Global guidelines on the Darknet and digital forensics

Reflecting the Organization's focus on innovation in policing, three new practical guides to assist in digital investigations will benefit INTERPOL's global membership. The guidelines cover Digital Forensics for First Responders, the Darknet and Cryptocurrencies, and the Seizure and Sale of Virtual Assets.



The coronavirus outbreak brought with it a high market demand for personal protective and hygiene products, which criminals were quick to exploit. In the face of national lockdowns and travel restrictions, criminals found ways to adapt their methods to continue to traffic illicit products. Our experience and existing operational capacity proved invaluable in identifying and addressing these shifting crime patterns.

COVID-19: a new trend in pharmaceutical crime

In Operation Pangea XIII in March, police, customs and health regulatory authorities around the world joined forces to crack down on the illicit online sale of medicines. The seizure of more than 34,000 counterfeit and substandard masks and other products related to the coronavirus showed that criminals will stop at nothing to make a profit.

This trend was confirmed by the seizures made in a joint operation in the Middle East and North Africa, codenamed Qanoon, which took 20 million illicit pharmaceutical items off the market.

Drug delivery service

We issued a Purple Notice warning that criminal organizations were using food delivery services to transport drugs and other illicit goods during COVID-19 lockdowns. The international alert in April followed reports from police in several countries that delivery drivers had been found transporting drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, ketamine and ecstasy.

Unmasked: arrests in international COVID-19 fraud

Against a backdrop of strained supply chains and public anxiety around shortages of personal protective equipment, an INTERPOL-coordinated investigation uncovered a sophisticated non-delivery scam concerning a face mask procurement contract worth EUR 15 million. The criminals attempted to defraud German health authorities and used a multi-layered scheme based on compromised emails, advance-payment fraud and website cloning across several different countries. Banks, financial intelligence units and judicial authorities, as well as our partner organizations Europol and Eurojust, moved fast to intercept the funds and follow the money trail back to the criminals. Two key suspects were later arrested in Nigeria.

High demand combined with a limited supply will make #COVID19 vaccines the equivalent of liquid gold to organized crime networks.



Cultural heritage security challenges

Lockdown measures led to widespread museum and gallery closures – and new challenges for protecting cultural collections – prompting the International Committee for Museum Security and INTERPOL to issue joint recommendations for museum professionals and police services.

International crackdown on art trafficking

In May, we released publicly results from Operations Athena II and Pandora IV, in which 101 people were arrested and 19,000 stolen artefacts recovered in a joint operation spanning 103 countries.

Thousands of tonnes of fake food and drink seized

Among the items discovered under Operation Opson IX were contaminated dairy products, meat from illegally slaughtered animals and food products falsely labelled as medicinal cures. An increase in items with falsified or expired sell-by dates indicates that criminals were capitalizing on the disruption to food supply chains caused by the pandemic.

Operation Opson in figures



77 countries participated



19 organized crime groups disrupted



407 individuals arrested worldwide



12,000 tonnes of illegal and potentially harmful items seized



Worth USD 40 million

Environmental crime has a direct impact on climate change, harms the livelihoods of millions of people, results in forced migration and can trigger the spread of animal-to-human viruses. Our approach to tackling environmental crime is holistic, focusing on changing mindsets as well as disrupting criminal organizations.

Wildlife and forestry crime has devastating consequences not just for the environment but also for society, public health and global economics.

A decade leading the fight against environmental crime

In November 2010, we set up our dedicated Environmental Security Programme to tackle this growing phenomenon head on. Ten years later, we can measure its success in terms of the number of criminals arrested and illicit goods seized but also in terms of the increased visibility of environmental crime at public, police and government level and awareness of the convergence with other forms of serious crime.

In partnership with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, we have coordinated transnational operations and supported member countries with tools, intelligence analysis, global alerts, training and expertise.

Today, investigators across the globe work together, forming a powerful network of environmental crime experts.

Together we are #ForcesOfNature

Related crimes

- Fraud
- Corruption
- Human trafficking
- Drug trafficking
- Firearms trafficking
- Money laundering
- Murder
- Terrorism

Ten years of fighting environmental crime

- Pollution crime**
Waste crime, marine pollution crime, illicit trafficking in chemicals
- Fisheries crime**
Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- Forestry crime**
The looting of natural resources such as timber and charcoal
- Wildlife crime**
Exploitation of the world's flora and fauna

Worldwide seizures in joint INTERPOL–World Customs Organization operation

Operation Thunder 2020 rallied police and customs officers in 103 countries against environmental crime. The month-long border operation resulted in large seizures of protected wildlife and forestry specimens and products, demonstrating both the extent to which wildlife and forestry crime has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the ability of law enforcement to continue to successfully coordinate their actions in global operations.



Sharp rise in plastic waste crime

An INTERPOL strategic report on global plastic waste management has shown a significant increase in the illegal plastic pollution trade since 2018. Based on open sources and criminal intelligence from 40 countries, the report paints an alarming picture of new trafficking routes for waste shipments – primarily to Southeast Asia – illegal waste fires and landfills in Europe and Asia, fraudulent waste registrations and document forgery.

COVID-19 medical waste is generating an overwhelming demand globally for disposal; a waste crisis that organized crime groups have been quick to exploit.

At a time of great upheaval, it is our duty to champion global integrity, fight corruption at all levels, hunt down transnational criminals, and help bring the perpetrators of crimes to justice, ensuring there is no such thing as impunity.

INTERPOL Cooperation Against 'Ndrangheta: I-CAN

We have launched a joint initiative with Italy to combat one of the world's most powerful mafia-type criminal organizations. 'Ndrangheta is involved in drug trafficking, corruption and the diversion of public funds through fraud and rigged contracts in 32 countries but its main base is in Europe.

A first meeting of police chiefs in June looked at the different ways in which 'Ndrangheta adapts to more effectively infiltrate the economic infrastructure in particular countries, and mapped out cross-country flows of fugitives wanted for 'Ndrangheta-linked activities. It also highlighted the opportunities provided by the pandemic for these organizations to conquer new markets and launder money.

An operation just months after the launch of the initiative resulted in six fugitives being rounded up in Albania, Argentina and Costa Rica and the dismantling of a family clan in Italy which was heavily involved in cocaine smuggling.

Rwanda genocide suspect arrested in France

An alleged leading figure in the 1994 Rwandan genocide was arrested near Paris where he had been living under a false identity. He had been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on seven counts including genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, persecution and extermination and was a target of our Rwandan Genocide Fugitives Project which has already assisted in the arrest of 12 fugitives.

Webinars focus on competition manipulation

As part of our ongoing partnership with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), we jointly hosted seven webinars on sports integrity reaching more than 800 participants from 60 countries. In parallel, INTERPOL, IOC and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime published a policy framework with specific recommendations in light of the current health crisis.

The 'Ndrangheta has repeatedly proven its skill in infiltrating political and economic environments, and a remarkable capacity for corruption.

Protecting sport integrity

The 11th INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force meeting tackled the problem of e-sport manipulation, among others. This highly lucrative online activity has grown in popularity since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Closed sessions allowed police officers to share intelligence on real cases and the use of cryptocurrencies, offshore companies and web monitoring tools. They were also briefed on our new criminal information system project (ETICA) to collect and analyse global data on corruption in sport cases.

Match-fixing scheme uncovered in Armenia

An international investigation into Armenian soccer – conducted by Armenia's National Security Service and the INTERPOL Match-fixing Task Force – revealed a major match-fixing conspiracy. Forty-five people received a lifetime ban from international soccer and five clubs in Armenia's second division league were disqualified for two years.

Cashing in on mobile money

A report on the links between mobile money and organized crime in Africa highlighted the broad spectrum of mobile money-enabled crimes including fraud, money laundering, extortion, human trafficking and people smuggling, the illegal wildlife trade and terrorism. The report emphasizes the need to act fast as the number of transactions performed through smartphone apps is on the rise and law enforcement need additional technical expertise to prosecute these new types of crime.

Global alert published



The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sport and betting industry

Some of the legitimate sectors infiltrated by 'Ndrangheta

Construction	Food supply	Medical products	Catering	Import and export
Transport	Betting	Waste collection	Cleaning	Funeral services



Business as usual

Thanks to INTERPOL's robust business continuity plan, we were able to continue to provide the highest level of service to our member countries. Resilient IT infrastructure and the INTERPOL secure cloud, backed up by three regional data centres, meant that staff in all duty stations could transfer smoothly to working from home.

2020 General Assembly postponed

With increasing infection rates in many parts of the world, the Executive Committee decided to postpone the 89th General Assembly that had been scheduled to take place in December.

The General Assembly is a milestone event in the Organization's calendar with strategic business on the agenda including elections for the Executive Committee. Due to the exceptional circumstances, the term of office of the Executive Committee members whose mandate would normally have ended in 2020 was extended for one year pending new elections.

Work was nonetheless able to continue as the Executive Committee met virtually throughout the year allowing key decisions, such as budget approval, to be taken in a timely manner.



Bridging the Gap: INTERPOL in times of COVID

Although the global police community was unable to gather at in-person statutory conferences in 2020, around 100 member countries representing all INTERPOL regions participated in a virtual global event in December. Secretary General Jürgen Stock reassured members that, despite the unforeseen events of 2020, INTERPOL had "continued to carry the voice of policing to the world stage". The meeting showcased successes on the ground across all continents and outlined plans for the coming year.

7 March: International Day of Remembrance for Fallen Officers

Every year we pay tribute to police officers who have given their lives to serve their fellow citizens. New risks for law enforcement are emerging all the time. In 2020, police across the world stepped up to enforce government regulations and safety protocols and reassure the public in the face of the pandemic, which brought a new dimension to their role of making the world a safer place.

A ceremony held at the General Secretariat Headquarters paid a poignant tribute to the thousands of police officers killed or injured in the line of duty every year, with officials at all INTERPOL duty stations holding a minute's silence. The Day of Remembrance was also marked at the United Nations.



Gender-responsive policing still top of the agenda

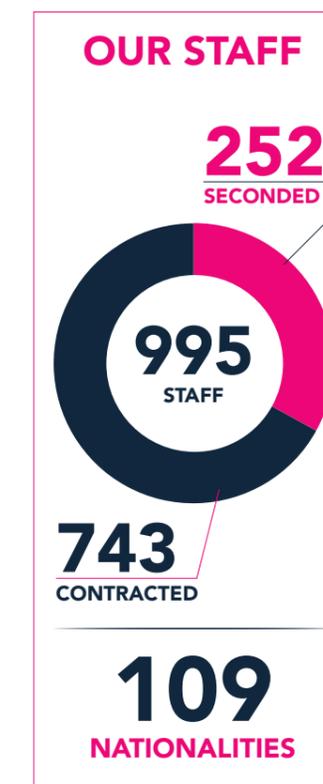
A report published by INTERPOL, UNODC and UN Women underlined the contribution women make to effective law enforcement in the ASEAN Region while documenting the hurdles they face. The report, developed under Project Sunbird, concluded that bringing more women into policing will not be sufficient if the institutions themselves are not transformed. INTERPOL scaled up its digital response to this issue through the INTERPOL Virtual Academy, and a Toolkit on Gender and Policing for the Central Asia region under the C.A.S.E. initiative. In the Americas, activities under Project Proteger resulted in Purple Notices that highlighted the gender dimensions of modus operandi, and led to the creation of the regional Alliance Network of Law Enforcement Gender Champions. We also updated our guidelines for strengthening gender mainstreaming in capacity building, in line with UN General Assembly Resolution on cooperation between INTERPOL and the UN (A/RES/73/11) which was updated in 2020 to this effect.



Law enforcement is most effective when it reflects the communities it serves, and a gender-inclusive workforce is a fundamental part of strategic policing.



The majority of planned events and conferences were able to go ahead online via a multilingual video conferencing platform that allows interpretation in the four official languages. In addition, Virtual Discussion and Training Rooms proved a popular and practical solution to information exchange between law enforcement, the private sector and academia with more than 3,000 participants in total.





International cooperation is more critical than ever as law enforcement faces the impact of the pandemic on global security.

The value of partnerships

The year 2020 showed us how quickly the criminal landscape can change and how, in turn, the global policing community needs to be reactive. More than ever, we need to draw on partnerships with national, regional and global organizations to share our expertise. Many of our activities are made possible thanks to support from donors – governmental, public and private – and we are grateful for their contribution to making the world a safer place.



Germany supports our digital transformation

The German Federal Government endorsed a donation of EUR 5 million from the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) to support our I-CORE programme. This sweeping digital modernization programme is designed to help develop the 'INTERPOL of the future' for the benefit of all our member countries.



A strategic Pan-African partnership

We welcome our partnership with the newly launched Aripol, the policing body of the African Union. Region-specific capabilities form an essential part of our global police response and this new working relationship is the natural continuation of our shared efforts to strengthen Africa's fight against terrorism, organized and emerging crime and cybercrime.



INTERPOL 'Dialogue' promotes a united front

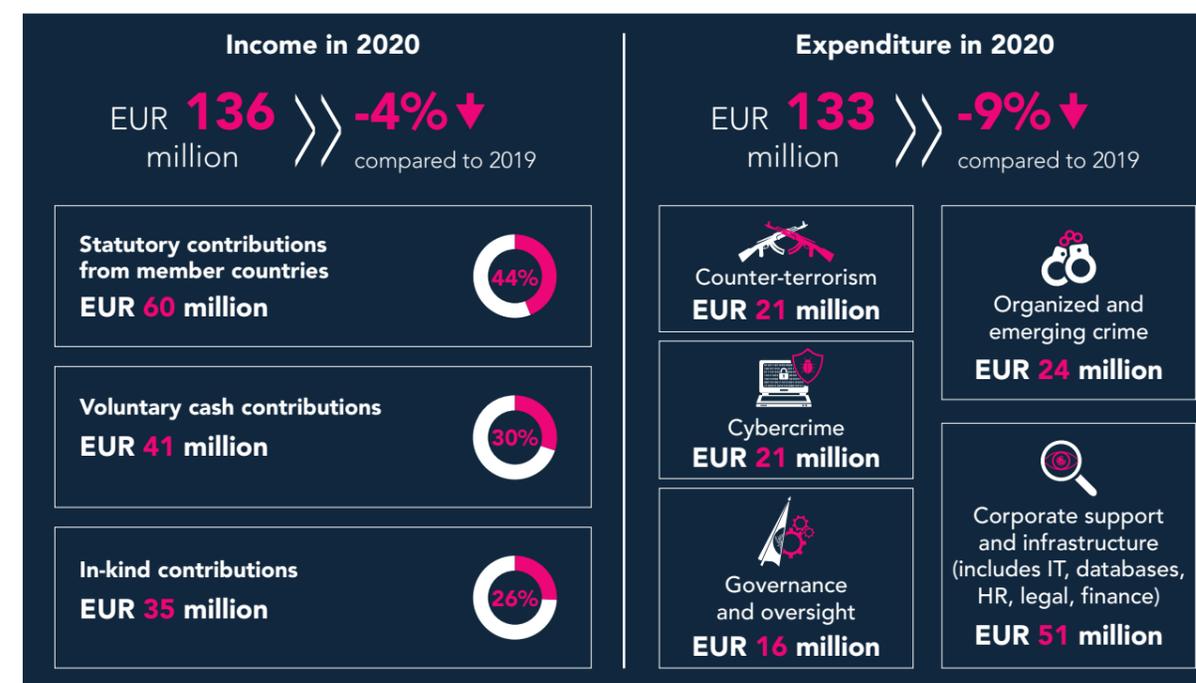
In May, we hosted a virtual gathering of leaders of regional police organizations to discuss how COVID-19 is affecting the security landscape and to set a roadmap for greater exchange of information and coordinated responses. Participants in the fourth edition of the 'INTERPOL Dialogue on an effective multilateral policing architecture against global threats' included Aripol, Ameripol, the Arab Interior Ministers' Council, Aseanapol, the Economic Cooperation Organization, Europol, Frontex and the GCCPOL.



Finances

The total income for the General Secretariat in 2020 was EUR 136 million, a decrease of EUR 6 million compared to 2019. This funded our policing activities and the corporate services that support them. Statutory contributions from our member countries accounted for 44 per cent of this income. To be able to deliver more policing projects without increasing these contributions, we seek voluntary funding from member countries.

In 2020, voluntary cash contributions accounted for 30 per cent of our income, while 26 per cent was in-kind contributions for the use of equipment, services and buildings.



194
member
countries

Afghanistan - Albania - Algeria - Andorra - Angola - Antigua and Barbuda - Argentina - Armenia
 Aruba - Australia - Austria - Azerbaijan - Bahamas - Bahrain - Bangladesh - Barbados - Belarus
 Belgium - Belize - Benin - Bhutan - Bolivia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Botswana - Brazil - Brunei
 Bulgaria - Burkina-Faso - Burundi - Cambodia - Cameroon - Canada - Cape Verde - Central
 African Republic - Chad - Chile - China - Colombia - Comoros - Congo - Congo (Democratic Rep.)
 Costa Rica - Côte d'Ivoire - Croatia - Cuba - Curaçao - Cyprus - Czech Republic - Denmark
 Djibouti - Dominica - Dominican Republic - Ecuador - Egypt - El Salvador - Equatorial Guinea
 Eritrea - Estonia - Eswatini - Ethiopia - Fiji - Finland - France - Gabon - Gambia - Georgia
 Germany - Ghana - Greece - Grenada - Guatemala - Guinea - Guinea Bissau - Guyana - Haiti
 Honduras - Hungary - Iceland - India - Indonesia - Iran - Iraq - Ireland - Israel - Italy - Jamaica
 Japan - Jordan - Kazakhstan - Kenya - Kiribati - Korea (Rep. of) - Kuwait - Kyrgyzstan - Laos
 Latvia - Lebanon - Lesotho - Liberia - Libya - Liechtenstein - Lithuania - Luxembourg - Madagascar
 Malawi - Malaysia - Maldives - Mali - Malta - Marshall Islands - Mauritania - Mauritius - Mexico
 Moldova - Monaco - Mongolia - Montenegro - Morocco - Mozambique - Myanmar - Namibia
 Nauru - Nepal - Netherlands - New Zealand - Nicaragua - Niger - Nigeria - North Macedonia
 Norway - Oman - Pakistan - Palestine - Panama - Papua New Guinea - Paraguay - Peru - Philippines
 Poland - Portugal - Qatar - Romania - Russia - Rwanda - San Marino - St Kitts and Nevis - St Lucia
 St Vincent and the Grenadines - Samoa - Sao Tome and Principe - Saudi Arabia - Senegal
 Serbia - Seychelles - Sierra Leone - Singapore - Sint Maarten - Slovakia - Slovenia - Solomon Islands
 Somalia - South Africa - South Sudan - Spain - Sri Lanka - Sudan - Suriname - Sweden - Switzerland
 Syria - Tajikistan - Tanzania - Thailand - Timor-Leste - Togo - Tonga - Trinidad and Tobago - Tunisia
 Turkey - Turkmenistan - Uganda - Ukraine - United Arab Emirates - United Kingdom - United States
 Uruguay - Uzbekistan - Vanuatu - Vatican City State - Venezuela - Vietnam - Yemen
 Zambia - Zimbabwe



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About INTERPOL

INTERPOL's role is to enable police in our 194 member countries to work together to fight transnational crime and make the world a safer place. We maintain global databases containing police information on criminals and crime, and we provide operational and forensic support, analysis services and training. These policing capabilities are delivered worldwide and support three global programmes: counter-terrorism, cybercrime, and organized and emerging crime.



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