THE EVOLUTION OF ILLEGAL DRUG MARKETS IN EASTERN AFRICA

Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime
www.globalinitiative.net
GROWTH OF MARKET IN SOUTH AFRICA

• Size of seizures and purity increasing, indicative that trade is upscaling.
• New criminal networks growing and proliferating.

Domestic use increasing and feeding into violence
• Estimated 50% staying for local consumption: up from from 10-20% a few years ago.
• Price of heroin has halved in Cape Town since 2015, from ZAR 30 to ZAR 15 for ¼ gram.
• Described as an epidemic with significant public health implications, e.g. Hep C and HIV.
• Police corruption a key factor.

“Before we would have considered 5 or 10kg to be a big seizure. Last week we arrested one guy with 70kg, and a few months ago another guy with 32kg”.

Law enforcement official, Cape Town
Figure 1.13. Urban and rural populations, 2015 and 2050

Violence and Fragility:

... As the city centre burnt Kabiru felt he was witnessing his own alternative reality – a version of what would have happened in Johannesburg if he had killed his landlord. He thanked Allah for staying his hand.

Promoters from Sounds in Motion lead a march along John Street last week during widespread wave of unrest that fuelled Riots in South Africa. Currying weapons, including explosives, they sang songs, calling for a return to the homeland. Picture: Ashraf Shral

Segment Day in Doornfontein