

A close-up photograph of a man's face, partially obscured by a large, white, stylized fingerprint graphic. The man is holding a rolled-up stack of money, secured with a blue rubber band, against his cheek. The background is dark and out of focus.

FEAR FACTOR

StoCK's second survey into the crime that's menacing Kenya



Executive Summary

ILLICIT trade is a national menace that robs Kenya's economy of vital revenue and puts innocent lives at risk.

Although the vast majority of consumers regularly come across counterfeit, smuggled or otherwise illicit goods, almost no one fully appreciates their devastating impact.

Kenya has the largest market in East Africa for fake goods and contraband, ranging from alcohol, electronics and pharmaceuticals to food, clothing and tobacco.

The country is losing more than Sh153 billion tax revenue annually to illicit trade, which robs citizens of employment opportunities and deprives the state of funds for vital services.

Stop Crime Kenya (StoCK) is campaigning against the criminals who enrich themselves in this shadow economy at the expense of honest, hard-working Kenyans.

In its latest consumer poll, StoCK has found that:

- HALF of all respondents have witnessed illicit alcohol or cigarettes on sale in the last 48 HOURS
- Four out of 10 see NO POINT IN REPORTING illicit trade, as there would be no follow-up
- One in four FEARS RETALIATION if they do report it
- Almost half of all respondents believe the five main national agencies meant to be fighting illicit trade are PERFORMING BADLY

The survey was conducted by researchers from the Consumers Federation of Kenya (Cofek) who used its extensive database to carry out telephone interviews with 100 consumers in 24 counties.



About **StoCK**
STOP CRIME KENYA

Stop Crime Kenya (StoCK) is an unregistered, non-profit citizens' campaign fighting all forms of organised crime, especially illicit trade, tax evasion, counterfeits and smuggling. We advocate for asset recovery and the need to stop such crime by bringing perpetrators to book. Our Secretariat is housed by the Consumers Federation of Kenya (Cofek).

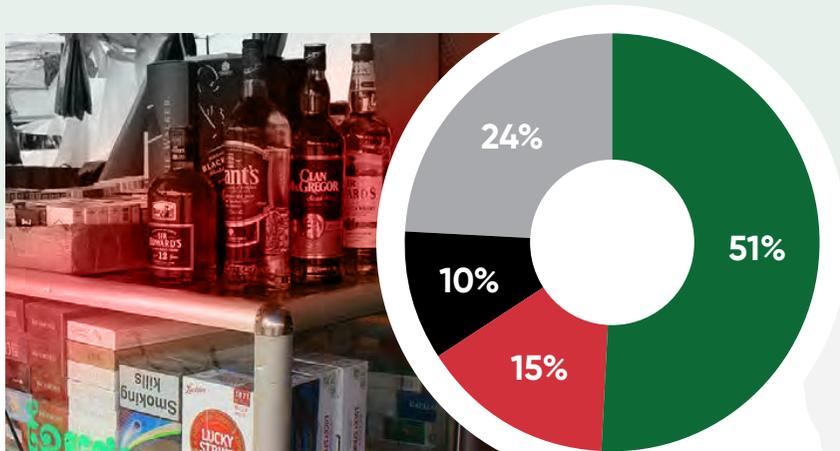
Follow us at [@stopcrimekenya](https://www.instagram.com/stopcrimekenya) and www.stopcrimekenya.co.ke

Our first survey *Robbed Blind* is available online [here](#).

Q1

When did you last see illicit alcohol or cigarettes on sale?

- Last two days
- Last month
- Last week
- Last three months

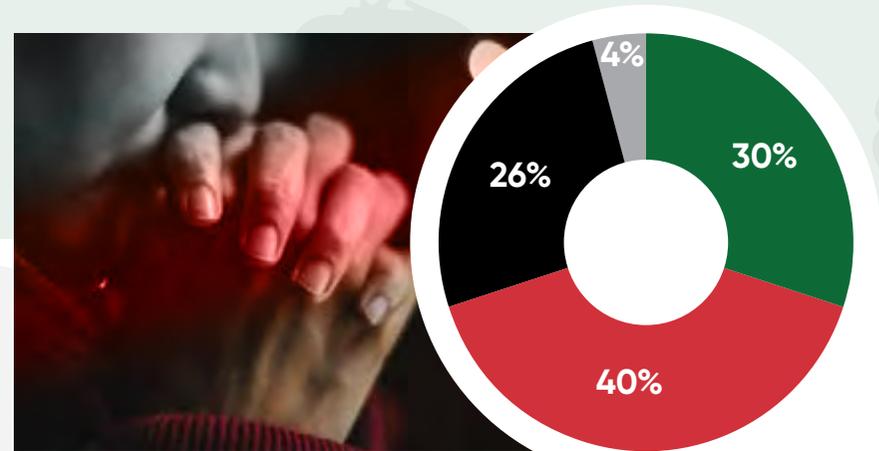


Most Kenyans (51%) have seen illicit alcohol or cigarettes on sale in the last two days, which is a clear indicator that the illegal trade in these goods is thriving. More than three in four (76%) have seen illicit alcohol or cigarettes on sale in the last month.

Q2

What is the most significant barrier to reporting illicit trade?

- Don't know how to
- Fear of retaliation
- No point, as it would not be followed up on
- Other



The majority of Kenyans noted that even though there are agencies to which one can report illicit trade, there are significant barriers preventing them from doing so. Four out of 10 see no point as there would be no follow-up. Even more disturbingly, more than one in four (26%) fears retaliation if they report illicit trade.

Q3

Rate the five principal agencies in the fight against illicit trade

Respondents were asked to rate the performances of the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Directorate of Criminal Intelligence (DCI), Anti-Counterfeits Authority (ACA) and Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).

The DCI and KEBS came out on top, with almost half saying they're doing a good job.

However, taken as a whole, the five agencies got a negative rating. Their performance was considered Poor or Very Poor by almost half of those surveyed (44.8%) and Average by one in four (23.4%). Less than one in three (31.8%) said their performance Good or Very Good.

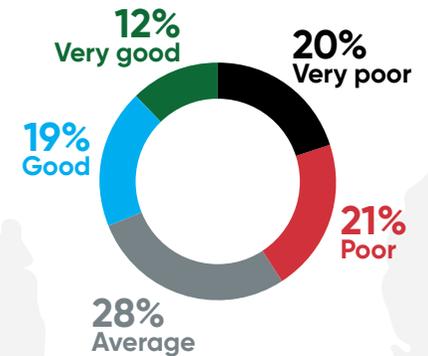


Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)

KRA is the government's agency charged with assessing, collecting and accounting for all government revenue. It plays a significant role in fighting illicit trade.

Its digital systems include tax stamps applied to legitimate goods, which should enable it to track all products from manufacture or import to purchase in the end market.

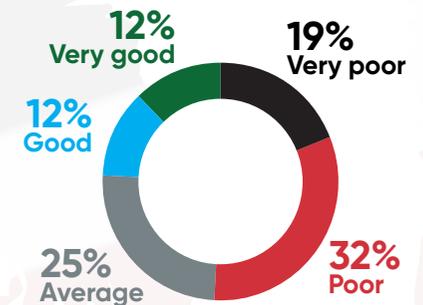
Almost half of all respondents (41%) believe that KRA is not effectively playing its part in the fight against illicit trade.



Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)

Bribery and corruption of civil servants and government officials is a major factor driving the illicit economy. EACC plays a significant role in the fight against illicit trade by gathering information on corruption occurring in government and the public sector.

Only one in four (24%) believes EACC is performing well.



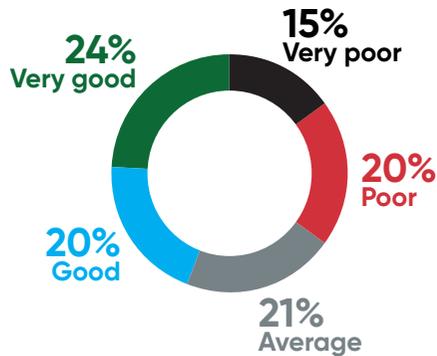
Q3 Rate the five principal agencies in the fight against illicit trade



Directorate of Criminal Intelligence (DCI)

The DCI undertakes investigations into serious crimes and should be a powerful weapon against the organised networks enriching themselves in the illicit economy.

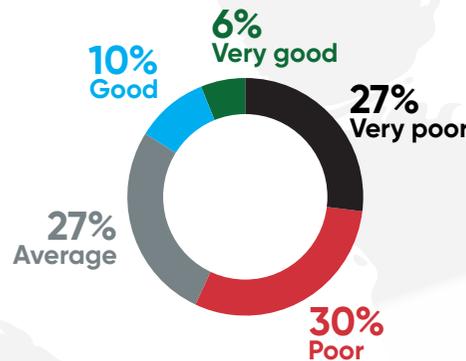
The DCI top-scored with a positive rating among 44% of respondents. However, one in three believes they are underperforming.



Anti-Counterfeits Authority (ACA)

The mandate of the ACA is to enlighten and inform the public on matters relating to counterfeit goods, as well as to fight the trade in those goods. It plays one of the biggest roles in combating the criminals who use Kenya as a hub for trafficking counterfeits throughout East Africa.

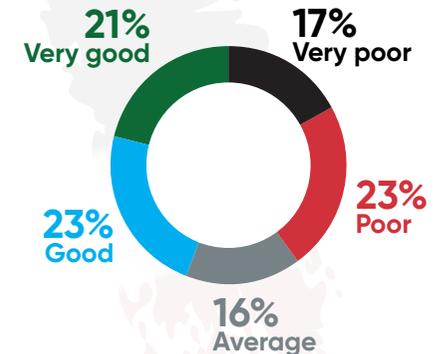
Only 16% of respondents believe that the ACA is doing a good job, the lowest rating of the five agencies.



Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)

The duties of KEBS include the promotion of standardization in industry and commerce. The agency uses distinctive stamps that are meant to assist with the identification of illicit or sub-standard products.

Along with DCI, KEBS top-scored with a positive rating of 44%. However, another 40% of respondents believe it is doing a bad job.



Conclusions



"Our second consumer survey illustrates once again that illicit trade is rife and urgent measures are needed to curb its deadly and destructive impact," says StoCK chairman Stephen Mutoro.

"The ready availability of illicit alcohol or tobacco is a growing menace. Yet consumers are deciding not to report this potentially lethal crime because they fear retaliation or official apathy. That should set alarm bells ringing.

"Government must prioritise the fight against illicit trade. The agencies tasked with tackling this scourge must revitalise their efforts and win back the confidence of the public. And the perpetrators growing rich at the expense of our economy and the lives of innocent people must be brought to justice."

Stephen Mutoro

StoCK chairman

