

COVID-19 PROFITEERING - COUNTERFEIT & SUB- STANDARD GOODS



KEY FINDINGS

The distribution of counterfeit and/or sub-standard goods has been a key area of criminal activity in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sale of counterfeit healthcare and sanitary products as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) and counterfeit pharmaceutical products has increased manifold since the outbreak of the crisis. The advertisement and sale **of these items take place both on and offline.**

Some developments, such as the distribution of fake corona home testing kits, are particularly worrying from a public health perspective.

OUTLOOK

The number of offers of counterfeit and sub-standard goods will continue to increase, particularly online. There is a risk that counterfeiters will use shortages in the supply of some goods to increasingly provide counterfeit alternatives both **on and offline. This may entail sub-standard or counterfeit foods, hygiene items and other everyday goods.**

The sale of counterfeit and/or sub-standard goods on and offline is booming in the pandemic economy. There is particularly high demand for certain types of healthcare and sanitary products (masks, gloves, cleaning products, pharmaceutical products), which has created a substantial market for product **counterfeiters, fraudsters and profiteers.**