

British American Tobacco – Illegal Cigarettes: Who Pays the Price? Transcription

Time Code In	Transcription
00:00:04,584	Tobacco is one of the most extensively smuggled legal substances in the world,
00:00:09,506	funding an underworld of organised crime.
00:00:13,151	It's estimated that up to 12% of the world's cigarettes are traded illegally.
00:00:18,451	That's up to 660 billion cigarettes a year.
00:00:22,272	Enough that every single person in the UK could buy a packet.
00:00:25,911	Every day.
00:00:28,061	Ease of manufacturing and evolving methods of smuggling mean that detection rates are low.
00:00:33,707	And even when the traders get caught, the penalties are minimal and easily afforded.
00:00:39,578	This is not a victimless crime.
00:00:42,696	Governments are robbed of at least \$40 billion US dollars each year in unpaid taxes.
00:00:48,990	Just imagine what that money could be spent on.
00:00:52,385	It's enough to buy 170 pounds of rice for every single person in Africa.
00:00:57,256	Or building 20 shuttles to further the exploration of space.
00:01:01,824	Illegal trafficking of tobacco means a loss to everyone.
00:01:05,729	Legal retailers, often small local businesses, suffer damage to their trade.
00:01:10,792	While gangs enjoy huge profits, often used to fund violent criminal activity.
00:01:16,880	But the biggest problem is that the sale of these cigarettes is impossible to control.
00:01:21,747	There's no ID policy on the street,
00:01:24,712	and criminals have no qualms about selling to children.
00:01:28,812	Poor or non-existent quality control on counterfeits,
00:01:32,295	also mean they are likely to contain many times the levels of tar and

	carbon monoxide found in genuine cigarettes.
00:01:39,985	At BAT we believe this is a serious issue.
00:01:44,069	We're investing heavily in technology that will help us and the authorities track our products,
00:01:49,631	keeping them out of the hands of smugglers.
00:01:52,959	This problem needs a strong and wide global response.
00:01:57,445	The industry, Governments and law enforcement services need to continue working together
00:02:02,382	to fight the illegal production and trade of cigarettes.
00:02:07,178	It is our mission to ensure that all tobacco products on sale have been responsibly regulated,
00:02:13,078	and to uphold our commitment to protecting society, consumers and our business.