

**United Nations  
Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC)**

# **Trafficking in Persons Global Patterns**

**April 2006**

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*Note, in the printed format, these appendices are included in an attached compact disc.*



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The present Report is based on the analysis of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Database on Human Trafficking Trends. The Trafficking Database has received financial support from the governments of Belgium and Norway.

# Terminology

<b>Accounts</b> (of trafficking in persons):	The term refers to the "bundles" of trafficking information that were identified and entered into the Trafficking Database. These may differ from actual individual cases or episodes of trafficking, as the data reported may be incomplete. A single account of trafficking in persons, as reported by a source institution, contains at least information on the trafficking route and possibly also fuller details, such as information regarding the victim/s (including the number of victims and their profile), the traffickers and the exploitative purpose of the trafficking. A single account of trafficking in persons may involve any number of victims.
<b>Cases:</b>	Actual instances or episodes of human trafficking.
<b>Citation index:</b>	The index indicates the number of sources reporting an information variable concerning a particular country according to a 5-point scale, from very low to very high, in comparison to all other countries (e.g. information indicating that a specific country or territory is an origin, transit or destination of trafficking in persons).
<b>Convention:</b>	The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
<b>Forced labour:</b>	All work or service which is exacted from a person under the menace of penalty and which is undertaken involuntarily.
<b>Organized criminal group:</b>	A structured group of three or more persons existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences established in accordance with the Convention, in order to obtain, directly, or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.
<b>Serious crime:</b>	Conduct constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years or a more serious penalty.
<b>Smuggling of migrants:</b>	The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a country of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.

<b>Sources:</b>	The 'sources' referred to throughout the Report are the 113 different individual source institutions that reported information on human trafficking, involving 161 countries and special administrative territories during the period, 1996-2003, that were identified by UNODC. These sources are listed in Appendix 1.
<b>Structured group:</b>	A group that is not randomly formed for the immediate commission of an offence. It does not need to have formally defined roles for its members, continuity of its membership or a developed structure.
<b>Traffickers :</b>	All those who are involved in the criminal activity of trafficking of persons. The term does not apply solely to persons convicted of human trafficking offences, but also refers to suspects, arrested and prosecuted persons who, through various means, have come to the attention of criminal justice system actors.
<b>Trafficking in persons:</b>	The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.
<b>Trafficking Protocol:</b>	The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
<b>Trafficking Database:</b>	The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Database on Human Trafficking Trends.
<b>Transnational offence:</b>	An offence is transnational if: (a) it is committed in more than one State; (b) it is committed in one State but a substantial part of its preparation, planning, direction or control takes place in another State; (c) it is committed in one State but involves an organized criminal group that engages in criminal activities in more than one State; or (d) it is committed in one State but has substantial effects in another State.

# List of Acronyms

The following abbreviations have been used in this Report:

<b>AIC</b>	Australian Institute of Criminology
<b>AHTU</b>	Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of UNODC
<b>BKA</b>	Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt)
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CEE</b>	Central and South Eastern Europe
<b>CIA</b>	The United States of America's Central Intelligence Agency
<b>CIS</b>	The Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>CPI</b>	Corruption Perceptions Index
<b>ECOSOC</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Council
<b>ESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>Europol</b>	European Police Office
<b>GDI</b>	Gender-related Development Index
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GPAT</b>	Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings
<b>HDI</b>	The Human Development Index
<b>HEUNI</b>	The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations
<b>IGO</b>	Inter-governmental Organization
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization



<b>Interpol</b>	International Criminal Police Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organization
<b>OCI</b>	The Organized Crime Index
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>PNI</b>	United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network
<b>PPP</b>	Purchasing Power Parity
<b>SAR</b>	Special Administrative Region
<b>SECI</b>	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
<b>TI</b>	Transparency International
<b>TIP Report</b>	The United States' State Department "Trafficking in Persons" report
<b>UMCOR</b>	The United Methodist Committee on Relief
<b>UN</b>	The United Nations
<b>UNHCR</b>	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNICRI</b>	United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>WEF</b>	The World Economic Forum

# Foreword of the Executive Director

The fact that slavery - in the form of human trafficking - still exists in the 21st century shames us all.

Governments, international organizations and civil society are devoting considerable efforts to counter it, but there is still an information deficit about the extent of this tragedy. Only by understanding its depth, breadth and scope can we design policies to fight it. This understanding still eludes us: efforts to counter trafficking have so far been uncoordinated and inefficient.

This Report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is our first attempt to close the knowledge gap. It uses information from open sources, both private and public, to map an impressionistic journey into global patterns of trafficking in persons. Complaining that accurate statistics are difficult to come by may sound like an excuse. But it is a fact, which is due only in part to the hidden nature of the crime. The lack of systematic reporting by authorities is the real problem. Information is available on certain countries, but worldwide comparative analysis -- the kind of assessment the United Nations excels in -- has so far not been possible.

This Report was designed to accomplish several things, all relevant in the general effort to overcome the information gap. First, to compile and make sense of existing disparate sources, so as to highlight trends concerning countries of origin, transit and destination. Second, to lay down a challenge to UN Member States to improve the quality of their reporting. UNODC should be able to present authoritative global data on human trafficking as we do for the illegal drugs trade. We therefore invite governments to try harder: the accuracy and

thoroughness of such reports in future will depend on how much Member States want to help us to help them. Third, to make readers painfully aware that we are all affected by the human trafficking tragedy. This report - having placed a few flags on the map - lets readers, and Member States, journey from one painful spot on the globe to the next.

The Report also includes recommendations, based on the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. The Protocol is about prevention, prosecution and protection. I believe we could do better in all three areas:

- A main challenge is to reduce demand, whether for cheap goods manufactured in sweatshops, or for under-priced commodities produced by bonded people in farms and mines, or for services provided by sex slaves. Prevention should involve information campaigns to reduce the vulnerability of people to trafficking. If people are aware of the dangers of human trafficking, the chances of avoiding its consequences should be improved.
- Another big challenge is to target the criminals who profit from the vulnerability of people trying to escape from poverty, unemployment, hunger and oppression. Traffickers are evil brokers of oppressed people whom they deliver into the hands of exploiters. They capitalize on weak law enforcement and poor international cooperation. I am disappointed by the low rates of convictions for the perpetrators of human trafficking.
- Member States need to protect the trafficking victims, taking particular care to address the special needs of women and children. Such assistance is often lacking. Even worse, rescued

victims are often re-trafficked because legislators and enforcement officials, despite their best intentions, sometimes produce and have to implement flawed laws that can put these same victims back into the clutches of their exploiters.

Human trafficking is a global problem. This Report, with all its limitations, highlights the plight of people who originate from more than one hundred countries, who are handled as commodities and exploited in an ever larger number of destination countries. The traffickers' web spans the whole planet: people are moved from poor communities in the southern hemisphere to richer countries in the North. There is also a lot of South-South trafficking and a sprinkling of South-bound trade.



Antonio Maria Costa  
Executive Director  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A global problem like this requires a global response. The UN Trafficking Protocol offers a framework for tackling the problem, and UNODC - through technical and legal assistance - can help States build capacity to counter it.

What is missing is a reliable global overview.

This Report is a first, modest step. Some readers will object to seeing their countries listed as very problematic in trafficking just because their data are honest and plentiful. That is a fair point. Other countries will be pleased not to be included among the major offenders, but this may be because patchy statistics mask the severity of the problem. I hope all United Nations Member States will respond in the right spirit to ensure that we can present more and better information in future.

# Recommendations

The starting point in the fight against human trafficking is the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

As one part of that commitment, UNODC urges all

countries to work on producing greater information on trafficking in persons. This is needed, worldwide, to enable all actors combating human trafficking to design and implement more effective responses.

More extensive and accurate data can also help to measure progress in national and international efforts to combat trafficking.

*When implementing the Trafficking Protocol, Member States should consider the following recommendations:*

<p><b>Prevention</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To establish, together with NGOs and civil society, comprehensive regional and national policies and programmes to prevent and combat human trafficking and to protect the victims.</li> <li>2. To implement, together with NGOs and civil society, research, information and media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.</li> <li>3. To undertake measures to alleviate the vulnerability of people (women and children in particular) to human trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity.</li> <li>4. To undertake measures to discourage demand that fosters exploitation that leads to trafficking in persons.</li> <li>5. To provide training to relevant officials in the prevention, prosecution of trafficking in persons and protection of the rights of the victims.</li> <li>6. To exchange information on human trafficking routes, modus operandi,</li> </ol>	<p>traffickers profiles and victims identification.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. To undertake measures to prevent means of transport operated by commercial carriers to be used in the commission of human trafficking offences.</li> <li>8. To strengthen cooperation among border control agencies by, inter alia, establishing and maintaining direct channels of communication.</li> </ol> <p><b>Prosecution</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. To undertake measures to ensure that travel and identity documents cannot easily be misused, falsified, unlawfully altered, replicated or issued; and to ensure the integrity and security of travel and identity documents and to prevent their unlawful creation, issuance and use.</li> <li>10. To enact domestic laws making human trafficking a criminal offence. Such laws should also establish as criminal offences attempting to commit, participating as an accomplice, and organizing or directing other persons to commit human trafficking.</li> <li>11. To ensure such legislation applies to victims of all ages and both sexes; and clearly</li> </ol>
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<p>distinguish between trafficking in persons and other forms of irregular migration.</p> <p>12. To ensure that the system of penalties is adequate, given the severity of the crime.</p> <p>13. To protect the privacy and identity of victims in appropriate cases.</p> <p>14. To establish measures to protect victims from revictimization.</p> <p>15. To implement measures providing to victims information on proceedings, assistance to enable their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of criminal proceedings.</p> <p>16. To implement measures that offer victims the possibility of obtaining compensation.</p> <p><b>Protection</b></p> <p>17. To implement measures to provide for the</p>	<p>physical, psychological and social recovery of victims. This should include housing and counselling in a language the victims can understand, medical, psychological and material assistance as well as employment, educational and training opportunities. The special needs of victims, in particular children, are to be taken into account.</p> <p>18. To provide for the physical safety of victims following rescue.</p> <p>19. To adopt measures that permit victims to remain in the territory, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases, giving consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors.</p> <p>20. To facilitate preferably voluntary return of the victim without undue or unreasonable delay, with due regard for the safety of the victim.</p>
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*To fully implement the Trafficking Protocol and to enable effective oversight of that implementation, Member States are encouraged to also consider the following recommendations:*

<p><b>Information</b></p> <p>21. To devote resources to create the infrastructure necessary to collect information about all aspects of human trafficking.</p> <p>22. To develop methods at the national level to organize data collection through a comprehensive system of data classification.</p> <p>23. To assign responsibility for information collection to a centralized agency or some equivalent co-ordinated statistics system.</p> <p>24. To gather more information in particular on: victims of trafficking; offenders;</p>	<p>organized crime groups; and internal trafficking.</p> <p>25. To collect information regarding victim identification, referral, assistance and repatriation.</p> <p>26. To collect qualitative as well as quantitative information.</p> <p>27. To engage in greater multilateral collaboration to ensure more intensive gathering and analysis of primary data.</p> <p>28. To report such information to the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime.</p>
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# Executive Summary

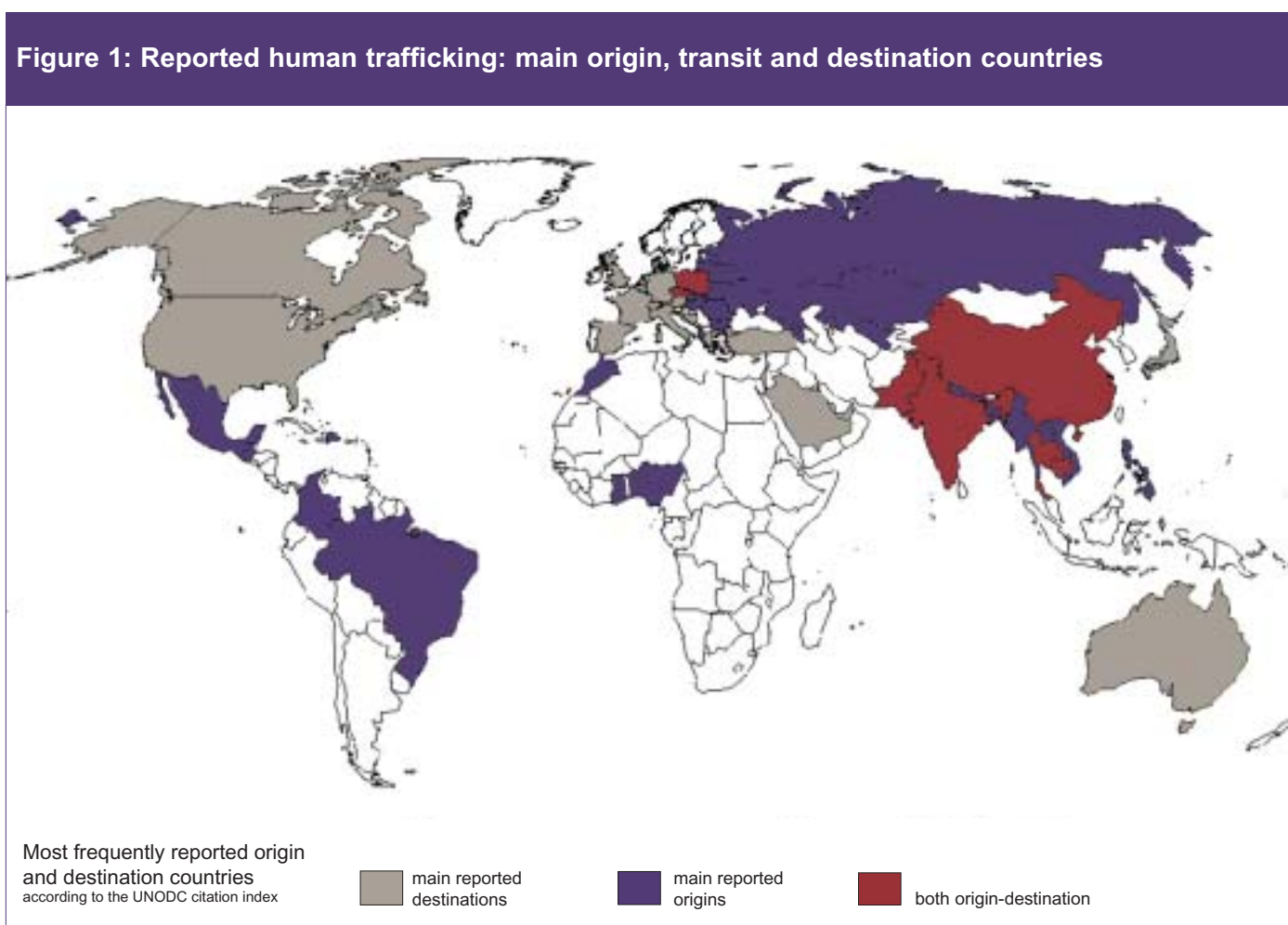




# Global Patterns

Human trafficking is widespread - data taken from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Database on Human Trafficking Trends document

the trafficking of human beings from 127 countries to be exploited in 137 countries.



Even though all human trafficking cases have their individual characteristics, most follow the same pattern: people are abducted or recruited in the country of origin, transferred through transit regions and then exploited in the destination country. If, at some stage, the exploitation of the victim is interrupted or ended, they can be rescued as victims

of trafficking in persons and it is possible they might receive support in the country of destination. Either immediately or at some later point, victims might be repatriated to their origin country; in some cases, relocated in a third country; or, as unfortunately too often still happens, are deported from destination or transit countries as illegal migrants.

## Incidence of Reporting of Origin Countries <sup>1</sup>

Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Albania	Armenia	Afghanistan	Argentina	Brunei Darussalam
Belarus	Bangladesh	Algeria	Bhutan	Chad
Bulgaria	Benin	Angola	Botswana	Chile
China	Brazil	Azerbaijan	Burundi	Costa Rica
Lithuania	Cambodia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Canada	Egypt
Nigeria	Colombia	Burkina Faso	Cape Verde	Fiji
Republic of Moldova	Czech Republic	Cameroon	Democratic Republic of Congo	Jamaica
Romania	Dominican Republic	Congo, Republic of	Djibouti	Macao, China SAR
Russian Federation	Estonia	Cote d'Ivoire	Equatorial Guinea	Netherlands
Thailand	Georgia	Croatia	Eritrea	Paraguay
Ukraine	Ghana	Cuba	Gabon	Syrian Arab Republic
	Guatemala	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Gambia	Uruguay
	Hungary	Ecuador	Guinea	Yemen
	India	El Salvador	Iran (Islamic Republic Of)	
	Kazakhstan	Ethiopia	Iraq	
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Haiti	Jordan	
	Latvia	Honduras	Lebanon	
	Mexico	Hong Kong, China SAR	Lesotho	
	Morocco	Indonesia	Madagascar	
	Myanmar	Kenya	Maldives	
	Nepal	Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)	Nicaragua	
	Pakistan	Kyrgyzstan	Panama	
	Philippines	Liberia	Rwanda	
	Poland	Malawi	Republic of Korea	
	Slovakia	Malaysia	Somalia	
	Uzbekistan	Mali	Sudan	
	Viet Nam	Mozambique	Swaziland	
		Niger	Tunisia	
		Peru	United States of America	
		Senegal	Zimbabwe	
		Serbia and Montenegro		
		Sierra Leone		
		Singapore		
		Slovenia		
		South Africa		
		Sri Lanka		
		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		
		Taiwan Province of China		
		Tajikistan		
		Togo		
		Turkey		
		Turkmenistan		
		Uganda		
		United Republic of Tanzania		
		Venezuela		
		Zambia		

## Incidence of Reporting of Transit Countries <sup>2</sup>

Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Albania	Belgium	Belarus	Algeria	Bahrain
Bulgaria	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Benin	Austria	Bangladesh
Hungary	Czech Republic	Burkina Faso	Azerbaijan	Belize
Italy	France	Canada	Botswana	Cambodia
Poland	Germany	Cote d'Ivoire	Brunei Darussalam	Chad
Thailand	Greece	Croatia	Cameroon	China
	Kosovo	Cyprus	Costa Rica	Colombia
	(Serbia and Montenegro)	Egypt	Ghana	Dominica
	Myanmar	Gabon	Indonesia	El Salvador
	Romania	Georgia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Equatorial Guinea
	Serbia and Montenegro	Hong Kong, China SAR	Latvia	Estonia
	Slovakia	India	Lithuania	Finland
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Kazakhstan	Morocco	Guatemala
	Turkey	Malaysia	New Zealand	Ireland
	Ukraine	Mexico	Nigeria	Jamaica
		Netherlands	Republic of Moldova	Japan
		Russian Federation	Slovenia	Jordan
		Singapore	Spain	Korea, Republic of
		South Africa	Switzerland	Kyrgyzstan
		Togo		Lebanon
		United Kingdom		Lesotho
				Malawi
				Mali
				Mozambique
				Nepal
				Niger
				Norway
				Pakistan
				Panama
				Philippines
				Saudi Arabia
				Senegal
				Sweden
				United Republic of Tanzania
				Uruguay
				Viet Nam
				Zambia
				Zimbabwe

1. Countries have been listed in alphabetical order according to the category under the citation index. There are several reasons why the reporting of human trafficking may vary between countries, regardless of the actual severity of trafficking in persons. Levels of reporting of trafficking in persons may vary due to: geographical bias; political emphasis; the comprehensiveness of various national legal definitions of human trafficking and child trafficking; the non-recognition of different forms of exploitation; the availability and quality of official statistics and reporting; the availability and quality of national structures for victim identification, referral, assistance and repatriation; the extent of bi- and multi-lateral cooperation; and confusion between trafficking in persons and other forms of irregular migration.
2. See footnote 1.

### Incidence of Reporting of Destination Countries <sup>3</sup>

Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Belgium	Australia	Albania	Aruba	Algeria
Germany	Austria	Argentina	Bangladesh	Bhutan
Greece	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bahrain	Belize	Brazil
Israel	Cambodia	Benin	Brunei Darussalam	Burundi
Italy	Canada	Bulgaria	Congo, Republic of	Chad
Japan	China	Burkina Faso	Costa Rica	Chile
Netherlands	Hong Kong, China SAR	Cameroon	Ecuador	Congo, Democratic Republic of
Thailand	Taiwan Province of China	Cote d'Ivoire	Egypt	Djibouti
Turkey	Cyprus	Croatia	Haiti	Dominica
United States of America	Czech Republic	Curacao	Indonesia	Ethiopia
	Denmark	Dominican Republic	Iraq	Fiji
	France	El Salvador	Ireland	Gambia
	India	Equatorial Guinea	Kyrgyzstan	Georgia
	Kosovo, (Serbia and Montenegro)	Estonia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Honduras
	Pakistan	Finland	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Jamaica
	Poland	Gabon	Luxembourg	Liberia
	Saudi Arabia	Ghana	Mali	Malawi
	Spain	Guatemala	Niger	Maldives
	Switzerland	Hungary	Oman	Morocco
	United Arab Emirates	Iceland	Paraguay	Mozambique
	United Kingdom	Iran (Islamic Republic Of)	Romania	Republic of Moldova
		Kazakhstan	Slovenia	Senegal
		Kenya	Sri Lanka	Sierra Leone
		Kuwait	Uganda	Slovakia
		Latvia	United Republic of Tanzania	Sudan
		Lebanon	Uzbekistan	Tajikistan
		Lithuania	Yemen	Trinidad and Tobago
		Macao, China SAR		Zambia
		Malaysia		Zimbabwe
		Mexico		
		Myanmar		
		New Zealand		
		Nigeria		
		Norway		
		Panama		
		Philippines		
		Portugal		
		Qatar		
		Republic of Korea		
		Russian Federation		
		Serbia and Montenegro		
		Singapore		
		South Africa		
		Sweden		
		Syrian Arab Republic		
		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		
		Togo		
		Ukraine		
		Venezuela		
		Viet Nam		

3. See footnote 1.

## Regional Flows<sup>4</sup>

Analysis at the regional level shows that variation can be found with respect to (sub-) regions and countries of origin, transit or destination.



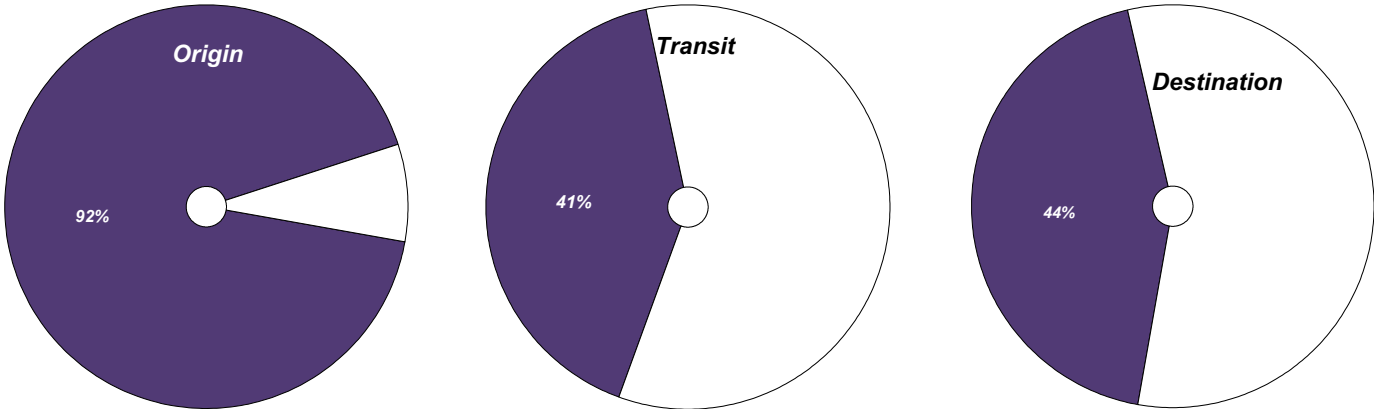
<sup>4</sup> For more detailed discussion of the following points, please see Chapter 3 of the Report, 'Human Trafficking: Regional Flows'.

# Africa

Africa is predominantly an origin region for victims of trafficking. Western Europe and Western Africa are reported to be the main destination (sub-)regions for African victims.

Western Africa is also reported to be the main origin sub-region for victims trafficked from Africa. This points to intra-regional human trafficking in Africa in general, and Western Africa in particular as an identified trend.

**Figure 2: Percentage of sources reporting the African region as an origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims <sup>5</sup>**

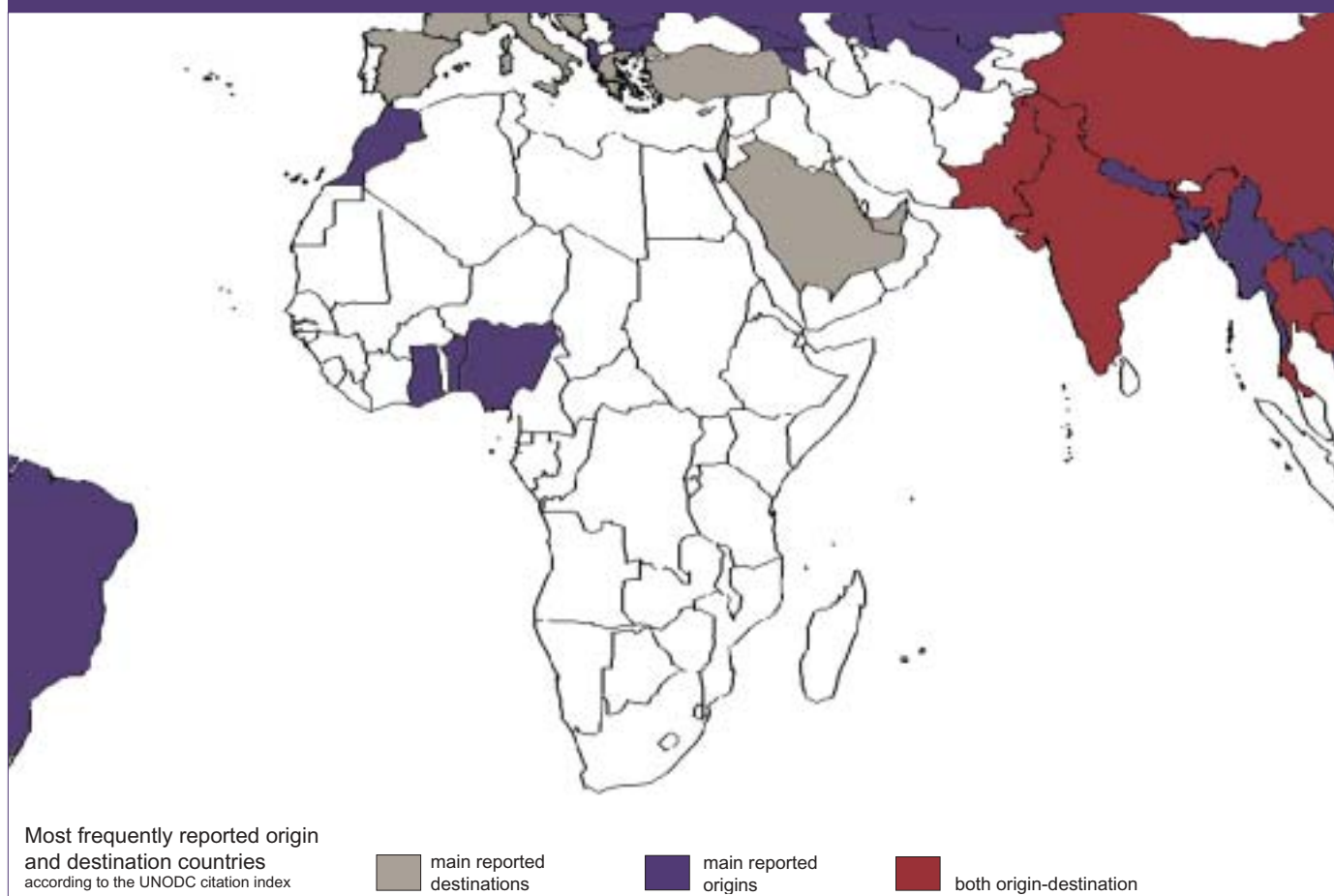


At a country level, Nigeria ranks very high as an origin country in the citation index, while Benin,

Ghana and Morocco rank high as origin countries.

<sup>5.</sup> In total, 39 source institutions reported Africa as a region of origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims. The percentages in the figures above refer to the total amount of 39 source institutions.

Figure 3: Reported trafficking in Africa

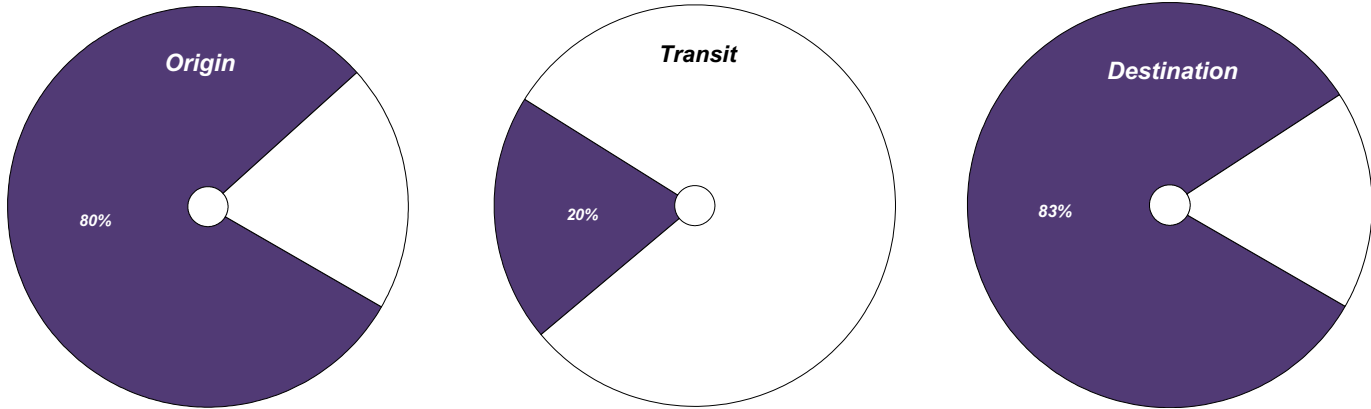


# Asia

Asia is mainly an origin region as well as a destination for trafficking in persons. Asian victims are reported to be trafficked from Asia to Asian countries, in particular to Thailand, Japan, India, Taiwan and Pakistan.

Trafficking into countries in the region is reported mainly from the Commonwealth of Independent States, followed by South-Eastern Asia, pointing to intra-regional trafficking

**Figure 4: Percentage of sources reporting the Asian region as origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims <sup>6</sup>**



At a country level, China and Thailand are both ranked very high in the citation index as origin countries, with Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Viet Nam ranked high in the citation index as countries of origin.

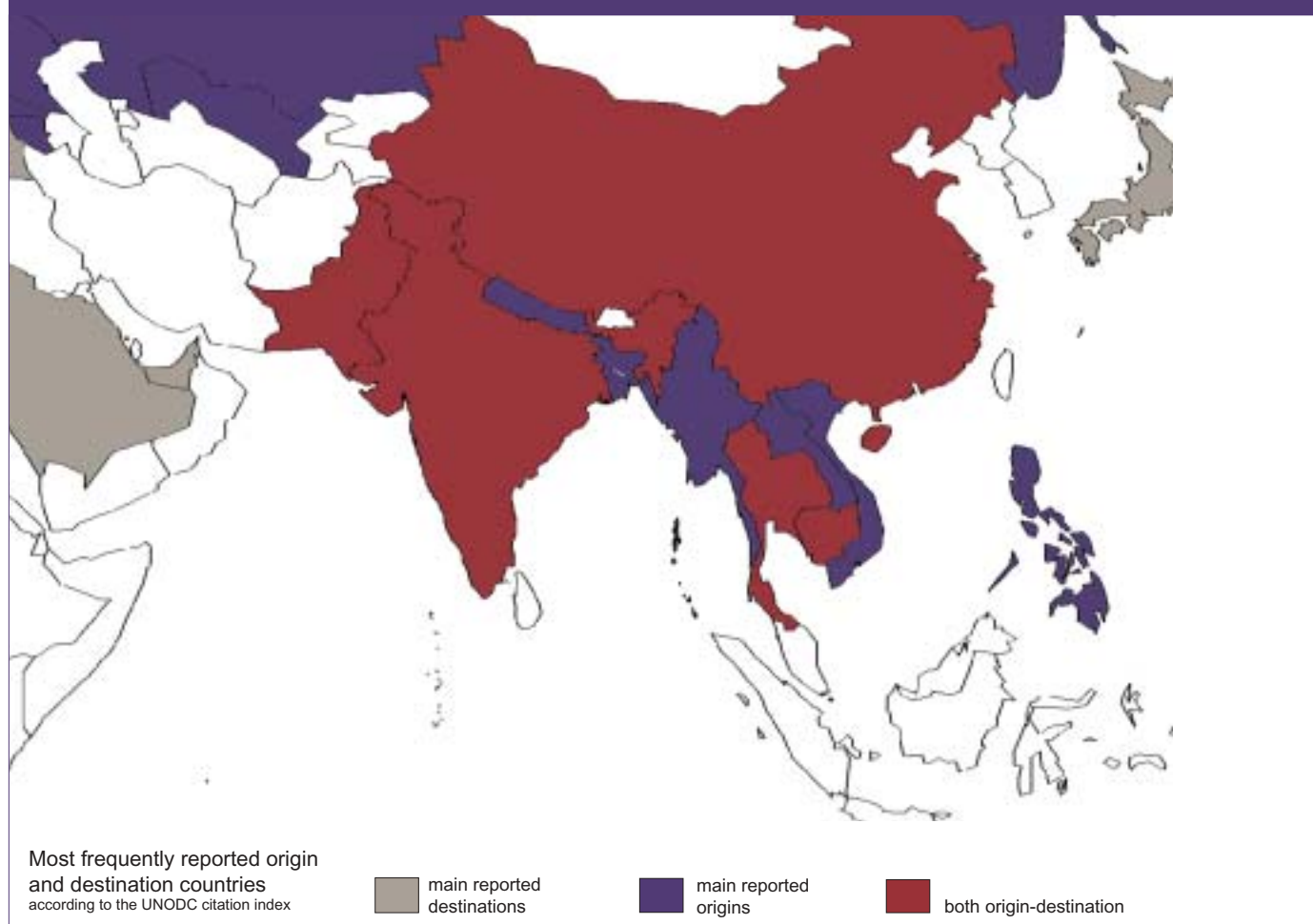
As destination countries, Thailand, Japan, Israel and Turkey (the latter two are both part of the

sub-region, Western Asia and Turkey) rank very high in the citation index. Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Cyprus, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates are ranked high.

South-Eastern Asia is reported to be a crucial point of trafficking both out of and into the region. Thailand ranks very high in the citation index as an origin, transit and destination country.



Figure 5: Reported trafficking in Asia



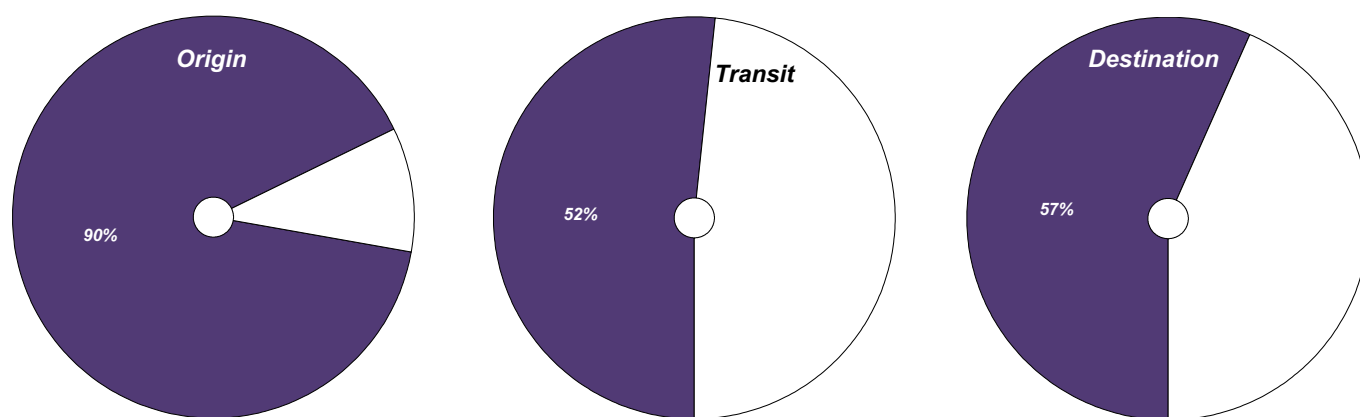
6. In total, 80 source institutions reported Asia as a region of origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims. The percentages in the figures above refer to the total amount of 80 source institutions.

# Europe

Central and South Eastern Europe is reported as predominantly an origin sub-region. Victims trafficked out of this sub-region are reported to be exploited in Western Europe. A number of sources also refer to countries in Central and South Eastern Europe as a destination for victims from the sub-region, indicating that intra-regional human trafficking is a problem.

Central and South Eastern Europe is reported, to a lesser extent, as a destination sub-region for victims mainly trafficked from the Commonwealth of Independent States. Central and South Eastern Europe is also reported to be a main transit sub-region.

**Figure 6 Percentage of sources reporting the Central and South Eastern European sub-region as origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims <sup>7</sup>**

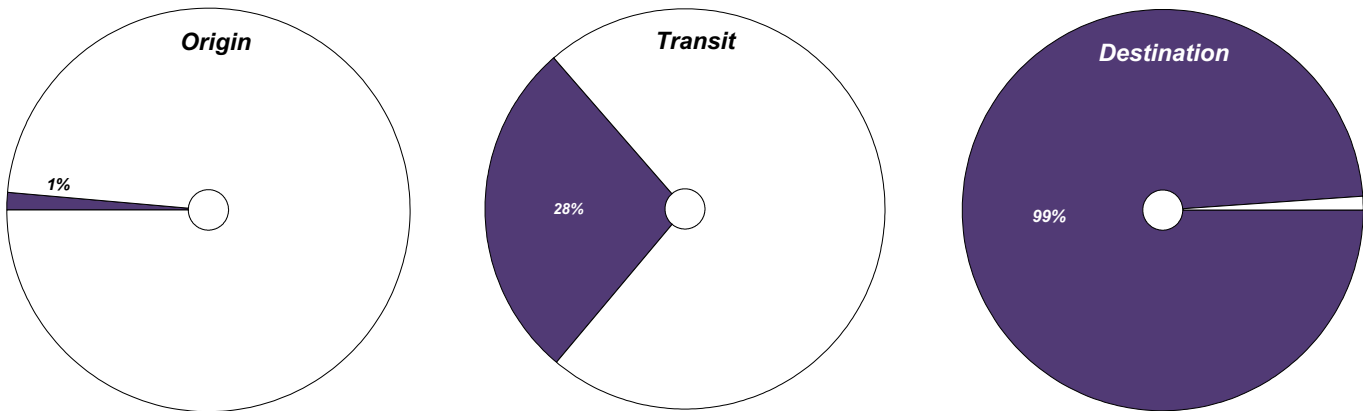


At a country level, within the Central and South Eastern European sub-region, Albania, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania are ranked very high in the citation index as origin countries; the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia are ranked high.

Western Europe is reported largely as a destination sub-region. Countries from Central and South Eastern Europe are cited most frequently as the origin of victims trafficked to Western Europe, followed by the Commonwealth of Independent States, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

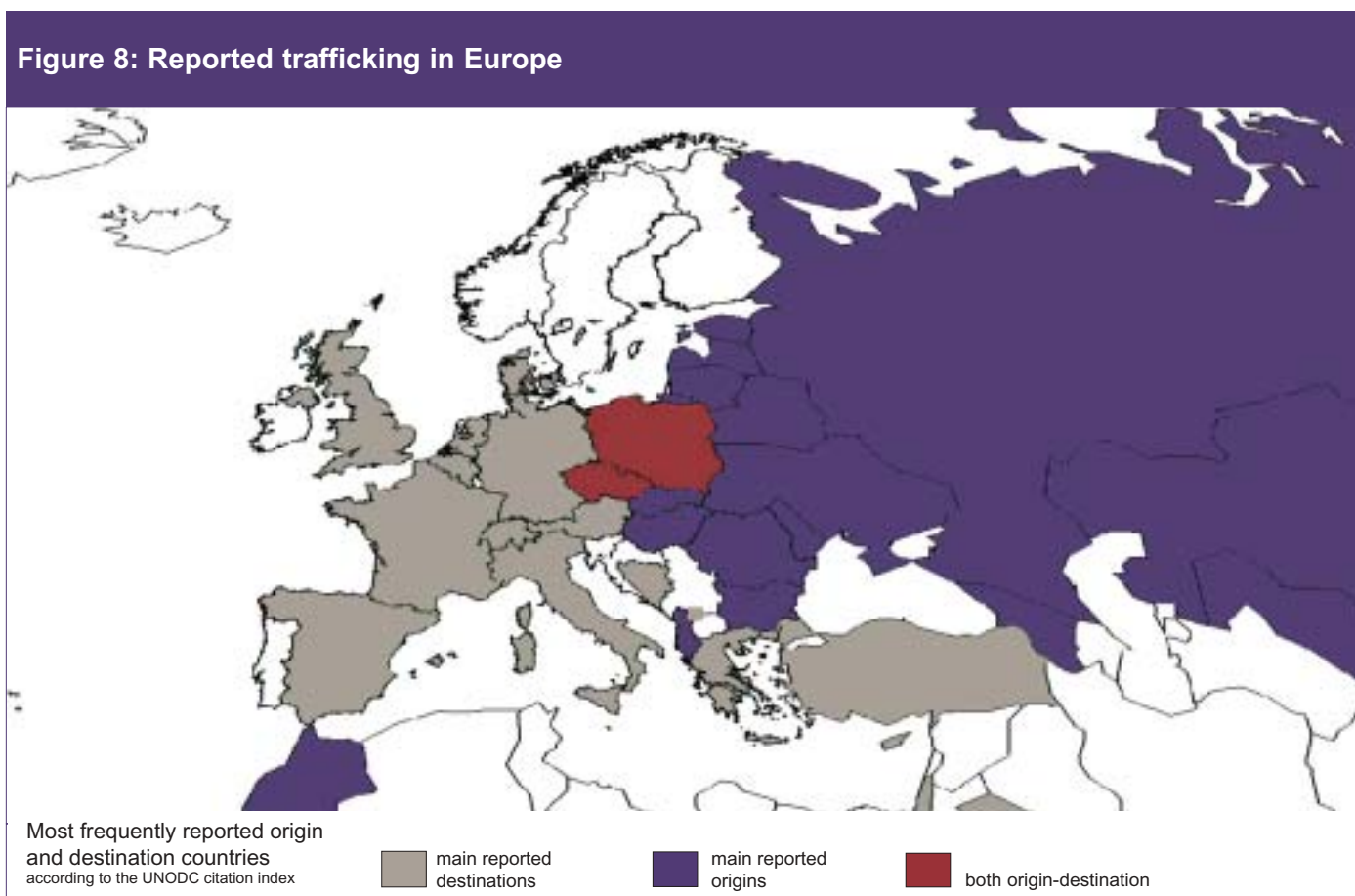
<sup>7</sup> In total, 60 source institutions reported Central and South Eastern Europe as a region of origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims. The percentages in the figures above refer to the total amount of 60 source institutions.

**Figure 7: Percentage of sources reporting the Western European sub-region as origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims <sup>8</sup>**



Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands are ranked very high in the citation index as destination countries. High in the citation index as destination countries are Austria, Bosnia

and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Kosovo, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.



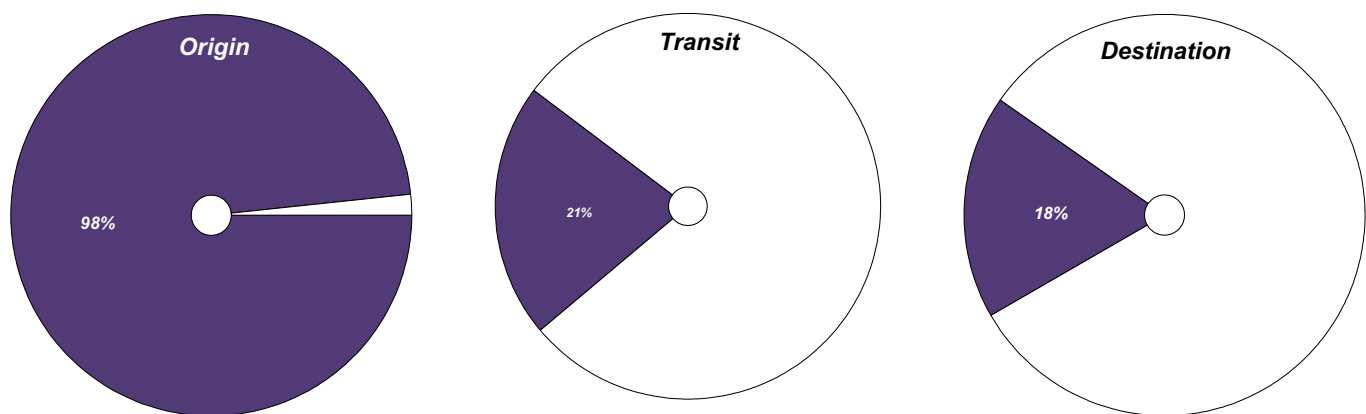
<sup>8.</sup> In total, 80 source institutions reported Western Europe as a region of origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims. The percentages in the figures above refer to the total amount of 80 source institutions.

# The Commonwealth of Independent States

The Commonwealth of Independent States is mainly reported as an origin region for trafficked victims. Western Europe and North America are the main destinations for victims reported to be

trafficked out of the region. Other reported (sub-) regions are Central and South Eastern Europe, and Western Asia and Turkey.

**Figure 9: Percentage of sources reporting the Commonwealth of Independent States as origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims<sup>9</sup>**

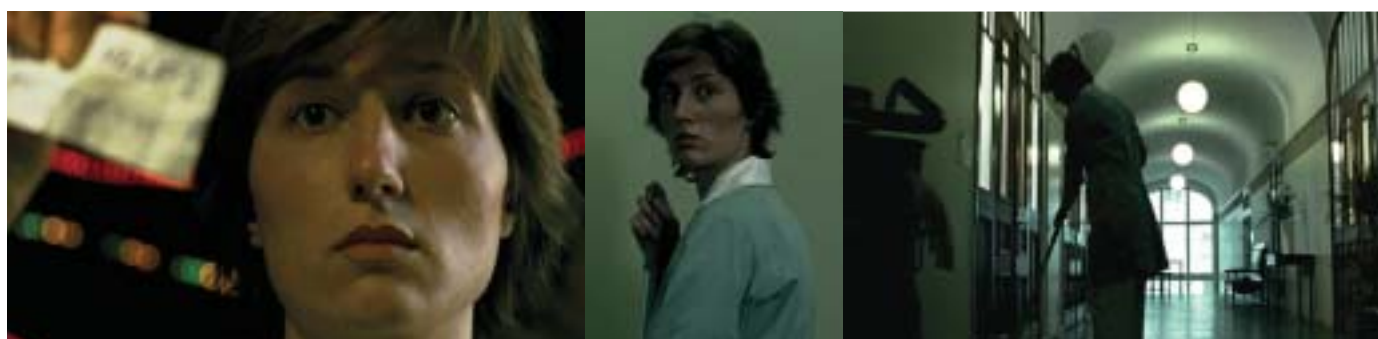
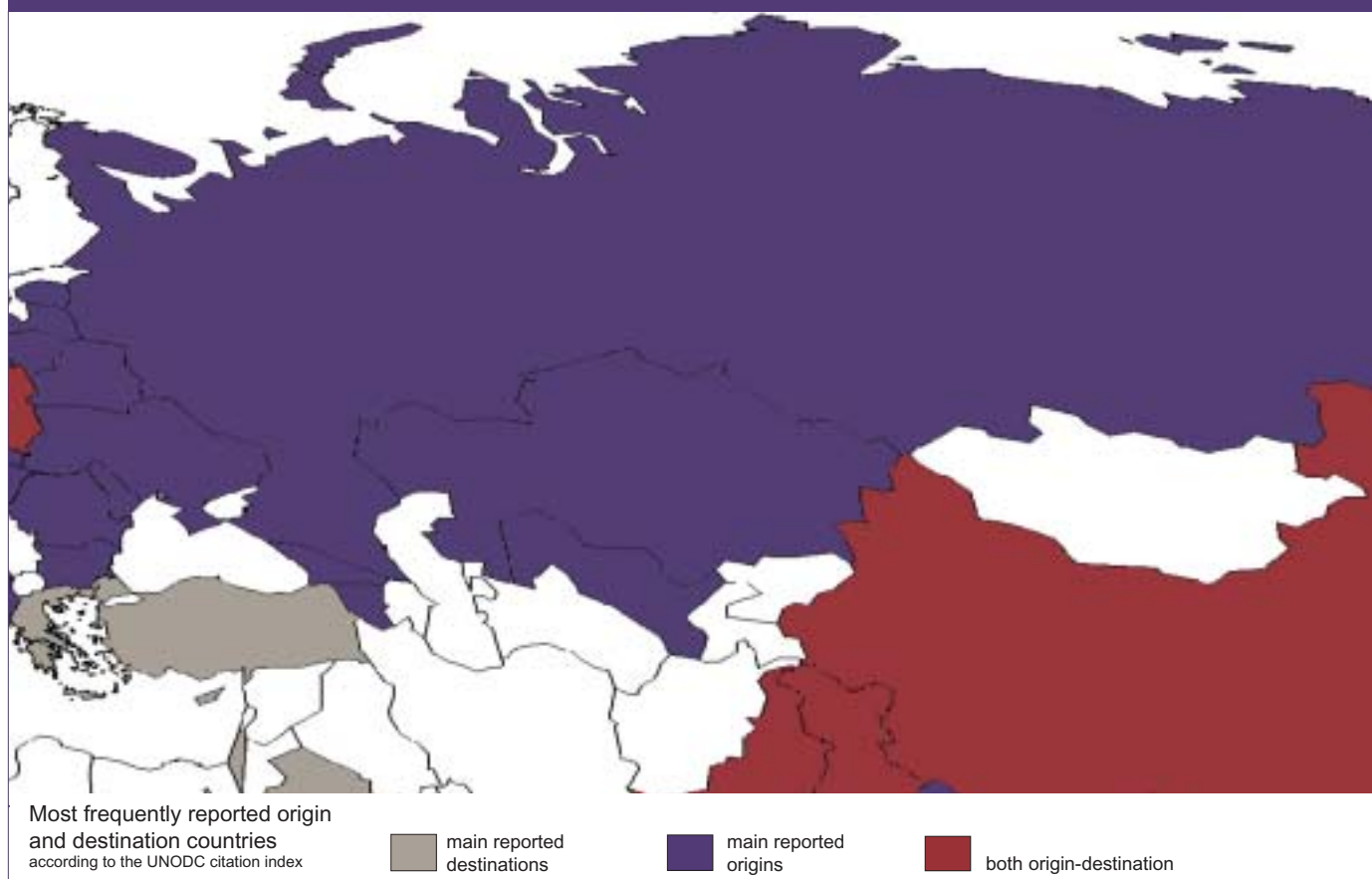


At the country level, Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine are ranked very high in the

citation index as origin countries; Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are ranked high.

<sup>9</sup>. In total, 61 source institutions reported the Commonwealth of Independent States as a region of origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims. The percentages in the figures above refer to the total amount of 61 source institutions.

Figure 10: Reported trafficking in the Commonwealth of the Independent States

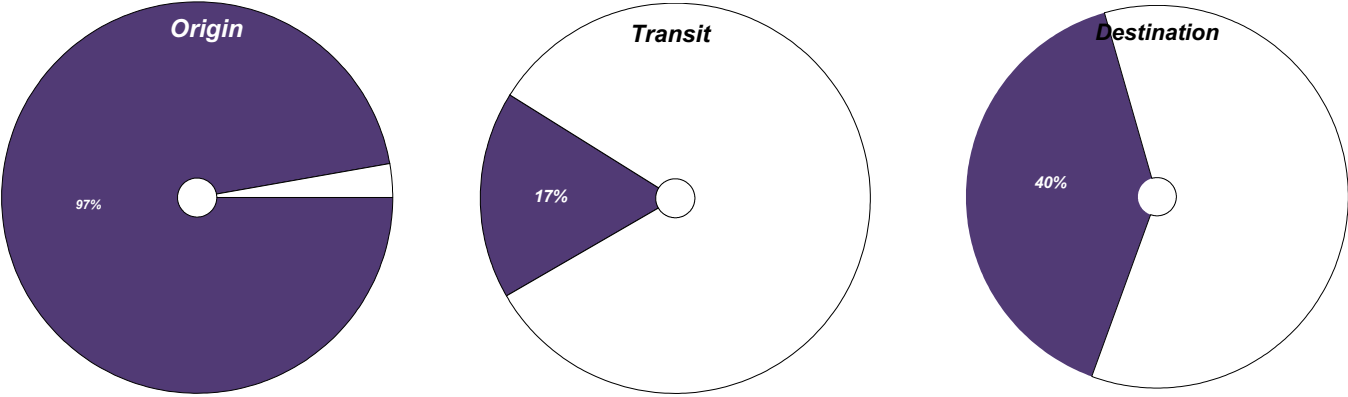


# Americas

The region, Latin America and the Caribbean, is primarily reported as an origin region. Most of the sources report Western Europe as the destination for victims trafficked out of this region, while a great number of sources report the region itself as the

destination. North America is also cited frequently as a destination for victims trafficked out of Latin America and the Caribbean. As a region, Latin America and the Caribbean is reported, to a lesser extent, as a destination and transit region.

**Figure 11: Percentage of sources reporting the Latin America and Caribbean region as origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims <sup>10</sup>**

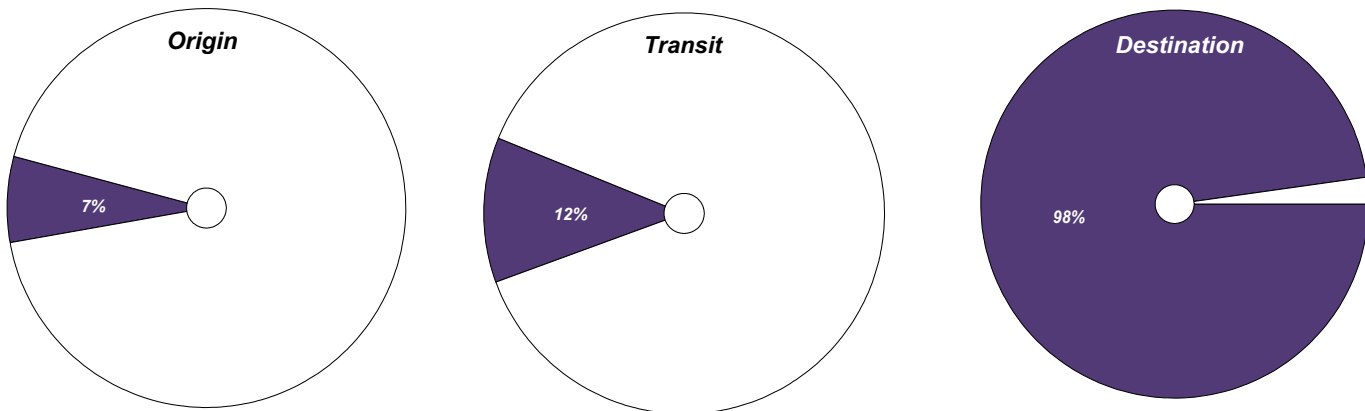


At a country level, Brazil, Colombia (South America), Dominican Republic (Caribbean), Guatemala and Mexico (Central America) were ranked high in the citation index as origin countries.

North America is reported almost exclusively as a destination region and victims are reported to come from all main origin regions. The Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean are more frequently reported origin regions of victims trafficked to North America.

<sup>10</sup>. In total, 35 source institutions reported the region, Latin America and the Caribbean, as a region of origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims. The percentages in the figures above refer to the total amount of 35 source institutions.

**Figure 12: Percentage of sources reporting the North American region as origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims <sup>11</sup>**



The United States ranks very high in the citation index as a destination country; Canada is ranked high.

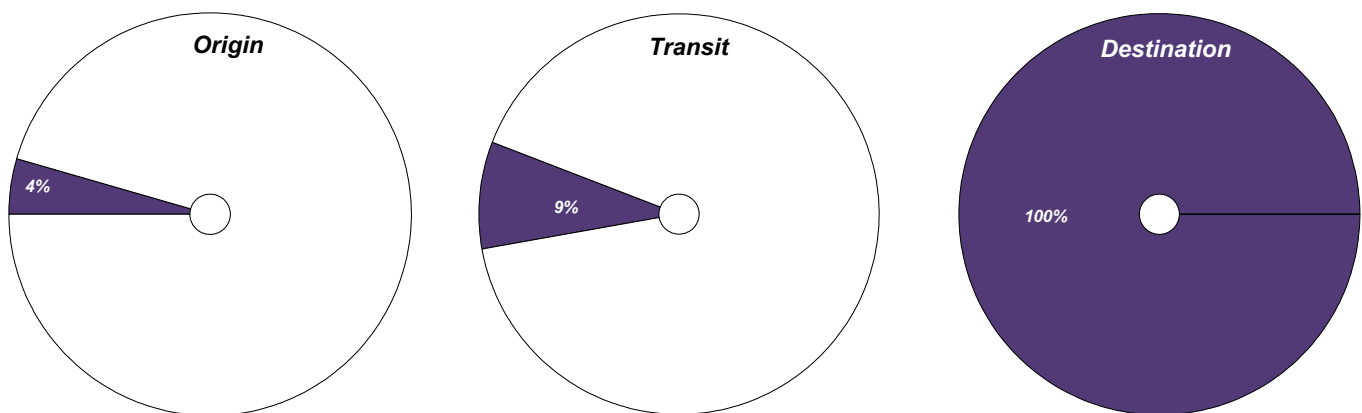


<sup>11</sup>. In total, 43 source institutions reported North America as a region of origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims. The percentages in the figures above refer to the total amount of 42 source institutions.

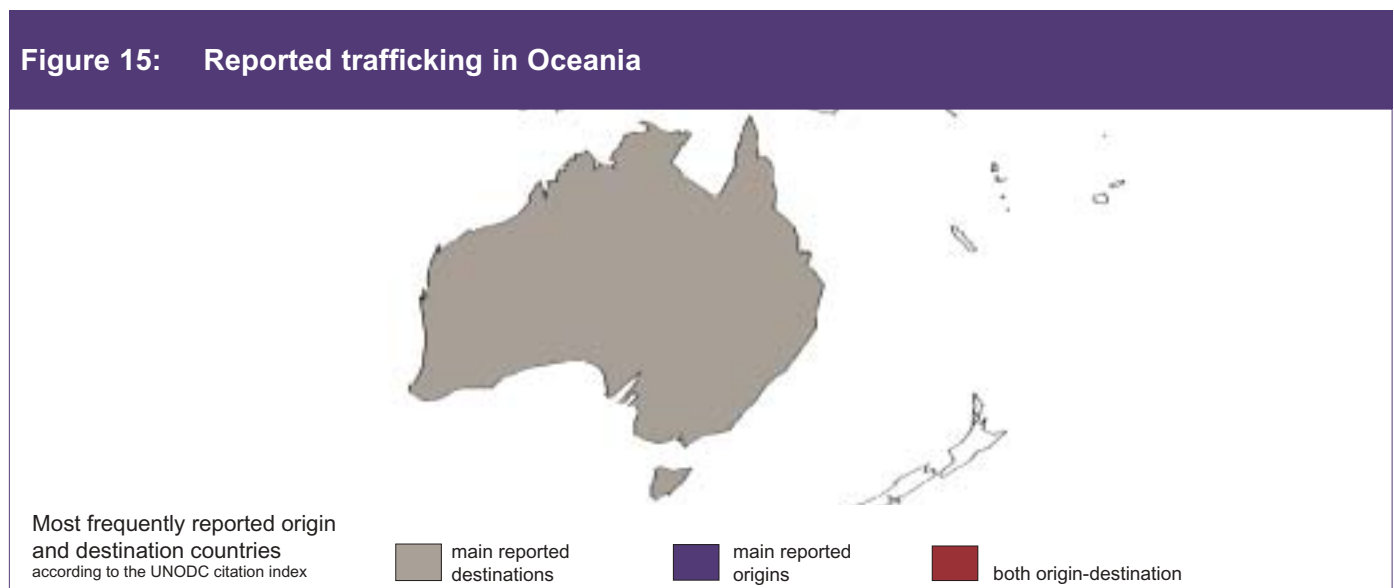
# Oceania

Oceania is primarily reported as a destination region, with the focus on the sub-region of Australia and New Zealand. Victims are reported to be trafficked to Oceania predominantly from South-Eastern Asia.

**Figure 14: Percentage of sources reporting the Oceania as origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims** <sup>12</sup>



Australia ranks high as a destination country in the citation index.



<sup>12.</sup> In total, 23 source institutions reported Oceania as a region of origin, transit or destination for trafficking victims. The percentages in the figures above refer to the total amount of 23 source institutions.

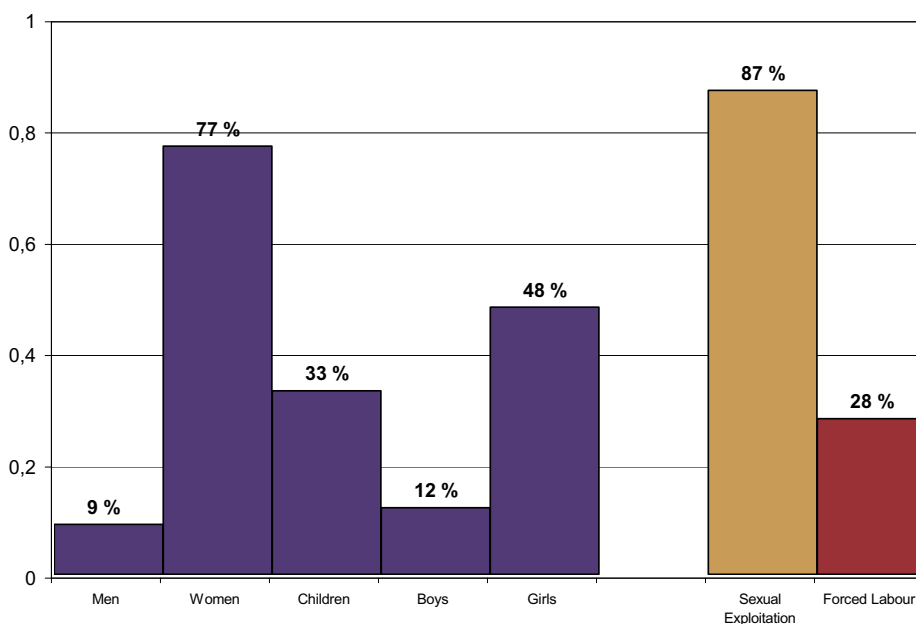


# Victims

Human trafficking for sexual exploitation is reported more frequently than trafficking for forced labour at the global level. Reporting varies per (sub-) region, with sexual exploitation reported by many sources in relation to Central and South

Eastern Europe and by relatively fewer to Africa. Where sources expressly report exploitation of boys, this tends to be in the labour market, while sexual exploitation is reported more frequently among female children.

**Figure 16: Reported profile of victims and the purpose of human trafficking at the global level** <sup>13</sup>



For several years, trafficking for sexual exploitation has dominated discussions concerning the purpose of human trafficking. Trafficking in persons for forced labour has not been viewed as a significant issue in many countries, and the identification of trafficking victims who are exploited through forced labour has been even less successful than in the case of sexual exploitation.

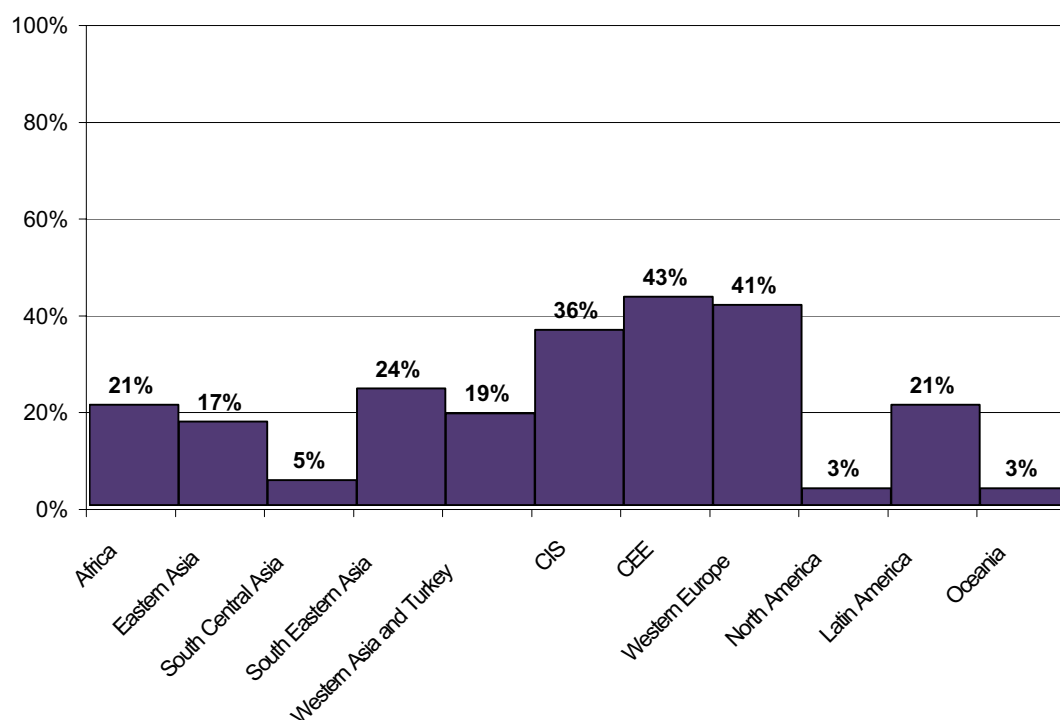
Most identified human trafficking victims have been women and children who seem to be particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Far fewer sources have identified either male victims or victims who have been subjected to forced labour, when the popular perception, at least, is that it is men especially who might be expected to be trafficked for forced labour purposes.

<sup>13</sup>. The figures in the graph refer to the percentage of sources in the Trafficking Database that refer to cases involving the particular feature of human trafficking practice. Note that the sum of percentages is over 100 because one source can indicate more than one victim profile or form of exploitation.

# Traffickers

At a global level, the largest number of reported references are to nationals of Asia (comprising several sub-regions) followed by Central and South Eastern Europe.

**Figure 17: Reported nationality of offenders**  
 (% of total sources reporting the profile of the offender)<sup>14</sup>



At a country level, a limited number of countries provided recent official information to UNODC on the nationality of traffickers who have been in contact with the criminal justice system in varying time periods (thus the figures are not in any way comparable between countries). The table below shows that in many countries the largest number of traffickers consist of nationals of the country where they were arrested. Germany, Greece, and the

Netherlands are among the countries which are reported to be very high destination countries, according to the citation index. In Germany, Greece and the Netherlands, the majority of traffickers arrested were nationals of these countries. This suggests that, where statistics are available, the criminal groups exploiting trafficking victims have strong national connections to the destination country.

<sup>13.</sup> Note that the sum of percentages is over 100 because one source can indicate more than one offender nationality.

**Figure 18: Nationality and number of recent offenders in selected countries** <sup>15</sup>

Selected Countries & period	Largest identified national groups of offenders (number of suspects)
Germany, 2002	German (325), Turkish (84), Bulgarian (68), Lithuanian (67), Polish (35)
Greece, 2004	Greek (207), Albanian (22), Bulgarian (15), Russian (10), Egyptian (7)
Iceland, Jan 2004 - Jun 2005	Chinese (4)
Montenegro*, 2004	Serb-Montenegrin (18), Bosnian (2), Ukrainian (1)
Netherlands, 2003	Dutch (61), Romanian (24), Bulgarian (21), Turkish (7), Nigerian (5)
Portugal, 2000 -2005	Polish (57), Latvian (13), Estonian (13), Hungarian (12), Czech (11)
Serbia*, 2004	Serb-Montenegrin (31), Ukraine (2), Romanian (1), Bulgarian (1)
Slovenia, 2004	Slovenian (12), Bulgarian (1)
Switzerland, 2003	Italian (4), Swiss (1)

\*The data regarding the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia have been collected separately although the two republics belongs to the state union of Serbia and Montenegro.

Global data on the gender of the traffickers is very limited. Reports, however, do exist of human trafficking groups of men and women operating together, as well as men-only and women-only groups. Interestingly, reports of trafficking in persons that mention male and female traffickers working together or mention only male traffickers also tend to report victims to be women, men or children. For sources that report instances where the traffickers are all female, the trafficking victims are reported to be women or girls.

From UNODC's research, a number of important

similarities between organized crime groups involved in human trafficking could be identified. Mainly two types of groups were involved in human trafficking activities.

## Group One: Hierarchical

Groups of the first type were hierarchically structured, characterized by strong internal lines of control and discipline. In addition to human trafficking, these groups were heavily involved in the transnational trafficking of various goods, including drugs and firearms, the smuggling of migrants, and kidnapping. Most of these groups had a single leadership structure, a strong social or ethnic identity and used violence as an essential means to carrying out their activities.

## Group Two: Core

The primary activity of the second type of groups was human trafficking, and they could be classified as 'core groups'. Such groups are characterized as consisting of a limited number of individuals forming a relatively tight and structured core group surrounded by a loose network of "associates", with the small size of the group helping to maintain internal discipline. Such groups seldom have a social or ethnic identity. 'Core groups' seem to be strictly profit-orientated and opportunistic, shifting between illegal activities on the basis of where the most profits can be generated. Groups of this type focusing on human trafficking operated across several borders and were regarded as extremely violent.

<sup>15</sup>. The figures in the table represent official statistics provided by the governments of the listed countries. The relevant time period for these statistics varies between countries but represents the most recent statistics available.

# Investigations, Prosecution and Convictions

One way of addressing trafficking in persons is to demolish the markets generating profits to the criminals. This might be attempted in a manner of ways including tackling the demand for cheap labour and exploitative services, or addressing the underlying poverty and lack of opportunities that creates a willing pool of potential victims. Another is to target the intermediaries who have built a criminal industry as the exploitative go-betweens who deal in human beings, and the profits they generate. To target the human trafficking industry would require identification of traffickers in order to be able to investigate trafficking in persons cases, and prosecute and convict offenders. Unfortunately, relatively few cases are prosecuted successfully, resulting in a very small number of convictions.

**Figure 20: Persons prosecuted and convicted in selected countries**

Selected Countries	Number of Persons Prosecuted	Number of Persons Convicted
Japan	48 (2004)	N.R.
Lithuania	24 (2003)	8 (2003)
Mexico	20 (2005)	N.R.
Netherlands	117 (2003)	106 (2003)
Romania	N.R.	125 (01/2005 to 06/2005)
Switzerland	N.R.	7 (2003)
Turkey	360 (2005)	N.R.
United States of America	59 (2004)	43 (2004)
Ukraine	59 (2003)	11 (2003)

**Figure 19: Trafficking in persons crimes recorded and persons arrested in selected countries**

Selected Countries	Number of Cases Recorded (A case might involve more than 1 person)	Selected Countries	Number of Cases Recorded (A case might involve more than 1 person)
Bulgaria	43 (2005)	Lithuania	19 (2002)
Czech Republic	20 (01/2004 to 06/2005)	Montenegro*	10 (2004)
Denmark	1 (2005)	Pakistan	374 (2003)
Germany	289 (2002)	Poland	44 (01/2004 to 06/2005)
Hungary	22 (2004)	United Kingdom	15 (04/2004 to 03/2005)
Italy	15 (01/2004 to 06/2005)	Ukraine	289 (2003)
Latvia	3 (2005)		

\* The data regarding the Republic of Montenegro have been collected separately from the Republic of Serbia although the two republics belong to the state union of Serbia and Montenegro.

Selected Countries	Number of Persons Arrested
Iceland	7 (01/2004 to 06/2005)
Italy	126 (01/2004 to 06/2005)
Japan	58 (2004)
Netherlands	135 (2003)
Pakistan	281 (2004)
Turkey	123 (2005)

## Data and methodology<sup>16</sup>

The Report is based upon data taken from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Database on Human Trafficking Trends (the Trafficking Database). It represents a first attempt to establish a comparative analysis of global human trafficking patterns based upon the systematic collection and coding of human trafficking activities as reported by selected source institutions during the period, 1996-2003. These institutions, with international, regional and national affiliations, have produced reports, books, journal articles and newspaper reports on trafficking cases and patterns, detailing thousands of episodes of human trafficking world-wide.

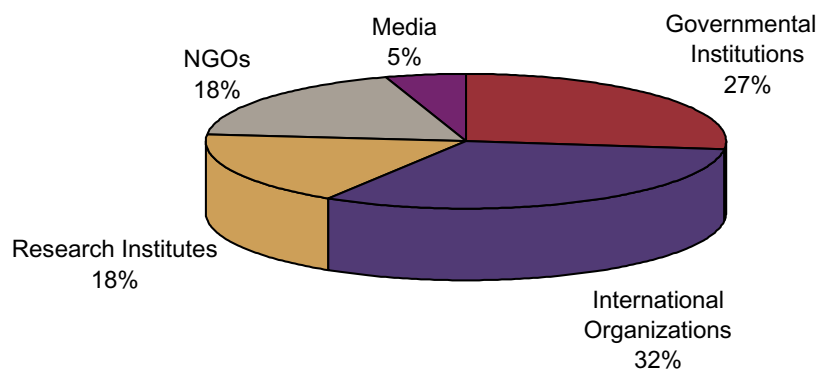
Sound, empirical data on human trafficking remain elusive, and research reports often provide data on either case studies or empirical research on samples of limited size. Research frequently focuses on a

particular country or region. This Report includes systematically analyzed data at a global level.

The methodology and findings of the Trafficking Database used to generate this Report are neither comprehensive nor conclusive on any aspect of human trafficking. The limitations of the Trafficking Database must be acknowledged, and are discussed in detail in the Report. The clear purpose of this Report, however is straight-forward: to highlight the need for improved data collection on human trafficking, not by international organizations, but by all those States that seek to fully address human trafficking. The Report does not seek to create information, but from collecting what is currently publicly available, reflect what is actually reported.

The Trafficking Database does not attempt to estimate the scale of human trafficking to and from

**Figure 21: Reported human trafficking information by classification of the source**



<sup>16</sup>. For more detailed discussion of the following points, please see Chapter 4 of the Report, 'Data, Methodology and Coding of Data'.

countries or the number of victims, but collects and analyses the work of sources reporting on human trafficking and attempts to identify the main reported patterns of the trafficking in persons at the national, regional and global levels, including the relationship between origin, transit and destination countries, sub-regions and regions.

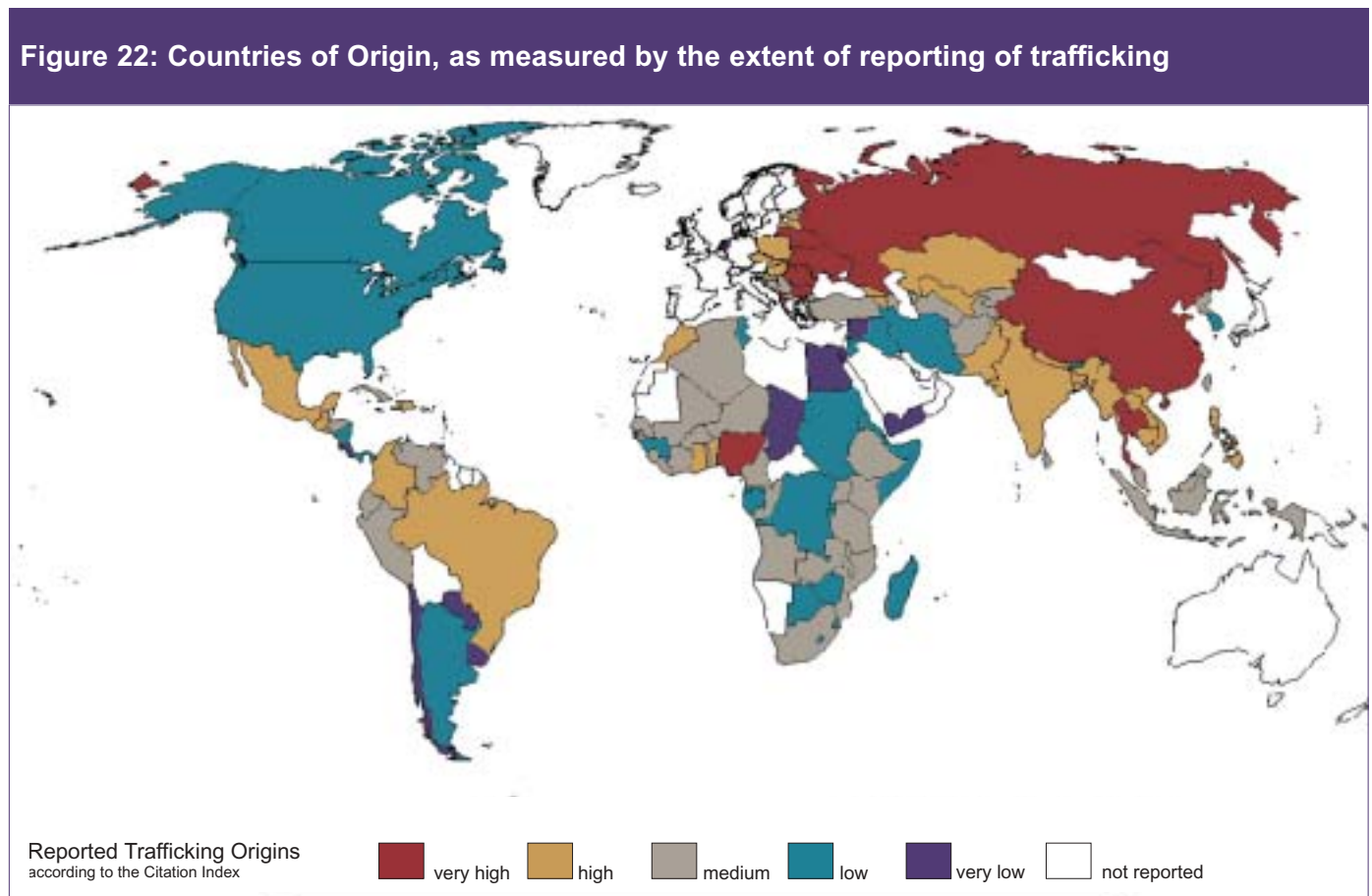
The data contained in the Trafficking Database was generated largely from research reports produced by international organizations (32%), and by governmental organizations (27%). NGOs, or research institutes account for approximately 18% of the sources that contribute information to the Trafficking Database.

Slightly more than a quarter (29%) of the organizations or source institutions included in the Trafficking Database are affiliated with countries in Western Europe, and have produced slightly less than a quarter (21%) of the reported accounts of trafficking in persons recorded in the Trafficking Database. Institutions affiliated with North America

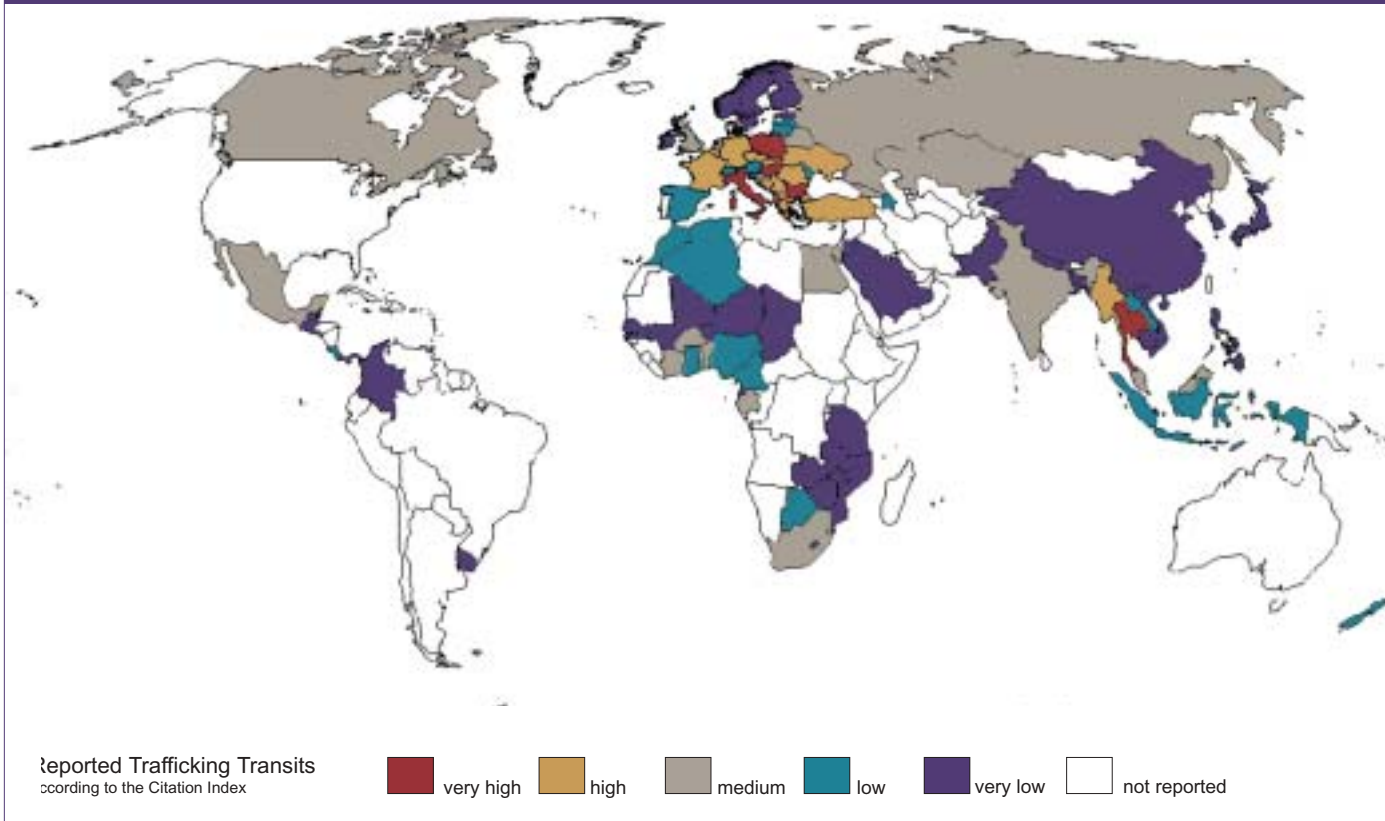
(18%) reported 38% of the recorded accounts of trafficking in persons.

While it appears from the information that regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Oceania are under-represented with respect to source institution affiliation, the high percentage of international institutions reporting on human trafficking may, partially, compensate for this imbalance.

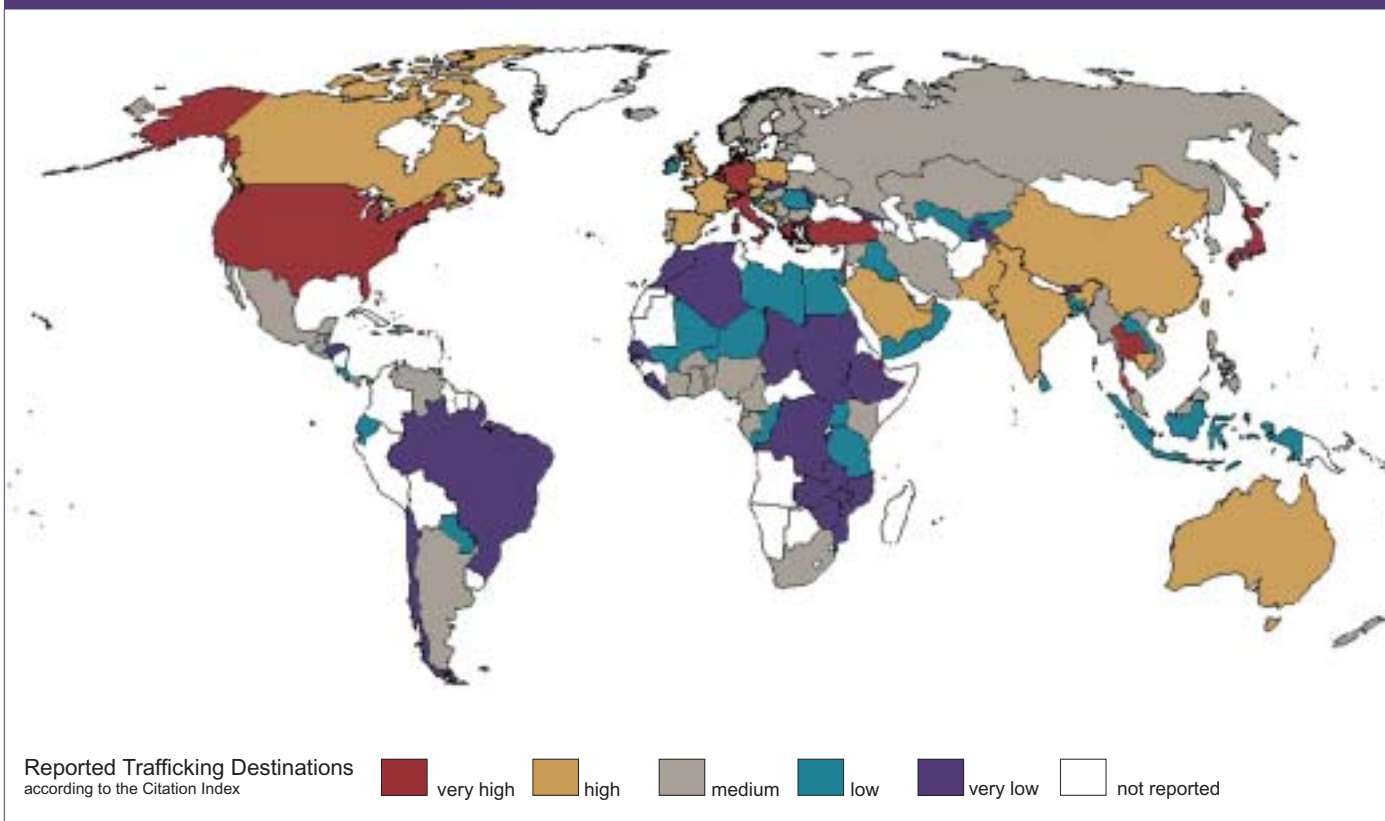
A structured approach was taken to sources reporting human trafficking, and a citation index was built to be used as the tool by which all variables in this Report are analyzed, and by which countries are categorized. There are a number of limitations with respect to the data contained in the Trafficking Database and reflected in this Report. These include, for example, difficulties in the identification of sources and the availability of data, geographical bias and time limitations, as well as the fact that the number of victims is not estimated.



**Figure 23: Countries of Transit, as measured by the extent of reporting of trafficking**

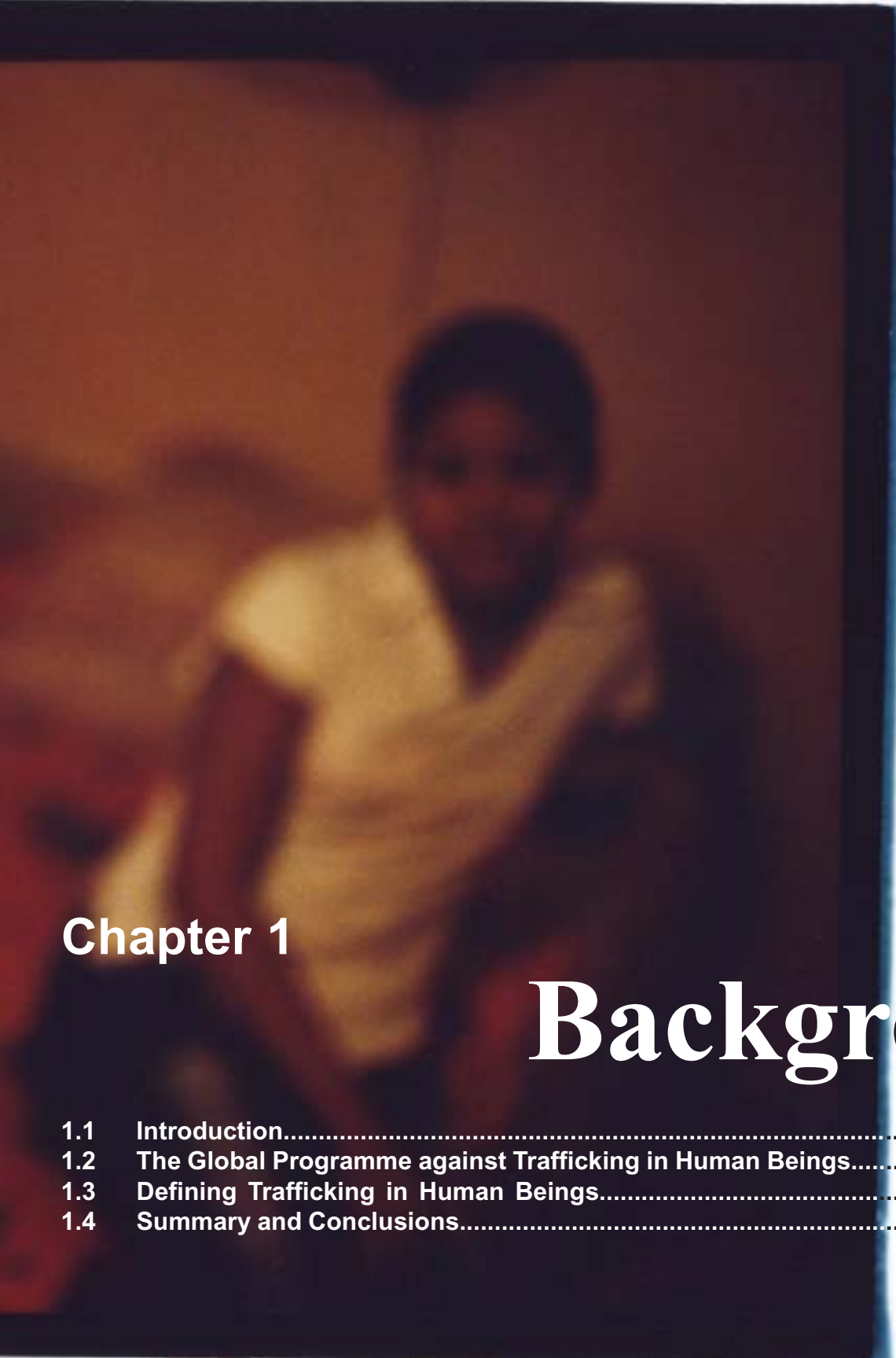


**Figure 24: Countries of Destination, as measured by the extent of reporting of trafficking**









## Chapter 1

# Background

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# 1.1 Introduction

This Report is a product of the Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GPAT) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Report is the result of analysis of human trafficking data collected for the period, 1996 to 2003, contained within UNODC's Database on Human Trafficking Trends (the Trafficking Database). The data was collected from sources, globally, reporting human trafficking activity for the prescribed period, and was collated for the purpose of ascertaining, to the extent possible, worldwide patterns of reported trafficking in persons.

The Report deals solely with trafficking in persons, and does not address issues pertaining to the smuggling of migrants or other forms of irregular migration.

The greater part of the Report reflects the findings of the Trafficking Database, the underlying data of which concerns the reporting of human trafficking. Analysis of this data has been used to present patterns at the global, regional and national levels (Chapters 2 and 3, and Appendix 6, respectively).



The Report also contains two other distinct forms of information:

- (i) qualitative information derived from UNODC and United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) research and technical cooperation activities in a number of countries around the world;
- (ii) Recent official statistics provided to UNODC by various countries. These statistics concern varying but more recent time periods than the period the Trafficking Database provides global coverage for (1996-2003). The countries providing this information are actively seeking to address the current information gaps regarding human trafficking, which occur worldwide. UNODC salutes those efforts and encourages all States to gather more information of this type, as reproduced here in this Report.

Both of these forms of information are clearly distinguished from the general text which concerns the findings of the Trafficking Database. These other forms of information are contained within Chapter 2.

## Measuring the Human Trafficking Phenomenon: The Complexities and Pitfalls

Due to its clandestine nature, accurate statistics on the magnitude of the human trafficking problem at any level are elusive and unreliable. Figures that are available range from the actual number of victims rescued or repatriated to estimates of the total number of trafficked victims in existence.

The lack of reliable statistics can be attributed to a number of factors. Many countries lack anti-trafficking in persons legislation. Even when legislation is in place, laws may only define human trafficking as applying to certain exploitative practices, such as sexual exploitation, and not other forms of exploitative behaviour. Moreover, in many countries, the definition of human trafficking applies only to the exploitation of women and children overlooking the exploitation of adult male victims. Further, if comprehensive laws do exist, they are not always enforced and victims may not be recognized as victims of crime but may be seen as smuggled migrants. Victims may be hesitant to provide information or cooperate with authorities often out of fear of harm to themselves or their families by either criminal networks or the legal authorities. Many countries lack a centralized agency or coordinated statistics system so that the collection of trafficking data, if done at all, is done on an ad hoc basis.<sup>17</sup> While inter-governmental (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) assisting trafficked victims often maintain databases on those who have been assisted, repatriated and reintegrated,<sup>18</sup> these figures represent a small number of human trafficking victims worldwide.

Another problem faced in the collection of data on this topic is the tendency to, often unknowingly, mix data related to human trafficking, migrant-smuggling and irregular migration, which convolutes the true human trafficking picture. In addition, data is often collected only on cases of trans-border human trafficking and not on internal human trafficking.<sup>19</sup>

There is a large disparity between the number of known cases and estimates of trafficking in persons. In a study of the magnitude of human trafficking in the United Kingdom, Kelley and Regan,<sup>20</sup> basing their study on 71 known cases, extrapolated the actual figure at between 142 and 1420 cases annually. The Dutch National Rapporteur Against Trafficking in Human Beings estimates that only 5% of victims report their victimization or come to the attention of government authorities<sup>21</sup> - the number of documented cases reported in the Netherlands for the year 2002 was 201.<sup>22</sup> It is estimated that the annual number of victims trafficked into Germany is somewhere between 2,000 and 20,000 - in the year 2000, 926 victims were registered.<sup>23</sup>

According to the United States Department of State's "Trafficking in Persons" (TIP) report for the year 2005, the number of people globally trafficked

17. *The Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings is a good example of centralized data collection. The Rapporteur publishes regular reports on issues related to human trafficking in the Netherlands. See Trafficking in Human Beings, First (2002), Second (2003), Third (2005) and Fourth (2005) reports of the Dutch National Rapporteur, Bureau NRM, Den Haag.*
18. *The International Organization for Migration (IOM), for example, has established a database containing qualitative and quantitative data on the trafficked victims it has assisted. IOM's trafficking database contains information on a variety of issues including the number of victims assisted, country of origin, age, travel route and manner in which the victims were trafficked.*
19. *Laczko (2002), "Human Trafficking: The Need for Better Data", Migration Information Source, Washington: Migration Policy Institute; can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/print.cfm?ID=66>*
20. *Kelly and Regan (2000), "Stopping Traffic: Exploring the extent of, and responses to, trafficking in women for sexual exploitation in the UK", Policing and Reducing Crime Unit, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, London: Home Office.*
21. *The Research and Training Center of Polaris Project (2003), "Very Low Number of Police Reporting Trafficking in Women", 21 January 2003; news article can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.humantrafficking.com/humantrafficking/client/view.aspx?ResourceID=1892>*
22. *Bureau NRM (2005), "Trafficking in Human Beings, Third report of the Dutch National Rapporteur", Den Haag: Bureau NRM; can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.victimology.nl/onlpub/national/NL-NRMEngels3.pdf>*
23. *Lehti (2003), "Trafficking in women and children in Europe", HEUNI papers, No. 18, Helsinki: HEUNI.*

across international borders is between 600,000 and 800,000 per year.<sup>24</sup> The main criticism of human trafficking estimates is that the ranges are often excessively wide, sometimes as much as a high of 10 times that of the low estimate. In reports providing human trafficking estimates, the methodology for calculating any estimates used is rarely given. Reports also often fail to indicate whether estimates are annual figures or cover a period of several years.<sup>25</sup>

While UNODC is working with many different partners on initiatives to generate useful statistics in this area in the future, UNODC does not estimate or approximate the number of victims trafficked. Given that it is inherent to the nature of any organized criminal activity that the greater part of the activity goes undetected, that statistical goal may prove to be ultimately unachievable.

Measuring the amount of trafficking in persons should not be seen as necessary, however, to justify an action in response. The Trafficking Protocol defines human trafficking as a criminal activity, and UNODC's focus is, first and foremost, on addressing this crime, regardless of the severity of the phenomenon. A strict focus on numbers can distract from the ultimate purpose of anti-human trafficking efforts, which must be to end, not reduce, this practice.

Further, the quest for numbers alone will not lead to a greater understanding of human trafficking practices, and, therefore, the development of a more effective international response. Beyond the essential first step of acknowledgement by governments of the existence of trafficking in persons within their national boundaries, there is great value in seeking to define the elements of trafficking in persons, as far as they are known, to develop a broader understanding of what must be recognized as a widespread issue facing the global community.

## The UNODC Database on Human Trafficking Trends

One of the aims of GPAT is the establishment and development of a database on global human trafficking trends. The objective of this Trafficking Database is to systematically collect and collate open-source information on trafficking in persons in order to assess and publicize reported information that identifies international human trafficking routes, origin, transit and destination countries and to shed light on the demographics of trafficked victims and offenders. This Report presents findings based upon data contained in the Trafficking Database.

### Limitations

It should be made clear that the data collected in the Trafficking Database and the findings presented in this Report concern the reporting of human trafficking information. The Report compiles and analyzes the work of sources reporting on human trafficking. The Report does not provide information regarding actual numbers of victims, nor does it provide statistics directly reflecting the severity of human trafficking around the globe. Rather than the actual occurrence of trafficking in persons, the Report reflects what is reported by inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental sources.



24. U.S. Department of State (2005), "Trafficking in Persons Report"; can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/>

25. Makkai (2003), "Thematic discussion on trafficking in human beings", Workshop on trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, 12th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna, 15th May 2003.

Although reporting patterns in some instances do reflect actual patterns of human trafficking, it is quite clear that, globally, levels of reporting of trafficking in persons vary significantly, both in terms of geographical focus and subject-matter. As noted above, the reporting of human trafficking may currently fail to appropriately reflect the severity of trafficking in persons for a number of reasons, such as:

- geographical bias;
- political emphasis;
- the comprehensiveness of various national legal definitions of human trafficking and child trafficking;
- the non-recognition of different forms of exploitation;
- the availability and quality of official statistics and reporting;
- the availability and quality of national structures for victim identification, referral, assistance and repatriation;
- the extent of bi- and multi-lateral cooperation, and;
- confusion between trafficking in persons and other forms of irregular migration.<sup>26</sup>

It is hoped that the Report will bring focused attention to such issues, and the need for the international community to develop a global knowledge-base. Each of the listed points is a major contributing factor to the current unevenness of information held at the national level, and may significantly impact on the accuracy of any attempted analysis of the current global situation. For this reason, the data collected and presented in the Report should be interpreted with the utmost caution and not be viewed as a simple unbiased measure of the extent of the problem of human trafficking. In use and application of the data in this Report, UNODC states unequivocally that the

Report should not be misrepresented as measuring the severity of human trafficking globally.

Caution is also advised at negatively interpreting the human trafficking situation in those countries for which more information is currently available. A high level of reporting of human trafficking in a country (i.e. by many sources) can, in some cases, be correlated with the existence of a national policy against human trafficking. In other words, a greater depth of detailed information regarding the human trafficking situation in a country may reflect the existence of a considered and well-resourced attempt to ascertain the likely level of trafficking in persons, as opposed to countries where little information is known though the actual amount of human trafficking activity may be at a similar or higher level. Hence a high level of reporting can be interpreted as a positive indicator. The extent to which a bias might exist against those countries for which there is a high level of reporting of human trafficking is discussed throughout Chapter 4.

UNODC also acknowledges limitations in terms of the areas the Report does not provide information on.

Internal trafficking in persons, i.e. where a victim is located, transported and exploited within one territory, has not been considered for the purposes of the analysis because of the perceived risk of severely underestimating the phenomena due to the small amount of information collected. While many indicators do suggest high levels of human trafficking occurring strictly within a country or a sub-region in certain geographical regions, internal trafficking in persons appears to be materially under-reported. This may be, in part, due to two factors: the focus that the international community has brought to the plight of trafficked victims in foreign countries; and, the application of regular (i.e. non-human trafficking) criminal justice procedures to domestic nationals and, as a result, their non-categorization as trafficking victims.

<sup>26</sup> *These factors and the potential impact they might have on the underlying data used for this Report are discussed more fully in Chapter 4, Section 4.5.*

Due to the limited amount of data concerning internal trafficking in persons currently held in the Trafficking Database, data and discussion of internal trafficking in persons has not otherwise been included in this Report.<sup>27</sup>

Further, the data collection exercise did not incorporate a search of sources in all languages. Due to a focus on the languages used by the major international sources reporting on human trafficking and constraints in the research resources available, the methodology is naturally biased against national sources producing information for domestic consumption in languages others than those screened by UNODC's researchers.<sup>28</sup>

The data collection did not focus on any specific group of victims or form of human trafficking. Results reflect trafficking in persons practices as they were reported.

## Purpose

How then can the information in this Report be interpreted and used?

As noted above, the Report analyzes the extent of reporting of human trafficking flows, which may or may not adequately reflect the actual severity of trafficking in persons in any one country. The Report's value, as a research tool, lies in assessing what is reported about human trafficking on a global scale. At the research level, it provides a starting point for further investigation of sources of information at the national level. In terms of analysis, the Report takes first steps in seeking to compare information available regarding individual countries to map an international phenomenon. The incomplete information provided in the Report reflects the current inability globally to accurately and comprehensively gauge what is, by nature, largely a hidden criminal activity.

Reliable information on human trafficking trends is, and will continue to be vital to measuring the success of efforts to counter trafficking in persons. An international effort to adequately map developments at the global level may provide the framework against which progress can be measured and changes in the nature of human trafficking assessed.

Additionally, beyond the establishment of a means to assess reported trends in human trafficking at the global level, the development of a more comprehensive system of data classification and the ongoing collection of related data provides a useful tool for all those involved in counter-trafficking in persons activities. The ability to readily access information from other countries allows law enforcement officials, human rights workers and others to compare similar trends and practices. If such data is then combined with other forms of information, such as the form of responses made, in terms of resources, actors involved and purpose, it provides insights into the viability of measures and strategies adopted in tackling various forms of human trafficking. By providing a standard set of agreed-upon definitions, including for "trafficking in persons", the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking Protocol have established a base-line for future research and analysis. If all the countries that ratify the Convention and the Trafficking Protocol use the same terminology and definitions, the task of comparative analysis is made much easier.

To further the debate on measures and instruments to collect data on human trafficking at an international level, this Report presents the findings of an exercise collecting reported human trafficking data for the period, 1996 to 2003. The Report's findings represent the minimal picture that might be sketched of reported trafficking worldwide, the points between which people are transported, by whom and for what purpose.

<sup>27</sup>. *Of the 113 source institutions identified in this Report as reporting on human trafficking, only four clearly reported internal trafficking in persons. 46 accounts of internal trafficking in persons were provided by these sources (see the 'Terminology' section for a definition of "accounts of trafficking in persons").*

<sup>28</sup>. *See further discussion of this issue in Chapter 4, Section 4.3.*

The Report highlights evidence of a phenomenon that is, without doubt, widespread, conducted in a systematic and sophisticated manner, and is fundamentally abusive of international law and human rights. The Report has been compiled by UNODC's Global Programme in an attempt to both build the knowledge-base on human trafficking and to encourage the development of a comparative framework for the study of the phenomenon. The methodology by which the data was collected and analyzed is explored further, and the findings presented.

It is hoped that, in outlining the strengths and limitations of what is currently reported regarding human trafficking, the need for better information is apparent. Regional studies like UNHCR's "Combatting Human Trafficking: An Overview of

UNHCR Anti- Trafficking Activities In Europe",<sup>29</sup> highlight the great differences that exist between countries in addressing human trafficking. Fundamentally, it is the responsibility of Member States to collect better information regarding all facets of this criminal activity. There is an ongoing need for countries to develop methods for systematic data collection, including greater information on victims (for example, disaggregated by age and gender), to assign institutional responsibility for the collection of such information and to engage in greater collaboration to ensure more intensive gathering and analysis of primary data. It is primarily through increased efforts at the national level that the necessary information can be generated to provide a platform for responding to this major issue facing the international community.

## 1.2 The Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings

In response to the increasingly evident problem of human trafficking and exploitation, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in conjunction with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), launched the Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GPAT) in March 1999. In an effort to better enable governments to respond to the issues of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, GPAT aims to shed light on the causes and processes of migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, and promote the development of effective responses to these problems.

One of the strategic areas of work of GPAT is the provision of technical cooperation, which involves assisting governments in their anti-human trafficking and migrant smuggling efforts. This work includes the training of criminal justice practitioners, providing Member States with legal advisory services on a consultancy basis and improving the capacity of Member States in their efforts to protect victims. Other strategic areas of work for GPAT are collecting and analyzing data aimed at increasing the global community's knowledge-base, and raising awareness to prevent human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

<sup>29</sup>. UNHCR (2005), "Combatting Human Trafficking: An Overview of UNHCR Anti- Trafficking Activities In Europe", Geneva: Bureau for Europe Policy Unit.



GPAT works with Member States and regional organizations in implementing the provisions of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which entered into force on 25 December 2003. A key part of GPAT's efforts relates to facilitating information exchange and international expertise. GPAT is also the focal point in supporting UNODC field offices in the

development of technical assistance projects designed to support Member States.

GPAT technical assistance and assessment projects are currently being developed or (have been) carried out in selected countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.<sup>30</sup> Qualitative information presented in the Report is based on these and past projects.

## 1.3 Defining Trafficking in Human Beings

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Convention)<sup>31</sup> and two of its supplementing protocols, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Trafficking Protocol) and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, were adopted by the General Assembly at its

Millennium Meeting in November 2000.<sup>32</sup> The Convention<sup>33</sup> and the two supplementing Protocols were then opened for signature at a high-level conference in Palermo, Italy in December 2000 and constitute the first serious attempt by the international community to answer the global challenge of transnational organized crime with a global response in the form of international law.

30. For more information on the Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings, please refer to the UNODC website at: [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/trafficking\\_human\\_beings.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/trafficking_human_beings.html).
31. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime can be downloaded from the internet at: [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a\\_res\\_55/res5525e.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a_res_55/res5525e.pdf) and [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a\\_res\\_55/255e.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a_res_55/255e.pdf)
32. The third supplementing Protocol to the Convention, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition was adopted by Resolution 55/255 of the General Assembly, 31 May 2001.
33. The Convention represents a major step forward in the fight against transnational organized crime and signifies the recognition of U.N. Member States that this is a serious and growing problem that can only be solved through close international cooperation. The Convention, concluded at the 10th session of the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly to deal with this problem, is a legally binding instrument committing States that ratify it to taking a series of measures against transnational organized crime. These include the creation of domestic criminal offences to combat the problem, and the adoption of new, broad frameworks for mutual legal assistance, extradition, law-enforcement cooperation and technical assistance and training.

Previous instruments to fight trafficking in persons and forced prostitution, such as the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,<sup>34</sup> or the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),<sup>35</sup> failed to provide a definition of trafficking in persons and focused mainly on the punishment of traffickers. The Trafficking Protocol, however, provides a working definition of trafficking in persons, requires ratifying States to criminalize such practices and also addresses the issue of victims' rights through, again, requiring ratifying States to provide

assistance to, and protection for victims of trafficking. The Convention and its three supplementing Protocols have all entered into force.<sup>36</sup>

The Convention and the Trafficking Protocol, then, provide a legal and conceptual framework for combating trafficking in persons.

In line with the definitions in the Convention and Protocols, GPAT uses the definitions in the following box in addressing the issue of human trafficking:

### Key definitions for human trafficking

<b>Organized criminal group:</b>	A structured group of three or more persons existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences established in accordance with the Convention, <sup>37</sup> in order to obtain, directly, or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.
<b>Smuggling of migrants:</b>	The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a country of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.
<b>Trafficking in persons:</b>	The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

34. The 1949 Convention can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/33.htm>.

35. CEDAW can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/e1cedaw.htm>.

36. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime entered into force on 29 September 2003. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children entered into force on 25 December 2003. The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air entered into force on 28 January 2004. The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition entered into force on 3 July 2005.

37. Under the Convention, "serious crime" is conduct constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years or a more serious penalty. "Structured group" means a group that is not randomly formed for the immediate commission of an offence. It does not need to have formally defined roles for its members, continuity of its membership or a developed structure.

The definition of trafficking in persons is central to addressing the activity of trafficking in persons and can be broken down into three separate parts: criminal acts, the means used to commit those acts, and goals (i.e. for the purpose of various forms of exploitation). At least one element from each of these three groups is required before the definition applies, as shown in the following box.

**Human trafficking, as defined, can be broken into three constituent parts:**

- The act(ion) of: recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons;
- By means of: threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim;
- For the purpose of exploitation, which includes, at a minimum, exploiting the prostitution of others, other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or similar practices, and the removal of organs.



Both migrant smuggling and human trafficking are forms of irregular migration. Often both smuggled migrants and trafficked individuals leave a country of origin willingly, although, in the case of human trafficking, an element of deceit is typically employed.<sup>38</sup> Smuggled migrants and trafficked individuals may be exposed to similar cases of danger or discomfort during long journeys. Trafficked persons, upon arrival, are often put in a situation of debt bondage and forced into slavery-like practices in the sex or labour market or exploited in other ways.

According to the Trafficking Protocol's definition, consent to leave a country and work abroad does not determine the dividing line between smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. What began as a voluntary activity on the part of the migrant, who may in fact have sought out the services of the smuggler, will still qualify as a case of trafficking in persons if the initial consent of the victim was gained through the use of deception, coercion or any other means, and exploitation subsequently takes place. The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation is irrelevant where any of the means detailed in the definition have been used. Indeed, in many human trafficking cases, there is initial consent or cooperation between victims and traffickers. This is followed by more coercive, abusive and exploitive actions on the part of traffickers.

It is important to note that a child under the age of 18 cannot give his or her consent even if none of the means of trafficking are used. In other words, even if a child is not threatened, no force is used against him or her, and s/he is not coerced, abducted or deceived, a child cannot legally consent to the act of trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation. Moreover, even the custodian of the child cannot give consent to the human trafficking act for the purpose of exploitation.

<sup>38</sup>. *Consent of a trafficked victim is negated in cases where coercion or deceit is used to obtain consent.*

It is often difficult to know whether a particular case falls under the definition of smuggling of migrants or trafficking in human beings.<sup>39</sup>

While there are many similar components within the two types of crime, there are three important differences as highlighted in the following box:

Differences between human trafficking and smuggling of migrants	
<b>Consent:</b>	The smuggling of migrants, while often undertaken in dangerous or degrading conditions, involves migrants who have consented to the smuggling. Trafficking victims, on the other hand, have either never consented or, if they initially consented, that consent has been rendered meaningless by the coercive, deceptive or abusive actions of the traffickers.
<b>Exploitation:</b>	Smuggling ends with the migrants' arrival at their destination, whereas trafficking in persons involves the ongoing exploitation of the victims in some manner to generate illicit profits for the traffickers. From a practical standpoint, victims of human trafficking also tend to be affected more severely, become more traumatized by their experiences and are also in greater need of protection from re-victimization and other forms of further abuse than are smuggled migrants.
<b>Transnationality:</b>	Finally, smuggling is always transnational, whereas trafficking in persons may not be. Human trafficking can occur regardless of whether victims are taken to another country or only moved from one place to another within the same country.

To conclude, many victims of trafficking in persons initially consent to be smuggled from one country to another. This causes some overlap between the phenomena and definitions of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling that may be confusing. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking both involve moving human beings for profit, but in migrant smuggling the relationship between

migrants and offenders (the smugglers) usually ends upon arrival in the destination country. The criminal profits from the process of migrant smuggling are generated through the movement alone. In cases of human trafficking, some subsequent exploitation for profit, such as coerced labor or sexual exploitation, is also involved.

<sup>39</sup>. *The definition of smuggling of migrants and the definition of trafficking in persons also recognize that while victims of trafficking in persons should be treated as victims of criminal activity, migrants who were not exploited are not necessarily victims of crime. It is important to note that **trafficked victims are victims of crime** regardless of their possible illegal entry into and stay in the country.*

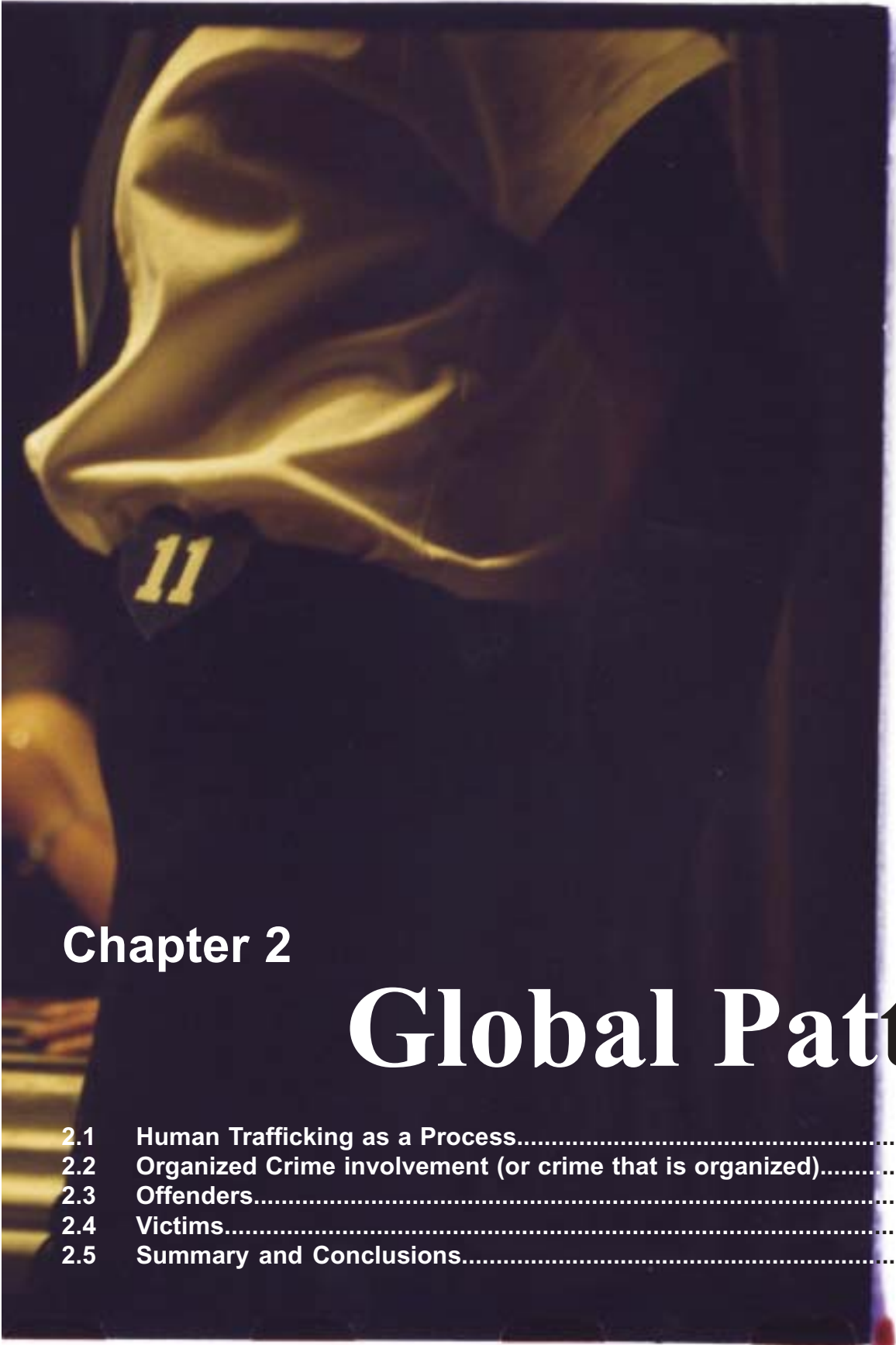
## 1.4 Summary and Conclusions

This chapter has provided some brief background information concerning UNODC's Global Programme Against Trafficking (GPAT), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress

and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Trafficking Protocol) and the fundamental concepts and legal definitions concerning trafficking in persons.







**Chapter 2**

# **Global Patterns**

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## 2.1 Human Trafficking as a Process

Even though all trafficking in persons cases have their individual characteristics most follow the same pattern: people are abducted or recruited in the country of origin, transferred through transit regions and then exploited in the destination country. If, at some stage, the exploitation of the victim is interrupted or ended, they can be rescued as human trafficking victims and it is possible they might receive support in the country of destination. Either

immediately or at some later point, victims might be repatriated to their origin country; in some cases, relocated in a third country; or, as unfortunately too often still happens, deported from destination or transit countries as illegal migrants. This chapter follows the first three major stages of the process, the actions connected to each stage and the countries and regions most widely reported in association with each stage of the process.

One can view the trafficking of human beings as a process rather than a single offence:

1. The process of human trafficking begins with the abduction or recruitment of a person.
2. It continues with the transportation from the place of origin to the place of destination. In case of transnational trafficking in persons, the process includes the entry of the individual into another country.
3. This is followed by the exploitation phase during which the victim is forced into sexual or labour servitude. This often includes violence against the victim.
4. A further phase may occur that does not involve the victim but rather the offender. Depending upon the size and sophistication of the human trafficking operation, the

criminal (organization) may find it necessary to launder the criminal proceeds. There may be further links to other criminal offences such as the smuggling of migrants, weapons or drugs.

Human trafficking can hence be characterized in terms of the phase of the trafficking in persons process, i.e.:

- a. Recruitment;
- b. Transportation and potentially the illegal entry of the trafficked person;
- c. The exploitation phase;
- d. The subsequent phase of profit laundering.

To assess the extent to which a country is reported to be affected by the different stages of the human trafficking process, the number of citations as a country of origin, transit or destination were counted. If a country was mentioned by a source institution as either an origin, transit or destination country, information on that country has been recorded in the Trafficking Database. Data was reported on 161 countries and special administrative territories by 113 source institutions. The countries were distributed into five categories, very high - high - medium - low - very low, according to the number of citations as a country of origin, transit or destination. A detailed description of the methodology is presented in Chapter 4. For a definition of the citation index, used to apply the categories listed above to countries, please see the 'Terminology' section at the start of this Report.

## Origin countries as the point of recruitment

The key trafficking in persons action associated with origin countries is the recruitment of victims or potential victims, whether it be by deception, or physical or psychological coercion. Dependent upon the legal system of a country, associated criminal offences include those related to the threat of force or actual coercion of victims (e.g. assault), false imprisonment, the provision of fraudulent or deceptive information to induce the victim to cooperate, abduction or kidnapping and document forgery.

The data obtained from the collected reports identified 127 countries of origin. Based upon the frequency that a country is reported as an origin of trafficking in human beings,<sup>41</sup> countries in Central and South Eastern Europe (CEE), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)<sup>42</sup> and Asia are the most frequently mentioned countries of origin. These regions are then followed by Western Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Figure 25: Selected criminal justice statistics<sup>40</sup>

Selected Countries	Number of Cases Recorded (1 Case might involve more persons)	Selected Countries	Number of Cases Recorded (1 Case might involve more persons)
Bulgaria	43 (2005)	Lithuania	19 (2002)
Czech Republic	20 (01/2004 to 06/2005)	Montenegro*	10 (2004)
Denmark	1 (2005)	Pakistan	374 (2003)
Germany	289 (2002)	Poland	44 (01/2004 to 06/2005)
Hungary	22 (2004)	United Kingdom	15 (04/2004 to 03/2005)
Italy	15 (01/2004 to 06/2005)	Ukraine	289 (2003)
Latvia	3 (2005)		

\*The data regarding the Republic of Montenegro have been collected separately from the Republic of Serbia although the two republics belong to the state union of Serbia and Montenegro.

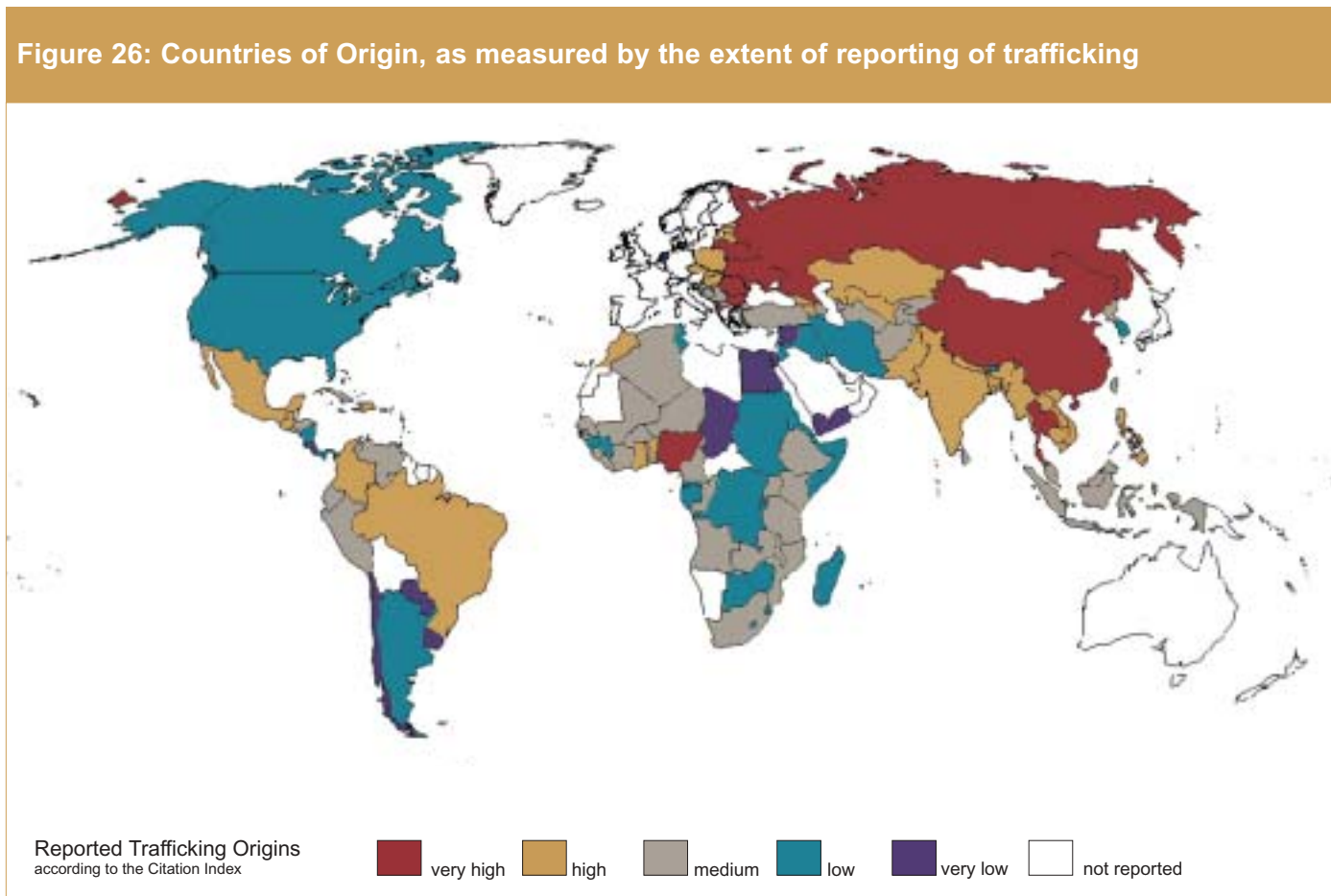
In terms of the citation index, eleven countries score very high as countries of origin. The countries are (listed in alphabetical order, by sub-region): Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine (Commonwealth of Independent States); Albania, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania (Central and South Eastern Europe); China (Eastern Asia); Thailand (South-Eastern Asia); and Nigeria (Western Africa).

With reference to the citation index, twenty-seven countries are listed as high as countries of origin (listed in alphabetical order, by sub-region): Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan (Commonwealth of Independent States); Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia (Central and South Eastern Europe); Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan (South

40. Following the completion of the data-collection exercise, more recent official statistics have been provided by a limited number of countries to UNODC. This information is presented here to provide some illustration of criminal justice responses to the trafficking phenomenon in the relevant countries, in terms of the arrests, prosecutions and convictions, as well as the number of official cases identified by the local authorities, the number of victims identified and profile of the offenders recorded.

Central Asia); Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam (South-Eastern Asia); Benin, Ghana and Morocco (Africa); Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Mexico (Latin America and the Caribbean).

The following map provides a global overview of origin countries according to reported human trafficking as measured by the citation index.



## Recruitment

There are several known methods by which people are recruited by human traffickers. Significant variations (that, as a minimum, should be consistently recorded in documented cases) occur in how the victim is identified, and subsequently approached by traffickers; the inducement, if any,

that is offered to the victim; and, the agreement reached, if any, by the victim and the contracting trafficker. While, initially, these variations may appear to be simply the result of opportunistic behaviour by criminals, given the context of the origin country and traffickers involved, it appears that more often a particular type of victim is targeted and then recruited in a predetermined manner.

41. For an explanation of the data collection and coding, see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

42. Central and South Eastern Europe will be referred to in the tables, figures and text as CEE. The Commonwealth of Independent States will be referred to as CIS. For a detailed list of countries comprising these regions, see Appendix 2.

## Case Study 1:

UNODC research in Brazil<sup>43</sup> shows the use of different recruitment methods for different types of victim:

In the human trafficking cases involving the recruitment of several victims simultaneously (in general, these were women already working as sex professionals), there was usually no previous acquaintanceship between the victims and the accused traffickers. The majority of recruiters were male, and victims were often aware the offer of employment was in the sex industry. In human trafficking cases in which the

victims were not previously prostitutes, previous acquaintanceship and even blood relations predominated. The job offers made to such victims tended to be false, and to not indicate the form of exploitation they would be subjected to.

Analysis of the cases investigated also showed the traffickers carefully chose their victims, who were mostly young women. Other criteria used by traffickers included physical characteristics, artistic talents, colour of the skin and a lack of inhibition. Many of the victims were unmarried and uneducated.

## Transit countries as the route of transportation

The term, 'transit countries', in the context of human trafficking, refers to the countries that make up the transnational route by which a victim is transported from their country of origin to a destination country determined by the traffickers. There may, of course, be more than one transit country along a route, and alternative routes between a particular origin country and a determined destination may vary significantly.

Far fewer data were reported on regions or countries of transit than for origin or destination points.<sup>44</sup> In total, 98 countries were reported as countries of transit. Forming a greater regional area, (countries within) Central and South Eastern Europe and Western Europe are highly reported transit regions. Beside Europe, South-Eastern Asia, Central America and Western Africa are also highly reported transit (sub-)regions and account for the greatest part of the remaining sources providing information on transit countries and human trafficking routes.

With regard to the citation index, six countries

score very high as transit countries. These are, in alphabetical order and by sub-region: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland (Central and South Eastern Europe); Italy (Western Europe); and Thailand (South-Eastern Asia).

Fourteen countries (or territories) rank high, according to the citation index, as transit countries (in alphabetical order and by sub-region): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovakia (Central and South Eastern Europe); Ukraine (the Commonwealth of Independent States); Myanmar (South-Eastern Asia); Turkey (Western Asia and Turkey); Belgium, France, Germany and Greece (Western Europe).

## Methods of Transportation

The transportation stage of the trafficking of persons goes beyond the boundaries of the victims' passage through transit countries, and concerns the entire process by which victims are moved between their countries of origin and their final destinations. Related criminal offences include abuses of immigration and border-control laws, corruption of

## Case Study 2:

In March 2005, UNICRI conducted a study on, "Trafficking in Women from Romania into Germany", largely based on interviews with experts from both public and private entities and human trafficking victims in Romania and Germany,<sup>45</sup> as well as on analyses of court files:

In many cases, the first contact person between the victim and the recruiter was a Romanian individual from a close circle of family and friends of the victim. The rest were usually acquaintances, such as a neighbour in the same village, a friend who was assisting a recruiter, or a common friend of a victim and recruiter. In some cases a third, unknown person would be the recruiter, without having had any previous contact with the victim. In a few cases, a friend who had been living in Germany mediated the contact between the victim and the recruiter. Some of the victims were recruited from home in the presence of their parents, by relatives or neighbours. In one case, the victim responded to a newspaper advertisement and was in contact with the recruiter for several months and was promised a husband in Germany.

Recruiters targeted young women (17-28 years old) from rural areas with a low level of education and no employment. While being recruited, 95% of victims were lied to regarding the nature of the work they were going to perform in Germany, the working conditions and the living conditions in Germany. The promised jobs included housekeeper and/or babysitter, dishwasher or waiter/waitress in a restaurant, dancer in bars or nightclubs, striptease and entertainer in bars.

Only one interviewee knew that she was going to work in prostitution.

Before 2002, traffickers targeted almost exclusively young females for sexual exploitation. With the introduction of new visa laws in 2002, recruiters increasingly targeted people with disabilities to be exploited for begging and minors who were forced to commit criminal offences (e.g. burglaries, breaking parking-meters), or to beg, or to be exploited for sexual purposes (pimping and pornography).

In many cases, prior to their recruitment, victims moved from a small to a large town. Some were sold between club owners in the same town within Romania or between groups cooperating in exchanging/rotating victims. There are cases where the victims were transported from one town to another in order to be sold and, after having been refused by the potential buyer (for example, because they were minors) were returned. The negotiations seemed to normally require the presence of the victim, who accompanied the trafficker(s), since the potential 'buyer' must be able to evaluate "the product".

In all cases, the victims said that they trusted the recruiter, perhaps due to the fact that, in the vast majority of cases, the recruiter was known in some way to the victim or the victim's family. Astonishingly, however, it often emerged that the victims had no detailed information about the recruiter, including their occupation, place of residence or family status.

officials, document forgery, acts of coercion against the victim, unlawful confinement and the withholding of identity papers and other documents.

Distinguishing features that might be reported to increase knowledge and allow for greater analysis of

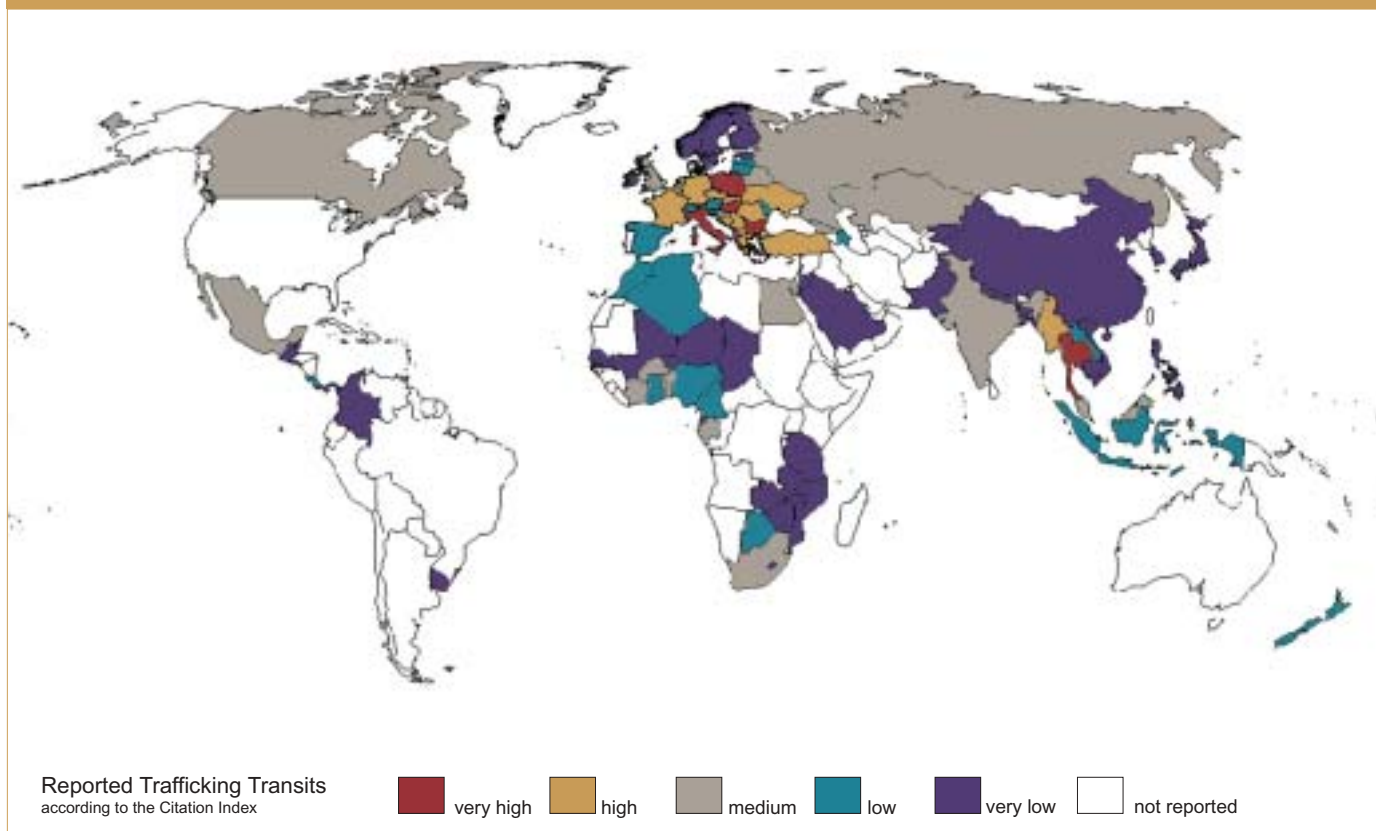
human trafficking patterns include: the form of transport used; the journey period; the method of entry into countries; any change in the awareness of the victim of the traffickers' intentions; and the restrictions placed on the victim.

43. *This research was conducted in conjunction with the Brazilian authorities in the states of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Goiás, and Ceará on cases from the period, 2000-2003. The summary of the research findings can be downloaded from the internet at [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/brazil/folder\\_tsh\\_ing\\_port.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/brazil/folder_tsh_ing_port.pdf)*

44. *For an explanation of the data collection and coding see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.*

45. UNICRI (2005), "Trafficking Women from Romania into Germany", to be published in 2006.

Figure 27: Countries of Transit, as measured by the extent of reporting of trafficking



### Case Study 3:

As part of the UNODC project, "Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Human Beings in Poland",<sup>46</sup> UNICRI-coordinated researchers completed detailed interviews with 15 female Polish trafficking victims:

In most of the cases, the transportation means to the destination was by private car, and otherwise by bus. The shortest journey took four hours, whereas the longest journey to the destination country lasted four months (with a few weeks break during the transportation). Some women traveled with a person who helped to organize the journey, and were also accompanied by other possible victims.

Most of the victims had either tourist visas or their own passports. Only one person crossed the border illegally using a faked passport. In the majority of cases, the traffickers immediately seized the victim's documents once the border had been crossed.

Some women acknowledged the use of starvation, violence and the forced use of psychotropic drugs as means to intimidate them. Several respondents were confined by force during the journey, while only three out of the fifteen women had permission to leave their escorts or the places they were kept, en route. The others could not move about alone. None of the trafficked victims were aware of the dangers that they were to face during transportation.

#### Case Study 4:

As part of a UNODC project regarding the trafficking of human beings in the Philippines,<sup>47</sup> UNICRI was given permission to analyze data held by the Italian law enforcement authorities concerning human trafficking and smuggling activities undertaken by a Filipino criminal organization utilizing Slovenian and Pakistani crime networks:

An identified human trafficking route from the Philippines to Italy could be divided into three phases, with each leg of the trip being taken care of by different individuals and sub-units of a larger network. The route, identified through the results of a victim survey started in the International Airport at Manila. The first part of the journey (Manila to Budapest, via Bangkok) was completed by plane and arranged by Filipino agencies. Usually passengers flew to Thailand where it appeared to be easier to get a visa for Hungary, the next transit country.

The second part of the journey began with the victims' arrival in Hungary (the Czech Republic was also mentioned as a transit point). Once in Budapest, the victims were met by members of Slovenian organizations who served as guides and chauffeurs taking the victims by van from Hungary to Slovenia.

During this European part of the journey, the Filipino victims were kept in safe houses and, after having been divided into smaller groups, were taken to Italy by van or foot. The length of stay in the transit countries depended on weather conditions and border control.

The third part of the journey began at the point of passage in Italy where the victims were met by drivers of the Filipino organizations who would take them to their final destination.

## Destination countries as the point of exploitation

The key human trafficking action associated with destination countries is the exploitation of victims in any number of forms. The Trafficking Protocol provides a non-definitive list of forms of exploitation that constitute trafficking in persons including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. Dependent on the legal system of a country, associated criminal offences include those related to slavery, involuntary servitude, forced or compulsory labour, unlawful coercion, unlawful threats, extortion, false imprisonment, kidnapping, illegal procurement, corruption, debt bondage, document theft, destruction of documents, sexual assault, assault, bodily injury, rape, death, forced marriage,

forced abortion, forced pregnancy and torture.

One hundred and thirty-seven (137) countries were reported as destination countries. By reference to the citation index, countries within Western Europe, Asia (in particular some East and South-Eastern Asian countries and some countries in the sub-region, Western Asia and Turkey) and North America, are the most commonly reported destinations for trafficking in human beings.<sup>48</sup>

With reference to the citation index, ten countries in the Trafficking Database score very high as reported destinations for trafficked victims. Five of these countries are in Western Europe (in alphabetical order): Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands. Among Asian countries that score very high are Israel and Turkey (Western Asia and Turkey); Japan (Eastern Asia); Thailand (South-Eastern Asia). The other very highly reported destination country is the United States

<sup>46</sup>. UNICRI, "Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings in Poland", to be published in 2006.

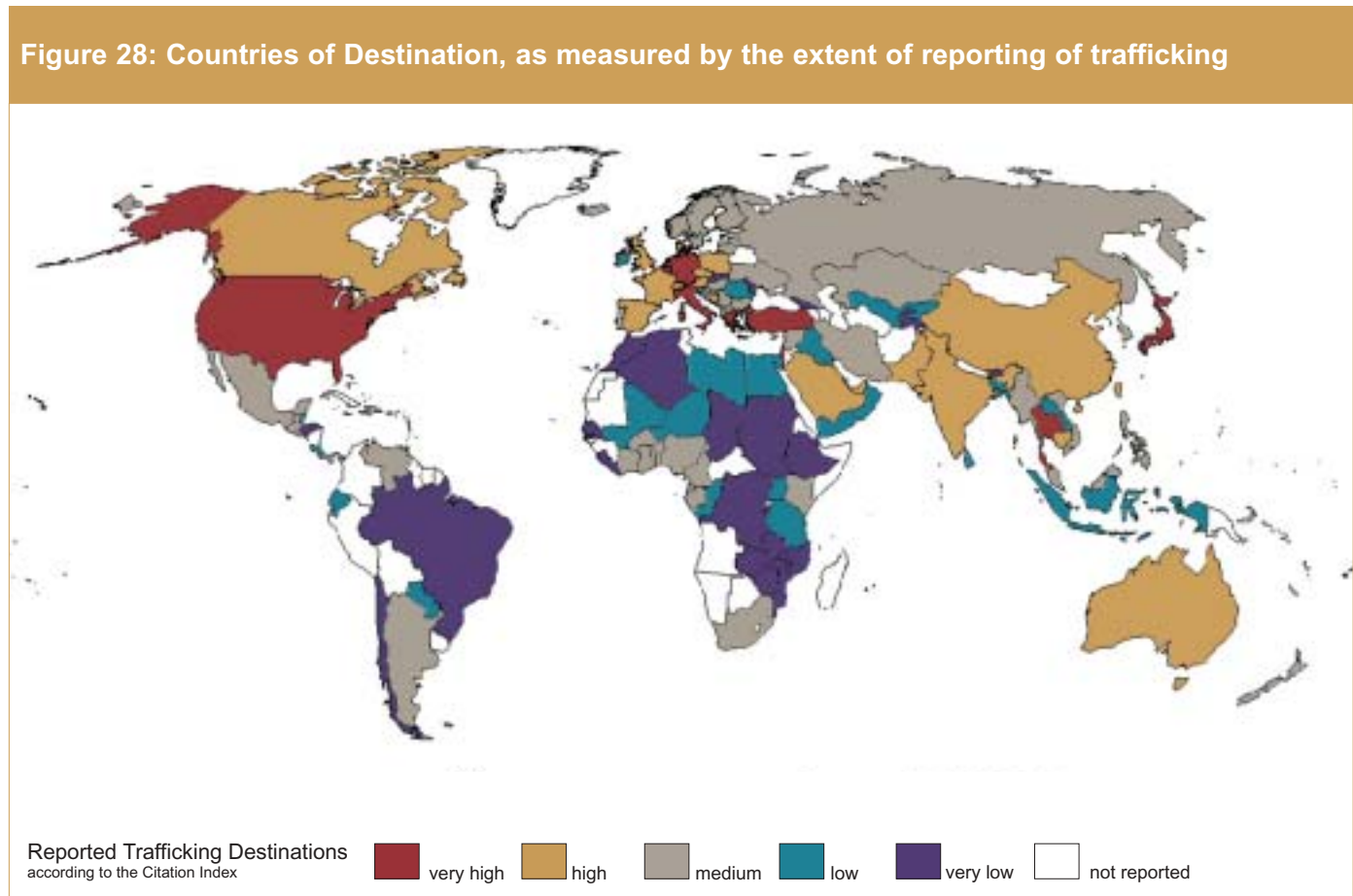
<sup>48</sup>. A series of publications concerning different aspects of this technical cooperation project are available at: [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/publications/publications\\_trafficking.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/publications/publications_trafficking.html)

<sup>48</sup>. For an explanation of the data collection and coding see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

(North America). Twenty-one countries (or territories) are listed as high as reported countries of destination. These are, in alphabetical order and by sub-region: Austria, Denmark, France, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom (Western Europe); Australia (Oceania); Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Poland (Central and South Eastern Europe); Cambodia (South-Eastern Asia); Canada (North

America); the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong China SAR, Taiwan Province of China, (Eastern Asia); Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (Western Asia and Turkey); India and Pakistan (South-Central Asia).

The following map provides a global overview of destinations as measured by the citation index.



## Markets of Exploitation

In the Trafficking Protocol, the purpose of exploitation, includes, at a minimum: the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.<sup>49</sup> At the data entry phase, two main forms of exploitation were identified: sexual exploitation and forced labour. Sexual exploitation is not defined in the Trafficking Protocol, and forms of sexual exploitation other than

in the context of trafficking in persons are not covered by the Protocol. For the data-collection exercise, if the purpose of trafficking was clearly reported by a source to be sexual exploitation, this was entered into the Trafficking Database.

Forced labour is not defined in the Trafficking Protocol. When seeking to identify whether sources reported cases of forced labour, the International Labour Organization's (ILO) definition was used. According to the ILO definition, forced labour comprises two basic elements, which are: (a) the

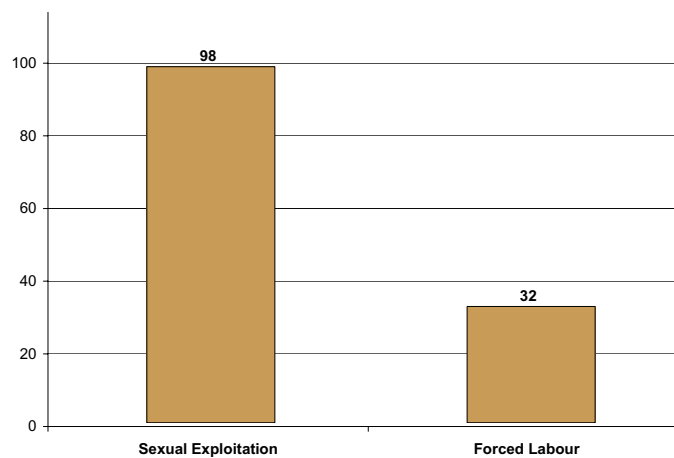


work or service of the trafficked person is exacted under the menace of penalty; and, (b) it is undertaken involuntarily.<sup>50</sup> Based on the definition, domestic servitude, begging and other forms of slavery-type practices were included in the category of forced labour.

A global picture of patterns of exploitation indicates that 98 out of 113 sources that reported the form of exploitation the victim was subjected to, listed sexual exploitation as the motive for trafficking, while 32 of those sources reported forced labour.

**Figure 29: Reporting of Form of Exploitation**

Number of sources reporting the purpose of the exploitation (total = 114)



Where the form of exploitation is reported, sources reporting human trafficking cases for sexual exploitation outnumber those reporting cases of forced labour in all regions. The degree to which there is a discrepancy between these two types of exploitation varies between regions and sub-regions. In Central and South Eastern Europe, sexual exploitation is the predominant form of exploitation reported, in comparison to forced labour. Sexual exploitation is also highly reported in Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. In

Africa, forced labour cases are reported by almost 40% of the sources reporting the form of exploitation in that region. Forced labour is also frequently reported in Asia, Oceania and North America by sources reporting cases of trafficking in persons in those regions.

## Underreporting of forced labour

For several years, human trafficking for sexual exploitation has dominated discussions concerning the purpose of trafficking in persons. Trafficking in persons for forced labour, has not been viewed as a major problem in many countries, and the identification of trafficking victims who are exploited through forced labour has been even less successful than in the case of sexual exploitation. In many countries, human trafficking for forced labour has only been included in legislation in recent years in order to comply with the definition of the Trafficking Protocol. Most identified human trafficking victims have been women and children who seem to be particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation. As noted above, far fewer sources have identified either male victims or victims who have been subjected to forced labour, when the popular perception, at least, is that it is men especially who might be expected to be trafficked for forced labour purposes. With regard to further reasons for this, there might be a limited awareness among authorities in many countries of labour situations



49. The full text of the Trafficking Protocol is available as an annex to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/25 at [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a\\_res\\_55/res5525e.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a_res_55/res5525e.pdf)

50. ILO (2005), "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labour", Geneva: ILO; can be downloaded from the internet at [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD\\_BLOB?Var\\_DocumentID=5059](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=5059). Relevant ILO Conventions are the 1930 Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour (Convention No. 29), and the 1957 Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour

that are actually incidents of human trafficking. In some countries, trafficking for forced labour is not seen as a crime but rather an issue to be dealt with in the area of labour regulations and trade unions. In addition, there is the opinion that public media finds sexual exploitation a more appealing topic

compared to forced labour, and, thereby, is naturally biased in favour of reporting instances of sexual exploitation.

### Case Study 5:

In March 2005, UNICRI conducted the pilot project, "Trafficking in Women from Romania into Germany (Phase I)".<sup>51</sup> The results of the study are largely based on interviews with experts from both public and private entities and human trafficking victims in Romania and Germany, as well as on analyses of court files. The following information, concerning the most common patterns of exploitation, was compiled by the interdisciplinary research team in Germany:

- Appointments were arranged by pimps. For example, in certain cases, the women victims concerned were regularly brought to a nearby petrol station and then they would either walk alone to the apartment they were kept in after an agreed time or would be picked up by the pimp;
- Romanian women would be living and engaging in prostitution in the traffickers' flats and clients were found through the internet;
- Upon arrival in Germany, the victim would be taken to a bar or club and forced into prostitution using psychological or physical violence. She would be subjected to verbal assault, and forced to pay off a debt;

- The money earned would be, in most cases, taken by the trafficker. In a few cases, the victims were allowed to keep half the amount;
- The rotation of victims between cities, such as between Cologne and Dortmund, was quite common. The transfer of women between countries also occurred in order to avoid the risk of deportation if the victim was identified in a police raid;
- In brothels, women underwent constant surveillance through video cameras;
- In some cases, women tried to escape. They were then physically assaulted and threatened by traffickers with harm to their families so as to deter the other women.

Women were forced to prostitute themselves with numerous clients a day, in some cases the whole week long. Seizure of documents, threats, psychological and physical violence were used to control the victims. The level of psychological control held by the traffickers over the victims was generally so high that the victims were often not able to act on any opportunity to escape.

<sup>51</sup>. UNICRI (2005), "Trafficking Women from Romania into Germany", to be published in 2006.

## Case Study 6:

Unpublished research for a UNODC human trafficking project in Nigeria details the exploitation of Nigerian children trafficked for a number of purposes:

Child victims provided cheap labour, and served as domestic help and hawkers of all kinds of wares. Apart from a single female child victim, none of the other children interviewed were sexually exploited though all the children recounted tales of inhuman treatment. Those who had to work in plantations were locked up in warehouses when not at work. A 17 year old male victim who was trafficked twice (at 12 and 15 years) described the situation as, "inadequate feeding, poor living conditions, and subject to insect bites and chemical (pesticides) infections". For a whole year's labour on the plantation, the victim was paid four thousand Nigerian Naira (US\$ 32), out of the eight thousand Naira (US\$ 64) promised to him and his mother.

Two small children reported that they hawked wares all through the day, and were fed once a day. Three young girls also hawked wares in Gabon and did domestic chores - one of the victims described the ordeal as "round-the-clock with little feeding." When the victim in question reminded her exploiter of promises to send her to school, she was beaten. When she felt sleepy after a long day of work, she was hit with objects.

A female child victim who was trafficked twice at ages 13 and 15 years, was asked during her second trip to work as a barmaid. Later she was asked to attend to the male customers' needs behind closed doors. She was then informed that her wages would be paid from this activity. While her "master" kept most of the proceeds from prostitution, she was given just barely enough to buy a meal for the day. She was never paid the wages due to her. Members of the survey team were taken to a plantation where trafficked children were used as labourers. The female victims were sexually violated by other male victims and supervisors. Some of the female

victims were already mothers.

Many of the child victims reported that they were subjected to beatings by their mistresses/masters. One female victim was stripped naked, beaten with a wire cane, locked up and forced to eat her faeces by her mistress. She was rescued by her brother who had come to visit her. Her mistress had told her brother she was out on an errand until she shouted that she was locked up in a room.

Another child victim reported working for 14-16 hours a day as a maid in a house with 8 family members in Cameroon, for whom she was at their beck and call all day. She was also engaged in cocoa picking, weeding and watering of the seed nursery. There were fifteen other children working on the coca farm. Child victims deported from Saudi Arabia were used as street beggars by their parents/guardians.

Discussions with local officials showed that even the Cameroonian women who had previously been used and paid for these domestic services, and were now out of jobs, had protested that these little children not only took their jobs but were ill-treated and were considered to be more slaves than providers of normal domestic services. Another problem was that men, both in homes where they were employed and elsewhere, were sexually abusing many of the girls. Their services were virtually free of charge. The middlemen and chiefs collected most of the money while amounts as little as five thousand Naira (US\$ 40) were given to the parents when these children were recruited. As a result of the sexual abuses, teenage mothers aged 12 and 13 years old are not uncommon. Such children were then thrown out of the houses where they were previously working and left to roam the streets. As a result, the greater area was filled with teenage girls and their babies ejected from Cameroonian homes.

## 2.2 Organized Crime involvement (or crime that is organized)

As noted in Chapter 1 of this Report, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocols provide a framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, and were developed in response to the growing international concern about organized criminal groups and operations that cross national borders. In recognition of the range of criminal actors and organizations that have embraced the opportunities of a globalized economy, the Convention provides a broad definition of what constitutes an "organized crime group" and what is entailed by "transnational crime".

The Convention defines an organized criminal group as:

"a structured group of three or more persons existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences established in accordance with the Convention, in order to obtain, directly, or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit."<sup>52</sup>

An offence is transnational under the Convention if, "(a) It is committed in more than one State; (b) It is committed in one State but a substantial part of its preparation, planning, direction or control takes place in another State; (c) It is committed in one State but involves an organized criminal group that engages in criminal activities in more than one State; or (d) It is committed in one State but has substantial effects in another State".<sup>53</sup>

As the 'custodian' of the Convention and its supplementing Protocols, UNODC has encouraged States to, as the Convention stipulates, "consider

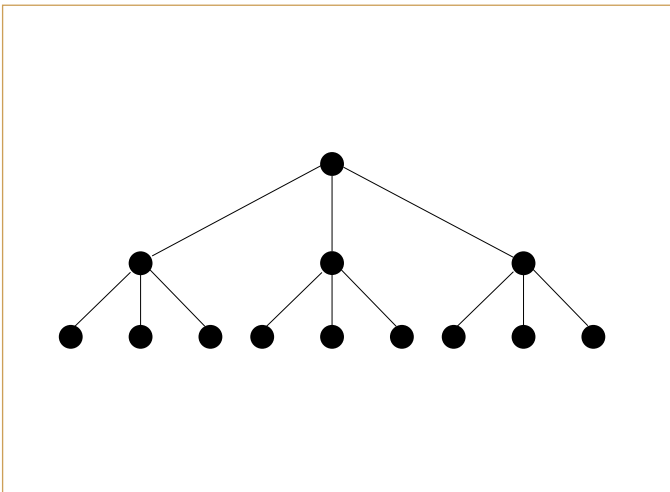
analyzing, in consultation with the scientific and academic communities, trends in organized crime in [their] territory, the circumstances in which organized crime operates, as well as the professional groups and technologies involved".<sup>54</sup>

Further to this, in 2002, UNODC undertook a pilot survey of forty selected organized groups in sixteen countries and one region.<sup>55</sup> The key finding of the data collection exercise was to identify a striking diversity amongst the specific groups studied, evidencing the very different forms that transnational organized crime can take, with a variety of localities, activities and structures. This, in turn, however, allowed analysts to identify a number of important similarities between the groups in question and develop five possible standard typologies of transnational organized crime groups.

Of the 40 organized crime groups in the survey, eight were found to have trafficking in persons activities; of those, two groups were almost exclusively involved in human trafficking, while for the remaining six, human trafficking was one of a number of diversified criminal activities undertaken by the group. Of key interest here, this distinction was matched in the classification of these groups into the typologies identified.

The typologies were developed on how groups were organized structurally, with the view that, while the form of structure might not provide an indication of what activities groups engaged in, it would provide a relatively useful guide of how those activities were pursued. Despite the small sample of groups undertaking human trafficking activities, a clear distinction emerged based upon structure and the extent to which the group relied upon human trafficking activities.

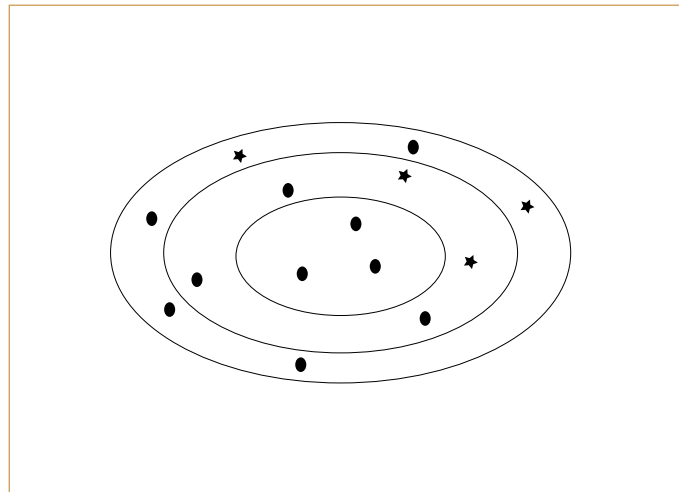
**Figure 30: Organized crime group typologies: 'Standard hierachy'.**



Of the six criminal groups engaging in numerous criminal activities, including trafficking in persons, five were classified as hierarchically structured, characterized by strong internal lines of control and discipline. Of these, four groups could be said to have a single leadership structure, a strong social or ethnic identity and for violence to be an essential means to the carrying out of its activities. Five of these groups were heavily involved in the transnational trafficking of various goods, including drugs and firearms; the remaining group's principal activities were the smuggling of migrants, human trafficking and kidnapping. Most had transborder operations in at least three to four countries, and all cooperated with foreign organized crime groups. These six groups originated from four different continents.

Regarding the two groups whose primary activity was human trafficking, both were classified as “core groups”. Such groups are characterized as consisting of a limited number of individuals forming a relatively tight and structured core group

**Figure 31: Organized crime group typologies: 'Core group'.**



surrounded by a loose network of "associates", with the small size of the group helping to maintain internal discipline. Such groups seldom have a social or ethnic identity - neither of the two groups identified had such. There is some suggestion in the research that “core groups” are strictly profit-orientated and opportunistic, shifting between illegal activities on the basis of where the most profits can be generated.

Of these two groups, in both, each member of the gang appears to have had a specific role in the human trafficking process (for example, recruitment, transport, protection and marketing). Both groups operated across several borders and were regarded as extremely violent. While one group had no connection to the legitimate economy, the second criminal group had made some investments in legitimate activities. Both had a very high level of cooperation with other organized crime groups, both in the base-country and abroad. Both groups trafficked women for the purpose of sexual exploitation while available

52. Article 2(a), *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*. Article 2(b) defines a "serious crime" as "conduct constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years or a more serious penalty". Under Article 2(c), a "structured group" is "a group that is not randomly formed for the immediate commission of an offence and that does not need to have formally defined roles for its members, continuity of its membership or a developed structure".
53. Article 3(2), *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*.
54. Article 28(1), *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*
55. The survey results, "Results of a Pilot Study of Forty Selected Organized Crime Groups in Sixteen Countries", are available at [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/publications/Pilot\\_survey.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/publications/Pilot_survey.pdf)

information shows that one group was exceedingly violent and inhumane towards its trafficking victims.

Of the total of 8 groups found to have trafficking in persons activities, 7 were described as trafficking women, or women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Of these, two also trafficked women and children for forced labour.

### Case Study 7:

The following information comes from the unpublished UNODC report, "Coalitions against Trafficking in Human Beings - Phase I"<sup>56</sup>, based on six individual studies focusing on the Philippines:

Based on the findings of a survey examining the trafficking of Filipino women from the Philippines, criminal networks appear to be small in size and to have specialized tasks. Recruiters are often women. A pattern can be seen of Filipino recruiters frequently working together with employees and club owners from the destination countries. Female victims had contact with small numbers of persons at different phases of the process. They left the Philippines either individually or in small groups and later, in the destination country, often joined large numbers of women working for the same 'company'. This points to small scale recruitment agencies in the Philippines working with more large-scale employers in the destination country. Victims are aware of others being trafficked by the same group which points to either a highly organized network or an organization in operation for an extended period of time. Victims report government official collusion with recruiters and traffickers. This involves facilitating the procurement of documents or escorting persons with fraudulent documents through immigration check-points.

In western Malaysia, criminal groups which are involved in trafficking in persons and/or the smuggling of migrants from the Philippines are reported to range in size, but the majority of groups comprise between six and ten members. The structure of these organized criminal groups

called 'Sindiket' (syndicates) comprise four levels:

- Level 1: includes persons about whose identity very little is known, except they are, in general, well-known powerful people;
- Level 2: includes those individuals who receive orders, pass on information and give directives to the third level;
- Level 3: carries out the actual work of organizing activities on the ground and work closely with the fourth level. They are pimps, madams, or owners of small brothels.
- Level 4: consists of 'errand boys' who arrange transportation, buy food for the female victims and pass on information. They look for potential new clients and areas for expansion. This group identifies potential victims of trafficking, who they befriend, or to whom they promise work.

It is interesting to note that the syndicates are reported to employ specialized legal advisors in order to exploit the law's weaknesses. For instance in the Philippines, proof of identity of the women is required for the prosecution of the employers of trafficking victims. An entertainment company for which many of the women surveyed worked and were deceived by, recorded all payments of salary to and debts incurred by the women employees according to code numbers and not the name on their passports. It was therefore difficult to prove that the women were working for this company and hence bring charges against club owners.

## Case Study 8:

Recent unpublished UNODC research (December, 2005) on organized crime in Afghanistan, reveals the multiple links that can exist between human trafficking and organized crime:

The strength of the organized illicit economy in Afghanistan has some chilling consequences especially for the exploitation of children and young adults. This includes the payment of debts by the exchange of women and girls in marriage and the involvement of children in dangerous cross-border trafficking activities in exchange for payment.

Evidence exists of the existence of small and cohesive criminal gangs abducting children to be sold on to others for sexual exploitation. Such groups maintain a high level of secrecy regarding their activities, more in fear of community outrage than the threat of law enforcement.

Cross-border networks engaged in the recruitment and/or abduction of children for forced labour in the border areas with Pakistan include relatives and respected members of the community acting as recruiters, thereby often winning the trust and consent of unsuspecting parents. These include sophisticated networks based in major Pakistani cities engaged in the trafficking of young boys to the Gulf States for various forms of forced labour.

A foreigners' market for sexual services, largely controlled by Chinese organized crime groups, has recently risen particularly in Kabul, with its high and comparatively wealthy foreign population. Sex providers are Chinese, Philippine and Thai women largely working from Chinese restaurants in Kabul. Although it is unclear whether these women are trafficking victims, local law enforcement officials indicate the trade is highly organized and has connections to local criminal networks.

## 2.3 Offenders<sup>57</sup>

One way of addressing the demand side of trafficking in persons is to demolish the markets generating profits to the criminals. This would require identification of traffickers in order to be

able to investigate trafficking in persons cases, and prosecute and convict offenders. Unfortunately, relatively few cases are prosecuted successfully resulting in a very small number of convictions.

<sup>56.</sup> A series of publications concerning different aspects of the related technical cooperation project are available at [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/publications/publications\\_trafficking.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/publications/publications_trafficking.html)

<sup>57.</sup> The word 'offender' does not necessarily refer to persons actually convicted. It could also refer to suspects, arrested or prosecuted persons.

**Figure 32: Selected criminal justice statistics**

Selected Countries	Number of Persons Arrested	Selected Countries	Number of Persons Arrested
Iceland	7 (01/2004 to 06/2005)	Netherlands	135 (2003)
Italy	126 (01/2004 to 06/2005)	Pakistan	281 (2004)
Japan	58 (2004)	Turkey	123 (2005)



**Figure 34: Selected criminal justice statistics**<sup>59</sup>

**Figure 33: Selected criminal justice statistics**<sup>58</sup>

Selected Countries	Number of Person Prosecuted	Number of Person Convicted
Japan	48 (2004)	N.R.
Lithuania	24 (2003)	8 (2003)
Mexico	20 (2005)	N.R.
Netherlands	117 (2003)	106 (2003)
Romania	N.R.	125 (01/2005 to 06/2005)
Switzerland	N.R.	7 (2003)
Turkey	360 (2005)	N.R.
United States of America	59 (2004)	43 (2004)
Ukraine	59 (2003)	11 (2003)

Selected Countries	Main Nationality of the Offenders (number of Suspects)
Germany, 2002	German (325), Turkish (84), Bulgarian (68), Lithuanian (67), Polish (35).
Greece, 2004	Greek (207), Albanian (22), Bulgarian (15), Russian (10), Egyptian 7)
Iceland, Jan 2004 - Jun 2005	Chinese (4)
Montenegro*, 2004	Serb-Montenegrin (18), Bosnian (2), Ukrainian (1)
Netherlands, 2003	Dutch (61), Romanian (24), Bulgarian (21), Turkish (7), Nigerian (5)
Portugal, 2000-2005	Polish (57), Latvian (13), Estonian (13), Hungarian (12), Czech (11)
Serbia*, 2004	Serb-Montenegrin (31), Ukraine (2), Romanian (1), Bulgarian (1)
Slovenia, 2004	Slovenian (12), Bulgarian (1)
Switzerland, 2003	Italian (4), Swiss (1)

\*The data regarding the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia have been collected separately although the two republics belongs to the state union of Serbia and Montenegro.

This section provides reported information on identified traffickers, focusing on their nationality and gender, and also provides more detailed information concerning particular cases. When considering the number of sources referring to the nationality of the offenders, the following picture emerges: the highest number of sources point to traffickers from countries within the regions of Asia (being the combination of a number of sub-regions), Central and South Eastern Europe and Western Europe. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean were less reported and nationals from the North American region and from Oceania were rarely reported. This distribution is represented in Figure

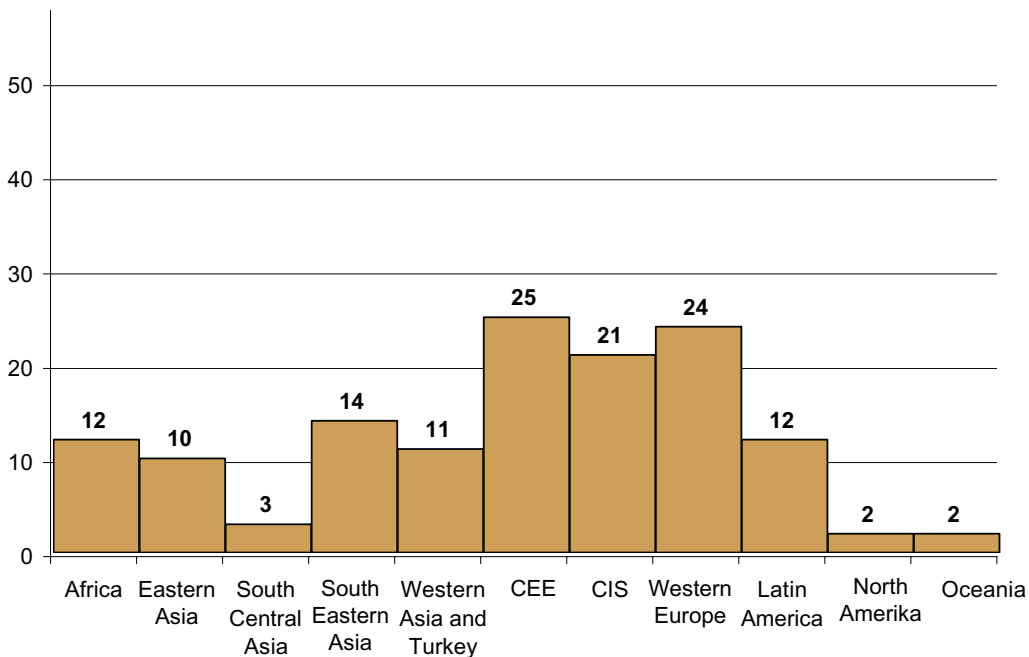
35. A very limited number of source institutions provided data on the gender of the traffickers. For this reason, it has been decided not to include these numbers, or their regional distribution in the Report. Reports, however, do exist of human trafficking groups of men and women operating together, as well as men- and women-only groups.

Interestingly, reports of trafficking in persons that mention male and female traffickers working together or mention only male traffickers also tend to report victims to be women, men or children. For sources that report instances where the traffickers are all female, the trafficking victims are reported to be women or girls.



### Figure 35 : Reporting of Characteristics of Offenders

Number of sources reporting the nationality of the offenders (total =58)



58. Following the completion of the data-collection exercise, more recent official statistics have been provided by a limited number of countries to UNODC. This information is presented here to provide some illustration of criminal justice responses to the trafficking phenomenon in the relevant countries, in terms of the arrests, prosecutions and convictions, as well as the number of official cases identified by the local authorities, the number of victims identified and profile of the offenders recorded.
59. As per the previous footnote, this information has been provided by a limited number of countries to UNODC, and concerns more recent information than that contained in the data-collection exercise.

### Case Study 9:

As part of research into the trafficking of women from the Czech Republic, UNODC and UNICRI researchers profiled 31 offenders:<sup>60</sup>

The majority, 22 in total, were male. The oldest offender was 51 and the youngest was 19. One offender was a university graduate, another had completed secondary school, and five had completed apprenticeships. Fifteen offenders had completed only primary school, while one did not.

Regarding occupation, five of the offenders were described as private entrepreneurs, four were night-club owners (or co-owners), three were workers and one offender was a taxi driver. Thirteen perpetrators were unemployed. The information on the occupation of the remaining offenders was not available.

Most of the traffickers were Czech nationals; four were Romanians. Two offenders were from Slovakia, one from Germany, one from Greece, and one was a Czech female who held Swiss citizenship through marriage.

In three cases involving these offenders, the crime was committed by a husband and wife.

In one case, the perpetrators were women engaged in prostitution outside of the Czech Republic, and, in another case, the crime was committed by two women with long-term experience of exploiting prostitution in the Czech Republic. In eight cases, the trafficking of women abroad was carried out by a single person.

Twelve offenders had previous criminal records.

### Case Study 10:

In many instances, traffickers and victims share the same nationality. The following information was drawn from interviews and data collected in Nigeria as part of a UNODC regional project launched in September 2003:

Trafficking in persons from Nigeria involves both Nigerian offenders as well as nationals from other countries. It appears that the human trafficking activities which take place in Nigeria are conducted by Nigerian citizens. Those involved include recruiting agents, native doctors (voodoo priests) who perform ceremonies to control the victims, lawyers who draw up debt bondage agreements, estate agents who help to launder trafficking proceeds through real estate transactions, and travel touts and agents who provide the necessary travel documentation and arrangements. Generally, foreign nationals work as temporary guides across borders or provide

shelters and safe houses along the routes to harbour victims traveling by land.

With regard to women trafficked for sexual exploitation, officials believe that the networks are more informal, as women are often recruited by persons known to them, including family members, neighbours and friends. Intermediaries provide girls and women with travel documents and tickets, and then create a debt bondage relationship, based on economical and psychological subordination. A "Madam" in the destination country supervises, controls and organizes the groups (comprising ten to fifteen girls or women), coordinates their activities and collects their profits. Most "Madams" started as victims themselves and, once their debt has been paid to their own "Madam", they, in turn, use the same method to make money.

<sup>60</sup>. UNODC and UNICRI (2004), *Trafficking in Women: the Czech Republic Perspective*, Prague: Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention can be downloaded from the internet at: [http://www.unicri.it/www/trafficking/czech/docs/obchod\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unicri.it/www/trafficking/czech/docs/obchod_eng.pdf)

## Case Study 11:

In many cases, important characteristics of the recruiting trafficker are predetermined to appeal to potential victims. As part of a wider UNODC project, the first national study in Brazil of human trafficking investigations was completed in 2003:<sup>61</sup>

While it was found the majority of suspected traffickers were male, cases involving female traffickers had certain defining features. When the crime affected more than one victim at a time, women formed a minority among the accused. The cases of recruitment of several victims at one time generally involved female victims who were already working as prostitutes in Brazil and were used to negotiating with men.

Cases which involved the individual recruitment of victims, however, involved significantly more women traffickers. The conclusion of the researchers was that traffickers perceived that sending women as recruiters gave more credibility to the job offers used as bait to lure individual victims who were not experienced in the sex market.

Most of the suspected traffickers were also over 30 years old. In the case of women acting as recruiters, the fact that they were older reinforced their credibility and their authority to counsel the victims to accept the offers from abroad. Most of these women were also married or in a stable relationship.

## 2.4 Victims

The early identification of trafficked persons is a prerequisite for their recognition as victims and, consequently, their access to assistance and protection. If trafficked victims are not recognized, assisted and protected as victims, criminal justice systems lose important evidence against traffickers. Moreover, the failure to identify victims causes secondary victimization and compounds the trauma victims suffer from.

The United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (1985)<sup>62</sup> states, at clause 16, that persons who are likely to be in contact with victims (such as police

and justice officials and staff from health and social services, and other personnel) should receive training in order to enable them to identify victims and to be sensitive to their needs. This is especially significant for those who may come into contact with victims of human trafficking who are without the resources of citizenship in the destination country and are therefore especially vulnerable.

It is crucial to enlist the cooperation of all persons and groups who come into contact with victims of human trafficking, such as border guards, police and immigration officers, prosecutors and judges, doctors, medical and social workers, housing and

<sup>61</sup>. *The summary of the findings of the study can be downloaded from the Internet at [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/brazil/folder\\_tsh\\_ing\\_port.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/brazil/folder_tsh_ing_port.pdf)*

<sup>62</sup>. *"The Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power" can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.pogar.org/publications/garesolutions/a40-34-85e.pdf>*

agricultural inspectors, and staff of immigrant rights organizations, women's, victims' rights and refugee protection and asylum organizations.

Identification of victims could take place during different phases of the trafficking in persons process: potential victims might be identified, for example, when crossing borders or at any other point of the transportation stage. Identification is probably most common when victims are exploited in the country of destination. In some cases, particular effort is made to identify victims returning to their home countries. The following information is based on unpublished UNODC research collected during interviews with the Armenian NGO, UMCOR-Armenia. In Armenia, NGO workers cooperate with the local border control officers in order to identify trafficking victims among those deported back to Armenia. Main destination countries for victims trafficked out of Armenia are

Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). NGO workers receive lists of deported persons in advance and they can select those who might be human trafficking victims. When flights from Turkey or the UAE arrive in Armenia, NGO workers interview potential victims offering them shelter, health care and other services.

In generating a profile of victims, based upon the number of source institutions reporting cases of trafficking in persons<sup>64</sup> (both for sexual exploitation and forced labour) for which age and gender are known, minors (consisting of boys, girls and "children", i.e. those accounts of trafficking in persons that do not give the gender of the child) comprise the largest percentage of persons reported as victims. Adult women comprise the second largest reported group. A relatively small number of sources report the victim to be an adult male.

This pattern fluctuates across regions. In the Commonwealth of Independent States countries, adult women are mostly reported as victims of human trafficking. The same pattern is reported in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Oceania. Sources citing adult women as victims also far outnumber sources for children in Central and South Eastern Europe and Western Europe.

Notable is the fact that the percentage of sources reporting adult women drops rather sharply in North America and Asia and even more sharply in Africa. In Africa, children comprise the largest group of trafficked victims and when the categories of girls and boys are added to the category of children, the total category comprises almost sixty percent (60%) of all sources institutions reporting human trafficking in the region. The situation is similar in Asia where children, girls and boys combined, outnumber adult women as reported victims of trafficking. A similar number of sources in North America report trafficking of women and minors.

**Figure 36: Selected criminal justice statistics**<sup>63</sup>

Selected Countries	Number of Victims Identified by the Authorities	Selected Countries	Number of Victims Identified by the Authorities
Croatia	19 (2004)	Netherlands	153 (2003)
Germany	811 (2003)	Poland	43 (01/2004 to 06/2005)
Greece	179 (01/2005 to 06/2005)	Portugal	506 (2005)
Ireland	2 (2004)	Serbia*	43 (2003)
Japan	77 (2004)	Slovenia	14 (2004)
Latvia	3 (2005)	Switzerland	43 (2004)
Mexico	412 (2005)	Turkey	243 (2005)
Montenegro*	16 (2004)		

\* The data regarding the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia have been collected separately although the two republics belongs to the state union of Serbia and Montenegro.

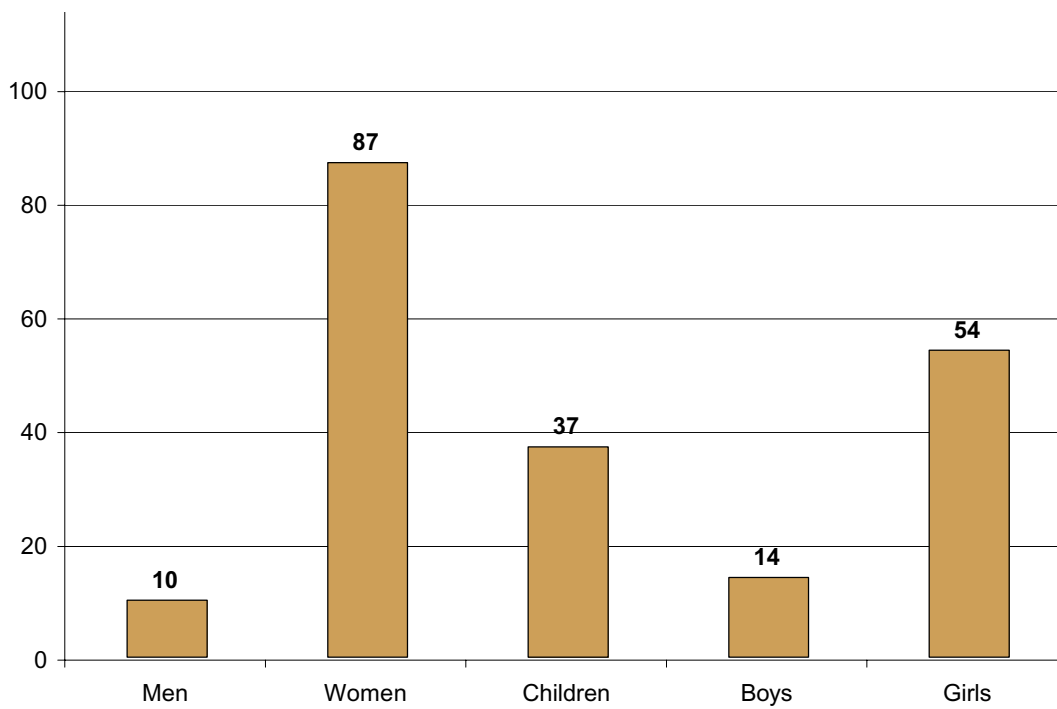
<sup>63</sup>. Following the completion of the data-collection exercise, more recent official statistics have been provided by a limited number of countries to UNODC. This information is presented here to provide some illustration of criminal justice responses to the human trafficking phenomenon in the relevant countries, in terms of the arrests, prosecutions and convictions, as well as the number of official cases identified by the local authorities, the number of victims identified and profile of the offenders recorded.

<sup>64</sup>. For an explanation of the data collection see Chapter 4, Section 4.3.



**Figure 37: Profile of Victims, Gender and Age**

Number of sources reporting characteristics of the victims (total =114)



As noted above, the group, “children”, indicates that no information was reported on the gender of the children in the relevant account of trafficking in persons. Where the gender of the child is known and reported, the number of sources reporting female children outnumbers male children. This figure varies from one region to the next. The sharpest discrepancies can be found in Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and South Eastern Europe and Western Europe all of where the number of sources reporting girl victims significantly outnumber the sources reporting boy victims. In North America sources reporting girls outnumber boys by about six to one. There were no reports of boys as victims of trafficking in persons in Oceania. In Africa, Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, girls are reported as victims of human trafficking more frequently than boys but the disparity is not as great as in other regions of the world.

Reported information regarding men as victims of human trafficking remains low. It is highest in North America where 5% of the sources report adult male victims, followed by the Commonwealth of

Independent States. Very few sources report men as victims of trafficking in persons in Africa, Asia, Western Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and South Eastern Europe. In Oceania, there were no reports of male victims.

One of the major problems in identifying human trafficking victims who are men is legislation. In many countries, the laws relevant to human trafficking are restricted in their application solely to women, and in many cases, only women who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. This was particularly the case prior to the Trafficking Protocol entering into force. In addition, many service providers limit their support and protection only to female and child victims. Thus, exploitation through forced labour is often quite unlikely to come to the attention of those dealing with victims. In Belgium, the human trafficking legislation applies to both sexual exploitation and forced labour and there are several male victims, nearly all young football players from Nigeria, under the victim protection programme.<sup>65</sup>

### Case Study 12:

In March 2005, UNICRI completed fieldwork on the trafficking of women from Romania into Germany, including the interviewing of 98 victims of human trafficking by interdisciplinary research teams in Germany and Romania:<sup>66</sup>

When leaving Romania, the average age of the victims was just over 21 years of age. The lowest age of victims when leaving Romania registered by the German research team was 15 years old, and 14 years old by the Romanian team. Victims usually came from rural areas or small towns located at about 50 km away from big cities.

The majority of the victims had a low level of education. Regarding the victims' employment status in Romania prior to being trafficked, of those who provided information, 30% were unemployed and 23% were employed. All cases of employed women involved low-paid jobs and usually were positions not requiring special qualifications.

Of the victims interviewed in Germany, 29% were single, 6% married and 6% were divorced. 11% specified they had one or more children (usually left back in Romania), one was pregnant, and

<sup>65</sup>. European Commission (2003), "Research based on case studies of victims of trafficking in human beings in 3 EU Member States, i.e. Belgium, Italy and The Netherlands", European Commission, DG Justice & Home Affairs, Hippocrates, project number JAI/2001/HIP/023.

<sup>66</sup>. UNICRI (2005), "Trafficking Women from Romania into Germany", to be published in 2006.

11% had no children. Several victims reported a harsh social background having had to grow up in orphanages or living on the streets. Of the victims interviewed in Romania, most were not married but one had been forced into marriage with the recruiter who exploited her. Most victims did not have partners at the date of departure to Germany.

Most victims came from families with many children (4-7 children) or composed of several relatives (e.g. grandparents, brothers-in-law, grandchildren) with only a small number of family members contributing to the family income. In most cases, there was only one income source at home. Most of the victims interviewed by the Romanian team belonged to families in which at least one parent was unemployed, the family had serious financial difficulties or they did

themselves, for example, through abandonment by their husband and having children to support. Generally, families where alcoholism, violence and criminal records were constant features, together with the parents' lack of affection were widespread in the victims' milieu. Moreover, in many cases, traumatic episodes were reported, in which subjects were victims of rape, incest, maltreatment and other abuses.

Apart from their family background, according to most declarations, the victims' vulnerability stemmed from their lack of awareness when leaving Romania of the potential risks which they might encounter abroad. Other victims reported either not having any concerns or only light suspicions as to their recruiters, but these did not prevent them from continuing their journey.

### Case Study 13:

According to the UNODC and UNICRI report, "Trafficking in Women: The Czech Republic Perspective",<sup>67</sup> offenders often target and exploit underage victims because of their mental and social immaturity, and, above all, their difficult life situations:

- A young girl ran away from a children's home, and was sold to Romany procurers, who then sold her to Vietnamese citizens in the Czech Republic. Later, she was transported to Germany and, in the end, sold there to a German citizen. The girl was always sold for a sexual purpose.
- Through a newspaper advertisement, an offender offered a girl a post in Spain as a

cleaner. She traveled there using a counterfeit passport and was forced to engage in prostitution by the hotel owner.

- The neighbour of a female minor allegedly mediated for her in securing a job as a barmaid in Switzerland (he knew that she would be engaged in prostitution). She left the country using a borrowed passport.
- A minor girl ran away from her parents, with no money at all. She traveled to Italy with a female offender, herself engaged in prostitution, who provided her with a counterfeit passport and induced her to become a prostitute.

<sup>67</sup>. UNODC and UNICRI (2004), "Trafficking in Women: the Czech Republic Perspective", Prague: Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention: can be downloaded from the internet at [http://www.unicri.it/www/trafficking/czech/docs/obchod\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unicri.it/www/trafficking/czech/docs/obchod_eng.pdf)

## 2.5 Summary and Conclusions

This chapter has examined the reporting of the process of trafficking in persons, and the associated global trafficking patterns that exist in what is reported regarding countries of origin, transit and destination, forms of exploitation, the involvement of organized crime, and the profile of offenders and victims.

The Commonwealth of Independent States, Central and South Eastern Europe, West Africa and South-Eastern Asia, are the most reported origin regions. Countries in Western Europe, North America and Asia, particularly in Western Asia, are reported more frequently as destination countries. Countries within Central and South Eastern Europe and Western Europe are highly reported transit regions. Beside Europe, South-Eastern Asia, Central America and Western Africa are also highly reported transit (sub-) regions.

Human trafficking for sexual exploitation is reported more frequently by source institutions than trafficking for forced labour at the global level. Ninety-eight (98) of the sources cited sexual exploitation while 32 made reference to forced labour. This varied per (sub-) region, with sexual exploitation reported by many sources in relation to Central and South Eastern Europe and by relatively fewer with regard to Africa. Where sources expressly report exploitation of boys, this tends to be in the labour market, while sexual exploitation is reported more frequently among female children.

In this chapter, a number of important similarities between the organized crime groups involved in human trafficking were identified based on the UNODC pilot survey of forty selected organized crime groups in sixteen countries and one region. Mainly two types of groups were involved in human

trafficking activities. The first groups were hierarchically structured, characterized by strong internal lines of control and discipline. In addition to human trafficking, these groups were also heavily involved in other forms of organized crime. The primary activity of the second type of groups was human trafficking and they could be classified as “core groups”. Such groups are characterized as consisting of a limited number of individuals forming a relatively tight and structured core group surrounded by a loose network of “associates”, with the small size of the group helping to maintain internal discipline.

With respect to the nationality of the traffickers, the largest number of reported references are to nationals of Asia, followed by Central and South Eastern Europe and then Western Europe.

With respect to victim profiles at the global level, adult women are most frequently reported to be victims, followed by girls, children, boys and men. When combined, the categories, “children”, “girls” and “boys” comprise almost one half of those sources reporting detail regarding victims in the Trafficking Database. This varies between regions. In Africa and Asia, more sources report minors as victims of trafficking than adult women.

This chapter also included two other forms of information.

First, a sample of recent official criminal justice statistics were provided. These statistics illustrate a number of points. As well as highlighting the types of information that might be collected, the level of detail provided in the tables is indicative of the difficulties faced in comparing criminal justice research. The figures, also, unfortunately, reflect the

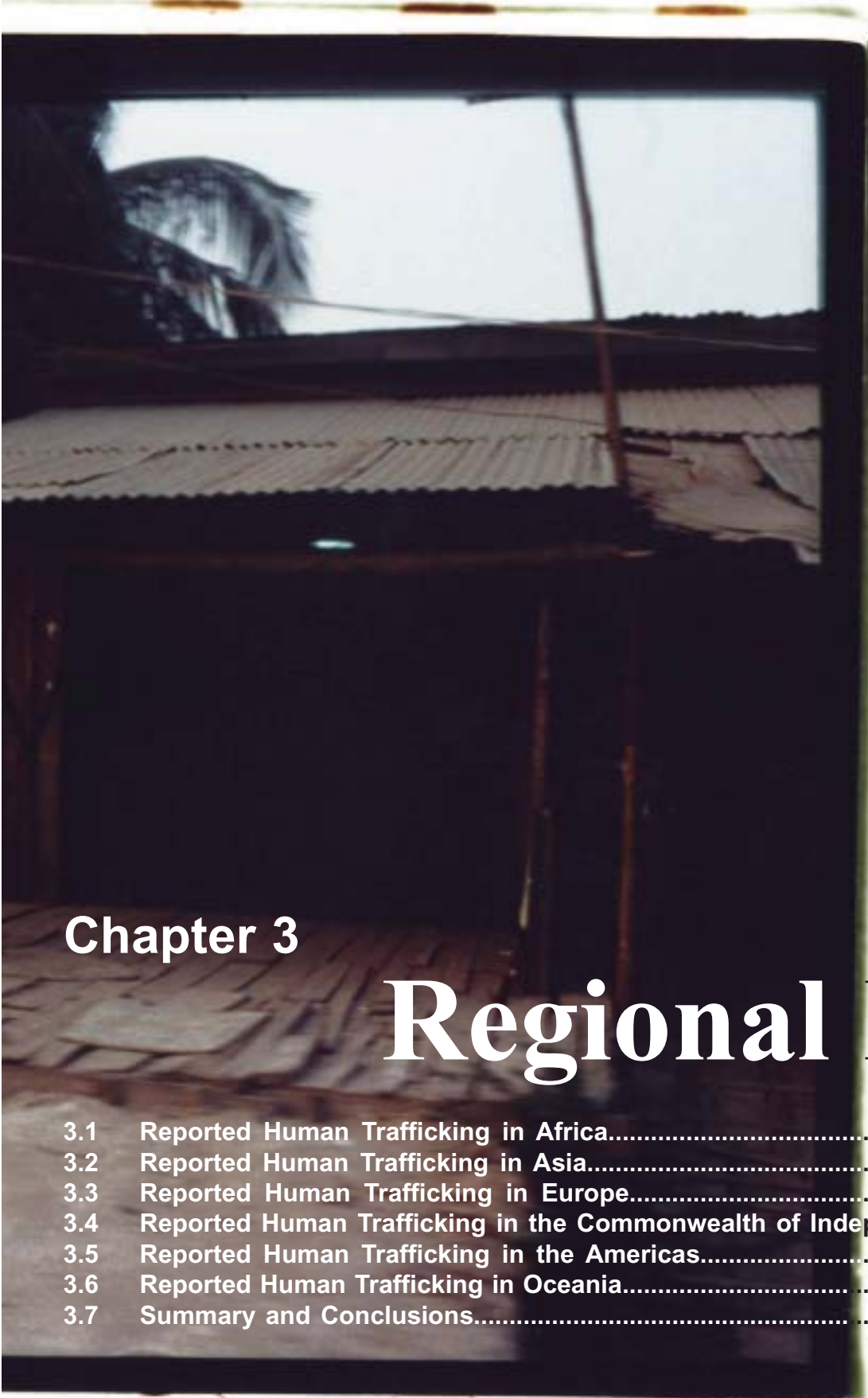


very low number of convictions realized for human trafficking offenders in most countries.

Second, a number of case studies from UNODC and UNICRI research and analysis projects were briefly detailed. These case studies are included to provide some examples of the experience of human trafficking victims and the criminal enterprise that

has developed around their exploitation. These case studies are provided to illustrate the 'missing data' that is not yet reflected in reported trends at the global level. As case studies, they may not be representative of practices at the global level, but, as a group, they do indicate a desirable level of information that would assist and direct a more effective response to human trafficking practices.





## Chapter 3

# Regional Flows

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This chapter examines, in more depth, regional and sub-regional trafficking in persons patterns. Information will be provided on the reported origin, transit and destination regions, as well as the major reported origin and reported destination countries

from which and to which people are trafficked.<sup>68</sup> This data provides important information on the linkage between reported countries of origin and destination, and will indicate the patterns arising from the reported intra-regional trafficking in persons.

### 3.1 Reported Human Trafficking in Africa

As a region, Africa comprises of five sub-regions.<sup>69</sup> Western Africa is the largest sub-region constituting 15 countries, followed by Eastern Africa (14), Middle Africa (7), Northern Africa (6) and Southern Africa (4).

(13 sources). Southern Africa is reported by 13 sources (mostly as a destination sub-region), whereas Northern Africa is reported by 18 sources (mostly as an origin and transit region for trafficking in persons).

39 of the 113 sources collected in the Trafficking Database report of trafficking in persons in Africa. Within Africa, there are sub-regional differences. Western Africa is the major point of reported human trafficking in Africa - 33 sources report the sub-region as an origin of trafficking, and 12 as a destination. Following Western Africa, Eastern Africa (14 sources) and Middle Africa are also frequently reported as an origin of human trafficking

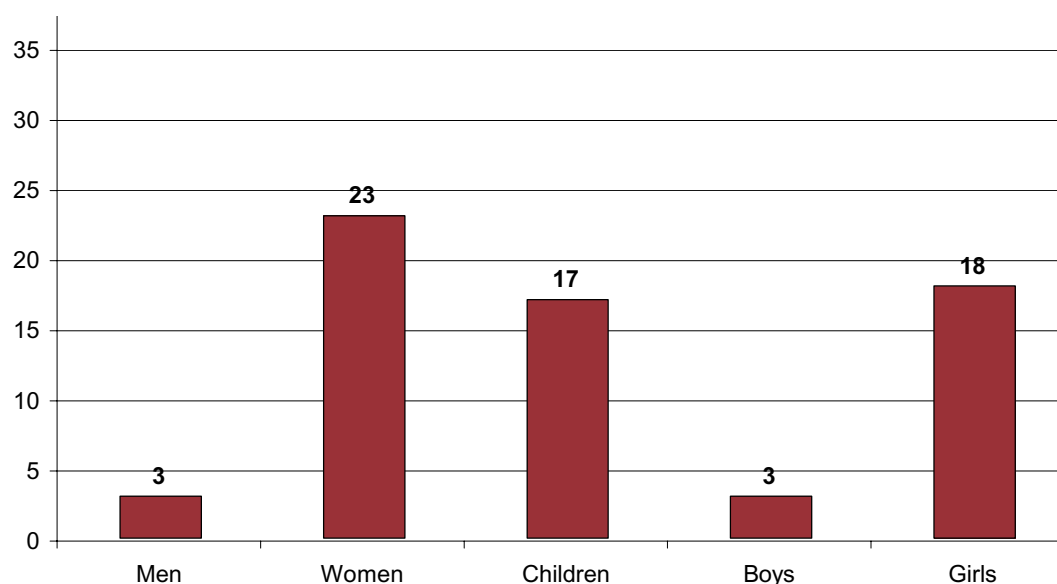
Trafficking of African children is reported by 17 sources (43% of the total number of sources reporting trafficking in Africa). 18 sources (46% of the sources) also explicitly reported the trafficking of girls.<sup>70</sup> The trafficking of boys was also reported. These categories combined indicate that a larger number of sources refer to the trafficking of minors than of adult women (23). Only a few sources refer to the trafficking of adult men.

<sup>68</sup>. *The figures and text in this chapter refer to the reported profile of victims and reported purpose of trafficking in each region, based upon those sources that report such information for each particular region. It should be noted that an individual source can report information regarding more than one type of victim or form of exploitation.*

<sup>69</sup>. *The countries considered to be in the region and sub-regions are listed in Appendix 2.*

<sup>70</sup>. *As detailed in Chapter 4, Section 4.2, all the available detail from accounts of trafficking in human beings was recorded in the Trafficking Database. Where, for example, a report only mentioned children, this was recorded in the database. Where information regarding the sex of the child was provided, 'girl' or 'boy' was entered into the Trafficking Database.*

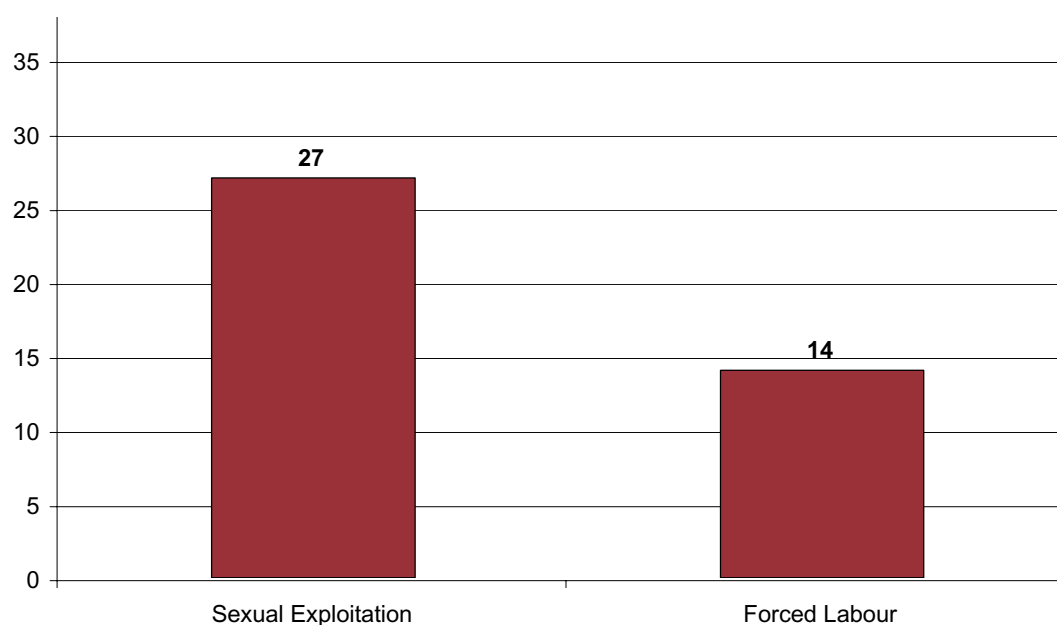
**Figure 38: Reported profile of victims, Africa (total number of sources =39)**



Human trafficking occurring for the purpose of sexual exploitation is reported by 27 sources, and for forced labour by 14 of the 39 sources reporting trafficking in persons in Africa. The percentage of

sources reporting trafficking for forced labour is higher in Africa (35%) than in other parts of the world.

**Figure 39: Reported purpose of trafficking, Africa (total number of sources =39)**



When focusing on the individual sub-regions, the picture of the profile of the victims, as well as the type of exploitation, changes. In particular, trafficking in children is more frequently reported in Middle African countries than in the other

sub-regions in the African region. As for the type of exploitation, trafficking for forced labour is more frequently reported in Middle African countries than in the rest of Africa (almost 60% of the sources reporting trafficking in persons in the sub-region).

## Africa as an origin region

Western Africa is the reported sub-region from which most of the trafficking in persons in the region originates. Among origin countries in Africa, Nigeria is the only country which is ranked very high, according to the citation index, followed by Benin, Ghana and Morocco, all of which rank high.<sup>71</sup>

In considering the destinations to which African victims are trafficked, according to the sources collected in the Trafficking Database, African countries and Western European countries are the most frequently reported. In particular, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and South Africa are frequently cited as destinations for victims trafficked from African countries. Within Western Europe, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Belgium and the Netherlands are the most frequently reported as destinations of trafficking out of African countries. Among other regions, Saudi Arabia is reported to be a destination for victims trafficked out of Africa. Fewer sources reported of trafficking from Africa into North America.

## Africa as a destination region

No African nation ranked among the countries rated as very high or high in the citation index<sup>72</sup>. When considering Africa as a destination region, the greatest number of sources reporting human trafficking into African countries indicate that victims are trafficked from other African countries, and in particular from the Western African sub-region. Only a few sources indicate that trafficked victims are brought into Africa from other regions, being Asia (Thailand); the Commonwealth of Independent States (Russian Federation); and Central and South Eastern Europe. This human trafficking from other regions is reported as occurring most heavily into the Southern African

sub-region. These findings match the high degree of reported intra-regional human trafficking within Africa, and in particular, Western Africa.

When looking at the countries reported as origin countries for those trafficked into African countries, 10 of them are within the Western Africa sub-region. These are Benin, Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Also in this group are countries from Southern Africa (Lesotho) and Middle Africa (Cameroon).



<sup>71</sup>. See Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4 for an explanation of the data collection and data coding. See Appendix 3 for the categorisation of other African countries as countries of origin for trafficking in human beings.

<sup>72</sup>. See Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and 4.4 for an explanation of the data collection and data coding. See Appendix 5 for the ranking of African countries as destination countries for trafficking in human beings.

### 3.1 Reported Human Trafficking in Asia

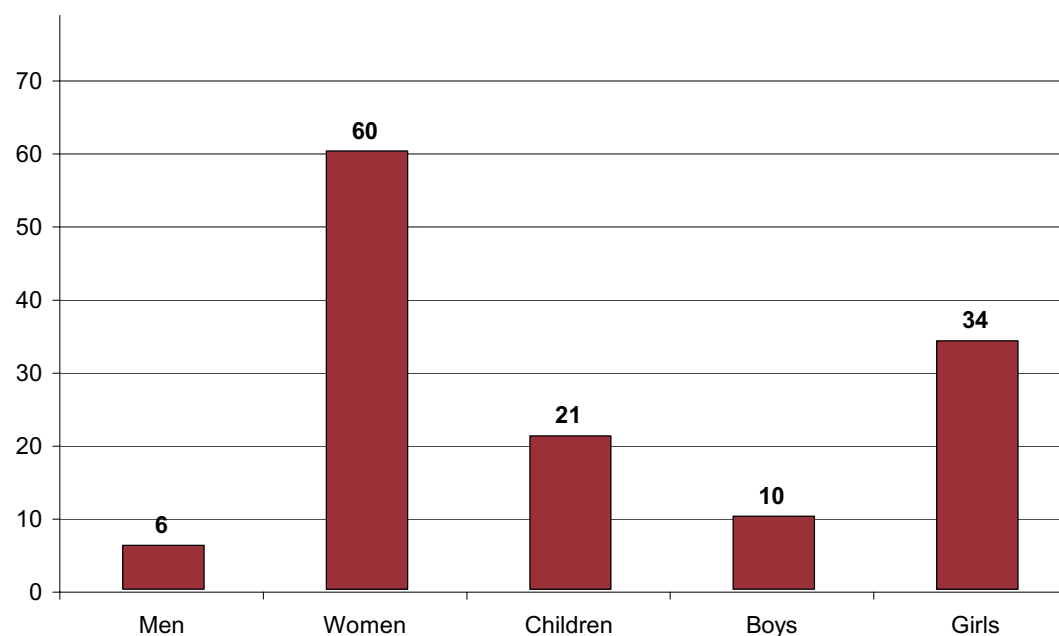
As a region, Asia comprises of four sub-regions.<sup>73</sup> Western Asia and Turkey constitutes 14 countries, followed by South-Eastern Asia (10), South-Central Asia (9) and Eastern Asia (7).

The Trafficking Database includes 80 sources reporting trafficking in persons involving Asian countries. The majority of source institutions identify South-Eastern Asia as a major sub-region of origin within the region (51 of the sources), followed by South-Central Asia and Eastern Asia (32 sources).

If we examine Asia as a destination region, a different pattern emerges. The sub-region, Western Asia and Turkey, is frequently reported as a destination for victims of human trafficking (41 of the sources), followed by Eastern Asia (34 sources) and South-Eastern Asia (31 sources).

The greater number of the sources reporting trafficking in persons cases in Asia (60) refer to victims as being adult women. Minors, categorized separately as children (21), girls (34) and boys (10) are also frequently reported as victims of trafficking.

**Figure 40: Reported profile of victims, Asia (total number of sources =80)**



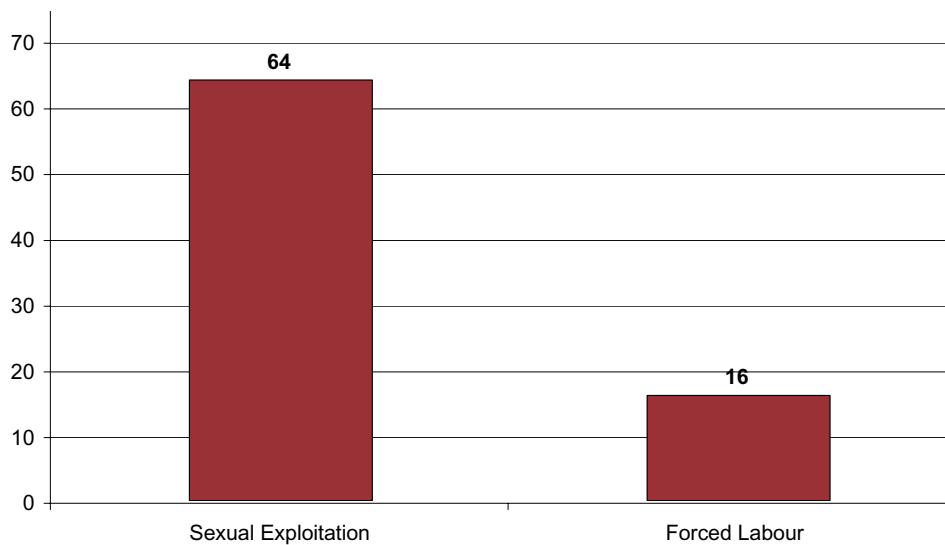
The majority of sources reporting human trafficking cases in Asia refer to victims trafficked

for the purpose of sexual exploitation, while 20% of these sources report trafficking for forced labour.

<sup>73</sup> The countries considered in this region and sub-regions are listed in Appendix 2.



**Figure 41: Reported purpose of trafficking, Asia (total number of sources = 80).**



## Asia as an origin region

Two Asian countries rank very high<sup>74</sup> on the citation index of reported origin countries. These are, in alphabetical order, the People's Republic of China and Thailand. Nine other countries are categorized as high (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Viet Nam).<sup>75</sup>

In considering the destinations to which Asian victims are trafficked, the sources collected frequently report trafficking in persons to other countries within the Asian region. In particular, Thailand, Japan, India, Taiwan Province of China and Pakistan are frequently reported. Other regional destinations frequently reported for trafficked victims from Asia are Western Europe and North America. The most frequently reported non-Asian destination countries for victims trafficked from Asian countries are (in alphabetical order): Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

## Asia as a destination region

Israel and Turkey (Western Asia and Turkey), Japan

(Eastern Asia) and Thailand (South-Eastern Asia) all rank very high in the citation index as destination countries in the global comparison. Asian countries (or territories) ranking high, grouped in terms of sub-regions and listed alphabetically, are: Eastern Asia: China, Hong Kong China SAR, Taiwan Province of China; South-Central Asia: India, Pakistan; South-Eastern Asia: Cambodia; Western Asia and Turkey: Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.<sup>76</sup>

South-Eastern Asia is frequently reported to be an origin region for trafficking into Asian countries. Myanmar, Viet Nam, the Philippines and Thailand are frequently reported as origin countries, as are the People's Republic of China, Bangladesh and Nepal also among the Asian countries most frequently reported to be origin countries for trafficking into Asian countries.

Another important reported origin region for victims trafficked into Asian countries, especially in the sub-region of Western Asia and Turkey, is the Commonwealth of Independent States. Ukraine and the Russian Federation are frequently reported by the sources collected in the Trafficking Database, together with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia.

<sup>74</sup>. For an explanation of the data collection and coding see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

<sup>75</sup>. See Appendix 3 for the categorisation of other Asian countries as origin countries of trafficking in human beings.

<sup>76</sup>. See Appendix 5 for the rankings of other Asian countries as destinations for trafficking in human beings.

### 3.3 Reported Human Trafficking in Europe

Europe comprises of two major sub-regions. These are Western Europe, that serves predominantly as a sub-region of destination, and Central and South Eastern Europe, that serves primarily as an origin and transit, and to a lesser extent, a destination region.

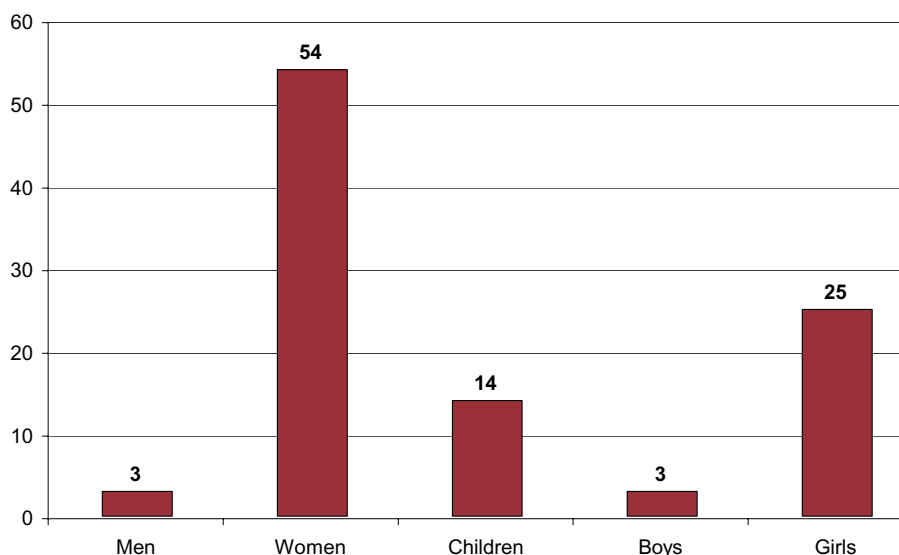
These sub-regions, due to the very different nature of the human trafficking patterns affecting them, will be discussed separately.

#### Central and South Eastern Europe

As a sub-region, Central and South Eastern Europe (CEE) comprises of sixteen countries ranging from the northern Baltic countries to the Balkans.<sup>77</sup>

The majority of the sources collected in the Trafficking Database and reporting trafficking in persons in the sub-region indicate adult women as victims of trafficking. Minors are also frequently reported to be victims of trafficking in the sub-region, combining the categories, children (14 sources), boys and girls (25 sources) and representing an important portion of the total number of sources reporting human trafficking in Central and South Eastern Europe.

**Figure 42: Reported profile of victims, Central and South Eastern Europe (total number of sources =60)**

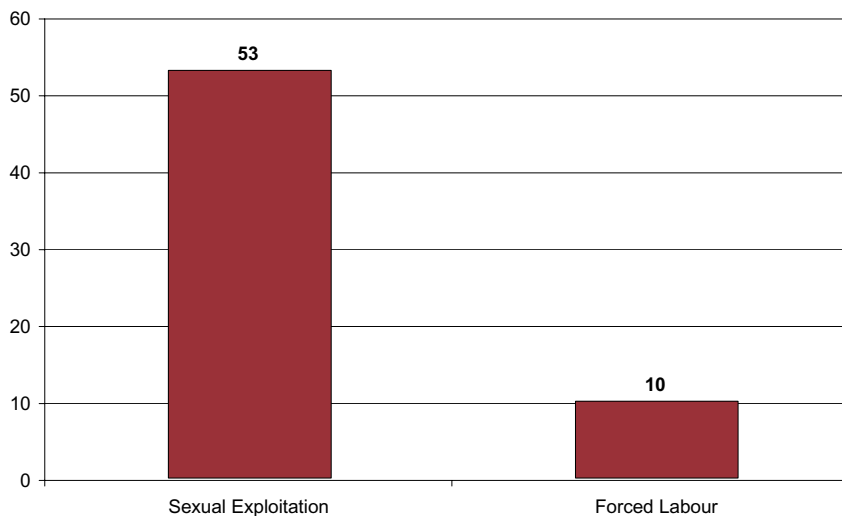


Sexual exploitation is reported as the main cause of the reported trafficking in persons, with 53 of 60 sources reporting human trafficking in the

sub-region, indicating sexual exploitation as the purpose of the human trafficking activity.

<sup>77</sup>. The countries considered in the sub-region are listed in Appendix 2.

**Figure 43: Reported purpose of trafficking, Central and South Eastern Europe (total number of sources =60).**



## Central and South Eastern Europe as an origin sub-region

Central and South Eastern Europe is frequently reported as an origin sub-region. Four countries rank very high in the citation index as origin countries in the global comparison. These are, in alphabetical order, Albania, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania. Among countries ranked high are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia.<sup>78</sup>

According to sources recorded in the Trafficking Database, trafficked victims from countries in Central and South Eastern Europe are reported to be trafficked mainly to Western Europe. Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Austria, France and Spain are all frequently reported to be destination countries for victims from the CEE sub-region. Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Czech Republic are countries within the region that are reported to be destinations for those trafficked from countries in Central and South Eastern Europe. A small number of sources refer to victims from this sub-region

being exploited in Western Asia and Turkey (Turkey and Israel) and North America.

## Central and South Eastern Europe as a destination sub-region

Four countries (or territories) within Central and South Eastern Europe are ranked high in the citation index as a destination.<sup>79</sup> These are, in alphabetical order, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Poland.<sup>80</sup>

The majority of sources report that victims are trafficked into Central and South Eastern Europe from the Commonwealth of Independent States. Ukraine, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Belarus are the most frequently reported as origin countries for victims trafficked into the CEE region. In the region, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Latvia are also frequently indicated as origin countries for people trafficked into Central and South Eastern Europe. Only a very few sources mention victims from Asia and Africa as having been trafficked into countries within Central and South Eastern Europe.

<sup>78</sup>. See Appendix 3 for categorisation of other Central and South Eastern Europe countries as origin countries of trafficking in human beings.

<sup>79</sup>. For an explanation of the data collection and coding see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

<sup>80</sup>. See Appendix 5 for the ranking of other Central and South Eastern European countries as destinations for trafficking in human beings.

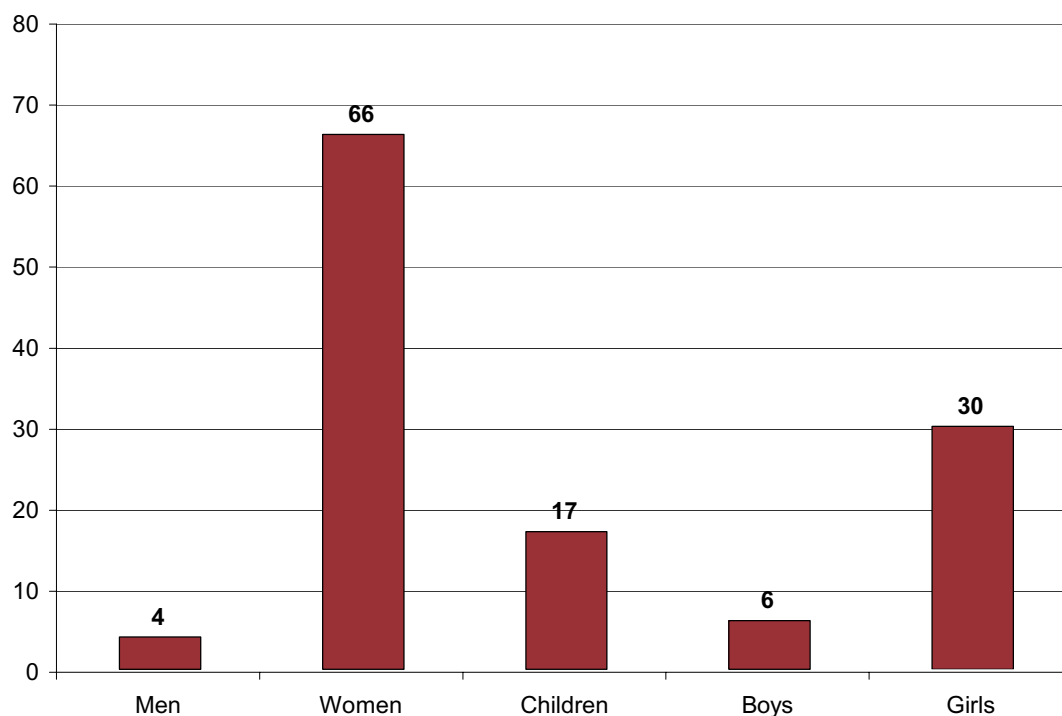
## Western Europe

Western Europe comprises of 19 countries.<sup>81</sup> Among these, five countries are ranked very high as destination countries in the citation index.<sup>82</sup> They are, in alphabetical order, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands. Among Western European countries ranked high are Austria, Denmark, France, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.<sup>83</sup>

The majority of the sources collected in the Trafficking Database, registering human trafficking activity in Western Europe, reported cases of trafficking of women (66 sources out of 80), and girls (30 sources). A lesser number of sources reported cases of trafficking of children.

Trafficking in persons occurring for the purposes of sexual exploitation is mostly reported in the sub-region, whereas the reporting of trafficking for forced labour occurs less frequently.

**Figure 44 Reported profile of victims, Western Europe (total number of sources =80)**



<sup>81</sup>. The countries considered in this sub-region are listed in Appendix 2.

<sup>82</sup>. For an explanation of the data collection and coding, see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

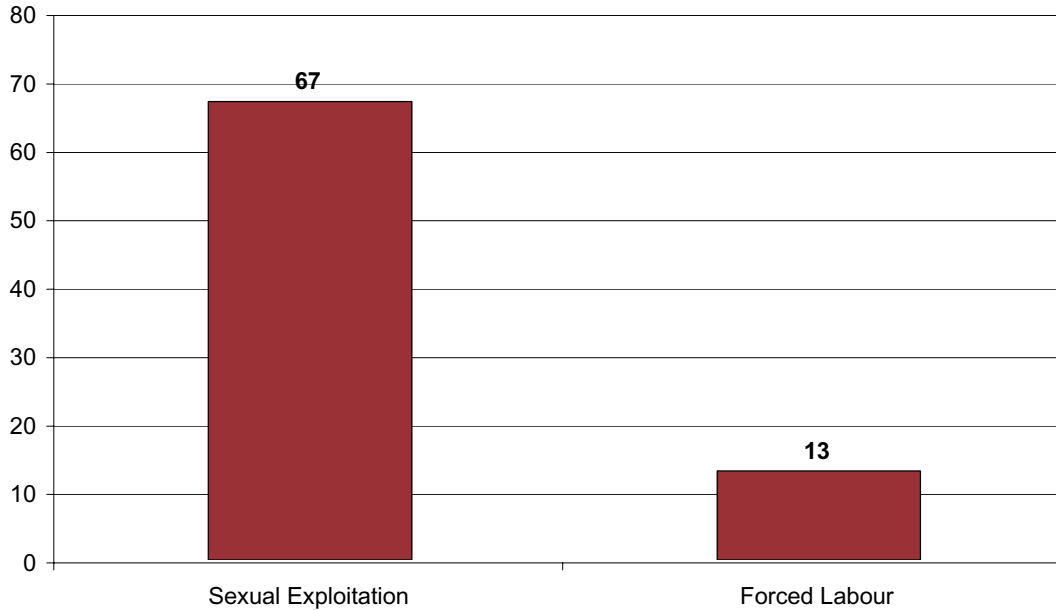
<sup>83</sup>. See Appendix 5 for the ranking of other Western European countries as destination countries for trafficking in human beings.

# Western Europe as a destination sub-region

Victims trafficked into Western Europe are reported to come from all five major origin regions. Central and South Eastern Europe is the region most frequently reported, and, in particular, Albania, Romania, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland and Hungary are frequently reported

to be origin countries for human trafficking into the region. The Commonwealth of Independent States is also frequently reported, and specifically, Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Moldova are frequently reported by the sources collected as origin countries for trafficking of victims into Western Europe. Nigeria, Colombia and Dominican Republic are also among the most frequently reported countries of origin for the sub-region.

**Figure 45** Reported purpose of trafficking, Western Europe (total number of sources =80)

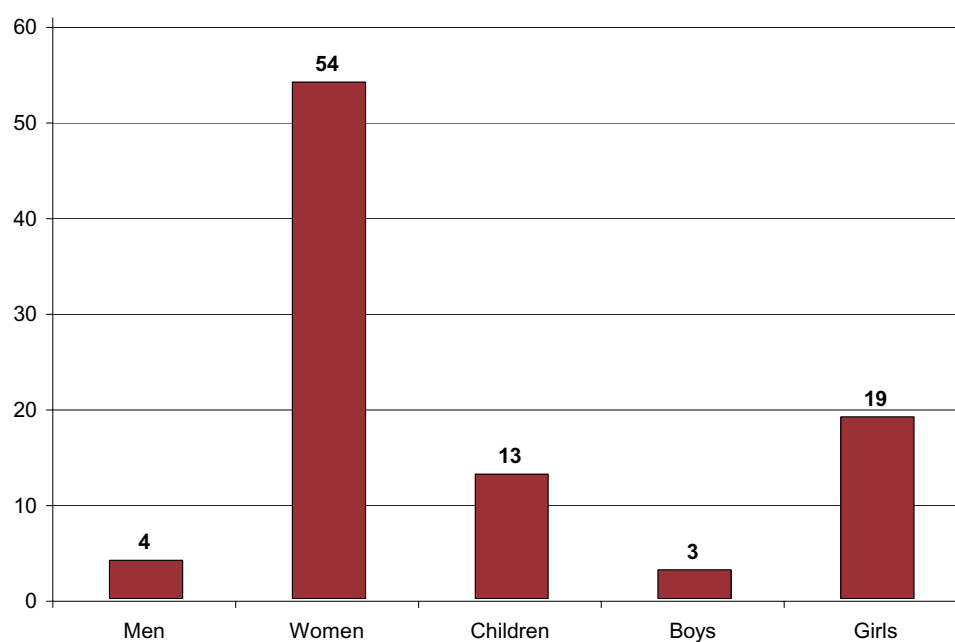


### 3.4 Reported Human Trafficking in the Commonwealth of Independent States

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) comprises of 12 countries<sup>84</sup> and is reported as an important region of origin. Four countries ranked very high<sup>84</sup> in the citation index as origin countries.

These are, in alphabetical order, Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Four other countries, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, ranked high.<sup>86</sup>

**Figure 46: Reported profile of victims, Commonwealth of Independent States, (total number of sources =61)**



The great majority of sources report trafficking in women (54 sources out of 61). Trafficking in minors is also frequently reported as the aggregated figures

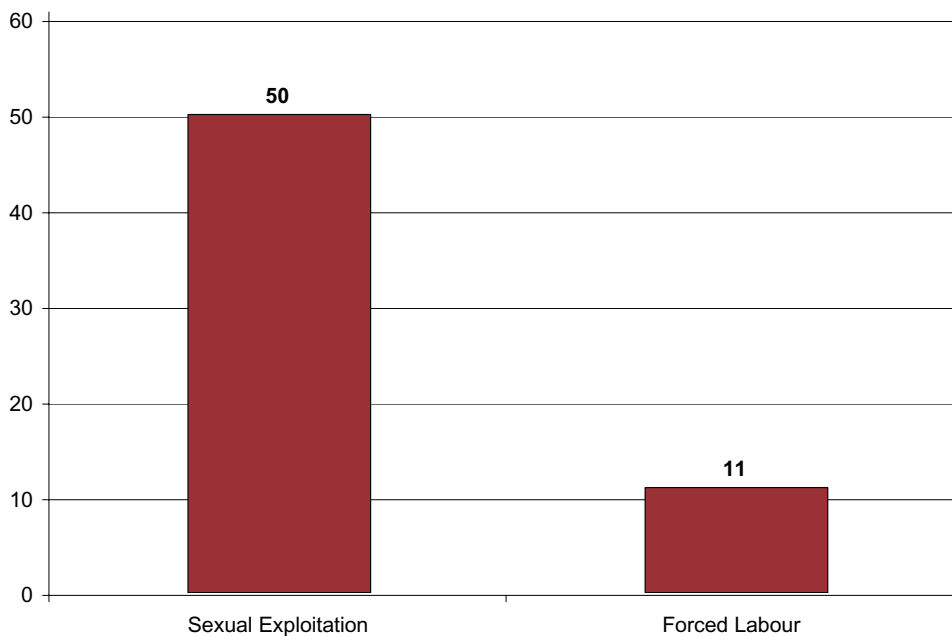
for children, boys and girls account for an important percentage of the sources reporting trafficking in the region.

<sup>84</sup>. The countries considered in this region are listed in Appendix 2.

<sup>85</sup>. For an explanation of the data collection and coding, see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

<sup>86</sup>. See Appendix 3 for the ranking of other Commonwealth of Independent States as countries of origin for trafficking in human beings.

**Figure 47: Reported purpose of trafficking, Commonwealth of Independent States (total number of sources =61)**



Trafficking for sexual exploitation is reported by the majority of sources collected in the Trafficking Database and reporting human trafficking in the region (50 out of 61 sources) with respect to victims in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Also frequently reported as destination countries are countries in Central and South East Europe, in particular, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Albania and Bulgaria. Other frequently reported countries include (in the greater region of Asia) the United Arab Emirates, Japan and Cyprus.

## The Commonwealth of Independent States as an origin region

The majority of sources collected in the Trafficking Database refer to Western Europe, North America and the sub-region, Western Asia and Turkey, as destination regions for trafficked victims from the Commonwealth of Independent States. In particular, Germany, Italy and Greece are frequently reported as destination countries, as well as Israel and Turkey, and the United States of America and Canada.

## The Commonwealth of Independent States as a destination region

When trafficking of persons into countries in the region is reported, victims are most often indicated to come from other Commonwealth of Independent States countries. The countries reported most often as countries of origin for human trafficking into countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States are, in descending order, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

## 3.5 Reported Human Trafficking in the Americas

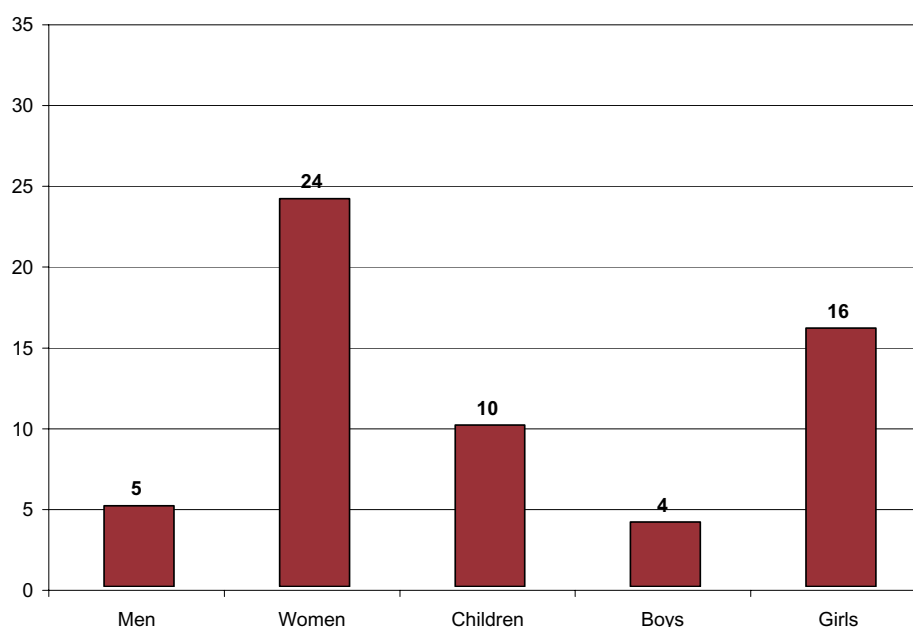
The Americas can be divided into Latin America and the Caribbean (which is divided into the sub-regions, the Caribbean, Central America and South America) and North America.<sup>87</sup> The entire region of Latin America and the Caribbean comprises of 25 countries: the Caribbean (8 countries), Central America (8) and South America (9). North America comprises only Canada and the United States. Since the human trafficking problems reported within these two major geographical areas differ, they will be analyzed separately.

### Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is reported to be mainly an origin region and, to a lesser extent, a destination region.

The majority of sources reporting trafficking in persons in the region indicate women (24 out of 35 sources) as victims of trafficking. Trafficking in minors is also frequently reported - the reporting of trafficking of children is made by almost one third of the sources, whereas the reporting of girls is made by almost half of the sources reporting trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Figure 48: Reported profile of victims, Latin America and the Caribbean (total number of sources =35)**



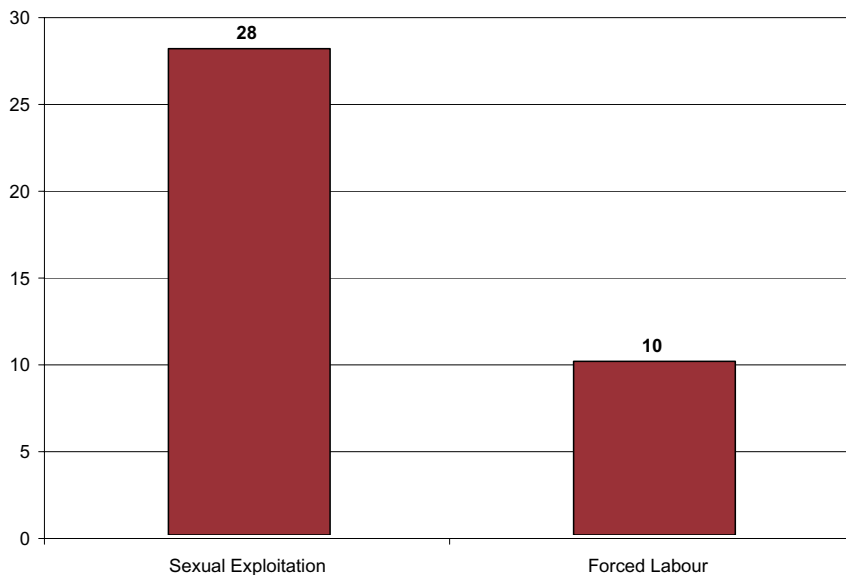
<sup>87</sup>. The countries considered to be in this region and sub-regions are listed in Appendix 2.



A greater number of the sources collected in the Trafficking Database and reporting human trafficking in the region indicate sexual exploitation

as the purpose of human trafficking, while around one third report trafficking for forced labour.

**Figure 49: Reported purpose of trafficking, Latin America and the Caribbean (total number of sources =35)**



## Latin America and the Caribbean as an origin region

Brazil, Colombia (South America), Guatemala, Mexico (Central America) and the Dominican Republic (Caribbean) ranked high<sup>88</sup> in the citation index as origin countries.<sup>89</sup>

If examining the countries to which victims from Latin America and the Caribbean are reported to be trafficked to, the sources collected in the Trafficking Database report of human trafficking into North America and Western Europe. In these regions, the major reported destination countries are: the United States of America, Spain, Italy, Germany, the United

Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands and Belgium. The other frequently reported destinations for victims trafficked out of Latin America and the Caribbean include the following, (by region): Central and South America: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador; Eastern Asia: Japan.

## Latin America and the Caribbean as a destination region

Human trafficking into the region is predominantly reported to be intra-regional with the majority of sources collected in the Trafficking Database reporting trafficking in persons originating in Central America, the Caribbean and South America.

<sup>88</sup>. For an explanation of the data collection and coding see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

<sup>89</sup>. See Appendix 3 for the ranking of other Latin American and Caribbean countries as origin countries of trafficking in human beings

Relatively few sources report trafficking in persons from outside of the region.

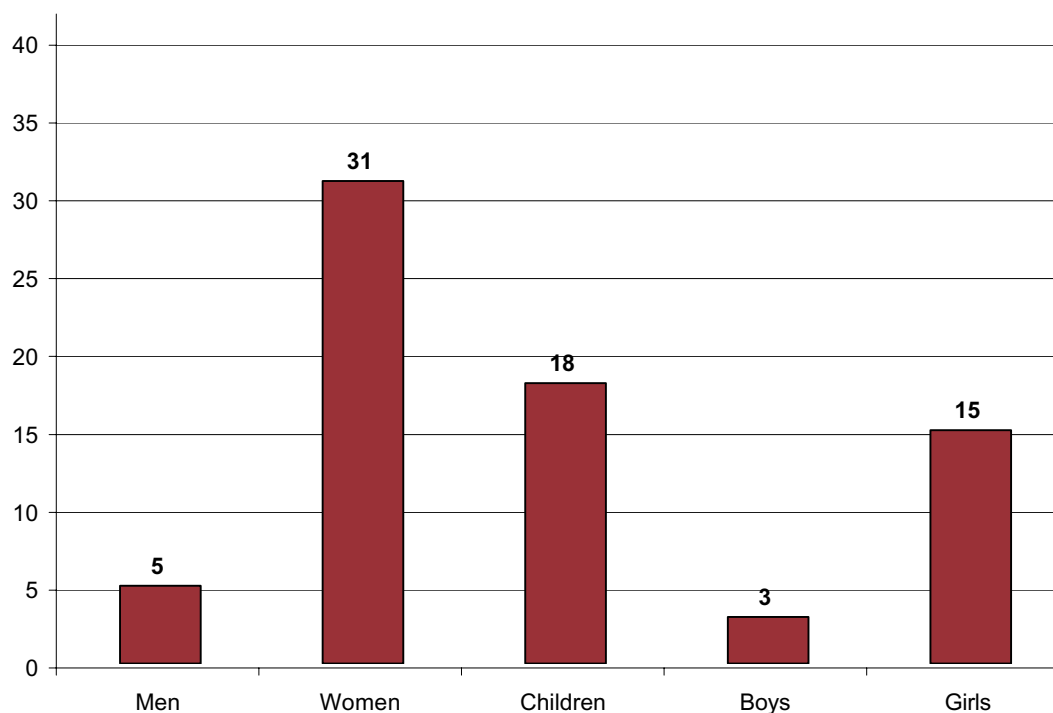
Of the countries most frequently reported as origin countries for human trafficking into countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, all are from the region, pointing to the existence of major intra-regional trafficking in persons. The Dominican Republic is the country most frequently cited, followed by Honduras, Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

## North America

North America comprises only two countries - Canada and the United States of America. The United States of America is one of the countries ranked very high<sup>90</sup> in the citation index as a destination. Canada ranks high.

The majority of sources report trafficking of adult women (31 of a total of 42 sources), followed by minors (children, girls and boys). Trafficking in men in the region is more frequently reported than in other regions of the world.

**Figure 50: Reported profile of victims, North America (total number of sources =42)**

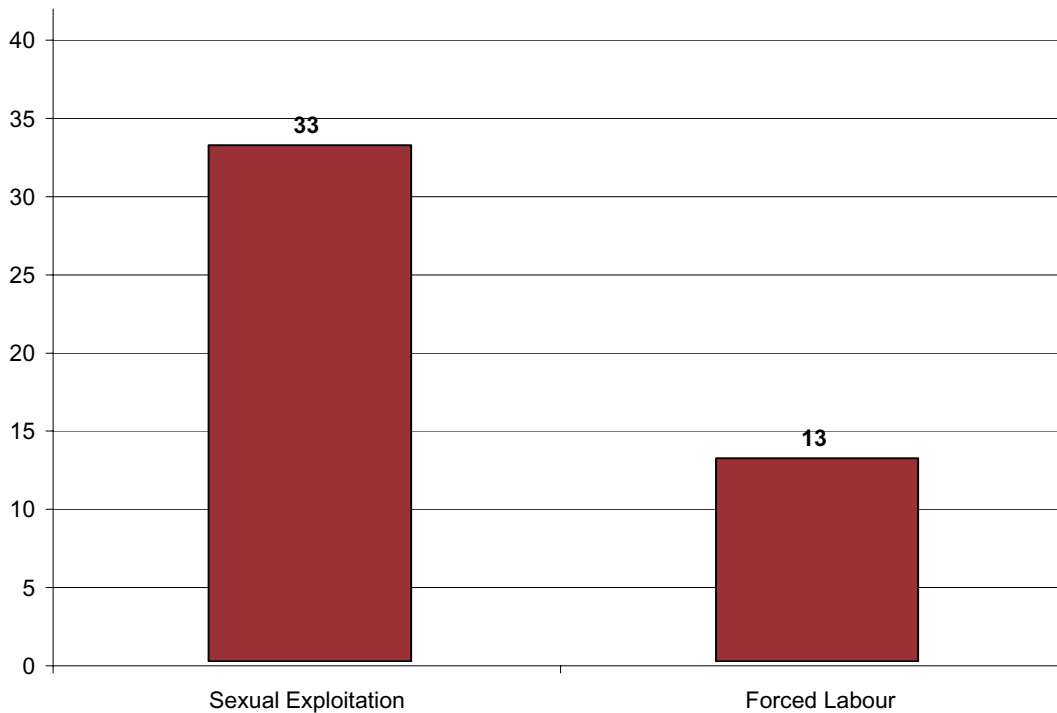


The majority of the sources (33 out of 42 sources) collected in the Trafficking Database and reporting human trafficking in the region indicate sexual

exploitation as the reason for the human trafficking, whereas 13 sources report of trafficking activity for the purpose of forced labour.

<sup>90</sup>. For an explanation of the data collection and coding see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

**Figure 51: Reported purpose of trafficking, North America (total number of sources =42)**



## North America as a destination region

North America is mostly reported as a destination region. The main regions of origin are reported to be the Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Fewer sources report of trafficking in persons from countries in Central and South Eastern Europe, and a limited

number of sources refer to human trafficking from Africa into North America.

When examining the most reported countries of origin of victims trafficked to North America, a number of sources collected in the Trafficking Database indicate Ukraine, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the Democratic People's Republic of China, Malaysia and Thailand. Colombia, Georgia and the Philippines are also reported.



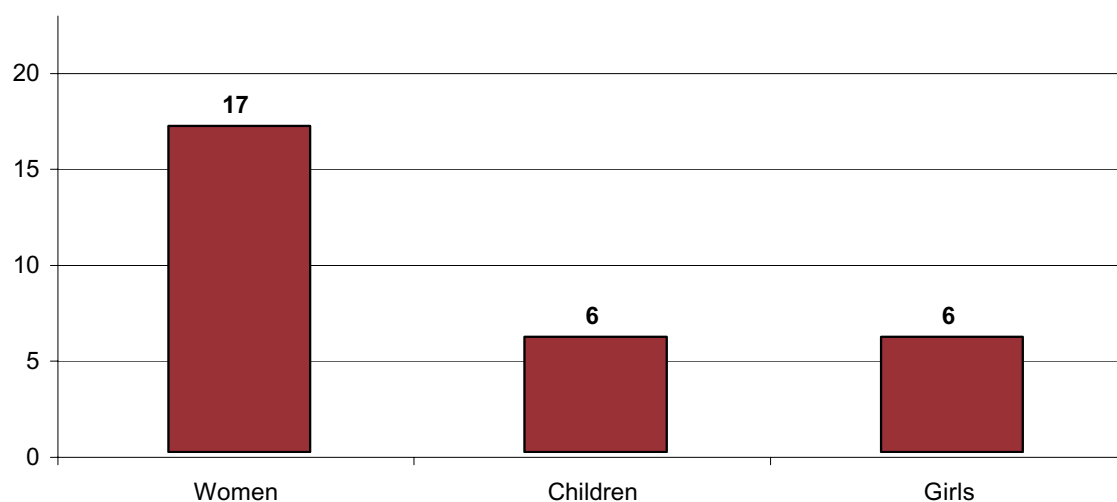
## 3.6 Reported Human Trafficking in Oceania

Oceania can be sub-divided into two geographical sub-regions.<sup>91</sup> These are Australia and New Zealand (comprising of these two countries only) and Melanesia (Fiji). This region is reported mainly as a region of destination. No country of the region appears on the list of countries ranked very high in the citation index as a destination for trafficking. Australia is categorized as high and New Zealand

medium in the citation index.<sup>92</sup>

Women are reported to be victims of trafficking in 17 of the 23 sources recording trafficking in persons activity in the region. Less frequently reported is trafficking in minors. There are no reported references to men or boys as victims of trafficking in this region.

**Figure 52: Reported profile of victims, Oceania (total number of sources =23)**

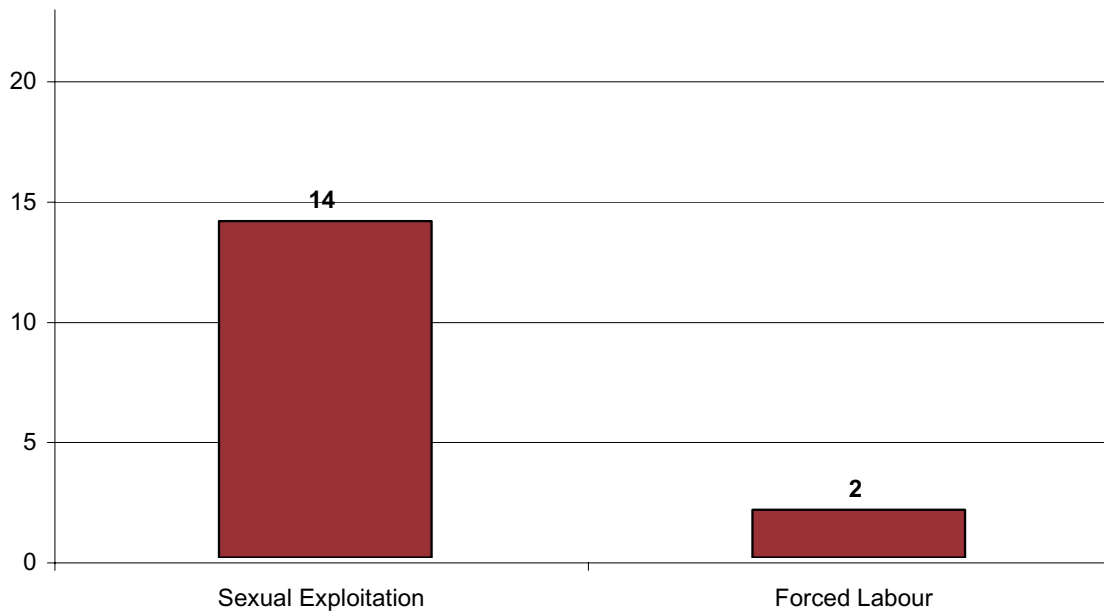


Trafficking to this region is reported to be predominantly for the purpose of sexual exploitation (14 of the 23 sources).

<sup>91</sup>. The countries considered in this region and sub-regions are listed in Appendix 2.

<sup>92</sup>. For an explanation of the data collection and coding, see Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

**Figure 53: Reported purpose of trafficking, Oceania (total number of sources =23)**



Thailand, and, to a lesser extent, the Philippines, are the most frequently reported origin countries for trafficking of persons into the region. Other countries which are reported to be origin countries

for victims trafficked into countries in Oceania (and in particular the sub-region, Australia and New Zealand) are the Democratic People's Republic of China, Malaysia and Viet Nam.



## 3.7 Summary and Conclusions

This Chapter has examined the reporting of trafficking in persons in individual regions around the globe, and has identified reported trafficking patterns at the regional and sub-regional level.

As reported by the sources collected in the Trafficking Database, just as victim profiles and the form of exploitation (sexual exploitation or forced labour) may vary between regions, so too can variation be found with respect to (sub-) regions and countries of origin, transit or destination.

Analysis at the regional level shows that some regions are reported to be predominantly destinations for trafficked victims (Western Europe; North America; Western Asia and Turkey; and Oceania) while others are reported to be largely origin regions (the Commonwealth of Independent States). Africa, Asia, Central and South Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean are both significant origin and destination regions. Central and South Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and Western Europe have also been identified by the sources collected in the Trafficking Database as transit areas. This may indicate either intra-regional trafficking (in the case of Central and South Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa), or the use of certain countries and sub-regions predominantly as a transit area for movement on to the final destination (most often Western Europe). Within regions, there are great differences between sub-regions. Each major region and high trafficking in persons sub-region is discussed briefly and separately below.

### Reported trafficking in Africa:

With respect to Africa as an origin region, Western Europe is the destination region reported by the

greater number of sources followed by Western Africa. Nigeria ranks very high as an origin country in the citation index, while Benin, Ghana and Morocco rank high as origin countries. When Africa is considered as a destination for trafficked victims, a large number of sources report the victims are trafficked from Western Africa. The relatively high percentage of sources which report Africa as both an origin and destination region points to intra-regional human trafficking in Africa in general, and Western Africa in particular as an identified trend.





## Reported trafficking in Asia:

When considering Asia an origin region, and the destinations to which victims are trafficked from Asia, sources report that Asian victims are trafficked to Asian countries, pointing to intra-regional trafficking, in particular to Thailand, Japan, India, Taiwan and Pakistan. China and Thailand are both ranked very high in the citation index as origin countries, with Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Viet Nam ranked high in the citation index as countries of origin. If Asia is considered as a destination for trafficked victims, trafficking into the region is reported mainly from the Commonwealth of Independent States, followed by South-Eastern Asia. South-Eastern Asia is reported to be a crucial point of trafficking both out of and into the region. Thailand ranks very high in the citation index as an origin, transit and destination country. Other Asian countries that ranked very high in the citation index as destinations are Japan (Eastern Asia), Israel and Turkey (Western Asia and Turkey).

## Reported trafficking in Europe:

Central and South Eastern Europe was reported as an origin, transit and destination sub-region by the sources collected in the Trafficking Database, while Western Europe is reported largely as a destination sub-region. Victims trafficked out of Central and South Eastern Europe are reported to be exploited in Western Europe and, to a lesser extent, other countries in Central and South Eastern Europe. Four countries within this sub-region are ranked very high in the citation index as origin countries. These are Albania, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania. If Central and South Eastern Europe is considered as a destination sub-region, the largest number of sources collected in the Trafficking Database report countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States as the origin region of victims. A number of sources also refer to Central and South Eastern Europe as the origin of victims trafficked into this same sub-region, indicating that intra-regional human trafficking, as reported by the sources in the Trafficking Database, is a problem. When considering Western Europe as a destination sub-region, all five major origin (sub-)regions are represented. Countries from Central and South Eastern Europe are cited most frequently, followed by the Commonwealth of Independent States, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. A number of Western European countries appear on the list of countries ranked very high in the citation index as destination countries. These are Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands.



## Reported trafficking in the Commonwealth of Independent States:

When victims from the Commonwealth of Independent States are reported to be trafficked out of the region, according to the majority of sources, Western Europe and North America are the main destinations. Other reported (sub-) regions are Central and South Eastern Europe, and Western Asia and Turkey. Countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States which are ranked very high in the citation index as origin countries are Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The Commonwealth of Independent States is rarely reported as a destination region.



## Reported Trafficking in the Americas:

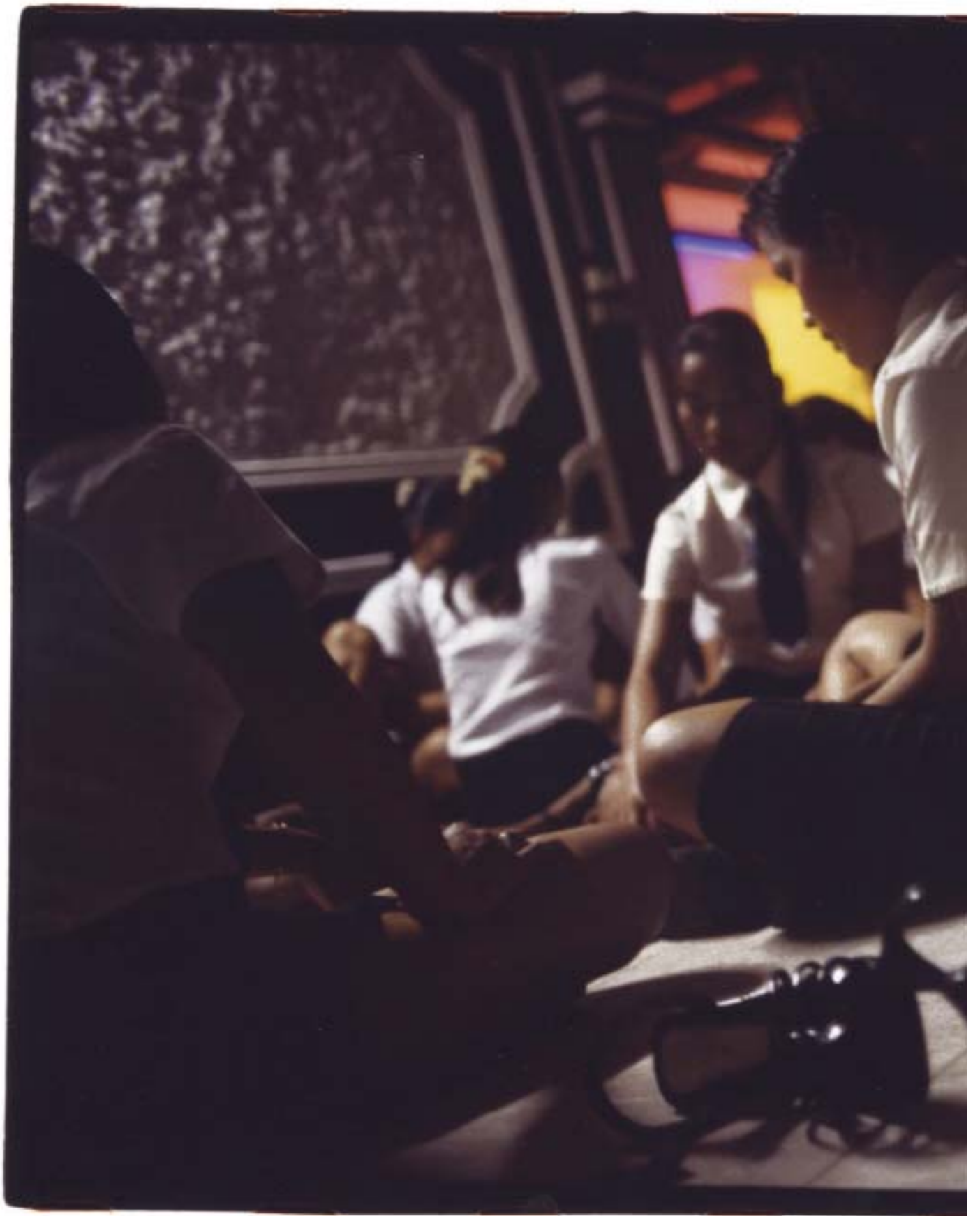
The region comprises of Latin America and the Caribbean, primarily reported as an origin region and, to a lesser extent, a transit and destination region, and North America, almost exclusively reported as a destination region. Latin America and the Caribbean comprises of the three sub-regions of South America, Central America and the Caribbean. No country from this region was ranked very high in the citation index as an origin country, but Brazil, Colombia (South America), Dominican Republic (Caribbean), Guatemala and Mexico (Central America) were ranked high in the citation index. Most of the sources report Western Europe as the destination for victims trafficked out of this region, while a great number of sources report the region itself as the destination. North America is cited frequently as a destination and the United States is the country that is reported most frequently as the destination for victims trafficked out of Latin America and the Caribbean. When examining the region as a destination for trafficked victims, Central America is cited most frequently as the sub-region from which victims are trafficked followed by the Caribbean and South America. With respect to trafficking into North America (comprising only two countries), victims are reported to come from all main origin regions. The largest number of sources report countries which are part of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Also reported are Central and South Eastern Europe and Africa. The United States ranks very high in the citation index as a destination country; Canada is ranked high.



## Reported trafficking in Oceania:

The region comprises of two sub-regions but human trafficking to the region, primarily a destination region, focuses on the sub-region of Australia and New Zealand. Within this region, only Australia ranks high in the citation index. Victims trafficked into Oceania, are reported to be trafficked predominantly from Thailand and Philippines.







## Chapter 4

# Data, Methodology and Coding of Data

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## 4.1 Methodology used to collect Data

The methodology applied, during the data collection phase, was content analysis, an unobtrusive method frequently used for research in social sciences. Content analysis involves the systematic study, analysis and selective classification of the content of open source publications.<sup>93</sup> Content analysis schemes are highly reliable: a different research group, using the scoring system and instructions assigned for the data collected, should be able to come up with the same categorizations<sup>94</sup>, since the results achieved by this methodology are based on objective elements and not on perceptions, opinions or evaluations.

The basic procedure in content analysis involves<sup>95</sup>:

- The selection of categories and subject to be analyzed<sup>96</sup>;
- The rigorous establishment of criteria<sup>97</sup> for inclusion, a feature which ensures that the study can be replicated by others;
- Carefully following the pre-established classification scheme; and
- Statistically analyzing the results.

The methodology applied in this data collection project was reviewed and positively evaluated by a meeting of a panel of independent experts prior to publication of this Report.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>93</sup>. Holsti (1969), *"Content analysis for the social sciences and humanities"*, Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley.

<sup>94</sup>. *A number of imaginative subjects have been examined using content analysis: Studies on the Fear of Crime in four American cities* (Bielby and Berk 1980), *Studies on the Government Response on Crime* (Jacob, Lineberry and Heinz 1980), *Gang activities* (W. Miller, 1975), *Marijuana and Hashish usage* (Becker 1970, and Mandel 1966), and *on Organized Crime* (Hagan 1983). Source: Hagan (1982), *"Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology"*, Massachusetts: Allyn & Bacon 1997 (4th edition). Other recent studies on trafficking in persons have also used content analysis: see, for example, Albanese, Donnelly and Kelegian (2005), *"Cases of Human Trafficking in the United States: A Content Analysis of a Calendar Year in 18 Cities"*, in Albanese (ed.), *Transnational Crime*, Whitby, Ontario: de Sitter Publications.

<sup>95</sup>. Berelson (1952), *"Content Analysis in Communication Research"*, New York: Free Press and Pool (1959), *"Trends in Content Analysis"*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

<sup>96</sup>. See Section 4.2 in this Chapter for the categories chosen.

<sup>97</sup>. See Section 4.3 in this Chapter for the criteria chosen.

<sup>98</sup>. Please see *"Acknowledgements"* for further details regarding the panel of independent experts.

# 4.2 Data contained in the Trafficking Database

In 2002, GPAT established a Trafficking Database on flows of trafficking in human beings. The data entry phase consisted of a continuous screening of the principal sources, globally, that provide information on human trafficking cases. This phase began in March 2002 and continued until February 2004, with researchers recording open-source data

from 1996 to 2003. Each account of trafficking selected by the team of researchers was entered into the Trafficking Database using the support of data-entry user-friendly software. The categories selected, in terms of fields to be filled by the researcher and used for this Report, were namely:

- The date of the entry;
- The date of the publication;
- The publication identification number<sup>99</sup>;
- The type of publication (whether it was a report, periodical, journal, book, newspaper, website or other type);
- The publishing institution;
- The route of the human trafficking (in terms of countries or areas or regions involved);
- The number of stages of each route;
- The country, area or region of origin, of transit and of destination of the victims;
- The type of exploitation, (whether sexual exploitation or forced labour);
- The profile of the victims, (whether men, women, boys, girls or children); and
- The profile of the offenders, as regards their nationality and gender.

# 4.3 Types and Levels of Data in the Trafficking Database

## Source institutions

The Trafficking Database includes publicly available information from 113 different individual

source institutions that provided information on human trafficking, involving 161 countries and special administrative territories.<sup>100</sup> These source institutions and their publications comprise the following:

<sup>99</sup>. *An Identification Number was assigned to each publication used during the data collection phase, in order to avoid duplication and to facilitate references back to the original source during the data editing phase.*  
<sup>100</sup>. *These include: Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China; Macao Special Administrative Region of China; Taiwan Province of China; the administrative region of Kosovo in Serbia and Montenegro; and the autonomous islands of Aruba and Curacao, part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.*

- Governments, national criminal justice organizations (e.g., police, intelligence agencies, public prosecution departments, judicial branches) and other official national entities;
- International organizations, such as the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), European Union organizations (e.g., Europol and the European Commission), the Council of Europe, and the International Police Organization (Interpol);
- Non-governmental organizations and associations and NGO networks;
- Research institutes, including universities, academies and other think tanks; and
- News agencies, newspapers, magazines and news websites.

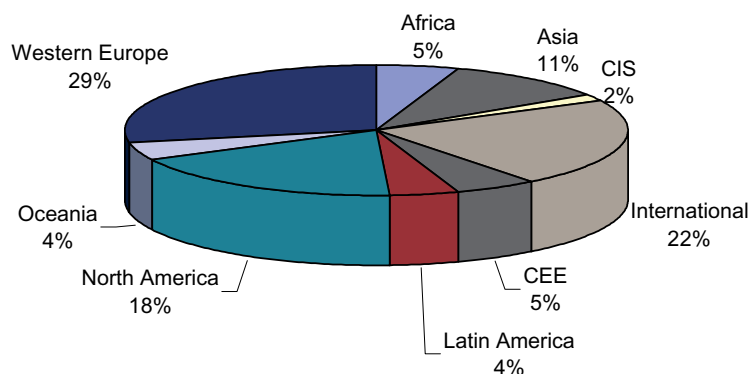
The source institutions can be classified as having an international or national affiliation. Sources classified as 'international' would include publications by such organizations as IOM or Interpol. Examples of publications of national organizations include reports by governments and

publications by national authorities, such as the German National Criminal Police (Bundeskriminalamt) or the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development. It should be noted that it is possible for an organization with an affiliation in one region (for example, the U.S. Department of State) to publish a research report concerning trafficking in another region (e.g. trafficking of women from Asia to Western Europe).

In order to establish a global data collection, an effort was made to ensure a broad geographical coverage from the sources used. The geographical distribution of source institutions is as follows: almost a quarter, 24%, of the institutions providing information inserted in the Trafficking Database are international; 26% are affiliated with Western European countries; 14% with North America; and, 13% of institutions are affiliated with Asian countries.

The following figure provides a breakdown of the affiliation of the source institutions from which information from reports, journal articles, books and newspaper articles has been entered into the Trafficking Database.

**Figure 54: Source institutions and their regional affiliation**

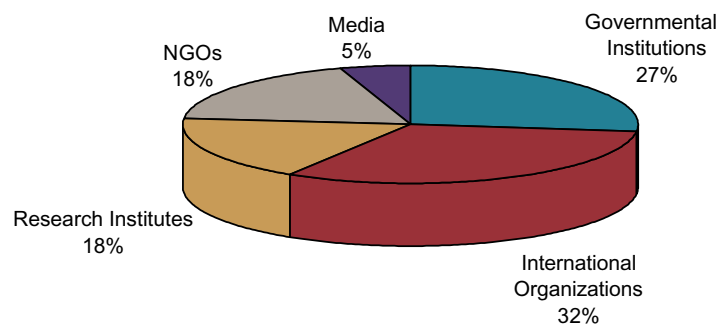


It should be noted, however, that, despite UNODC's best efforts, more source institutions might be identified that have not been included in the data collection exercise. Considering the linguistic coverage of the identified source institutions, it is evident the data collection exercise did not cover all possible sources in the prescribed time period. For example, while all sources available in English were screened for content, due to research and resource constraints, source institutions publishing solely in some other official United Nations languages (i.e., Arabic, Chinese and Russian) were not scrutinized at all. Due to the linguistic capabilities of the research team, identified sources in Spanish, French and German were included in the data collection exercise.<sup>101</sup> The reliance on the collection of data in these languages may result in a bias, in the Trafficking Database, to European source institutions.

## Source of information collected

The 113 source institutions included in the Trafficking Database produced numerous publications in terms of research reports, books, articles, journals and newspaper articles, and from these a total of 4,950 accounts of trafficking in persons were entered into the Trafficking Database. A list of the sources used and the amount of information collected is provided in Appendix 1. Most of the information collected was reported by international organizations (32%) and governmental institutions (27%). Eighteen percent (18%) of the information was reported by non-governmental organizations, and seventeen percent (17%) by research institutes. Five percent (5%) of the information can be classified as coming from periodicals, newspaper articles and, more generally, media.

Figure 55: Information by classification of the source



If the geographical affiliation of the source institution is matched with the quantity of information provided: 37% of the reported accounts of trafficking in persons derive from international organization sources and 37% from North American sources. Approximately twenty-two percent (22%) of the accounts of trafficking in persons entered in the Trafficking Database derive from Western European sources. One percent (1%) of the accounts of trafficking in persons were reported by source

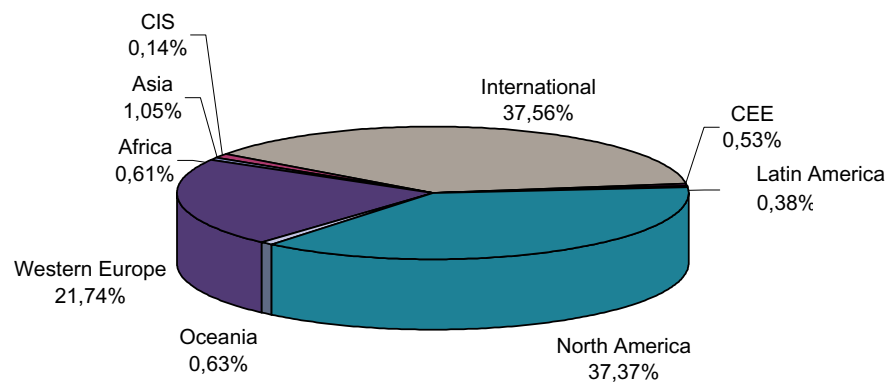
institutions specifically affiliated with Asia, and less than that by source institutions in each of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Central and South Eastern Europe and Oceania. The following figure provides a visual breakdown of reported accounts of trafficking in persons by source institutions and the geographical affiliation of those sources.

<sup>101</sup>. A minimal number of identified sources in Italian, Finnish, Romanian and Albanian were also included.

<sup>102</sup>. For a definition of "accounts of trafficking in persons" please see the 'Terminology' section.



Figure 56: Information by regional affiliation of the source



As noted above, from the 113 institutions, details of 4,950 accounts of trafficking in persons were entered into the Trafficking Database. An example

of how detailed entries relating to one specific institution were recorded in the Trafficking Database is given in the following box:

#### Example: Source institutions and accounts of trafficking in persons

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (1 source institution) has produced 8 separate documents (8 source publications) that have provided data entered into the Trafficking Database. In these 8 publications, mention was made of a number of human trafficking cases, some of which contain information on the number,

gender and age of victims, the origin, transit and destination countries, transit routes, or offenders. These cases were scrutinized to remove any that duplicated information. Each of the resulting accounts of trafficking in persons has been entered into the Trafficking Database as a separate entry (part of the 4,950 entries).

## Criteria for selecting the sources to be used and information to be recorded.

The first step of the data collection phase was to establish the criteria for the selection of information to be entered in the Trafficking Database.

The selection of sources was largely guided by using the definition of "trafficking in persons" in the Trafficking Protocol to screen published material for possible data. The greater number of the sources that were screened during two years of data collection are recognized institutions that, at either the local or international level, deal with issues regarding human trafficking.

Much of the relevant data produced by the source

institutions provides details of human trafficking routes, profiles of the victims, or the purpose of the trafficking in persons. Other source institutions report more generally, limiting the amount of information that can be fed into the Trafficking Database. For example, an article or report might fail to identify specific human trafficking routes or transit countries but report that human trafficking occurs between two particular countries. Another report may contain information that women were trafficked into a particular country but not mention whether it is for the purpose of forced labour or sexual exploitation. While it may be assumed that the women were trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation on the basis of past experience, statistics and reports, this would need to be explicitly mentioned in the studied report before it was so coded and entered into the Trafficking Database.

Other source institutions report detailed information on, for example, the number and age of victims who were rescued, the number of traffickers arrested and

the countries from which victims were trafficked. The following example shows how the data was coded and entered into the Trafficking Database:

#### Example: Coding of Data <sup>103</sup>

In July 2002, the Guatemalan police liberated nine El Salvadoran girls who had been trafficked in the same year from El Salvador to Guatemala and sexually exploited in a Guatemalan brothel.

The rescued children were between 14 and 17 years of age. Two Guatemalan men, aged 25 and 30, who had allegedly exploited the girls were arrested.

The following information from this case would be entered into the Trafficking Database:

- source country (human trafficking from a country): El Salvador;
- destination country (human trafficking to a country): Guatemala;
- purpose of human trafficking: sexual exploitation;
- victims' profiles: female, minors, nationals of El Salvador;
- offenders' profiles: male, adults, nationals of Guatemala.

These combined details comprise, for the purposes of the Trafficking Database, one account of trafficking in persons.<sup>104</sup> For each of the relevant fields (source country; destination country; purpose of human trafficking; profile of victims (gender, age, nationality); profile of offenders (gender, age, nationality) a value of one (1) would be entered into

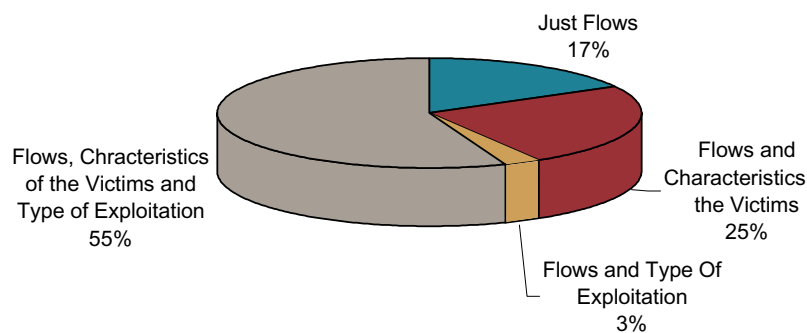
the Trafficking Database. This means that, regardless of the number of victims or offenders involved in a particular case, a value of one (1) would be assigned to each field or category for the reports from a particular source institution. Had the case above involved both minor and adult female victims involved in forced labour and sexual exploitation, those additional categories (adult women and forced labour) would also have received a value of one.

Not all of the information collected provided such a level of detail. Sometimes the sources gave very little detail of the human trafficking activity reported, for example, the information might only refer, generically, to a flow of human trafficking between two countries or regions. Detailed information, however, regarding routes, a profile of the victims and the purpose of the human trafficking was often reported (55% of the accounts of trafficking in persons).

<sup>103</sup>. *The source of this trafficking case is a report from the Guatemalan Police, 2002; reported in Kangaspunta (2003), "Mapping the Inhuman Trade: Preliminary Findings of the Database on Trafficking in Humans", Forum on Crime and Society, vol.3, Nos. 1 and 2, pages 81-103.*

<sup>104</sup>. *See definition of "account of trafficking in persons" in the 'Terminology' Section.*

**Figure 57: Extent of reported detail**  
(as a percentage of the reported accounts of trafficking in persons)



Some explanation also needs to be made with regard to transit countries and human trafficking routes. If a source provided explicit details regarding either demographic information of the persons trafficked from one country to another, or on the existing human trafficking routes, the corresponding data was entered into the transit routes section. In some cases, reports are quite specific with respect to countries of origin, transit and destination. An example of this would be a report identifying Bulgaria as a transit country for people trafficked from Romania, Moldova and the Russian Federation to Greece and Turkey. Romania, Moldova and the Russian Federation would be recorded once each as a source country, Greece and Turkey as destination countries and Bulgaria as a transit country. Furthermore, the route would also be recorded. Other reports are less specific, mentioning only, for example, that Belgium is used as a transit country to the United Kingdom. If the origin of the trafficked victims in such a report was unknown, all that would be registered in the Trafficking Database would be that Belgium is a transit country for persons trafficked to the United Kingdom. Where the victim's country of origin was not specified, but a report noted human trafficking from Africa or Asia through Belgium to the United Kingdom, the origin would be coded as either "Africa in general" or "Asia in general". In terms of the Trafficking Database, a human trafficking route would only be established if there was a direct link in the text between the origin and destination countries via one or more transit countries.

A particular report issued by a source institution might refer to multiple victims and provide information on the number of victims for each destination country by year for a lengthy period. If, for example, mention was made of 200 predominantly female victims from 27 different countries:

- each source country will be registered once;
- female victims will be given a count of one;
- if specific mention was made of male victims, a count of one will be entered for this group also.

Due to the fact that information on the actual number of victims is often missing from the reports of sources used, and for the purpose of consistency, the decision was made to enter a mention of victims (either from and/or to a particular country) by a source as a value of one (1) in the Trafficking Database, regardless of the number of victims explicitly recorded in reports by a source institution.

The findings are based on the source institutions (numbering 113) rather than on reported cases or episodes of trafficking in persons. This was done, firstly, to avoid the possibility that a source institution may provide data on human trafficking in a given country or area in more than one of its reports. Some sources focus on specific areas of the world - by counting the number of episodes or number of victims reported by such sources, a

particular geographical area would be overrepresented because of the higher frequency of reporting. By focusing on sources, the geographical bias is reduced since a particular local or regional source will be counted only once. The second reason for taking this approach was to avoid the possibility of counting the same human trafficking phenomenon numerous times if, for example, an institution issued an annual report, reporting on the same trafficking in persons cases or episodes over a period of a number of years. The following provides an example of how the data was coded. The Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings issued four annual reports (BNRM, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2005). In each report, Nigerian women were identified as (possible) victims of trafficking in persons. The Netherlands would receive a score of (only) one as a destination country and Nigeria would receive a score of one as a country of origin. If, however, another source, such as IOM or Europol, were to identify Nigeria as a country of origin and the Netherlands as a country of destination, both countries would each receive another count of one.

It is important to understand that the collected data regarding victims and offenders is not weighted. This means that one case (e.g. that concerning Guatemala, mentioned above) provides the same amount of information to be entered into the

Trafficking Database concerning the gender and age of victims and offenders (and whether a country is a country of origin or destination) as a government report that mentions hundreds of victims and dozens of traffickers. In a report which identifies 300 women rescued from domestic servitude and provided with assistance, the category, "adult women", will be given a score of one, forced labour will be given a score of one and the countries from which the women were recruited will be given a score of one (regardless of how many women from that country were rescued and assisted).<sup>105</sup>

Each data entry can be cross-checked against other data from the same source, and any entry can be traced back to the original source document. If, for instance, a researcher wants to examine data on a particular country, the name of the country can be used to extract the following information related to that country from the Trafficking Database: whether it is mentioned as a source, transit or destination country (or a combination of the three); countries from which and to which trafficking in persons occurs; the gender of victims and whether they are adults or minors; whether victims are forced into sexual exploitation or forced labour; and the reports, and the number of reports, which mention this particular country as a source, transit or destination country.

<sup>105</sup>. *It is not the objective of the Trafficking Database to determine the severity of the human trafficking problem based upon the number of victims in a country, but to reflect the number of times that a country is mentioned by different source institutions. This remains, however, a limitation of the data. This and other limitations will be discussed in Section 4.5 of this Chapter.*

## 4.4 The Citation Index - Coding of Data

Data was provided on 161 countries and special administrative territories by 113 source institutions. If a country was mentioned once in a document generated by one source institution as either a transit, origin or destination country, it appears in the Trafficking Database. In addition to regional and sub-regional analyses, country reports, in the form of country profiles, were also generated. These can be found in Appendix 6 of this Report.

Each time a variable (including: name of country; whether it was a source, transit or destination country; whether the victims were children or adults; male or female; whether exploitation was in the sex sector or labour market) was mentioned in a document generated by a source institution, it was entered in the Trafficking Database (as noted previously, if information containing the same variables was reported by the one source institution in several publications, the information was only entered in the Trafficking Database once to avoid the possibility of counting the same human trafficking phenomenon numerous times). The number of source institutions mentioning this particular variable was then calculated. This number reflects the total number of times a country, or other variable (e.g. trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation or forced labour; or the gender of the victim(s)), is reported by the 113 source institutions collected in the Trafficking Database. For instance, if 35 different source institutions mentioned country 'A' as a destination, it will receive a score of 35 (1x35) as a destination country. Country 'A' may be mentioned by five different sources as a transit country; it will therefore receive a score of 5 as a transit country. It may be mentioned only once, or not at all as a country of origin. The calculation of

these variables for a particular country has been conducted for all the countries included in the Trafficking Database, and that combined information has been used to calculate a citation index. For any given variable, the citation index takes the number of sources reporting that variable that apply to a country and indicates the appropriate citation category (very low, low, medium, high or very high), in comparison to all other countries. This means that a country may score differently on two or three variables. It is possible, for instance that country 'A' scores very low as a country of origin, medium as a transit country and very high as a destination country.

The range of numbers included in each citation category vary between destination, transit and origin countries. The decision was made to apply a bell-shaped curve according to a normal distribution to determine where the categories, very high - high - medium - low - very low, would be set. This means that for origin and destination countries, the majority of countries would fall into the medium category. As more information was available on countries of origin and destination, the ranges are broader for these types of information than they are for transit countries. A few of the origin and destination countries were reported as such by a particularly high number of source institutions, which accounts for the wide range of numbers of reporting source institutions in the very high category. Furthermore, a large number of countries score very low due to the fact that they were mentioned by only one of the 113 sources which were used to provide data for the Trafficking Database.

<sup>106</sup>. Please see the 'Terminology' Section for a full definition of this term.

The following table provides an indication of the distribution based upon the number of sources citing the countries and whether they are origin, transit or destination countries. Countries identified as countries of origin by only one source institution reference in the Trafficking Database score very low, whereas countries reported by 2, 3 or 4 sources as origin of trafficking score as low, etc. This approach of totaling the sources indicating the countries and then categorizing that number, in comparison to all other countries, is used in the country profile reports in Appendix 6.



With respect to the regional and sub-regional analysis presented in this report, the total numerical scores of the countries in a region or sub-region are added to determine the number of references made to a region or sub-region. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.

**Figure 58: Distribution of Ranking for Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination**

Origin/Transit/Destination	Number of Sources	Citation Index Range	Total Number Countries
Country of Origin	1	Very low	13
	2-4	Low	30
	5-10	Medium	46
	11-23	High	27
	24-49	Very high	11
<b>(total origin)</b>			<b>(127)</b>
Transit	1	Very low	38
	2-3	Low	19
	4-5	Medium	21
	6-10	High	14
	11-13	Very high	6
<b>(total Transit)</b>			<b>(98)</b>
Destination	1	Very low	29
	2-3	Low	27
	4-10	Medium	50
	11-24	High	21
	25-40	Very high	10
<b>(total Destination)</b>			<b>(137)</b>

## 4.5 Limitations and Nature of the Data

There are a number of limitations with respect to the data contained in the Trafficking Database and reflected in this Report. This section identifies those limitations and discusses the impact each could have on the data collected and the consequential analysis of this Report.

This discussion is, in part, to review the limitations of the methodology used by GPAT to produce this Report, but there is also a more fundamental issue regarding the extent to which current research and reporting has provided a clear outline and understanding of the issue of trafficking in persons at the global level.

A stated purpose of this Report is to show that the level of reporting of human trafficking does vary, both geographically and in terms of subject-matter. Just as some areas of the world gain more attention, so too have some sub-issues regarding trafficking in persons been the subject of more intense and detailed reporting. Leaving aside questions of methodology, it is of some importance to acknowledge those reasons why reporting of human trafficking may currently fail to appropriately reflect the severity of global trafficking in persons. It is hoped that in raising the following points, the reader of this Report will not only have some direction on how the information in the Report can be interpreted, but also be informed regarding current impediments to establishing the full extent of human trafficking in the world today.

## Identification of sources and the availability of data

First and foremost, the Trafficking Database is limited to source institutions and publications that could be found or were brought to the attention of UNODC's GPAT. The quality and the scope of the data, entered into the Trafficking Database and subsequently reflected in this Report, are, however, limited by the detail contained in the original source reports.

The impact of the political emphasis and priority placed on the reporting of human trafficking cannot be underestimated. The extent of official recognition, institutional organization and resourcing all affect what information is collected and reported, and, therefore, able to be analyzed by organizations like UNODC.

The comprehensiveness of various national legal definitions applying to human trafficking, and the extent to which the many different forms of exploitation are recognized can also significantly impact on the information that is reported. In some countries, human trafficking legislation only addresses the issue of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation. In such countries, cases of exploitation in the labour market, if noted at all, are recorded as instances of illegal migration or as an

issue to be dealt with in the area of labour regulations and trade unions. It would follow then, that the reporting by sources in the Trafficking Database of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation might be higher than for forced labour.

In a similar manner, in the case of countries that have proper legislation in place to protect solely children from human trafficking, or women from sexual exploitation, human trafficking in adults, and in particular adult males, may pass officially unnoticed or unrecognized. Legislative clarity is also necessary to distinguish between trafficking in persons and other forms of illegal migration.

At an institutional level, official numbers of victims are greatly determined by the availability and quality of national structures for victim identification, referral, assistance and repatriation. A comprehensive and coordinated response to human trafficking will also include bi- and multi-lateral cooperation with other countries - without such, the inability to match information between origin, transit and destination countries will severely limit available data.

## Geographical bias and time limitations

As with many other types of crime, more data is generally available in developed countries than in developing nations. Organizations with a focus on North America and Western Europe comprise 40% of the source institutions in the Trafficking Database. This may overemphasize the countries in those regions as destination areas as well as the associated origin countries from which trafficked victims are being recruited, while intra-regional trafficking in persons between developing countries may not have received the attention it deserves. This may, in part, be compensated by publications from international organizations that focus on human trafficking in other areas of the world.

Variations in the nature, quantity and quality of reporting may also contribute to some extent to the categorization of countries in this Report even though these same countries might, for example,

experience similar levels of human trafficking. Furthermore, this Report depicts the trafficking in persons situation based on data from 1996 to 2003. Routes or human trafficking patterns that have changed since are therefore not reflected.

## Internal trafficking in persons

While trafficking in human beings does not require the crossing of international borders, it is transnational human trafficking that has received most attention in terms of reporting. In part, this may be due to international organizations, which have been instrumental in bringing attention, in many countries, to the plight of trafficked victims from other countries. There has been some suggestion, however, that much of the worldwide trafficking and exploitation of persons occurs within communities and countries, if even only initially. Only four of the 113 source institutions clearly identified or generated information on human trafficking within a country. The total of 46 reported accounts of internal trafficking in persons evidences the relative lack of attention being paid to this aspect of human trafficking. Because available data is minimal, the issue of human trafficking within a country is not discussed further in this Report. UNODC does, however, recognize the seriousness of the problem and calls for greater attention, especially in the form of research and data collection be paid to this phenomenon.

## Duplication of data

The decision to enter data based on source institutions (numbering 113 in total) rather than on reported cases or episodes of trafficking was made to avoid the possibility that a source institution may provide data on human trafficking in a given country or area in more than one report. This can easily occur if a source institution tends to focus on certain aspects of trafficking in persons or certain regions and countries. This would have resulted in multiple entries and would have produced a distorted picture of the human trafficking phenomenon in particular countries or regions of the world. However, it is possible that different sources may refer to the same instance of trafficking in

persons, which again could result in multiple entries. In order to avoid the collection of unoriginal and/or duplicated information, additional efforts were made always to obtain and refer to the primary source which was then used and entered into the Trafficking Database. If information was provided in a report by a regional organization which included data from an original national report, the original report was used as the source for the data.

In spite of all efforts made to avoid multiple entries of the same trafficking in persons cases, there is a possibility that this may have occurred when different source institutions replicated the same information without explicit reference to the original, primary source. This would only have an impact upon countries which, due to the double entries, are on the borderline of a category and which may be placed in a higher tier.

## Number of victims not estimated

In recent years there has been an escalation of estimations reflecting the number of victims trafficked at a local, regional or global scale. Also, several amounts have been estimated by different sources regarding the total revenue that organized criminal groups gain from such illegal activity. As of the present time, broad agreement has not been reached regarding standardized instruments or the methodology that should be used to calculate such numbers - as a result, quoted figures often contradict each other.

This Report does not estimate the number of victims trafficked. The indicators used in this Report are based on the frequency with which the subject (whether it be a country, a characteristic of the victim/offender, or type of exploitation) is reported by the source institutions.

## The use of official statistics

The decision was taken early on in collecting data for the Trafficking Database to not solely rely upon official government statistics. Official data on criminal justice issues is often insufficient, and



particularly so on the issue of human trafficking. The differences from country to country may depend more on the efficiency of the law enforcement agencies than on the real extent of the phenomenon. Moreover, the legal definition of 'trafficking in human beings' often varies from country to country, as noted above, with a significant consequential impact on the resulting official records. For these reasons, this source of reported data was only one of several considered for comparative analysis of the countries studied.

Following the completion of the data-collection exercise, more recent official statistics have been provided by a limited number of countries to UNODC. These have been included in the Report separately from the information collected in the Trafficking Database. This information is presented in this Report to provide some illustration of the national criminal justice responses to the trafficking phenomenon in the relevant countries, in terms of the arrests, prosecutions and convictions, as well as the number of official cases identified by the local authorities, the number of victims identified and profile of the offenders recorded.

## Why use media reports?

Five percent (5%) of the source institutions covered by the Trafficking Database can be classified as various forms of popular media. Media reports provide a very important role in the reporting of information and have a major potential to compensate against distortions in official sources. This is especially so in those countries that fail to fully recognize human trafficking as a possible domestic issue.

During the data collection exercise, the media reports used were greatly scrutinized to ensure they

did concern cases of human trafficking and not, for example, the smuggling of migrants. It must be acknowledged, though, that certain types of human trafficking cases, especially those involving sexual exploitation, are more highly visible and considered "newsworthy", and are therefore more likely to be reported in the media.

## Accuracy of data, consistency of data collection and data entry

During the course of data entry, a single researcher was responsible for coordinating the data entry process. This was done to ensure the consistency of the criteria used in the data entry phase. In addition, a different researcher was responsible for the data editing, which involved double-checking every single account of trafficking in persons entered into the Trafficking Database.

## Future prospects

The Trafficking Database not only provides information on what is available, but also reveals where the reporting of more information is needed. Ultimately the Trafficking Database strives to contribute to the construction of an unbiased picture of the global extent of trafficking in human beings. This might be substantially advanced by the international community focusing more energy on countries which have not been reported on or studied to any great extent. To enhance the quality of data in the Trafficking Database, questionnaires could be developed with the aim of receiving information and/or reports, or even primary data from countries and other sources of such information.

## 4.6 Summary and Conclusions

This chapter has outlined the methodology for collecting the data presented in this Report and has provided a general description of the kinds of data utilized for the analysis and how it was added.

The data contained in the Trafficking Database was generated largely from research reports produced by international organizations (32%), and by governmental organizations (27%). NGOs or research institutes account for approximately 18% of the sources that contribute information to the Trafficking Database.

Slightly more than a quarter (29%) of the organizations or source institutions included in the Trafficking Database are affiliated with countries in Western Europe, and have produced slightly less

than a quarter (approximately 22%) of the reported accounts of trafficking in persons recorded in the Trafficking Database. Institutions affiliated with North America (18%) reported approximately 38% of the recorded accounts of trafficking in persons.

While it appears from the information that regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Oceania are under-represented with respect to source institution affiliation, the high percentage of international institutions reporting on human trafficking may, partially, compensate for this imbalance.

This chapter also outlined limitations of the data and the available information currently reported on trafficking in persons.



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## Photographs

The photographs on the cover and pages 14, 21, 40, 53, 54, 82, 101, 106, 123 and 128 are the work of Mattia Insolera (mattiainsolera@libero.it) and may not be reproduced without the permission of Mr. Insolera. The photographs on pages 77, 99, 102, 103, 104 and 105 are the work of Kay Chernush for the U.S. State Department and are available at <http://www.gtippphotos.state.gov/>. The photograph, "Children sleeping rough", on page 118 was taken in Pucallpa, Peru, by Isabel Palacios.

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