

Annex I: Methodology and data coverage

The quantitative and qualitative information that form the basis of the *Global Report* was collected by UNODC in two ways: through a dedicated questionnaire¹ distributed to Governments, and by the collection of official information available in the public domain (national police reports, Ministry of Justice reports, national trafficking in persons reports, et cetera). Countries that are not covered by the data collection did not respond to the questionnaire, and UNODC was also not able to locate official national data on trafficking in persons.

The report is based on an analytical interpretation of a large number of detected cases of trafficking in persons around the world. The sample used and the countries covered are reported in the subsection on data coverage below. The units of analysis are detected cases of trafficking in persons, detected victims, and detected offenders (suspects, persons prosecuted, and/or convicted offenders).

Data on detected cases were typically sourced from authorities trained for fighting trafficking in persons, identifying trafficking offences and assisting victims in their territory. This might be law enforcement institutions, the judiciary or authorities assisting victims. In some cases, information from international organizations or non-governmental organizations that detect, assist or repatriate victims of trafficking was drawn upon. These other sources were used when the national authorities did not report such data or in countries where these were the only institutions with the capacity to report about victims of trafficking. The source of all information is provided in detail in the country profiles.² Official statistics from national authorities accounts for the vast majority of the information collected for this edition of the *Global Report*.

Shares of data by source of information for the 2016 *Global Report*

Source of information	Share of data collected for this edition
National authorities	86.3%
International organizations	10.4%
Non-governmental organizations	3.3%

Patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels were identified on the basis of a large number of detected trafficking in persons cases and on the characteristics and profiles of victims and offenders and the circumstances of the cases. The analysis starts by understanding how this information can (or cannot) help explain trafficking patterns and flows through a detailed assessment of the metadata. The researchers study the relevant national legislation to determine whether the detecting authorities prioritize certain forms of trafficking in identification and registration of cases, which will affect the reported data.

For instance, certain countries may only criminalize trafficking for sexual exploitation, transnational trafficking or child trafficking. As a consequence, these

¹ See Annex III.

² Available at the Global Report website, www.unodc.org/glotip

countries will only detect certain victims. This data is not compatible with data from countries that criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons as defined in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. Therefore, data from countries that only criminalize certain forms of trafficking (‘partial legislation’) is omitted from the regional and global analyses. This is also true for countries that report numbers of offenders and victims under non-trafficking offences.

The information is included in the relevant country profile (<http://www.unodc.org/glotip>), however, with a clear indication of the type of victims detected, according to the national legislation (that is, detected victims of child trafficking, victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, et cetera).

Following this analysis of the metadata, UNODC compiles a ‘clean’ dataset that is as homogenous as practically possible. Nevertheless, factors such as priorities of the criminal justice authorities, forms of trafficking more hidden than others and so forth are difficult to assess and can still affect the ability of this data to reveal patterns and flows of trafficking in the reporting countries.

Countries report national-level data that reflects the trafficking cases they have detected. When information on the citizenship of the victims detected is reported, it is possible to conduct an analysis of the trafficking flows into the country or region considered. The analysis of the outbound trafficking flows from a certain country or region, however, is conducted by analysing the data provided by the countries detecting victims of that country or region. For example, East Asian victims have been detected in more than 60 countries in all regions considered in this report, whereas South-Eastern European victims have been detected in many European countries, but not in other regions. From this fact, it is possible to conclude that East Asian trafficking flows have a global dimension, while South Eastern European flows have a regional dimension. The same approach is conducted for all outbound trafficking flows in order to assess the origins of trafficking in persons.

The strength of this approach is to rely upon the other hand of the flows to draw some conclusions on the characteristic of a country or a region as origin of trafficking, thus the analysis is not affected by the capacity of the country of origin to detect and report trafficking cases. The data gleaned from this technique also allows for an assessment of trends in such flows over a given period of time. For example, over the last 15 years, victims from Eastern Europe have been detected in smaller numbers in all Western and Southern European countries. From this information, reported by different institutions in the different European countries, it is possible to conclude that the flow from Eastern Europe to Western Europe has become less severe over the years. This conclusion is not affected by the capacity of the origin countries to report cases of trafficking.

The same approach is used for countries of destination through repatriation data.³ The countries reporting many victims repatriated from a certain region would provide information concerning this region as destination for trafficking victims (even if countries in the particular region did not provide sufficient information to UNODC).

³ “Repatriation” refers to the official return of victims of trafficking in persons from their country of detection to their country of citizenship. 47 countries provided repatriation data to UNODC for this edition of the *Global Report*.

Chapter 2 presents an analysis that combines data on detected cases of trafficking in persons with data on regular migration flows in order to explore patterns of trafficking in relation to migration. For a selected number of destination countries, the number of victims of trafficking detected in the most recent years, aggregated by citizenship, was used to measure the main trafficking origins to these countries individually. This indicator was then compared with the number of international migrants that had arrived during a specific time period in those countries, aggregated by citizenship. Statistical analyses were conducted on these two indicators, and others, for each country considered, in order to measure how international migration flows and cross-border trafficking flows are similar or different. Countries were selected on the basis of two criteria, namely whether a country is a significant destination of cross-border trafficking, based on the analysis of trafficking flows presented in chapter 1, and whether there is solid information on the citizenships of the victims detected in the particular country. The selected countries were in North America, the South Cone of South America, the Middle East, Western Europe and Central Asia.

Limitations

The technique used to describe the trafficking flows relies on the detection of the flows at one or more destinations, or one or more origins in the case of repatriation data. This approach can help reduce the distortion caused by the varying capacities of countries to detect trafficking events. It does, however, remain problematic for flows where neither the country of origin nor destination is able to detect and report trafficking cases. It is likely that flows affecting countries with lower detection capacity – both at origin and destination - are inadequately represented in the *Global Report*.

The figures presented herein represent *officially detected* offenders and victims. As for any crime, there is an unknown ‘dark figure’ of criminal activity that is never officially detected. As such, the figures reported here do not and cannot reflect the real extent of the crime of trafficking in persons, but rather, a sub-population of victims and offenders that can be used to infer some information on patterns and flows of this crime.

The analysis presented in the *Global Report* draws upon data on detected victims and cases which mostly reflect the ability of local authorities to detect and report trafficking cases rather than the full extent of the crime. Conclusions on the very nature of the trafficking in persons problem made in the report should be read with this limitation in mind.

Nevertheless, the use of detected trafficking cases poses several additional challenges. In some regions of the world, the limited capacity to identify victims of trafficking is also reflected in the inability of the *Global Report* to generate a proper understanding of the characteristics of trafficking occurring there. To try to compensate for this lack of quantitative data, reporting from UN peacekeeping operations, mission reports from UN Special Rapporteurs and other authoritative qualitative information was used for some countries and for the regional section for Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular. Due to the lack of legislation and lack of victim detection, the *Global Report* cannot provide comprehensive information concerning the characteristics of trafficking in

South Asia. Similarly, many parts of East Asia are still not adequately covered; the forms of trafficking as well as the profile of the victims in these parts of the world still remains largely unknown.

In view of improving the capacity of the *Global Report* to enhance the knowledge on trafficking in persons at the national and international levels, the opportunity of using alternative authoritative sources of information is constantly explored.

Data coverage

The main time period covered by the data collection for this edition of the *Global Report* is 2012-2014. A limited number of countries provided information for the year 2015 and this has also been included in the analysis. The data analysis and presentation often employ data collected for years before 2012 in order to discern longer-term data trends.

Reporting from Member States is not uniform. Some countries only provide data for some of the indicators included in the questionnaire. Some report only the age⁴ of the detected victims, and some do not report the forms of exploitation. Some authorities provide citizenship data for both offenders and victims, and others for victims only. As a result, the amounts of data underlying the different analyses vary. Below is a breakdown of the data that countries reported to UNODC for each indicator.

Data on offenders (total 2012-2015)

	Suspected persons	Prosecuted persons	Convicted persons
Total number of reported offenders	<i>41,604</i> <i>(Number of countries reporting this indicator: 83)</i>	<i>25,535</i> <i>(N:91)</i>	<i>14,191</i> <i>(N:106)</i>
Sex reported	<i>39,307</i> <i>(N:56)</i>	<i>15,604</i> <i>(N:57)</i>	<i>6,855</i> <i>(N:66)</i>
Citizenship reported	<i>Not collected</i>	<i>Not collected</i>	<i>8,100</i> <i>(N:69)</i>

⁴ ‘Men’ are males aged 18 or older; ‘boys’ are males 17 and below. ‘Women’ are females aged 18 or older; ‘girls’ are females 17 and below.

Data on detected victims (total 2012-2015)

Total number of detected victims	63,251 <i>(Number of countries reporting this indicator: 103)</i>
Age reported	60,216 <i>(N:90)</i>
Sex reported	57,066 <i>(N:90)</i>
Age and sex reported	55,777 <i>(N:85)</i>
Citizenship reported	34,074 <i>(N:85)</i>
Countries of repatriation reported (for national victims trafficked abroad)	12,548 <i>(N:47)</i>
Form of exploitation reported	53,721 <i>(N:73)</i>
Sex reported according to form of exploitation	42,316 <i>(N:71)</i>

The amount of data for the individual years within the time period considered is not uniform as the reporting from Member States differed over time. The table below shows the number of detected victims and convicted offenders reported for each year.

Total number of victims and offenders, per year

	Victims detected	Persons convicted
2012	17,587 <i>(Number of countries reporting this indicator: 92)</i>	5,004 <i>(N:108)</i>
2013	18,814 <i>(N:88)</i>	5,008 <i>(N:104)</i>
2014	19,979 <i>(N:81)</i>	3,157 <i>(N:83)</i>
2015	6,871 <i>(N:52)</i>	1,022 <i>(N:47)</i>

Annual patterns and flows at the regional and global levels were derived by using 2014 as the ‘most recent typical year’. 2015 was not considered because of the limited reported data. For the countries where 2014 data was not available, the most recent data from the period covered was used (2015, 2013 or 2012). This ‘best year’ approach will be referred to in the text as 2014 (or most recent).

The reference year 2014 (or most recent) considers data for countries covered in the year 2014 (N: 78 for victims and 84 for persons convicted), plus some countries which data referred to 2013 (N:14 for victims, and 10 for persons convicted), a few countries with data from 2012 (N:9 for victims and 10 for persons convicted) and two countries with data on victims and on persons convicted for 2015. Thus, the results for the reference year 2014 (or most recent) is based on data from 103 countries for victims and 106 countries for persons convicted. The total number of victims and offenders for the year 2014 (or most recent) is reported in the table below.

Data on offenders (2014 or more recent)

	Suspected persons	Prosecuted persons	Convicted persons
Total number of reported offenders	15,580 <i>(Number of countries reporting this indicator:81)</i>	8,633 <i>(N:93)</i>	3,348 <i>(N:106)</i>
Sex reported	14,333 <i>(N:56)</i>	5,212 <i>(N:57)</i>	2,234 <i>(N:60)</i>
Citizenship reported	<i>Not collected</i>	<i>Not collected</i>	3081 <i>(N:69)</i>

Data on detected victims (2014 or more recent)

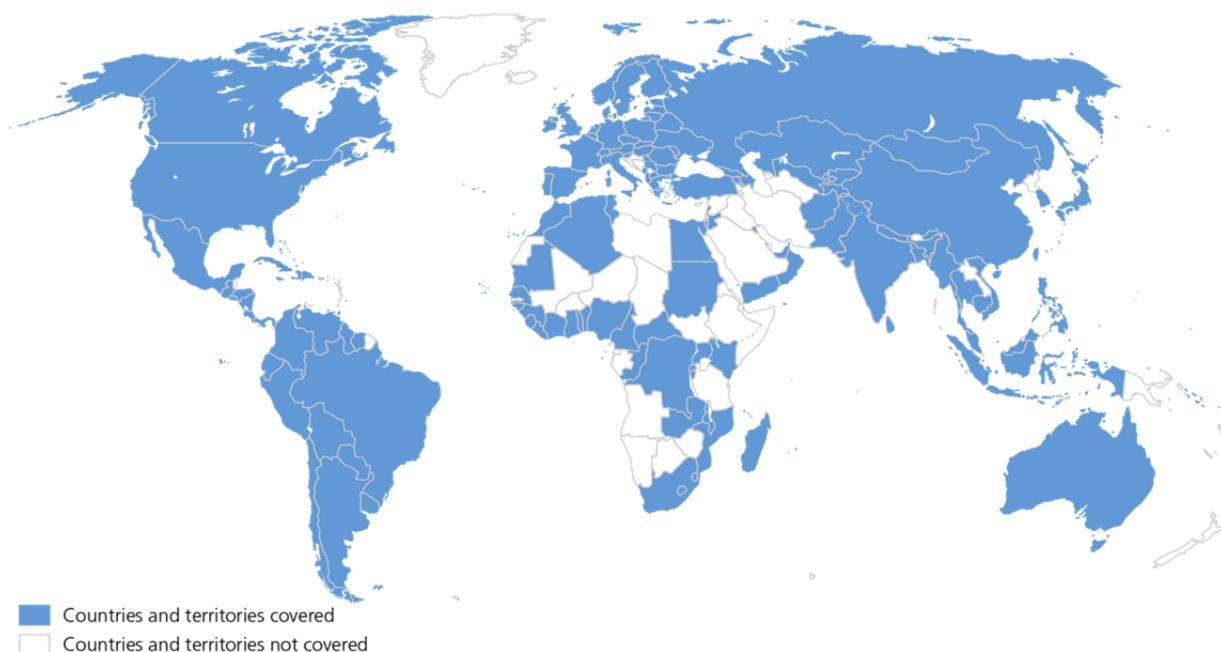
Total number of detected victims	21,251 <i>(Number of countries reporting this indicator:103)</i>
Age reported	18,624 <i>(N:90)</i>
Sex reported	18,811 <i>(N:90)</i>
Age and sex reported	17,752 <i>(N:85)</i>
Citizenship reported	13,734 <i>(N:85)</i>
Form of exploitation reported	16,809 <i>(N:73)</i>
Sex reported according to form of exploitation	14,333 <i>(N:71)</i>

In terms of geographical coverage, this edition of the *Global Report* covers 137 countries and territories. The specific country-level coverage is indicated in the table and map elsewhere in this section. All regions are covered, although the amount and solidity of the data varies between regions and subregions. For the sections that analyse the criminalization of trafficking in persons, 179 countries are covered, as UNODC is constantly monitoring the status of national-level legislation across the world.

As for previous *Global Report* editions, Western and Central Europe as well as the Americas have solid data coverage that allows for detailed analyses. Eastern Europe and Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, and North Africa and the Middle East are covered, but information is not always detailed in terms of profiles of the trafficking events reported. Data concerning South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly poor.

All the information that was collected for this edition is presented in the country profiles (see www.unodc.org/glotip).

Countries covered by the data collection for this report



Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Country-level data coverage, by region and subregion

<i>North Africa and the Middle East (13 countries covered out of 18 UN Member States)</i>	<i>Sub-Saharan Africa (30 countries covered out of 48 UN Member States)</i>	<i>North and Central America and the Caribbean (16 countries covered out of 23 UN Member States)</i>	<i>South America (all 12 UN Member States covered)</i>	<i>Western and Central Europe (32 countries covered out of 41 UN Member States)</i>	<i>Eastern Europe and Central Asia (11 countries covered out of 12 UN Member States)</i>	<i>East Asia and the Pacific (15 countries covered out of 30 UN Member States)</i>	<i>South Asia (7 countries covered out of 9 UN Member States)</i>
		Central America and the Caribbean		Central and South-Eastern Europe			
Algeria	Benin	Bahamas	Argentina	Albania	Armenia	Australia	Afghanistan
Bahrain	Burundi	Barbados	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Bulgaria	Azerbaijan	Cambodia	Bangladesh
Egypt	Cabo Verde		Brazil	Czechia	Belarus	China (including Taiwan Province of China)	India
Israel	Cameroon	Costa Rica	Chile	Estonia	Georgia	Fiji	Maldives
Jordan	Central African Republic	Cuba	Colombia	Hungary	Kazakhstan	Indonesia	Nepal

Kuwait	Comoros	Dominican Republic	Ecuador	Latvia	Kyrgyzstan	Japan	Pakistan
Lebanon	Congo	El Salvador	Guyana	Montenegro	Republic of Moldova	Malaysia	Sri Lanka
Morocco	Côte d'Ivoire	Guatemala	Paraguay	Poland	Russian Federation	Marshall Islands	
Oman	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Haiti	Peru	Romania	Tajikistan	Mongolia	
Sudan	Ghana	Honduras	Suriname	Serbia	Ukraine	Myanmar	
Tunisia	Guinea	Jamaica	Uruguay	Slovakia	Uzbekistan	Philippines	
United Arab Emirates	Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Slovenia		Republic of Korea	
Yemen	Kenya	Panama		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		Solomon Islands	
	Lesotho	Trinidad and Tobago				Thailand	
	Liberia					Viet Nam	
	Madagascar						
	Malawi	North America		Western and Southern Europe			
	Mauritania	Canada		Andorra			
	Mauritius	Mexico		Austria			
	Mozambique	United States of America		Belgium			
	Nigeria			Denmark			
				Finland			
	Rwanda			France			
	Senegal			Germany			
	Seychelles			Greece			
	Sierra Leone			Ireland			
	South Africa			Italy			
	Swaziland			Malta			
	Togo			Netherlands			
	Uganda			Norway			
	Zambia			Portugal			
				Spain			
				Sweden			
				Switzerland			
				Turkey			
				United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland			

The Global Report makes multiple references to official United Nations documents. Reports with a United Nations document symbol (for example, A/HRC/32/41) can be accessed by adding the symbol after the URL <http://undocs.org>. The full URL for the example document above would thus be: <http://undocs.org/A/HRC/32/41>. Official United Nations documents are also available from documents.un.org.

The narrative from court files

The *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* is not only based on quantitative data. Qualitative information is used to contextualize the aggregated numbers and provide anecdotal information to go beyond the statistics. Together with the data national authorities sent to UNODC, they included narrative summaries of court cases that concluded with a conviction in the first instance during the period considered by this edition. A total of 147 court cases from 37 different countries were reviewed. This qualitative information is used to describe examples of many aspects of trafficking in persons, from the ways women are exploited in forced labour, to the modus operandi of traffickers, the dynamics of domestic trafficking and the role of women in the trafficking process. The information also helps to explain elements that are not very prevalent in the macro statistics such as trafficking for the purpose of forced marriages and the relations between victims and offenders. The court cases are referred to throughout the report and framed within the quantitative analysis. Each trafficking case is reported with a specific reference to the source of the information.

The case sample is relatively small and not representative of the global manifestations of trafficking in persons. Therefore, the conclusions cannot be generalized, but they can help enrich the understanding of the patterns and flows of this crime. In addition, UNODC recently carried out a pilot analysis of a larger sample of trafficking in persons case law, focusing on the intersections between trafficking, transnational organized crime and corruption to analyze 155 cases from the UNODC Human Trafficking Case Law Database. The results of this analysis have been used for this edition of the *Global Report* and will be available separately as a Research Brief on the UNODC website in the next few months.