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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

Bali Process – Senior Officials' Meeting
Brisbane, Australia
24-25 February 2009



REPORT OBJECTIVES

1. ASSESS IMPACT OF PALERMO PROTOCOL
– Government responses – one decade later
2. IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE GAPS – to support evidence-informed response

REPORT DOES NOT

- MEASURE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM
- RANK COUNTRIES
- ALLOW FOR COUNTRY COMPARISONS



STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION

1. THE REPORT ITSELF – STRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY
2. KEY FINDINGS = 5
 - Global
 - East Asia and the Pacific



THE REPORT – Methodology

- a) Largest ever effort of its kind: 155 countries – info on 50,000 offenders/victims. Data period: 2003-2007. Compiled: 2007-2008.
- b) Based on official data from Member States: 85% nat'l institutions; 7% UN.GIFT organizations; 8% NGOs
- c) No obligation on Member States to provide information.
- d) Questionnaire was disaggregated (M/F) but Member States info often not.
- e) Before publication each Member State received final country profile and regional overview via diplomatic channels. All comments were integrated.



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THE REPORT – Countries Covered

Data collection



155 countries and territories



THE REPORT – Structure

1. Global overview

2. Regional assessments – 11

3. Country profiles – 155:

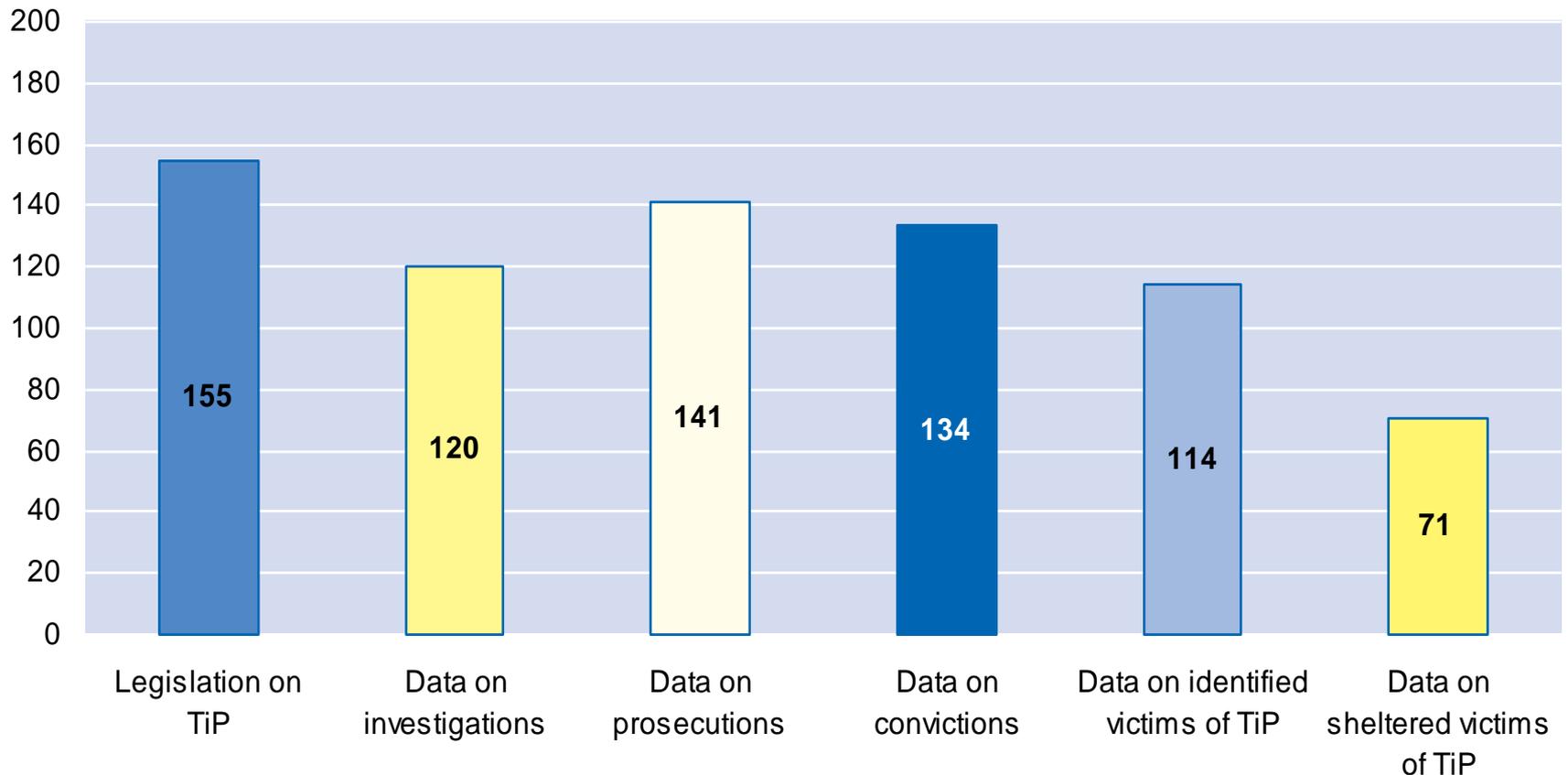
a) Institutional / laws

b) Criminal justice response

c) Services provided to victims

d) Trafficking markets

THE REPORT – Number of countries per topic





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KEY FINDINGS



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**The fight against
trafficking has really
only just started**



KEY REPORT FINDINGS:

1. The “push” of the Protocol: the number of countries implementing laws has doubled.
2. Convictions are increasing. But impunity is immense.
3. Sexual exploitation is the most commonly-identified form of human trafficking.
4. A disproportionate number of women are offenders.
5. Most offenders are citizens of the country where they were arrested.



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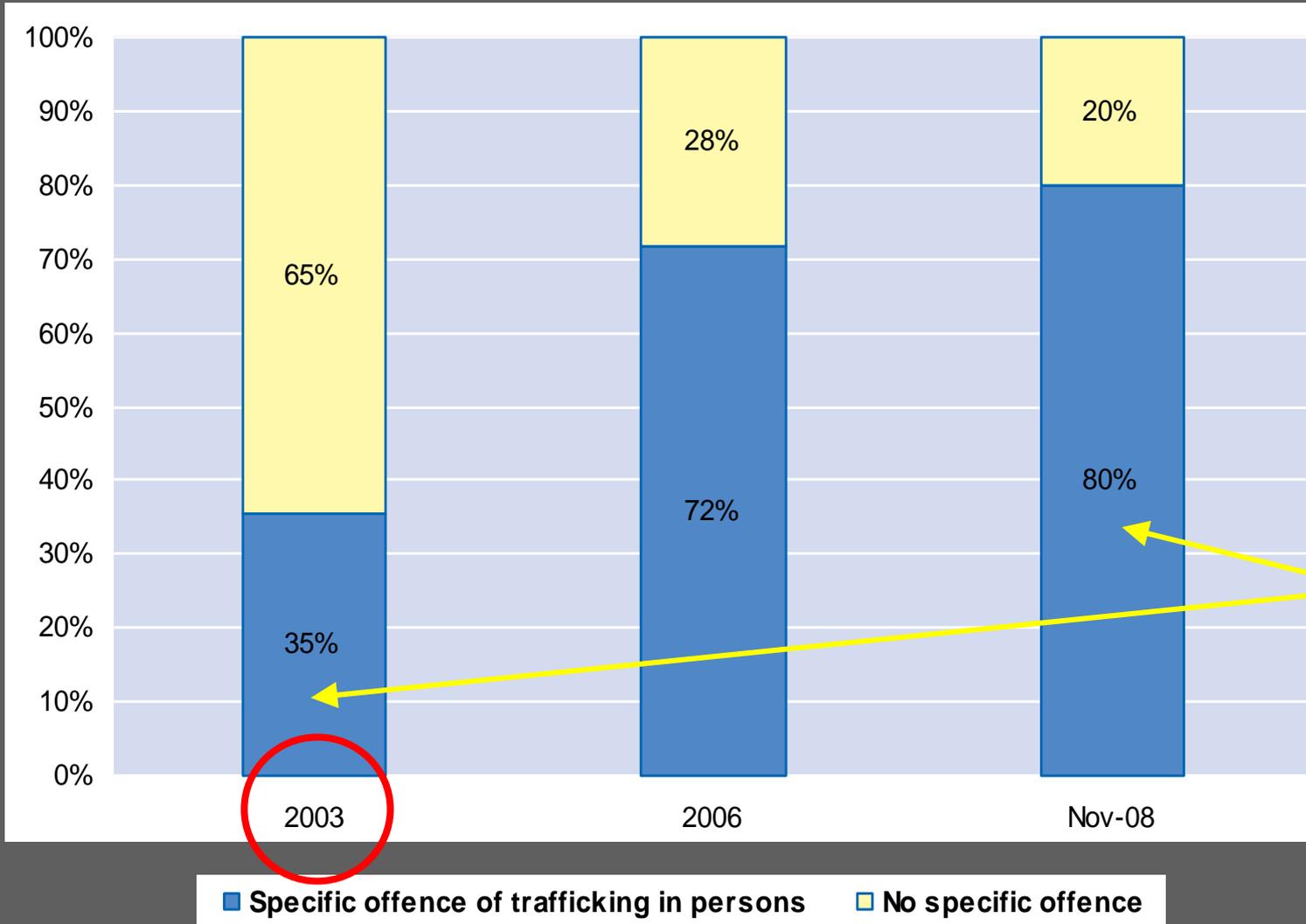
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Finding 1: The “push” of the UN Protocol

“...in a remarkably short space of time, tremendous progress has been made in combating a crime that was only recently widely acknowledged...” (Report p.8)

Finding 1: The “push” of the UN Protocol

Percentage of countries that have introduced a specific offence on trafficking in persons into their legislation (N:155)



Doubling of countries with TIP legislation



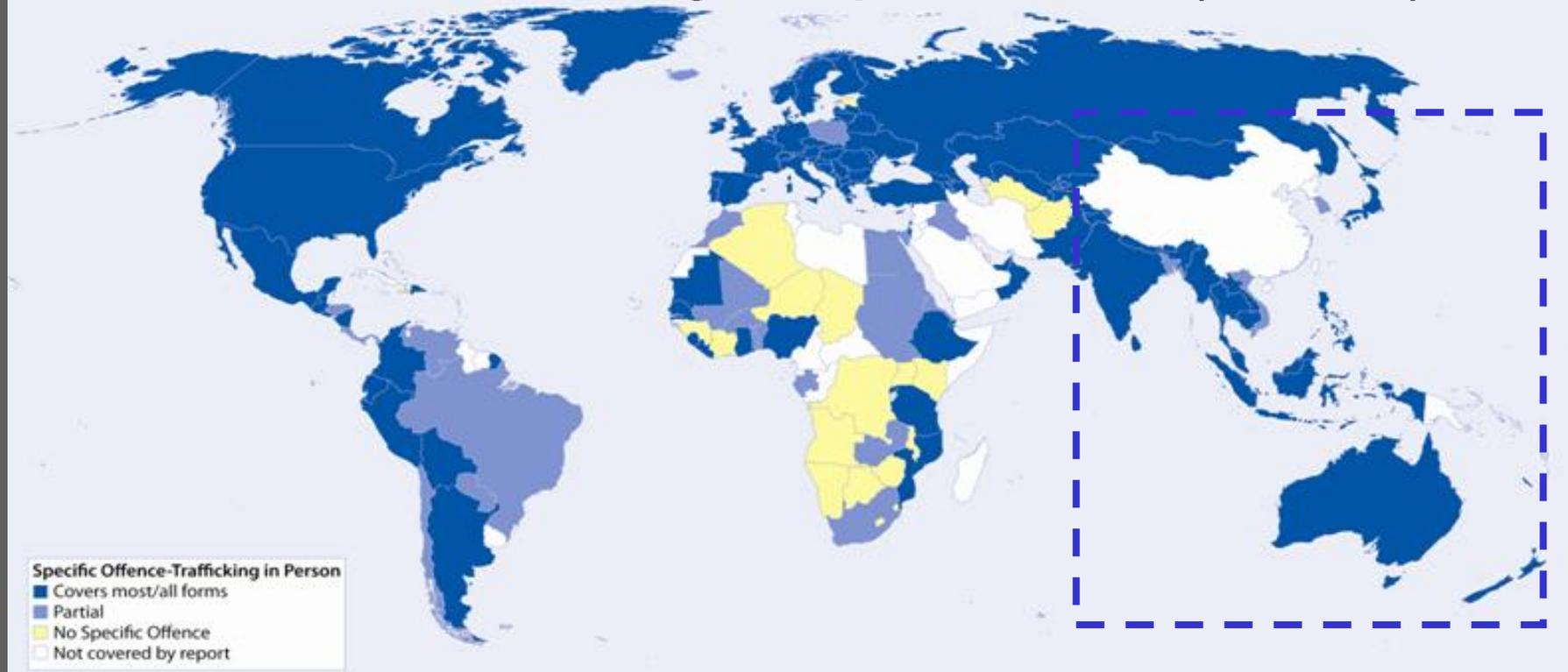
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SUMMARY: GLOBAL BASELINE ON LEGISLATION

- Before 2003, only 35% of the countries* had TIP legislation. 65% did not.
- As of November 2008, 80% of the countries* had TIP legislation and 20% did not.
- 54% of countries have established anti-TIP police units

Finding 1: The “push” of the UN Protocol

NATIONAL LAW: Trafficking as a specific offence (Nov 2008)



Cover most/all forms: Countries where the specific offence of trafficking in persons is in force, criminalizing at a minimum sexual exploitation and forced labour, with no restrictions concerning the profile of the victim.

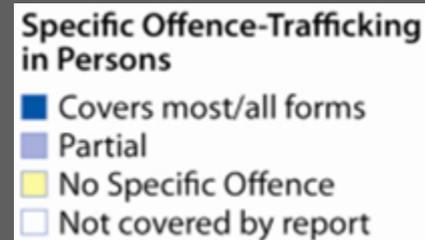
Partial: Countries where the specific offence of trafficking in persons is in force, but legislation does not criminalize all or most forms listed in Article 3 of the UN Trafficking Protocol or does not define trafficking in persons.

No specific offence: Countries where forms of trafficking in persons are criminalized through other offences due to the absence of a specific trafficking in persons offence.

Finding 1: The “push” of the UN Protocol



**EAST ASIAN /
PACIFIC
NATIONAL
LAWS:
Trafficking a
specific offence
(Status: Nov
2008)**





Finding 1: The “push” of the UN Protocol

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- 23 of the 27 countries in Asia / Pacific region have adopted specific laws on TIP.
- Between 2005-2008, 8 East Asian and 2 Pacific countries introduced new anti-trafficking laws or modified old ones.
- This makes most of the legislation in the region relatively recent – though focusing heavily on sexual exploitation.



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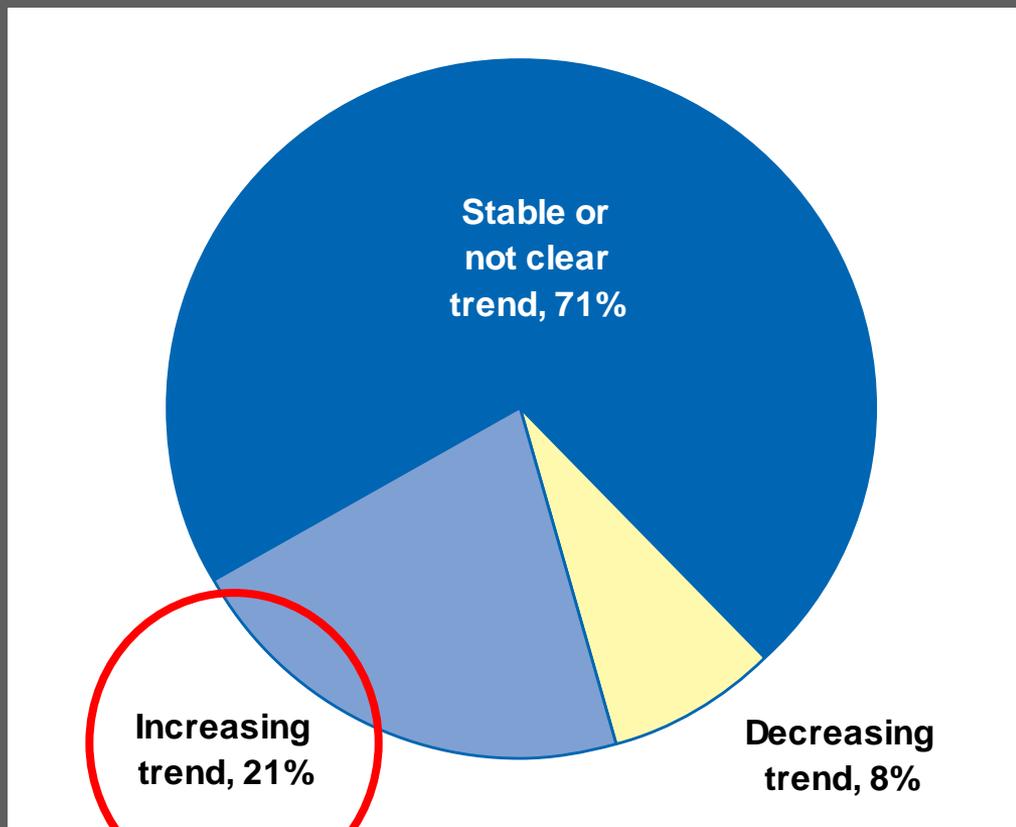
Finding 2: Convictions increasing but impunity massive

- In many countries, the number of convictions is increasing.
- But not in proportion to the growing awareness (and probably size) of the problem.
- Most convictions occur in a very few countries.
- To date, 2 out of 5 countries have never recorded a single conviction.
- Thus a large area of impunity remains.



Finding 2: Convictions increasing but impunity massive

Trends in the number of recorded convictions, % of countries (N:134)

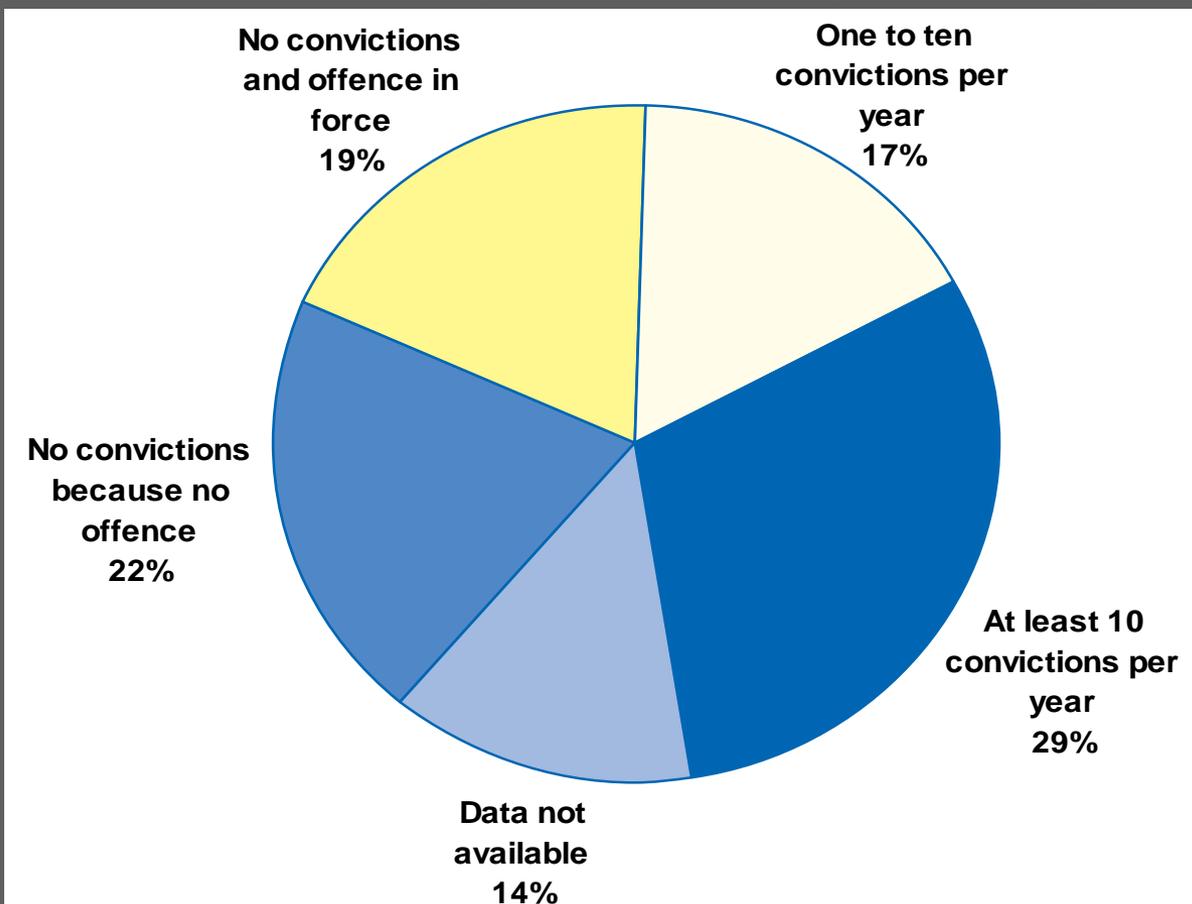




Finding 2: Convictions increasing but impunity massive

IMPUNITY

Distribution of all countries according to the number of convictions recorded for the specific offence of trafficking in persons during the reporting period (N:155)

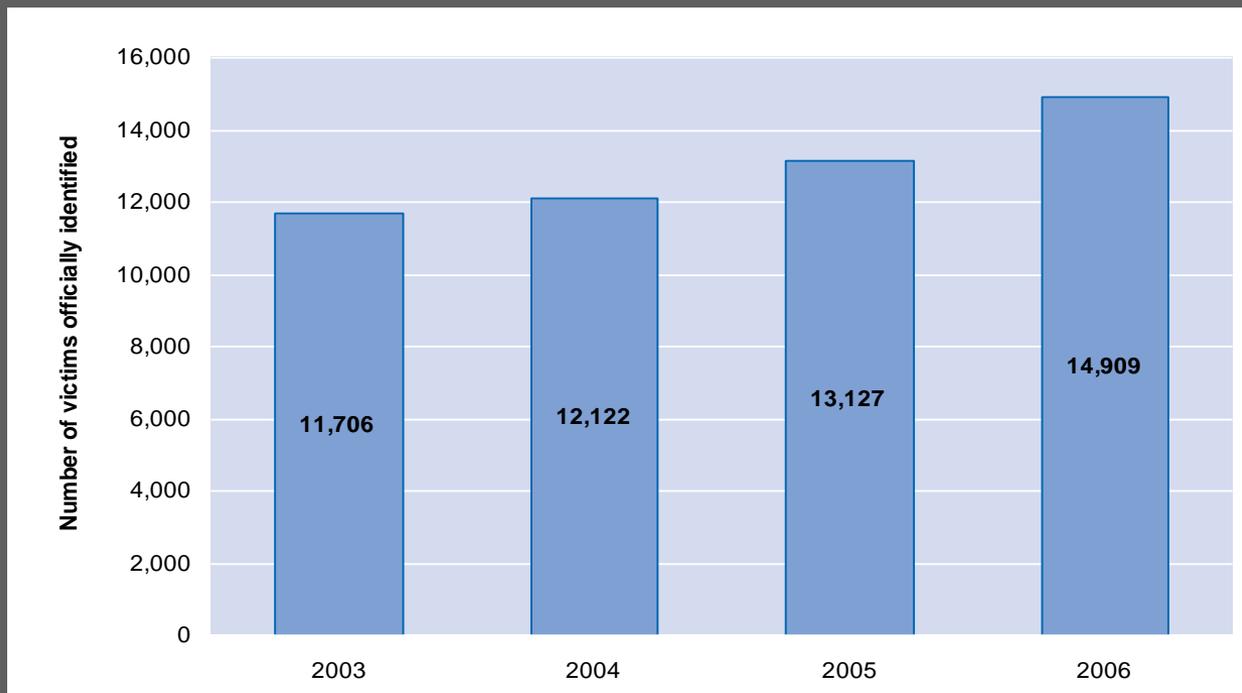




Finding 2: Convictions increasing but impunity massive

VICTIMS DETECTED

Total number of victims identified by State authorities in 71 selected countries



TREND:

The capacity to detect victims has increased (+27% victims detected globally)



Finding 2: Convictions increasing but impunity massive

TRENDS: East Asia and the Pacific

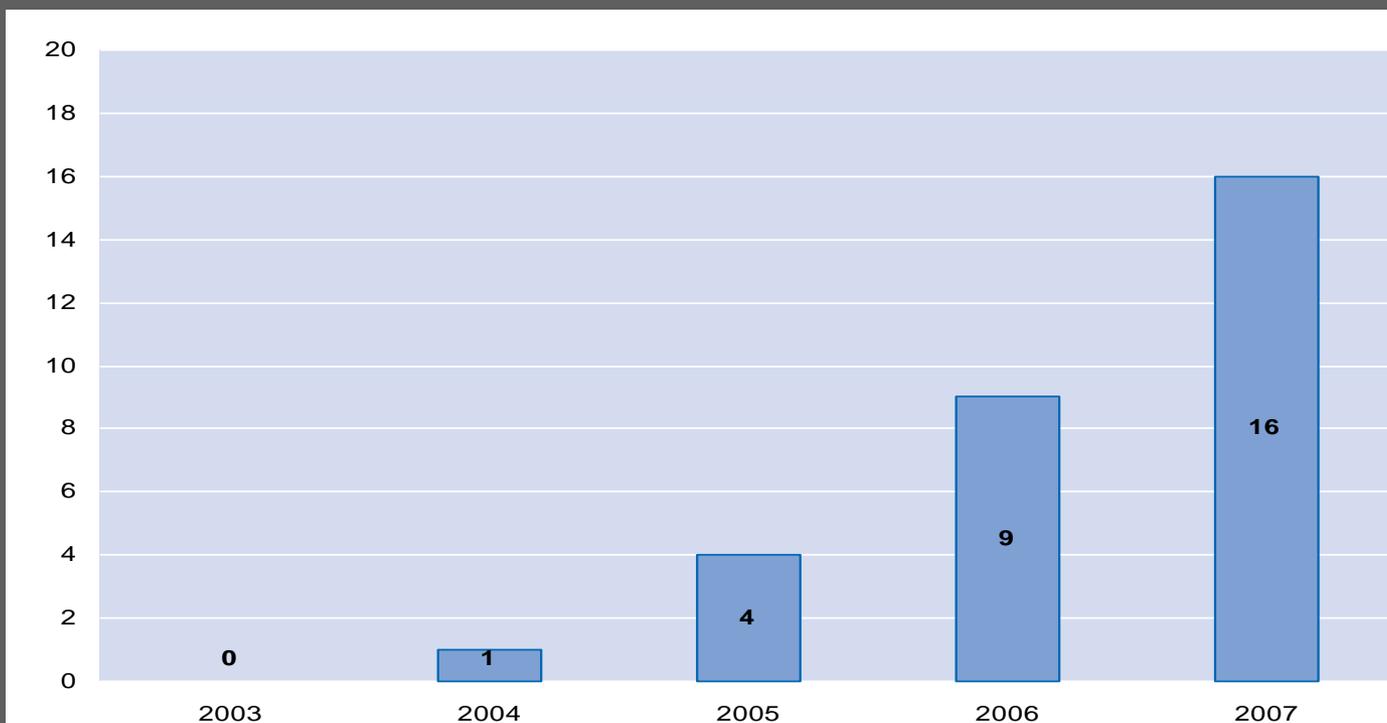
- East Asia was rich in criminal justice statistics for the reporting period.
- By contrast, a very limited number of cases were detected in the Pacific area.
- Trends indicate an increase in the number of trafficking cases in Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- Somewhat stable to decreasing trends elsewhere in region.
- Higher than average criminal proceedings in Mekong countries.



Finding 2: Convictions increasing but impunity massive

TRENDS: Mongolia

Persons investigated for the offence of “sale or acquisition of humans” in Mongolia (2003-2007)





Finding 2: Convictions increasing but impunity massive

TRENDS: Japan

Persons arrested for trafficking in persons and related offences in Japan, by gender (2003-2006)



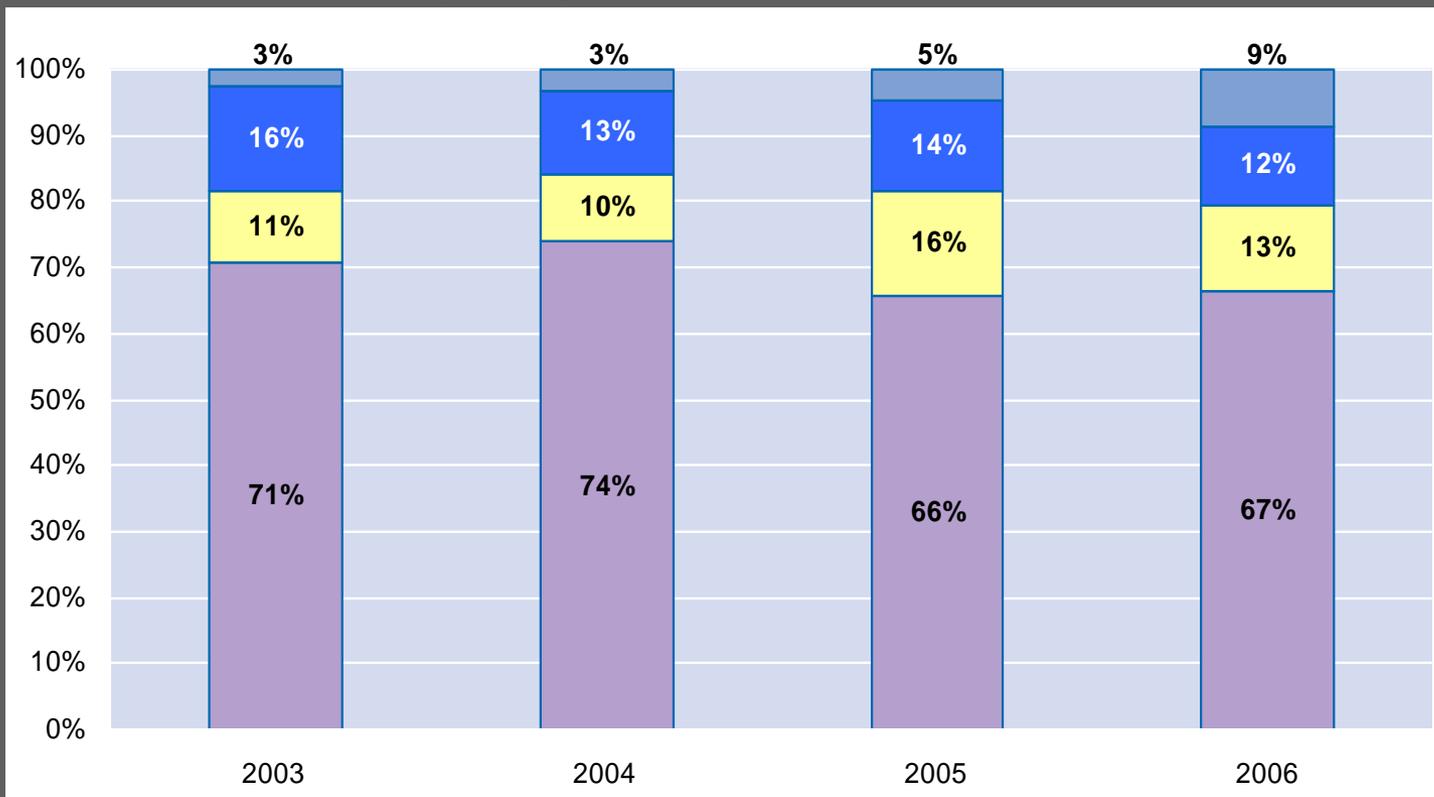


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Finding 3: Sexual exploitation deemed most common

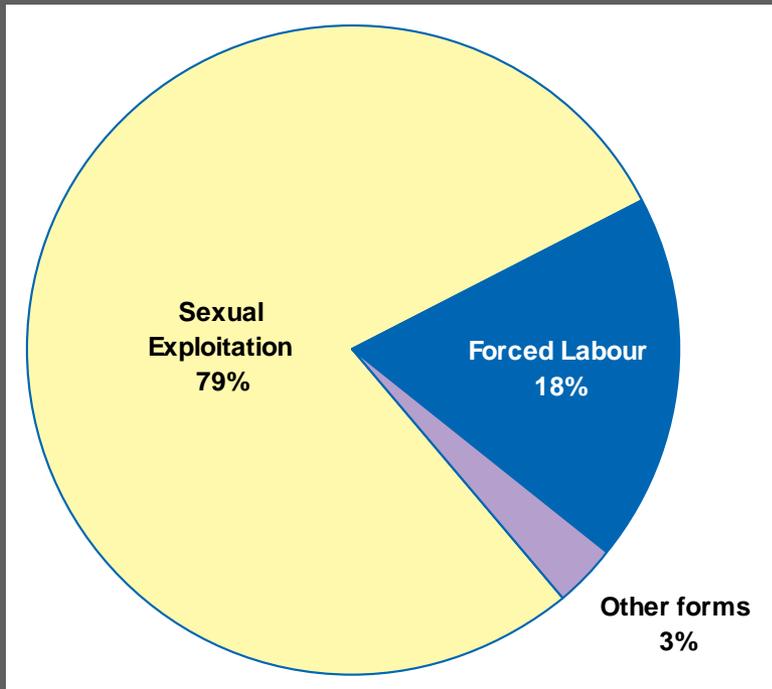
Profile of victims identified by State authorities
(Countries reporting: 2003=44, 2004=56, 2005=76, 2006=61)



The profile of the victims:
gender

Finding 3: Sexual exploitation deemed most common

Distribution of victims identified by State authorities according to the form of exploitation (N:52 in 2006)



Source: UNODC/UN.GIFT

TRENDS

1. Sexual exploitation was the most commonly identified form of human trafficking.
2. TIP for forced labour (generally men/boys) is likely under-detected.
3. Reasons: (a) FL laws more recent (b) police perspective (c) less visible than, e.g., prostitution.



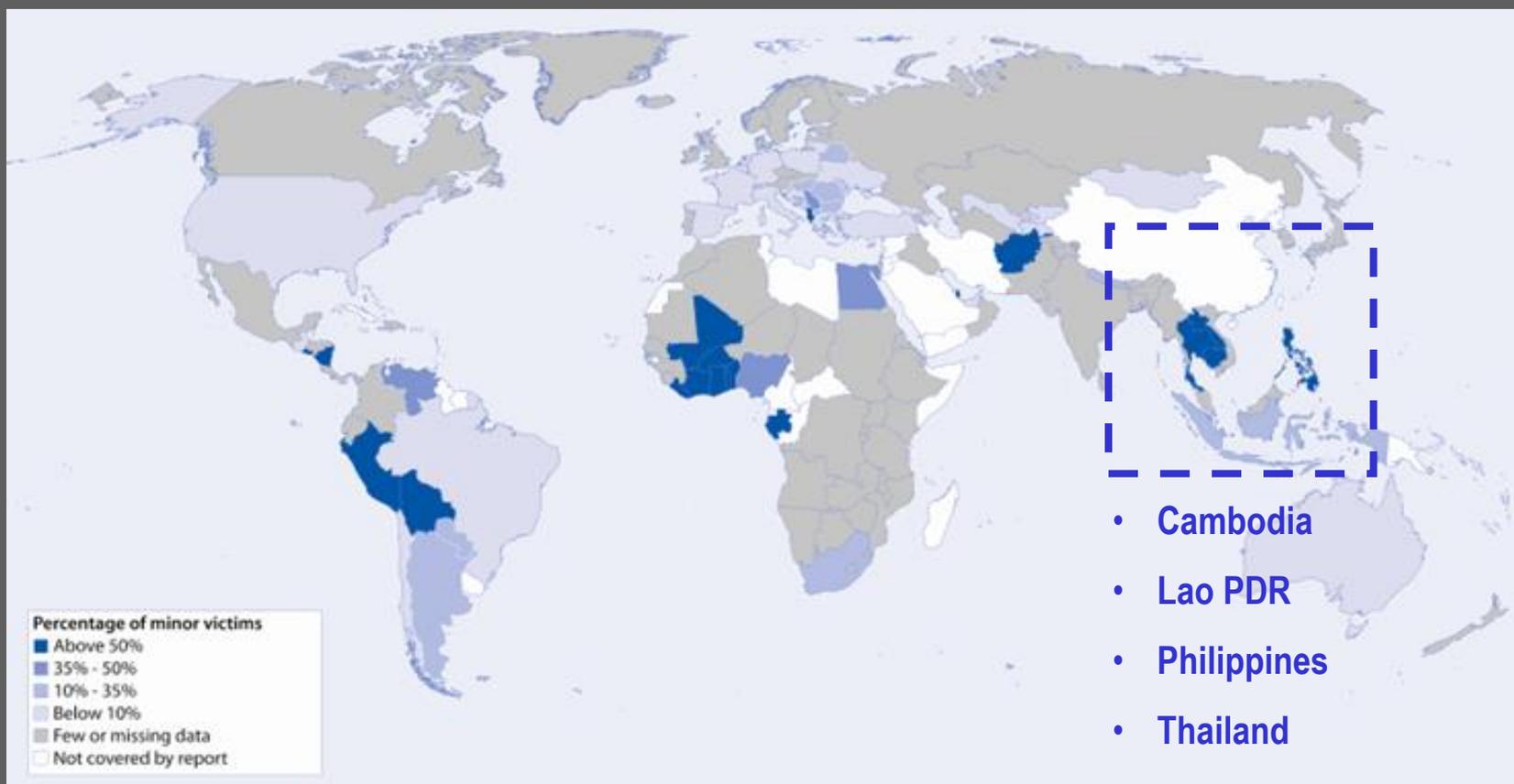
Finding 3: Sexual exploitation deemed most common

TRENDS: East Asia and the Pacific

- 1. Women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation were the primary victims (during 2003-2007 most countries only had legislation on TIP for sexual exploitation).**
- 2. Trafficking in minors was a significant issue in South East Asia. During the reporting period child trafficking rose in all East Asia.**

Finding 3: Sexual exploitation deemed most common

The profile of the victims – Child Trafficking Percentage of minors in the total number of victims identified (2003-2007)





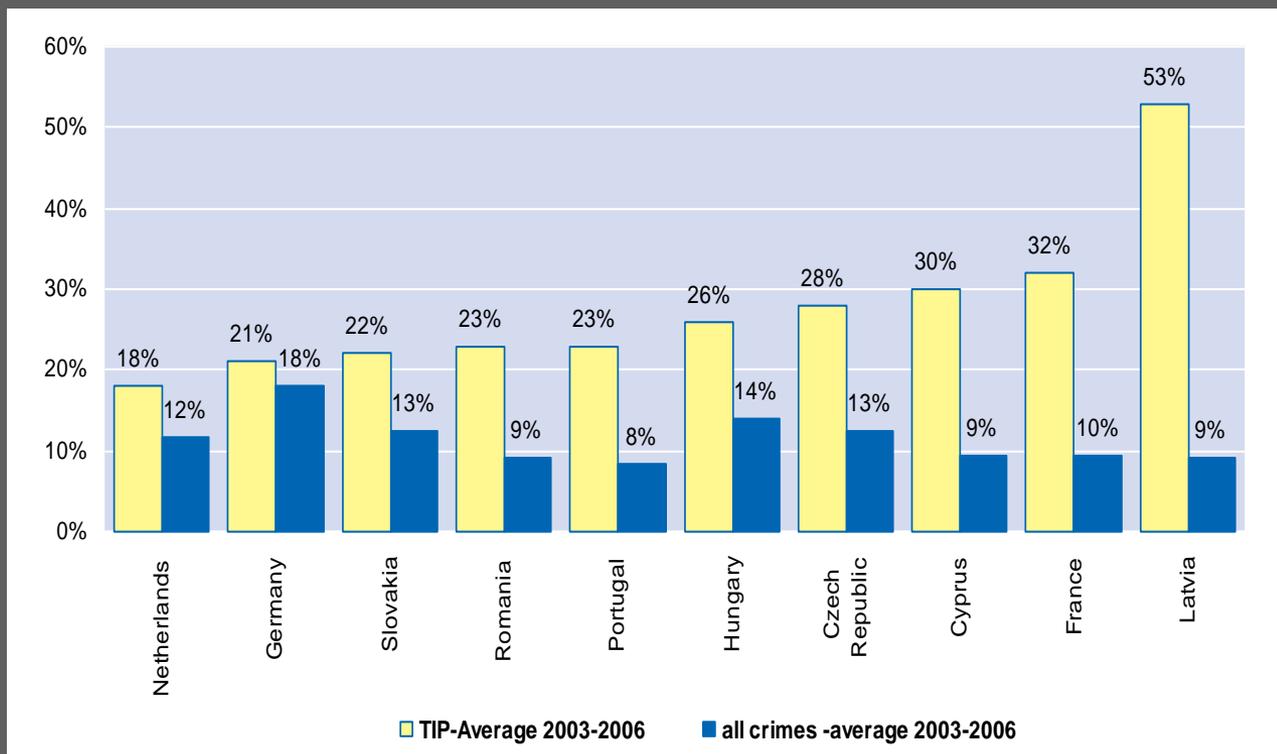
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Finding 4: Offenders – female numbers disproportionate

Ratio of females convicted for trafficking in persons and for all offences in selected countries





Finding 4: Offenders – female numbers disproportionate

SUMMARY: Global baseline data on trafficking in persons patterns

- Females more commonly appear as offenders in human trafficking statistics than for other forms of crime
- One possible conclusion: need to analyse the trafficking roles of those prosecuted – as well as those who escape prosecution (not only end-exploiters, but also those in the higher echelons parts of trafficking hierarchies.
- “Very significant” in East Asia / Pacific” (Report p. 46)



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Finding 5: Most offenders = citizens where arrested

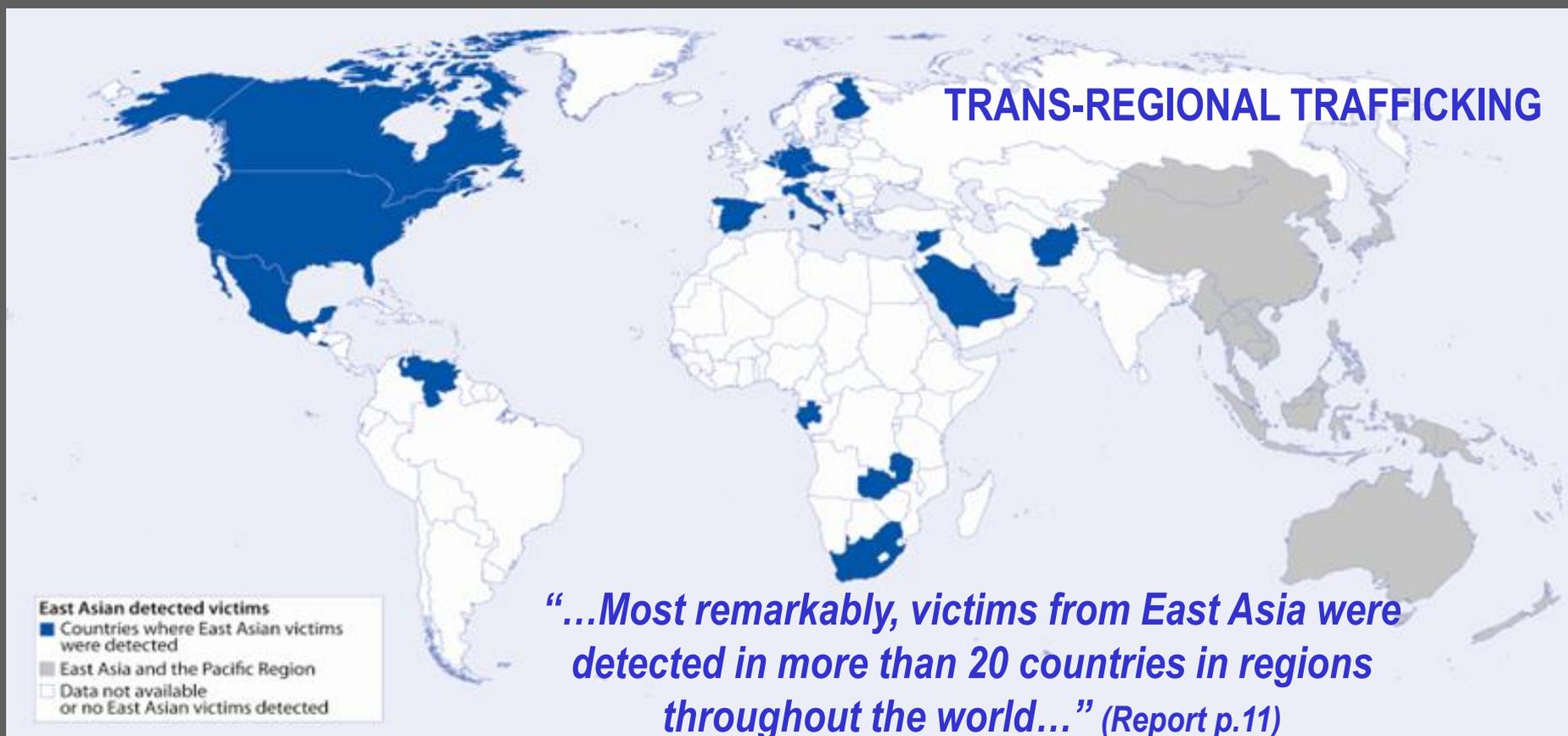
Offender profile: Nationality

- Generally offenders were citizens of the countries where they were arrested.
- This suggests that local criminal networks acquire the victims and sell them to criminal networks based in destination countries.

(Report p 10)

Finding 5: Most offenders = citizens where arrested

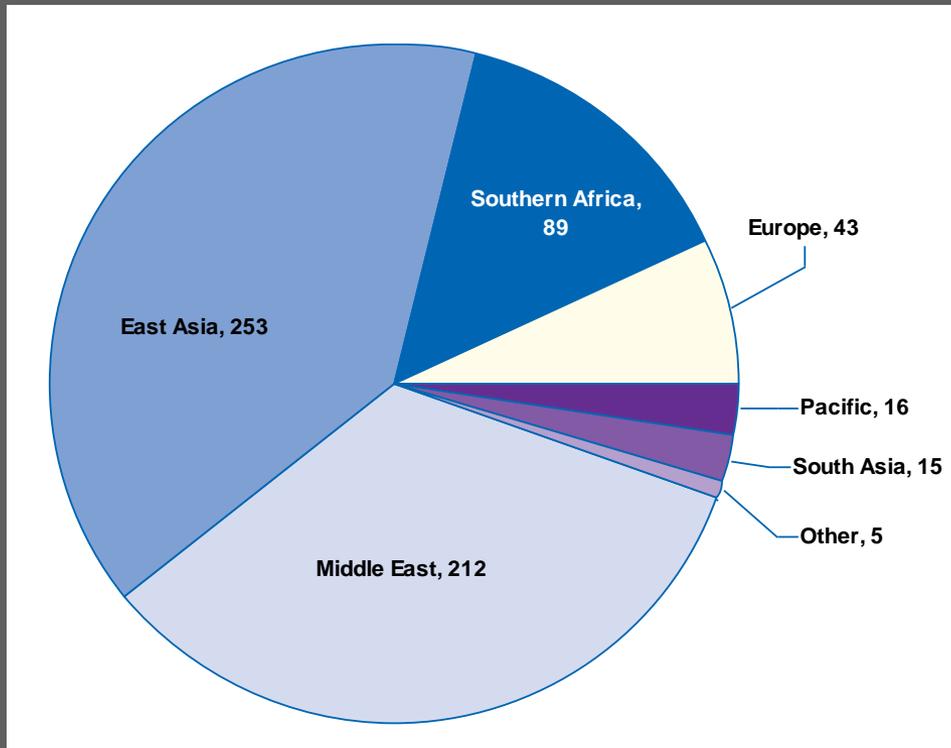
Long distance from EAST ASIA: Countries where East Asian victims were detected outside East Asia and the Pacific (2005-2007)



Finding 5: Most offenders = citizens where arrested

THAI VICTIMS TRAFFICKED ABROAD

as identified by State authorities by area
of repatriation (2005-2007)



Source: Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children

Diagram
shows:
Of those
victims
trafficked out
of Thailand,
which parts of
the globe were
they
identified?



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WHAT NEXT?



WHAT NEXT? => ANALYSIS

1. The findings open up new questions / issues

- a) Still unknown: “How big is the human trafficking problem globally?”
- b) Why so many women among offenders?
- c) Why do so many CJ systems not use TIP laws to prosecute?
- d) Reliability of the data – need for constant improvement
- e) “Good guys” versus “bad guys” – report offers no ranking – intention is not to compare countries – all countries can improve performance

2. A knowledge crisis remains – We’re still fighting the problem “blindfolded”

- a) Need for standard definitions as per The 2000 Protocol



WHAT NEXT? => ACTION

1. Having laws is not enough
2. Need for more convictions (Note: risk of inaccurate targeting – go beyond quantitative measures)
3. Need for greater focus on forced labour
4. What do we do about it? => UNODC's efforts

ASEAN Charter



COMMIT Process



BALI Process



CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE:

“To date, 2 out of 5 countries have never recorded a single conviction.”



Consequences of global financial meltdown?

Factories close

Services end → Unemployment → People desperate for work

CONSEQUENCES:

- Significant increase in exploitation
 1. Traffickers / smugglers take advantage of this desperation
 2. Employers squeeze workers to perform more work for less pay
 3. Workers tolerate abuse for fear of losing jobs
 4. Parents pull children from school to migrate and work



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Thank you

www.unodc.org/thailand