

The background is a dark, textured surface with a prominent, abstract face-like shape in the center-left. The face is rendered in a lighter, golden-brown color, appearing to be carved or painted into a dark, reddish-brown material. The overall texture is reminiscent of a rough, stone or wood surface with visible brushstrokes or grain. The text is positioned in the upper right quadrant, with a thin white horizontal line below it.

GLOBAL REPORT ON  
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2024

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# Special Points of Interest



# SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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*The number of victims of trafficking detected globally is on the rise again after falling back during the Covid-19 pandemic.*



*Child victims are increasingly detected globally with distinct patterns emerging for boys and girls.*



*Trafficking for forced labour is on the rise but the criminal justice response is lagging behind.*



*Women and girls continue to make up the majority of victims detected worldwide.*





*Most trafficking in persons is perpetrated by organized crime groups operating in business or governance types of structures.*

5



*Victims are trafficked globally through an increasing number of international routes, with African victims trafficked to the highest number of destinations.*

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*Displacement, insecurity and climate change are exacerbating the vulnerability of Africans to being trafficked.*

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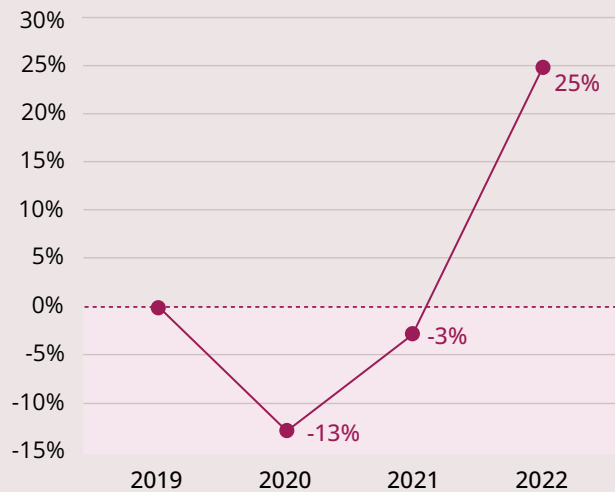
## Special Point of Interest

*The number of victims of trafficking detected globally is on the rise again after falling back during the Covid-19 pandemic.*

A 25 per cent rise in the global detection of victims was recorded in 2022 compared to 2019. The increase is 43 per cent when compared to 2020, when the number of detected cases fell sharply during the pandemic. Preliminary data for the year 2023 confirms a continued increasing trend. The trend is not, however, seen across all regions.

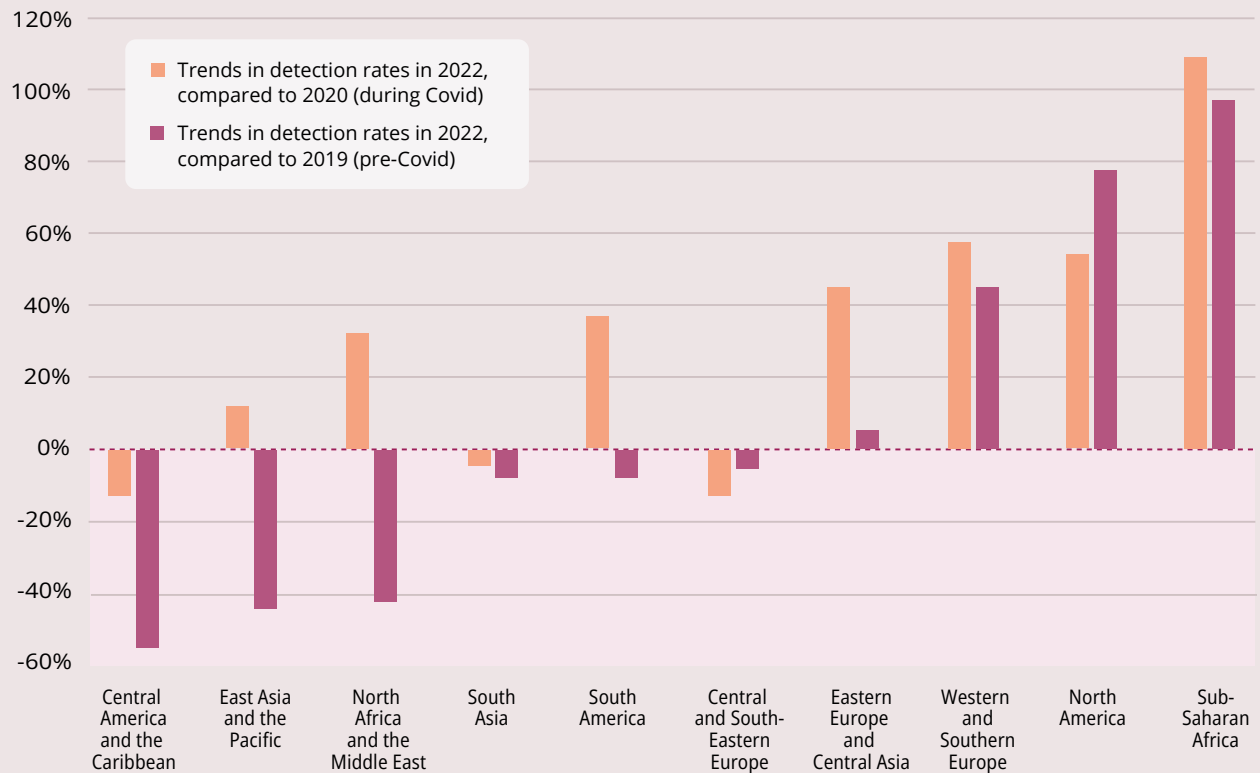
Sub-Saharan Africa, North America, and Western European countries saw significant increases in the detection of victims compared to 2019, while countries in South America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, North Africa and the Middle East recorded increasing detections compared to 2020, but still fewer compared to the 2019 pre-pandemic period. On the other hand, countries in Central America and the Caribbean recorded a decrease when compared to 2020.

**Fig. 1** Global trend of detection rates, base year 2019\*



\*This result is based on victims detected in 129 countries

**Fig. 2** Trends in detection rates, by region, comparison 2019-2022, 2020-2022\*

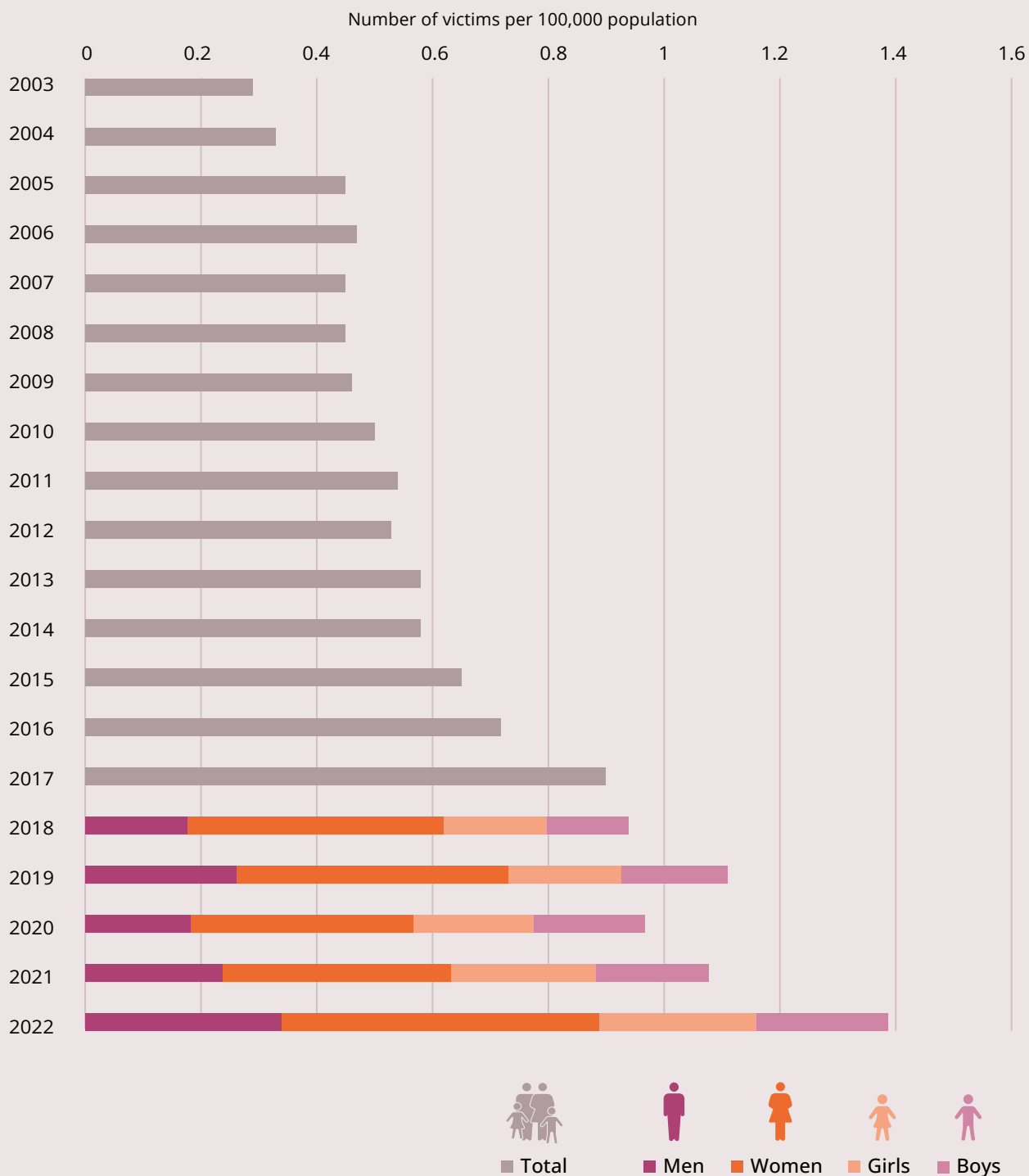


\*This result is based on victims detected in 129 countries.



*The number of victims of trafficking detected globally is on the rise again after falling back during the Covid-19 pandemic.*

**Fig. 3** Global trend of detection rates of trafficking victims, by age group and sex 2003-2022 (per 100,000 population) \*



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

\* This result is based on victims detected in 129 countries, comprising 61 per cent of the world population, reporting on this indicator from 2003 to 2022.



## Special Point of Interest

*Child victims are increasingly detected globally, with distinct patterns emerging for boys and girls.*

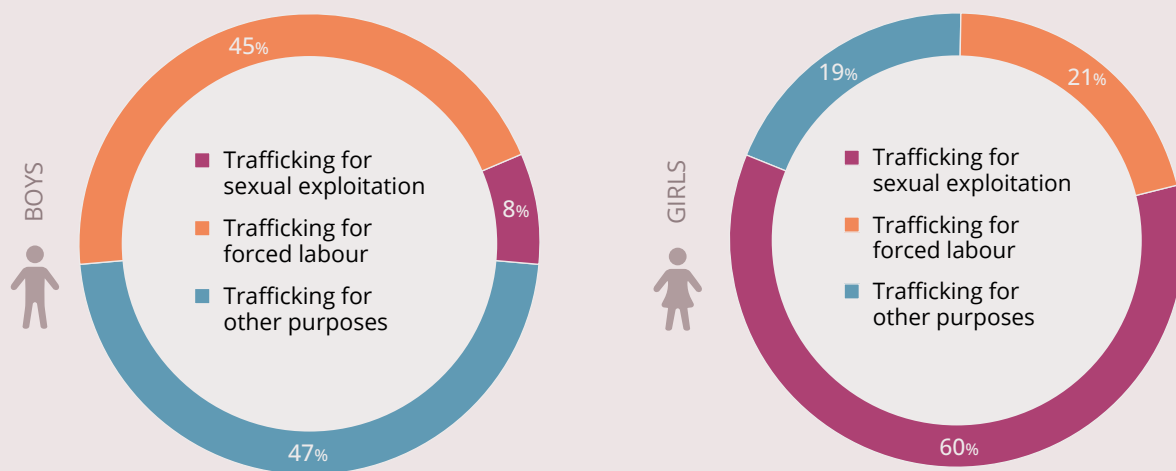
The overall number of child victims detected has climbed significantly. In 2022, global detections increased 31 per cent compared to the pre-pandemic levels in 2019, with a sharper increase of 38 per cent specifically among girls. This upward trend also shows geographical specificities for both girls and boys.

An increasing share of girls detected is recorded in several regions, particularly in the Americas, but also in Europe, in East Asia and the Pacific and North Africa and the Middle East. In Europe and North America increasing numbers of boy victims were reported in the aftermath of the pandemic, in parallel to increasing numbers of unaccompanied and

separated children recorded at borders. These children are at particular risk of trafficking in persons. A contributing factor to the global rise in child victims detected is also the overall increase of the number of cases detected in Sub-Saharan Africa, a region that typically detects more children than adults.

Globally, boy and girl victims show different patterns of exploitation. The majority of girl victims detected (60 per cent) continue to be trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Some 45 per cent of boys detected are trafficked for forced labour and another 47 per cent are exploited for other purposes, including forced criminality and forced begging.

**Fig. 4** Share of detected child victims of trafficking, by form of exploitation, 2022 (or most recent)\*



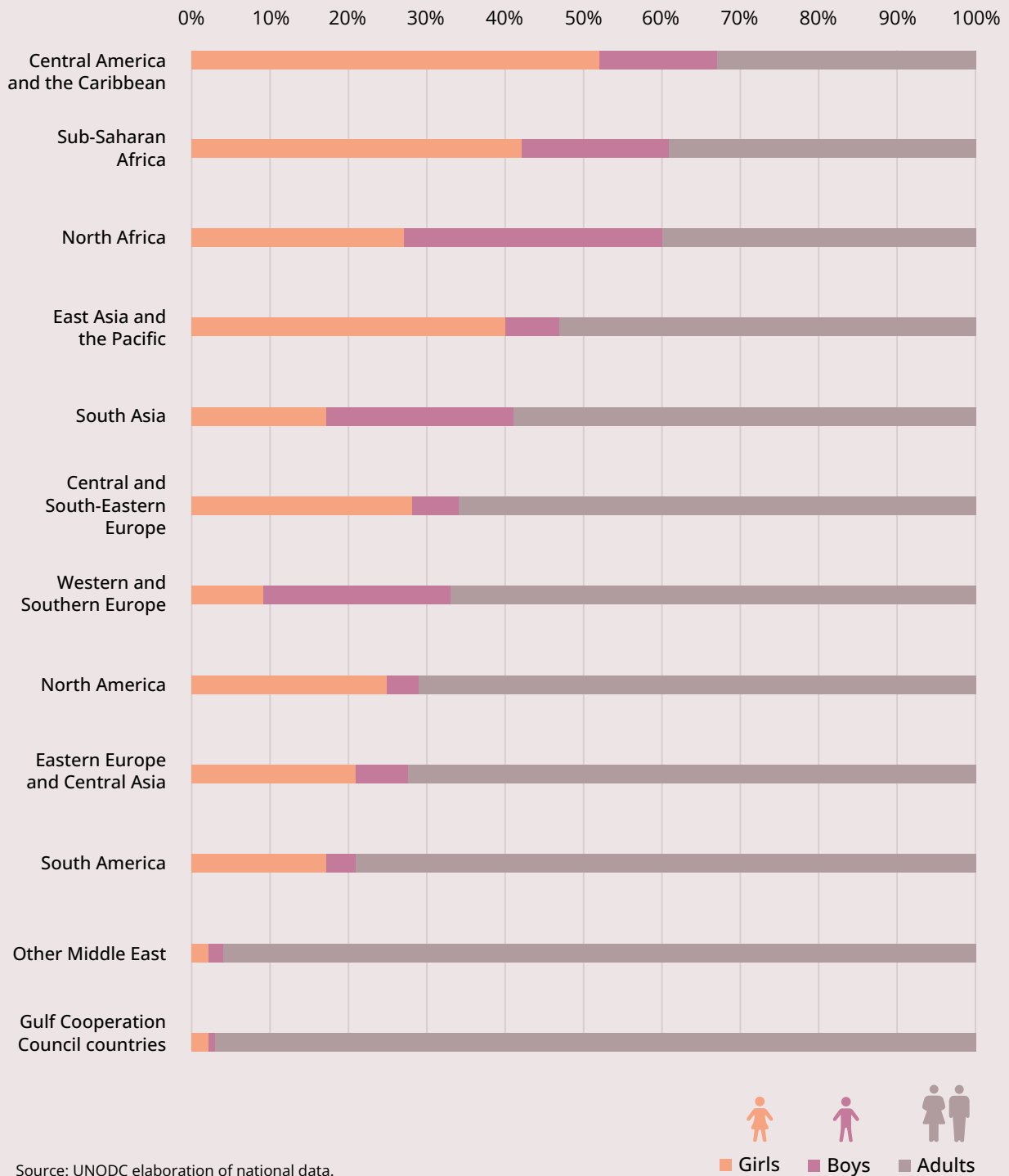
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

\* Based on information about 8,749 boy victims and 9,323 girl victims of trafficking in persons whose forms of exploitation were reported.



*Child victims are increasingly detected globally with distinct patterns emerging for boys and girls.*

Fig. 5 Share of detected victims of trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, by region 2022 (or most recent)







## Special Point of Interest

*Trafficking for forced labour is on the rise but the criminal justice response is lagging behind.*

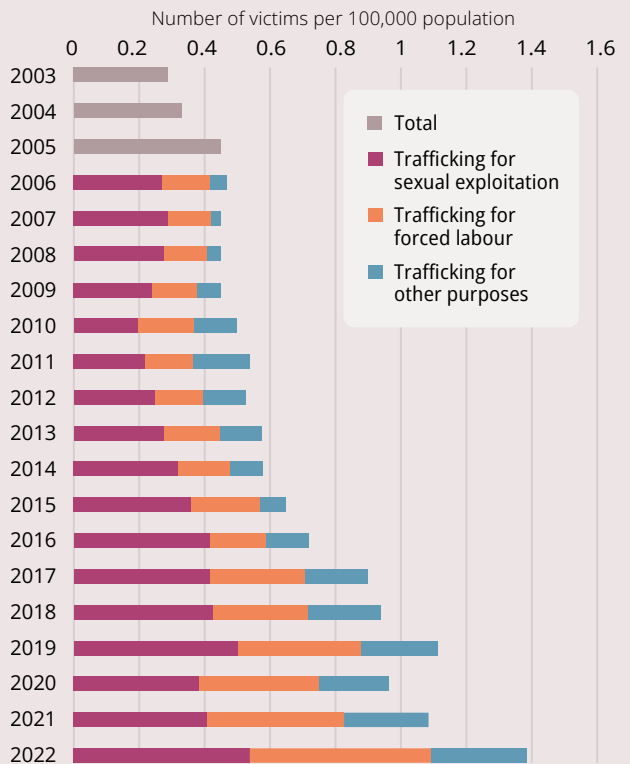
Between 2019 and 2022, the global number of victims detected for forced labour rose by 47 per cent. In 2022, the share of total detected victims trafficked for forced labour (42 per cent) had overtaken that of trafficking for sexual exploitation (36 per cent), which previously represented the largest share of detected victims.

Although an increasing proportion of trafficking victims are identified in forced labour, the majority of convictions worldwide are still related to sexual exploitation. In 2022, just 17 per cent of global convictions were for forced labour, compared to 72 per cent for sexual exploitation.

The analysis of court cases indicates that criminal justice systems typically take about one year longer to secure convictions in trafficking for forced labour cases compared to those involving sexual exploitation as forced labour cases are often more complex to prosecute.

Preliminary results for 2023 show that these trends are ongoing, suggesting that the criminal justice response to cases of forced labour is still less effective than for cases of sexual exploitation.

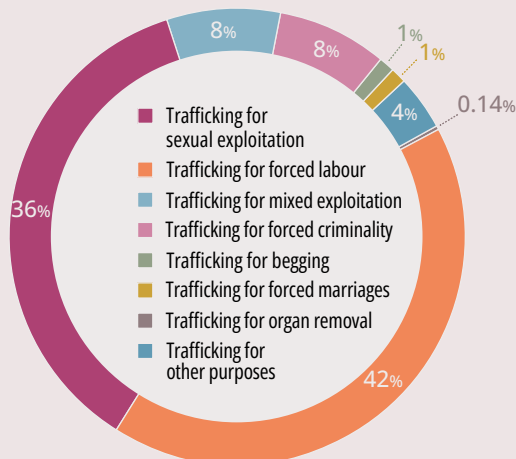
**Fig. 6** Global trend on detection rates of trafficking victims, by form of exploitation (per 100,000 population) 2003-2022\*



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

\* This result is based on victims detected in 129 countries comprising 61 per cent of the world population reporting

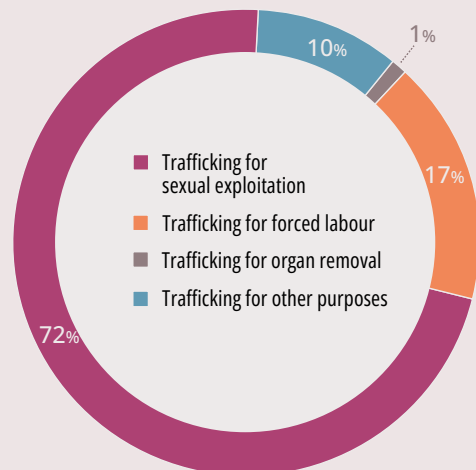
**Fig. 7** Share of detected victims of trafficking, by form of exploitation, 2022 (or most recent)\*



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

\* Based on information from some 65,339 victims detected.

**Fig. 8** Share of convictions for trafficking in persons, by form of exploitation, 2022 (or most recent)\*



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

\* Based on information from some 3,969 persons convicted.





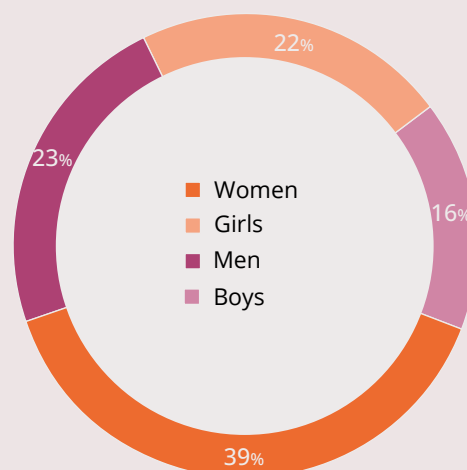
## Special Point of Interest

*Women and girls continue to make up the majority of victims detected worldwide.*

In 2022, 61 per cent of trafficking victims detected worldwide were female. Adults continue to be the most detected age group, and adult females make up 39 per cent of all detected victims. At the same time, girls make up a significant 22 per cent of the total detected victims.

The majority of women and girls identified among victims continue to be trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. However, female victims are also trafficked in large numbers for forced labour, particularly for domestic work, and for other types of exploitation, including forced marriages and forced criminality.

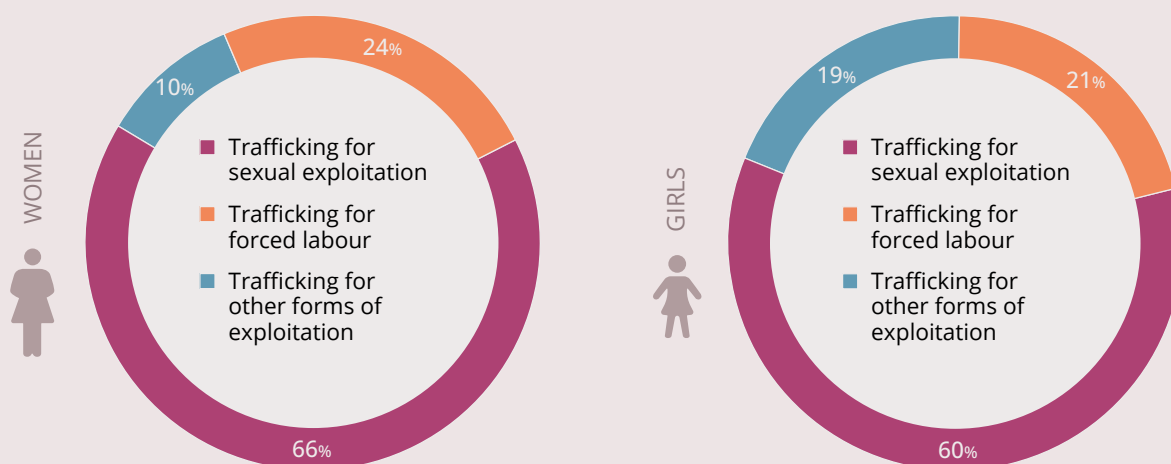
**Fig. 9** Share of detected victims of trafficking, by age group and sex, 2022 (or most recent)\*



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

\* Extrapolation based on a total of 68,836 victims detected in 135 countries in 2022 (or most recent), comprising 65 per cent of the world population, reporting on this indicator.

**Fig. 10** Share of detected female victims of trafficking, by form of exploitation, 2022 (or most recent)\*



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

\* Based on a total of 19,512 woman and 8,957 girl victims detected in 81 countries and territories in 2022 (or most recent).



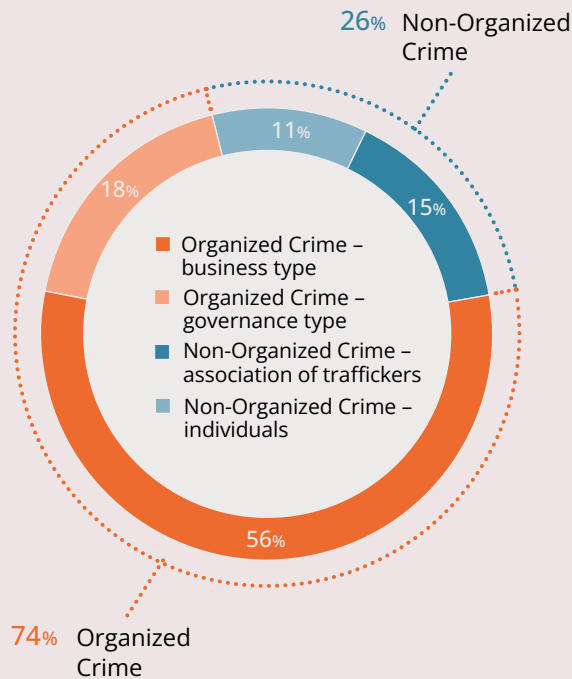
## Special Point of Interest

*Most trafficking in persons is perpetrated by organized crime groups operating in business or governance types of structures.*

Most traffickers operate within organized groups. Based on the analysis of 942 court case summaries, 74 per cent of the 3,121 traffickers involved in these cases operated as groups and networks loosely connected in a business-type criminal relation or as structured criminal organizations rooted in the

territories. Non-organized criminals account for about 26 per cent of traffickers convicted. Compared to non-organized traffickers, organized crime groups traffic more victims.

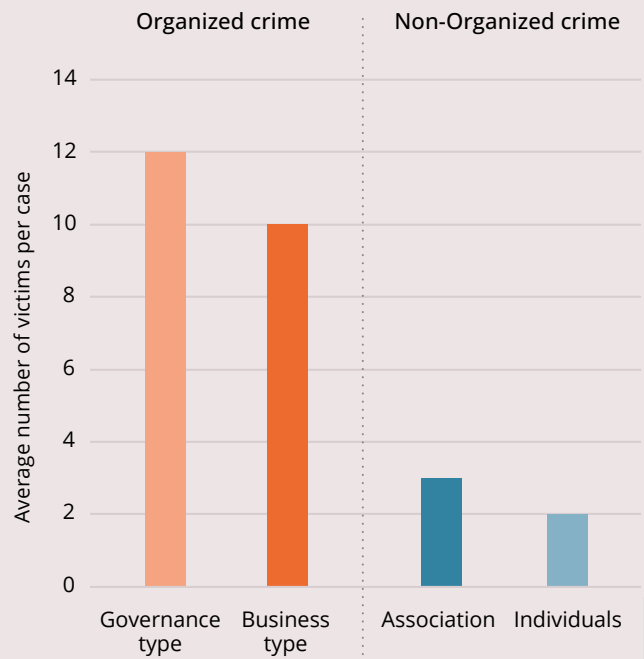
**Fig. 11** Share of type of traffickers' structure reported in case narratives, by number of individuals convicted\*



Source: UNODC elaboration of court case summaries

\* Based on information on 3,121 traffickers convicted in 942 court case summaries.

**Fig. 12** Average number of victims reported in case narratives, by type of traffickers' structure\*



Source: UNODC elaboration of court case summaries.

\* Based on information on 5,451 traffickers convicted in 961 court case summaries.

In 2022, men accounted for about 70 per cent globally of those investigated, prosecuted and convicted of trafficking in persons. Women accounted for around 25-30 per cent, while children were rarely reported as offenders.

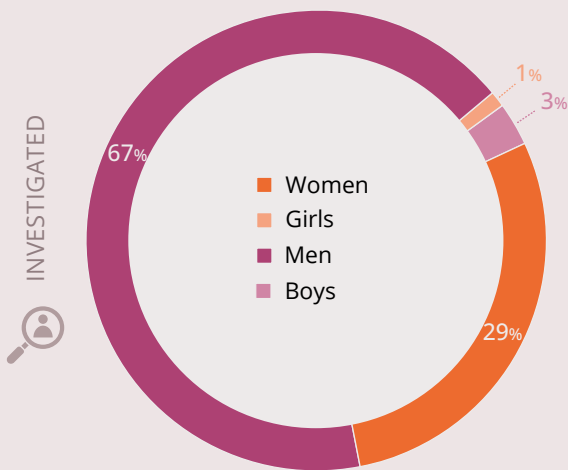


**Most trafficking in persons is perpetrated by organized crime groups operating in business or governance types of structure.**

Women's involvement in perpetrating trafficking varies considerably depending on the structure of the criminal organization. Most cases of trafficking carried out by organized crime groups involved both men and women traffickers working together.

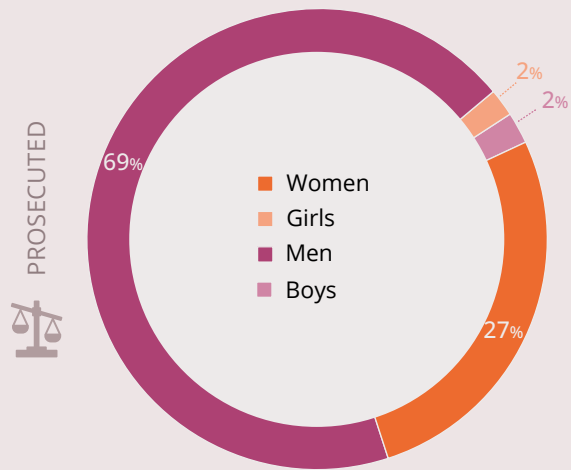
Based on the cases analyzed, when the trafficker was the intimate partner of the victim, it was more likely that the trafficker was a man. Women were more likely to be the trafficker when the trafficking was perpetrated by a parent.

**Fig. 13** Share of persons investigated for trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, 2022 (or most recent)\*



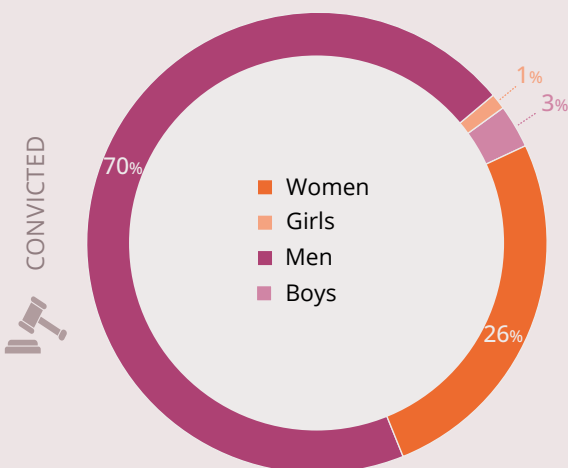
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.  
\* Based on data on sex and age of 13,027 persons investigated in 91 countries.

**Fig. 14** Share of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, 2022 (or most recent)\*



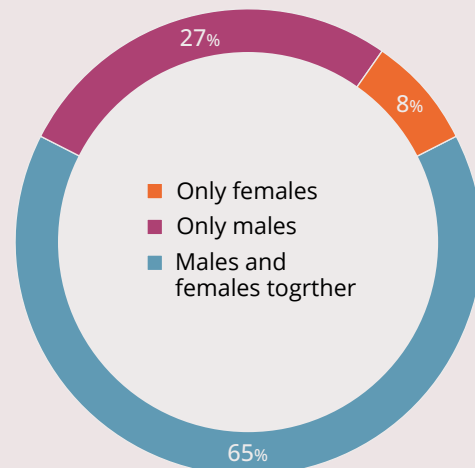
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.  
\* Based on data on sex and age of 8,376 persons prosecuted in 98 countries.

**Fig. 15** Share of persons convicted for trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, 2022 (or most recent)\*



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.  
\* Based on data on sex and age of 3,633 persons convicted in 111 countries.

**Fig. 16** Share of court cases involving organized crime groups, by sex composition of the members of the group\*



Source: UNODC GLOTIP Court Case Summaries  
\* Based on the narratives of 118 court case summaries reporting on 893 traffickers.





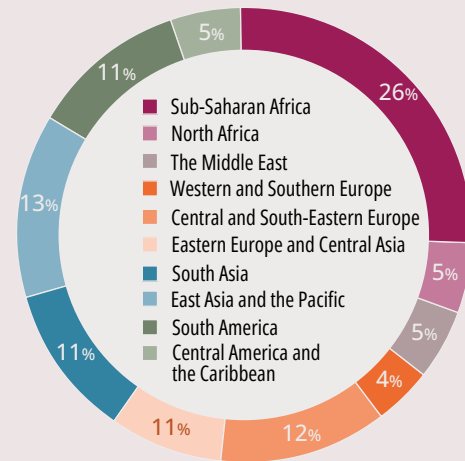
## Special Point of Interest

*Victims are trafficked globally through an increasing number of international routes, with African victims trafficked to the highest number of destinations.*

In 2022, UNODC recorded at least 162 different nationalities that were trafficked to 128 different countries of destination. Of the total cross-border flows detected, 31 per cent involve citizens of African countries, making Africa the trafficking origin with the most destinations both within and outside the region, mainly directed to Europe and to the Middle East.

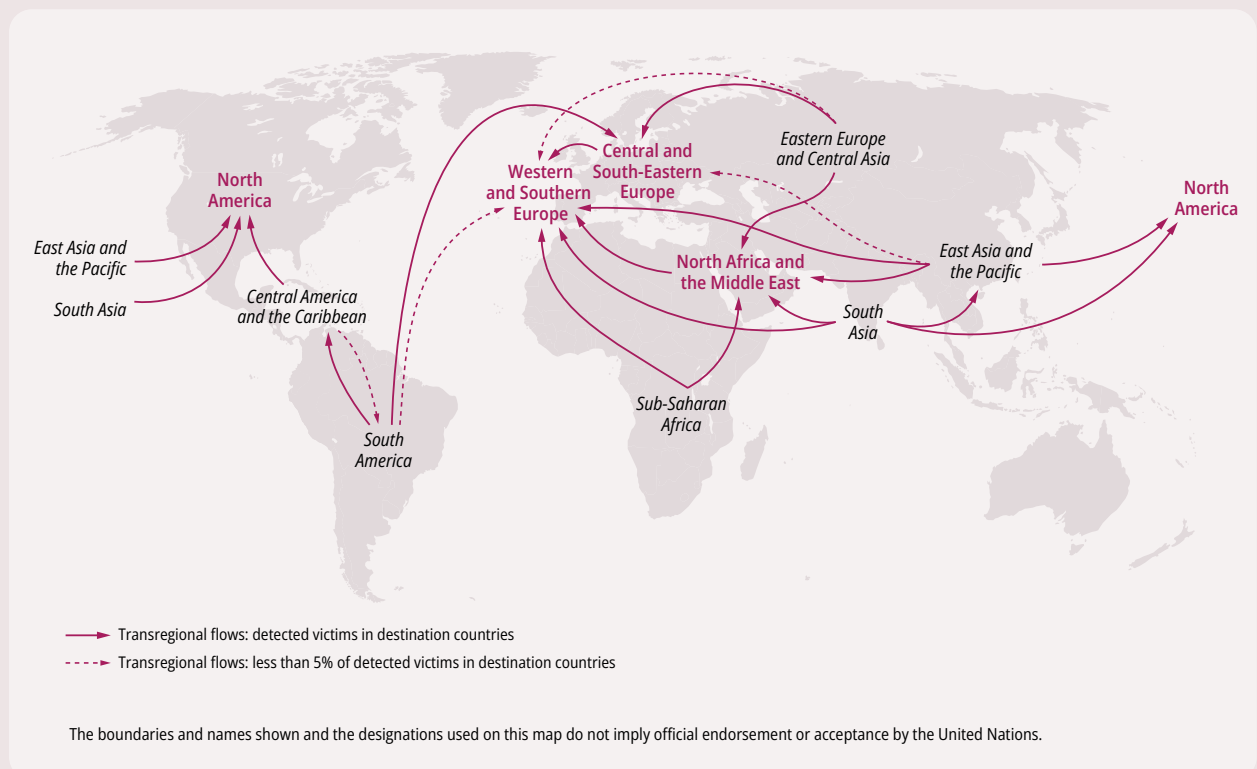
Victims from East Asia and from South Asia are detected in countries in all regions of the world, suggesting these flows have a global reach. Trafficking out of Europe and out of Latin America tend to remain within limited geographical reach.

**Fig. 17** Share of detected cross-border trafficking flows by origin of victims, 2022 (or most recent)\*



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

**Map. 1** Main detected transregional flows, 2022 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.



## Special Point of Interest

*Displacement, insecurity and climate change are exacerbating the vulnerability of Africans to fall victim to being trafficked.*

Among the many factors that drive trafficking in persons, armed conflicts, climate change and the related displacement appear to be impacting trafficking patterns in Africa.

African countries have significantly increased efforts to tackle the problem of trafficking in persons, as shown by the sustained and significantly increasing number of legislations adopted and convictions recorded throughout the continent. However, the criminal justice response more typically targets small groups and individual traffickers linked to domestic trafficking and less frequently structured criminal organizations that manage international trafficking.

There are different trafficking dynamics affecting African victims. Children are typically trafficked for forced labour across short distances, remaining within their country or region, with traffickers exploiting the economic need of some families by targeting their children for forced labour. Trafficking outside Africa mainly involves the trafficking of adults for labour and sexual exploitation.

Fig. 18 Conflict, mineral resources and child trafficking in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

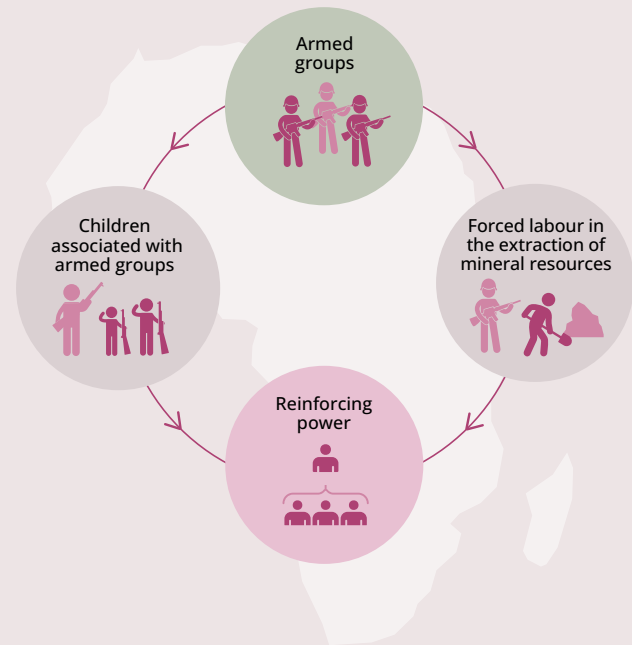
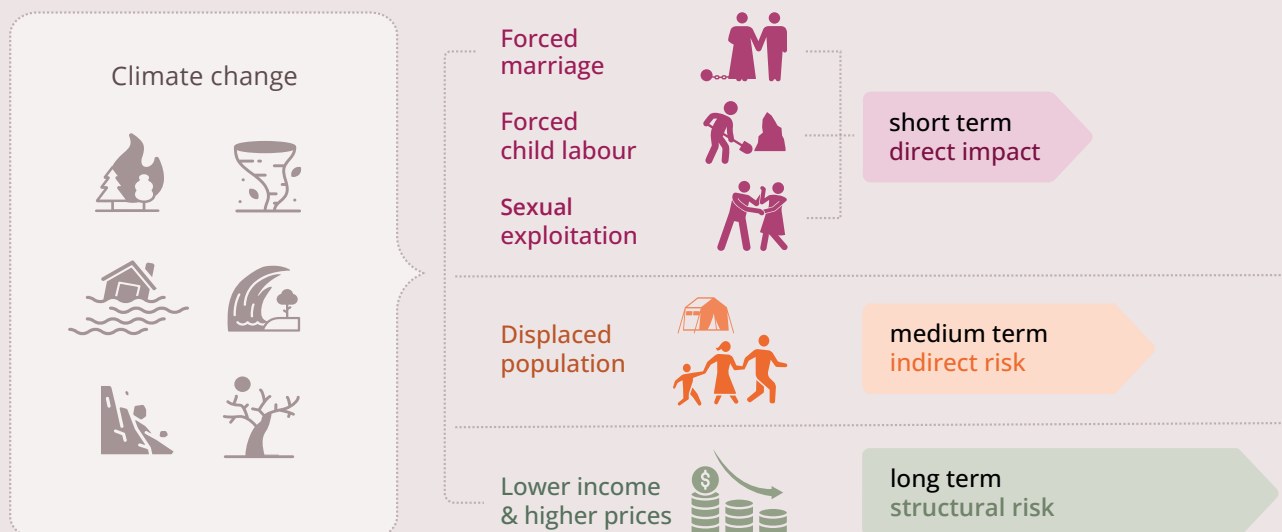


Fig. 19 Climate change can affect human trafficking in Africa on different levels:

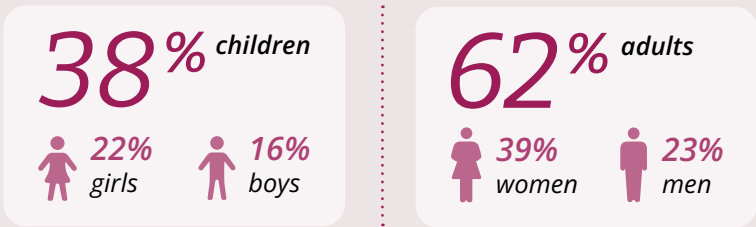


## KEY INDICATORS

### Number of detected victims



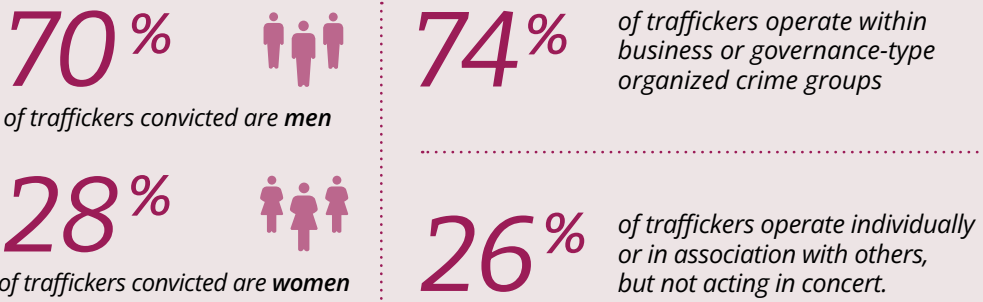
### Profiles of detected victims



### Forms of exploitation of detected victims



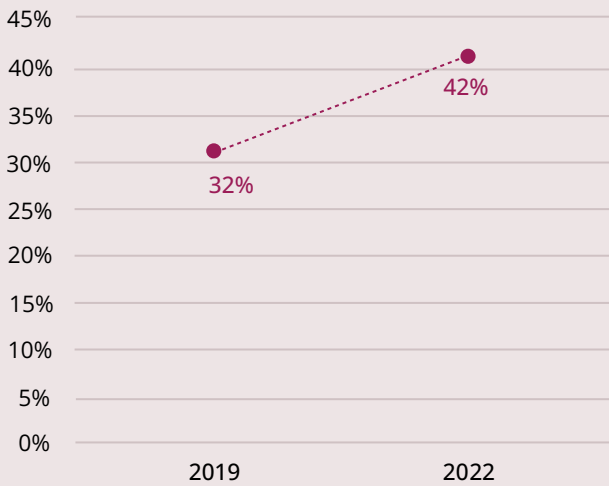
### Profiles of detected traffickers



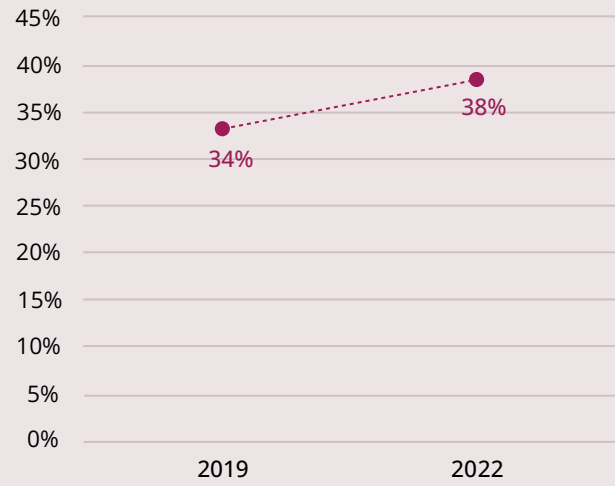


Key changes recorded in 2022 compared to 2019

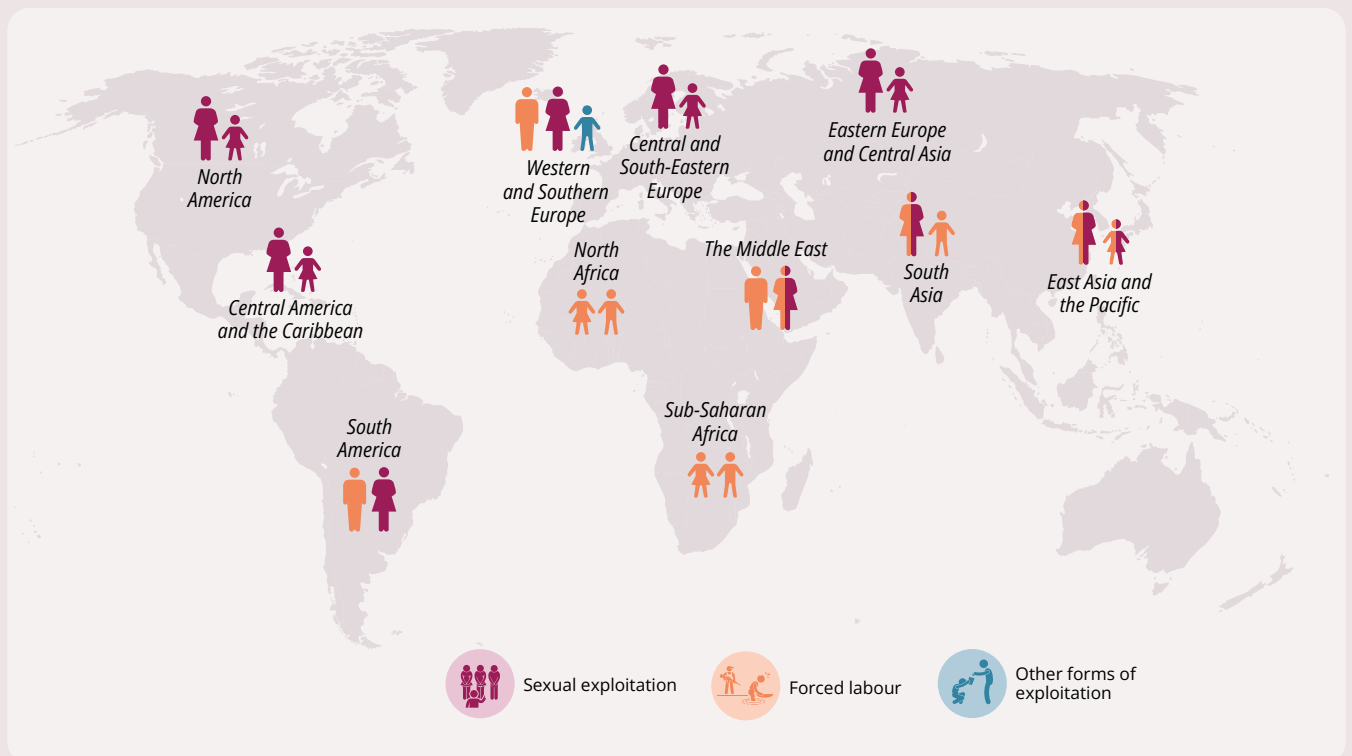
**Fig. 20** Increasing share of victims trafficked for forced labour to the total detected



**Fig. 21** Increasing share of child victims trafficked to the total detected



**Map. 2** Main detected victims and forms of exploitation



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.