UNODC’s use of Multiple Systems Estimation (MSE) to assist countries in measuring human trafficking and reporting on SDG indicator 16.2.2

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Trafficking in persons and migration

• Trafficking victims are not necessarily migrants, but migration – such as participation in ‘mixed migration flows’ – might increase a person’s vulnerability to being trafficked.

• Detected cross-border trafficking flows often resemble regular migration flows (GLOTIP 2016).
The UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol

- Also known as the ‘Palermo Protocol’, it was adopted by the General Assembly along with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2000.
- Entered into force in 2003.
- Currently has 173 Parties.
- Provides a definition of trafficking in persons.
- Forms the basis for all UNODC’s normative, technical assistance and research work on trafficking in persons.
UNODC data collection on trafficking

• UNODC carries out global data collection for the biennial *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*

• Nearly all the data is official national data contributed by Member States

• Database includes information on more than 200,000 detected victims and 40,000 offenders
However, data on detected victims cannot reveal magnitude

“Hidden figure” - trafficking that takes place but is not detected
Multiple Systems Estimation (MSE)

- MSE is a variant of capture-recapture for application on at least three victim lists (registers)
- MSE can generate an estimate of the overall victim population, and through that, a rate per 100,000 required for SDG indicator 16.2.2
- If the underlying data is solid enough, MSE studies can also reveal detection patterns and trends
  - Are some victims more readily detected than others (females, minors, foreigners...)? Is this changing over time?
  - Which forms of exploitation are detected? Changes?
The present

- Hidden cases of TiP
- Detected victims of TiP

The future

- Estimation of non-detected victims
- Detected victims

MSE
Requirements for UNODC to support national MSE studies

1) A Government partner

2) Data on a minimum number of presumed victims (around 80)

3) At least three different victim lists, preferably multi-year and **disaggregated**
   - SDGI 16.2.2: sex, age, form of exploitation
   - Others: citizenship (foreign/local), location
Possible sources of victim lists

- Very much depends on the country!

**Netherlands (6)**
- National police
- Border police
- Labour inspectors
- Regional coordinators
- Treatment centres/shelters
- Others (legal service providers, immigration…)

**Ireland (3)**
- National police
- Border police (and other government agencies)
- NGOs (providing assistance to victims)

**Romania (5)**
- National police and border police
- NGOs (providing assistance to victims)
- IOM
- Foreign authorities (mainly law enforcement)
- Others
Selected country results so far

2015

Estimated victims: ~5,800

Of these, observed victims: ~1,150

Victimization rate per 100,000: 37

UNODC/Dutch National Rapporteur (2017)
Population estimates: other countries

**Serbia:** UNODC/Center for Human Trafficking Victims Protection (2018)

**Ireland:** UNODC/AHTU, Department of Justice and Equality (2018)
Disaggregated results

Blue line: Adults for sexual exploitation
Red line: Children for sexual exploitation
Pink line: Adults for non-sexual exploitation
Green line: Children for non-sexual exploitation

UNODC/Dutch National Rapporteur (2017)