

The following countries are covered in this section: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Any missing information concerning the region was either not available or not accessed by UNODC.



## Afghanistan

### Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons does not exist in the legislation of Afghanistan. A draft law on trafficking in persons was expected to be submitted to Parliament in 2008.

### Criminal justice response

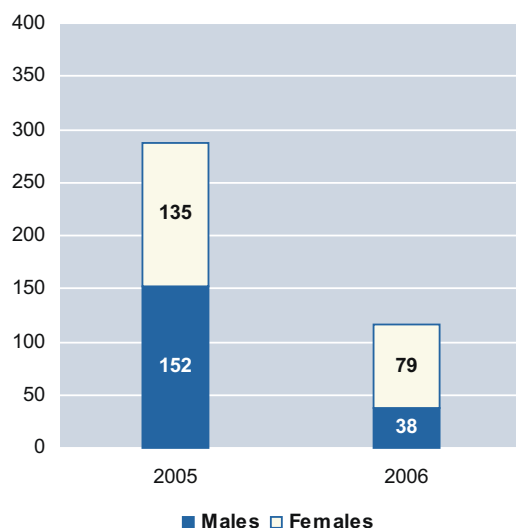
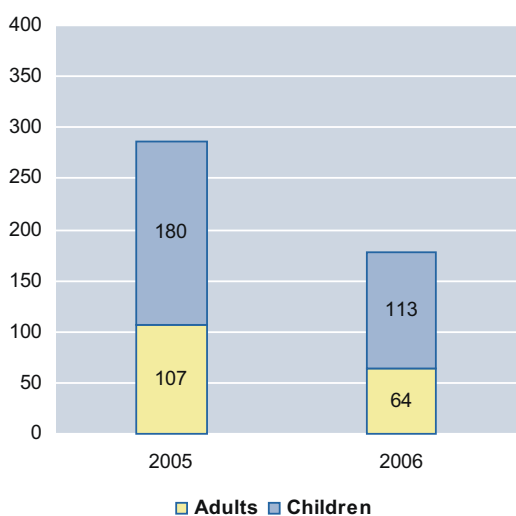
Special units to combat trafficking in persons were created within the police departments in all provinces in Afghanistan. In practice, these units so far have dealt mainly with kidnapping. A new anti-trafficking section within the Criminal Investigation Directorate was established as a coordinating body in 2007.

Due to the absence of a specific law, no prosecutions and no convictions were recorded in Afghanistan for trafficking in persons during the reporting period. The criminal justice system has used various articles of the penal code to prosecute some forms of trafficking in persons, including the kidnapping of minors. About 370 persons – 315 men and 55 women – were convicted of trafficking-related offences in 2005, and 393 persons – 371 men and 22 women – were convicted of trafficking-related offences in 2006.

### Services provided to victims

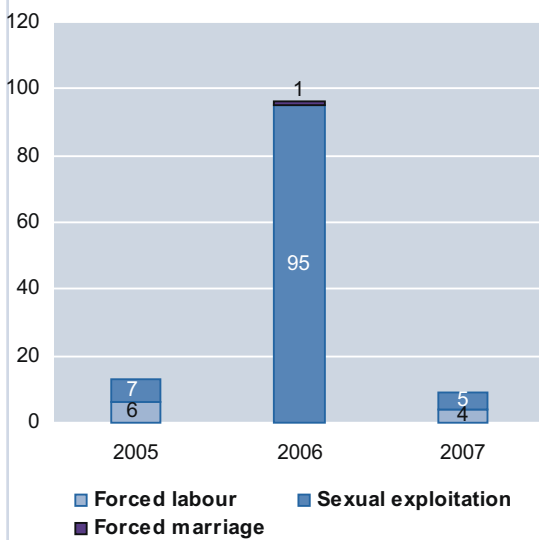
The State provides legal consultation and advocacy, medical and psychological support, and treatment as well as clothing and transportation. Local NGOs and international organizations, such as IOM, provide legal assistance, housing and shelter, and medical and psychosocial support.

Fig. 165: Victims of offences related to trafficking in persons identified by State authorities in Afghanistan, by age and gender (2005-2006)



Source: Criminal Investigation Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior

**Fig. 166: Victims of trafficking in persons sheltered by IOM in Afghanistan, by form of exploitation (2005-2007)**

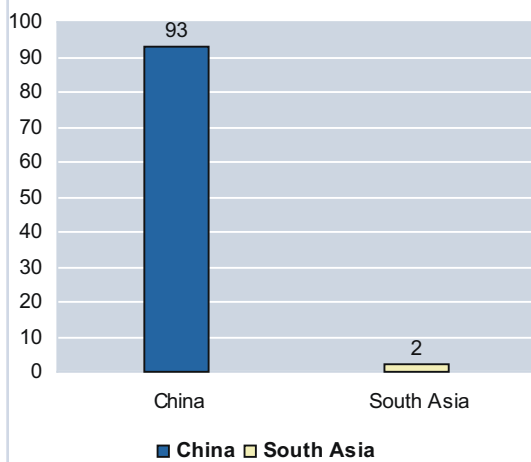


Source: IOM-Kabul

### Additional information

A referral mechanism for victims of trafficking was established and includes the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. These ministries refer cases to IOM in order to provide victims with the necessary assistance. The Ministry of Women’s Affairs has four shelters to accommodate women in situations of distress. IOM is opening a shelter for child victims of trafficking in 2008.

**Fig. 167: Victims of trafficking in persons sheltered by IOM in Afghanistan, by country of citizenship (2006)**



Source: IOM-Kabul

## Bangladesh

### Institutional framework

The Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act was introduced in Bangladesh in 1933. The law that is most widely used in the context of human trafficking, the Prevention of Repression against Women and Children Act (2000), deals only with the trafficking of women and children for prostitution and other 'immoral' purposes. The Government of Bangladesh established action plans for the protection of children, including trafficking in children: the National Plan of Action for Children 2004-2009 and the National Plan of Action Plan against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children.

### Criminal justice response

The Police Monitoring Cell for Combating Trafficking in Women and Children in the Bangladesh police headquarters was established in 2004. This law enforcement body consists of a team of about 15 police officers collecting information and statistics related to trafficking.

### Services provided to victims

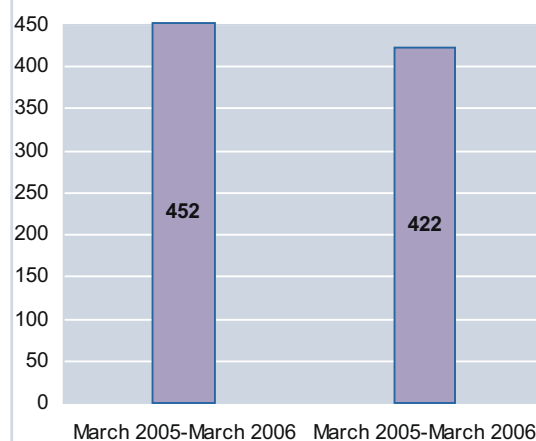
State authorities and NGOs provide legal protection, medical and psychosocial support, housing and shelter as well as rehabilitation and vocational training for victims of trafficking in persons.

According to the "Bangladesh Country Report on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children", 208 victims of trafficking in persons were identified by State authorities. These victims included 96 women, 86 children and 17 men.

Four NGOs provided information concerning victims of trafficking sheltered in Bangladesh during the reporting period. The Association for Community Development (ACD) reportedly sheltered from 20 to 30 victims of trafficking in persons per year between 2003 and 2007. The victims were males and females in approximately

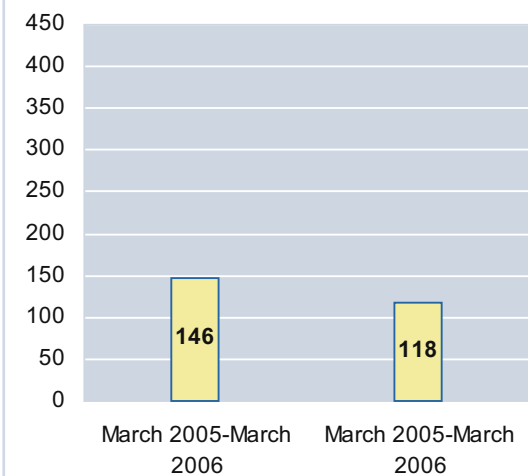
equal proportion. The Thengamar Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS) sheltered about 81 victims in three years (2005-2007), and the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) sheltered 60 victims in 2006. The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) sheltered 15,000 female victims of sexual abuse, including trafficking

Fig. 168: Persons accused of trafficking in persons in Bangladesh (March 2005-March 2007)



Source: Police Monitoring Cell

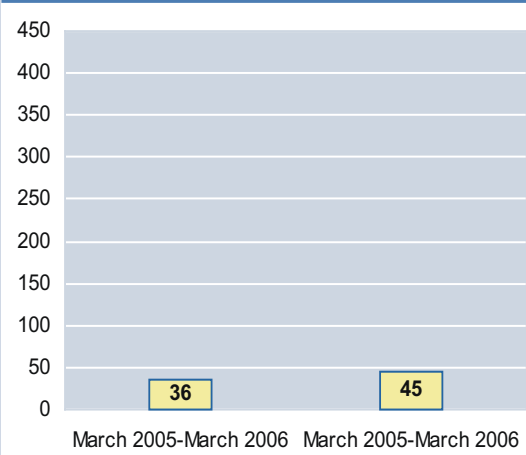
Fig. 169: Persons arrested for trafficking in persons in Bangladesh (March 2005-March 2007)



Source: Police Monitoring Cell

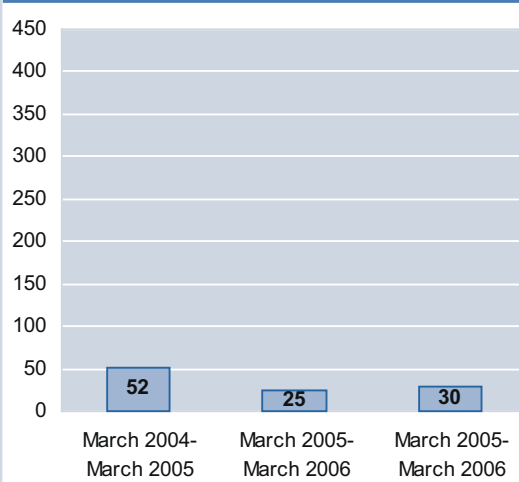
victims, in three years (2005-2007). Most of the ACD and DAM victims sheltered in 2005 and 2006 were trafficked to the border belt areas of Bangladesh, and fewer were trafficked to India.

**Fig. 170: Persons convicted for trafficking in persons in Bangladesh (March 2005-March 2007)**



Source: Police Monitoring Cell

**Fig. 171: Cases of trafficking in persons in Bangladesh concluded with a conviction (March 2004-March 2007)**



Source: Police Monitoring Cell

## Bhutan

### Institutional framework

Since 2004, the Penal Code of Bhutan (Section 154) classifies trafficking a person “for any purpose” as an offence.

New provisions under the proposed Immoral Trafficking Act are to be endorsed by the National Assembly. A draft National Plan of Action on Gender with a section specifically dealing with violence against women was pending with the competent authorities in 2008.

### Criminal justice response

The Royal Bhutan Police established a Woman and Child Protection Unit in January 2006. The unit initially included 16 police officers. It was set up in Thimphu and is planned to spread its network throughout the country through women and children desks in district police stations. The unit works with NGOs and the National Commission on Women and Children (NCWC).

No investigations, prosecutions or convictions were recorded for trafficking in persons in Bhutan from 2003 to 2006.

### Services provided to victims

State authorities, NGOs and international organizations provide legal protection, medical and psychosocial support, and housing and shelter for victims of trafficking in persons.

There are some shelter homes run by large NGOs that can technically house trafficking victims. According to the NGO Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women (RENEW), there is one temporary shelter home for emergency protection for adolescent girls and women victims of violence and abuse, which provides counseling and care services. The total capacity of this home is eight to 10 women. Since its establishment, the home has provided services to 49 vulnerable persons/victims of abuse and violence, including two victims of trafficking. In addition to this shelter, another bigger home is in the planning stages with support from the Government of India. Also a crisis centre was under construction in 2007.

# India

## Institutional framework

The Constitution of India specifically prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labour, and India passed a law criminalizing human trafficking in 1956. The Immoral Traffic in Girls Act was significantly amended in 1978 and renamed the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA). The ITPA is the primary legislation in the country dealing with human trafficking. A new Immoral Traffic Prevention Bill was drafted in 2006.

Apart from the ITPA, a number of sections under the Indian Penal Code are used to punish crimes related to trafficking, such as selling or buying of a minor for prostitution, procuring a minor girl, importation of a girl below 22 years of age and others.

Each state government in India has legislative power and has policies in place for combating human trafficking, as per the requirements of the central anti-trafficking acts, but policy status and implementation varies from state to state. For instance, in 2003 the Indian State of Goa passed the Goa Children's Act criminalizing child trafficking. At national level, in 1998, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) developed a National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children. The Ministry of Labour developed a Protocol on Prevention, Rescue, Repatriation and Rehabilitation of Trafficked and Migrant Child Labour in 2008.

## Criminal justice response

The police force in India is part of the individual states. Each state has designated nodal police officers who act as the point persons on the issue of human trafficking. In 2007, some states set up Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs). These units, consisting of an integrated team of approximately seven persons including police officers, NGO personnel and counsellors, are designated to respond to crimes related to human trafficking. So far, these AHTUs have been established in the four states of Andhra Pradesh,

Bihar, Goa and West Bengal.

In addition, about 50 to 100 convictions per year were recorded under the Child Marriage Restraint Act between 2003 and 2006.

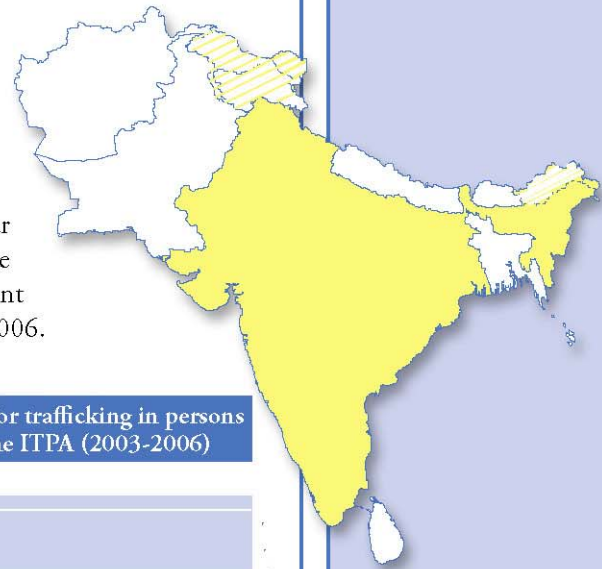
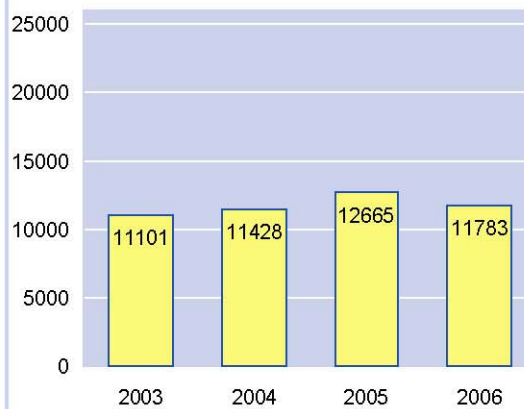
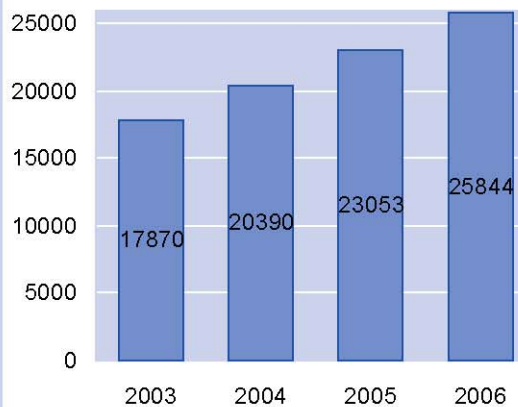


Fig. 172: Persons arrested for trafficking in persons in India, under the ITPA (2003-2006)



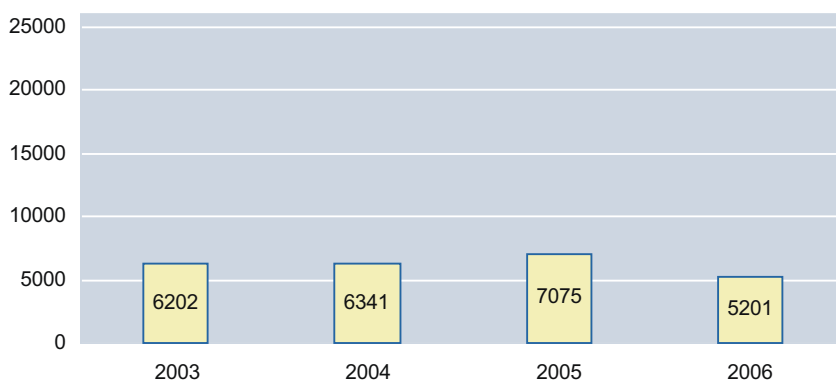
Source: National Crime Records Bureau

Fig. 173: Persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in India, under the ITPA (2003-2006)



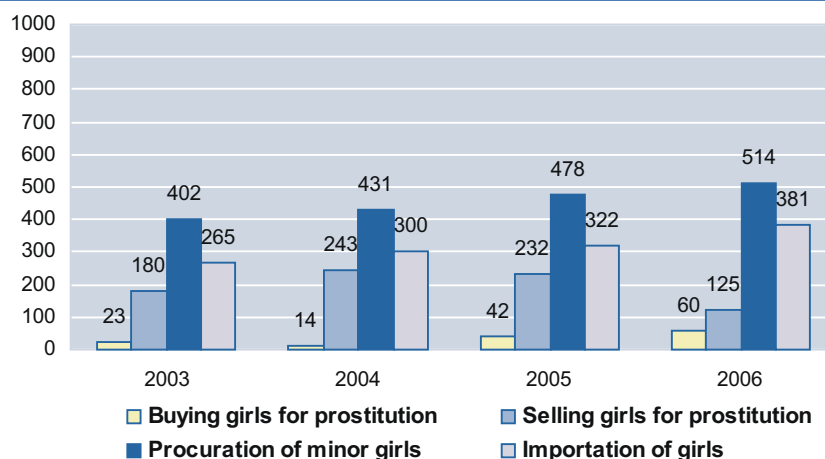
Source: National Crime Records Bureau

Fig. 174: Persons convicted for trafficking in persons in India, under the ITPA (2003-2006)



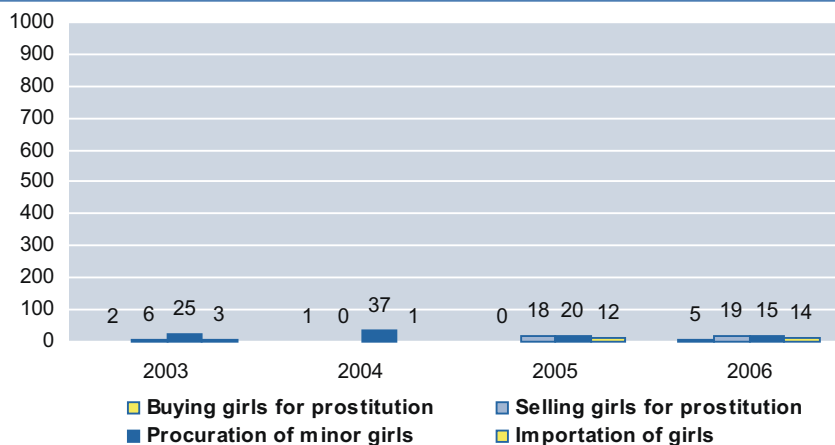
Source: National Crime Records Bureau

Fig. 175: Persons prosecuted in India for offences related to trafficking in persons, under other sections of the penal code (2003-2006)



Source: National Crime Records Bureau

Fig. 176: Persons convicted in India for offences related to trafficking in persons, under other sections of the penal code(2003-2006)



Source: National Crime Records Bureau

## Services provided to victims

Under various government programmes, legal protection, medical and psychosocial support, shelter, education and training, and rehabilitation are provided to victims of trafficking in persons. These services are often offered in coordination with NGOs, which implement the projects. The international agencies in the region primarily provide funding and technical support.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) in 2001-2002 launched a 'Swadhar' scheme aimed at benefiting women in difficult circumstances, including girls and women victims of trafficking. According to the MWCD, 300 to 500 Swadhar and short-stay homes gave shelter to more than 20,000 women in need, including trafficking victims, in all of India during the reporting period. In 2005, the number of women taken care of was about 26,000 and in 2006, the number was 21,000. The services in a number of these homes are provided by NGOs or NGOs run the homes under these schemes. In addition to these government homes, a number of NGOs also run smaller shelters or transit facilities, but no comprehensive consolidated numbers were available from most of the state governments. Informal discussions with civil society indicated that there were inadequate shelters – both in terms of the number of homes available and the facilities available within the homes – for trafficking victims.

UNODC was able to collect some information concerning victims of trafficking for a few Indian states as shown in the following charts. This information is not meant to be exhaustive and does not represent the situation for the entire country.

## Additional information

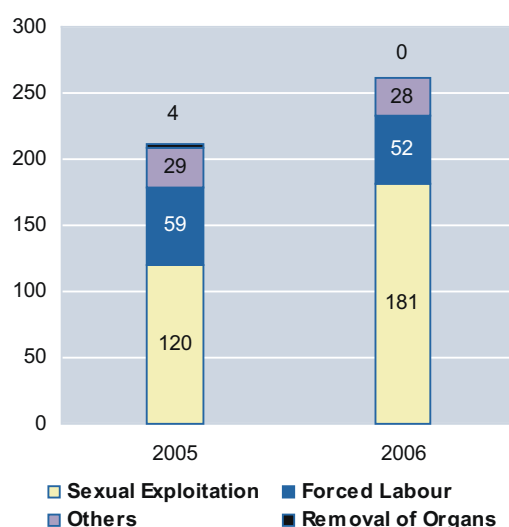
The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was established in 1986 and is the central agency responsible for the maintenance of crime-related records at the national level. The NCRB receives information from the various State Crime Records Bureaus and other relevant agencies.

The information is compiled, analysed and published in the form of annual reports.

As far as the data on victims of trafficking in persons are concerned, not all states have formal mechanisms in place for referring identified trafficking victims to the relevant agencies that provide support services; however, there are informal mechanisms in some cases.

There is no centralized database of victims of trafficking. Some states have stored information under this heading, consisting of the numbers of trafficking victims in state (government) shelter homes, while others have a combination of figures from various homes, beneficiaries of various government schemes and information received from the police on victims rescued.

Fig. 177: Victims of trafficking in persons sheltered in Andhra Pradesh, by form of exploitation (2005-2006)



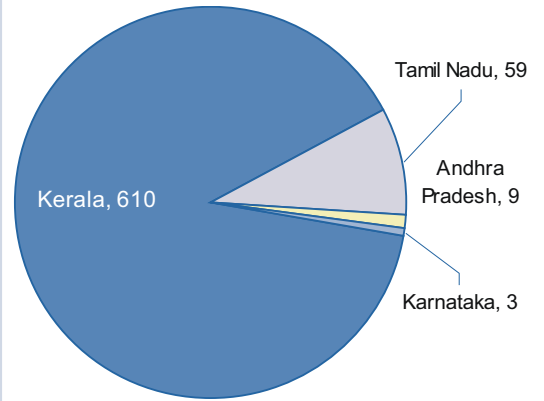
Source: Department of Women Development and Child Welfare, NGO CARD and NGO Strhee

Fig. 178: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by authorities in Kerala, by form of exploitation (2005-2006)



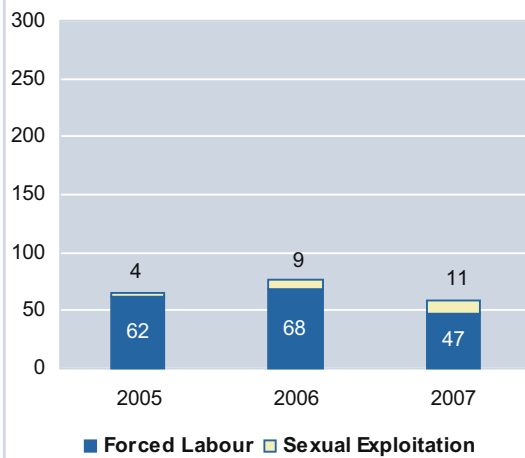
Source: Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Kerala

Fig. 180: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by authorities in Kerala, by area of origin (2005-2006)



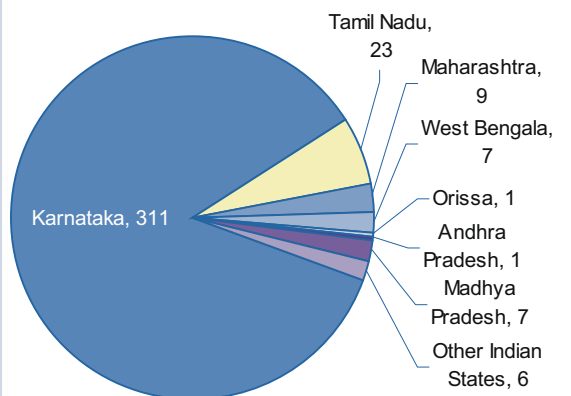
Source: Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Kerala

Fig. 179: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by authorities in Karnataka, by form of exploitation (2005-2007)



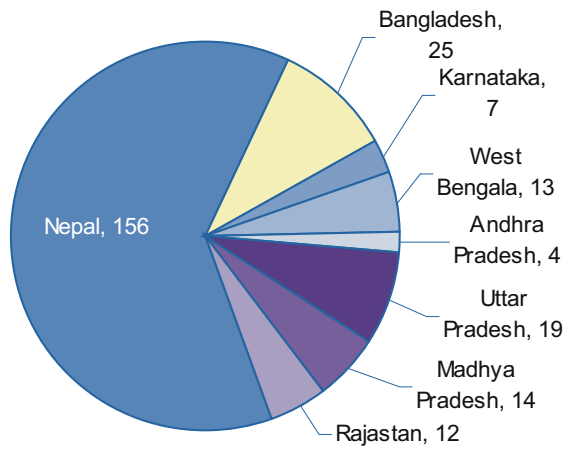
Source: Karnataka Women and Child Development Department

Fig. 181: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by authorities in Karnataka, by area of origin (2005-2006)



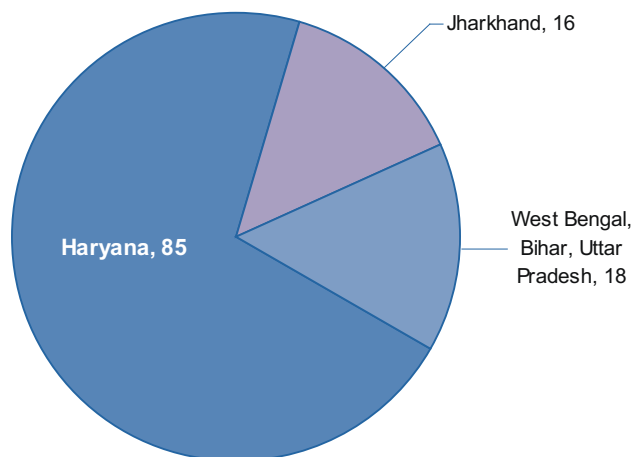
Source: Karnataka Women and Child Development Department

Fig. 182: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by authorities in Maharashtra, by area of origin (2005-2007)



Source: Commission of Women and Child Development, Pune, Maharashtra

Fig. 183: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by authorities in Haryana, by area of origin (2005-2006)



Source: Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Haryana

## Maldives

### Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons does not exist in the national legislation of the Maldives. There is a law in place that bars children below the age of 14 from paid or hazardous work. In addition, sexual exploitation and prostitution is illegal and subject to stringent religious and societal sanctions.

### Criminal justice response

All major investigative crimes, including possible human trafficking episodes, are handled by the Serious Crimes Unit.

Because of the absence of a specific provision on human trafficking, no prosecutions or convictions were recorded for trafficking in persons during the reporting period. According to the Maldives police, the number of sexual offences reported over the past six years ranged between 80 and 422 cases.

### Services provided to victims

There are no specific programmes for the protection and support of victims of trafficking. However, there are programmes that deal generally with victims of violence.

## Nepal

### Institutional framework

The Human Trafficking Control Act was established in Nepal in 1986. The Parliament of Nepal passed a new law, the Human Trafficking (Control) Act, in 2007. This 2007 Act is deemed to be more comprehensive and incorporates provisions for the protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking. In addition to the Human Trafficking (Control) Act, other laws can be used to punish various forms of trafficking exploitation, like forced labour, slavery and bonded labour. The National Plan of Action (NPA) against Trafficking in Children and Women for Sexual and Labour Exploitation was developed in 1998 and approved in 1999. The NPA was reviewed in 2001 for the addition of new issues and cross-cutting themes.

### Criminal justice response

Specific law enforcement agencies against trafficking in women and children are part of the Women and Children Service Centre (WCSC), the Immigration Office, Interpol and the courts of Nepal. The WCSC, located in police headquarters in Kathmandu, also is responsible for collating information relating to crimes against women and children, including trafficking. As of February 2008, the WCSC had 128 staff at headquarters and 25 centres around the country.

### Services provided to victims

State authorities and NGOs provide legal protection, medical and psychosocial support, and housing and shelter for victims of trafficking in persons.

### Additional information

The government runs shelter homes in coordination with some of the larger NGOs. There are a number of informal mechanisms by which various agencies collaborate.

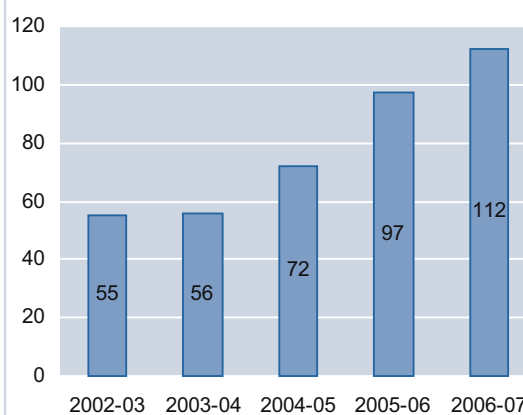
There were 29 convictions of cases of trafficking in persons in appellate courts in 2002-2003, four in 2003-2004, 11 in 2004-2005 and nine

in 2005-2006. Convictions of cases of trafficking in persons in the Supreme Court numbered 11 in 2002-2003, 17 in 2003-2004, 16 in 2004-2005 and four in 2005-2006.

There are no consolidated numbers on the nationalities of trafficking victims, but according to the National Rapporteur on Trafficking, available information indicates that almost all the victims were from Nepal. In addition, trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation was the most frequent form of exploitation recorded during the reporting period, followed by forced labour. Other forms of exploitation detected included slavery, sexual slavery and forced labour for the circus.

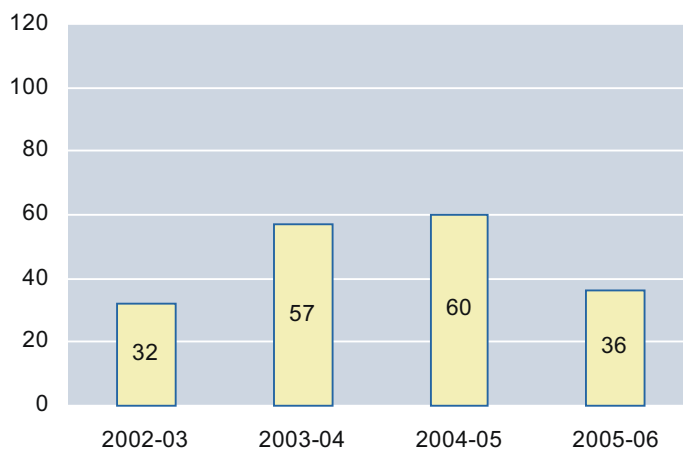


Fig. 184: Cases of trafficking in persons recorded by the police in Nepal (July 2002-July 2007)



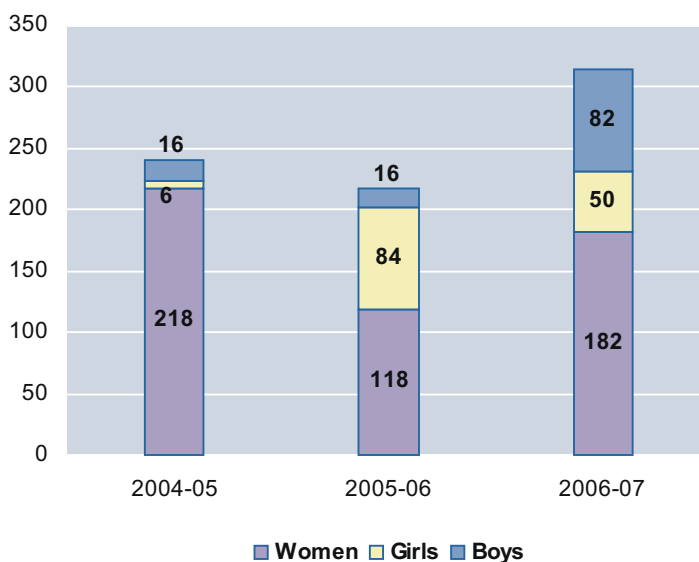
Source: WCSC, Police Headquarters

Fig. 185: Convictions of trafficking in persons in Nepal (July 2002-July 2006)



Source: Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Women and Children

Fig. 186: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by State authorities in Nepal, by gender and age (July 2004 –July 2007)



Source: WCSC, Police Headquarters

## Pakistan

### Institutional framework

Pakistan introduced the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO) in 2002 criminalizing trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, adoption and other forms of trafficking. The Pakistan National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking (NAPCHT) was adopted in 2006. The National Action Plan for Children (NAPC) also includes elements dealing with the trafficking of children.

### Criminal justice response

A specific anti-trafficking unit within the Federal Investigation Agency was established by the national action plan. In addition, an Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) consisting of all law enforcement agencies was established in 2005.

According to the Federal Investigation Agency, there have been 1,826 cases registered under the PACHTO law from 2003 to 2006. Out of these 1,826 cases, 254 were decided with 222 persons found guilty and convicted and 32 acquittals. Most of the convicted persons were Pakistanis receiving sentences ranging from a few months imprisonment up to 10 years.

### Services provided to victims

State authorities provide legal protection, temporary stay permits, medical and psychosocial support, and housing and shelter for victims of trafficking in persons. NGOs and international organizations provide medical and psychosocial support and housing and shelter.

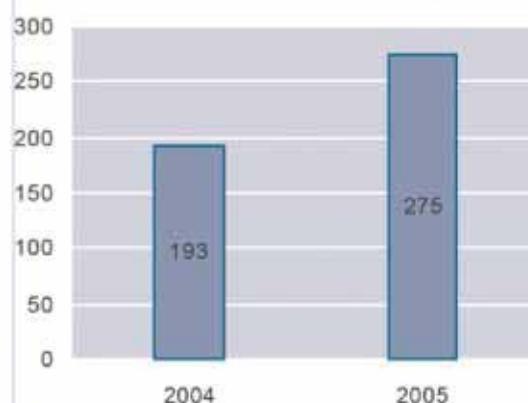
### Additional information

The NGO Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aids (LHRLA) identified 10 women and 47 children (42 males and five females) between five and 15 years of age as victims during 2001-2007. Forty-three children were trafficked to Gulf countries in the Middle East for use as

camel jockeys, and four were internally trafficked from the Punjab Province to Karachi to be used for bonded labour.

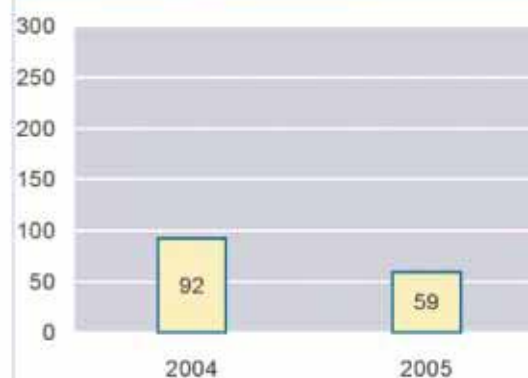


Fig. 187: Cases registered under the PACHTO law in Pakistan (2004-2005)



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Fig. 188: Number of cases registered under the PACHTO law concluding in a conviction in Pakistan (2004-2005)



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Sri Lanka

### Institutional framework

Sri Lanka has had specific provisions in place criminalizing trafficking in persons since 1995. The Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution Act was introduced in 2005 and amended in 2006 in order to criminalize all the forms of trafficking listed in Article 3 of the UN Trafficking Protocol.

### Criminal justice response

The police department has a Women and Child Bureau in Colombo. This bureau handles cases specifically dealing with women and children, including victims of trafficking in persons. According to the police department's website, there are 36 Women and Child Bureau Desks operating in Sri Lanka.

Fourteen cases of trafficking in persons were recorded by the police in 2005 and 35 were recorded in 2006. Through June 2007, 16 cases were reported for that year. There were no convictions for trafficking in persons in Sri Lanka between 2005 and June 2007.

### Services provided to victims

State authorities and NGOs provide legal protection, medical and psychosocial support, and housing and shelter for victims of trafficking in persons.

### Additional information

There are no clear statistics on the number of victims identified by State authorities. However, most (if not all) victims are Sri Lankan, according to the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment, the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and informal information from NGOs.

Shelters are available for victims of trafficking as well as for persons in general need. These shelters do not have information specifically on human trafficking victims but include all victims who might have received shelter.