

The following countries are covered in this section: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates.

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

Algeria

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons does not exist in the legislation of Algeria. According to Algerian authorities, the offences of “hiding and exchange of children”, “abuse of job authority to sexually exploit others”, “forced prostitution” and others are used to prosecute some forms trafficking in persons. A national action plan on trafficking in persons was adopted in 2006 and renewed in 2007.



Bahrain

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons was established in the Kingdom of Bahrain in January 2008. A national action plan on trafficking in persons was adopted in 2004.

Criminal justice response

A specialized Anti-Human Trafficking Police unit under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior was established after the adoption of the legislation on trafficking in persons.

Because the legislation was only adopted in 2008, the statistics used in this report refer to cases of human trafficking prosecuted under other offences, such as sexual assault, sequestration and sexual exploitation. Twelve persons were prosecuted and seven persons were convicted in 2007. Those convicted were citizens of Bahrain, of other MENA countries and South Asians.

Services provided to victims

State authorities provide legal assistance, medical and psychosocial support, housing and shelter, and temporary stay permits for victims.

Four men and four women were identified as victims of trafficking in 2007 by State authorities.

Additional information

Two residential facilities, with a capacity of 120 beds, were available to victims of human trafficking in 2007. In that same year, four women trafficked for sexual exploitation were sheltered in these facilities.

Egypt

Institutional framework

The specific offence of child trafficking was established in Egypt in June 2008. The amendments to the 1996 Child Protection Law approved by parliaments recognize trafficking in children, distinctly and exclusively, as a crime. Authorities report that other offences in the criminal code, as well as Child Protection Law of 1996, the anti-prostitution law of 1960, the labour law, and the anti-money laundering law of 2002, are used to criminalize forms of trafficking in persons. Furthermore, draft legislation on the transfer of human organs is in its final stage.

In July 2007, the Prime Minister issued a decree to form the National Coordinating Committee on Combating Human Trafficking within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The members of this committee include representatives of all relevant government authorities. One of the responsibilities of the committee is to formulate a national action plan on combating human trafficking taking into account Egypt's international obligations. A drafting committee was created, within the National Committee on Combating Human Trafficking to draft a comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation in line with the UN Trafficking Protocol.

Criminal justice response

A special unit for combating trafficking in children was established within the National Council on Motherhood and Childhood in December 2007.

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.

The statistics reported in the charts below refer to the following offences: prostitution and exploitation of women, forced labour, removal of organs, deception/employment abroad, exposing a child to delinquency, and exploitation of children. The Egyptian authorities emphasize that these statistics do not represent the full scope of trafficking in persons in Egypt. In this regard, a survey-study to accurately identify the scope, magnitude and root causes of the problem in Egypt is being undertaken by the National Centre for Social and Criminological Research in full cooperation with the national coordinating committee to combat and prevent trafficking in persons.

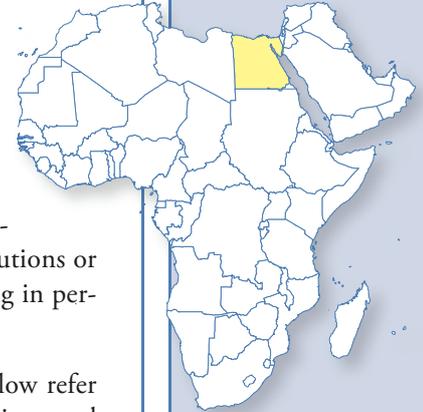
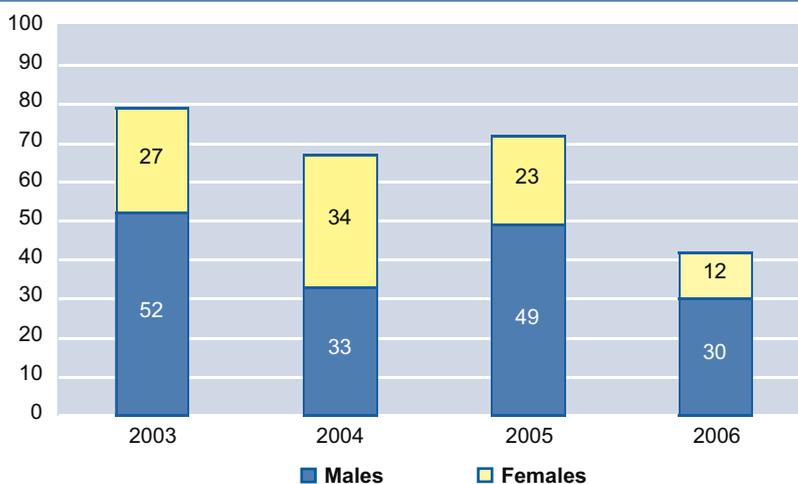
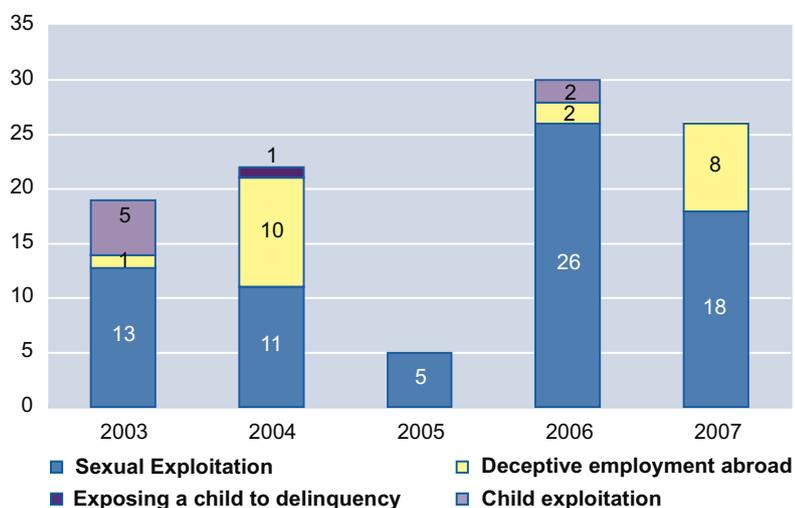


Fig. 1: Persons investigated for offences used to prosecute trafficking in persons in Egypt, by gender (2003-2006)



Source: Public Prosecution, Ministry of the Interior

Fig. 2: Cases investigated for offences used to prosecute trafficking in persons in Egypt, by offence (2003-2007)



Source: Public Prosecution, Ministry of the Interior

Services provided to the victims

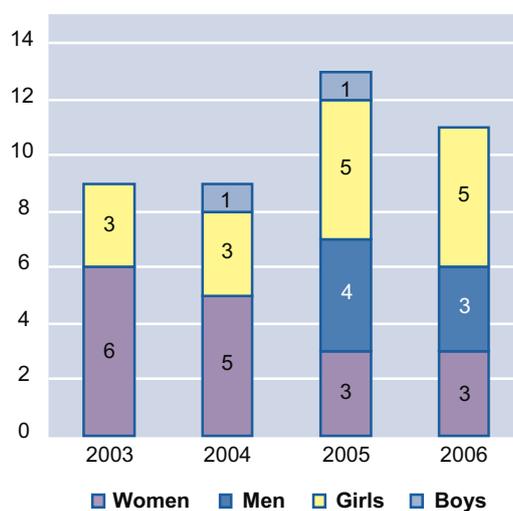
State authorities provide legal protection, medical and psychosocial support, and housing and shelter for victims. Assistance is provided through social welfare institutions that are either affiliated with the Ministry of Social Solidarity or are certified at the ministry in accordance with the Law on Child Protection and its executive statute. Local NGOs provide legal protection, and medical and psychosocial support.

The national Council for Childhood and Motherhood announced plans to launch a rehabilitation centre in the district of El-Salam that will act as a shelter for child victims of trafficking.

Additional information

In 2005 and 2006, seven persons were convicted for removal of organs.

Fig. 3: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by State authorities in Egypt, by age and gender (2003-2006)



Source: Public Prosecution, Ministry of Interior

Iraq

Institutional framework

There is no specific law in the Iraqi national legislation that criminalizes trafficking in persons, establishes it as a separate offence or defines it in line with the UN Trafficking Protocol. The Iraqi constitution criminalizes trafficking in women and children, as well as forced labour, slavery and slave trade (Article 35, Ch. II Liberties). These offences were introduced between 2003 and 2007.

Criminal justice response

There are no criminal justice statistics available on trafficking in persons in Iraq, primarily due to the absence of specific anti-trafficking legislation on which to base the collection of this type of information.



Israel

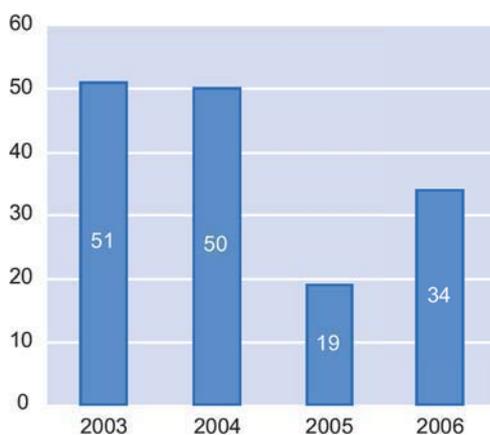
Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons was established in Israel in 2000. The criminal code was amended in October 2006 to include labour exploitation within the existing definition of human trafficking. This legislation has a wider application because it does not require the identification of the means of trafficking as is called for in the UN Trafficking Protocol. A national action plan was approved by the government in December 2007.

Criminal justice response

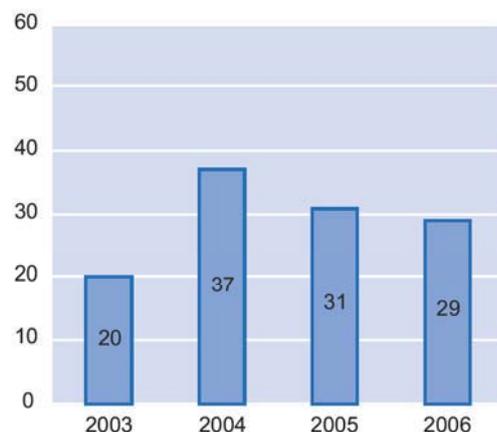
The Crime Unit in the Immigration Administration is a specialized police agency targeting the exploitation of foreign workers, including trafficking victims. According to authorities, trafficking in persons is often investigated under other offences, such as pandering, causing a person to engage in prostitution, soliciting prostitution and kidnapping. Statistics on these cases are reported separately, and the extent of trafficking cases investigated under these other offences is not known.

Fig. 4: Cases of trafficking in persons investigated in Israel (2003-2006)



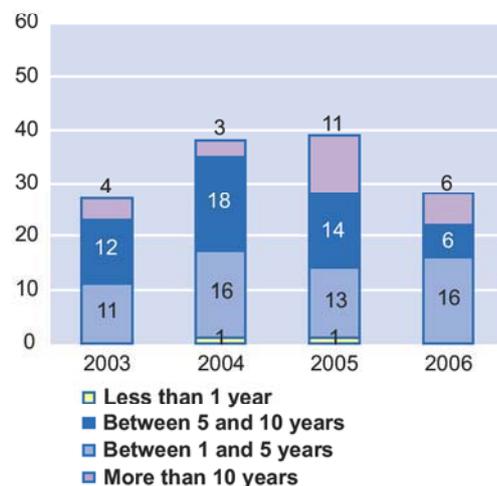
Source: National Coordinator on Human Trafficking, Police

Fig. 5: Persons convicted of trafficking in persons in Israel (2003-2006)



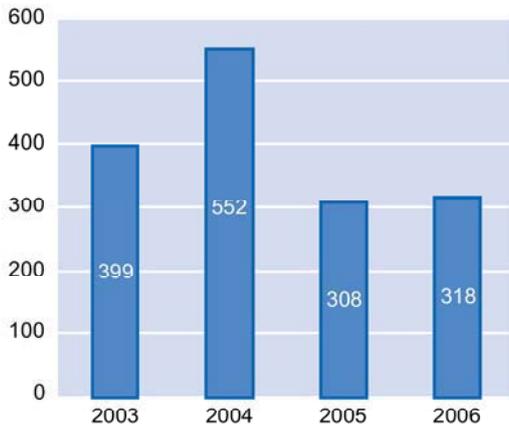
Source: National Coordinator on Human Trafficking, Police

Fig. 6: Sanctions for trafficking in persons in Israel (2003-2006)



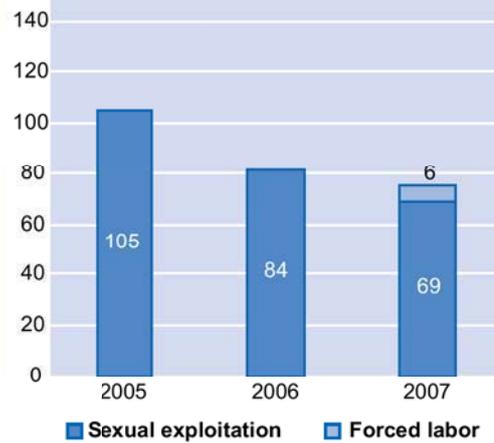
Source: National Coordinator on Human Trafficking, State Attorney's Office

Fig. 7: Trafficking-related cases investigated in Israel (2003-2006)



Source: National Coordinator on Human Trafficking, Police

Fig. 9: Victims of trafficking in persons sheltered in Israel, by type of exploitation (2005-2007)

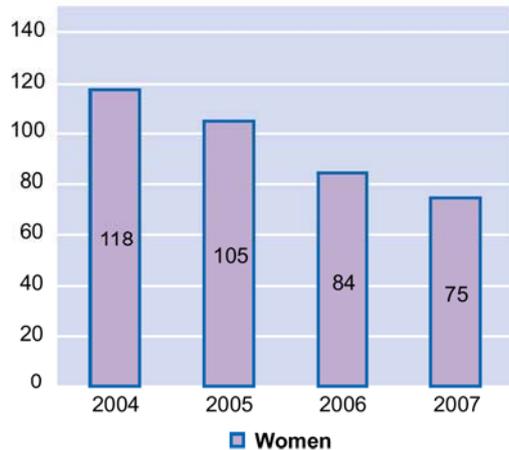


Source: Maagan Shelter

Services provided to victims

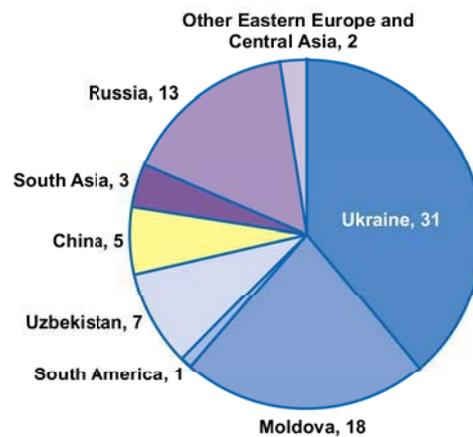
State authorities and local NGOs provide legal protection, temporary visas, medical and psychosocial support, housing and shelter, empowering programmes and job training for victims.

Fig. 8: Victims of trafficking in persons sheltered in Israel, by gender (2004-2007)



Source: Maagan Shelter

Fig. 10: Victims of trafficking in persons sheltered in Israel, by country of citizenship (2005-2006)



Source: Maagan Shelter

Additional information

All offenders convicted in 2005 and 2006 were involved in trafficking for sexual exploitation. In 2007, five victims of trafficking for the purpose of organ removal were identified by police, and two offenders were convicted of the same charge. Also in 2007, six victims of trafficking for forced labour or slavery were sheltered. These victims were all adult women from Sri Lanka, China, Nepal and Ukraine.

Morocco

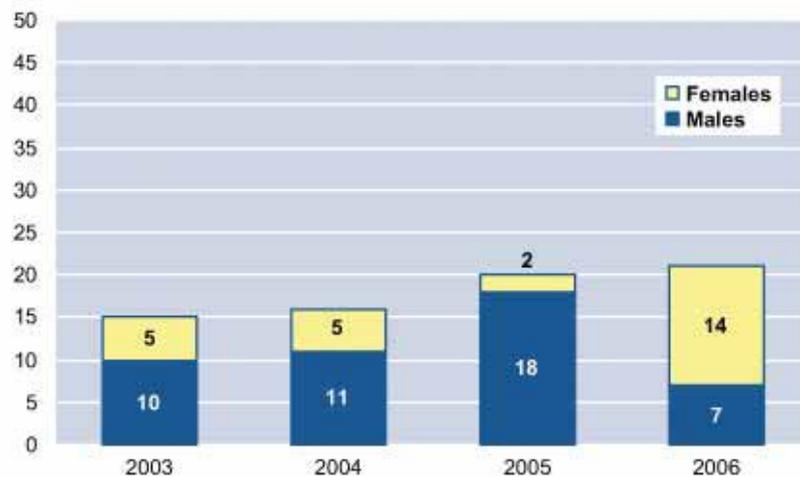
Institutional framework

Trafficking in persons is criminalized in Morocco through Article 2-274 of the criminal code, but there is no clear definition of the crime. Sexual exploitation and forced labour are criminalized through other offences included in the criminal code. A national action plan was adopted in 2007.

Criminal justice response

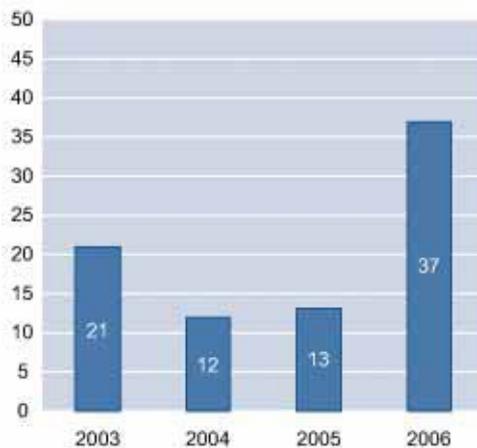
The Division to Combat Family and Public Norms-related Crimes and the Public Morals Group within the Judicial Police Department have jurisdiction over cases of trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Fig. 11: Persons suspected of trafficking in persons in Morocco, by gender (2003-2006)



Source: Division to Combat Family and Public Norms-related Crimes

Fig. 12: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by State authorities in Morocco (2003-2006)



Source: Judicial Police Department

Services provided to victims

State authorities provide legal protections, temporary visas, medical and psychosocial support, and housing and shelter.

Additional information

All identified victims were Moroccan. Just five victims a year were repatriated in 2005 and 2006, indicating that the rest were internally trafficked. These 10 victims were repatriated from the Middle East.

Oman

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons has been introduced in Oman in November 2008. According to competent authorities, the offences of exploiting prostitution or debauchery and sequestration have been used to criminalize some forms of trafficking in persons during the reporting period.

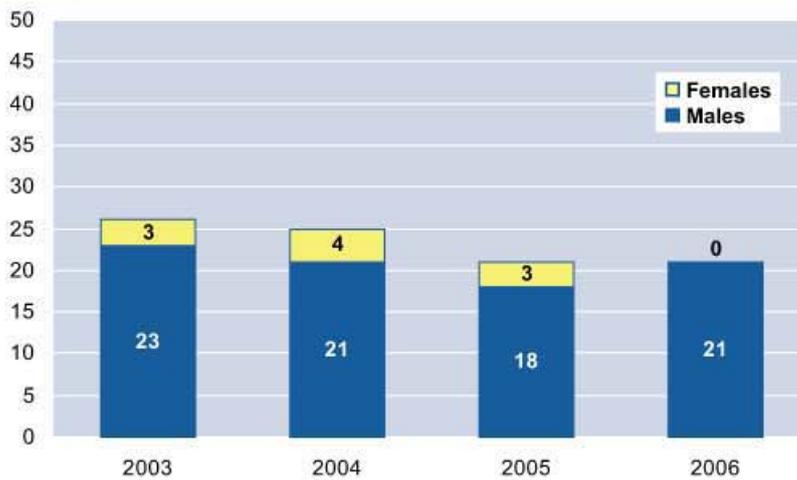
Criminal justice response

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.

The statistics reported in the following charts refer to the offences of sequestration and sexual exploitation.

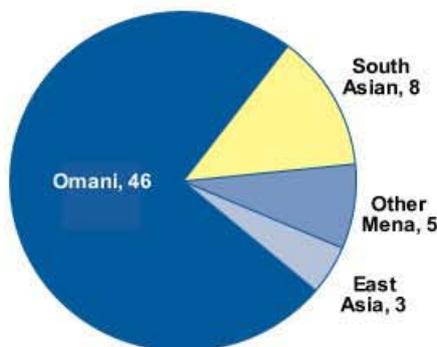


Fig. 13: Persons prosecuted for “sequestration” and “sexual exploitation” in Oman, by gender (2003-2006)



Source: Office of the Public Prosecutor of Oman

Fig. 14: Persons prosecuted for “sequestration and “sexual exploitation” in Oman, by citizenship (2005-2006)



Source: Office of the Public Prosecutor of Oman

Services provided to victims

State authorities provide repatriation of victims.

Qatar

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons does not exist in the legislation of Qatar. According to the authorities, other offences in the criminal code are used to prosecute some forms of trafficking in persons. A law on combating human trafficking has been drafted and is being debated by relevant authorities. A national action plan was last updated in 2007.

Criminal justice response

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.

About 25 men were arrested and 14 were convicted of trafficking in persons-related offences in the period 2005-2006. These offenders were mostly Qatari but some were from South Asia and other regions.

Services provided to victims

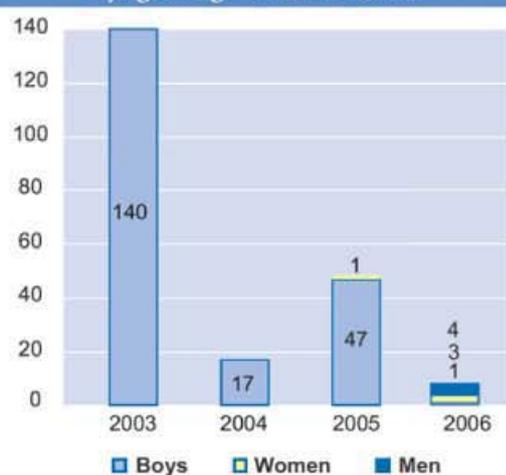
State authorities and local NGOs provide legal protection, medical and psychosocial support, housing and shelter, and temporary stay permits. Several entities are entitled to refer victims of human trafficking to institutions that offer protection. The Qatari House, established in 2005, has become the specialized institution to shelter and protect victims of human trafficking.

Additional information

All the boys identified as victims of trafficking during the reporting period were Sudanese and exploited as camel jockeys. They are being rehabilitated in Sudan by the Qatar Charity Association in cooperation with the Sudanese Childhood Council.

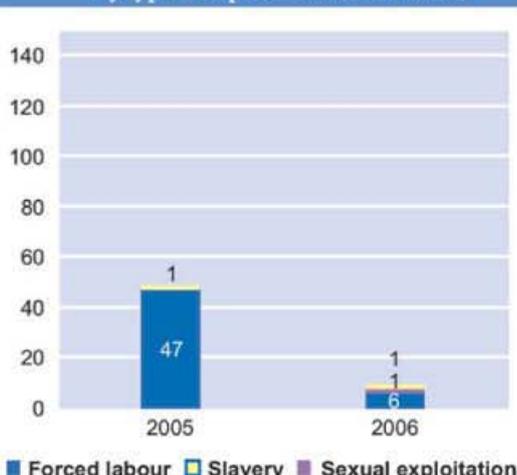
Five of the women and men identified as victims were Vietnamese and others were from other countries.

Fig. 15: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by State authorities in Qatar, by age and gender (2003-2006)



Source: National Office of Combating Trafficking in Humans

Fig. 16: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by State authorities in Qatar, by type of exploitation (2005-2006)



Source: National Office of Combating Trafficking in Humans

Sudan

Institutional framework

Sudan introduced the concept of trafficking in persons into the framework of its cyber crime legislation in 2007.

Criminal justice response

A new department for combating human trafficking was established in 2007; it is part of the Cyber Crime Department, which is affiliated with the General Department of Criminal Intelligence and Investigation. The new department's responsibilities are to combat prostitution and sexual exploitation networks, to fight human trafficking and to halt the trafficking of body organs. Fifty officers are assigned to this department.

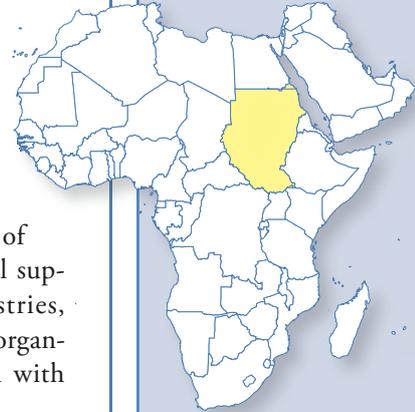
Services provided to victims

State authorities provide legal protection, housing and shelter, and medical and psychosocial support.

Additional information

The National Council for Child Care in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Welfare for Women and Children and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs collects data on cases of Sudanese nationals trafficked outside of Sudan. Other formal procedures and legal support are carried out by relevant ministries, enhancing cooperation with international organizations and NGOs and providing them with the necessary support.

The National Council for Child Care also is working in cooperation with UNICEF to establish a central database of children who were trafficked to serve as camel jockeys. Data has been collected and work on the design of the system for the database is underway. Additionally, a study was conducted to analyze and survey the situation and needs of children participating in camel races who were deported back to Sudan from Gulf countries. This study was based on a sample of 629 Sudanese boys identified as victims of trafficking for use as camel jockeys.



United Arab Emirates

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons was established in the United Arab Emirates in 2006. A national action plan was adopted in 2006 and renewed in 2008.

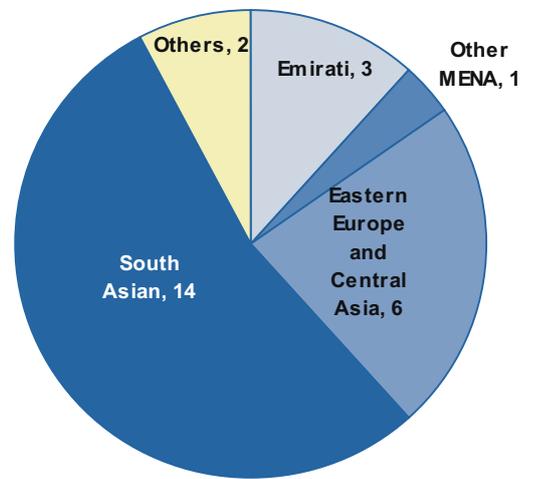
Criminal justice response

A specialized division on combating human trafficking was established in 1995 as part of the Human Rights Care Department of the Dubai Police General Headquarters. Trafficking in persons also falls under the competence of the General Department for Criminal Security of the Ministry of the Interior and the Division on Combating Organized Crime of the Criminal Investigation Department, which was established in 2006. About 150 officers are assigned to trafficking in persons and related crimes.

In 2007, at least 10 human trafficking cases were registered, and four men and two women were arrested for trafficking in persons. There have been convictions in five cases, with those convicted receiving jail terms ranging from three to 10 years.

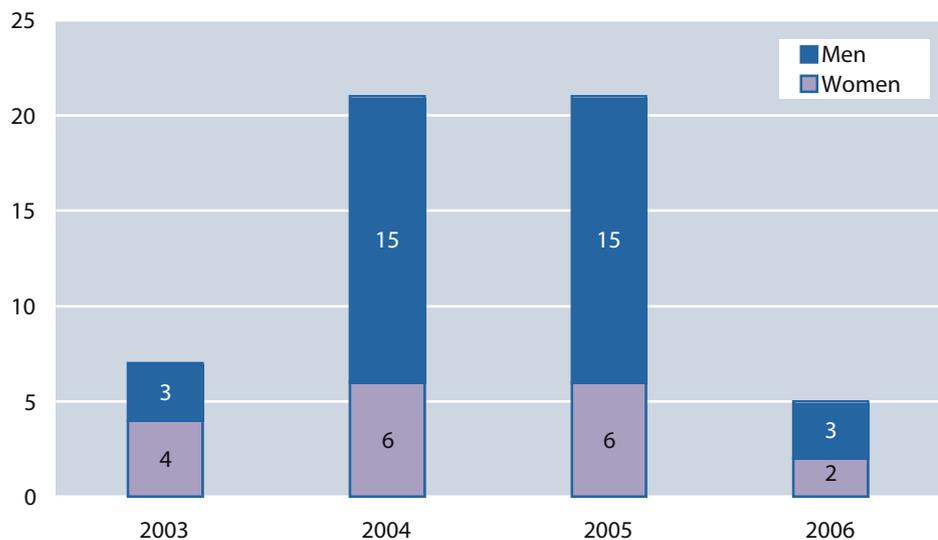
Other offences in the criminal code (sequestration, debauchery, exploitation of prostitution, slavery and others) were used to prosecute some forms of trafficking prior to 2006. The following statistics refer to these related offences.

Fig. 17: Persons convicted of trafficking in persons-related offences in the UAE, by citizenship (2005-2006)



Source: Office of the Public Prosecutor, Dubai

Fig. 18: Persons convicted of trafficking in persons-related offences in the UAE, by gender (2003-2006)

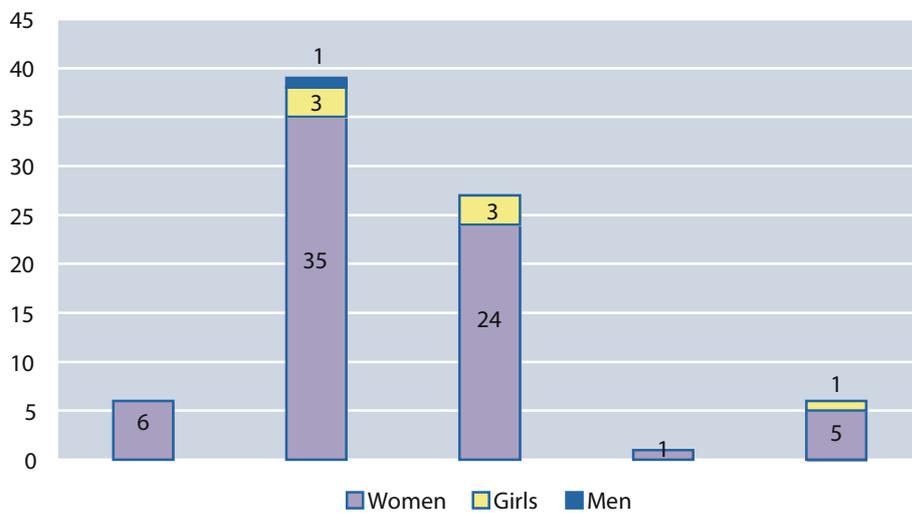


Source: Office of the Public Prosecutor, Dubai

Services provided to victims

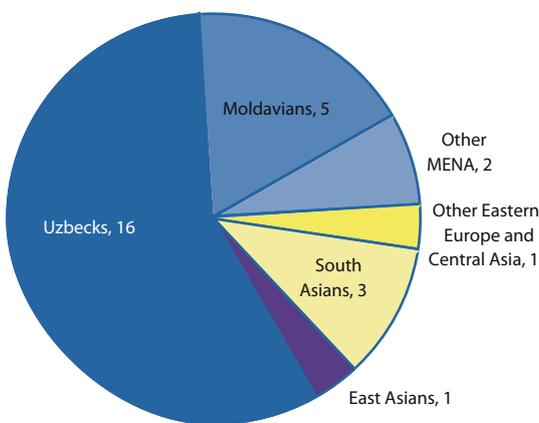
State authorities and local NGOs provide victims legal assistance, medical and psychosocial support, housing and shelter, and assistance for reintegration into the labour force.

Fig. 19: Victims of trafficking in persons identified by State authorities in the UAE, by age and gender (2003-2007)



Source: Office of the Public Prosecutor, Dubai and Ministry of the Interior

Fig. 20: Victims of trafficking in persons identified in the UAE, by citizenship (2005-2006)



Source: Office of the Public Prosecutor, Dubai and Ministry of the Interior

Additional information

All of the victims identified in the years 2005 and 2006 were trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Three residential facilities were available in 2007 for victims of human trafficking, with a total capacity of more than 150 beds. Four women trafficked for sexual exploitation were sheltered in that year. These facilities have sheltered 21 victims – 20 women and one child – from 2007 through February 2008.

The UAE National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons was created in April 2007 as the coordinating body for anti-trafficking efforts at all levels in the seven emirates of the federation.