Recent trends in fraud compounds & Profile of perpetrators and victims

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1. Violence, death, and human trafficking continue
2. Fraud compounds once emptied are back to full force.

New sites are building rapidly in multiple countries.
2. Fraud compounds once emptied are back to full force.

New sites are building rapidly in multiple countries.
3. TOC groups shifting away from other crimes to organised cyber fraud

“Scam industry in one country in the (Mekong) region may be generating between USD7.5 and USD12.5 billion, which is half this country’s GDP.”

“Mr Stock said the human trafficking and cyber scam centres have already expanded into a global network, making up to US$3 trillion a year.”
4. Kingpins and corruption unaddressed
5. Worker profile complicated

- Nationalities: Asia -> **Global** (2024)
- Age: Young -> **younger** (under 18)
- Complicated typology (HRC research)

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Stayed as willing fraudsters</th>
<th>Stayed as indentured servitude</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joined as willing fraudsters</strong></td>
<td>Traditional case</td>
<td>Ma’s case</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Joined as TIP victims</strong></td>
<td>People Salam met</td>
<td>Salam’s case</td>
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6. Fraudsters developing specialisation in the global fraud supply chain

- Personal data scrapping groups
- Sim card-selling groups
- Fraud website building companies
- Scam script-writing teams
- Content (model) development teams
- Human resource / human trafficking groups
- Money laundering teams
(list not exhaustive)
6. Fraudsters developed specialisation in the global fraud supply chain

- Pig-butchering scam (Romance-investment)
- Task scam
- Sports gambling scam
- Sextortion
- Playing authorities (list not exhaustive)
Challenge 1

- Light sentencing (1 year)
- Possibility of bail

Recommendation 1

- Set international standards for sentencing
- No bail for financial crime; asset forfeiture
Challenge 2

• After serving jail terms, small-time fraudsters continue doing fraud
• Fraud is addictive (low investment, low risk, easy moral excuse, high reward)

Recommendation 2

• Allocate resources to the reintegration of TIP victims and also perpetrators
Challenge 3

- Kingpins: Country A
- Victims of forced labour: Country B
- Operation sites: Country C
- Scammed victims: Country E
- Money laundered to: Country F

Recommendation 3

- Enable fast, clear, effective international collaboration (examples, finance, capacity)
Challenge 4

- If the alternative is poverty, criminals and countries will always choose organised fraud

Recommendation 4

- Invest in alternative legitimate forms of economics (tourism, tech, etc.) that could replace fraud
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Thank you!