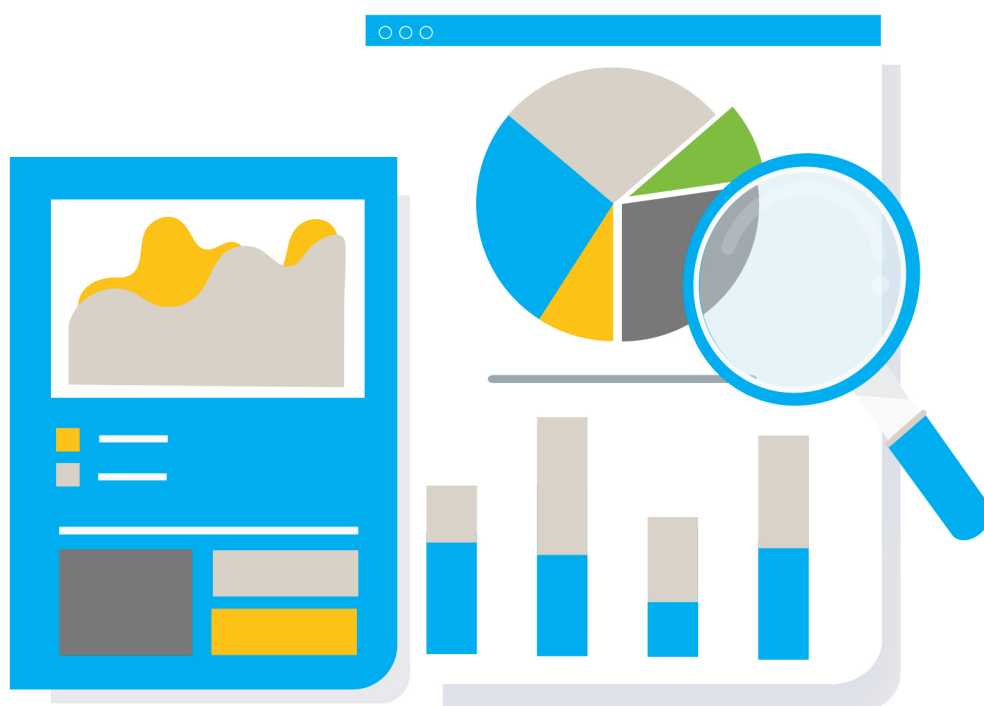


First Wave Survey on Youth Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices with Regard to Human Trafficking, in Four Regions in Albania

Report on Findings



December 2020

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List of acronyms

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
IDRA	Institute for Development Research and Alternatives
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SSOGI	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
UK	United Kingdom
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

With funding from the Home Office, UK Government, UNICEF Albania and its partners are currently implementing a project that will contribute towards an overall reduction in human trafficking in and from Albania. The project brings together various initiatives to reinforce active prevention of, and protection from, human trafficking, and then to amplify these efforts with focus on the change that must occur to bring about a lasting and sustainable impact. In the long run, these efforts must be complemented by implementation of actions with a progressive approach to address the root causes of human trafficking, through long-term engagement among government, civil society and local communities, with—most critically—direct communication with individuals, families and communities in at-risk areas in the country.



Evidence

Informed strategic communication that leads to positive change among individuals, families, communities and duty bearers.

Sustainable and rights

Based models for reintegration of the victims and the at-risk.



VICTIM

Oriented justice and effective law enforcement and prosecution.

COMMUNITY

Driven solutions with access to social services to reduce vulnerabilities and reintegration of the most at risk and victims of trafficking.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Introduction

Albania is recognised as a source country for human trafficking. Albanians are trafficked to Italy, Greece, the United Kingdom (UK), Sweden, Germany and Switzerland, often through organised criminal networks. Albanian adults and children are trafficked for labour or sexual exploitation in these, and other, destination countries. Trafficking from Albania to Kosovo also takes place, especially for Roma children, who are forced to beg, often by their families. Domestic trafficking in Albania became a significant phenomenon after 2004, with many victims trafficked from rural to urban areas. Domestic human trafficking victims include a large proportion of children and youths. Analysis of data from organisations working in the field highlight that most of the victims come from a background of poverty, homelessness and a lack of education. For trafficked children and youths, the risk factors mostly emanate from the household and family, and include a lack of stable family support, family breakdown, abandonment, and family separation resulting from migration. The consequence of these factors is compounded by the absence of protective safety nets.

Despite clear evidence that Albanian youths are vulnerable to human trafficking, there is a dearth of literature on the level of youth knowledge regarding the phenomenon in Albania, or on youth attitudes and their practices regarding human trafficking. Only two recent studies from the last five years discuss knowledge and awareness of human trafficking in the country. From those studies, we know that Albanian adults are more aware of sex trafficking than labour trafficking; that more than half of surveyed Albanian adults think human trafficking is a serious problem, but concern mostly women and children; and that many people do not know how they can help suspected victims. As neither study addressed the level of knowledge among youth, specifically, or their attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking, the present study explores the subject with the aim of filling this important knowledge gap. The study is undertaken in the framework of 'Transforming National Response to Human Trafficking in and from Albania' programme, implemented by a coalition of six international and local organizations: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Albania, OSCE Presence in Albania, Terre des Homme, Tjeter Vizion, Vatra and Të Ndryshëm dhe të Barabartë. The results will be useful to UNICEF Albania and its partners, government and civil society in Albania, as well as academics and policymakers globally working in this area.

Aim and objectives

The present study set out to understand and explore the level of youth knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking in the regions of Diber, Kukes, Shkoder and Tirana, selected because they are known source regions for human trafficking in Albania, and of Albanians abroad.

There are two parts to this study: (1) a first wave, and (2) second wave survey. The aim of the first wave study is to understand the level of knowledge, attitudes and practices of Albanian youth regarding human trafficking in the four regions, and understand which channels of communication they use regularly to learn about social issues, including human trafficking. The first wave data will be used to inform the development of communication strategies, to be implemented by UNICEF Albania and its partners in the four target regions of the country. Following the communication strategy a second wave survey will be conducted in the same target areas, and will measure shifts in targeted or selected knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking in Albania, and assess the formats and messages on human trafficking that have led to positive shifts in youth knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding the phenomenon.

The study's objectives are to measure the following:

Knowledge

- What human trafficking means
- Where human trafficking occurs
- The types of exploitation that occur
- Those who are at risk
- The conditions that can lead to human trafficking
- Recruitment methods and human traffickers
- Ways to support suspected human trafficking cases
- Support services available for victims.

Attitudes

- Concern regarding human trafficking
- The degree to which youth are sympathetic towards victims
- Effective prevention measures.

Practices

- Whether and how youth learn more about human trafficking and engage more in activities countering human trafficking.



Methodology

Data were collected through face-to-face interviews with Albanian youth during August 2020. In all, 1,537 interviews were conducted with Albanian youth in four regions of the country: Diber, Kukes, Shkoder and Tirana, and also with Roma youth. The households were randomly selected, and only one person per household was allowed to participate in the interview. Only persons from the age group 15–29 years were eligible to participate in the interviews, which were up to 20 minutes in duration and carried out using tablets.

Findings from the first wave survey

Overview

When comparing the survey results against the evidence already available on the causes of trafficking in Albania, and globally, it became apparent that the level of knowledge on human trafficking among surveyed Albanian youth is, in some respects, high, but in other areas there is significant scope for strengthening it regarding the types of exploitation that occur; where human trafficking is an issue (i.e. within Albania, or to foreign countries); the persons at risk; the recruitment methods; ways of reporting suspected cases; and the support services available for victims. Attitudes of surveyed youth regarding human trafficking were, for the most part, positive, with most surveyed being concerned about human trafficking, being sympathetic towards victims and believing that victims should receive support services, and having positive attitudes regarding law enforcement responses to human trafficking. However, there is scope for a shift in attitudes, particularly among 15–17-year-olds, regarding concern for human trafficking, and attitudes regarding victims. Presently, it is very clear that surveyed youth would like to learn more about human trafficking and engage in activities countering the phenomenon but would prefer to do so through only a small number of communication channels: television, social media and online news.

Knowledge of human trafficking

Knowledge of the meaning of human trafficking

Most surveyed youth (47%) identified human trafficking as a human rights issue, and 22 percent as a crime and legality issue, while ten percent believe it to be a migration-related issue. Overall, knowledge among the youth about the meaning of human trafficking is sound. Whereas they may be unable to define the term accurately, they understand that it is a human rights issue, a crime, and related to (irregular) migration.

Knowledge about where human trafficking occurs

Most Albanian youth consider that the trafficking of Albanians to foreign countries is a serious issue. More than half of those surveyed considered that such trafficking is a very serious, or serious, problem. Only one in three youths thought that domestic human trafficking is a serious issue in Albania. Thus, they are less aware of the occurrence of the phenomenon in the country than they are of trafficking of Albanians abroad. More than 70 percent of the youths considered that human trafficking in their local area was only slightly serious, or not serious at all. In some municipalities knowledge that human trafficking can occur in the local area is extremely low.

Across all three survey questions on where human trafficking occurs, Roma youth demonstrated better knowledge than the other groups, while youths of age 18–29 years have better knowledge of where it occurs than those of age 15–17 years. Youth with higher education demonstrated better knowledge that human trafficking occurs within the country, and even in their community, than do youth with lower levels of education. Surveyed female youth consider slightly more strongly than their male counterparts that human trafficking to foreign countries and within Albania is an extremely serious, or very serious, problem. Meanwhile, youths from urban areas were more aware that human trafficking occurs in their local area than were rural youth.

Knowledge about the types of exploitation that occur in Albania and in foreign countries

The majority of surveyed Albanian youth are aware of the most common forms of exploitation, such as trafficking for sexual exploitation, and forced labour. However, they are less aware of other types of exploitation, such as trafficking for early marriage, child pornography,¹ and organ trafficking. There were no significant differences between the responses of male and female youth, between different age groups, between education levels, and between urban and rural youth to the questions on the types of exploitation that occur in Albania and abroad. Roma youth demonstrated slightly less knowledge than the other youths of the different types of exploitation that occur outside Albania.

Knowledge of those at risk of human trafficking

Most surveyed youth consider that the group most at risk of human trafficking is girls under the age of 18 years, with 80 percent of the opinion that the level of risk is great or 'a lot'. Most Albanian youths do not think that men and boys are at risk of being trafficked, with only ten percent considering that men are at risk. There was significant variation in responses at the municipality level regarding knowledge that men and boys can be trafficked. For example, 67 percent of youths surveyed in Kukes reported that boys are at great risk of trafficking, compared to only eight percent in Diber. Youths with higher education have better knowledge than other youths that men and boys are at risk of human trafficking.



Knowledge that national minorities and people from rural areas are at risk of human trafficking is also quite low in some areas. In Diber, for example, only 34 percent of surveyed youth consider that national minorities are at risk of trafficking, and only 29 percent that people from rural areas are at risk of trafficking. More than half (58%) of surveyed Roma youth think that national minorities have 'a great deal' or 'a lot' of risk of being trafficked. Analysis of the responses of youth living in rural and urban areas suggest that the majority of the former do not think they are at significant risk of being trafficked due to their environment.

Knowledge of the conditions that can lead to human trafficking

Surveyed youth consider that the key factor leading to human trafficking is poverty, but that many other conditions and vulnerability factors are not significant. Only 27 percent of surveyed youth link lack of health-care services to risks of human trafficking, only 31 percent think that lack of information about safe migration is important, though nearly half (47%) think that family pressure to earn money is a pre-condition that could lead to human trafficking. Youths in rural areas, Roma youth, and youths with the least education attainment do not consider a lack of education as one of the most significant factors that can lead to human trafficking. Similarly, with regard to information on safe migration and on prevention, risks and consequences of human trafficking, Roma youth, and youth with basic education, have much lower levels of awareness that these factors can lead to human trafficking than do other surveyed youth.

Knowledge of human trafficking recruitment methods and human traffickers

Knowledge of human trafficking recruitment methods is sound, with most surveyed youth responding 'true' to all of the options provided in the question on recruitment methods and human traffickers, i.e. that the Internet can be used to recruit victims; that traffickers are part of organised criminal groups; that boyfriends and girlfriends can be human traffickers; and that other friends can be human traffickers. However, few of those surveyed responded 'true' to the option that 'family members can be human traffickers'. Female youths have a better grasp than male youths of the recruitment methods, and who might be a human trafficker. Youths of age 25–29 years have more knowledge than younger age groups of recruitment methods and who might be a human trafficker.

Knowledge of ways to report suspected cases of human trafficking

Surveyed youth know that they can report human trafficking to the police, but are not very aware of other reporting lines. The most frequently selected options to the question of how suspected human trafficking cases can be reported were: Police station (87%), and Police hotline 129 (60%), the latter of which was more common in Diber (72%) than in Tirana (56%). The next most selected option was 'teacher, psychologist or other professional in the school' (43%). In all, these responses suggest that Albanian youth have a good level of trust in law enforcement and education personnel, or that they consider these two systems as at least most relevant.

Knowledge among surveyed Roma youth of ways to report suspected human trafficking cases is very low, with twelve percent responding that they did not know who to contact about such cases, compared to only 1–2 percent of other youth across the four regions. Females had more knowledge in this area than did males, with the exception of the Police line 129 (62% among male and 58% among females). Youth in urban areas have better knowledge on how to report cases to the police, while those in rural areas were more aware of Police hotline 129.

Nevertheless, it is alarming that 21 percent of Roma youth responded that they did not consider any of the reporting options relevant, indicating a lack of interest in reporting suspected cases of human trafficking. This could represent a lack of trust in law enforcement and other actors, or the view that these agencies and individuals would take no action to intervene in such cases.

Knowledge of support services available to human trafficking victims

Knowledge of the various types of support available to victims of human trafficking is low among the youth surveyed, with 41 percent unaware of any forms of such support available. The most frequently identified types of support services were: specific support from state police (23%) and social support from NGOs (21%). Knowledge of the services available was lowest in Diber, with 55 percent unaware of such support services, and among Roma (46%).

Knowledge of the support that is available to victims of human trafficking is higher among female than male youths and among 18–24-year-olds than among other age groups. Youths with tertiary education had more knowledge (only 25% unaware) about such support than those with lower levels of education (62% unaware).

Attitudes to human trafficking

Level of concern regarding human trafficking

Most (56%) surveyed youth reported that they feel a great deal, or a lot, of concern about human trafficking. Concern is highest in Tirana (69%), least in Shkoder (37%), and 58 percent among Roma youth. Female youths feel more concern about the issue (66%) than do male youths (45%), and 15–17-year-olds less so than 18–29-year-olds. Meanwhile, youth from urban areas are more concerned about the issue than those from rural areas (66% and 46%, respectively), and youth with tertiary education more than those with basic education (68% and 40%, respectively).

¹ The term 'child pornography' was used in the first wave questionnaire. Acknowledging that the terms 'child sexual abuse' and 'child sexual exploitation materials' are considered by the international community as less stigmatising for victims, in the second wave survey, alternate terminology will be used.



Attitudes towards victims

Most (91%) of surveyed youth reported that they feel 'extremely' or 'very strongly' that victims should be provided with assistance. Only two percent reported that they feel only slightly or not at all that victims should be provided with assistance. Thus, attitudes towards victims are positive in that surveyed youth feel that victims should be provided with government and non-government support services.

Attitudes towards preventing human trafficking

Albanian youth think that law enforcement measures are the most effective means for preventing human trafficking, and give less significance to the socio-economic factors that make people vulnerable to human trafficking. Nearly all (94%) surveyed youth think that stricter punishments for those who violate women and girls would be extremely or very effective in preventing human trafficking, with a similar proportion (93%) believing that such measures applied to traffickers would be extremely or very effective. Responses regarding employment and housing support and education as methods for preventing human trafficking indicated less support for those measures than for stricter punishment options. Thus, most surveyed youth see human trafficking as an issue that is best prevented through strict law enforcement measures. The responses also suggest a strong attitude against human traffickers. Youth with tertiary education believe more strongly that all the options provided in the question are effective in preventing human trafficking than youth with lower education levels.

Practices and channels of communication

Interest in learning more about, and engaging in activities countering, human trafficking

The youth that were surveyed would like to know more about human trafficking and engage in activities countering the phenomenon through watching a film or documentary on the topic (49% 'a great deal' or 'a lot'), reporting possible cases (49%), followed closely by watching an investigative TV programme on human trafficking (48%). The least popular responses were: 'play a game or quiz on your smartphone about human trafficking' (23%), 'volunteering for an anti-trafficking NGO' (28%), and 'engaging in a local anti-trafficking campaign' (30%).

Female youth were more interested in engaging in relevant activities than male youth. More than half of surveyed females reported being interested 'a great deal' or 'a lot' in watching a TV programme on human trafficking, watching a movie or documentary about it, contacting or reporting a possible case of human trafficking, talking with their family about human trafficking, or reading an article on social media about the issue. Youths of age 15–17 years were less interested than other age groups in most options. For the options 'contact or report somewhere about a possible human trafficking victims' and 'engage in an anti-trafficking campaign' there was more interest in doing these activities among youth in urban areas than in rural areas. Interest in these two activities was also much higher among more highly educated youths.

Methods of learning about social issues, including human trafficking

The most popular responses to the question 'What sources of information do you regularly use to learn about social issues?' were: television (77%), followed by Facebook (62%), Instagram (61%), and online news on apps (30%). There was very little interest, if at all, in learning about social issues through: religious groups (0%); public talks (0%); playing a game or quiz on a Smartphone (1%); posters; engaging with NGOs (1%) or universities (2%); radio (2%); leaflets (3%); work (4%); youth group (4%); and books (6%). School is seen as a key source of information for 15–17-year-olds.

The surveyed youths suggested that they would like to learn more about human trafficking using the same methods they use to learn about other social issues: television (73%), Instagram (55%), Facebook (54%), online news on apps (31%), documentaries (26%) and movies (24%). There was very little interest in learning about human trafficking through any of the other options provided.

Female youths use television as a source of information on social issues and human trafficking a little more so than males, while the latter use social media such as Facebook and Instagram for sources of such information more so than females, though both use the same sources of information to learn about these issues.

Youth with tertiary education are more interested than other youth in learning about social issues, including human trafficking through online news, and documentaries. Youth with basic and secondary education are more interested in learning about social issues and human trafficking through television, through friends and family, and school, than those with tertiary education.

Overall, the findings of the study suggest that Albanian youth have a sound level of knowledge in some areas, and positive attitudes regarding human trafficking, but there are certainly gaps in knowledge and awareness that may be strengthened through communication strategies.



The way forward

The findings of this first wave survey suggest areas for strengthening knowledge among Albanian youth that might lead to changing attitudes and, subsequently, practices. The programmatic response therefore may consider:

- Focusing on younger males living in rural, remote or ethnic minority (Roma) populated areas, as this group, among all, demonstrates less knowledge about human trafficking, is less alert to the risks and displays a lower degree of empathy towards victims.
- Re-evaluating and re-thinking of the normal interventions as those forms and means of communication (e.g. posters) have limited effect, according to the evidence collected here.
- Strengthening knowledge that human trafficking can occur anywhere, including in Albania, and including near to home.
- Strengthening knowledge about the various types of exploitation that can occur abroad and in Albania, such as child pornography and early marriage.
- Finding a way to address the clash between strong stereotypes of masculinity and the reality that boys and men are victims of trafficking.
- Improving awareness that national minorities, and people from rural areas, are at heightened risk of human trafficking.
- Finding ways to better link and explain the correlations between various factors—in addition to poverty—and human trafficking.
- Finding ways, considering the cultural context, to raise awareness that anyone might be a human trafficker.
- Strengthening knowledge regarding measures important in reducing vulnerabilities and in preventing human trafficking, such as employment, housing and medical support.
- Strengthening knowledge on ways of reporting human trafficking (other than to the police), and of the support services available to victims (other than support from the police, and general NGO support).
- Shifting attitudes (empathy towards victims) about the right of victims to receive support services, and the importance of receiving support services to reduce the risks of trafficking, and re-trafficking cycles.
- Shifting attitudes among youth about becoming involved in combating human trafficking. An important first step would be to educate Albanian youth about the opportunities available to them in their local community. Prior to this step it may be necessary to first introduce activities countering human trafficking into various areas of the country.

The objectives listed above can be achieved by designing and implementing targeted communication strategies, capitalising on television, social media and online news, and via schools, aimed at strengthening knowledge of human trafficking, and reducing youth vulnerability to the phenomenon. In the long term the communication strategies may shift youth knowledge, attitudes and practices with regard to human trafficking and, ultimately, reduce the prevalence of human trafficking in and from Albania.

Finally, the findings of the first wave survey identify many areas where future research is needed, including, but certainly not limited to:

- Exploring the reasons why youth think that people are trafficked abroad more often than within their own country, and whether there is an important interplay between knowledge of (where it occurs), and vulnerability to, human trafficking.
- Understanding why youth think that women and girls are more at risk of human trafficking than boys and men, and why awareness that national minorities and youth from rural areas are at heightened risk is low.
- Exploring the question of youth knowledge of human trafficking recruitment methods and who might be a human trafficker. For example, future research could target improving our understanding of how, and for what reasons, extended family members engage in human trafficking crimes, and victims' perceptions of family members as potential recruiters and traffickers.
- Understanding why awareness of ways to report suspected human trafficking cases is so low (outside police reporting lines), and why knowledge of the support services available for victims is low, particularly among Roma youth. Such research could provide valuable insights into the barriers facing national minorities in accessing key support services.

INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT CONTEXT



Context of human trafficking in Albania

Albania is a country that has been significantly affected by human trafficking, and continues to develop a range of policies and mechanisms to combat the phenomenon. Numerous historical and structural factors have affected Albania's socio-economic development and these have, in turn, affected the nature and volume of human trafficking, both domestically and in cross-border contexts.

Albanian children, youths and women, including members of Egyptian and Roma communities, are often those most vulnerable to human trafficking. The Trafficking in Persons Report states that the Albanian Government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) identified, in 2018, 95 official and potential victims of trafficking (VoT and PVoT). In the previous year, 105 official and potential victims of trafficking were identified, indicating a small decline in the number of identified victims over those two years. Of those identified in 2018, 28 were adults and 67, children, while 60 were female and 35, male. The Albanian Government could not provide details of the types of exploitation suffered by the victims, but at least 36 individuals were subjected to sex trafficking, 25 to forced labour and 27 to forced begging.²

Hynes et al. (2018) report human trafficking victim figures from the Vatra database, collected between 2015 and September 2017 on those formally identified as trafficked and potential cases. The cases illustrated an extensive range of geographic areas of origin of victims across Albania.³

Flows: domestic and cross-border

From immediately after the collapse of communism, Albania became a source country for human trafficking.⁴ Albanians are trafficked to Italy and Greece, but also other destinations, including the United Kingdom (UK), Sweden, Germany and Switzerland, often through organised criminal networks. Albanian men, women, and also children (both boys and girls), are trafficked for labour or sexual exploitation, or both, in these, and other destination countries. Common sectors of exploitation include sex, agriculture and construction.⁵ Among non-European Union (EU) trafficking victims identified in the EU, Albanians are the second largest group (after Nigerians), with the European Commission (EC) identifying more than 1,300 Albanian victims of trafficking in Europe in its 2018 report.⁶ External trafficking from Albania to Kosovo also takes place, especially of Roma children who are forced, often by their families, to beg. Although internal trafficking in Albania has been increasing since 2004, it was not until 2010 that it became a more significant phenomenon than cross-border trafficking. In 2010, approximately 70 percent of all trafficking cases at the Vatra Psycho-Social Centre (a shelter for trafficking victims) were Albanians trafficked domestically, while only 30 percent involved Albanians trafficked to foreign countries.⁷ Recent research suggests that domestic trafficking involves mostly girls from rural areas who are trafficked to urban areas for the purpose of sexual exploitation. During the summer months, children are reportedly trafficked to the coast where they are forced to beg.⁸

Vulnerable groups

The existing literature suggests that, among human trafficking victims in Albania, there is a high proportion of children and adolescents.⁹ Of the 95 official and potential victims of trafficking identified in 2018 (see above), two-thirds were children. Meanwhile, data from organisations working to protect women and children emphasise that most child victims come from a background of poverty, including homelessness and low levels of education.¹⁰ For trafficked children, there is a focus on risk factors at the household and family level, such as lack of stable family support, whether through family breakdown, abandonment or family separation resulting from migration. The consequence of these factors is that children lack important protective structures. In addition, research suggests that there is also overlap between structural factors and the context of family and household arrangements.¹¹ The unequal nature of gender roles and relationships have discriminated against women and made them vulnerable to violence and exploitation.¹² Families exercise considerable authority over young women in terms of betrothal and marriage, making it difficult for them to exercise choice.¹³ Such a situation places Albanian women and girls in a position with a heightened risk of human trafficking.

² United States Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2019, p. 62.

³ Hynes, P. et al, 2018, 'Vulnerability' to human trafficking: A study of Viet Nam, Albania, Nigeria and the UK

⁴ Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), 2016, Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings by Albania; United States Department of State, 2020, Trafficking in persons report 2020.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ European Commission, 2018, Data collection on trafficking of human beings in the EU, https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_data-collection-study.pdf

⁷ Vatra Psycho Social Center, 2010, Annual Report.

⁸ USAID, 2016, Gauging public opinion on human trafficking in Moldova and Albania employing survey experimentation to inform effective prevention and awareness programs, p. 11.

⁹ Puka, B., Avdulaj, E., Lepuri, G., and Corrokaj, A., 2010, The evolution of trafficking in human beings: A publication of Psycho Social Centre 'Vatra', Vlore, Albania.

¹⁰ Tahiraj, E., 2017, Understanding trafficking of girls and women from Albania, Working Paper, Shpresa Programme, London.

¹¹ Hynes, P. et al, 2018, 'Vulnerability' to human trafficking: A study of Viet Nam, Albania, Nigeria and the UK, p. 25.

¹² Bekteshi, V., Gjermeni, E. and Van Hook, M., 2012, Modern day slavery: Sex trafficking in Albania, International Journal of Sociology & Social Policy, Vol. 32, No. 7, pp. 480–494.

¹³ Simon, P., Galanxhi, E., and Dhono, O., 2015, Roma and Egyptians in Albania: A socio-demographic and economic profile on the 2011 Census, UNDP, Albania.



The Roma and Egyptian populations in Albania are identified as experiencing disproportionately high levels of poverty, insecure accommodation, low levels of school attendance, high levels of illiteracy, and heightened vulnerability to trafficking. The poverty of these minority groups is attributed to a history of stigma and discrimination against them, resulting in their experiencing greater economic pressures and heightened vulnerability to different types of exploitation, including human trafficking.¹⁴

Recruitment of victims

Findings from research with victims support a more direct relationship, namely that families are frequently involved in recruiting young women for trafficking.¹⁵ Hynes et al. suggest that trafficking recruitment methods in Albania are varied, ever changing, and related to close personal and family ties.¹⁶ The use of social media is a key recruitment method for trafficking, alongside older recruitment methods within close family or close social ties.¹⁷

Sectors of exploitation

Hynes et al. suggest that for Albanian victims of trafficking, the forms of exploitation are multiple. Alongside sexual exploitation as a key purpose of trafficking adults, other forms include forced labour (in businesses or within families), forced marriages, petty criminality or enforced criminality, and work on cannabis production. For children, sexual exploitation, forced begging, early marriage and enforced criminality are the main sectors or forms of exploitation.¹⁸ Children are also exploited for the purpose of producing child sexual abuse materials.¹⁹ A 2020 report found that the Cybercrime Unit within the Albanian State Police receives between 5,000 and 20,000 referrals each year from international partners, including Interpol, Europol, and the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, indicating the possession, distribution, production and use of child sexual abuse materials in Albania.²⁰

Knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking in Albania

Only two recent published studies have discussed knowledge in Albania of human trafficking. In 2016, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) conducted a study on adult public opinion on the phenomenon in Moldova and Albania.²¹

One-thousand nationally representative citizens were sampled in each country, in which the study found that more politically engaged citizens demonstrated greater knowledge of human trafficking though were less likely to consider it a top priority for the government to address. In addition, citizens demonstrated more knowledge of sex trafficking than labour trafficking, and were significantly less likely to think that men or boys could be vulnerable to any form of trafficking—indicating that messaging at that time ought to have helped broaden the public definition of trafficking and awareness of who is vulnerable.

In 2016, Partnerë për Fëmijët, an Albanian NGO, conducted a study on the situation of human trafficking and gender-based violence in the country. The findings point to a generally high level of awareness of human trafficking: adults know that human trafficking occurs within Albania, and that the most vulnerable women and children are those most at risk. The level of knowledge as to where to report a potential case of human trafficking is viewed as the responsibility of the police in line with human trafficking being seen primarily as a crime. However, the study found that Albanians lack knowledge of the availability of social, rehabilitation, legal, medical and other forms of assistance provided by government authorities and NGOs.²²

In sum, the limited body of literature that exists on human trafficking knowledge in Albania suggests that Albanian adults have some knowledge of what human trafficking means, where it is a problem, and who is at risk. However, the studies provide no insights into the knowledge, attitudes and practices of Albanian youth, who remain one of the most at-risk age groups for human trafficking. An absence of studies focusing on Albanian youth means that relevant stakeholders have very limited information on their knowledge (e.g. on human trafficking recruitment, sectors of exploitation, support services available to victims), attitudes (towards victims and traffickers, and towards learning about human trafficking and engaging in activities countering human trafficking), and practices (e.g. current engagement in learning about social issues, including human trafficking, and desire to engage in countering trafficking activities). Without such information, it remains a challenge to design effective communication strategies that aim to prevent human trafficking. The present study sets out to address these important gaps through collection and analysis of first and second wave survey data among targeted Albanian youth knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking.

¹⁴ Vullnetari, J., 2012, Beyond choice or force: Roma mobility in Albania and the mixed migration paradigm, *Journal of Ethnic & Migration Studies*, Vol. 38, No.8, p.1305–1321; Simon, P., Galanxhi, E. and Dhono, O., 2015, Roma and Egyptians in Albania: A socio-demographic and economic profile on the 2011 Census, UNDP, Albania.

¹⁵ Zhilla, F. and Lamallari, B., 2015, Albanian criminal groups, *Trends in Organized Crime*, 18(4), 329–347.

¹⁶ Hynes, P. et al, 2018, 'Vulnerability' to human trafficking: A study of Viet Nam, Albania, Nigeria and the UK, p. 7.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ See UNICEF Albania, 2020, The lost cases.

²⁰ UNICEF Albania, 2020, The lost cases, p. 12.

²¹ USAID, 2016, Gauging public opinion on human trafficking in Moldova and Albania employing survey experimentation to inform effective prevention and awareness programs.

²² Ibid.



Study aim and objectives

This study sets out to understand and explore the level of youth knowledge, attitudes and their practices regarding human trafficking in the regions of Diber, Kukes, Shkoder and Tirana.

As highlighted in the literature review above, there is a dearth of publicly available studies on Albanian youth knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking. This represents a significant gap that needs to be filled for policy and programming purposes. Without a sound understanding of youth knowledge regarding human trafficking, as well as youth attitudes and practices regarding knowledge, relevant stakeholders will continue to develop and implement human trafficking policy and programmes somewhat 'in the dark'. Only with such information will they be in a strong position to be able to develop various communication activities aimed at informing Albanian youth of human trafficking, shifting attitudes towards the phenomenon and increasing practices regarding human trafficking, and thus making a valuable contribution to the prevention of human trafficking in and from Albania.

The present study consists of two time-series surveys, corresponding to the start and end of implementation of communication strategies by UNICEF in Albania and its partners. The findings of the first wave survey—reported below—will inform the agency's development of communication strategies, designed to strengthen youth knowledge on human trafficking, contribute towards a positive shift in attitudes regarding the phenomenon, and increase practices regarding (learning about, and engaging in activities to counter) human trafficking.

Following completion of the communication strategies,²³ and collection of the second wave survey data (in 2021), a second report will follow, and will present the findings from both waves. Importantly, the second report will identify the areas where communication strategies were successful in strengthening the level of youth knowledge regarding human trafficking in Albania, positively shifting youth attitudes towards it, and increasing practices—youth engagement in learning about and engaging in—countering, human trafficking.

The objectives of the present study are to assess or measure the following:

Knowledge

- What human trafficking means
- Where human trafficking occurs
- The types of exploitation that occur
- Those who are at risk
- The conditions that can lead to human trafficking
- Recruitment methods and human traffickers
- Ways to support suspected human trafficking cases
- Support services available for victims.

Attitudes

- Concern regarding human trafficking
- The degree to which youth are sympathetic towards victims
- Effective prevention measures.

Practices

- Whether and how youth learn more about human trafficking and engage more in activities countering human trafficking.

Study targets

The target of the study were Albanian youths (adolescents and young adults of age 15–29 years)²⁴ in the regions of Diber, Kukes, Shkoder and Tirana. These regions are known source regions of domestic and international human trafficking involving Albanian victims. The 15–29-year age group was selected because, as highlighted above from the literature review, most victims of human trafficking in the country are youth. Quotas were applied (see Methodology) in the selection of youth participants for the first wave study, ensuring that there was a balance in survey responses among male and female youth, Roma youth, and those residing in rural areas in the target areas. Demographic information was collected on age, education level, ethnic background, geographic location, among others. Analysis of these variables will provide relevant stakeholders with a better understanding of how different categories of youth (e.g. those younger than 18 years, or those with less education) respond to the survey questions.

Report target audience

The primary target audience of the study is UNICEF Albania and its partners who are actively engaged in implementation of the communication strategies in the four regions. The first wave study findings, presented in the present report, will be used by UNICEF Albania and partners to develop communication strategies to positively influence changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices. However, the study targets all interested stakeholders—government and non-government—working to change knowledge, attitudes and practices around human trafficking in the four regions and beyond, as well as those involved in combating all forms of exploitation and abuse.

²³ The UNICEF Albania communication strategy, and communication strategies that could be potentially implemented by other agencies in Albania.

²⁴ Based on the Eurostat definition of youth of persons of age 15–29 years, see <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/youth>

METHODOLOGY



Approach to the survey

The first wave survey was carried out through face-to-face interviews between 13 July and 3 August 2020. The total sample size included respondents from four regions of Albania (Table 1) and was representative at the level of municipality for the eligible population, namely individuals of age 15–29 years. In addition, a quota of 200 households of the Roma community was included in the study.

The enumerators (field data collectors) contacted randomly selected households from which only one eligible person could participate in the interview. Enumerators used tablets for data collection in the field.

Table 1: Sample distribution

REGION	MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL	ROMA	URBAN	RURAL
TIRANË	Kamëz	230	-	-	-
	Paskuqan/ Babrru	120	-	120	120
	Tiranë	126	126	-	-
	Sub-total	476	126	120	120
SHKODËR	Shkodër		50	200	150
	Sub-total	400	50	200	150
KUKËS	Kukës	180	-	80	100
	Has	30	-	30	-
	Tropojë	88	11	50	27
	Sub-total	298	11	160	127
DIBËR	Dibër	203	-	50	140
	Mat	160	126	70	90
	Sub-total	363	126	120	230
TOTAL		1,537	200²⁵	710	627

Selection of the survey participants

The enumerators inquired at each selected household if there were any youth of age 15–29 years who could participate. In the event that there was no such eligible person, the enumerators continued to the next household. In the case there was at least one person who met the inclusion criteria, the enumerator started the interview, subject to agreement of the person to participate, and only after the informed consent process had been completed.²⁶ In cases where more than one eligible person was living in a household, software was used to select a person for interview based upon the inclusion criteria. The interviews lasted no longer than 20 minutes.

Design of the first wave survey instrument

The first wave survey questionnaire was developed at the end of a one-month period of study into human trafficking scholarly literature, media and anti-trafficking policies in Albania. A series of questionnaire development consultations took place, involving members of the research team and UNICEF Albania.

²⁵ In the data analysis the Roma community is represented by 203 persons rather than 200. This happened because 3 individuals were found in other regions (not targeted) and then kept in the analysis of this category.

²⁶ In the case that the person to be interviewed was a child (of age 15–17 years), the enumerators provided a consent form to be signed by the parent or guardian. For persons 18+ years the enumerators also distributed a consent form for the participant to review and sign.



Back translation of the questionnaire and pre-testing interviews was conducted to validate and finalise the questionnaire, which included 17 questions: an open-ended question followed by a series of closed questions (see Annex 1). The open-ended question asked surveyed youth to describe in their own words their understanding of human trafficking. The closed questions were arranged in a specific sequence, first collecting responses to questions on human trafficking knowledge, followed by questions on attitudes, and finally, questions on practices (to learn more about human trafficking or involvement in activities countering human trafficking), and how surveyed youth currently learn about social issues, including human trafficking.

The enumerators were trained and provided with a list of terms and definitions with simplified language and explanation, so that they could clarify any questions and issues for the youth.

Data analysis

The data were analysed overall (in aggregate) and by region, municipality and demographic parameter, as well as other parameters of interest to the study. A weighting procedure was applied in order to ensure that the total results respected the population distribution as indicated by official data. The weights were calculated by considering the proportion of the population of age 15–29 years in the municipalities. The weighting was applied only for the results overall and not for data analysis by region or municipality. A different methodology was applied (quota, and not representative) for conducting interviews with the Roma for which the weighting procedure was not applied: the overall results of the study exclude the Roma community, though the report analyses this community as a separate sub-sample of the survey.

Ethical considerations

The survey questions on human trafficking did not ask surveyed youth any challenging or sensitive questions. However, an ethics assessment was conducted, as data were collected from children of age 15–17 years as well as older youths. The study was given ethical approval by Health Media Lab. Ltd. Ethical Research Board on 9 July 2020.

For this specific research, particularly for the data collection and analysis phases, the research team followed the principles and procedures defined in UNICEF Procedures for ethical standards in research, evaluation, data collection and analysis (hereinafter ‘the ethical standards’), as follows:

- Regulation on ‘Ethics of Research and Publishing Activity’, and specifically article 1.1.4, which requires that institutions ‘maintain a climate of cooperation that promotes responsibility and ethics during research’. This guide (regulation) was issued by the Government of Albania to orient ethics-related issues for companies, institutions and consultants undertaking research.
- UNICEF Procedure for Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis (2015).
- UNICEF Guidance Document on the Protection of Safety of Human Subjects.
- UNICEF Guidance Document for Protection of Research Data.

The research team upheld the following fundamental standards:

- that subjects are not placed at undue risk;
- that participation is voluntary, and subjects are provided with and agree to informed consent prior to their participation; and
- that written protocols are in place to ensure subject confidentiality and anonymity.

During the data collection, the enumerators shared leaflets with survey participants and their families, including information on support services for mental and psychological care, and reporting channels for human trafficking.

²⁷ Some demographic questions were asked of the survey participants, though the surveyed youths could decline to provide such information (see the demographic questions in the first-wave survey tool in Annex 2).

²⁸ See <https://www.healthmedialabirb.com/>

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

There are several limitations to the present study, as discussed below.



Sensitivities around human trafficking and related concepts and terms

The enumerators encountered some cases where, once the subject of the survey had been explained to them, a parent or guardian of a female youth objected to their daughter's participation in the survey. This reluctance arose because the parents or guardians considered terms such as 'sexual exploitation' shameful and embarrassing to discuss. In such instances, the enumerators thanked the individuals, and proceeded to the next house. Despite such refusals, the projected number of surveys was completed.

Some surveyed youth also declined to answer some questions on, for example, sexual exploitation. As shown in Figure 13, the number of refusals was relatively small: only one percent of all responses.

To mitigate this issue, in the second wave survey careful attention will be paid to the language used in the questions and, where possible, synonymous, less sensitive terms will be used.

COVID-19 pandemic

Data collection took place from 17 July to 9 August 2020, a month after the end of the COVID-19 lock down in Albania. The enumerators encountered a number of survey refusals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some people reportedly were too frightened to open their front door or sign the consent form. Enumerators were trained, prior to going into the field, in COVID-19 health and safety measures, wore face masks and kept a safe distance between themselves and the household members at all times. However, despite these precautions, some survey refusals occurred due to people's fear of contracting the virus. Despite these refusals, the projected number of surveys was still completed.

Lack of young population in specific areas of the study

Due to some difficulties in finding young people in rural areas, the research team was forced to re-arrange and re-distribute some of the planned interviews.

In general, young people targeted for the study were not easy to find. Most families pointed out that as soon as they finished high school their children would emigrate. In parts of Kamza (Tirana) young people were noticeably absent from the community. In Kukes, Has and Tropoja, even the few youth who had stayed were outside working or in the mountains with the livestock. In Burgajet (Mat) there was not a single young person living there. Where possible, such as in Tropoja, some surveys foreseen for rural areas were instead conducted in urban areas.

Lack of Roma and no Egyptian communities in specific areas of the study

In regions other than Tirana, Roma communities could not be found. Across all target regions no Egyptian communities could be found. Therefore, the assigned quota for interviews with minority groups was not achieved, and thus the research team redistributed the Roma quotas, mainly to Tirana, and only in urban areas, since no Roma could be identified living in rural areas.

Leading questions

While every effort was made to avoid posing leading questions to the surveyed youth, in some instances this was unavoidable. Simply by developing multiple-response option questions, Likert-scale questions, and true or false questions, the options presented to the youth may have acted as prompts that might influence their

responses to the other questions. The survey was designed to progressively test knowledge, and thus even if some questions were potentially leading, the data collected still allowed the research team to consider changes or shifts in knowledge, attitudes and practices across the two wave surveys. To mitigate the issue of using potentially leading questions in the second wave survey, the draft questionnaire will be widely shared with the Reference Group for feedback prior to its finalisation.

Too much data

The surveys collected a significant amount of data, which are difficult to present succinctly. For the second wave survey, some modifications to the collection and presentation of survey data will be considered. These include:

- Changing the language of some survey questions to avoid sensitive terms.
- Changing the language of some terms to ensure alignment with best practices literature, i.e. not using the term 'child pornography'.
- Removing some questions, so that the survey is shorter and more targeted.
- Conducting separate analysis and presentation of data on Roma youth. Presentation of these data along with the rest of the survey data proved to be a complex task, and complicated for readers to understand.

FINDINGS FROM THE FIRST WAVE SURVEY



Profile of youth surveyed in first wave

A total of 1,537 Albanian youths participated in the first wave survey (Table 2) across four regions (Diber, Kukës, Shkodër, Tirana) and from the Roma population. The youths surveyed were all of age between 15 and 29 years, with a mean age of 21 years and median, 20 years.

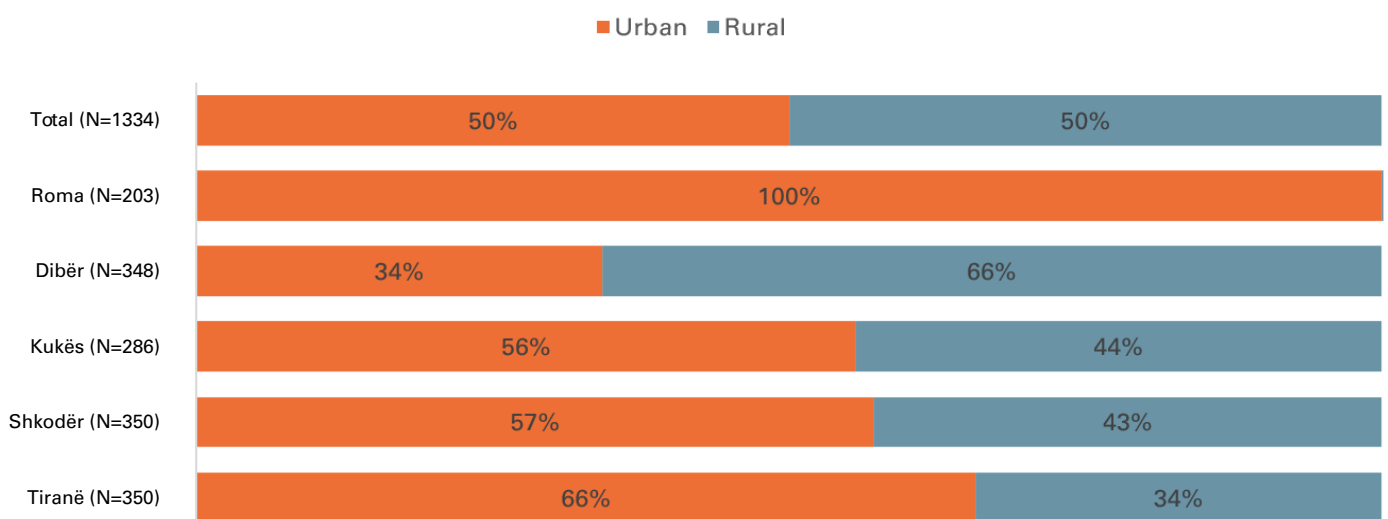
Tirana has the smallest average number of members per household (3.83), while the Roma community has the largest (4.38).

Table 2: Profile of surveyed youth

REGION	Number of youths surveyed in first wave	Average number of members of household	Mean age of youth (years)	Median age of youth (years)
DIBËR	348	4.25	20.7	20.0
KUKËS	286	4.02	21.2	21.0
SHKODËR	350	4.05	21.3	21.0
TIRANË	350	3.83	21.1	21.0
ROMA	203	4.38	21.3	20.0
TOTAL	1,537	3.98	21.1	20.0

Half of the surveyed youth live in urban areas and half in rural areas (Figure 1). Members of the Roma community were interviewed only in urban areas as no Roma could be identified in rural areas. The proportion of urban and rural areas surveyed in each region reflect the distribution of urbanity of the population living in that region.

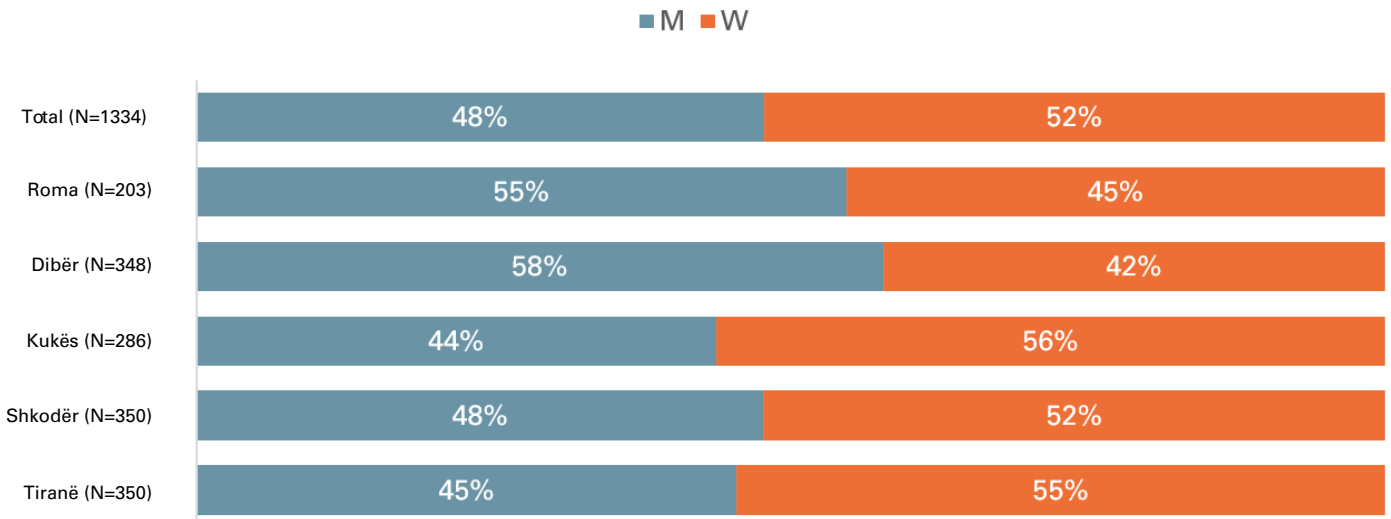
Figure 1. Surveyed youth, by area and among Roma





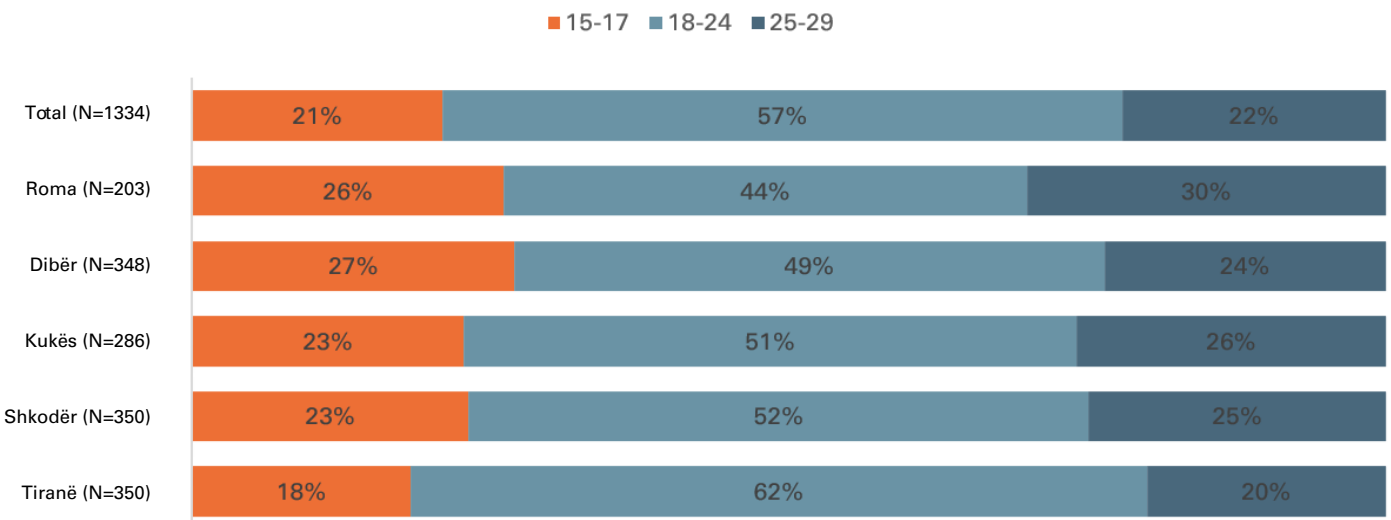
In all, 48 percent of surveyed youth were male, and 52 percent, female (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Sex of surveyed youth, by region and among Roma



In all, 57 percent of surveyed youth were between 18 and 24 years of age (Figure 3), 21 percent, 15–17 years, and 22 percent, 25–29 years.

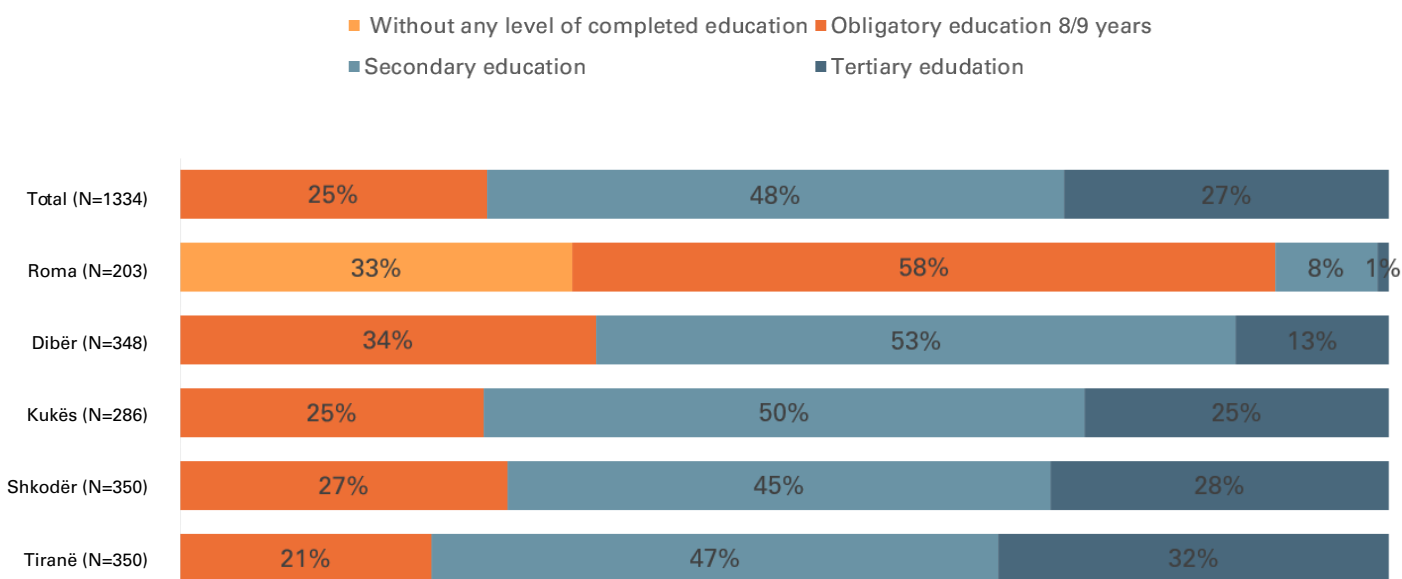
Figure 3. Age groups of surveyed youth, by region and among Roma





Just over one in four surveyed youths had completed tertiary education (Figure 4), and almost half, secondary education. One in three youths from the Roma population had not received any education (25% across all groups).

Figure 4. Education level among surveyed youth, by region and among Roma



Findings on knowledge regarding human trafficking

Knowledge of meaning of human trafficking

Assessment of knowledge of what ‘human trafficking’ means was measured through the first survey question: ‘What do you understand by the term ‘human trafficking’? This first survey question was open ended, provided no prompting and asked youths to simply describe what they thought human trafficking meant. The question was designed also to assess whether the youths associate the term with other phenomena, such as sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, whether it was an issue concerning females only, or whether it is a migration-related issue.

Broad categories for data analysis were developed based on the responses provided (Table 3).

Key category and response	Number of responses	Overall % in the dataset
TYPES OF EXPLOITATION Trafficking; human trafficking; trafficking in persons; sex trafficking; labour trafficking; organ trafficking; forced labour; forced prostitution; sex work; prostitution; begging	496	32
CAUSES Unemployment; poverty; family dispute; family problems; social problems; child neglect; discrimination; racism; deception; recruitment	48	3
HUMAN RIGHTS Violation of human rights; slavery; buying and selling people; exploitation; abuse; mistreatment; maltreatment; violence; coercion; injustice; social problem; discrimination; racism	720	47
MIGRATION Forced migration; illegal migration	159	10.5
MIGRANT SMUGGLING People smuggling; illegal smuggling	22	1.5
CRIME AND ILLEGALITY Drugs; kidnapping; hostage taking; abduction for profit; murder; rape; torture	336	22
VICTIM	11	1
TRAFFICKER	11	1
WOMAN OR GIRL	158	10
ADULT	35	2
CHILD, ADOLESCENTS OR YOUTH	186	12
OTHER	62	4
'I DON'T KNOW' OR DID NOT RESPOND	132	9
'I DON'T CARE'	10	1



The outcomes of the analysis indicate that most surveyed youth (n=720, 47%) identify human trafficking as a human rights issue. The second most popular response (n= 496, 32%) was not to define human trafficking as such, but to refer to the different types of exploitation that the surveyed youth are aware of, for example, trafficking for sexual exploitation, trafficking for labour exploitation, and so on. The third most popular response (n=336, 22%) was that human trafficking is a crime issue, followed by a migration issue (n=159, 10.5%). A small number of youth (n=22, 1.5%) thought that trafficking in persons involves migrant smuggling. This is not incorrect, as many trafficking in persons crimes initially begin with migrants being smuggled through transit countries and onto destination countries. But what is initially a voluntary migration movement often ends in exploitation.

Thus, the analysis indicates that most surveyed Albanian youth have a sound understanding of what human trafficking means. While they cannot define the term in detail, they understand that it is a human rights, or crime, or migration, including irregular migration, issue, or a combination of those issues.

Knowledge about where human trafficking occurs

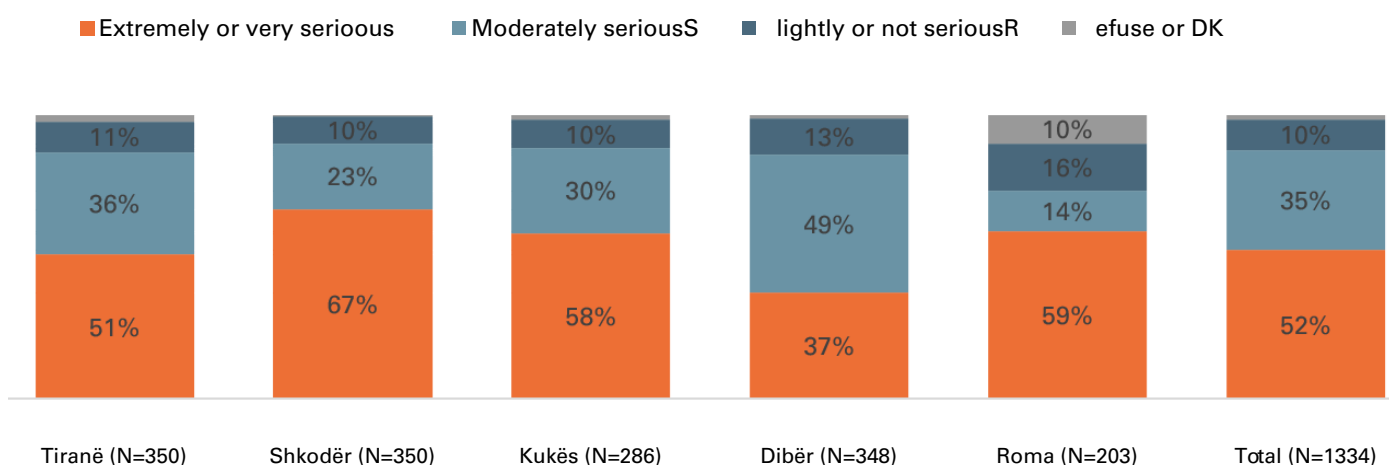
In order to measure knowledge of where human trafficking of Albanian citizens occurs, surveyed youth were asked three consecutive 5-point Likert scale questions about the extent to which they think human trafficking is a serious problem for Albanian citizens: (1) to foreign countries; (2) in Albania (i.e. domestic trafficking of Albanians); and (3) in their local area. The purpose of the questions was to gauge whether surveyed youth think that human trafficking is an issue that can affect them (in their local area, or in Albania) or whether they think it is a problem that primarily occurs only abroad. The question could help to understand whether the surveyed Albanian youth think that they, and their friends and family members, are at risk of human trafficking, or whether they think it is only an issue that affects Albanians abroad. The findings could help identify areas for programmatic intervention, particularly for the development of communication strategies targeting strengthening knowledge on where human trafficking occurs.

Trafficking to foreign countries

More than half of the surveyed youth consider that trafficking of Albanians to foreign countries is a very serious, or serious, problem. More than one in three surveyed youth consider that the trafficking of Albanians to foreign countries is a moderately serious problem. Only one in ten consider that it is only a slightly serious problem, or not a serious problem.²⁹

Results by region and among Roma (Figure 5) show that the majority of surveyed youth who think that the human trafficking of Albanians to foreign countries is an extremely or very serious problem live in Shkoder (67%) or Kukës (58%). In Diber, only 37 percent of surveyed youth consider that it is an extremely serious or serious problem. Meanwhile, 59 percent of surveyed Roma youth think that human trafficking of Albanians to foreign countries is an extremely or very serious problem.

Figure 5. Knowledge of human trafficking (of Albanian citizens) to foreign countries, by region and among Roma



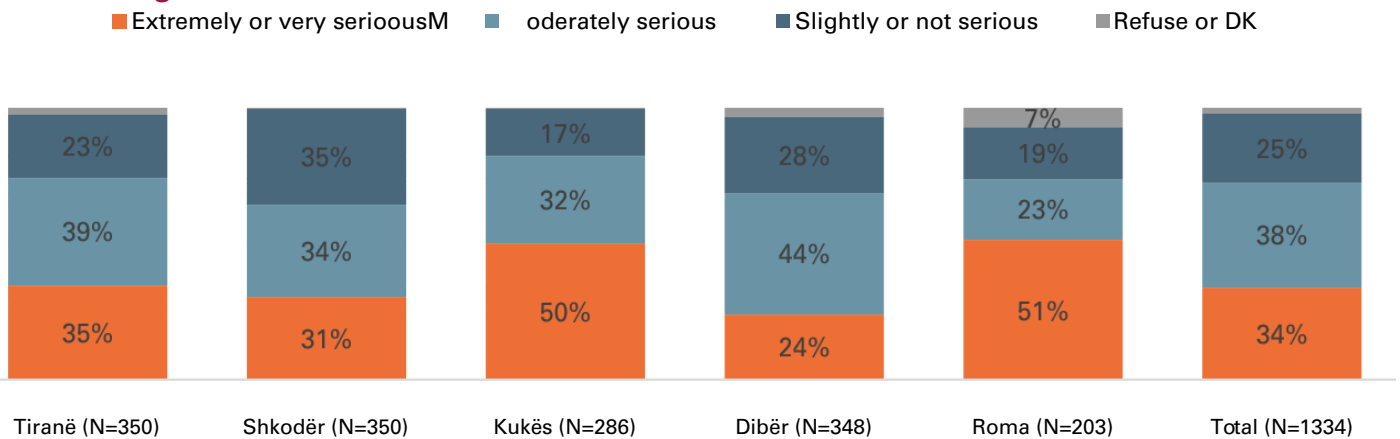
²⁹ The category Total does not include Roma, since the population was selected based on a random selection in order to be representative, while the selection of Roma participants was made based on quotas, a different method of selection.



Trafficking within Albania

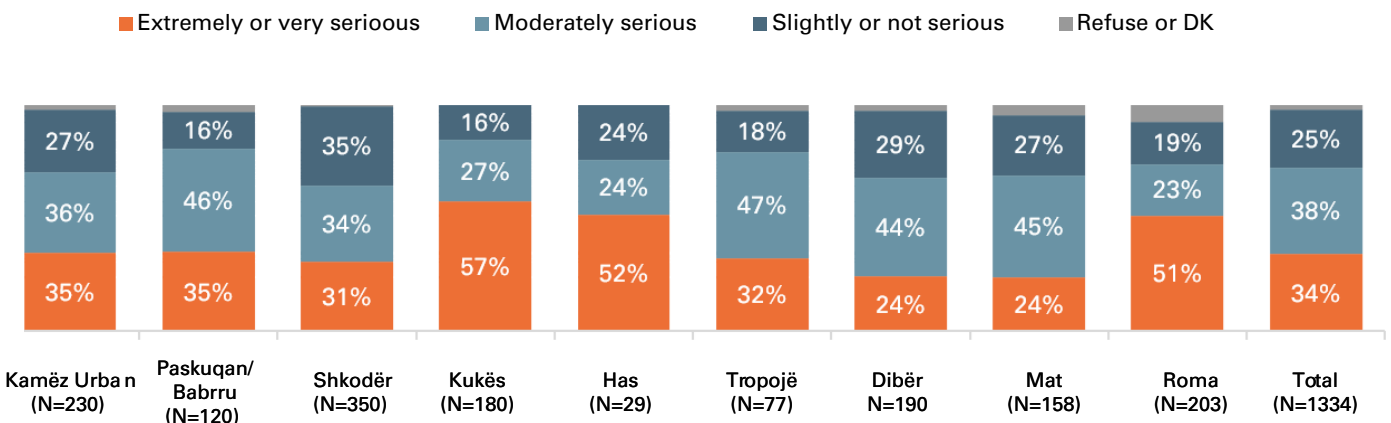
Across the four regions, more than one in three surveyed youths consider that the trafficking of Albanians within the country is an extremely, or very, serious problem (Figure 6). Thus, youths are less aware of the occurrence of human trafficking in Albania than they are of the trafficking of Albanians abroad. As highlighted above, the literature suggests that there are currently more domestic trafficking cases in the country than cross-border trafficking cases. The findings of the present study highlight a gap in the knowledge among youth about the occurrence of trafficking within Albania. However, it should be noted that the literature also highlights that Albania remains a major source country of human trafficking, and that the volume of human trafficking of Albanians was higher than domestic trafficking until 2009.³⁰ Thus, the finding that surveyed youth think that human trafficking to foreign countries is more significant than domestic trafficking does not necessarily represent incorrect knowledge. Rather, it suggests an opportunity to strengthen youth knowledge that human trafficking can occur anywhere, including in Albania.

Figure 6. Knowledge of human trafficking (of Albanian citizens) within Albania, by region and among Roma



Youths surveyed in Kukës, Has and among Roma showed more knowledge (57%, 52% and 51%, respectively) than youths from other areas (e.g. Diber, 24%) that human trafficking within Albania is an extremely serious or very serious problem (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Knowledge of human trafficking (of Albanian citizens) within Albania, by municipality and among Roma

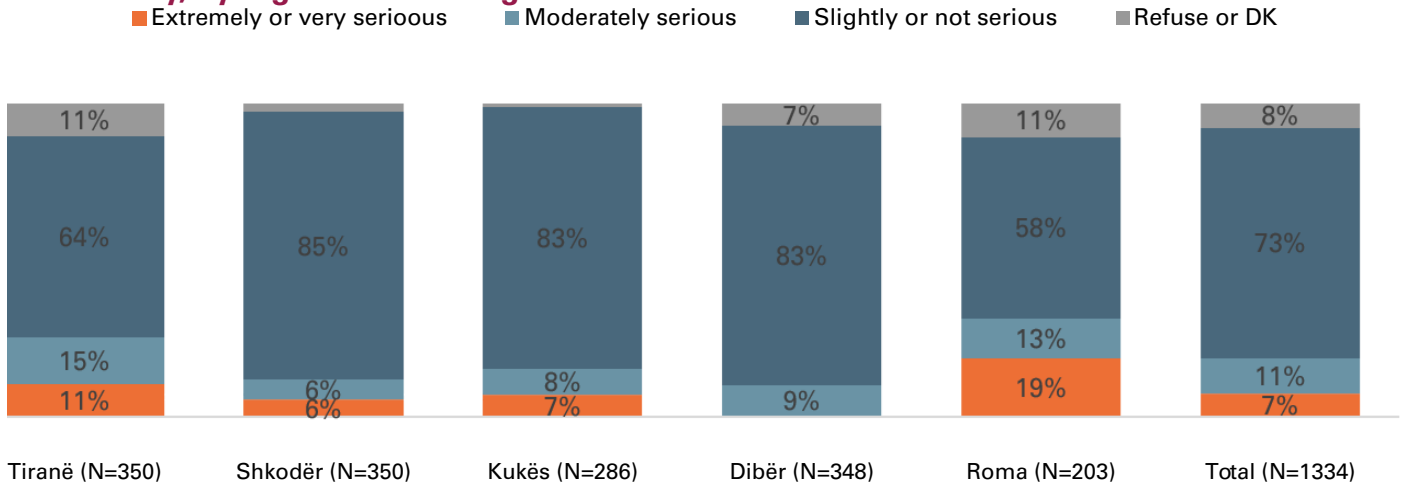




In local areas

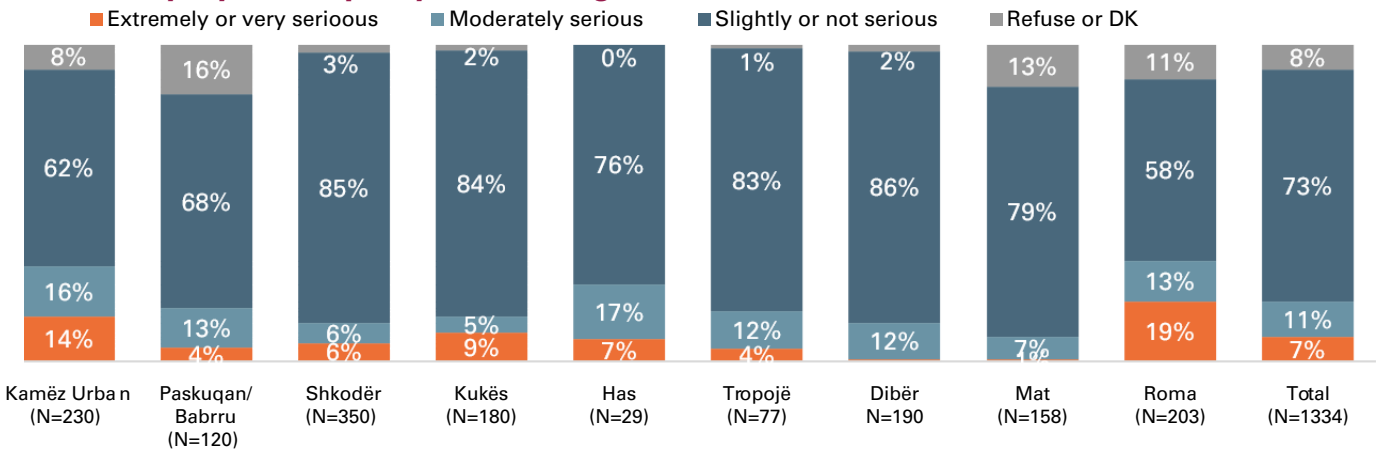
Analysis of results from the four regions (Figure 8) shows that human trafficking is perceived as an extremely serious or very serious problem in their local area by only seven percent of surveyed youth, while more than 70 percent consider that the phenomenon is only slightly serious, or not serious at all.

Figure 8. Knowledge of human trafficking (of Albanian citizens) in the local area or community, by region and among Roma



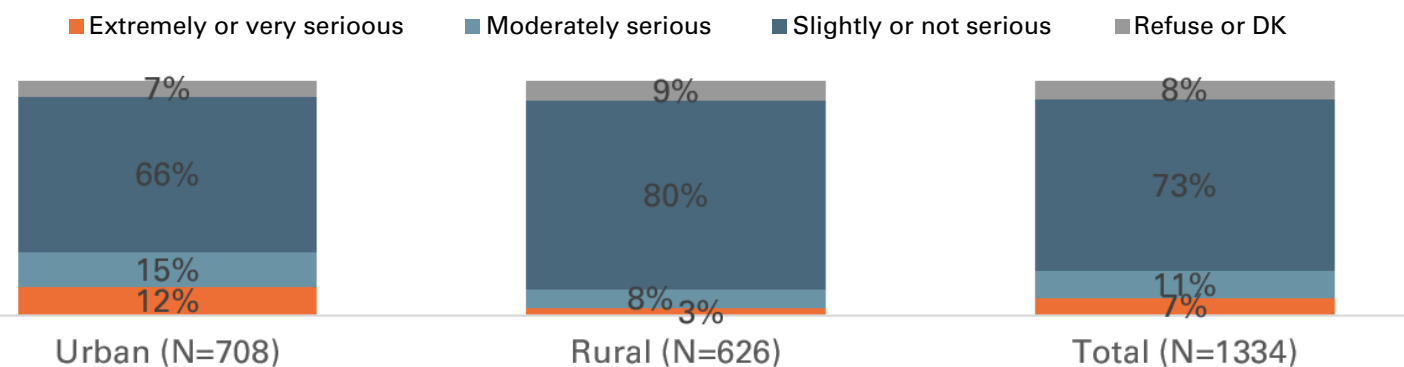
Analysis of results by municipality (Figure 9) shows that Roma youth (19%) have more knowledge than other surveyed youth that human trafficking is a problem in their local community: 19 percent among Roma compared with, for example, only one percent in Mat, and none in Diber.

Figure 9. Knowledge of human trafficking (of Albanian citizens) in the local area or community, by municipality and among Roma



Youths in urban areas have more knowledge than those in rural areas that human trafficking is an extremely or very serious issue in their local area (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Knowledge of human trafficking (of Albanian citizens) in the local area or community, by type of area

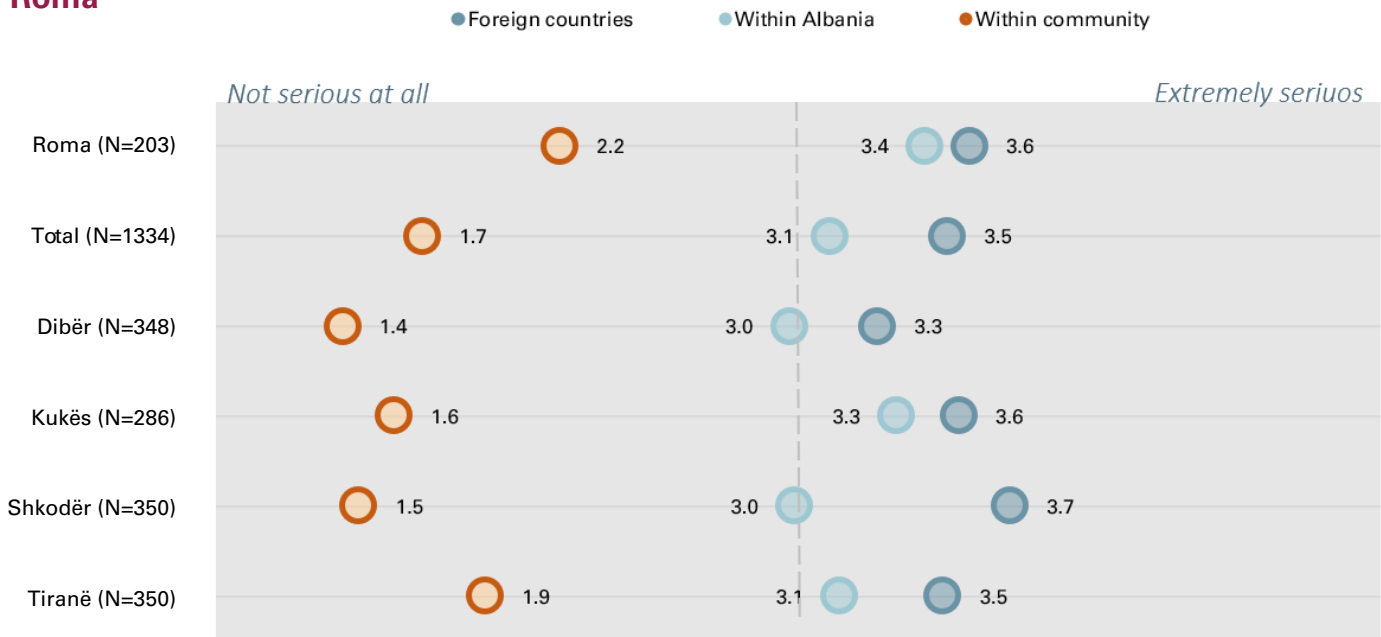




Thus, the findings show that human trafficking of Albanian citizens is primarily perceived among youth as an issue that happens to Albanians going abroad. Only a third of surveyed youth consider that it is a very serious issue in the country, and very few consider it an issue that affects their local area, that it affects others, is 'other there', and that they themselves are safe in Albania, and particularly in their community. This perception potentially has consequences for youth vulnerability to human trafficking: if youth do not consider that human trafficking can affect them, or their peers and family members, they are less likely to consider themselves at risk and thus to be cautious when, for example, accepting employment in their local area, or in a city.

Figure 11 reports the mean of the responses among surveyed youth to survey questions 2, 3 and 4, and that human trafficking is not considered a serious problem at all within communities, but that trafficking to foreign countries is a serious problem.

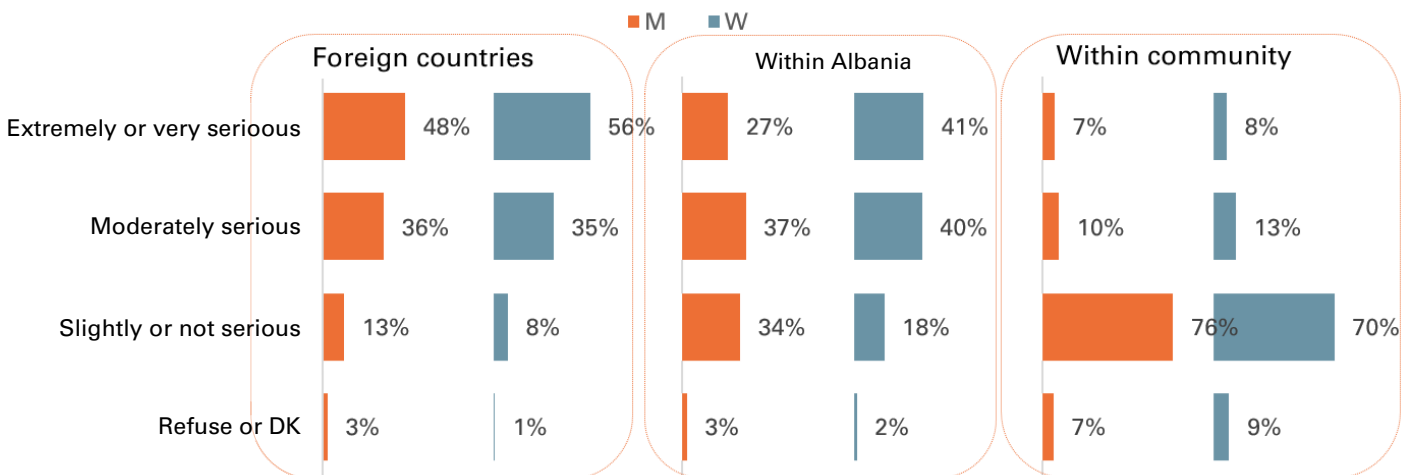
Figure 11. Perception of seriousness of problem of human trafficking, by region and among Roma



Analysis of the results by gender (Figure 12) across the four regions surveyed show that responses of male and female youth are fairly similar, with females considering slightly more strongly than males that human trafficking is an extremely serious or very serious problem to foreign countries and within Albania.

Human trafficking within Albania, and within communities, is perceived as more serious by youth with tertiary education than those with basic education (46% and 22%, respectively).

Figure 12. Perception of seriousness of problem of human trafficking to foreign countries, within Albania and within the community, by sex



Meanwhile, youths of age 18–29 years have better knowledge of where human trafficking occurs than do those of age 15–17 years.



Key points:

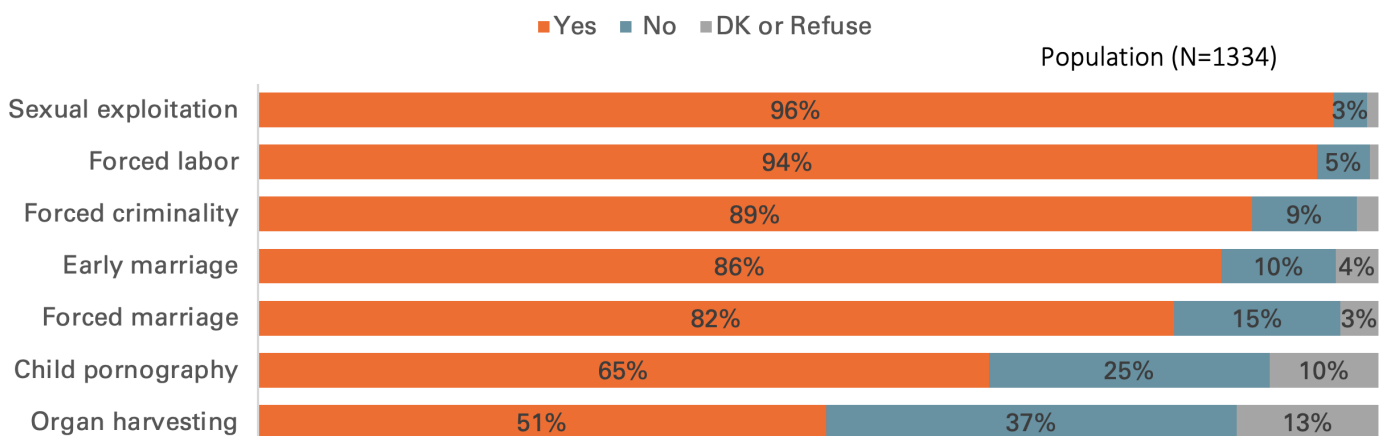
- Surveyed youth are aware that human trafficking of Albanian citizens to foreign countries is a serious problem. Only a third of surveyed youth consider that it is a serious domestic problem (within Albania). Very few surveyed youths recognise human trafficking as an issue that affects their local area.
- Knowledge among Roma youth is on the whole greater than among others: Roma youth demonstrate more knowledge that human trafficking is a serious problem in Albania, and in their local area.
- Knowledge of where human trafficking occurs is greater among youth in urban areas and among those with higher education.
- Knowledge of where human trafficking occurs is weaker in youth of age 15–17 years than among other youth.
- Regardless of the variations depicted in the analysis, the communication strategies should target all youth in increasing knowledge and awareness that human trafficking takes place in any setting and, thus, that anyone can be at risk of human trafficking.
- Future research should further explore the reasons for which youth think that human trafficking occurs more often to foreign countries than in their own country, and whether there is an important interplay between knowledge of human trafficking (where it occurs) and vulnerability to human trafficking.

Knowledge about the types of exploitation of Albanian citizens that occur a) in Albania, and b) abroad

Knowledge about the different types of exploitation that may occur in Albania, and to Albanians trafficked abroad, was captured through asking youth to answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to a series of options (e.g. trafficking for sexual exploitation; forced labour; forced marriage; forced criminality; organ harvesting; other; and whether in Albania, and abroad). Most options in the question were divided into options for adults and for children, e.g. sexual exploitation of adults; sexual exploitation of children. The purpose of the question was to understand whether youth are familiar with the different types of exploitation that can occur. Few responses would suggest knowledge gaps that communication strategies might address to inform youth of the types of exploitation, along with other accompanying messages of awareness.

Most surveyed youth responded that human trafficking does occur in Albania (Figure 13) for sexual exploitation (96%), forced labour (94%), forced criminality (89%), early marriage (86%), and child marriage (82%). Responses were fewer for other options, including child pornography³¹ (65%), and organ harvesting (51%).

Figure 13. Perception of types of exploitation occurring in Albania



³¹The term ‘child pornography’ will not be used in the second wave survey. Instead, it will be captured under the broader term ‘sexual exploitation’, or will be referred to as ‘child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation materials’.

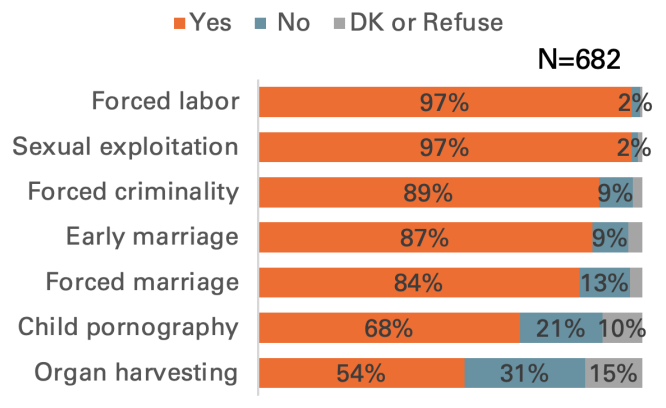
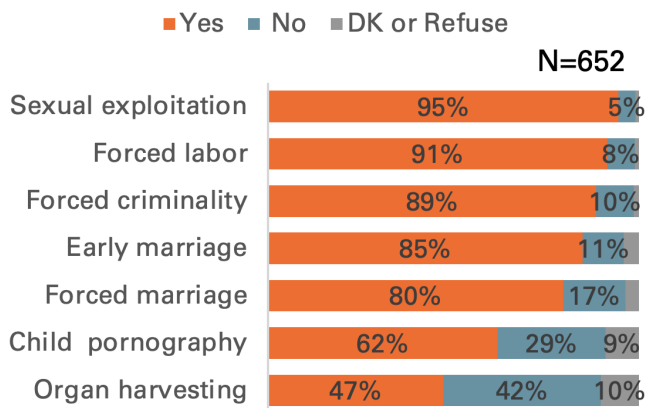


The highest levels of response regarding forced labour, sexual exploitation, forced criminality, early marriage, and forced marriage in Albania possibly contradict the low level of responses to the survey question: ‘How serious a problem do you think human trafficking (of Albanian citizens) within Albania is’? However, the questionnaire was designed to dig progressively into youth knowledge regarding human trafficking, and therefore such contradictions do not necessarily represent a knowledge gap but, rather, an opportunity for further exploration of youth knowledge regarding human trafficking in the second wave survey.

Responses to the question on the types of exploitation that occur in Albania are similar among surveyed male and female youth (Figures 14 and 15), with females responding ‘yes’ slightly more often than surveyed male youth.

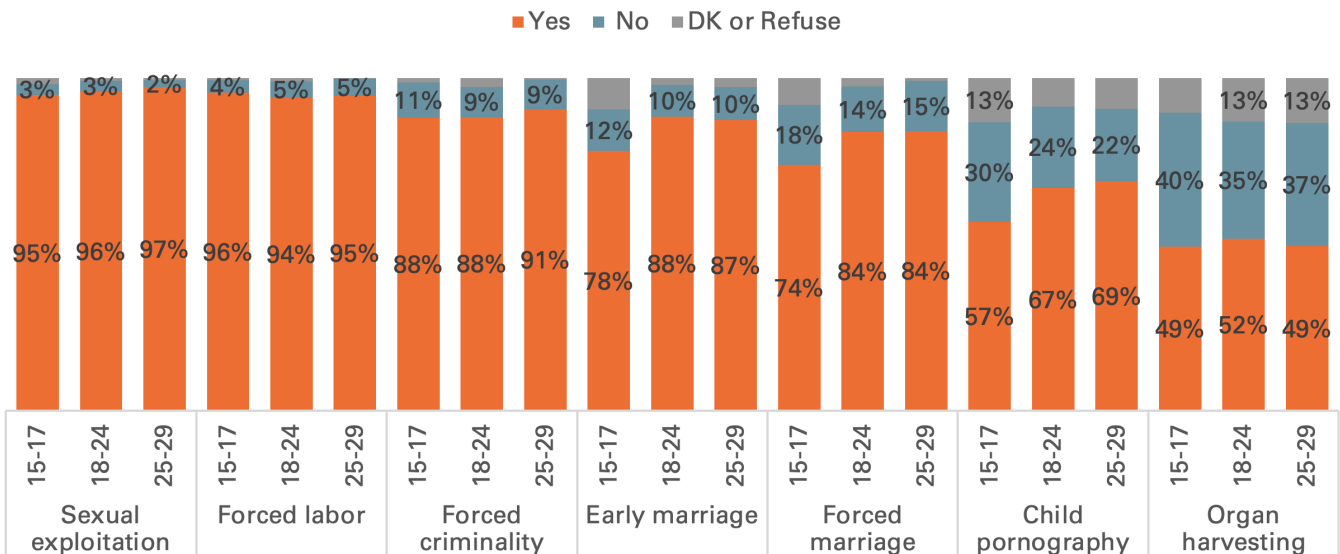
Figure 14. Perception of types of exploitation in Albania, male perception

Figure 15. Perception of types of exploitation in Albania, female perception



There were no significant differences between different age groups of youth surveyed in the types of exploitation that occur in Albania (Figure 16). Those of age 15–17 years perceive early marriage, forced marriage and child pornography as types of exploitation happening in Albania slightly less than do 18–29-year-olds.

Figure 16. Perception of types of exploitation in Albania, by age group

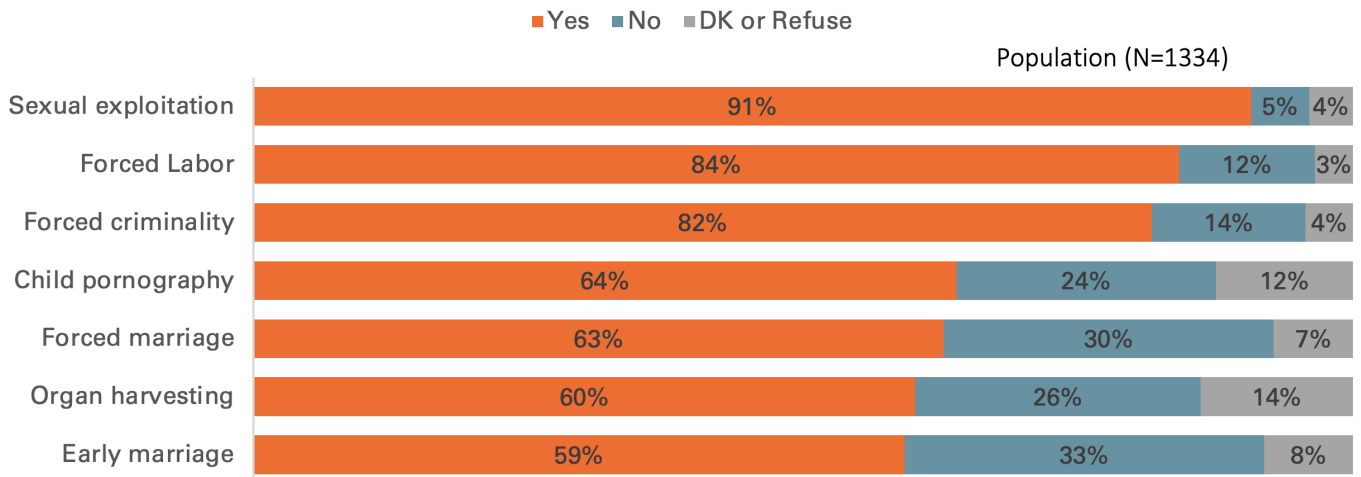




Perceptions of the types of exploitation that occur to Albanians trafficked outside of the country were similar to those on types of exploitation in Albania, with also no significant differences between those of urban and rural youth, nor by education level.

The most frequently reported perception of exploitation outside Albania was sexual exploitation (Figure 17), with 91 percent of surveyed youth agreeing that sexual exploitation occurs in foreign countries, followed by forced labour (84%), and forced criminality (82%). Lower levels of perceived types of exploitation occurring abroad were forced marriage (63%), organ harvesting (60%) and early marriage (59%).

Figure 17. Perception of types of exploitation of Albanians trafficked abroad



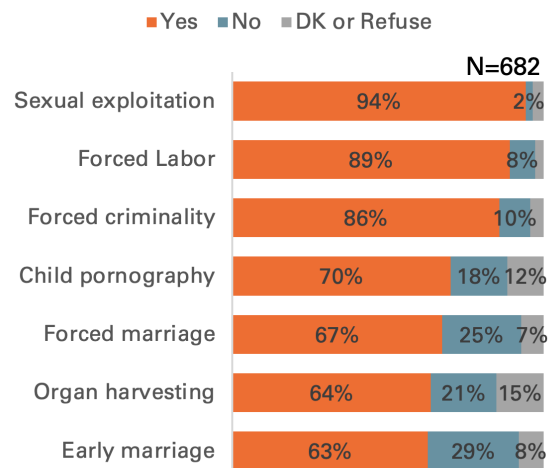
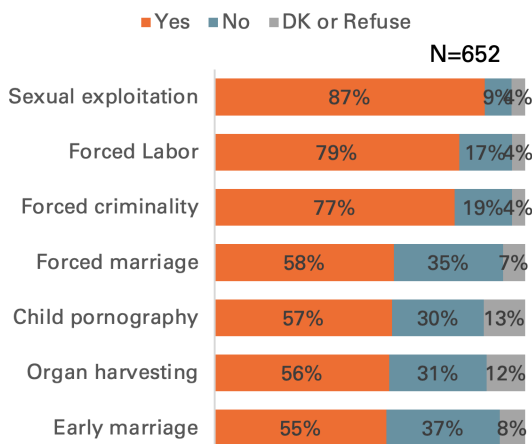
Roma youth demonstrated slightly less knowledge than the other youths surveyed of the different types of exploitation that occur outside Albania.

As highlighted in the literature review above, common forms of exploitation of Albanian youth—in Albania and abroad—include forced marriage³² and child pornography (production of child sexual abuse materials).³³ The first wave survey identifies these areas of little knowledge of types of exploitation (early and forced marriages and child pornography) that should be addressed through the communication strategies. Surveyed youth also showed lower levels of knowledge of organ harvesting, though this is not surprising because the phenomenon is not a common type of exploitation, either in Albania or among Albanians trafficked abroad.

Meanwhile, female youth consider more strongly than male youth that the various types of exploitation occur outside of Albania (Figures 18 and 19).

Figure 18. Perception of types of exploitation abroad, males

Figure 19. Perception of types of exploitation abroad, females



³² Hynes, P. et al, 2018, 'Vulnerability' to human trafficking: A study of Viet Nam, Albania, Nigeria and the UK, p. 7.

³³ UNICEF Albania, 2020, The lost cases.



Key points:

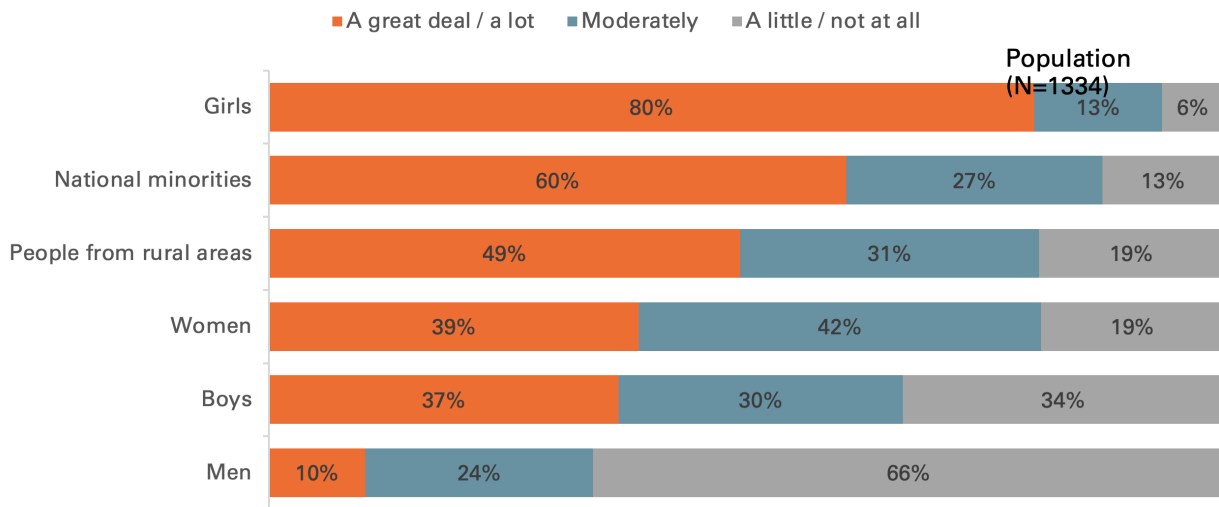
- Overall, knowledge among Albanian youth of the commonest types of exploitation is sound, with them knowing that sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced criminality, and forced marriage occur both within the country and abroad.
- Awareness of the occurrence of child pornography and early marriage is not robust.
- Surveyed female youth are more aware than male youth of the types of exploitation that occur.
- Knowledge among Roma youth is slightly less than among other youth about the types of exploitation that occur.
- Communication strategies and campaigns could target increasing knowledge among female and male youth, including Roma, regarding the types of exploitation that can occur and which they should know about, particularly child pornography and early marriage.

Knowledge of those at risk of human trafficking

Knowledge of who is at risk of human trafficking was gathered through a 5-point Likert scale question asking surveyed youth ‘How much do you think each of the following people are at risk of being trafficked?’ with options for women, girls, men, boys, national minorities, people from rural areas, and ‘other’. The purpose of this question was to understand whether surveyed youth know that various groups are at risk of human trafficking, and to determine whether they know that even men and boys can be trafficked, and that national minorities and youth from rural areas are at heightened risk of human trafficking, as the literature suggests.

Across the four regions, most surveyed youth consider that the group most at risk of human trafficking is girls under the age of 18 years (Figure 20; 80%, ‘a great deal’ or ‘a lot’), followed by national minorities (60%). Boys and men are mostly perceived to be not at significant risk of being trafficked (37% and 10%, respectively, ‘a great deal’ or ‘a lot’).

Figure 20. Perception of people at risk of being trafficked



Analysis by region (Figure 21) indicates that knowledge of the high risks of trafficking for women is least in Kukës (28%, ‘a great deal’ or ‘a lot’) compared to 46 percent in Tirana, while such perceptions for men (Figure 22) are less than 20 percent.

Figure 21. Perception that women and girls are at risk of being trafficked, by region and among Roma

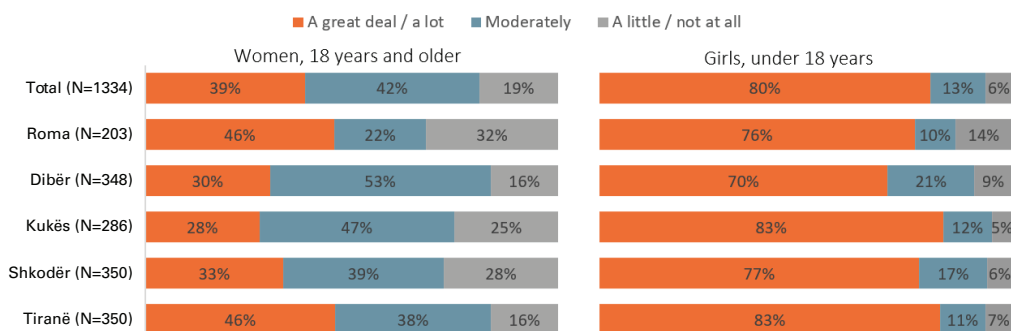
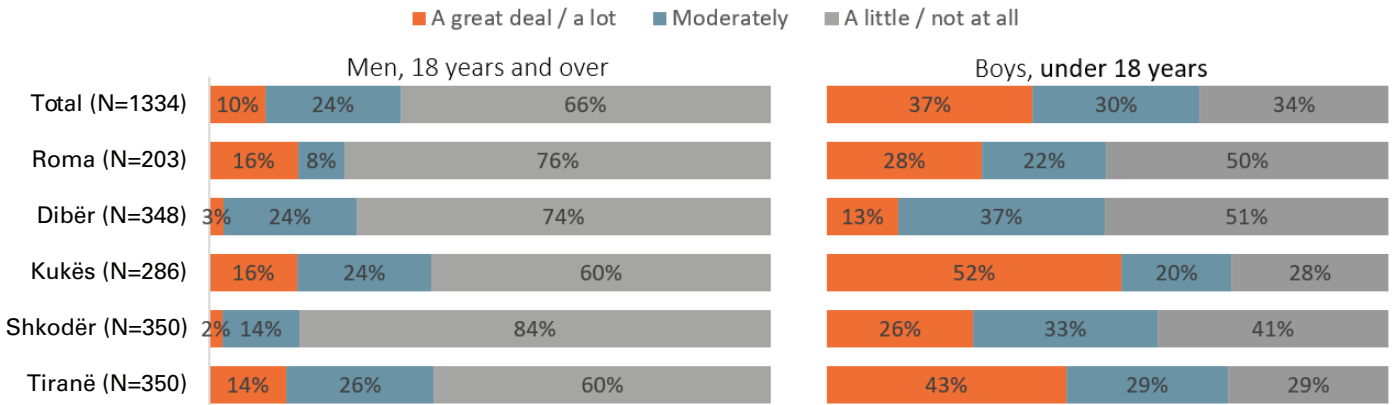


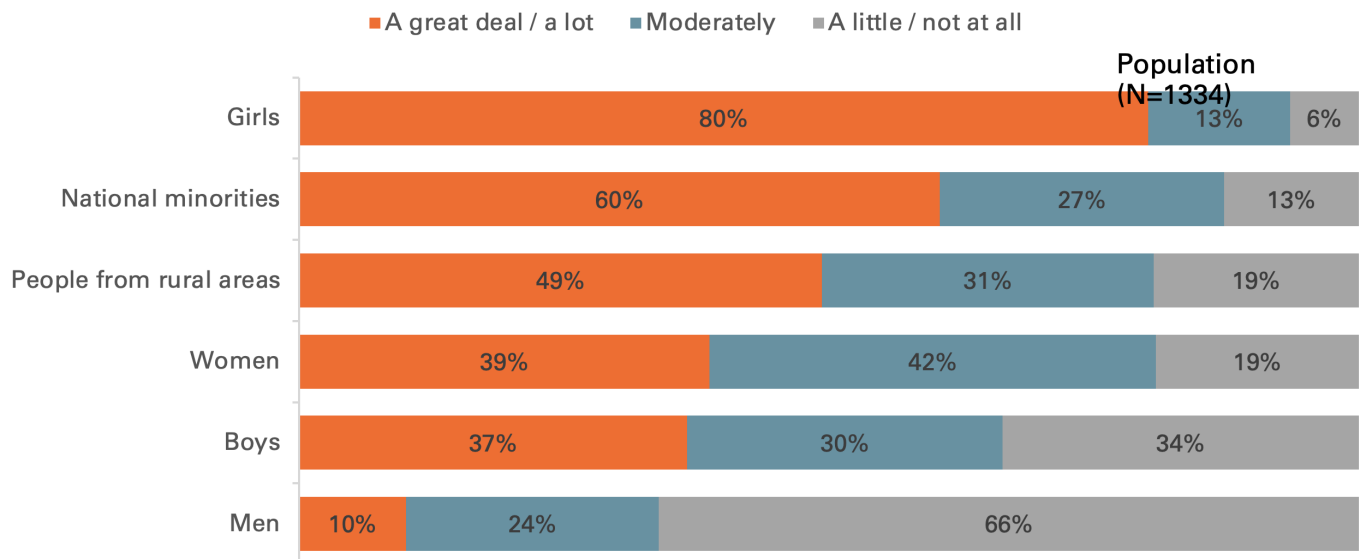


Figure 22. Perception that men and boys are at risk of being trafficked, by region and among Roma



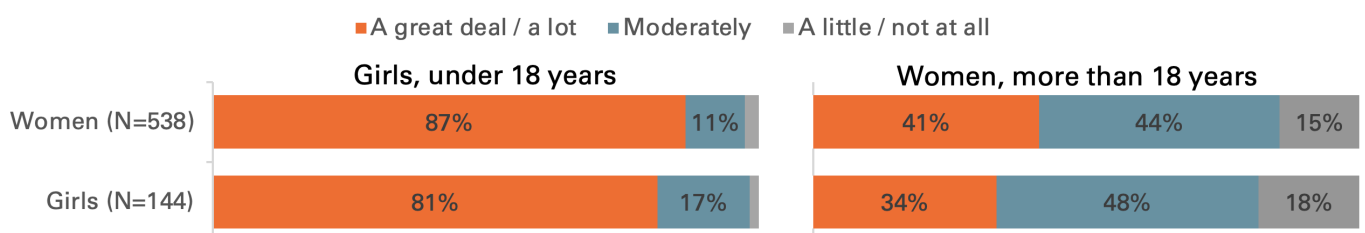
There was significant variation in responses by municipality regarding knowledge of the trafficking of men and boys (Figure 23). For example, in Kukës 67 percent, and in Kamza 51 percent, of surveyed youth reported that boys are at great, or a lot of, risk of being trafficked compared to only eight percent in Diber. Meanwhile, youth with higher education have more knowledge than other youths that men and boys are at risk of human trafficking.

Figure 23. Perception that men and boys are at risk of being trafficked, by municipality and among Roma



Female youths (both girls under 18 years, and women above 18 years) think that girls are at significant risk of trafficking (Figure 24), much more so than women.

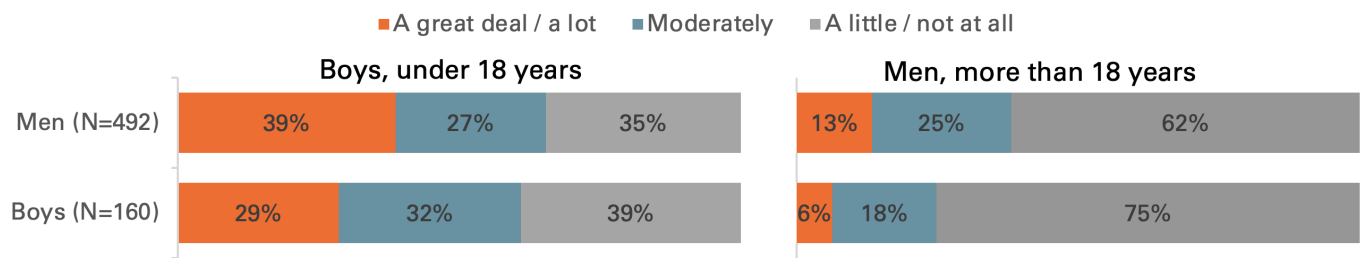
Figure 24. Perception among female youths that girls and women are at risk of being trafficked





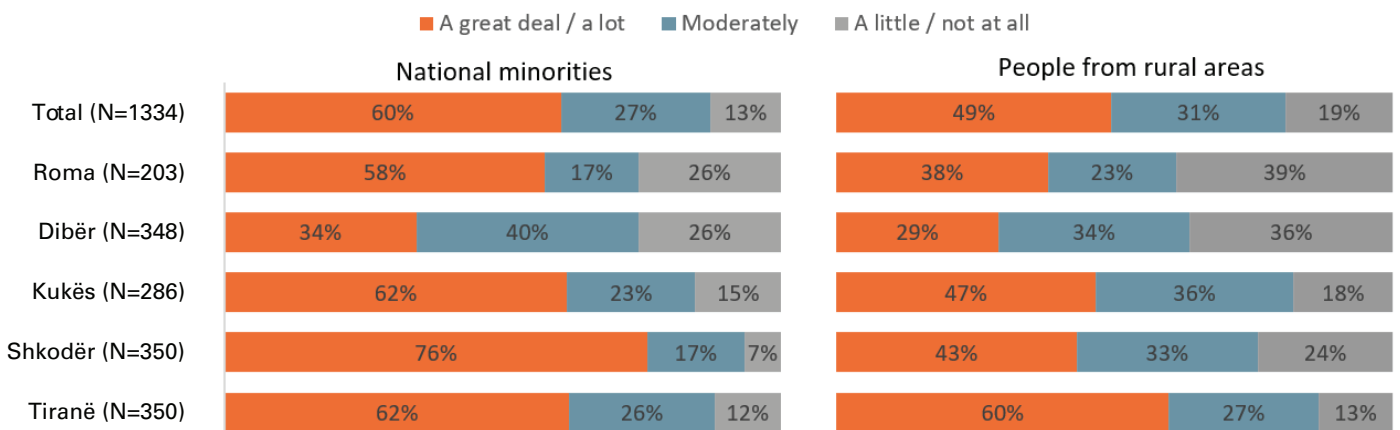
Meanwhile, males of age 15–17 years think that boys are more at risk of trafficking than men (Figure 25), but less so than do older male youths.

Figure 25. Perception among male youths that boys and men are at risk of being trafficked



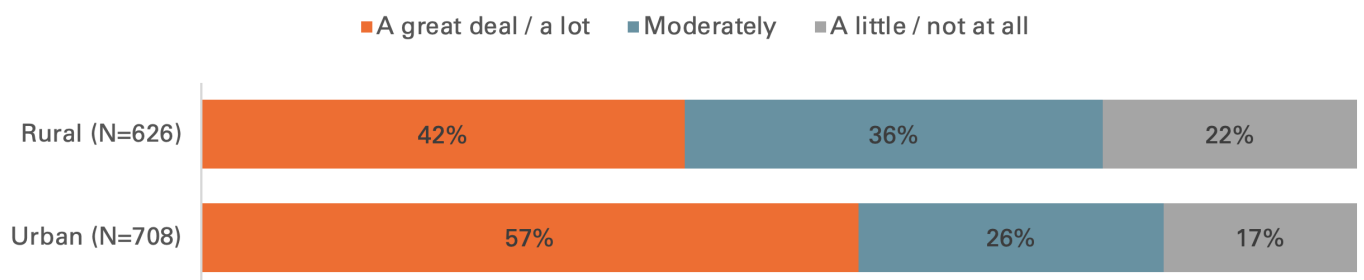
Knowledge that national minorities and people from rural areas are at risk of human trafficking (Figure 26) is lower in some regions (e.g., Diber, 34% and 29%, respectively) than others (e.g., Tirana, 62% and 60%, respectively).

Figure 26. Perceptions that national minorities and people from rural areas are at risk of being trafficked, by region and among Roma



Further analysis of the responses among youths living in rural and in urban areas (Figure 27) suggests that the majority of those from rural areas do not think that they are at significant risk of trafficking.

Figure 27. Perception that people from rural areas are at risk of being trafficked, by area type



Meanwhile, the majority of Roma youth surveyed (58%; Figure 28) think that national minorities are at a great, or a lot of, risk of human trafficking, though 26 percent think that there is little or no such risk.

Figure 28. Perception among Roma that national minorities are at risk of being trafficked





In sum, there is a key gap in knowledge of trafficking that should be addressed in the communication strategies, as the literature identifies that minority groups in Albania are at heightened risk of human trafficking.

Key points:

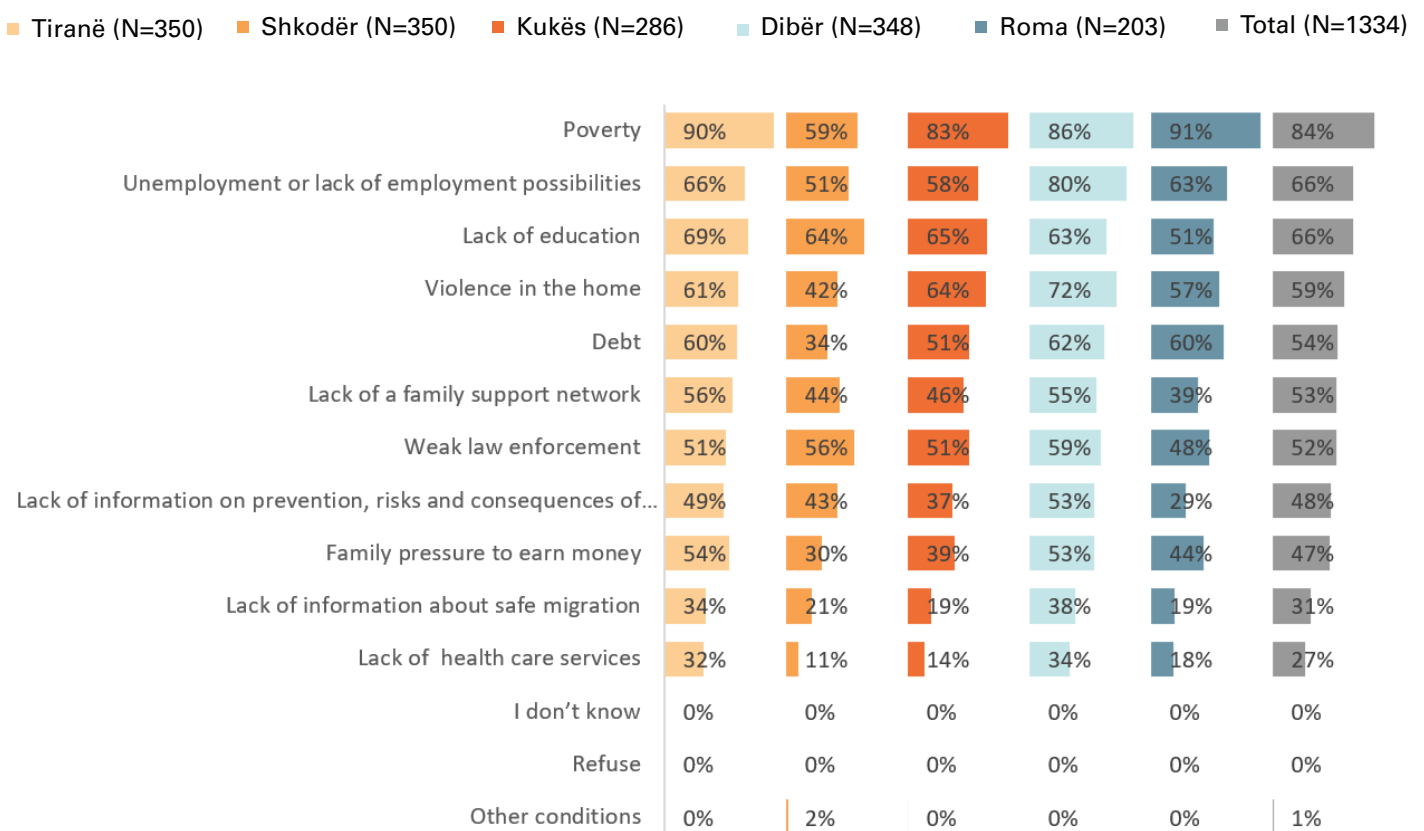
- In line with the findings from the literature review, most surveyed youth think that human trafficking is a problem that mostly affects women and girls.
- In two of the four regions surveyed, very few youths consider that men are vulnerable to human trafficking.
- Knowledge among youth surveyed in rural areas that they can be trafficked is not robust.
- Knowledge among Roma youth that national minorities, including Roma, are at risk of trafficking is not robust.
- The communication strategies could, through dedicated strategies and messages targeted at male youth, potentially focus on increasing knowledge that men and boys can be trafficked.
- The communication strategies could also target improving knowledge on the risks of trafficking of youth in rural areas and the trafficking of national minorities. The strategies could target, specifically, increasing knowledge among youth living in rural areas and Roma youth of human trafficking risks. Such messages should be linked with the addressing of key vulnerabilities.

Knowledge about the conditions that can lead to human trafficking

Assessment of the knowledge of the conditions that can lead to human trafficking was gathered through a multiple-response question on the conditions that most likely lead to human trafficking in Albania. The question was designed to assess knowledge among surveyed youth of the conditions and drivers that may lead to human trafficking. All options were ‘correct’ in the sense that they are conditions that have been identified in the literature on human trafficking as factors or conditions that frequently make adults and children, adolescents and youths vulnerable to human trafficking. They are commonly referred to in the literature as ‘push factors’ or ‘vulnerability factors’ for human trafficking. Little knowledge of some key conditions could identify areas for programmatic intervention for strengthening knowledge of the key conditions that can lead to human trafficking.

Poverty was the factor selected most by most surveyed youth (84%) as one of the main factors that can lead to human trafficking (Figure 29). The other main factors were, in decreasing order, unemployment or lack of employment possibilities (66%), lack of education (66%), violence in the home (59%), debt (54%), lack of a family support network (53%), and weak law enforcement (52%).

Figure 29. Knowledge of important factors that lead to human trafficking, by region and among Roma





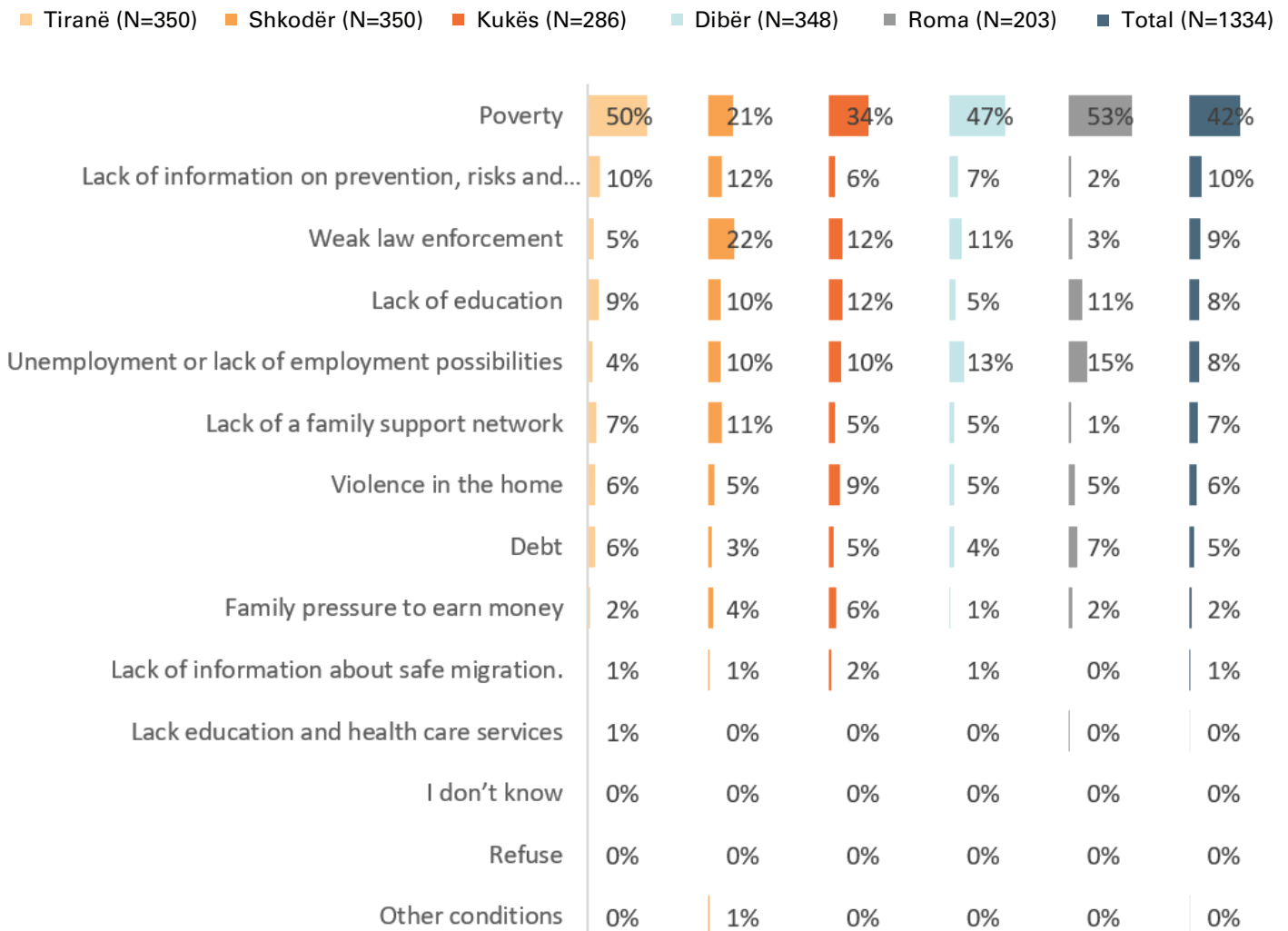
The lowest ranked option was lack of health care services (27%), followed by lack of information about safe migration (31%), family pressure to earn money (47%), and lack of information on the risks and consequences of human trafficking (48%).

Among the four regions only Shkoder youth perceived a lack of education as a more important factor than poverty (64% and 59%, respectively) in leading to human trafficking. Meanwhile those surveyed in rural areas, Roma, and those with the lowest education attainment did not consider a lack of education as one of the most significant factors.

With regard to 'lack of information about safe migration', and 'lack of information on prevention, risks and consequences of human trafficking', Roma youth and those with lower levels of education have much less knowledge of the factors than other youth that were surveyed. With regard to 'violence in the home', 'lack of a family support network', and 'lack of information on prevention, risks and consequences of human trafficking', there was no significant difference among the age groups, though analysis by sex shows that female youth have more knowledge than their male counterparts that these are key factors that can lead to human trafficking.

With regard to the factors most likely to lead to human trafficking (Figure 30), among the surveyed youth in the different regions of Albania the most important factor overall was considered to be poverty (42%), with this view shared by 53 percent of Roma youth and 50 percent of youth in Tirana.

Figure 30. Perception of most important factor that lead to human trafficking, by region and among Roma





The second most important factor was considered to be lack of information on prevention, risks and consequences of human trafficking, with ten percent of surveyed youth reporting that they consider this the most important factor leading to human trafficking, followed closely by weak law enforcement (9%), lack of education (8%), and unemployment or lack of employment opportunities (8%).

As discussed in the literature, lack of education is a key factor leading to human trafficking in Albania, and the trafficking of Albanian youth abroad, and the survey results support this view. Youths identified a lack of knowledge on some of the important factors that lead to human trafficking, including lack of education, and issues in the family home, such as violence, and family pressure on youth to earn money.

Key points:

- Most surveyed youth consider that the key factor leading to human trafficking is first and foremost poverty, followed to a significantly lesser extent by lack of employment opportunities, and lack of education.
- Some important factors that can lead to human trafficking are not considered main conditions (e.g. lack of information about safe migration, violence at home, lack of family support, information on risks and debt). Such gaps can be addressed in the communication strategies, especially for Roma, youth living in rural areas, and male youth.
- Communication strategies could be linked to messages that promote the importance of education, social support and health care, as well as messages on how to report violence and abuse, and where victims can receive support.

Knowledge of recruitment methods and human traffickers

Knowledge on human trafficking recruitment methods and on human traffickers was measured through asking respondents to reply either ‘true’ or ‘false’ to six statements about recruitment and human traffickers. The question aimed to measure youth knowledge regarding common methods of recruitment, and knowledge that anyone can be a human trafficker, including loved ones (boyfriends, girlfriends and family members).

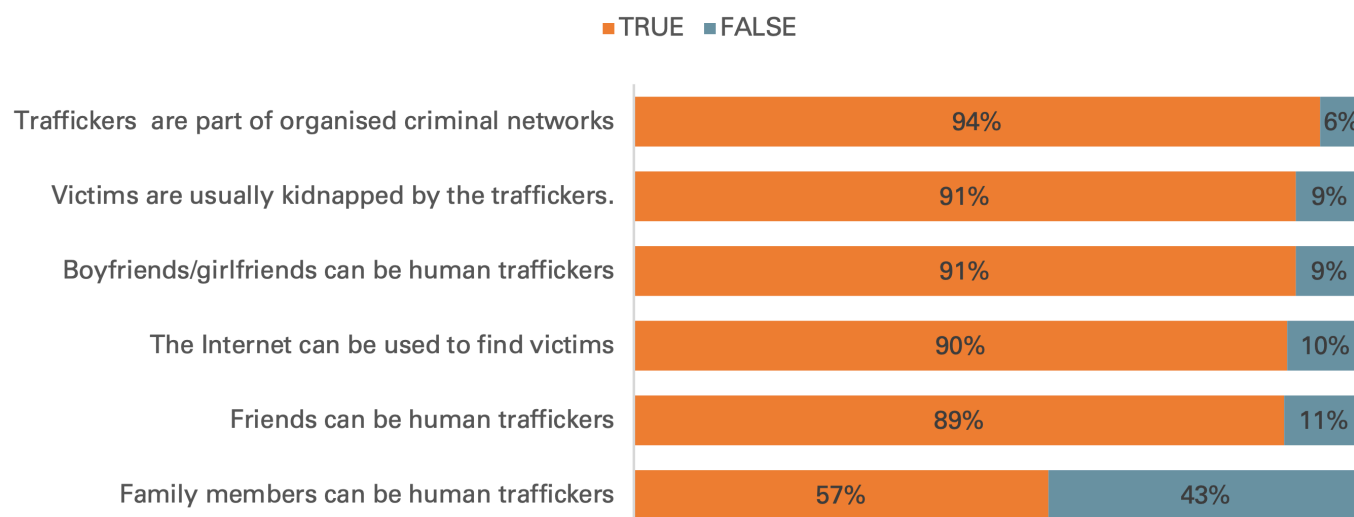
Analysis of the results show a high proportion of ‘true’ responses to all options with the exception of those to ‘family members can be traffickers’. For that option, only 57 percent of surveyed youth answered ‘true’. Thus, there is little awareness among Albanian youth that family members might be human traffickers. As highlighted in the literature review above, family members are often traffickers of Albanian youth. The present survey results identify an important gap and knowledge that should be addressed through the communication strategies.

Looking in more detail at the option ‘family members can be traffickers’, youth with higher education have more knowledge of this factor than those with basic education (63% and 47%, respectively).

Meanwhile, most surveyed youth (94%) believe that human traffickers are connected to criminal networks (Figure 31).

The options ‘boyfriends and girlfriends can be human traffickers’, ‘the Internet can be used to recruit victims’, and ‘friends can be human traffickers’ were well supported, (all around 90%) by youth, who would appear to have good knowledge of these factors.

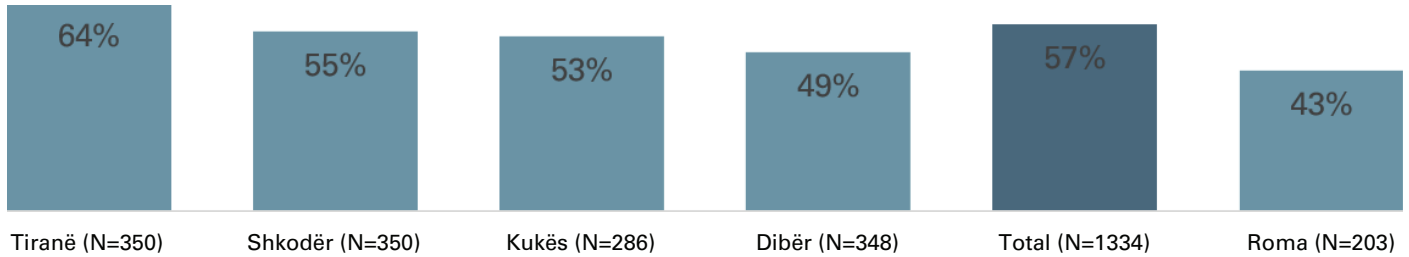
Figure 31. Perceptions of recruitment methods and human traffickers





Knowledge on human trafficking recruitment and human traffickers varied among regions (Figure 32), with youth in Shkoder (63%) and Tirana (52%) demonstrating more knowledge than those elsewhere. Knowledge among Roma youth was slightly less than the average (43% and 48%, respectively).

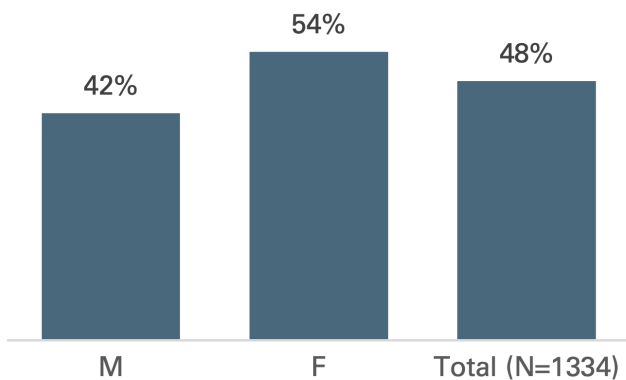
Figure 32. Knowledge of human trafficking recruitment and human traffickers, by region and among Roma



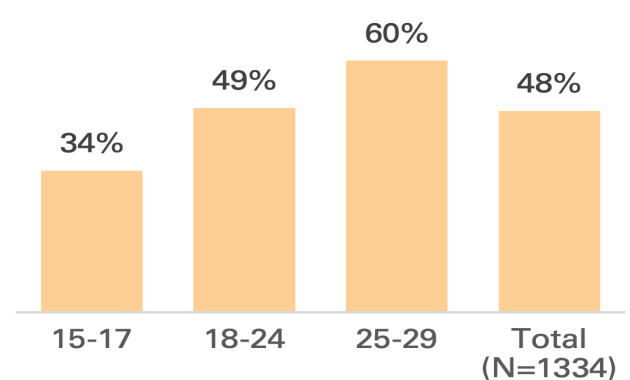
Female youth (54%) have more knowledge than their male counterparts (42%) and youth of age 25–29 years more than other youth on recruitment methods and who might be a human trafficker (Figure 33).

Figure 33. Knowledge of human trafficking recruitment and human traffickers, by sex, and age group

By sex



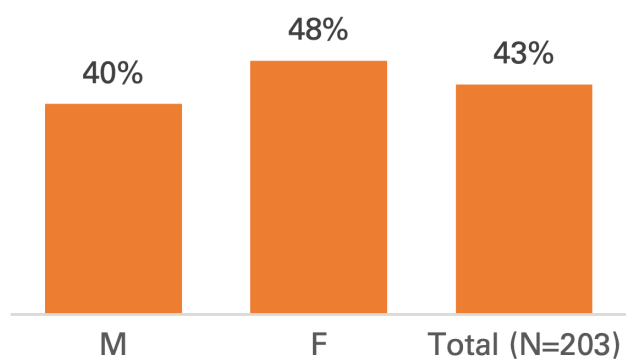
By age group



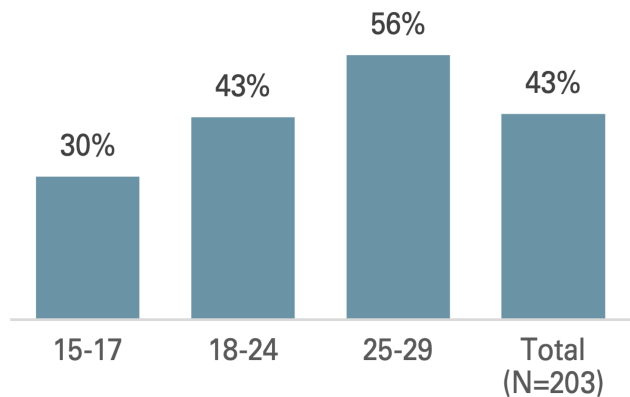
Analysis of responses among Roma youth show that females have slightly more knowledge than males on trafficking recruitment methods, and who can be human traffickers (Figure 34), while Roma youth of age 25–29 years, more knowledge on these factors than other Roma youth.

Figure 34. Knowledge among Roma youth of human trafficking recruitment and human traffickers, by sex and by age group

By sex



By age group





Key points:

- Albanian youth are aware that the Internet can be used to recruit victims, that boyfriends and girlfriends and other friends can be traffickers. They show less knowledge that family members can be traffickers, indicating stronger trust in family members, not believing that they could act as brokers or human traffickers. It should be noted that the youth surveyed may have also felt uncomfortable discussing highly personal matters with the interviewers within earshot of family members, and that criticising one’s family was taboo.
- Knowledge of human trafficking recruitment methods and who might be a human trafficker, was at a higher level among female youth and 25–29-year-olds.
- Communication strategies and campaigns should target all youth, covering strengthening knowledge on the various methods of recruitment and sending appropriate messages to increase awareness that anyone can be a human trafficker.
- Future research should explore the question of youth knowledge of human trafficking recruitment methods and who can be a human trafficker. For example, it could improve our understanding of how, and for what reasons, extended family members engage in human trafficking, and the victims’ perceptions of family members as potential recruiters and traffickers.

Knowledge of ways to report suspected human trafficking cases

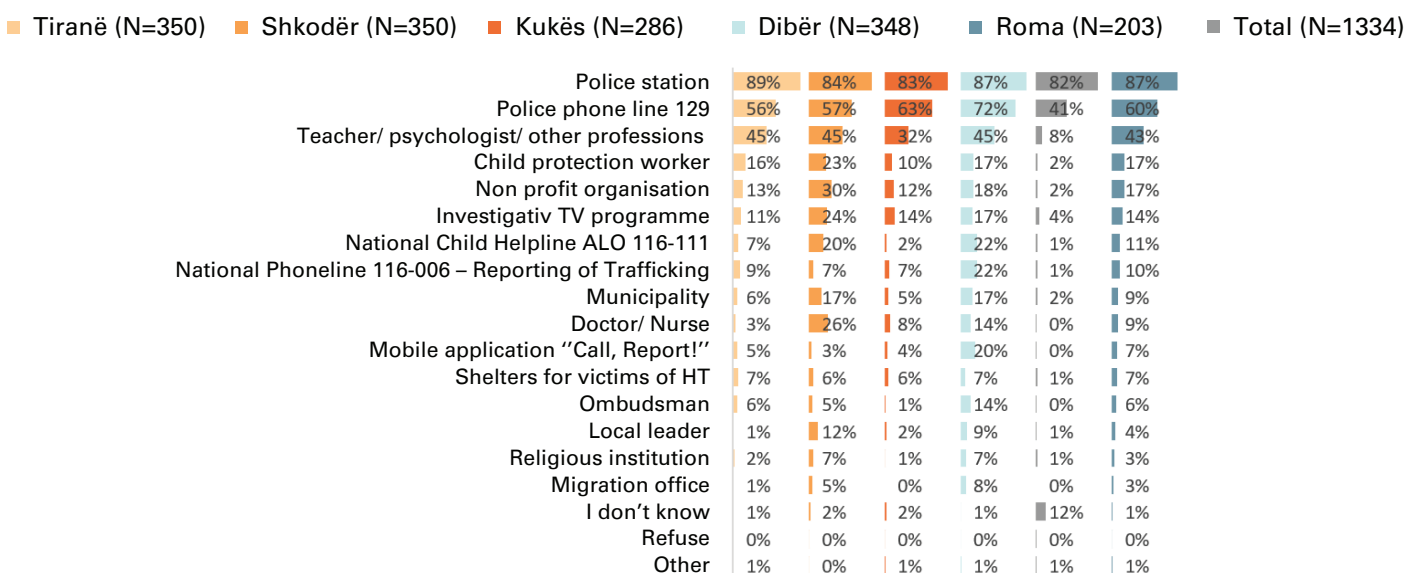
The level of knowledge or awareness of surveyed youth regarding how suspected human trafficking cases can be reported was measured through a multiple-response question, with 16 options that can be used for this purpose, including teacher, police, NGO, hotline, police line, local council, etc. The purpose of this question was to measure whether surveyed youth know the ways that human trafficking cases can be reported in the event that they ever need to report a suspected human trafficking case. Little knowledge would suggest that youth are unaware of where to turn to for help if they are ever trafficked or know someone they suspect is being trafficked.

The most frequently selected options (Figure 35) were Police station (87%) and Police hotline 129 (60%), which was highest in Diber (72) and lowest in Tirana (56%), and among Roma (47%), followed by ‘teacher, psychologist or other professional in the school’ (43%). These responses suggest that Albanian youth have a high level of trust in law enforcement and education personnel.

Analysis of the results by region, and by Roma, found that the ‘doctor or nurse’ option was selected most in Shkoder (26%), compared to only three percent in Tirana. Responses from Diber youth suggest a greater awareness of the mobile application ‘Call, Report!’ (20%) than in other regions: five percent in Tirana and three percent in Shkoder. Twelve percent of Roma youth responded that they did not know where to report suspected human trafficking cases, compared to only 1–2 percent across the four regions, highlighting a knowledge gap among Roma that should be addressed through the communication strategies.

Youth with tertiary education have more knowledge than those with basic or secondary education of where to report suspected human trafficking cases, including the Officer for Child Protection, NGOs, their municipality and shelters. Youth with basic education have better knowledge than those with higher education only that suspected human trafficking cases can be reported to the Police hotline 129, doctors and nurses.

Figure 35. Knowledge of whom to contact or report possible cases of human trafficking, by region and among Roma





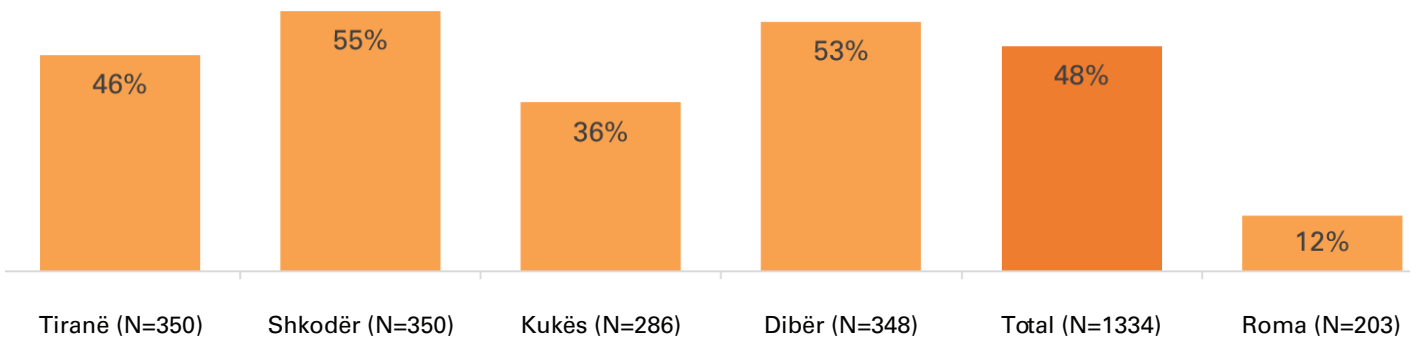
Generally, female youths have more of knowledge on ways to report suspected human trafficking cases than do male youths (Figure 36), with the exception of Police line 129 (males, 62%; females, 58%).

Figure 36. Knowledge of whom to contact or report possible cases of human trafficking, by sex



Youth in urban areas thought it better to report cases of suspected human trafficking at the police station, while those in rural areas preferred Police hotline 129. Meanwhile, 48 percent of surveyed youth knew at least three ways to report a suspected human trafficking case (Figure 37), with the highest level in Shkoder region (55%) and the lowest among the Roma (12%) and Kukës youth (36%). The level of knowledge was highest among youths with tertiary education and among those from rural areas (50% each).

Figure 37. Percentage of surveyed youth who know at least three ways of reporting suspected human trafficking, by region and among Roma



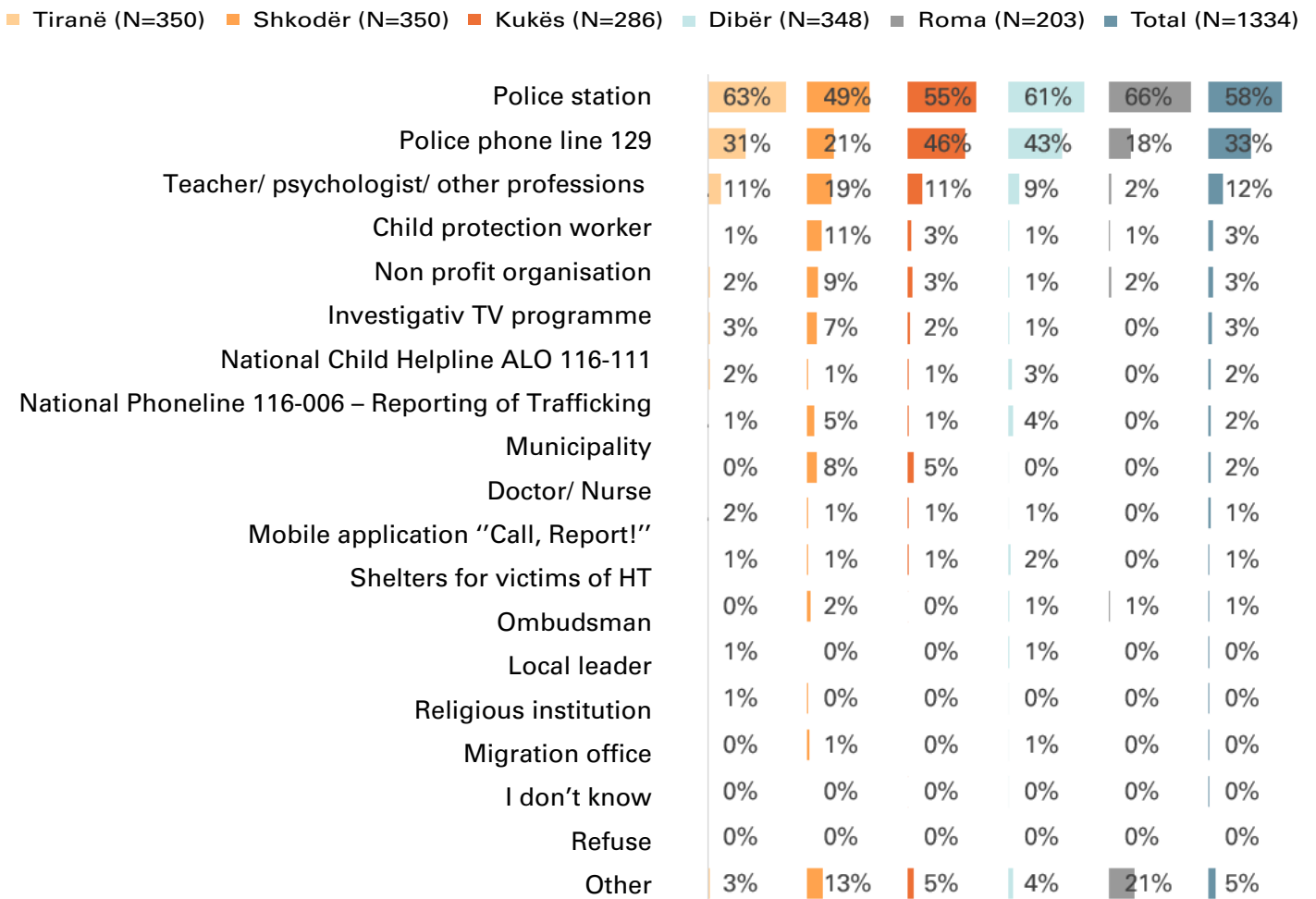
Following on from the responses to the previous question, most surveyed youth reported that they consider the Police station (58%) to be the most important place to report a suspected human trafficking case (Figure 38), followed by the Police hotline 129 (33%). Responses to all other options were very low, suggesting that surveyed youth are not aware that suspected human trafficking cases can be reported through non-Police organisations or individuals. Among the Roma youth surveyed 21 percent responded that they do not consider any of the reporting options relevant, indicating a lack of interest in reporting suspected cases of human trafficking. This finding could represent a lack of trust in law enforcement and other actors, or the view that these agencies and individuals will not take any action to intervene in suspected human trafficking cases.



It is also important to consider that some of the reporting options presented in this survey question may not apply to some of the youths surveyed. For example, some municipalities may not have a local migration office, some households may not have a television in order for families to be aware of investigative TV programmes, while some youths are not in school and thus would not report a suspected human trafficking case to a teacher.

Analysis of the responses to this question indicates that surveyed youth have good knowledge that they can report a suspected human trafficking case to the police. At a minimum, knowledge could be strengthened around the use of the Police Line 129 for reporting suspected cases. It is also important to consider the role that education has in raising awareness of human trafficking. For example, youths in urban areas may have access to better schools and to tertiary education than do rural youth, perhaps explaining why their knowledge of at least three ways of reporting suspected human trafficking cases is greater.

Figure 38. Perception of most important place or person to whom to report possible cases of human trafficking, by region and among Roma





Key points:

- Albanian youth are aware that they can report suspected human trafficking cases to police and education professionals, but they are not very aware of other reporting lines.
- Responses of Roma were non-existent or rare for all options except Police station and Police line 129, with twelve percent responding ‘I don’t know’. One in five (21%) thought that none of the options were important or relevant.
- Female youths have more knowledge than males about the ways that they can report suspected human trafficking cases.
- Knowledge of such ways is greater in rural areas, and among youths with

higher education, indicating the role of education in increasing knowledge of human trafficking. Also, urbanity may play a role in youths being familiar with ways to report suspected crimes, and this could mean that urban youths are more likely to report suspected cases than rural youths.

- Communication strategies could target at least strengthening awareness of the Police Hotline number 129 as a method for reporting suspected human trafficking cases. It would be useful for youth to learn this phone number in case they ever need to make an emergency call on behalf of friends or family members, or even themselves. The communication

strategies should also strengthen knowledge on other ways of reporting suspected human trafficking cases, i.e. through health professionals, and on the support services that such agencies can provide, that the agencies are not only for referring cases, but are also there to provide support to vulnerable persons.

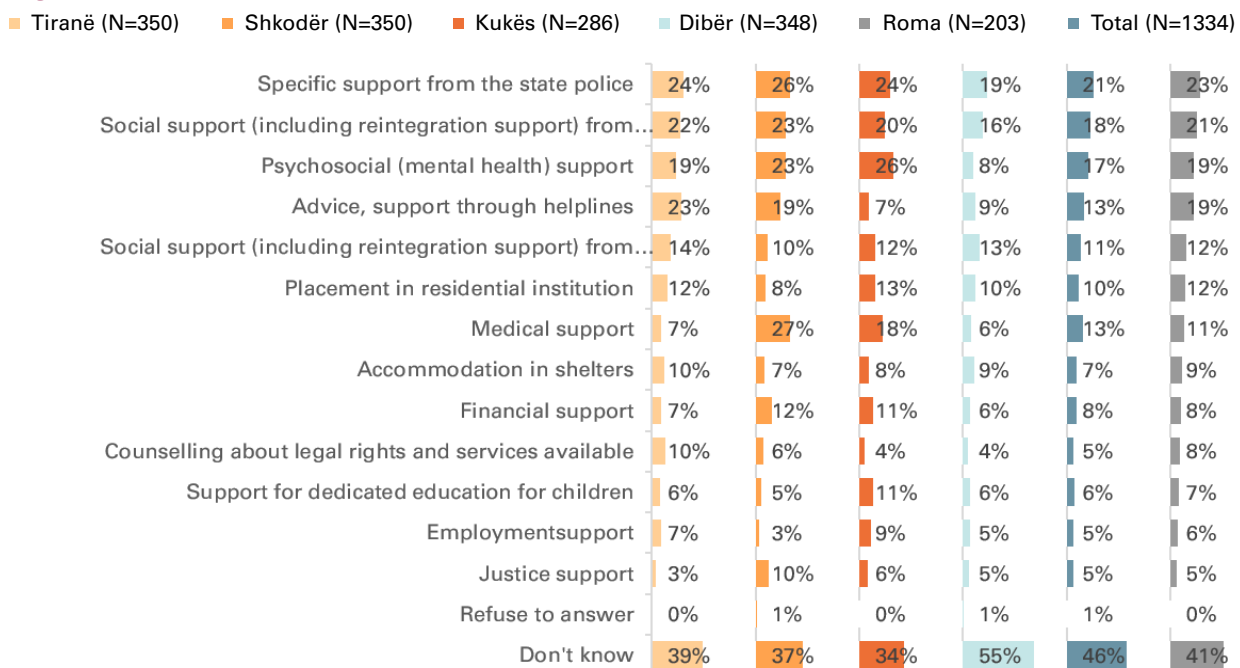
- While the communication strategies should involve all youth, messages could be targeted to build knowledge among Roma youth, youth in rural areas and male youth regarding ways to report suspected human trafficking cases. This could reduce vulnerability to human trafficking and encourage more case reporting.

Knowledge of support services available to victims of human trafficking

Knowledge of the support services available to human trafficking victims was measured through a multiple-response question: ‘Do you know what support is available to victims of human trafficking in Albania?’ Options provided included: advice through helplines; police support; social support from the government; social support from NGOs; psychosocial support; counselling and legal rights; medical support, among others. The purpose of this question was to understand whether surveyed youth are aware of the different types of support that are available to human trafficking victims. This knowledge could potentially mean that surveyed youth might be more likely to seek help themselves, or to refer a friend or family member to support services if they know that social and other support is available to victims and potential victims. Little knowledge would suggest that Albanian youths do not know where to turn to for help if they need support, highlighting a vulnerability that should be addressed through the communication strategies.

Knowledge of the various types of support available to victims of human trafficking was low among the surveyed youth (Figure 39). Some 41 percent of the youth surveyed were unaware of any forms of support available to victims. The most frequently identified types of support services available were specific support from state police (23%) and social support from NGOs (21%). This finding is in line with the finding from the Partnerë për Fëmijët study (see the first section of the report), which identified that few Albanians know of ways to help victims of trafficking in Albania. Such knowledge was least in Diber (55% of youth unaware of any support services), followed by among the Roma (46%).

Figure 39. Knowledge of support available to victims of human trafficking, by region and among Roma

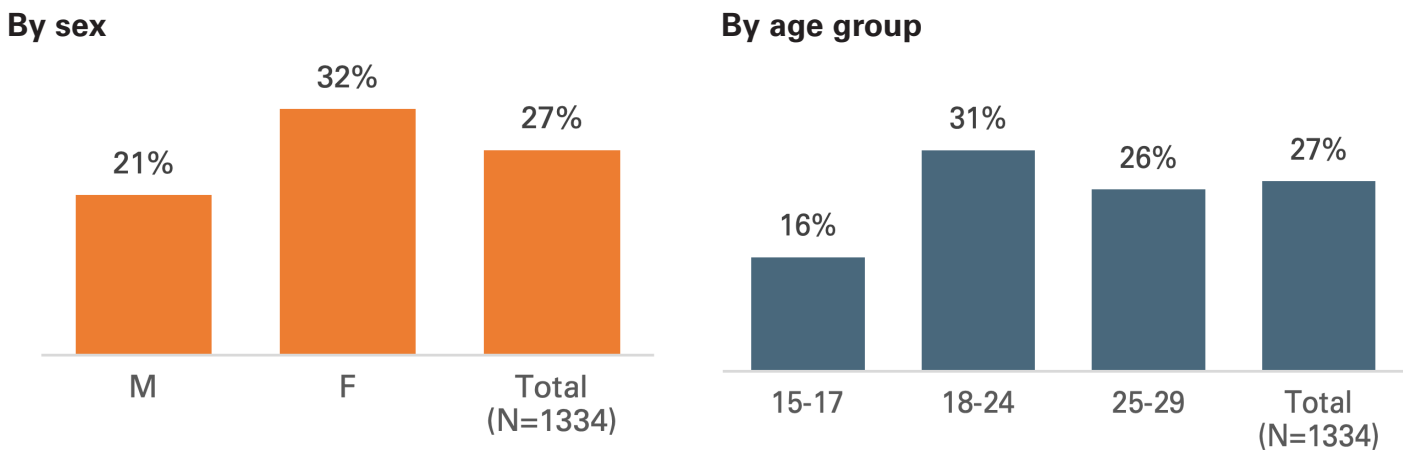




It is important to note that some of the support options presented in the questionnaire may not be relevant to all targeted youth. For example, in some municipalities counselling services might be unavailable. Nevertheless, youth did identify the support services that they know are available in their area. Lower responses to e.g. justice support, and employment support may simply be because those support services are unavailable in the particular area surveyed.

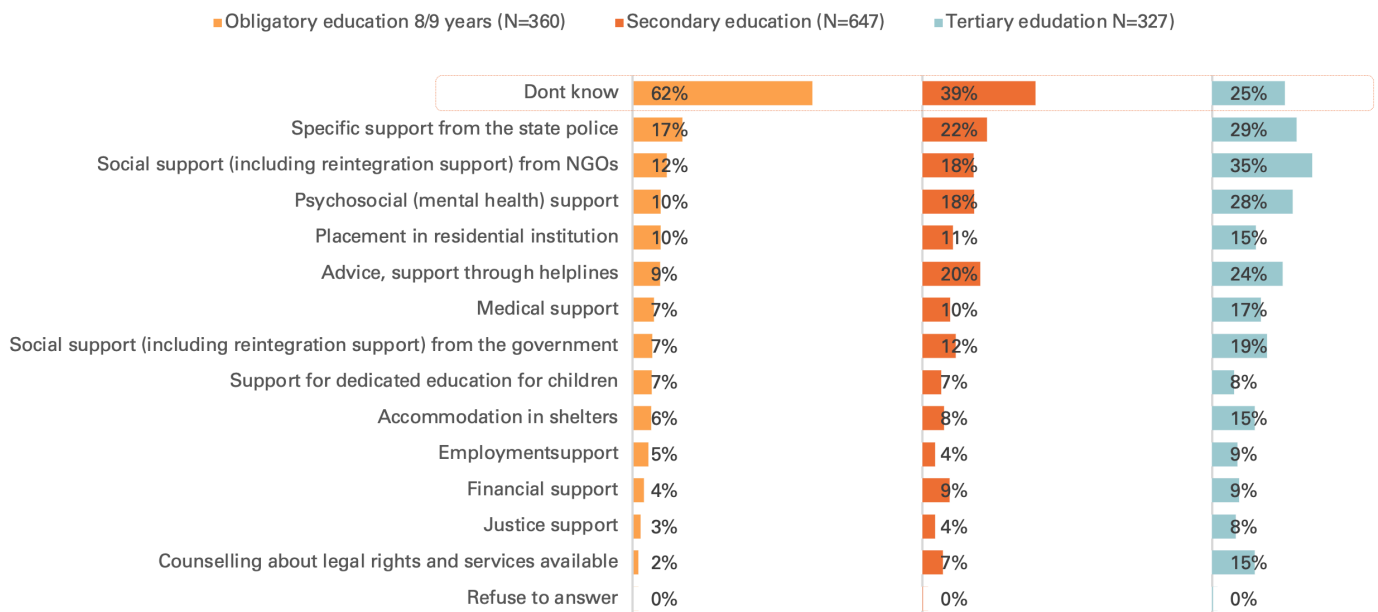
Knowledge of the type of support available to victims of human trafficking is higher among female youth than among male youth (Figure 40), and such knowledge is more widespread among 18–24-year-olds than other age groups.

Figure 40. Knowledge of support available to victims of human trafficking, by sex, and age group



Youths with tertiary education have greater knowledge of the support available to victims of human trafficking than those with lower levels of education (Figure 41). Whereas 62 percent of youth with basic education were unaware of such support, the figure was only 25 percent among those with tertiary education.

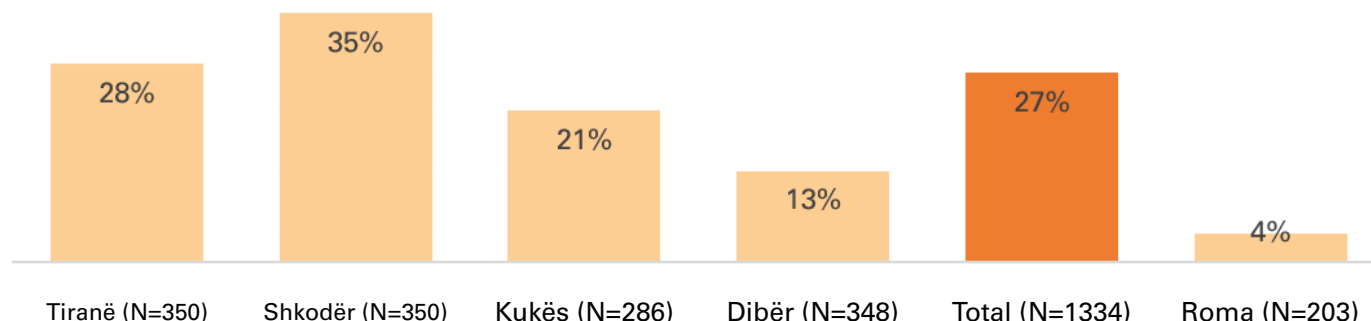
Figure 41. Knowledge of support available to victims of trafficking, by education level





More youths surveyed in Shkoder had knowledge (35%) of the support available (at least 3 types) than did youths from the other regions (13–28%; Figure 42) and Roma youth (4%).

Figure 42. Knowledge of at least three types of support, by region and among Roma



Meanwhile, more youths from urban areas had knowledge of at least three types of support available to human trafficking victims than did those from rural areas (31% and 23%, respectively), and more youths with higher education had such knowledge than those with basic education (25% and 9%, respectively).

Key points:

- Knowledge of the support services available for human trafficking victims is low. Only slightly more than one in five youths are knowledgeable about support being available from police or NGOs.
- Such knowledge among Roma youth is very low, with 46 percent having no knowledge of the support services available, and only four percent knowing of at least three types of support available to human trafficking victims.
- Knowledge of available support services is lower among youth in rural areas and youth with basic education than among those from urban areas and with higher education.
- Communication strategies should target increasing knowledge among, particularly, Roma youth, and those in rural areas, of the support services available in all four regions. The strategies and campaigns should inform youth of the availability of support through helplines, shelters, medical services, legal and other, key, services. This may help to reduce vulnerability to human trafficking, and increase the likelihood that vulnerable and trafficked youth will seek out available services when and if they need them.
- More research should be conducted into why knowledge of support services is so low among Roma youth. Such research could provide valuable insights into the barriers facing national minorities in accessing key support services.

Findings on attitudes regarding human trafficking

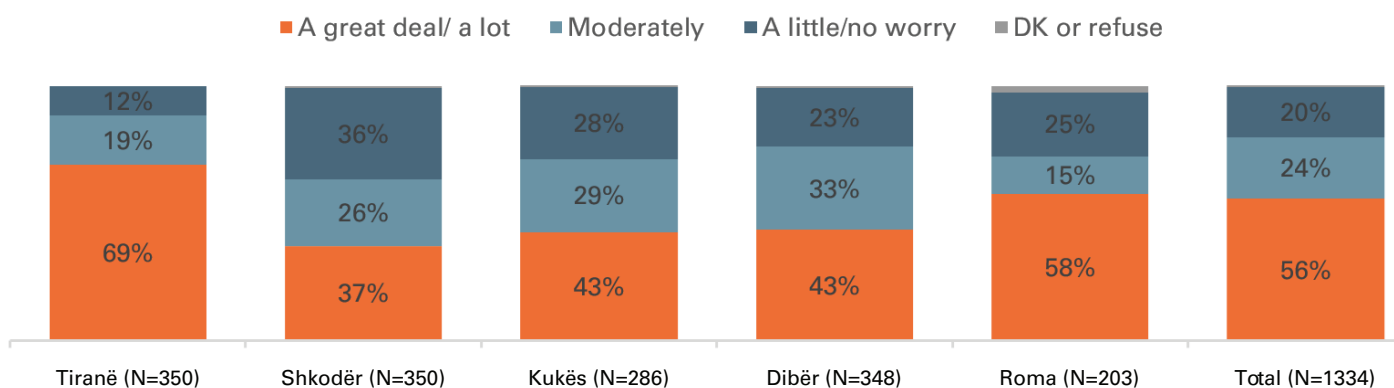
The attitudes of surveyed youth regarding human trafficking were measured across several separate questions, covering levels of concern about human trafficking; attitudes toward support for victims; and attitudes towards preventing human trafficking.

Level of concern about human trafficking

Levels of concern over human trafficking in general were measured through a 5-point Likert scale question: 'How much worry do you feel about trafficking in human beings?' This question was designed to understand whether surveyed youth were concerned or worried about human trafficking, personally. Such concern would suggest that respondents are aware of human trafficking risks and might thus be inclined to take measures to protect themselves and others from human traffickers. Most (56%) surveyed youth reported that they feel a great deal, or a lot, of worry about human trafficking (Figure 43). Concern was higher in Tirana (69%) than in Shkoder (37%), while 58 percent of Roma youth reported that they feel a great deal, or a lot, of worry about human trafficking.

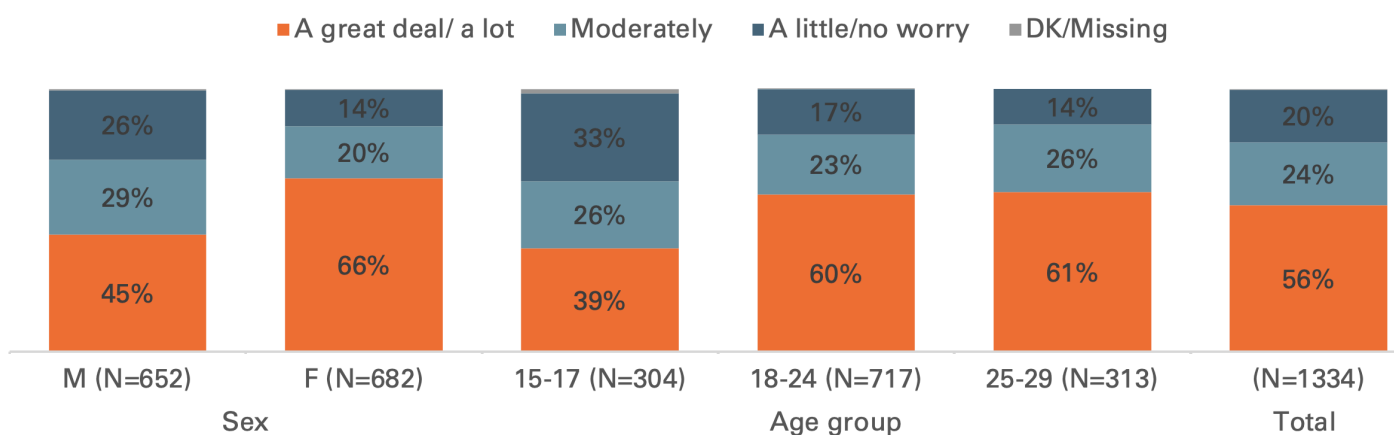


Figure 43. Levels of concern about human trafficking, by region and among Roma



Results by sex (Figure 44) show that surveyed female youth feel more worry about human trafficking than do male youth (66% and 45%, respectively). Levels of concern increased with age group (39% among 15–17-year-olds; 61% among 25–29-year-olds).

Figure 44. Levels of concern about human trafficking, by sex, and age group



Youth surveyed in urban areas feel much more concern than those in rural areas (66% and 46%, respectively), and youth with tertiary education feel much more concern than those with basic education (68% and 40%, respectively).

Key points:

- Levels of concern with regard to human trafficking is not particularly high in all regions (especially in Shkoder, followed by Kukës and Diber), nor among male youth, youth of age 15–17 years and those living in rural areas.
- The communication strategies and campaigns could target particular regions for shifting attitudes on human trafficking, and also children of age 15–17 years as they are at an age where they will be finishing school, looking for employment and are vulnerable to human trafficking.

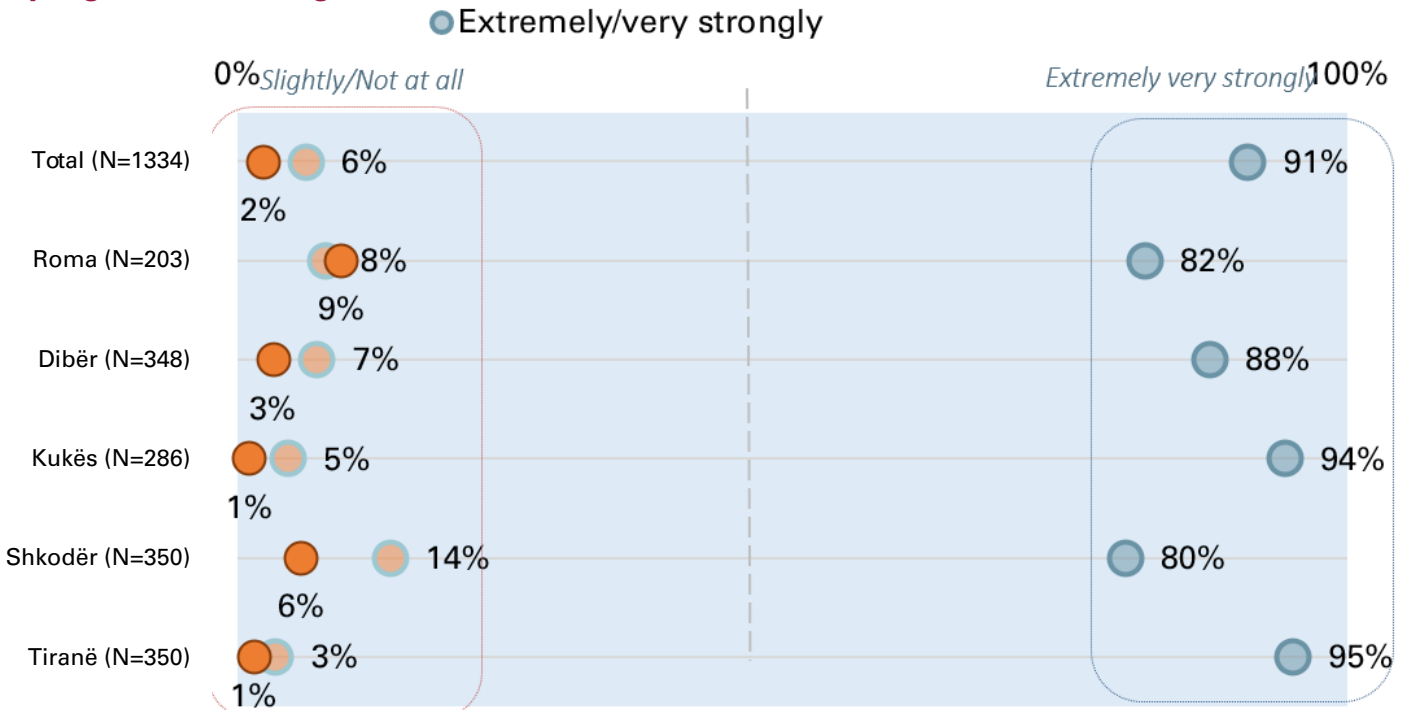
Attitudes towards victims

Attitudes toward victims of human trafficking were measured through the question, ‘How strongly do you feel that human trafficking victims should be provided with assistance?’. Surveyed youth could choose one response from the 5-point Likert scale. The question was designed to assess whether surveyed youth have positive attitudes towards victims. A strong positive response would suggest that surveyed youth have empathy for the victims and think that victims and potential victims should be provided with comprehensive socio-economic assistance/assistance. Negative responses could mean that surveyed youth feel little empathy towards victims and could highlight an attitude, and also a vulnerability, that could be addressed through communication strategies.

Most (91%) of surveyed youth reported that they feel ‘extremely’ or ‘very strongly’ that victims should be provided with assistance (Figure 45). Approximately two percent of surveyed youth reported that they feel only ‘slightly’ or ‘not at all’ that victims should be provided with assistance. Responses of youth from Shkoder and Roma youth below the total average, and slightly so among youth from Diber. Thus, attitudes towards victims are positive in that surveyed youth feel that victims should be provided with government, and non-government, assistance/assistance services.



Figure 45. Levels of assistance for human trafficking victims to be provided with assistance, by region and among Roma



There were no significant differences between rural and urban youth responses, nor between level of education, different sexes and age groups of surveyed youth responses.

Key points:

- Attitudes towards victims are positive, with most surveyed youth thinking that victims of human trafficking should be provided with assistance services.
- Attitudes towards human trafficking victims are not as positive among younger youth (15–17 years), while attitudes are also not as positive among Roma youth and youth in Shkoder.
- The communication strategies and campaigns could target children, as well as Roma youth, and youth in specific areas (e.g. Shkoder) to enhance knowledge, and shift attitudes towards victims of human trafficking.

Attitudes towards preventing human trafficking

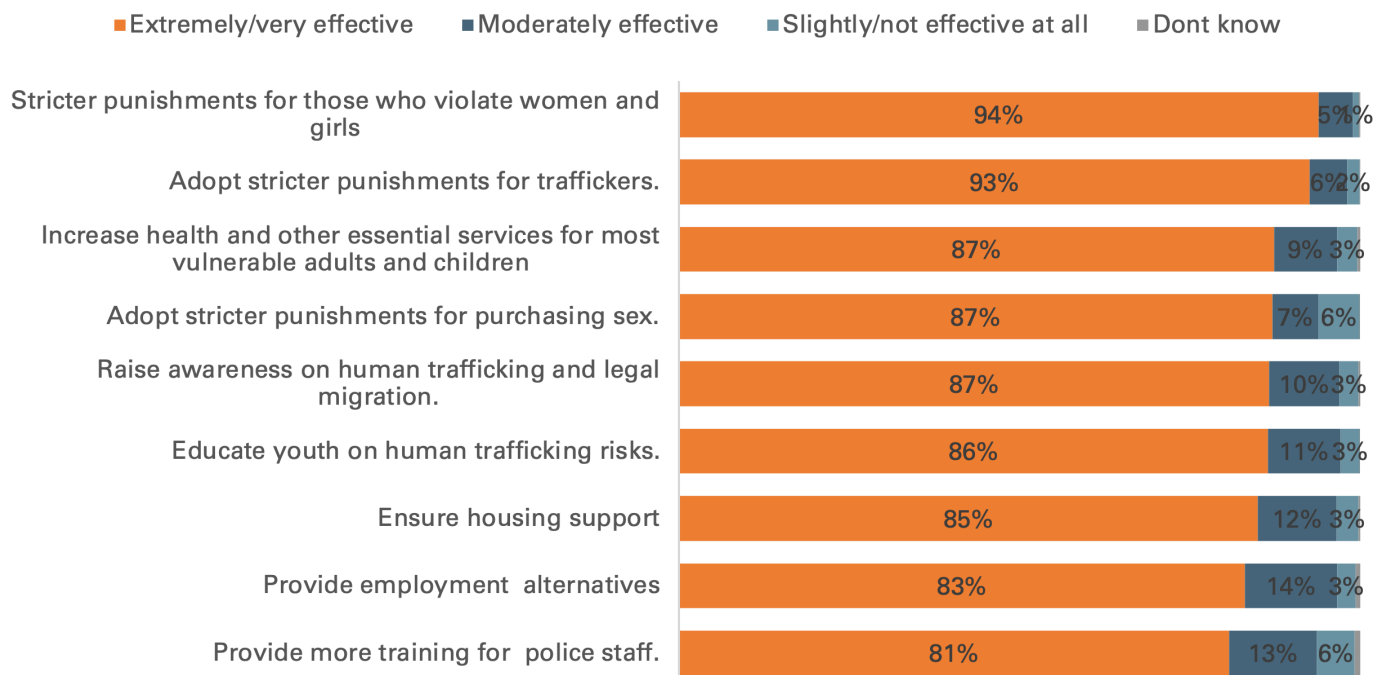
Youth attitudes towards the prevention of human trafficking were measured through the 5-point Likert scale question: ‘How effective do you think each of the following measures would be in reducing human trafficking?’ The purposes of this question was to understand whether surveyed youth have negative attitudes towards human traffickers and whether they think law enforcement measures are the way to prevent human trafficking or that socio-economic assistance measures would be similarly effective. Responses to the question could be useful for identifying areas that youth may be interested in engaging in terms of the communication strategies.

Most (94%) youth surveyed think that stricter punishments for those who violate women and girls would be extremely or very effective in preventing human trafficking (Figure 46). A similar proportion (93%) believe that adopting stricter punishments for traffickers would be extremely or very effective. Meanwhile, 87 percent believe that each of increasing health and other essential services for the most vulnerable adults and children, adopting stricter punishments for those who purchase the sexual service of victims, and raising awareness of human trafficking risks would be extremely or very effective in preventing human trafficking. Slightly less assistance was recorded for ensuring housing assistance (85%), providing employment alternatives (83%) and providing more training for police staff (81%).

In sum, responses suggest that most youth see human trafficking as an issue that is best prevented through strict law enforcement measures. The responses also suggest a strong attitude against human traffickers.



Figure 46. Perceptions on whether particular measures would be effective in reducing human trafficking, by region and among Roma



Youth with tertiary education believe more strongly than other groups that all the options provided in the question would be effective in preventing human trafficking. Meanwhile, there were no major differences between in the opinions of rural urban youth on this issue. Roma youth showed a similar pattern of responses to other surveyed youth, but with lower percentages for ‘effective’ and ‘very effective’.

Key points:

- The top responses to the question of what surveyed youth think would be effective in preventing human trafficking focus on stricter punishments for perpetrators. Responses regarding employment, housing assistance and education as methods for preventing human trafficking were lower than for stricter punishment options. The communication strategies and campaigns could focus on shifting knowledge and attitudes on the various and complementary ways that human trafficking can be combated through non-law enforcement approaches.
- It should be noted that many of the options provided in this question are structural issues that would need to be addressed through ongoing advocacy to, for example, strengthen the employment opportunities available for youth.

Findings on practices and channels of communication

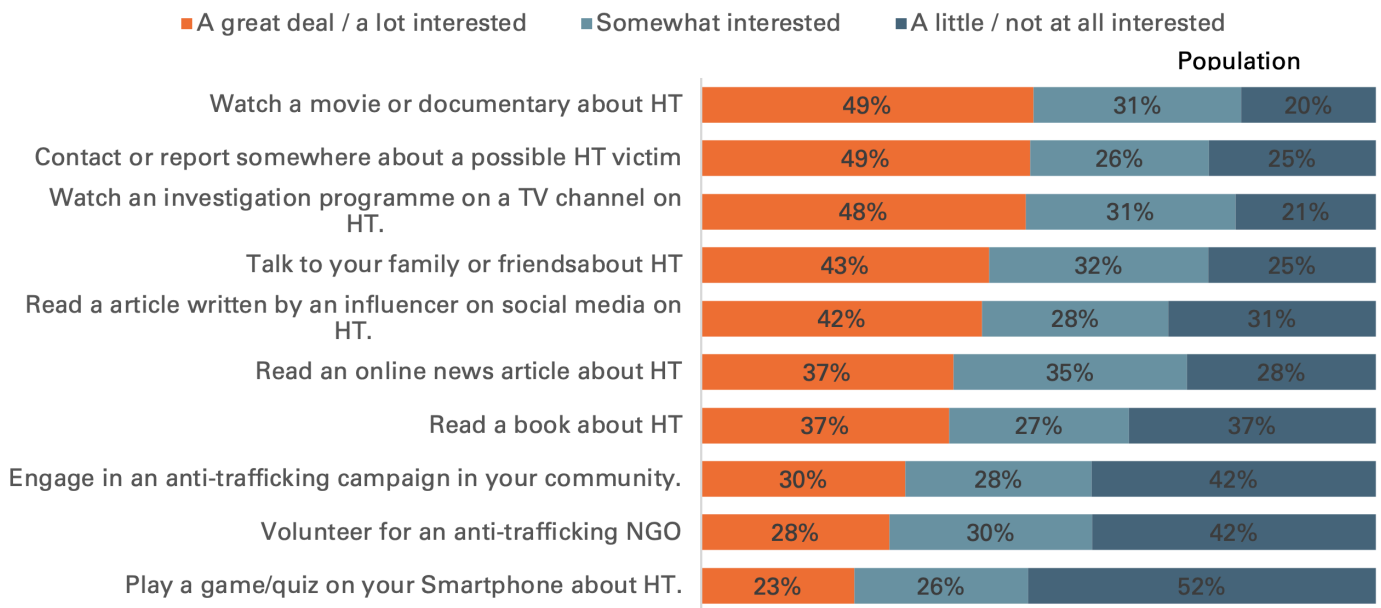
Interest in learning more about human trafficking, and getting involved in activities countering human trafficking
 The interest of surveyed youth with regard to learning about human trafficking and becoming involved in activities countering human trafficking was measured through the 5-point Likert scale question: ‘How much interest would you have in doing the following activities?’ The purpose of this question was to measure whether surveyed youth are interested in learning about human trafficking, and engaging in activities countering human trafficking, and, if so, what learning and activities they would be particularly interested in.

The most popular responses from all regions (Figure 47), though excluding Roma, were: watching a film or documentary about human trafficking, and ‘reporting about a possible human trafficking case’, for which 49% reported that they would be interested in learning about human trafficking in these ways ‘a great deal’ or ‘a lot’, followed closely by ‘watch a TV investigation programme on human trafficking (48%).

The least popular response was to ‘Play on your Smartphone a game or quiz about human trafficking’ (23%), followed by volunteering for an anti-trafficking NGO (28%), and engaging in a local anti-trafficking campaign (30%).



Figure 47. Levels of interest in activities related to countering human trafficking



These findings broadly suggest that Albanian youth are more interested in learning about human trafficking through television and are significantly less interested in getting involved in anti-trafficking campaigns and volunteering. However, it may be that campaigns and volunteering are not available in the local area of the surveyed youth, or that they do not have Internet or own smart phones, perhaps explaining the low levels of response to some options.

There was more interest in learning about human trafficking (top 3 activities; Figure 48) than in getting involved in activities countering the phenomenon.

Figure 48. Most and least preferred activities countering human trafficking

Top 3 activities

Lowest 3 activities

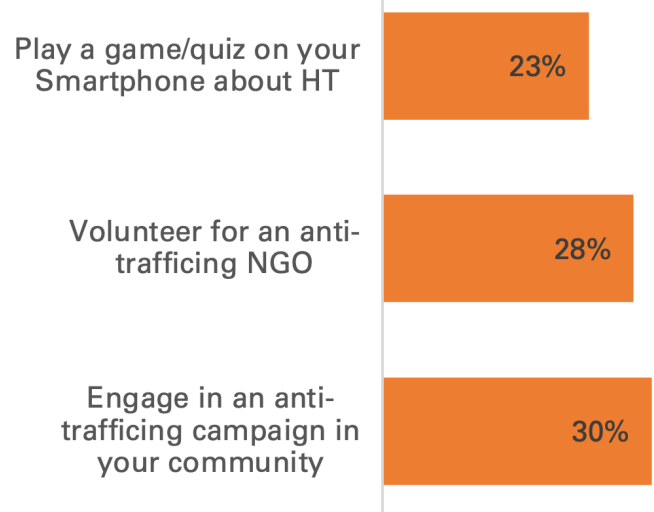
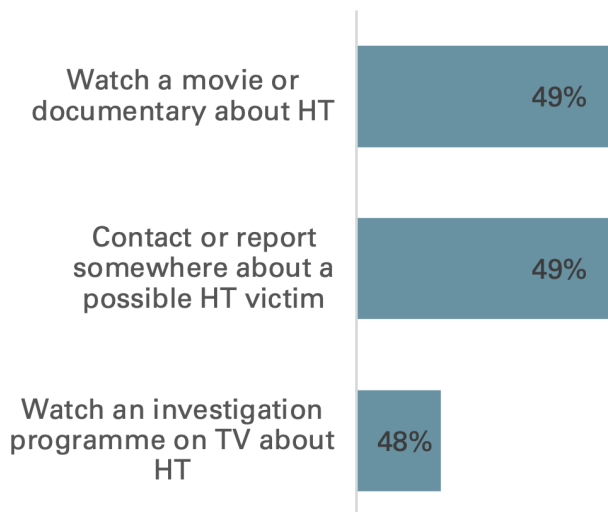
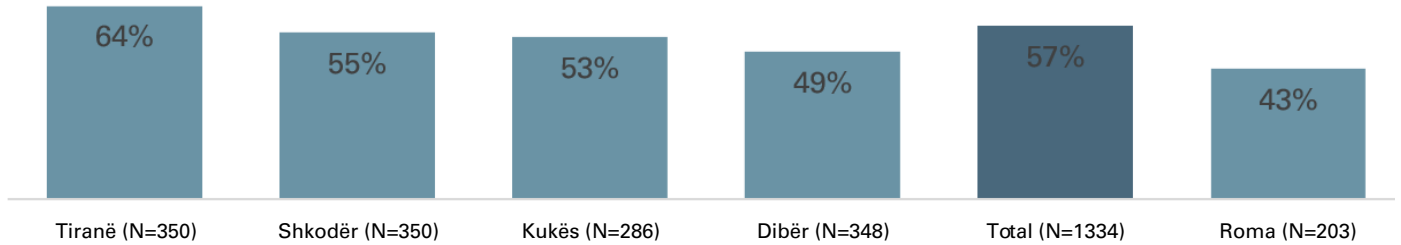




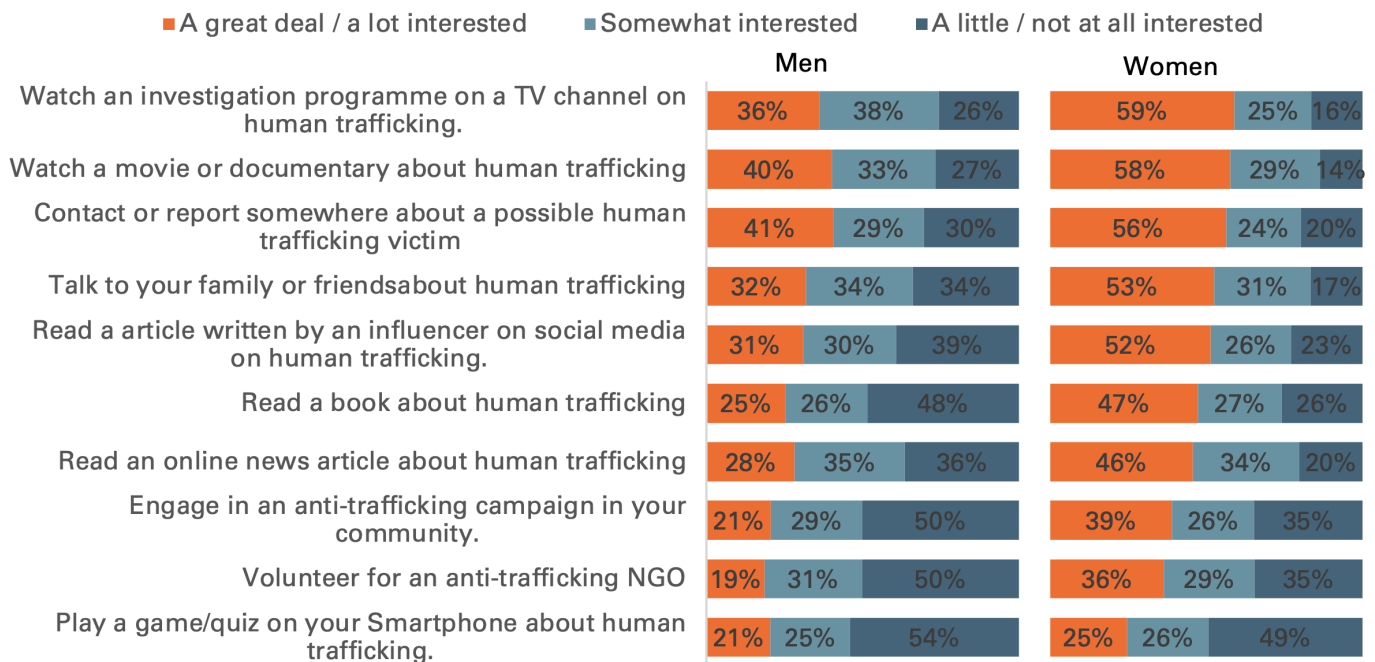
Figure 49 reports levels of interest for the most preferred activities by region with levels of interest decreasing from Tirana (64%), Shkoder (55%), Kukës (53%) and Diber (49%), and finally among Roma (43%).

Figure 49. Levels of interest in at least three activities related to countering human trafficking, by region and among Roma



Results by sex show that female youth are more interested in engaging in activities than male youth (Figure 50). More than half of surveyed female youth reported being interested in watching a TV investigative programme on human trafficking ‘a great deal’ or ‘a lot’, followed by watching a movie or documentary about the issue, contacting or reporting about a possible case of human trafficking, talking with their family about human trafficking, or reading an article on social media about human trafficking.

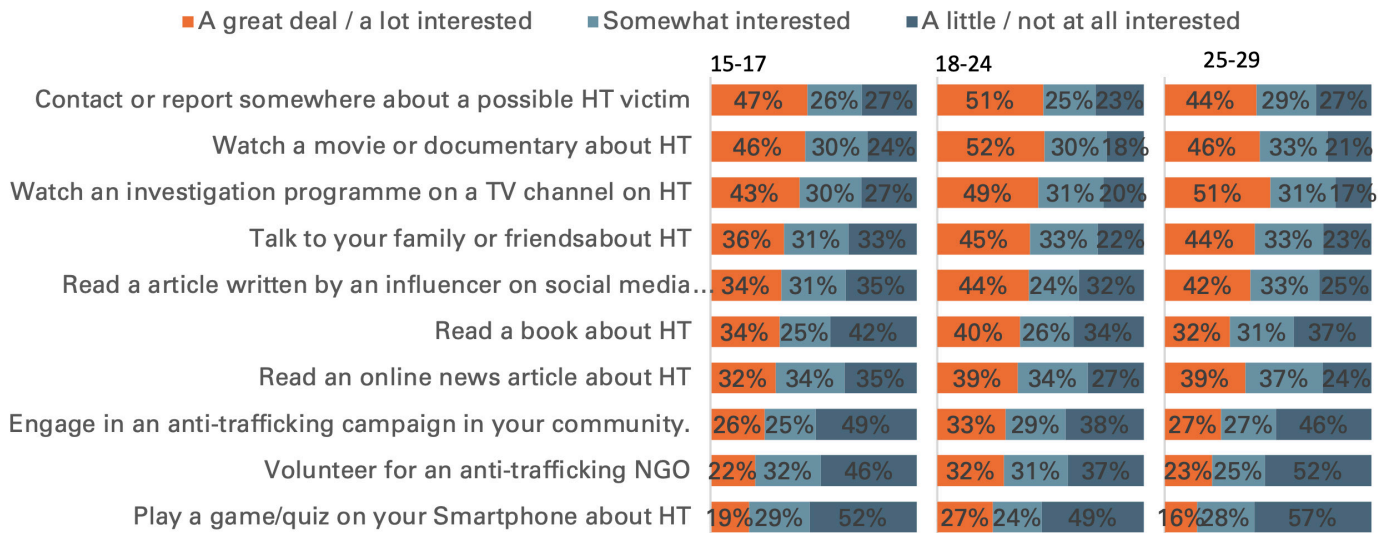
Figure 50. Preferred activities for learning about human trafficking, by sex





Youths of age 15–17 years of age were less interested than other age groups in nearly all options (Figure 51), i.e. reporting a possible human trafficking case; watching an investigation programme on TV about human trafficking; talking to friends or family about human trafficking; reading an article on social media about human trafficking; reading an online news article about human trafficking; engaging in an anti-trafficking campaign; and volunteering for an NGO. This age group reported very slightly more interest than the others in playing a Smartphone game or quiz about trafficking.

Figure 51. Preferred activities for learning about human trafficking, by age group



There was more interest in doing the activities ‘contact or report somewhere about possible human trafficking victims’, and ‘engage in an anti-trafficking campaign’ among youth in urban areas than in rural areas. Interest in those activities was also much higher among youth with higher education than among the others.

Key points:

- While Albanian youth are interested in learning more about human trafficking, they are not very interested in being active in terms of volunteering or engaging with community activities.
- 15–17-year-olds are less interested than other age groups in most of the options provided.
- There is less interest in learning about human trafficking and getting involved in activities countering human trafficking among youth in rural areas, and youth with basic education.
- The communication strategies should target increasing the interest of Albanian youth in learning more about human trafficking and getting involved in activities countering human trafficking.
- The communication strategies and campaigns should target strengthening this interest through television documentaries, and capitalising on the popularity of learning about human trafficking through such channels.
- The communication strategies could encourage Albanian youth to become involved in anti-trafficking in their local communities by informing them about the opportunities available there. Where few activities are available, the first step would be to introduce such activities into those areas. Engaging youth in learning more about human trafficking, and in engaging in activities countering the phenomenon may take time, but the strategies should encourage them to be agents of change in preventing human trafficking, which may lead to increased awareness of, and decreased vulnerability to, human trafficking.

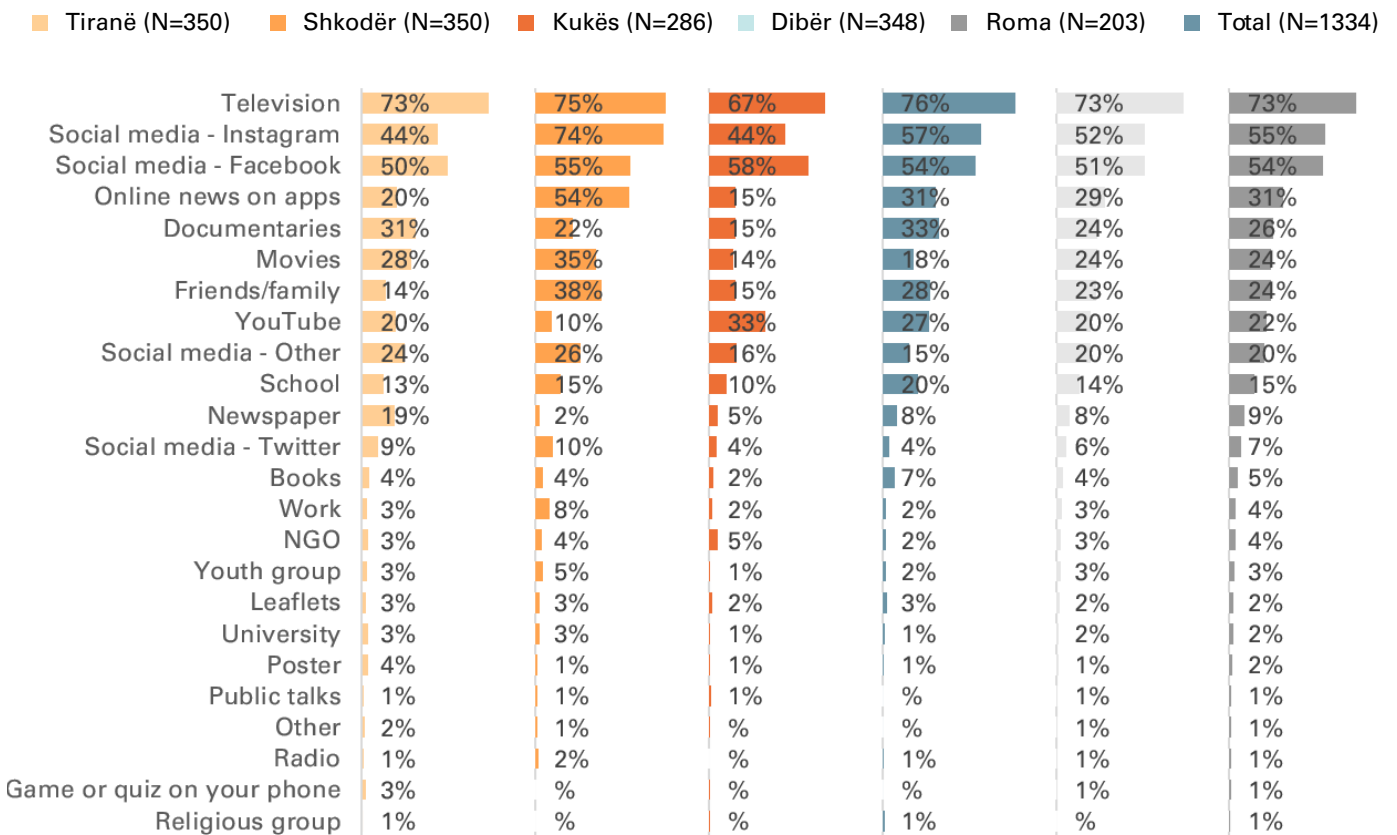
Methods of learning about social issues, and human trafficking

For the purpose of informing the communication strategies, the final two first wave survey questions asked surveyed youth to identify the sources of information they regularly use to learn about social issues, and the media they think would best suit them for learning about human trafficking. Surveyed youth could select as many options as they thought relevant, including newspapers, TV, films, documentaries, social media, YouTube, posters, radio, and so on.



The most popular responses to the question ‘What sources of information do you regularly use to learn about social issues?’ (Figure 52) were television (77%), Facebook (62%), Instagram (61%) and online news on apps (30%). Surveyed youth reported extremely low interest or no interest in learning about social issues through religious groups (0%), public talks (0%), playing a game or quiz on a Smartphone (1%), posters, engaging with NGOs (1%) or universities (2%), radio (2%), leaflets (3%), work (4%), youth groups (4%), and books (6%).

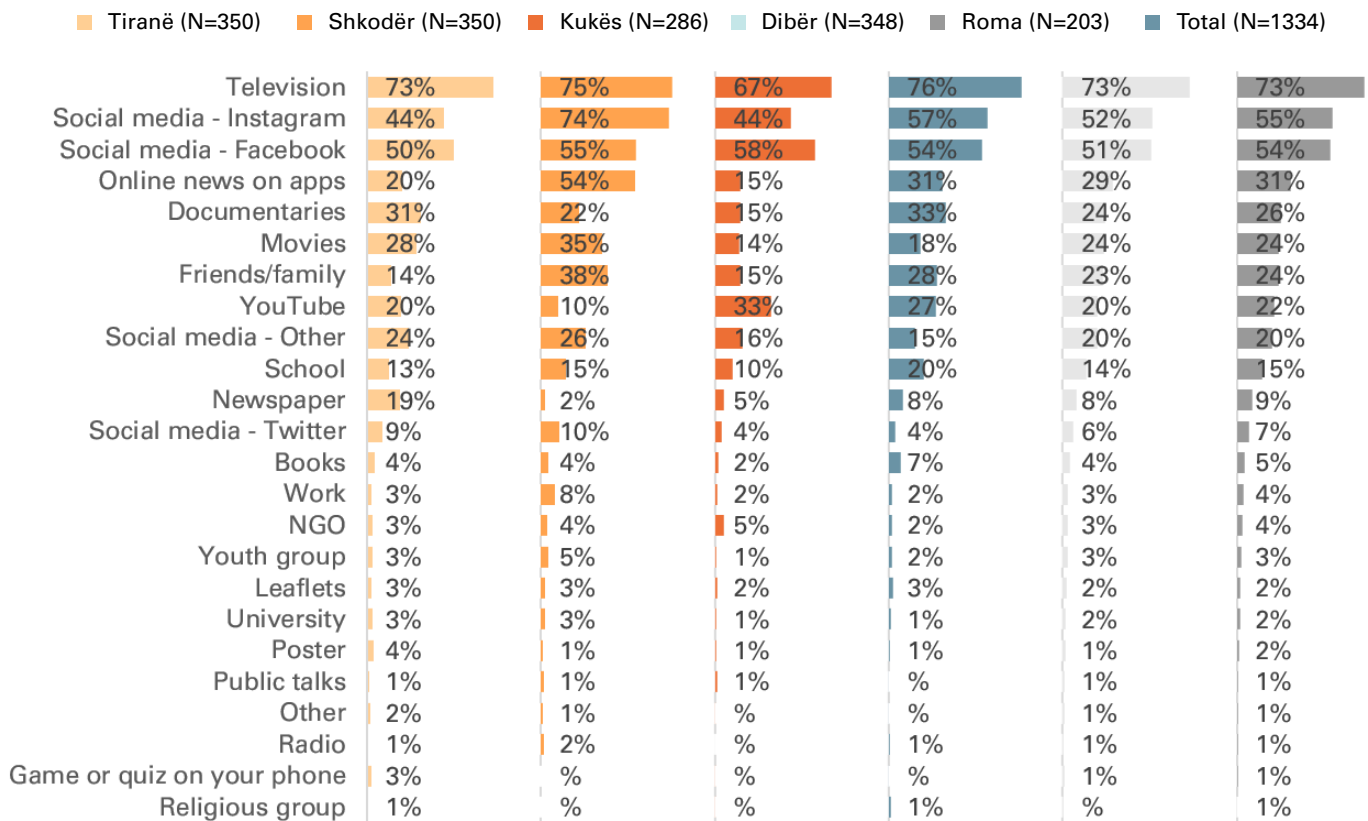
Figure 52. Preferred sources of information on social issues, by region and among Roma





Youths suggested that they would like to learn more about human trafficking (Figure 53) using the same methods that they use to learn about other social issues: TV (73%), Instagram (55%), Facebook (54%), online news on apps (31%), documentaries (26%) and movies (24%). They reported very little interest in learning about human trafficking through any of the other options provided.

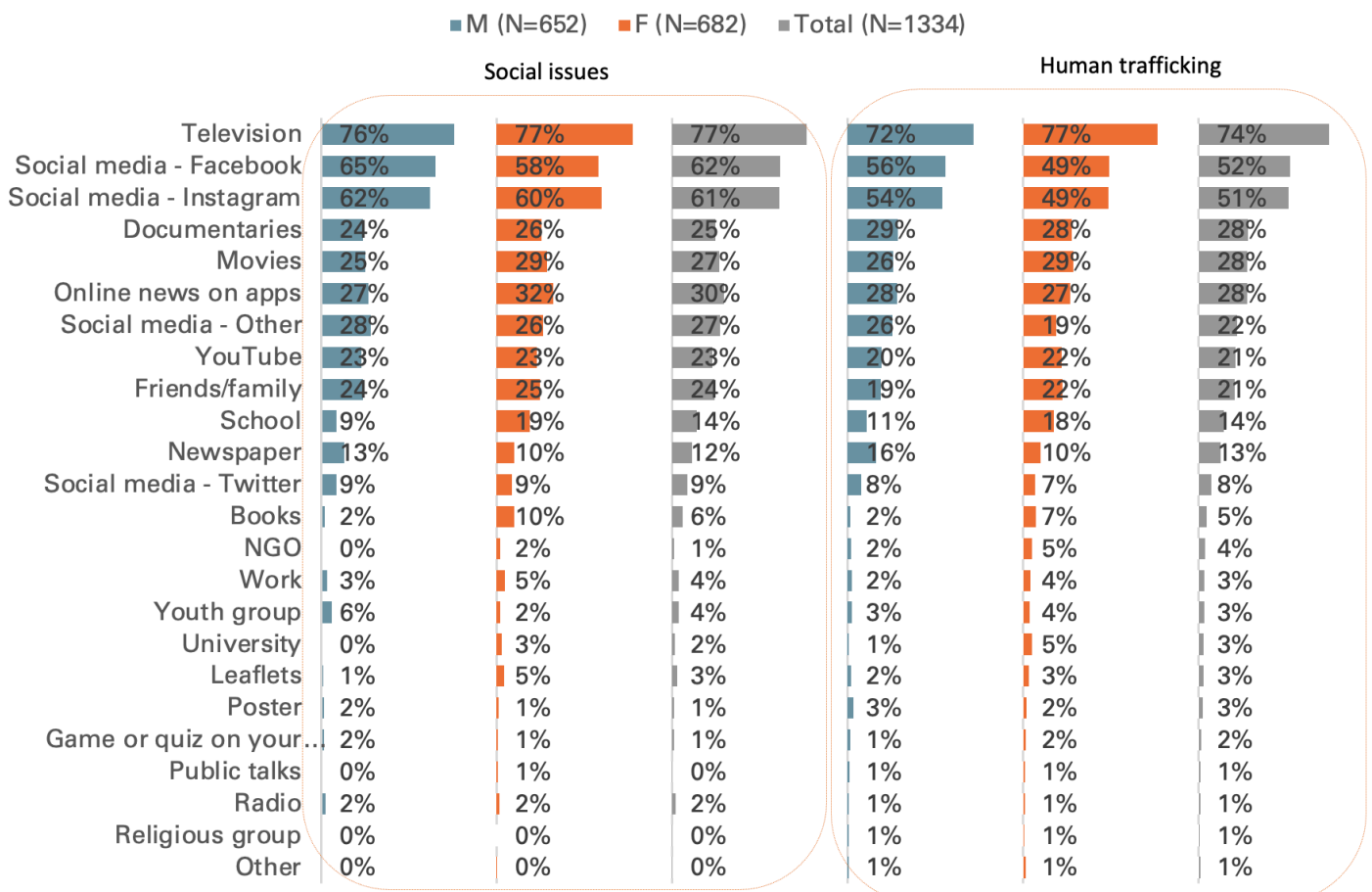
Figure 53. Preferred sources of information on human trafficking, by region and among Roma





More female youths use television as a source for information on social issues and human trafficking than do their male counterparts (Figure 54), more of whom prefer social media (Facebook and Instagram) as sources of information than do female youth. Overall, however, male and female youth use the same sources of information to learn about social issues, and human trafficking.

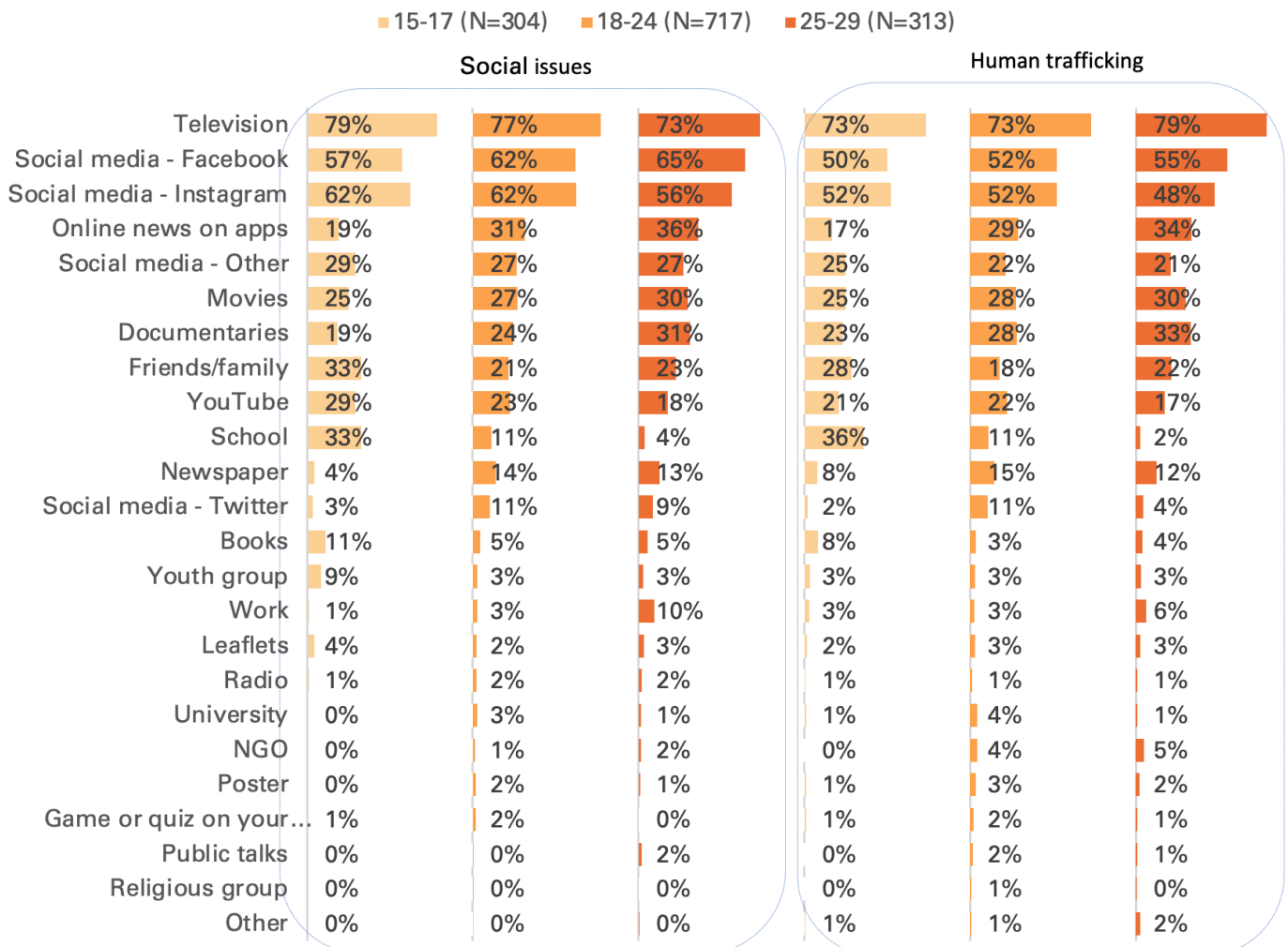
Figure 54. Preferred sources of information on social issues and on human trafficking, by sex





Television and social media remain the key sources of learning about social issues, including human trafficking across all age groups (Figure 55), though school is also a key source of information for youth of age 15–17 years.

Figure 55. Preferred sources of information on social issues and on human trafficking, by age group



There was no significant difference between youth in urban and rural areas in their responses on preferred sources of information on social issues and human trafficking. Meanwhile, youths with tertiary education were more interested than youths with lower levels of education in learning about social issues, including human trafficking, through online news and documentaries, while those with basic and secondary education were more interested in learning about such issues on TV, through friends and family, and school.

Key points:

- The communication strategies should utilise television, social media and online news to disseminate information and key messages about human trafficking to the targeted youth audience. School could be used to disseminate messages and learning about human trafficking among youth of age 15–17 years.
- Traditional communication channels ought still to be considered, in light of the fact that not all youth have access to television or a smart phone.

GLOSSARY



Child

Any person below the age of 18 years of age. ³⁴

Child labour

Any work performed by a child that deprives him or her of his or her childhood, potential, and dignity, and is detrimental to his or her health, education, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. ³⁵

Child pornography

Any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes. ³⁶

Child trafficking

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. ³⁷

Domestic work

Domestic work is defined as 'work performed in or for a household or households'. ³⁸ Domestic work is therefore defined according to the workplace, which is the private household. Domestic workers provide personal and household care. Occupations and tasks considered to be domestic work vary across countries but usually include: cooking; cleaning; taking care of children, the elderly and the disabled; attending to the garden or pets; and driving the family car. Domestic worker may work part-time, full-time or on an hourly basis, and may live in the home of the employer or not. ³⁹

Early marriage

Child marriage, or early marriage, is any marriage where at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age. ⁴⁰

Ethnic discrimination

Discrimination based on a person's ethnic background.

Exploitation

The act of taking advantage of something or someone, in particular the act of taking unjust advantage of another, for one's own benefit. ⁴¹

Forced marriage

Marriage that is entered into without the free and full consent of one or both the intending spouses. ⁴²

Forced Labour

All work or service that is exacted from a person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself/herself voluntarily. ⁴³

Human trafficking

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. ⁴⁴

Irregular migrant

The status of a person who, owing to unauthorised entry, breach of a condition of entry, expiry of his or her visa, or loss of documents lacks legal status in a transit or host country. ⁴⁵ Irregular migration is often referred to as illegal migration.

Migrant smuggling

Procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit from the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident. ⁴⁶

34 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

35 IOM, 2019, Glossary on Migration, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

36 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/opscrc.aspx>

37 IOM, 2019, Glossary on Migration, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

38 ILO Convention 189.

39 ILO, Domestic workers, <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/care-economy/domestic-workers/lang--en/index.htm>

40 OHCHR, Child, early and forced marriage, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/ChildMarriage.aspx>

41 IOM, 2019, Glossary on Migration, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

42 IOM, 2019, Glossary on Migration, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

43 ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 No. 29.

44 UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, Art. 3(a).

45 Save the Children and Mixed Migration Centre, Young and on the Move in West Africa (Feb. 2018).

46 Article 3, Smuggling of Migrants Protocol.

Migration

There is no internationally recognised definition of migrant; migration can be forced or voluntary and can describe internal movement or movement across an international border. A distinction is often made between short-term or temporary migration, covering movements with a duration of between 3 and 12 months, and long-term or permanent migration, referring to a change of country of residence for a duration of one year or more.⁴⁷

Potential victim of trafficking

Is any person on whom the responsible agencies/institutions for initial identification, given the hints/indicators/in light of specific circumstances of the case deem that at least three or more elements constitute reasonable doubt that the person may have been trafficked.⁴⁸

Protection for trafficked persons

Includes all actions taken by the staff of central and local institutions, as well as non-state institutions, members or non-members of the National Referral Mechanism for reception, identification and immediate assistance, along with the assistance for a safe rehabilitation and (re-)integration of trafficked persons in compliance with these procedures. All responsible institutions set out in this document shall contribute to the protection, at all stages, starting from the identification to the full (re-)integration of the trafficked persons. However, for ease of understanding and reference in this document, protection shall include:

- Initial identification and response
- Formal identification
- Planning and assistance for reintegration
- Planning and assistance for assisted voluntary return
- Reception of trafficked persons of Albanian citizenship
- Assisted voluntary return for foreign citizens
- Assistance for investigation and punishment of traffickers.⁴⁹

Psychosocial assistance

The term 'psychosocial' denotes the inter-connection between psychological and social processes and the fact that each continually interacts with and influences the other. The composite term mental health and psychosocial assistance is used to describe any type of local or outside assistance that aims to protect or promote psychosocial well-being/prevent or treat mental disorder.⁵⁰

Reintegration

A process that enables returnees to regain their physical, social, legal and material security needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity.⁵¹

Roma

Roma in Albania are officially recognised as a national minority according to Law no. 96/2017 on the 'Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Albania', which was adopted on 13 October 2017 by the Albanian Parliament.

Sexual exploitation

Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.⁵²

Social protection

The set of public and private policies and programmes aimed at preventing, reducing and eliminating economic and social vulnerabilities to poverty and deprivation.⁵³

Trafficker

Any person who commits or attempts to commit the crime of trafficking in persons or any person who participates as an accomplice, organises, or directs other persons to commit the crime of trafficking in persons.⁵⁴

Victim of human trafficking

Any natural person subject to trafficking in human beings, regardless of whether the perpetrator is identified, apprehended, prosecuted or convicted.⁵⁵

Vulnerability

The limited capacity to avoid, resist, cope with, or recover from harm. This limited capacity is the result of the unique interaction of individual, household, community, and structural characteristics and conditions.⁵⁶

Vulnerable group

Depending on the context, any group or sector of society (such as children, elderly, persons with disabilities, ethnic or religious minorities, migrants, particularly those who are in an irregular situation, or persons of diverse sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, SSOGI) that is at higher risk of being subjected to discriminatory practices, violence, social disadvantage, or economic hardship than other groups within the state. These groups are also at higher risk in periods of conflict, crisis or disaster.⁵⁷

Youth

The European Commission defines 'youth' (or 'young people') as those of age 15 to 29 years.⁵⁸

⁴⁷ United Nations, Refugees and Migrants (2019), <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/definitions>. Note that the term 'migrant' is sometimes used by the IFRC as an umbrella term to refer to all people on the move at the global policy level, while recognising that different legal frameworks apply. In this report, the term 'migrant' should not be construed as encompassing asylum-seekers and refugees. Although asylum-seekers and refugees often travel alongside migrants in so-called 'mixed flows', they have specific needs and are protected by a specific legal framework, and should generally not be conflated with migrants. See Media Friendly Glossary on Migration, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_310235.pdf.

⁴⁸ Government of Albania, 2018, Standard operating procedures for the protection of victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ IOM, 2019, Glossary on Migration, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

⁵¹ UNHCR Global Report 2005, <https://www.unhcr.org/449267670.pdf>.

⁵² IOM, 2019, Glossary on Migration, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (adopted 16 May 2005, entered into force 1 February 2008). CETS No. 197, Art. 4(e).

⁵⁶ IOM, 2019, Glossary on Migration, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ See European Commission, https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/youth/library/publications/indicator-dashboard_en.pdf

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