

Trafficking and exploitation

Since January 2021, as part of MMC's 4Mi survey, 73,097 people on the move have been asked whether they personally experienced specific protection incidents. Trafficking and exploitation were reported by 4,131 people. This infographic provides insight into the profiles and experiences of those affected.

METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE SIZE: 73,097

DATA COLLECTION SITES:

WANA: Burkina Faso, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia

ESA: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Yemen

Asia: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand, Türkiye

LAC: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay

Europe: Greece, Italy, Spain

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD:

January 2021 – September 2024

METHODOLOGY OF DATA COLLECTION:

Face-to-face and telephone interviews

Key findings

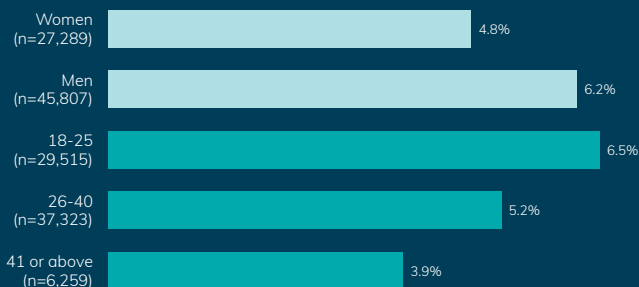
- Among all migrants surveyed worldwide (n=73,097), 5.7% report having personally experienced trafficking and exploitation, with higher rates among men, youth, and respondents interviewed in North Africa. Tunisia and Morocco stand out as the countries of interview with the greatest percentage of respondents having experienced trafficking and exploitation during their journey, although the survey does not allow to establish where the incident took place.
- Trafficking and exploitation was reported by 7.6% of respondents who used a smuggler (n=45,395), compared to 2.5% of those who didn't (n=26,990).
- Among those paying their smugglers through labour (n=1,444), 20% experienced trafficking and exploitation, indicating widespread debt bondage. Irrespective of smuggler use, 8.8% of migrants who started their journey with insufficient funds (n=26,676) experienced trafficking and exploitation, versus 3.7% of those with sufficient funds (n=40,725).
- Reports of trafficking and exploitation are highest for respondents driven to migrate at least in part by disasters, violence, or lack of rights and freedoms; rates are higher among asylum seekers than respondents of other legal statuses. Sudanese in Tunisia (n=654) were particularly affected, with 28.9% experiencing trafficking and exploitation.
- 18% of survivors of trafficking and exploitation express a need for psychological support, compared to 10% of other respondents.

Note: 4Mi sampling is purposive and does not specifically target survivors of trafficking and exploitation. Data presented in this infographic cannot be considered as representative of global mixed migration dynamics or trafficking and exploitation trends; those worst affected are unlikely to be included in the sample. Many incidences of trafficking and exploitation are also likely to go unreported.

Worldwide, 5.7% of all migrants surveyed reported personally experiencing trafficking and exploitation

Men and youth were particularly affected

% of respondents who experienced trafficking and exploitation, by gender and age

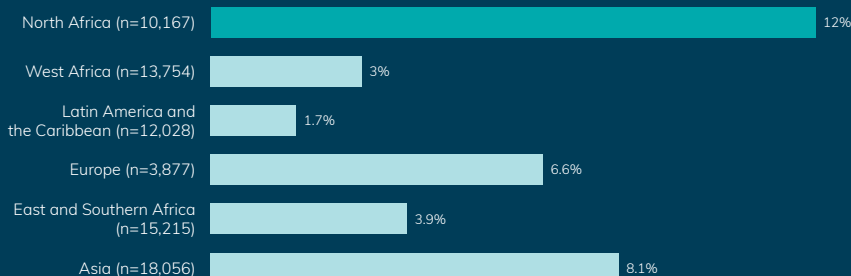


Profiles

- 6.2% of men and 4.8% of women surveyed reported having experienced trafficking and exploitation.
- Youth seem particularly susceptible, with trafficking and exploitation reported by 6.5% of those aged 18 to 25 globally, and 10% in Asia.
- Reports of trafficking and exploitation were highest amongst people surveyed in North Africa; Morocco and Tunisia were the countries of interview with the highest prevalence of trafficking and exploitation experienced during the journey, at 15%.

Reports of trafficking and exploitation were highest among people surveyed in North Africa

% of respondents who experienced trafficking and exploitation, by region of interview

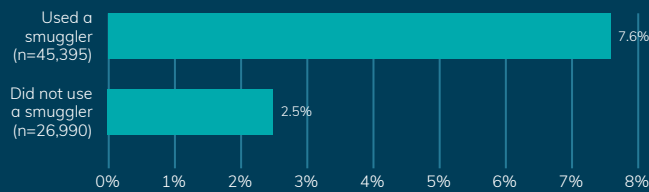


15% of those surveyed in **Tunisia** (n=5,861) and **Morocco** (n=1,718) experienced trafficking and exploitation during their journey

Use of smugglers can increase risk of trafficking and exploitation

Smuggler use is linked to higher reports of trafficking and exploitation

% of respondents who experienced trafficking and exploitation, by smuggler use



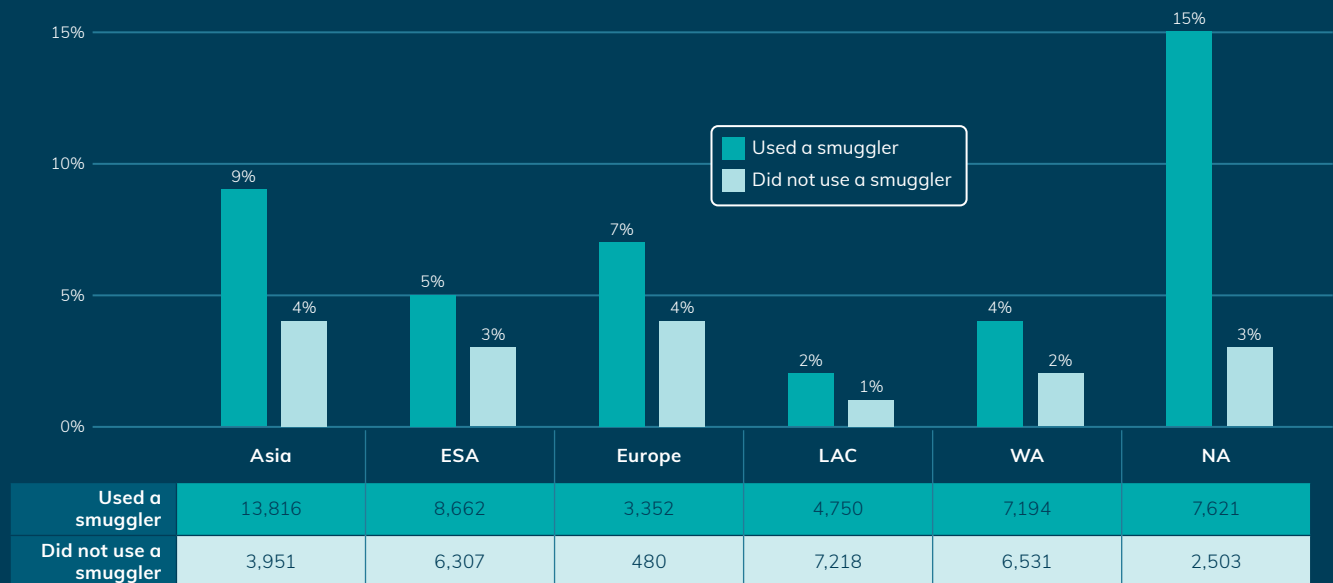
Note: 712 respondents refused to say whether they had used a smuggler.



46% of those who used smugglers and experienced trafficking and exploitation (n=3,432) felt **intentionally misled about the journey by their smugglers**, compared to **34.5%** of those who did not experience trafficking and exploitation (n=41,958).

The link between smuggling and trafficking is particularly apparent in North Africa

% of respondents who experienced trafficking and exploitation, by smuggler use and region of interview



Limited financial capital heightens vulnerability



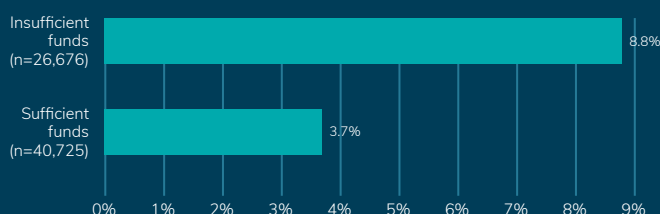
20% of those who paid their smuggler through **labour** (n=1,444) experienced trafficking and exploitation



9.2% of those who initially **borrowed** money (n=14,110) to finance their journey experienced trafficking and exploitation

Trafficking and exploitation is higher among migrants who start their journey with insufficient funds

% of respondents who experienced trafficking and exploitation, by funds available at the start of the journey



“ I need to work so that I can pay the money that I borrowed to pay the smugglers. ”

Bangladeshi man in Indonesia

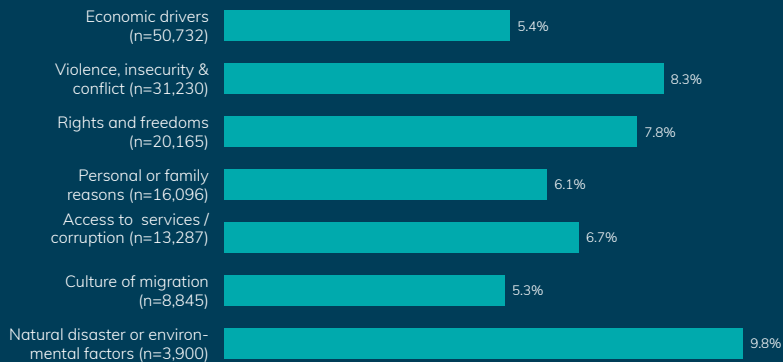
“ I have to work and pay twice the amount spent on me by my smuggler. ”

Kenyan woman in Libya

Traffickers prey on – and exacerbate – vulnerability

Reports of trafficking and exploitation are highest among those driven to migrate by disasters, violence, or lack of rights and freedoms

% of respondents who experienced trafficking and exploitation, by drivers of migration



8% of current asylum seekers (n=11,476) experienced trafficking and exploitation

“Some people take advantage of a crisis. I met a man who deceived me. He promised to take me to Khartoum and I trusted him.”
Ethiopian man from Tigray in Tunisia

Some respondents are disproportionality affected

21.6% of Cambodians in Thailand (n=278)

17.7% of Bangladeshis in Malaysia (n=841)

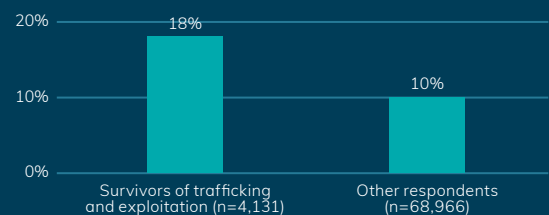
17.1% of all Sudanese (n=1,419) including:

28.9% of Sudanese in Tunisia (n=654)

experienced trafficking and exploitation during their journey

Calls for psychological support are greater among survivors of trafficking and exploitation

% of respondents requesting psychological support



“I am ashamed of myself because of what I suffered on the migratory route. I was kidnapped, exploited, raped repeatedly to the point of losing consciousness, and enslaved. An international investigation must be launched by the UN and other international organisations that campaign for human rights, so that these practices stop on the migratory route.”
Ghanaian woman in Tunisia



4Mi data collection

4Mi is the Mixed Migration Centre’s flagship primary data collection system, an innovative approach that helps fill knowledge gaps and inform policy and response regarding the nature of mixed movements and the protection risks for people on the move. 4Mi field enumerators are currently collecting data through direct interviews with refugees and migrants in Asia and the Pacific, Eastern and Southern Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa, and West Africa.

Note that the sampling approach means that the findings derived from the surveyed sample provide rich insights, but the figures cannot be used to make inferences about the total population. See more 4Mi analysis and details on methodology at: www.mixedmigration.org/4mi

