

REFLECTING ON THE NUMBERS

Emerging Trends in Human Trafficking in East and Central Africa

Jackline Mwende

Senior Regional Manager-East and Central Africa

Free the Slaves.

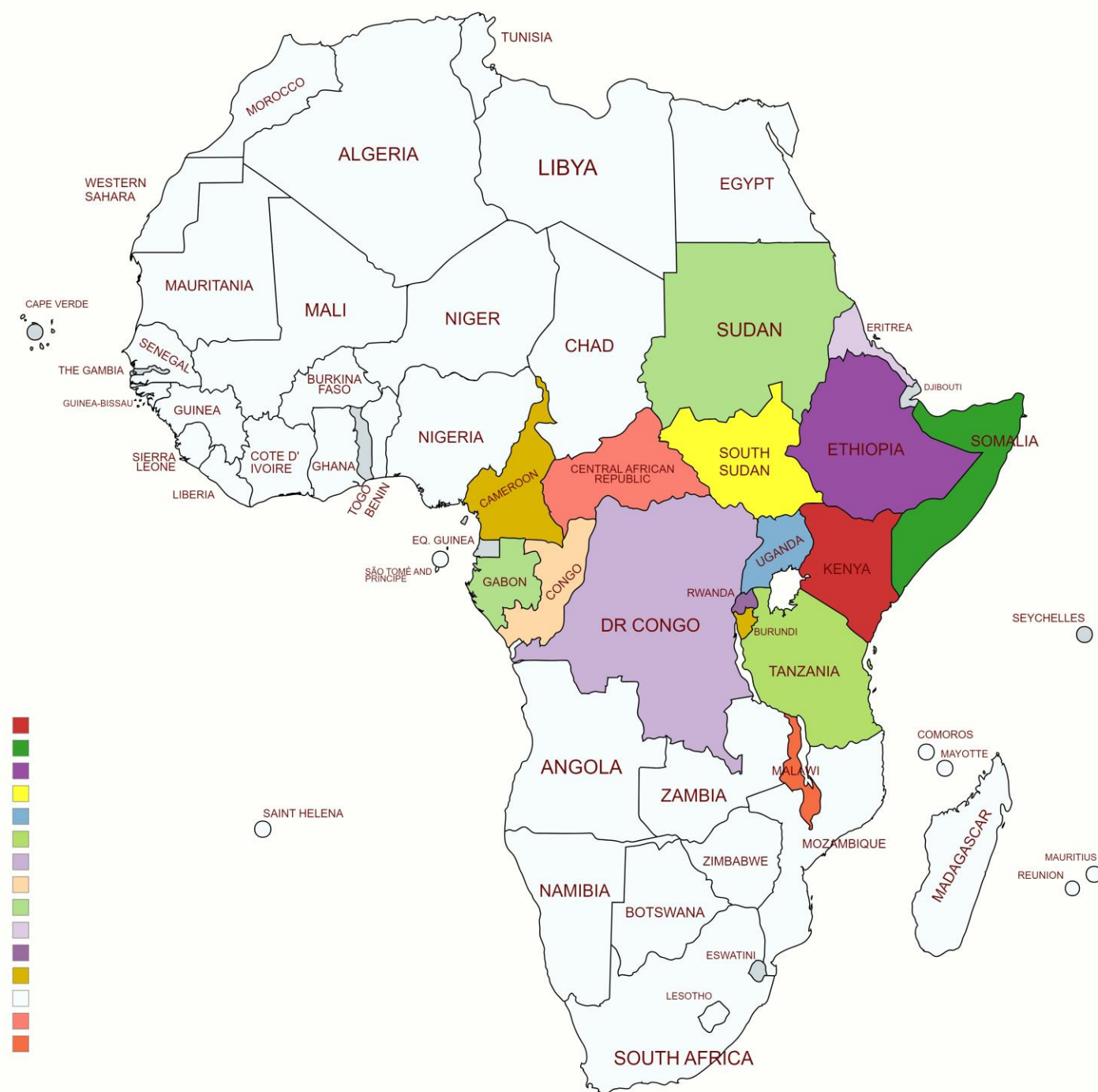


What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by means of threat, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or exploitation.

Understanding regional trends is crucial for developing targeted interventions and policies.

Focus on East and Central Africa



Geographical Scope:

Includes countries like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and others.

Contextual Relevance:

The region has unique challenges such as conflicts, economic disparities, and migration that impact trafficking trends.

Created with mapchart.net

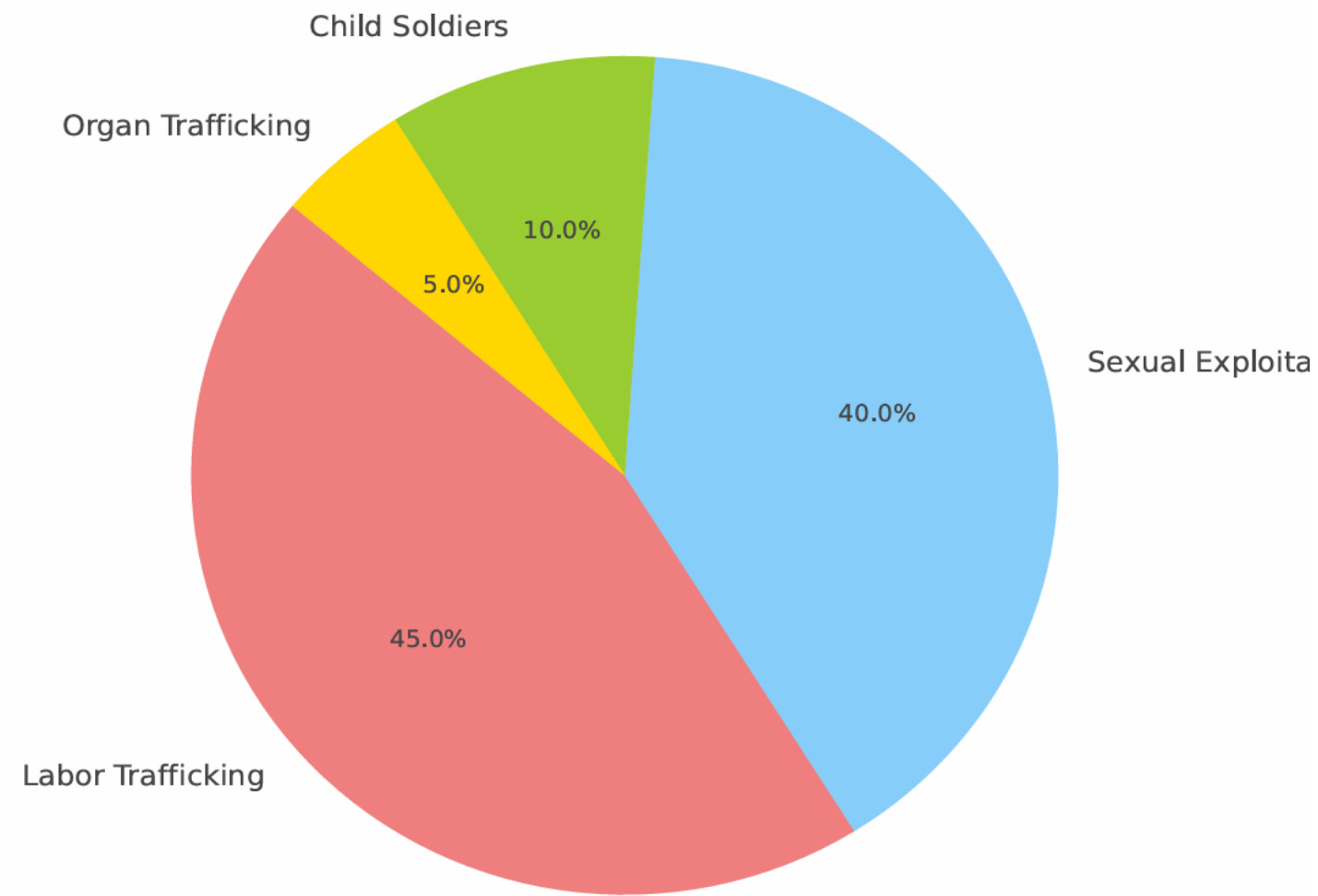
Overview of Human Trafficking in East and Central Africa

- Human trafficking has deep historical roots, with colonial and post-colonial practices influencing current trends.
- Historical exploitation during the colonial era laid the foundation for modern trafficking networks.

Current Situation

- Recent statistics show an increase in reported cases of human trafficking, with varied forms of exploitation (Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, UNODC, 2023)
- Example: In 2023, over 4,000 cases were reported in East Africa alone (UNODC, 2023) .

Statistical Overview



Trafficking Statistics (Recent Years)

Number of Reported Cases increased from 3,500 in 2019 to 5,200 in 2023 in East Africa (UNODC, 2023)

Demographics of Victims:

60% women, 30% children, 10% men (IOM, 2023).

Types of Exploitation:

45% labor trafficking, 40% sexual exploitation, 10% child soldiers, 5% organ trafficking (UNODC, 2023) .

Key Trends in Human Trafficking

Increase in Labor Trafficking

Agriculture, mining, construction, and domestic work (IOM, 2023).

Rise in Child Trafficking

Poverty, lack of education, displacement due to conflict (Free the Slaves, 2023)

Emerging Forms of Exploitation

Organ Trafficking: Increasing reports, especially in conflict zones (UNODC, 2023)

Cyber Trafficking: Use of digital platforms for recruitment and exploitation (IOM, 2023) .

Socioeconomic Factors



Poverty and Unemployment

High poverty rates and unemployment drive individuals towards risky opportunities (World Bank, 2023)

Example: Rural areas in Kenya and Uganda.

Conflict and Displacement

Ongoing conflicts in DRC, South Sudan, and surrounding areas lead to increased vulnerability (IOM, 2023)

Example: IDP camps in DRC as trafficking hotspots.

Urbanization

Rapid urbanization leading to increased migration and vulnerability (UN-Habitat, 2023)

Example: Slums in Nairobi and Kampala.

Regional Hotspots

Major Cities: Nairobi (Kenya), Kampala (Uganda), Kinshasa (DRC) (UNODC, 2023) .

Border Areas: Between Kenya and Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan (IOM, 2023).

Case Studies:

- Nairobi, Kenya: High rates of domestic work exploitation (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2023) .
- Kinshasa, DRC: Forced labor in mining (UNODC, 2023)
- Kampala, Uganda: Child trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation (IOM, 2023) .

Impact of COVID-19

Pandemic's Role in Trafficking Trends

- Economic downturns increased vulnerability (World Bank, 2023)
- Restrictions led to changes in trafficking patterns (IOM, 2023)

Adaptation of Traffickers

- Increased use of online platforms (UNODC, 2023).
- Shifts in recruitment tactics to exploit the pandemic situation (Free the Slaves, 2023) .

Challenges and Gaps

Law Enforcement Challenges

- Limited resources and training (Kenya Ministry of Interior, 2022).
- Corruption and lack of accountability (Transparency International, 2023).

Issues: Inadequate victim protection, insufficient prosecution of traffickers.

Data Gaps

Inconsistent data collection methods (UNODC, 2023).

Underreporting of cases (IOM, 2023).

Problems: Lack of comprehensive data hampers policy making and resource allocation.

Resource Limitations

Insufficient funding for anti-trafficking programs (World Bank, 2023).

Limited support services for victims and survivors (Free the Slaves, 2023).

Impact: Reduced effectiveness of interventions, prolonged victim recovery.

Recommendations

Policy Recommendations

Strengthening existing laws and ensuring effective implementation.

Increasing funding for anti-trafficking efforts

Focus Areas: Enhanced law enforcement training, victim protection policies.

Improving Data Collection

Standardizing data collection methods (UNODC, 2023). Enhancing inter-agency and international cooperation (IOM, 2023). Strategies: Establishing centralized databases, regular data audits.

Support for Victims:

Expanding support services including shelters, legal aid, and rehabilitation.

Survivor Leadership:

Survivor Leadership in Anti-Trafficking Efforts

•Role of Survivor Leaders

- **Importance:** Survivors bring unique perspectives and experiences to anti-trafficking efforts.
- **Empowerment:** Involving survivors in leadership roles helps empower them and strengthens community resilience (Free the Slaves, 2023).

•Examples of Survivor Leadership

- **Survivor Network Kenya:** Advocates for policy changes, provides support to new survivors (Free the Slaves, 2023).
- **Survivor-Led Initiatives:** Training and education programs led by survivors to prevent trafficking and assist victims.

•Impact of Survivor Leadership

- **Enhanced Advocacy:** Survivors' voices lead to more effective advocacy and policy development.
- **Community Trust:** Survivor leaders often have greater trust and credibility within affected communities.
- **Best Practices:** Development of best practices in victim support and rehabilitation informed by lived experiences.

The End

© 1999

