

**Smuggling of Migrants and  
Trafficking in Persons in the  
Mediterranean Area 2022**

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Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of  
Migrants*



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## **UNODC – 20 years of history**

- **UNODC is the UN agency established to combat drugs and crime.**
- **Its foundation in 1997, merger between the UN Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.**
- **The drug agency initiated its activity on drugs in the 70's**
  - **Conventions on drugs 1961, 1971 on production and 1988 on drugs trafficking**
- **The 2000s: landmark Conventions against Corruption and Transnational Organized Crime.**



**United Nations  
Convention against  
Transnational Organized  
Crime (UNTOC)**



**UNODC**

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**“The purpose of this  
Convention is to promote  
cooperation to prevent and  
combat transnational  
organized crime more  
effectively”**

**{Article 1, UNTOC}**



**UNTOC Supplementing  
Protocols  
on  
*Trafficking in Persons  
and  
Smuggling of Migrants***



## Purpose of the Protocols

### **Trafficking Protocol**

- **Prevent and combat trafficking**
- **Protect and assist victims of trafficking**
- **Promote cooperation among States parties**

### **Smuggling Protocol**

- **Prevent and combat smuggling**
- **Protect the rights of smuggled migrants**
- **Promote cooperation among States parties**



## Definition of Trafficking in Persons

### ACT

- the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons

### MEANS

- by means of the threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim

### PURPOSE

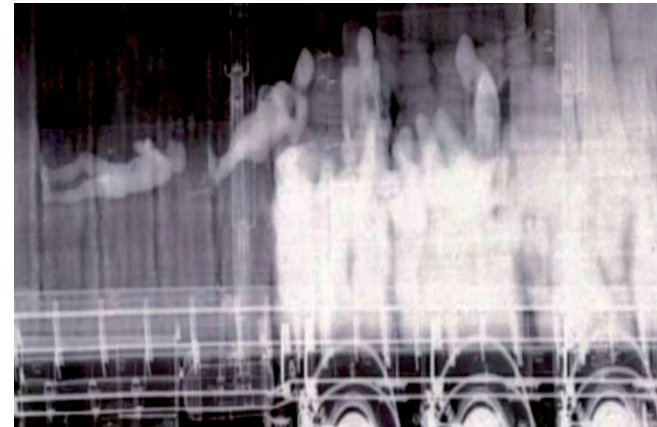
- for the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices, and the removal of organs.





## Definition of Smuggling of Migrants

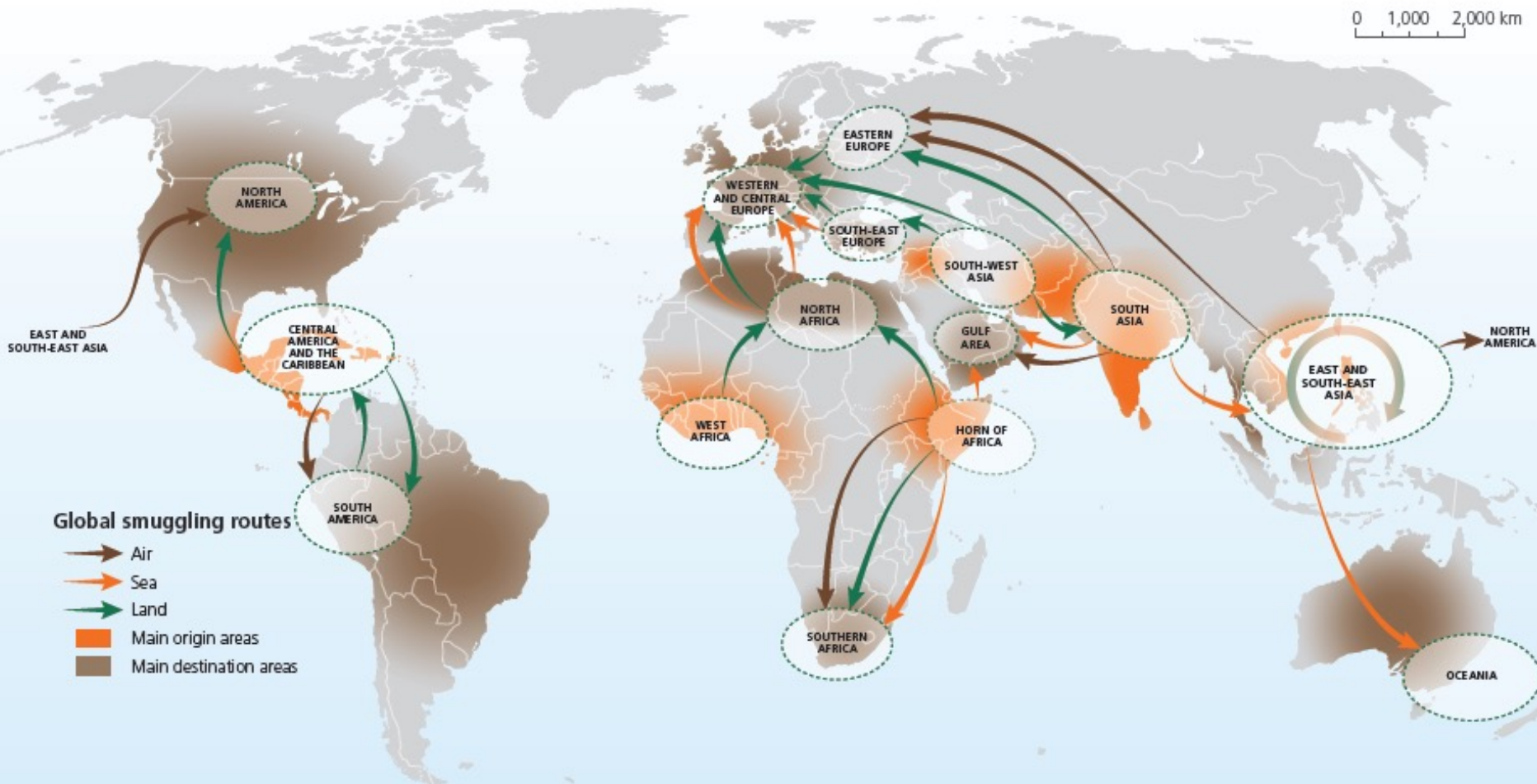
- *“procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.” (Article 3).*
- **The target of the Smuggling Protocol is smugglers who act for profit**







# Routes - Migrants are smuggled in all regions of the world



# Smuggling routes change – from North Africa to Europe

EUROPE





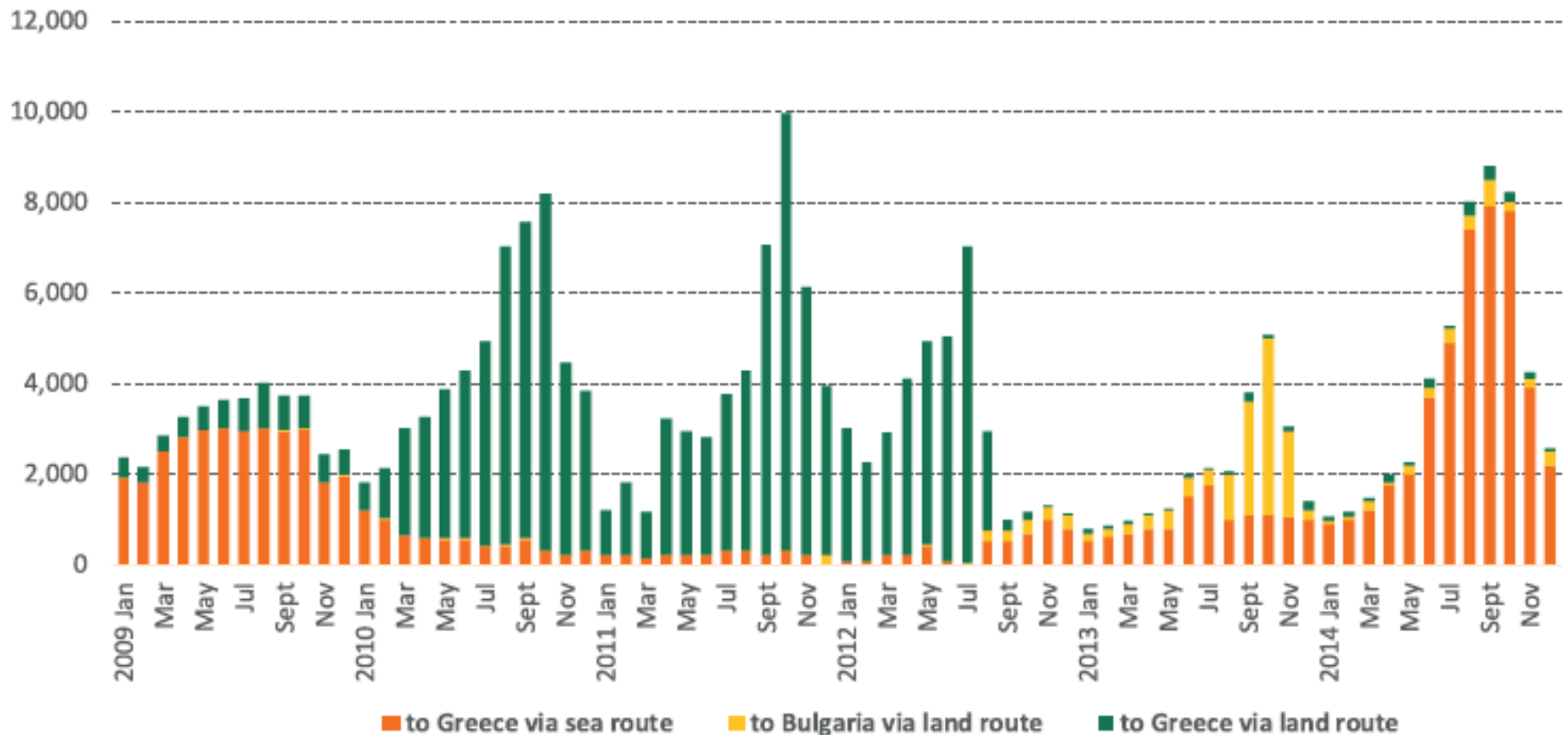
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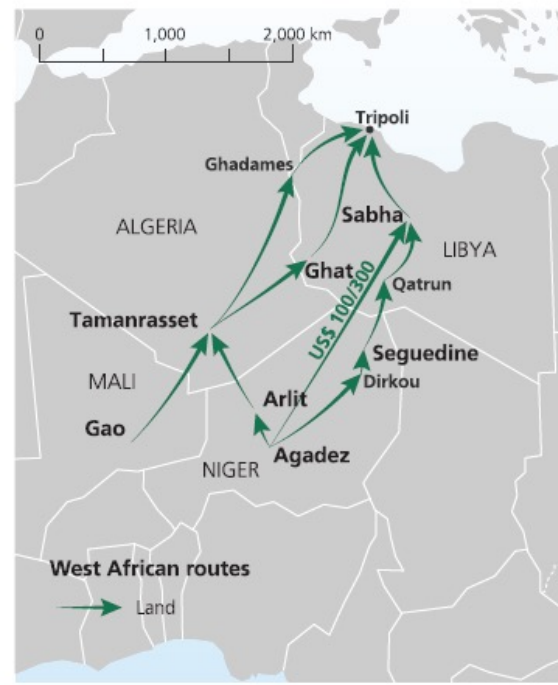
# Smuggling routes are volatile

Number of irregular border crossings from Turkey to the EU by route, January 2009-December 2014

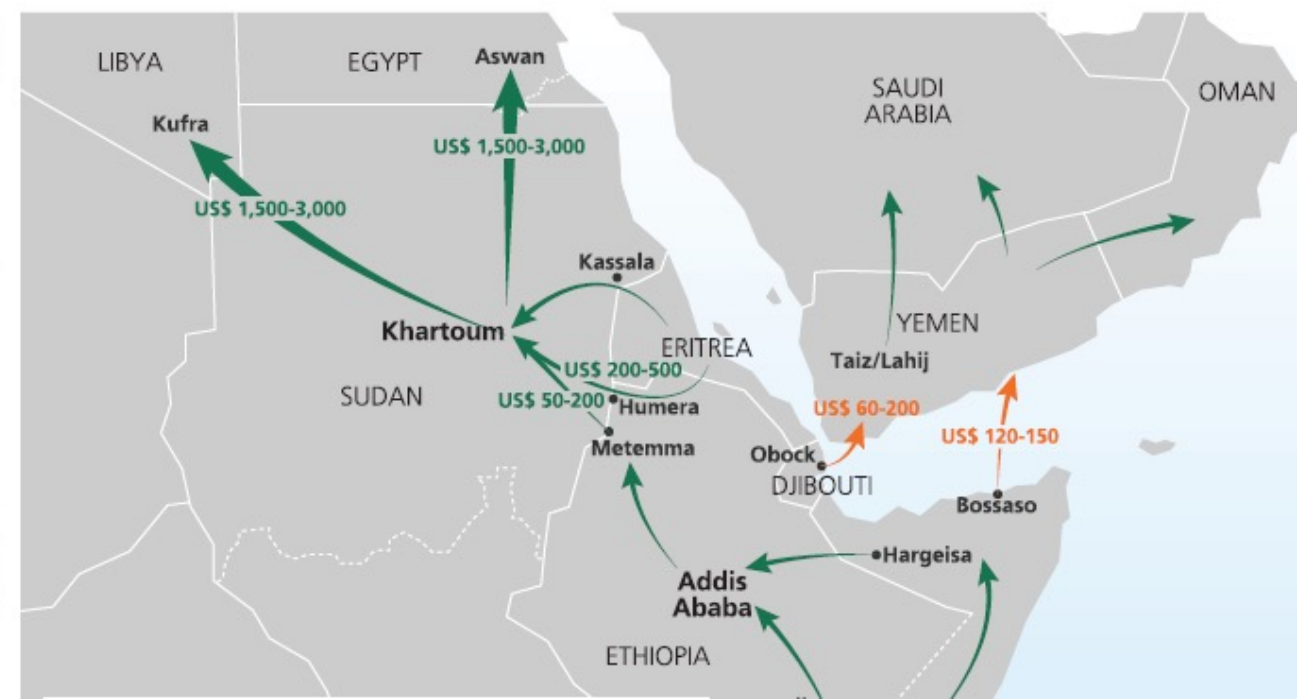


# Examples of Hubs in Africa

## FROM WEST AFRICA TO NORTH AFRICA



## THE HORN OF AFRICA





# Supply and demand driven

## Factors determining the demand for smuggling



Need to migrate due to armed conflict, persecution, socio-economic hardship or other reasons



Mobility regulations and restrictions



Expensive and lengthy procedures to obtain regular travel documents

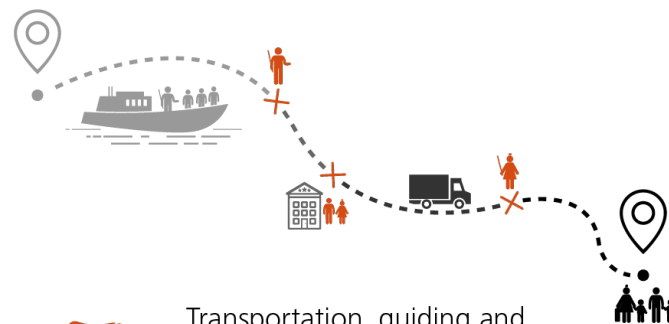


Marketing and misinformation by smugglers



Smugglers' recruitment and community pressure

## Services supplied by smugglers



Transportation, guiding and escorting during irregular border crossing



Accommodation along the route



Planning and contacts along the route



Information and corruption



Travel documents (counterfeit, false, fraudulently obtained, etc.)

# Smugglers are active along the route, not only at borders

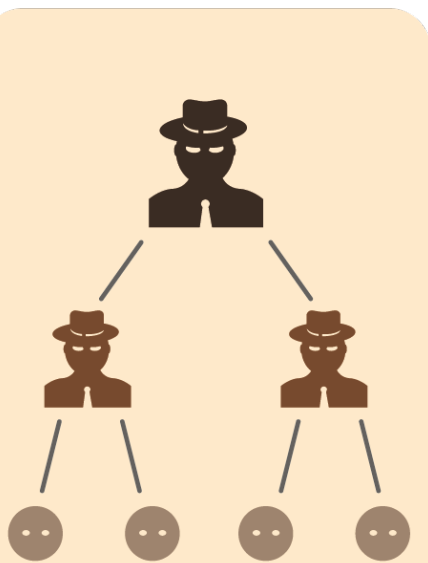
## Different activities at different stages:

- **At the origin: Recruitment and publicizing the services**
- **In smuggling hubs: Organization, contacts**
- **Along the route: Transportation, housing, border crossing**
- **At the destination: Arrangements for stay, and transportation inland**



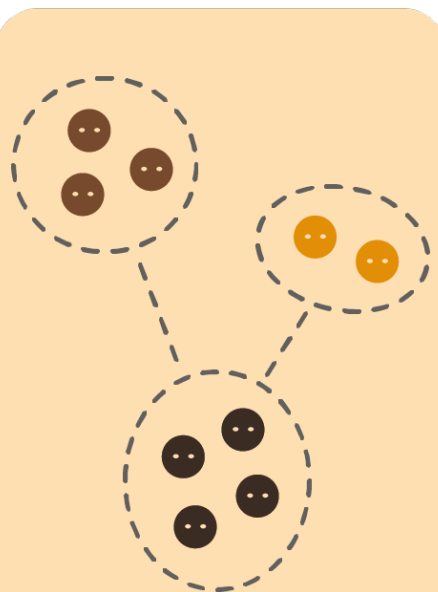
# The organization of migrant smuggling

**Hierarchical**



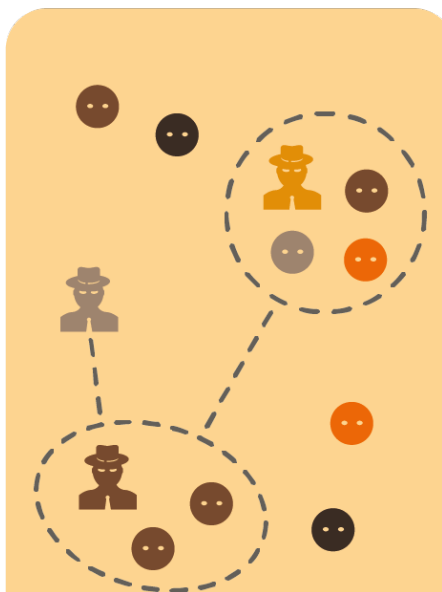
Well-organized, often long journeys across multiple borders

**Networks**



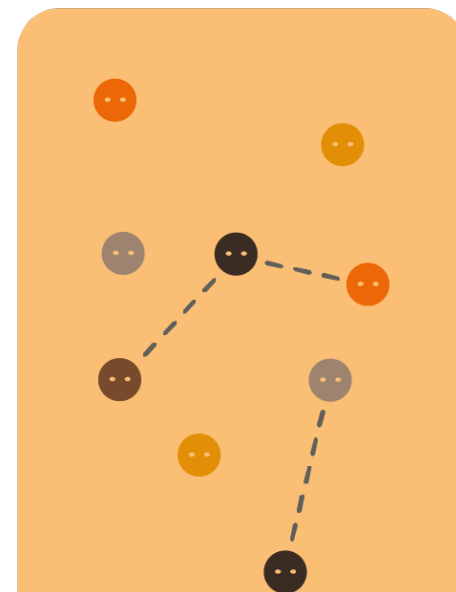
Looser networks where collaboration is occasional

**Mixed**



Mix of networks and individual smugglers

**Individuals**



Individual smugglers often acting opportunistically (may be resident in border areas)



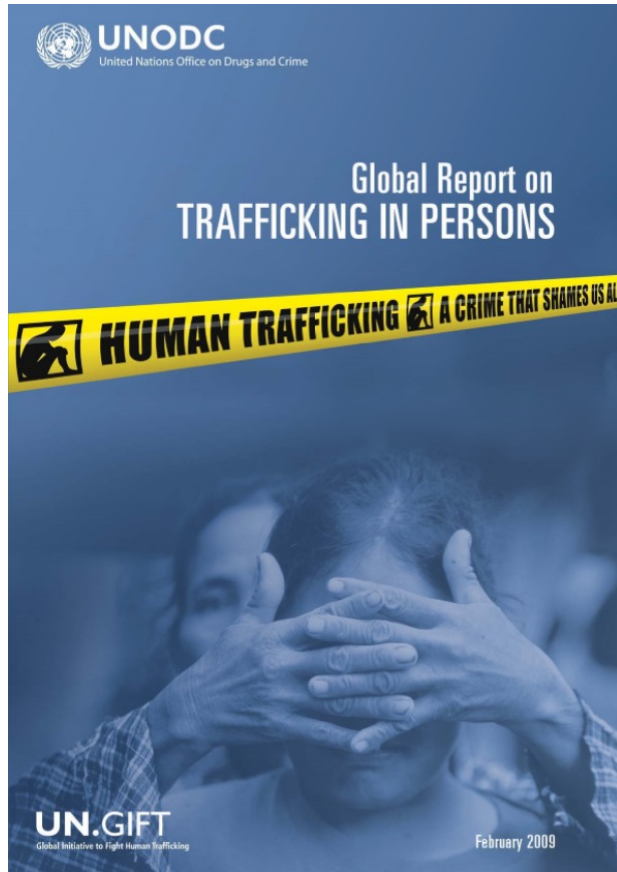


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Research



## **UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP)**

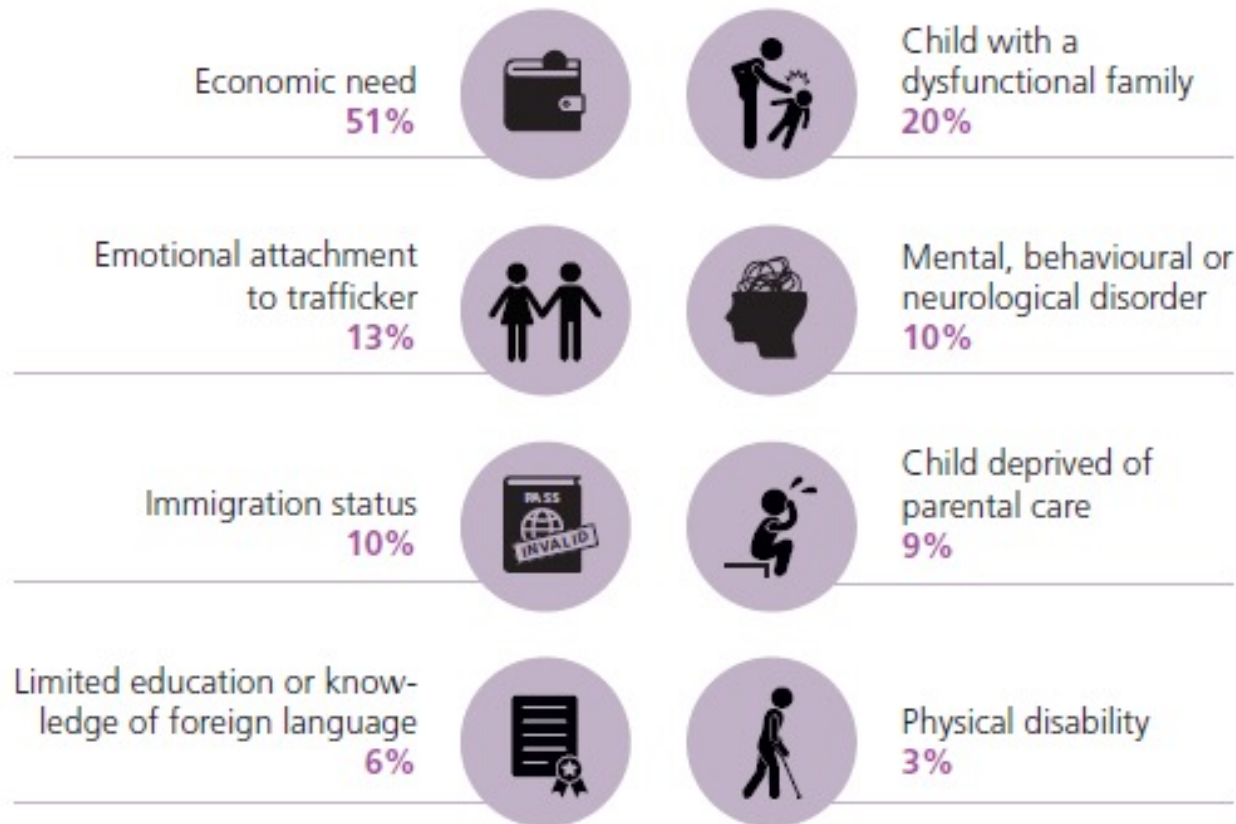


## Main forms of exploitation and profiles of detected victims, by subregions, 2018 (or most recent)

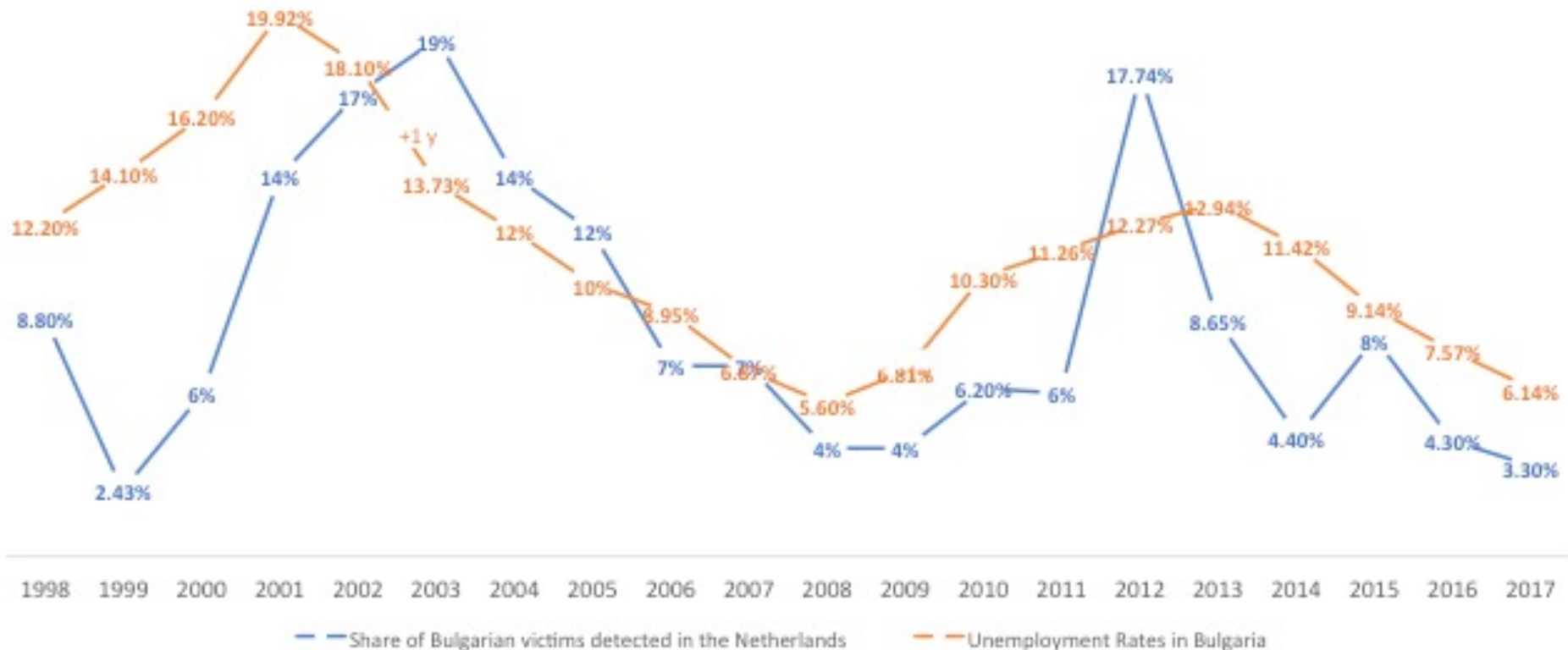


# Victims are targeted when they are more vulnerable

## Percentage of cases by pre-existing factors that traffickers have taken advantage of

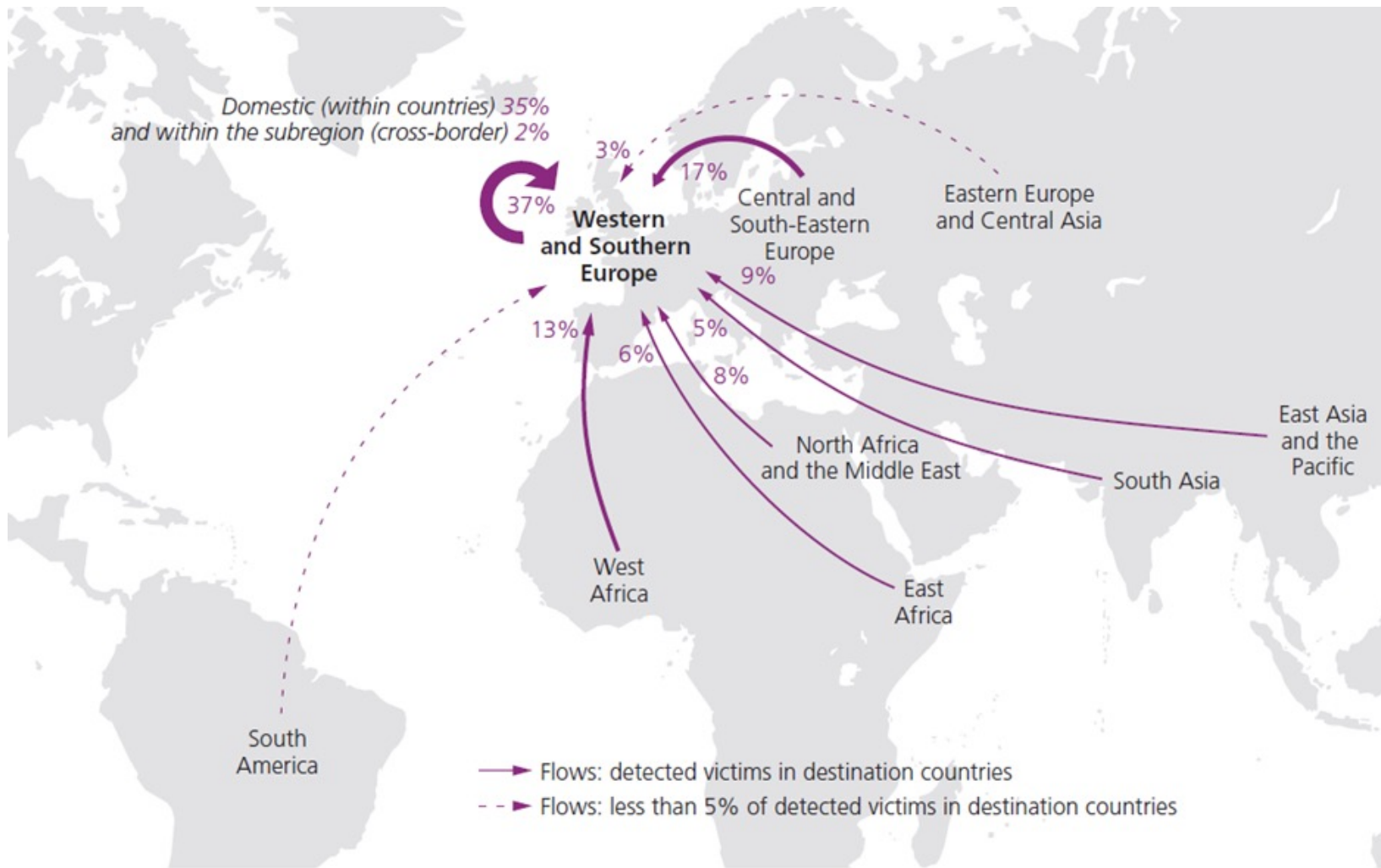


## Statistics shows unemployment levels is determining trafficking flows from Bulgaria (Hungary, Russia) to the Netherlands



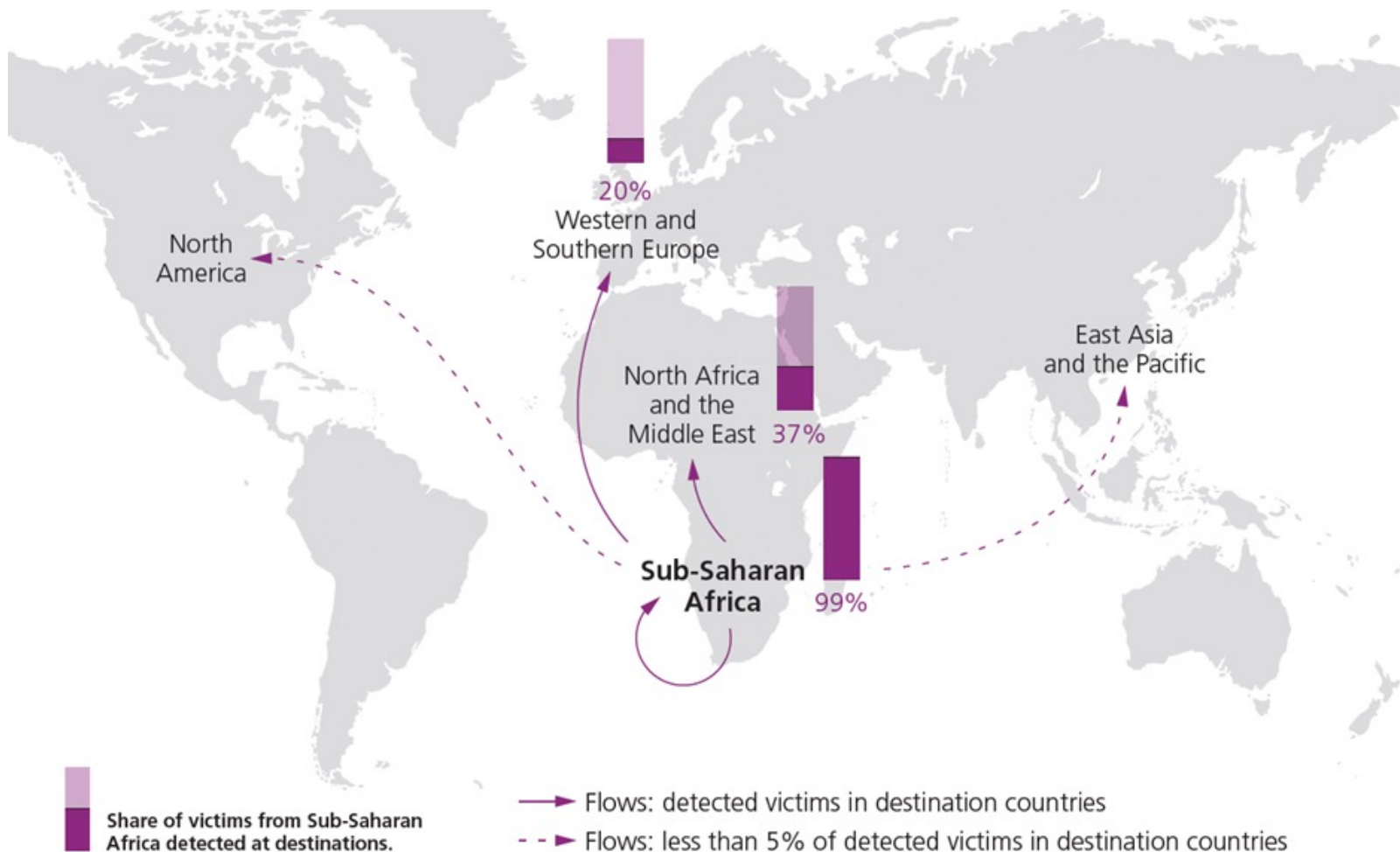


## Origins of trafficking victims detected in Western and Southern Europe, 2018 (or most recent)

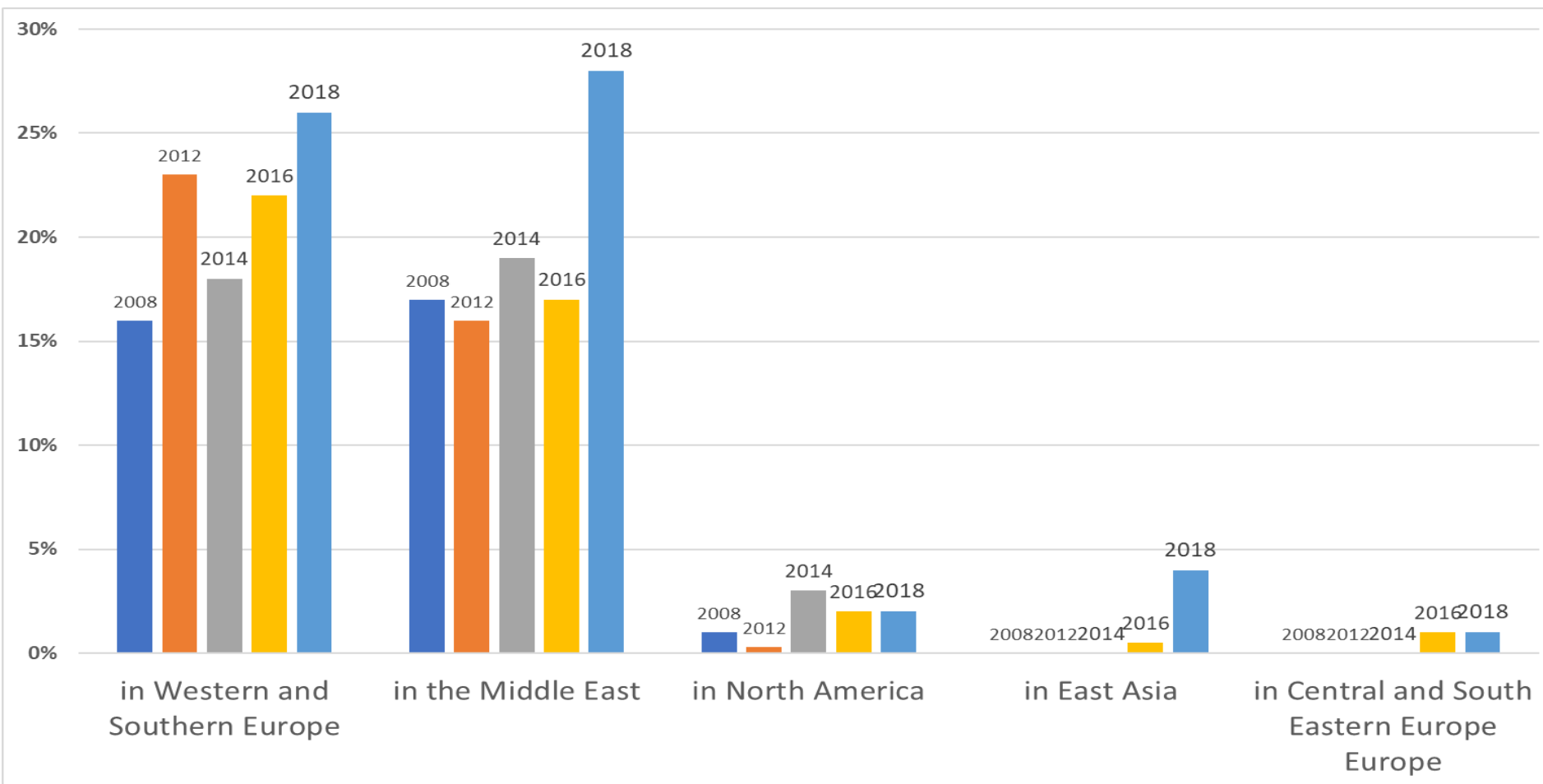




## Destinations for trafficking flows from Sub-Saharan Africa,



## Share of African victims of trafficking in persons among total victims detected in destination regions



Source: UNODC elaboration on national data.



# A variety of different type of traffickers involved

## Traffickers structure



### Individual traffickers

Typically operate on their own.



### Opportunistic associations of traffickers

Two traffickers operating together, or more than two traffickers not systematically working together beyond a single crime episode.



### Business-enterprise-type of organized criminal groups

Three or more traffickers systematically working together to traffic persons as a core component of their criminal activities.

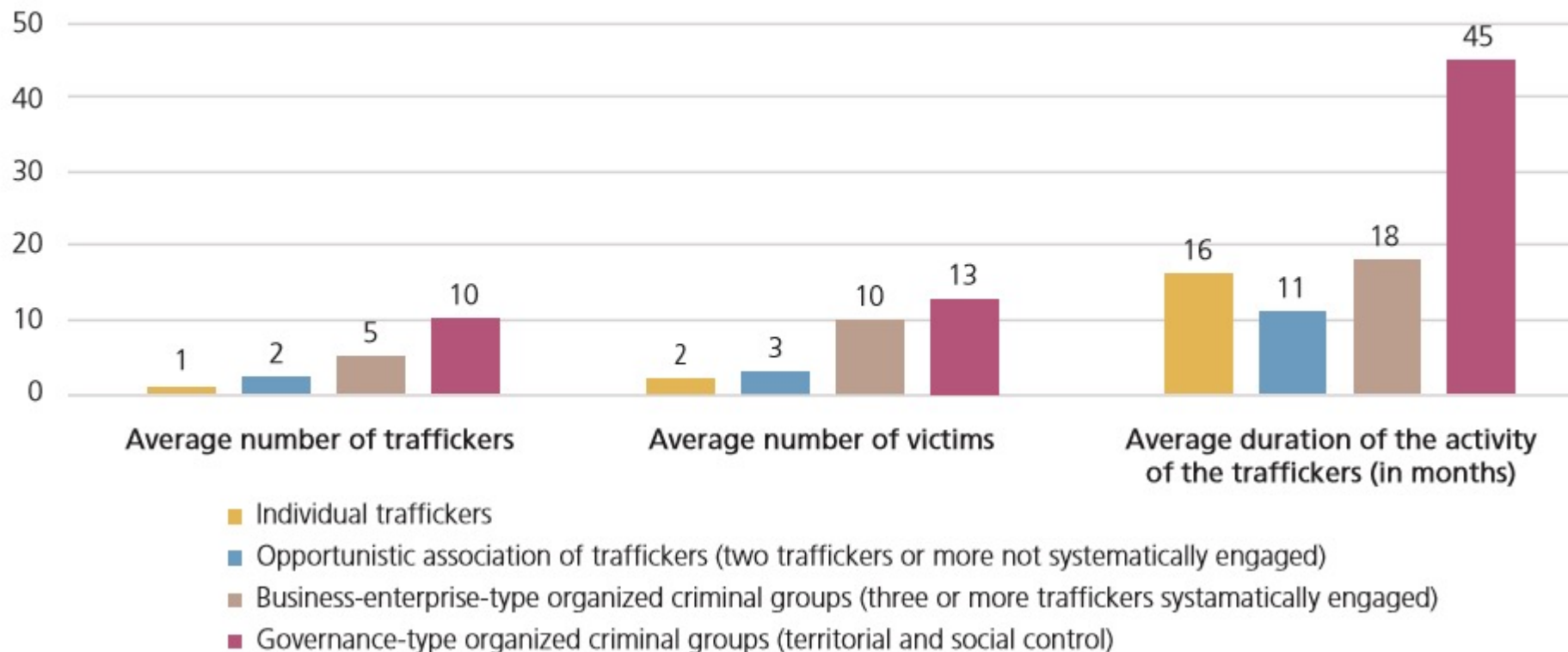


### Governance-type of organized criminal groups

Practice security governance in a community or territory by means of fear and violence, and may be involved in multiple illicit markets.

## Reported trafficking victims, by type of criminal actors involved in the trafficking

**FIG. 25** Average number of traffickers\*, average number of victims\*\* and average duration of traffickers' activity\*\*\* per single case, by type of criminal actor, as reported in GLOTIP court cases



# Trafficking in Persons and Technology

- **Dataset on trafficking and technology**
- **Technology integrated in the modus operandi of traffickers**
- **Emergence of 'cyber flows'**
- **Emergence of internet-based forms of exploitation**
- **Trafficking on social media platforms expanded**

Fig. 2

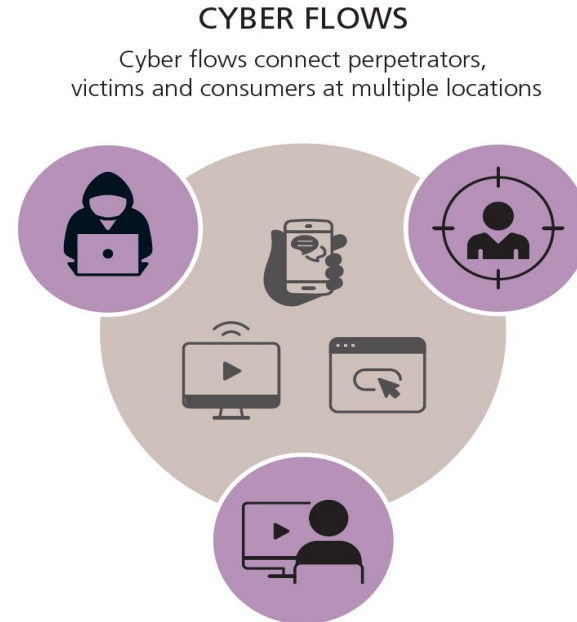


Fig. 4

Hunting and Fishing Strategies



**Hunting strategies**  
Perpetrators actively approach victims in online spaces



**Fishing strategies**  
Perpetrators wait for victims or consumers to respond to ads



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# Thank you!

<http://www.unodc.org/glotip.html>

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