



***GLOBAL REPORT
ON TRAFFICKING IN
PERSONS 2022***

***Country profiles
South Asia***



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Afghanistan -	2
- Bangladesh -	3
- Bhutan -	4
- India -	6
- Maldives -	9
- Nepal -	10
- Pakistan -	12
- Sri Lanka -	13

- Afghanistan -

Legal overview

Afghanistan acceded to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol in 2014. The current legislation on trafficking in persons in Afghanistan – the Law Prohibiting Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (1395/11/10) of 2017 – covers all forms of trafficking in persons indicated in the Protocol.¹

Victims

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) documented 403 cases of serious violence against women and girls from January 2019 to June 2020, including 95 cases of rape, 44 cases of forced self-immolation or suicide, 17 cases of forced marriage and 17 cases of forced marriage of a child.

Source: United Nations General Assembly (2020), Report of the Secretary General, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 18 August 2020.

From January to December 2020, the United Nations verified the recruitment and use of 196 boys in armed conflict. Children were used in combat, including in attacks with improvised explosive devices, and subjected to sexual violence. Nine boys were killed and injured in combat. In the same period, 13 children were victims of sexual violence (nine boys, four girls) and 55 were abducted (46 boys, nine girls). Of those, 42 children were released, less than five were killed and the whereabouts of eight children remain unknown.

Source: United Nations General Assembly (2021), Report of the Secretary General Children and armed conflict, 6 May 2021.

¹ See [Sherloc database of legislation](#).

- Bangladesh -

Bangladesh acceded to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in 2019. The current legislation on trafficking in persons in Bangladesh – Section 3 of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (2012)² – covers all forms of trafficking indicated in the Protocol.

Investigations and suspects

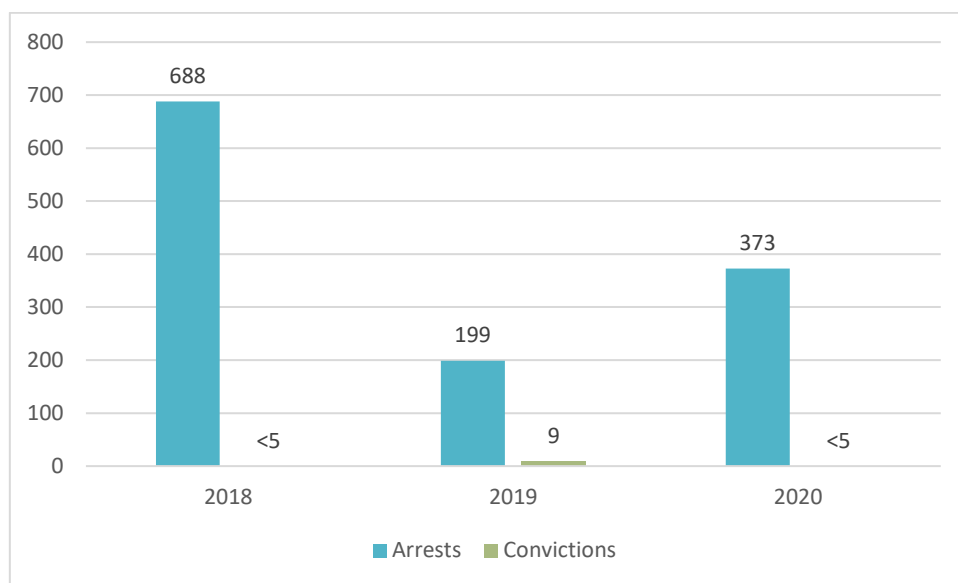
In 2020, national authorities recorded 730 cases of trafficking in persons in Bangladesh.

Source: The Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs.

In 2017 and 2018, the Bangladeshi Police reported 778 and 561 cases of trafficking in persons for each year respectively.

Source: Bangladesh Police.

Number of arrests and convictions of offenders of trafficking in persons, 2018-2020*



Source: The Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs.

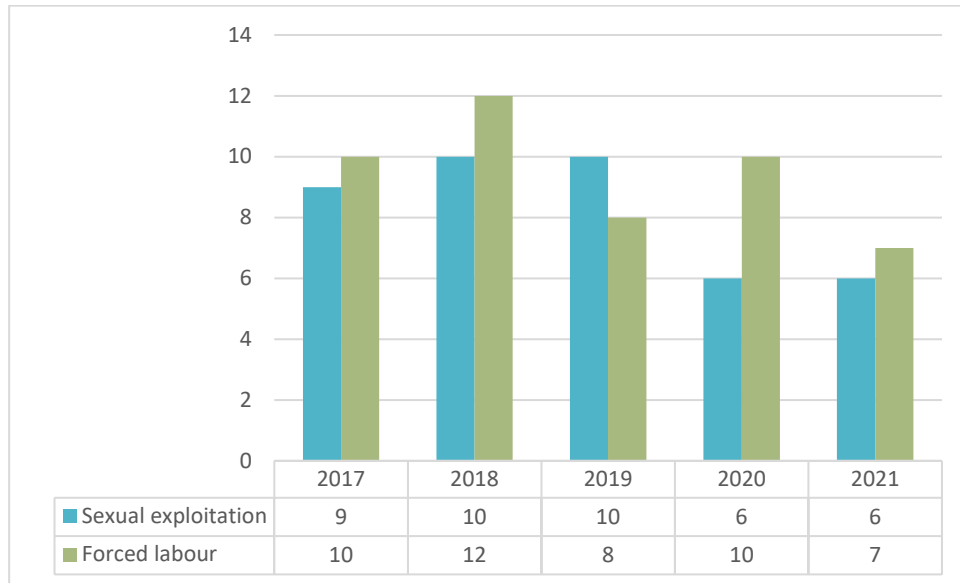
* Due to privacy reasons, figures below five were presented as "<5".

Victims

²[See Sherlock database of legislation.](#)

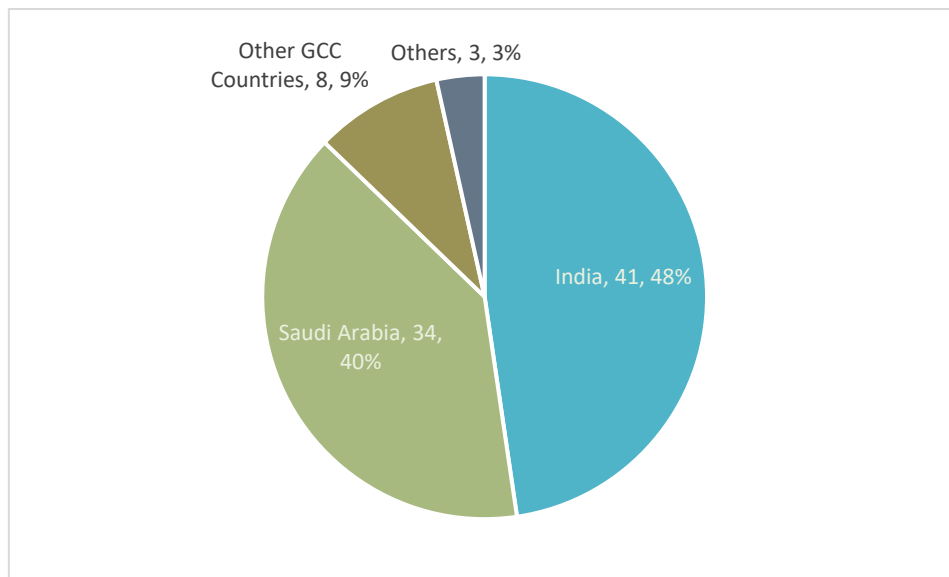
- Bhutan -

Number of victims of cross-border trafficking in persons, by form of exploitation, 2017-2021



Source: Bangladesh Police and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Number of repatriated victims of trafficking in persons, by country of repatriation, 2020



Source: Bangladesh Police and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Bhutan has not ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The current legislation on trafficking in persons in Bhutan - Penal Code, Section 154 - covers all forms of trafficking in persons indicated in the protocol the Protocol.

Repatriations, Investigations, and suspects

Between 2017 and June 2022, 203 Bhutanese victims of trafficking were repatriated back to Bhutan from Iraq (174), Oman (26), and India (3). One child trafficked abroad was rescued from Bumthang, Central Bhutan.

Of the 203 women, 185 of them were identified as suspected TIP victims and investigation is still ongoing for the others.

Source: Department of Law and Order, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs; Woman and Child Protection Division, Crime and Operations, Royal Bhutan Police, Headquarters, Thimphu.

Between 2017 and 2020, 35 persons were brought into formal contact with the police and/or criminal justice system because they have been suspected of, arrested for or cautioned for trafficking in persons. The large majority of the people suspected of trafficking in persons in Bhutan during the reporting period were adult females.

Source: Crime and Operations, Royal Bhutan Police, Headquarters, Thimphu.

In the reporting period, 22 TIP cases were prosecuted with six convictions and one acquittal. One case that was acquitted for TIP was charged for transporting an irregular migrant. Currently 15 TIP cases pertaining to women rescued from Iraq are under prosecution. All the cases are being prosecuted for trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced labour. All the persons convicted were adult Bhutanese nationals.

Source: Department of law and Order and Woman and Child Protection Division, Crime and Operations, Royal Bhutan Police, Headquarters, Thimphu.

Victims

In 2017 to 2022, 186 persons were identified as victims of trafficking, among whom 185 of them are rescued from abroad and one is a domestic case. All 185 victims were adult females and one, a minor girl. The entirety of the identified victims were trafficked for the purpose of forced labour.

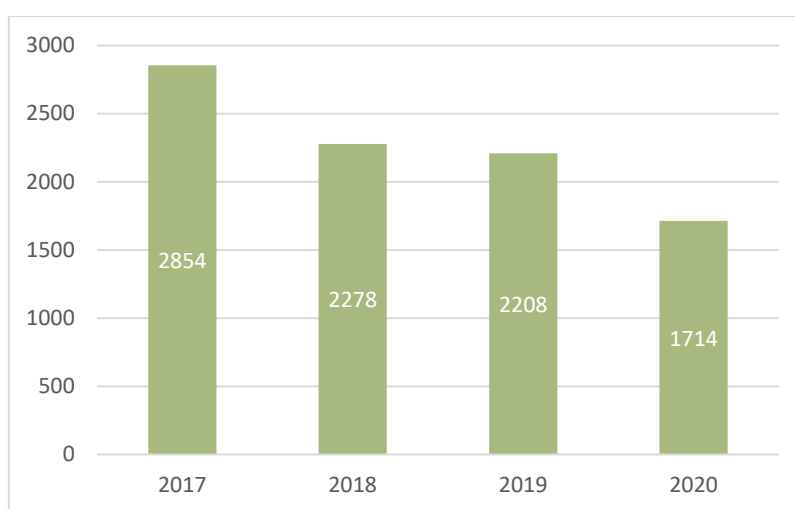
Source: Department of law and Order and Woman and Child Protection Division, Crime and Operations, Royal Bhutan Police, Headquarters, Thimphu.

- India -

India ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in 2011. The current legislation on trafficking in persons in India³, The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, covers all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. In addition, trafficking for sexual exploitation is also prosecuted under The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA) of 1956 and under sections 370, 370A, 372, and 373 of Indian Penal Code. Specific provisions relating to trafficking in women and children can also be found in the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and in the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

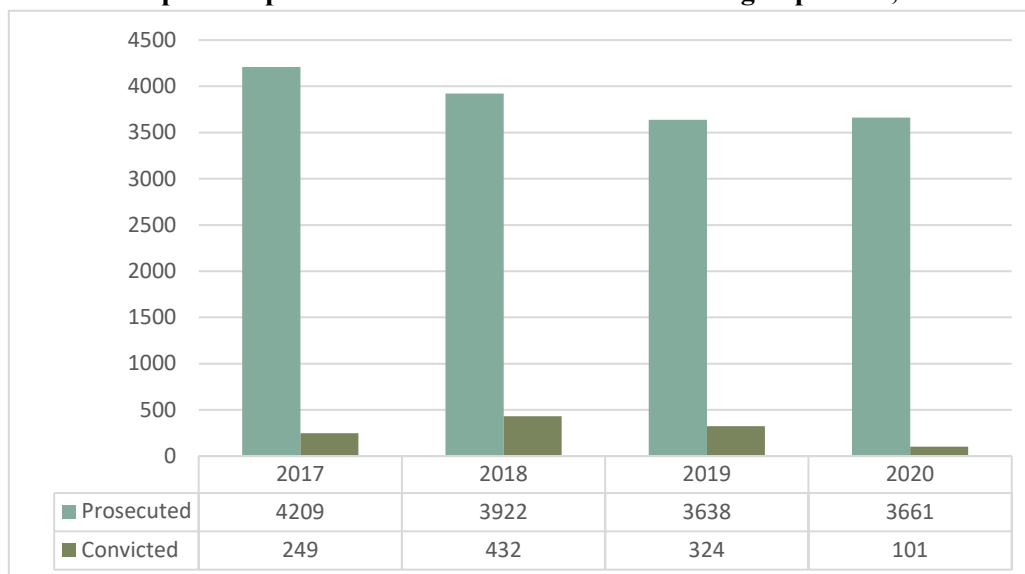
Investigations and suspects

Number of cases of trafficking in persons reported, 2017-2020



Source: The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Number of persons prosecuted and convicted of trafficking in persons, 2017-2020

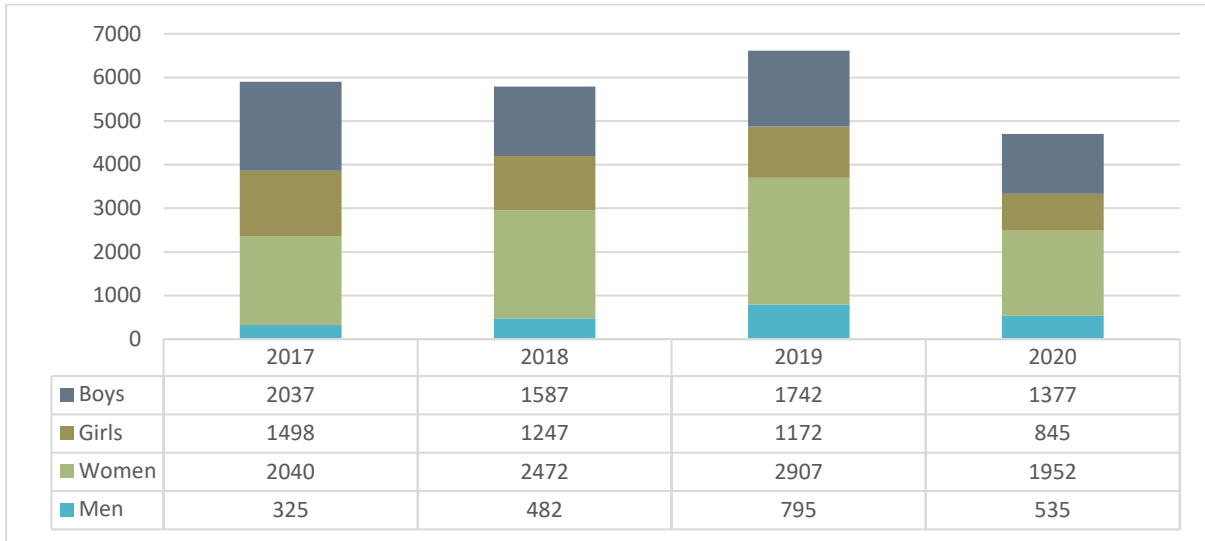


Source: The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

³ See [Sherloc database of legislation](#).

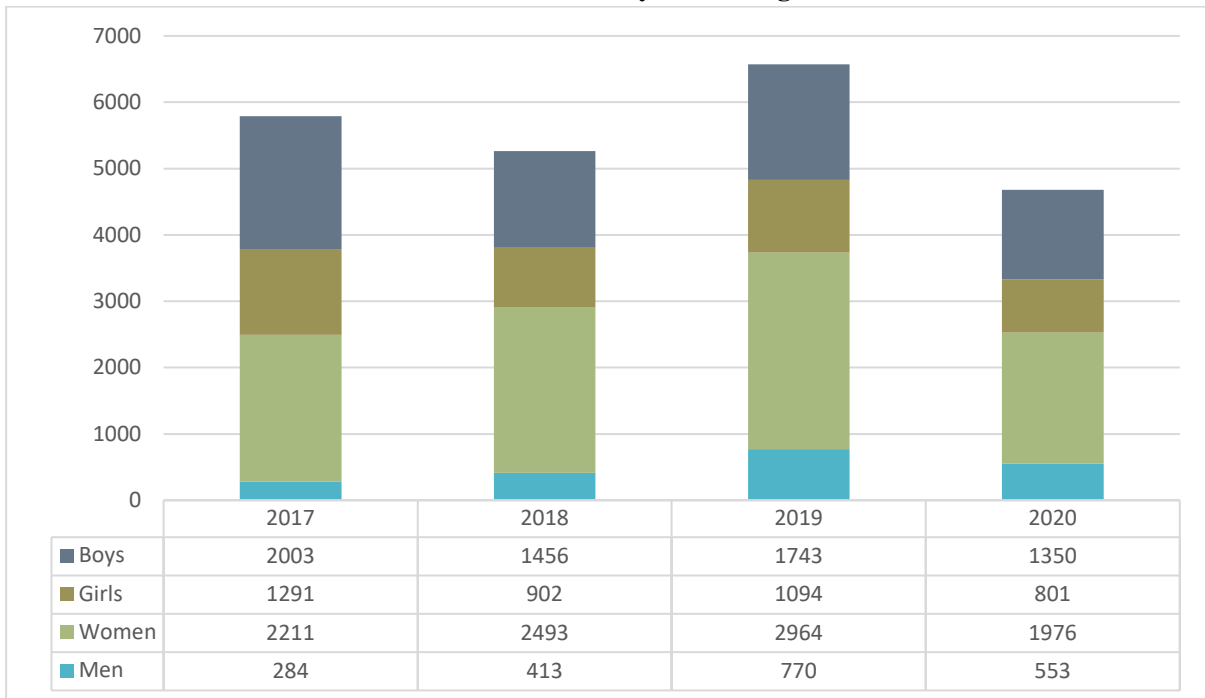
Victims

Number of victims trafficked, by sex and age, 2017-2020



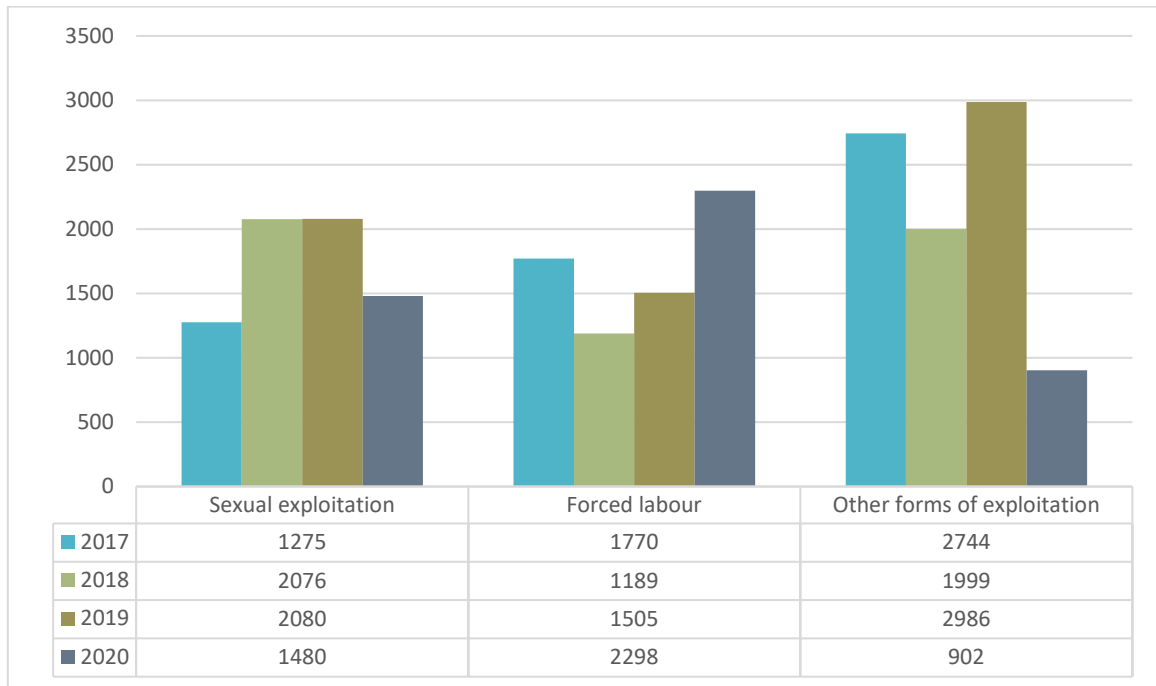
Source: The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Number of victims rescued, by sex and age, 2017-2020



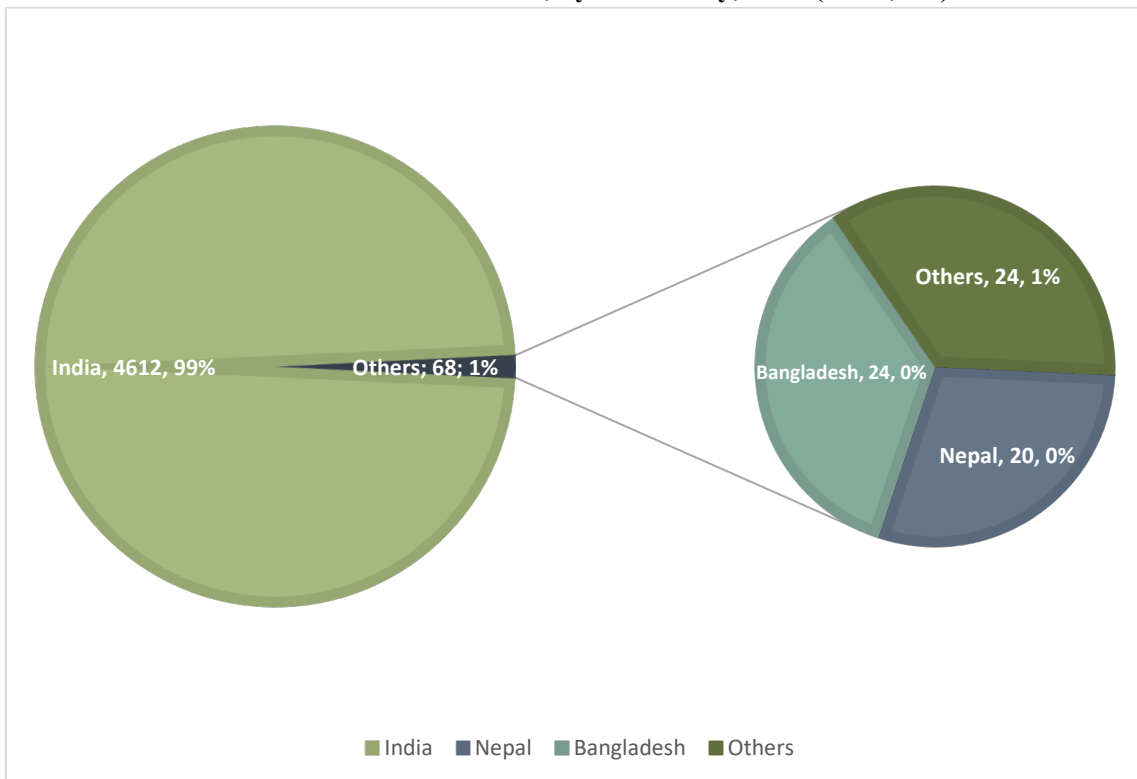
Source: The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Number of victims rescued, by form of exploitation, 2017-2020



Source: The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Number of victims rescued, by nationality, 2020 (tot: 4,680)



Source: The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Maldives -

Maldives acceded to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in 2016. The current legislation in the Maldives – The Prevention of Human Trafficking Act – criminalises trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour and removal of organs.

Investigations and suspects

In 2019, Maldives Immigration forwarded 27 cases of suspected fraudulent recruitment and trafficking in persons to Maldives Police Service (MPS) for further investigation and charges were raised against less than five individuals (trials ongoing).

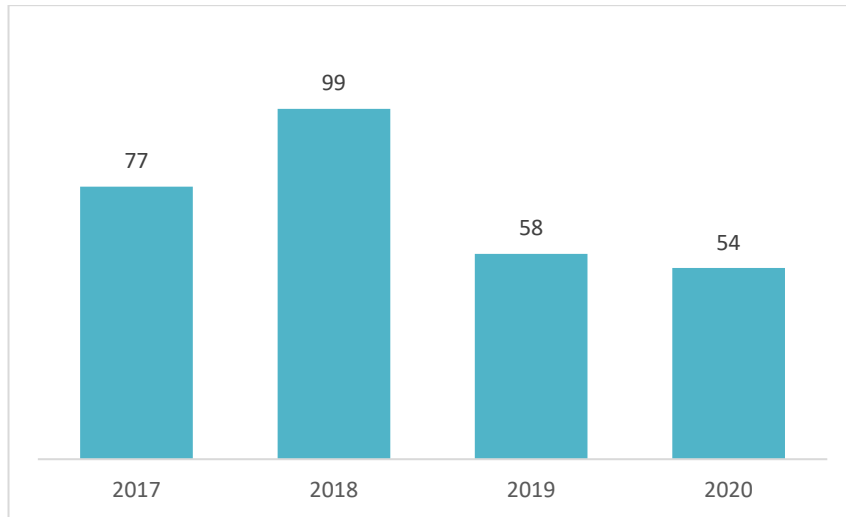
Source: UN Common Country analysis 2020.

- Nepal -

Nepal acceded to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol in 2020, but the current legislation does not cover all forms of trafficking indicated in the Protocol. Provisions related to slavery and trafficking in persons are found at chapter 17 of the Criminal Code, which prohibits hostage-taking and kidnapping for the purpose of trafficking and enslavement. In addition, chapter 17 of the Criminal Code criminalizes forced labour, sexual exploitation and torture.⁴

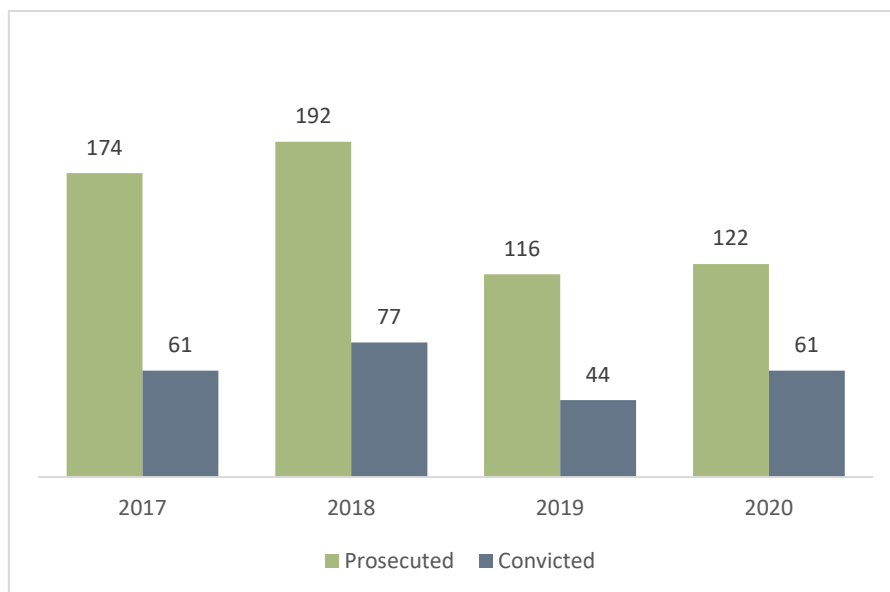
Investigations and suspects

Number of cases of trafficking in persons recorded, 2017 – 2020



Source: Annual Report of Office of the Attorney General.

Number of persons prosecuted for and convicted of trafficking in persons, 2017 - 2020

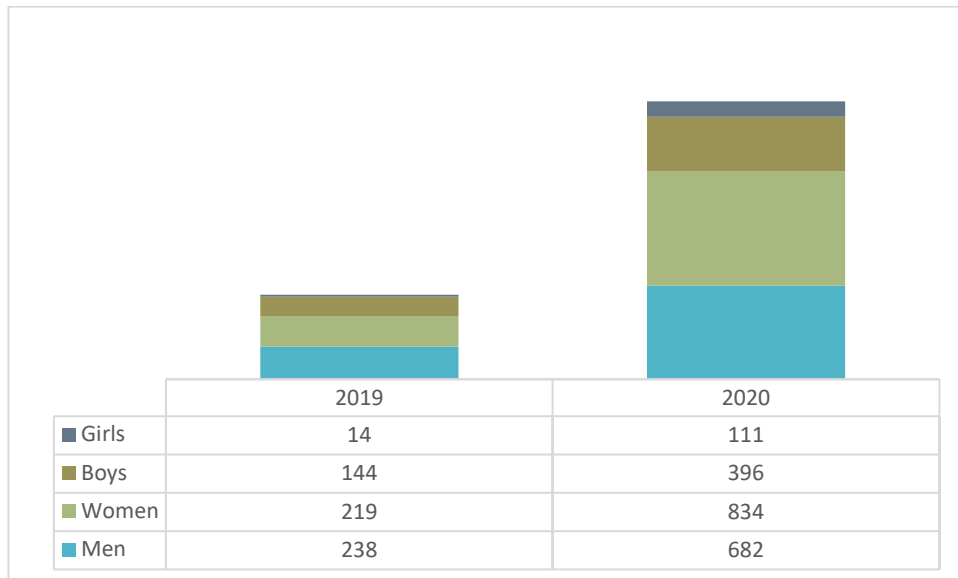


Source: Annual Report of Office of the Attorney General.

Victims

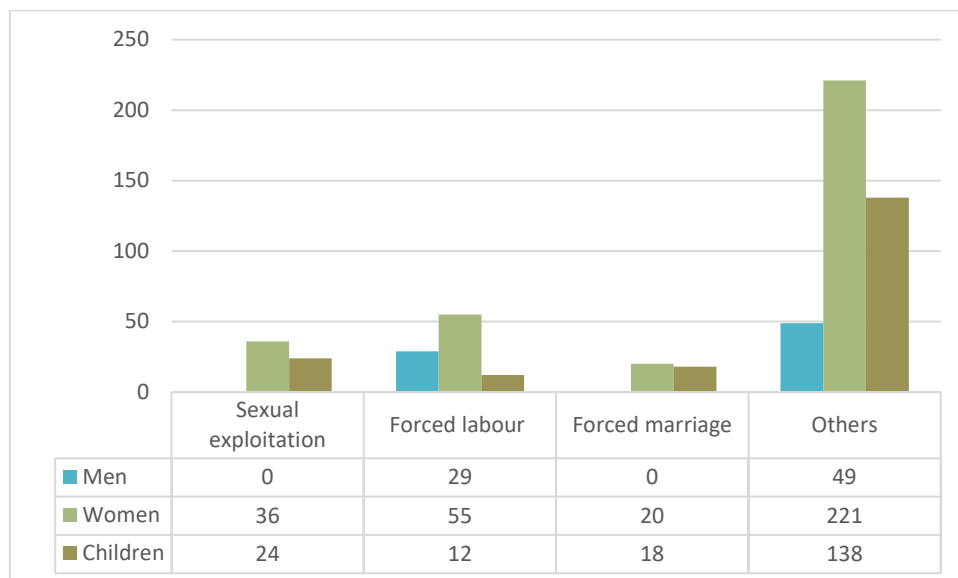
⁴ [See Sherlock database of legislation.](#)

Number of victims of trafficking in persons, by sex and age, 2019 – 2020



Source: Nepal Police Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau

Number of victims of trafficking in persons, by sex, age and form of exploitation, 2019-2020



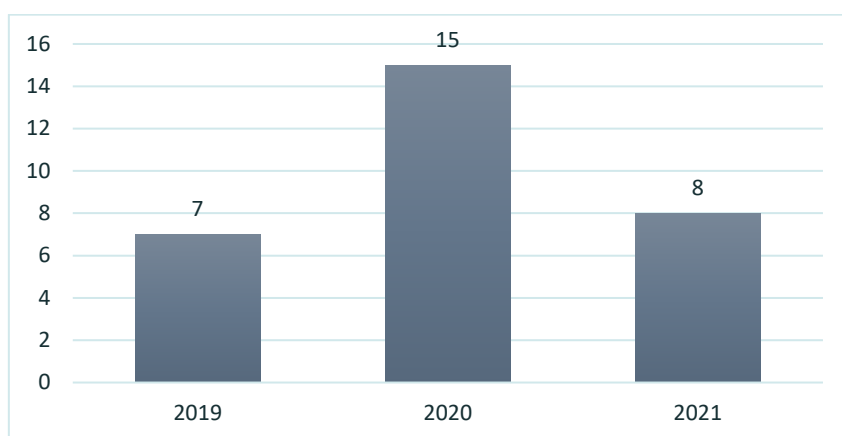
Source: Nepal Police Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau.

- Pakistan -

Pakistan acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in 2022. The Trafficking in Persons Act 2018 “An Act to prevent and combat trafficking in persons especially in women and children” criminalises trafficking in persons.⁵

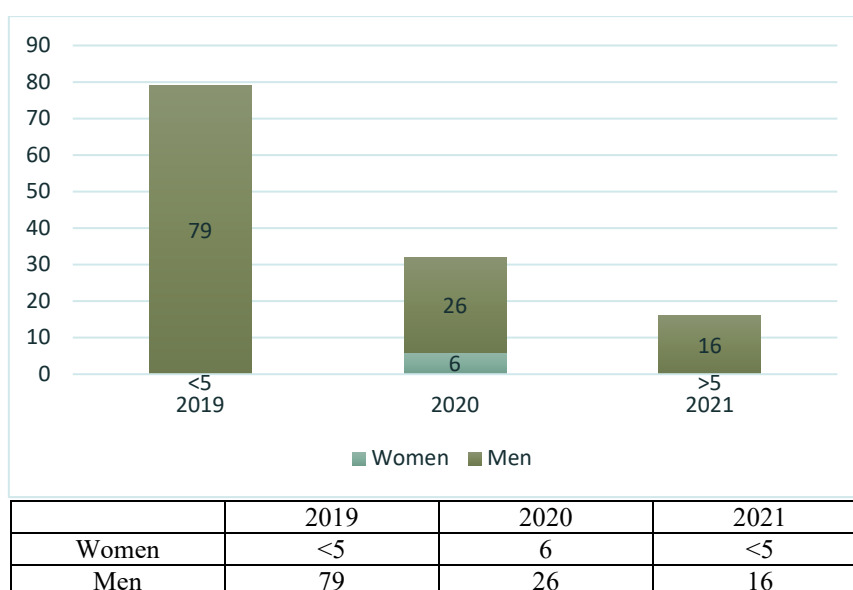
Investigations and suspects

Number of offences of trafficking in persons recorded, 2019-2021



Source: Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), Islamabad.

Number of persons brought into formal contact with the police and/or criminal justice system because they have been suspected of, arrested for or cautioned for trafficking in persons by the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), by sex and age, 2019-2021*



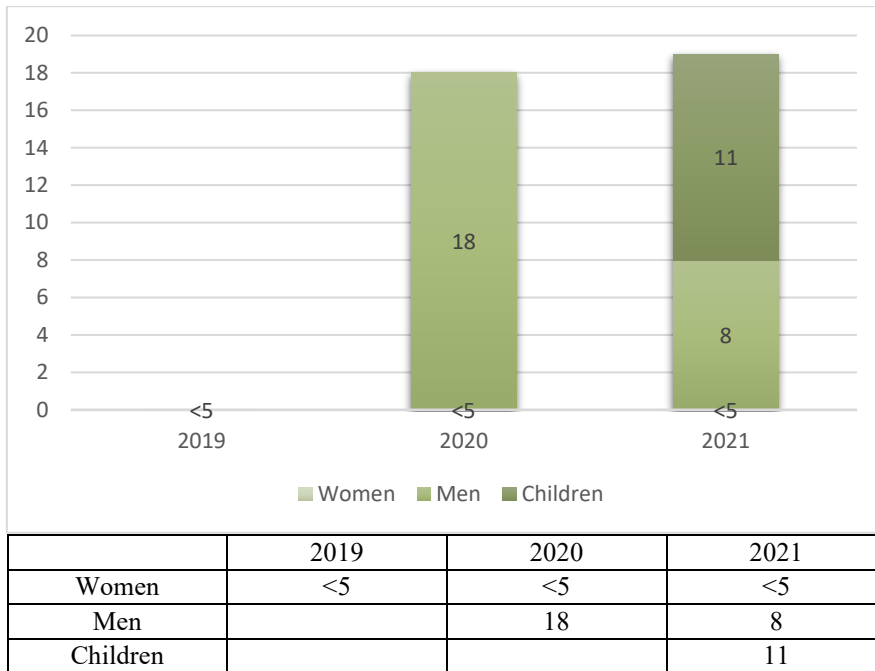
Source: Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), Islamabad.

* Due to privacy reasons, figures below five were presented as “<5”.

⁵ See [Sherloc database of legislation](#).

Victims

Number of persons identified as victims of trafficking in persons by the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), by sex and age, 2019 – 2021*

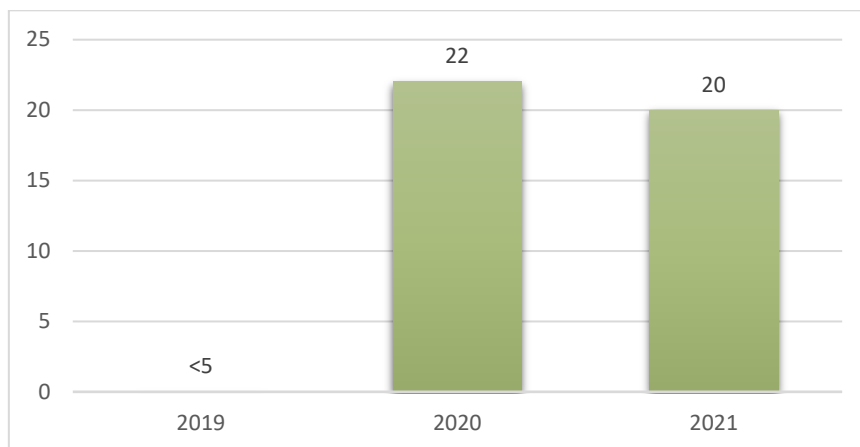


Source: Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), Islamabad.
 * Due to privacy reasons, figures below five were presented as “<5”.

Between 2019 and 2021, National Authorities of Pakistan identified 46 Pakistani citizens as victims of trafficking in persons.

Source: Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), Islamabad.

Number of own citizens trafficked within domestic borders, 2019-2021*



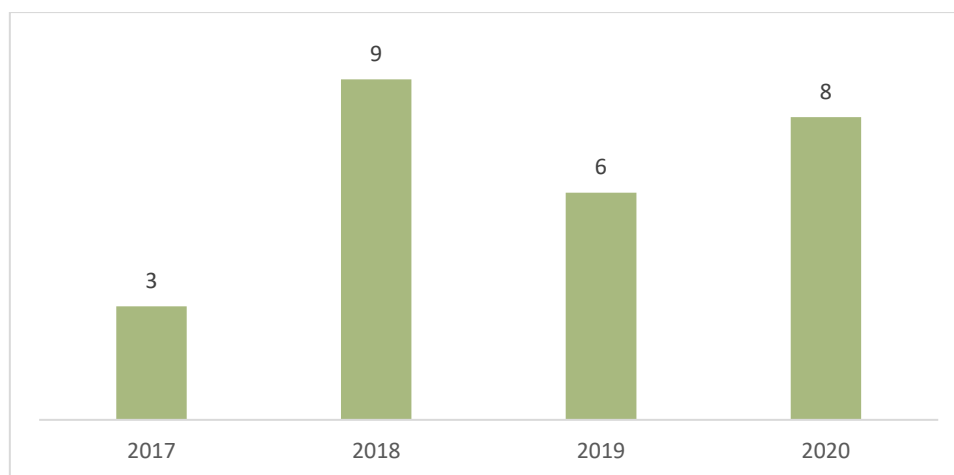
Source: Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), Police and Labour Authorities.
 * Due to privacy reasons, figures below five were presented as “<5”.

- Sri Lanka -

Sri Lanka ratified the UN Trafficking Protocol in 2015. The current legislation on trafficking in persons in Sri Lanka – Sections 360 (a) and 360 (c) of the Criminal Code, as amended by the Act 16/2016 – covers all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.⁶

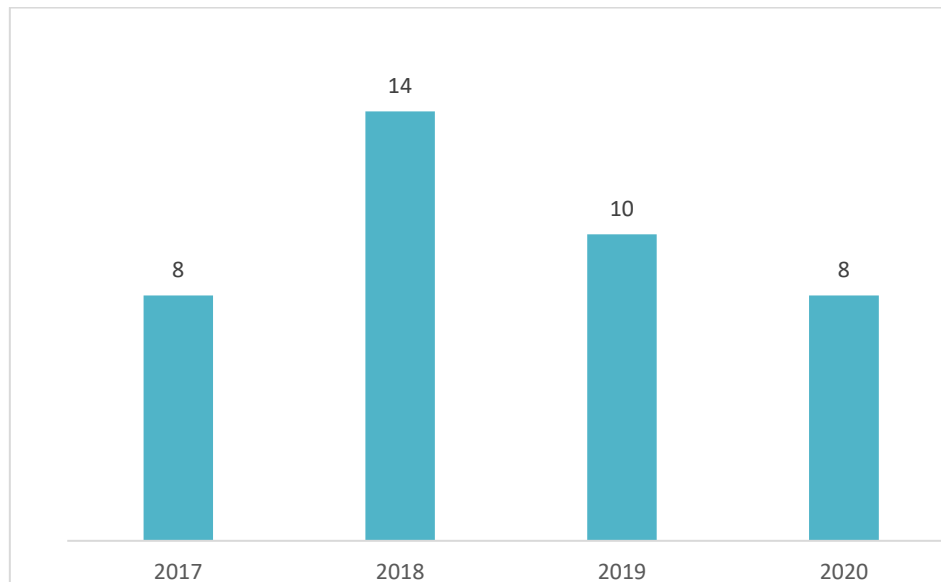
Investigations and suspects

Number of cases of trafficking in persons recorded, 2017 – 2020



Source: Crime Intelligence Analysis Bureau, Police Criminal Records Division.

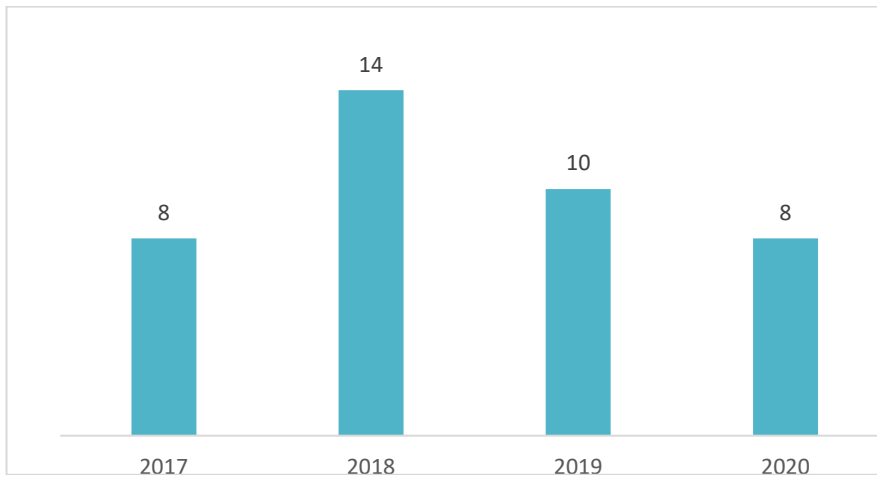
Number of persons brought into formal contact with the police and/or criminal justice system because they have been suspected of, arrested for or cautioned for trafficking in persons, 2017 – 2020



Source: Crime Intelligence Analysis Bureau, Police Criminal Records Division.

⁶ See [Sherloc database of legislation](#).

Number of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons, 2017 – 2020



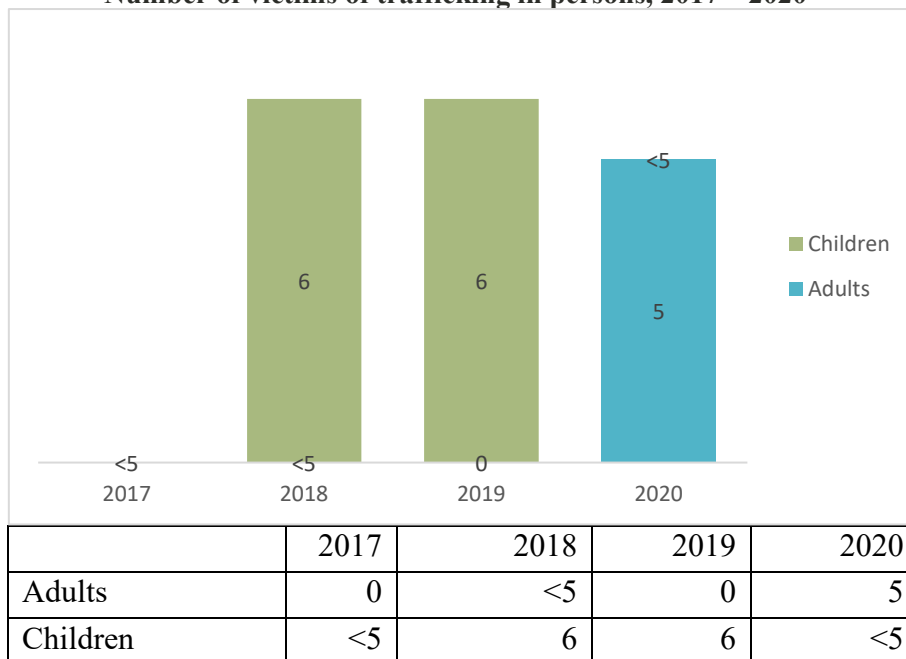
Source: Crime Intelligence Analysis Bureau, Police Criminal Records Division

Between 2017 and 2020, all persons investigated and/or prosecuted for trafficking in persons were either men or women. No conviction for trafficking in persons was registered during the reporting period.

Source: Crime Intelligence Analysis Bureau, Police Criminal Records Division.

Victims

Number of victims of trafficking in persons, 2017 – 2020*



Source: Crime Intelligence Analysis Bureau, Police Criminal Records Division.

*Due to privacy concerns, figures below five are presented as “<5”.

Between 2017 and 2020, 12 children (mostly girls, with less than five boys) and six women were identified as victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Sri Lanka. During the same reporting period, six victims of trafficking in persons for the purpose of illegal adoption were detected by national authorities. The victims were all children, mostly boys, with less than five girls.

Source: Crime Intelligence Analysis Bureau, Police Criminal Records Division.