



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



## GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2020

COUNTRY PROFILE  
South Asia

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## – Bangladesh –

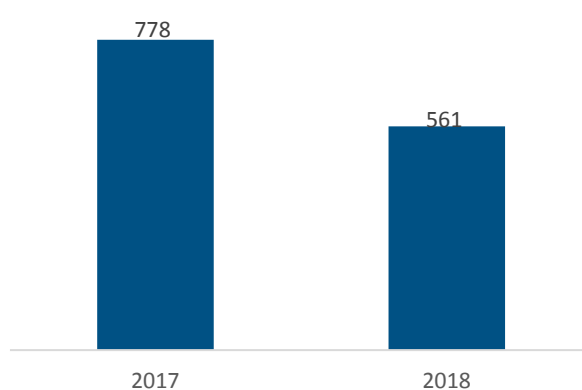
The current legislation on trafficking in persons in Bangladesh covers all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

### *Investigations and suspects*

The Bangladesh Police reported that between 2017 and 2018, a total of 2904 persons were arrested of trafficking in persons. In the indicated period, 9 persons were convicted of trafficking in persons.

*Source: Bangladesh Police*

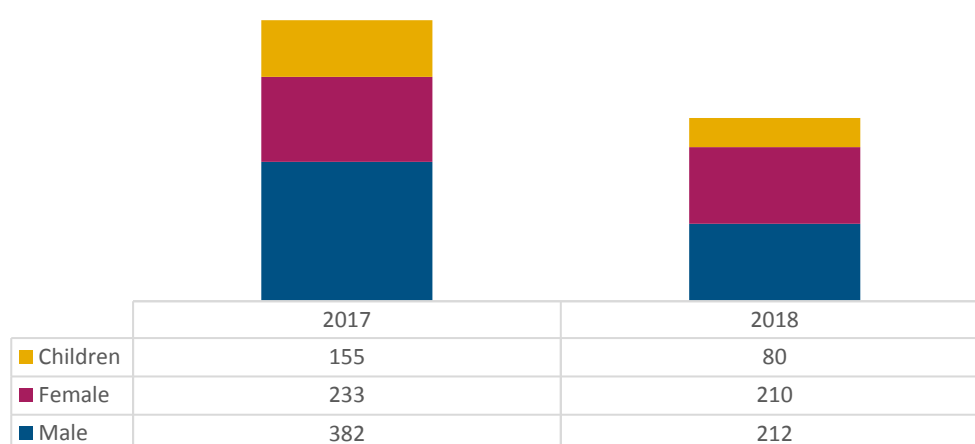
### **Number of cases of trafficking in persons recorded, 2017 – 2018**



*Source: Bangladesh Police.*

### *Victims*

### **Number of victims of trafficking in persons, by sex and age, 2017 – 2018**



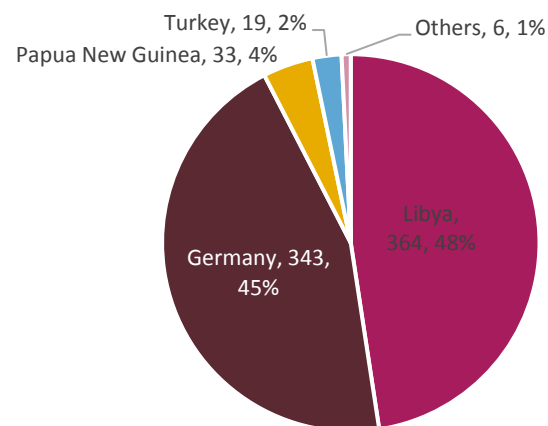
*Source: Bangladesh Police.*

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), an anti-human trafficking cell of the Bangladesh Government, reported that in 2018 355 victims of domestic trafficking were rescued. Of those rescued, 654 were men, 66 were women, 51 were girls and 48 were boys. In the same year, the RAB reported that 37 men, 5 women and three girls identified as victims of trafficking in persons were rescued from Libya, India, Dubai and Italy.

According to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, four girls, three boys and one woman identified as victims of trafficking in persons, were also rescued in 2018. Additionally in the same period, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 903 men, 312 women and 174 children who had reportedly been recruited in trans-national trafficking.

*Source: Bangladesh Country Report Combating Human Trafficking (2018), The Ministry of Home Affairs.*

### **Countries from which victims of trafficking in persons were repatriated, 2018**



*Source: Bangladesh Country Report Combating Human Trafficking (2018), The Ministry of Home Affairs.*

During 2018, The Association for Community Development (ACD) supported the repatriation of 55 persons identified as victims of trafficking in persons in India. Of those repatriated, 35 were girls, 10 were women and 10 were boys. In the same year, the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Associations (BNWLA), reported that a total number of 135 victims of Bangladeshi nationality, were repatriated from India and Abu Dhabi.

*Source: Bangladesh Country Report Combating Human Trafficking (2018), The Ministry of Home Affairs.*

## – Bhutan –

Bhutan is not a party to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. Section 154 of the 2011 Criminal Code, as amended in 2019, covers all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

### *Investigations and suspects*

Between 2018 and 2019, three cases of trafficking in persons were recorded in Bhutan. Two reported cases concerned offences of cross border trafficking, with victims being recruited to be exploited in the Middle East and North Africa, or in Western and Southern Europe. The latter concerned domestic trafficking of nationals of Bhutan.

In 2019, two persons were arrested for trafficking in persons and are currently being prosecuted for the same charges.

*Source: UNODC Regional Office for South Asia.*

### *Victims*

In 2018, 13 female victims of trafficking in persons were identified, of which 12 were children. One victim was repatriated from Western and Southern Europe. In 2019, 152 women were identified as victims of trafficking. Among them, 13 were rescued.

Victims of trafficking identified during the reporting period were recruited to be exploited in Iraq (148), Oman (3), United Arab Emirates (1), and France (1).

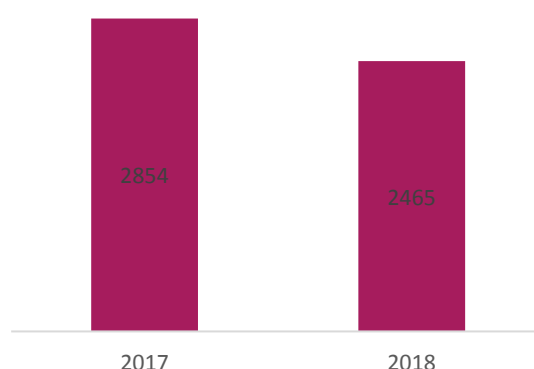
*Source: UNODC Regional Office for South Asia.*

## – India –

Trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation related offences are prosecuted under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA) of 1956. Sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Criminal Code also specifically criminalise child trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Dedicated provisions related to child trafficking and trafficking of women 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.

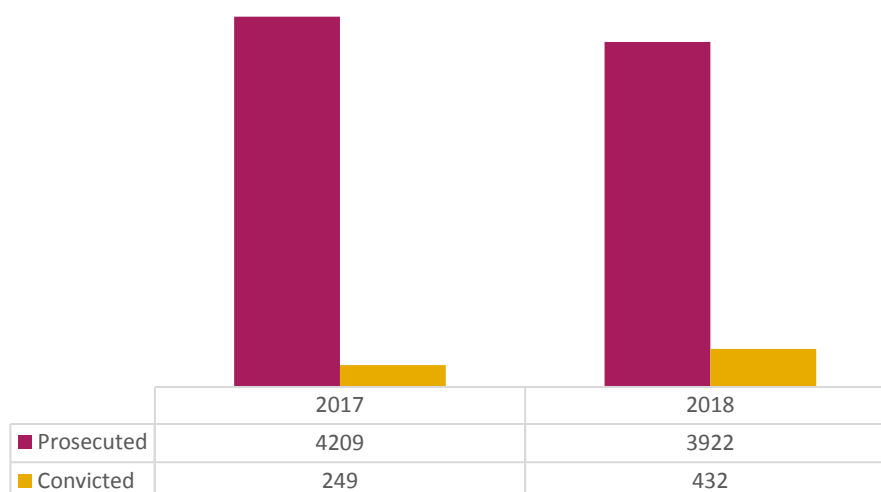
### *Investigations and suspects*

#### Number of cases of trafficking in persons reported, 2017 – 2018



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

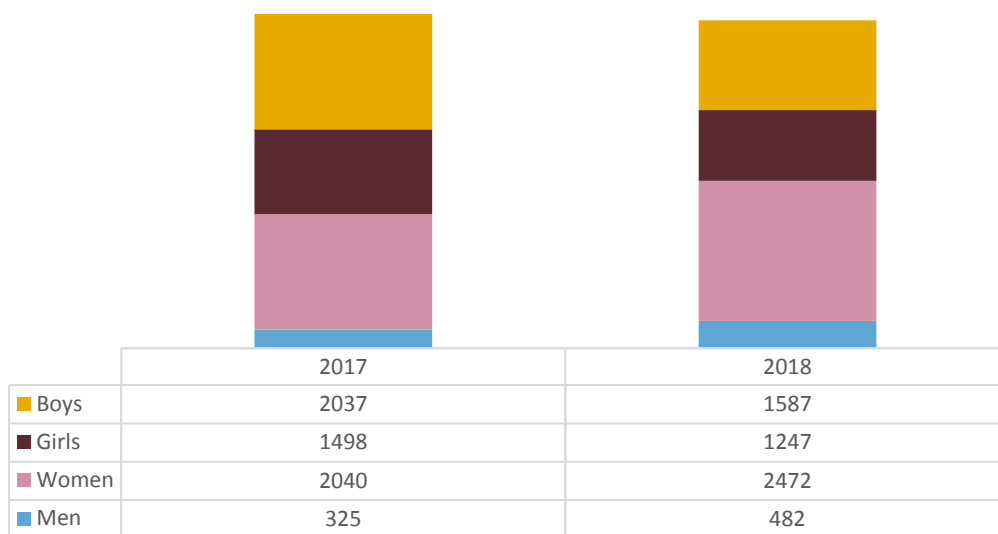
#### Number of persons prosecuted for and convicted of trafficking in persons, 2017 – 2018



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

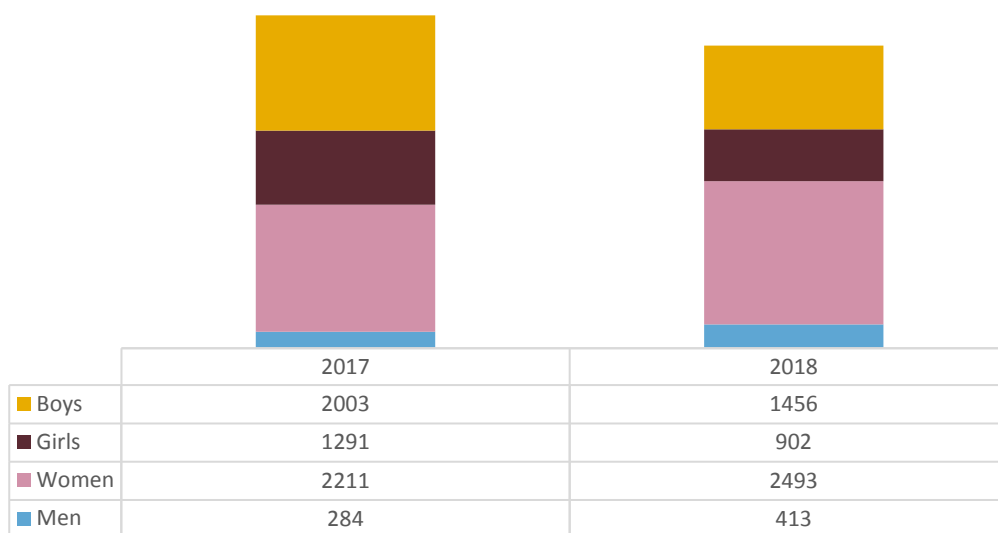
## Victims

### Number of victims trafficked, by sex and age, 2017 – 2018



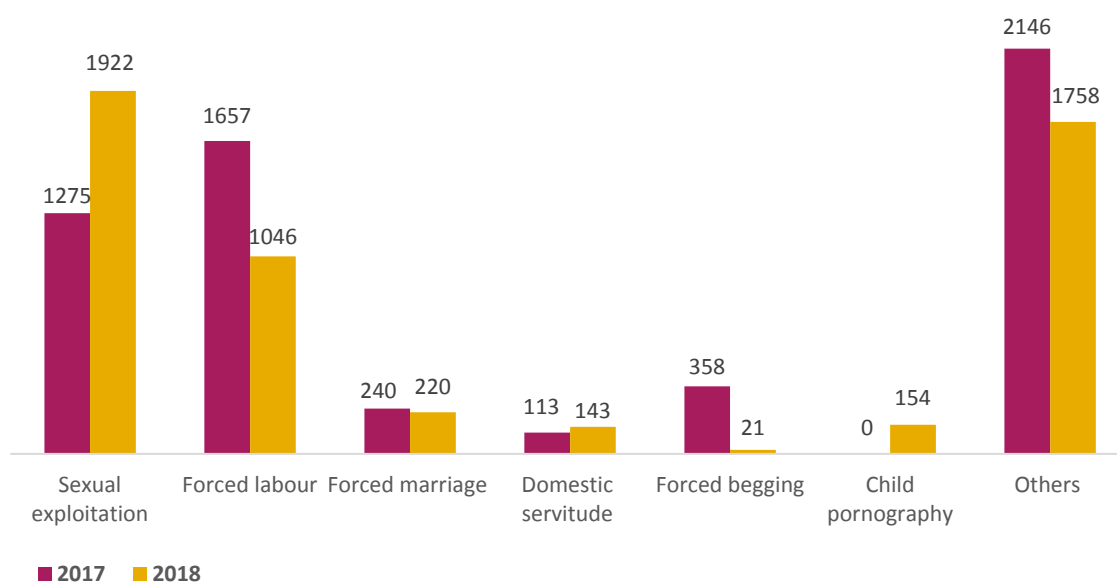
Source: The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

### Number of victims rescued, by sex and age, 2017 – 2018



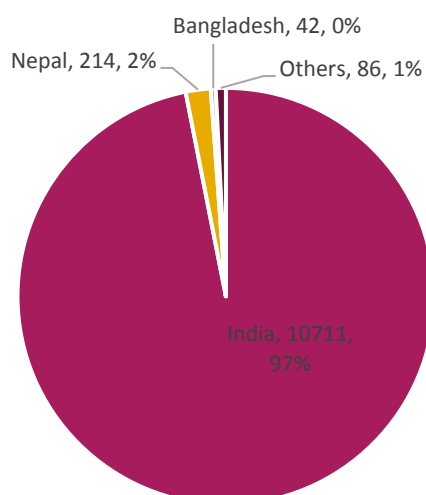
Source: The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

### Number of victims rescued, by form of exploitation, 2017 – 2018



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

### Number of victims rescued, by nationality, 2017 – 2018



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

## – Maldives –

The Maldives have accessed the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol in 2016. The current legislation in the Maldives, the Anti-Trafficking Bill, criminalizes trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour.

### *Investigations and suspects*

Since 2013, six cases of trafficking in persons have been submitted for prosecutions by the Maldives Police Services, of which five have been prosecuted. In those cases, 20 persons were suspected of trafficking in persons. In three out of the five prosecutions the suspects were acquitted, and one resulted in a conviction.

*Source: National Authorities of the Maldives.*

### *Victims*

Between June 2016 and May 2017, 12 victims of trafficking in persons were identified in the Maldives: three females and nine males. Most of them originated from Bangladesh, with a smaller number from Kenya.

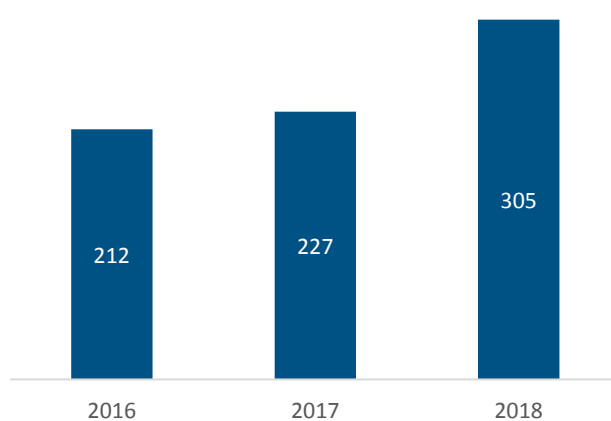
*Source: Prosecutor Generals' Office, Maldives.*

## – Nepal –

In 2020, Nepal concluded the process of accession to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol (Palermo Protocol). The current legislation on trafficking in persons 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.

### *Investigations and suspects*

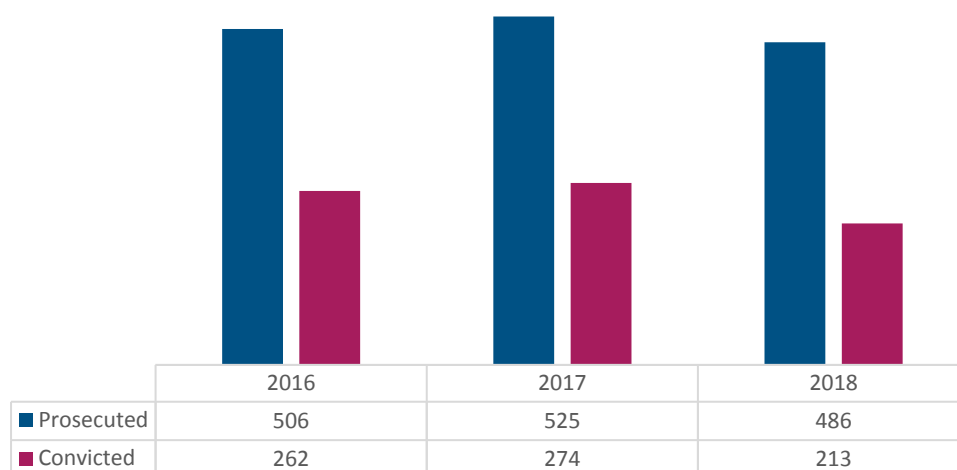
#### Number of cases of trafficking in persons recorded, 2016 – 2018



*Source: National Trafficking in Persons Report (2019).*

In 2018, 629 persons were brought into formal contact with the police and/or criminal justice system because they were suspected of, arrested for or cautioned for trafficking in persons, of which 463 were males and 166 were females. In 2019 no. of trafficking in persons cases have been reported as 258.

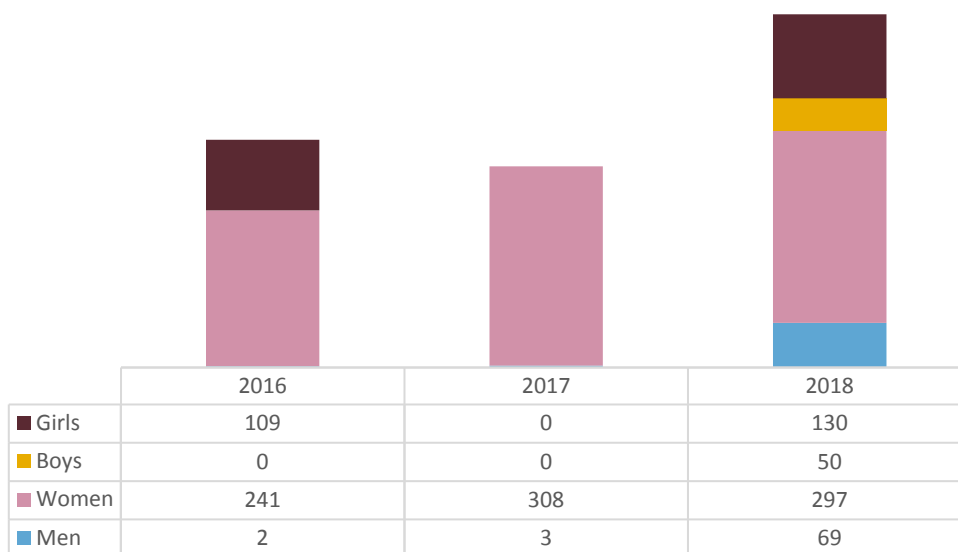
#### Number of persons prosecuted for and convicted of trafficking in persons, 2016 – 2018



*Source: National Trafficking in Persons Report (2019).*

## Victims

### Number of victims of trafficking in persons, by sex and age, 2016 – 2018



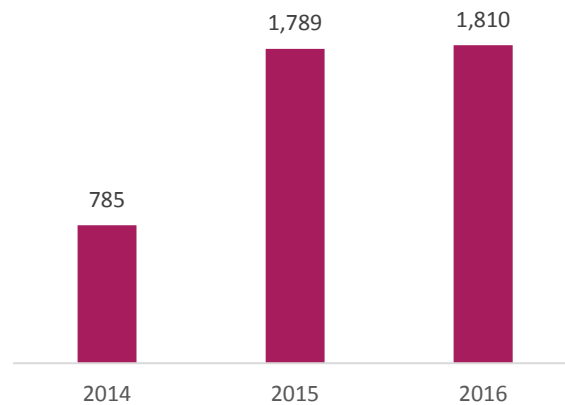
Source: National Trafficking in Persons Report (2019).

## – Pakistan –

The Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO) is used to prosecute some forms of international trafficking. Authorities also make use of the Emigration Ordinance and the Foreign Act to prosecute some trafficking cases. Additionally, legislation prohibiting compulsory labour, bonded labour, brick kiln labour, disposing a person as a slave, dealing with slaves, vagrancy act, kidnapping, forced marriages, rape, sexual exploitation, importation of girls, removal of organs, and other laws are used to prosecute some forms of domestic trafficking.

### *Investigations and suspects*

#### **Number of cases of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants arrests recorded, 2014 – 2016**



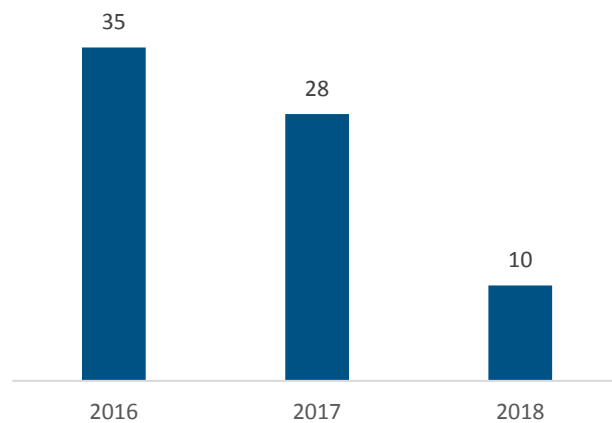
*Source: Federal Investigation Agency.*

– Sri Lanka –

Sri Lanka accessed the UN Trafficking Protocol in 2015. Sections 360 (a) and 360 (c) of the Criminal Code, as amended by the Act 16/2016, provide a comprehensive definition of trafficking in persons, which includes child trafficking and covers all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. Until 2017, trafficking offences were also prosecuted under the Bureau of Foreign Employment Act 21/1985.

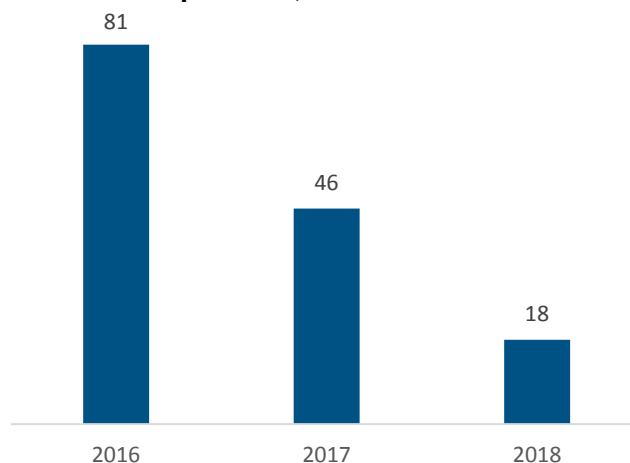
*Investigations and suspects*

**Number of cases of trafficking in persons recorded, 2016 – 2018**



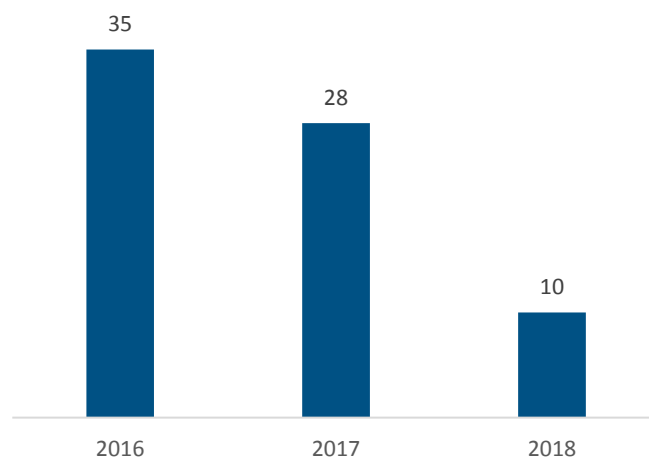
*Source: Ministry of Justice Human Rights and Legal Reforms.*

**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, 2016 – 2018**



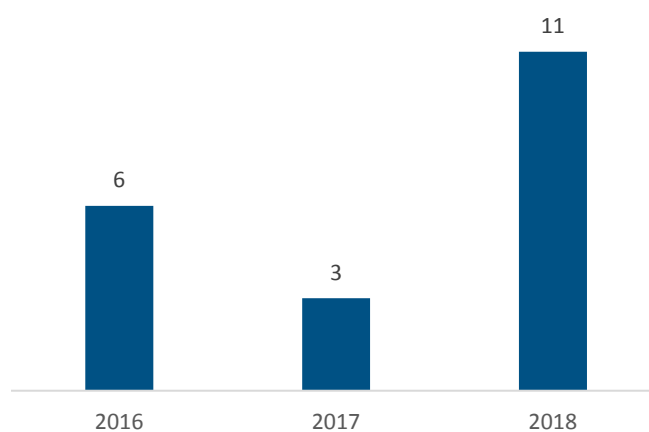
*Source: Ministry of Justice Human Rights and Legal Reforms.*

### Number of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons, 2016 – 2018



Source: Ministry of Justice Human Rights and Legal Reforms.

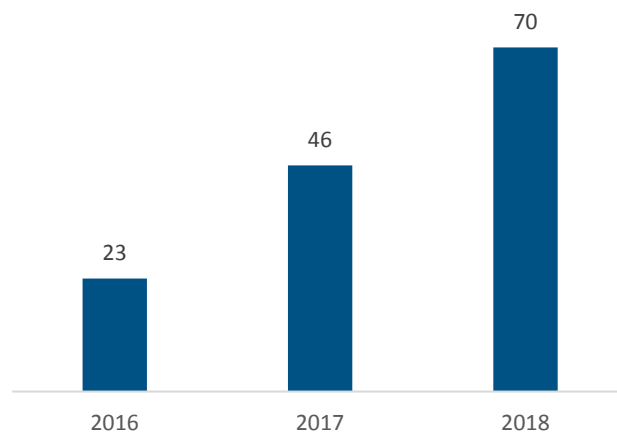
### Number of persons convicted of trafficking in persons, 2016 – 2018



Source: Ministry of Justice Human Rights and Legal Reforms.

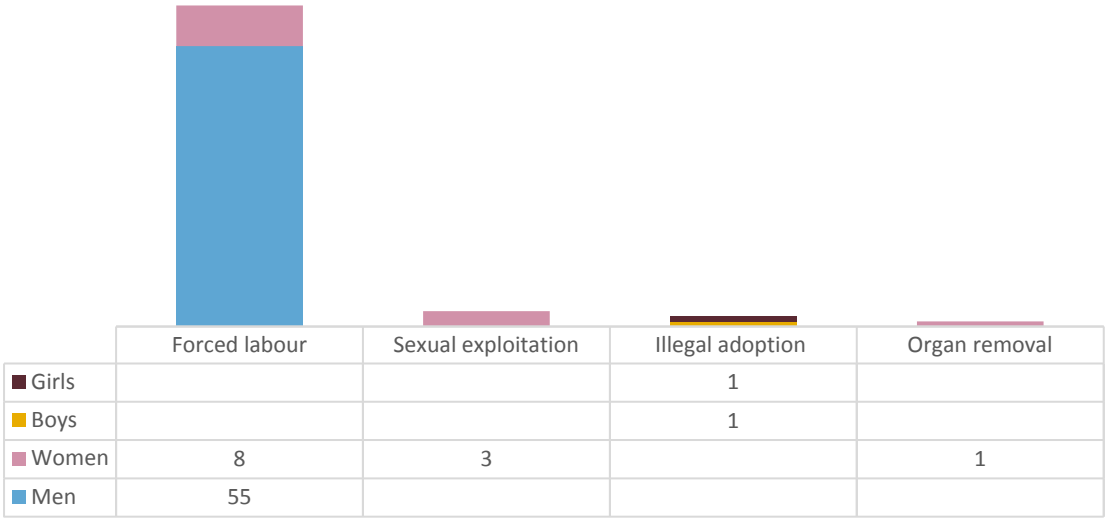
### Victims

### Number of suspected victims of trafficking in persons, 2016 – 2018



Source: Ministry of Justice Human Rights and Legal Reforms.

Number of suspected victims of trafficking in persons, by form of exploitation, 2018



Source: Ministry of Justice Human Rights and Legal Reforms.