Prevalence of human trafficking: measuring detected and non-detected trafficking victims

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Sustainable Development Goals and trafficking in persons

3 targets mention trafficking in persons: 5.2; 8.7 and 16.2.

Indicator 16.2.2

“Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age group and form of exploitation”
“Number of victims of human trafficking...”
Hidden cases of TiP

Detected victims of TiP

Detected victims

Estimation of non-detected victims

The present

The future
Detected victims - GLOTIP database

- Database includes information on more than 200,000 detected victims and 40,000 offenders
Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016

- 136 countries covered
- Statistics covering more than a decade; focus on the 2012-2014 period
- Data collected mainly from Member States’ administrative data
- Findings presented at the national, regional and global level
- Next report in 2018
Estimating the number of non-detected victims

Multiple Systems Estimate (MSE) – requires capacity to record victims

- Based on lists of detected and recorded trafficking victims by local authorities – requires capacity to record victims

Victimization surveys on trafficking in persons

- Requires significant funding
The MSE is a capture-recapture method applied to several lists of human trafficking victims detected and recorded by different local stakeholders. The analysis conducted on the combination of these different lists is used to estimate those victims that are never detected, and thus, the entire victim population in that country.
MSE requirements

• Lists of detected victims from two, preferably three or more sources

• Number of victims on each list need to be large enough; total number of detected victims preferably over 75
Available lists of detected victims in Europe

Based on Eurostat information on organizations that provided data regarding registration of victims (2015), the main data sources include:

- Police
- NGOs
- Border Guards
- Immigration Services
- Labour Inspectors
- Others: victims support units, prosecutors, IOM, social services, reception centres, prisons, local authorities, regional councils

Gathering of statistics on trafficking victims from different organizations, which was seen as a complication for statistical analysis, is actually an asset for the estimation of the dark figures when using MSE.
What can be revealed with MSE?

- The total number of trafficking victims in a country.
- How much higher is the estimated numbers than the recorded numbers of detected victims?
- What is the share of women/men, adults/children, nationals/foreigners, different forms of exploitation?
- Characteristics of the biggest/smallest groups of victims?
- Which victims are the most hidden/detected?
WWW.UNODC.ORG/GLOTIP