



Survey on knowledge, attitudes and practices of youth regarding human trafficking in four regions of Albania

Second Wave

Summary of Findings for Shkodër Region

SEPTEMBER 2022

Authors: [Deanna Davy](#), International Consultant for UNICEF Albania
[Blerina Metanji](#), IDRA Albania

Study Manager: [Elda Denaj](#), Child Rights Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at UNICEF Albania

Editor: [Iain Wilson](#)

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For any comments corrections and suggestions please write to tirana@unicef.org

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1. INTRODUCTION

Albania is significantly affected by human trafficking, and continues to develop a range of policies and mechanisms to combat the phenomenon. The country is recognised as a major source for human trafficking, with Albanians mostly trafficked to Italy, Greece, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany and Switzerland, often through organized criminal networks. Meanwhile, domestic trafficking has been a significant phenomenon for approximately two decades, with most domestic victims being children and youth. Most Albanian victims come from a background of poverty and unemployment and have a lack of education. For trafficked children and youth, the risk factors mostly emanate from the household and family, and include family breakdown and abandonment. The consequence of these factors is compounded by the absence of protective safety nets.

Despite clear evidence that Albanian youth are vulnerable to human trafficking, there is a dearth of literature on the level of their knowledge of the phenomenon in the country, or on their attitudes and their practices with regard to it. Only one recent study discusses knowledge and awareness of human trafficking in Albania.¹ From that study, we know that Albanian adults are more aware of sex trafficking than labour trafficking, that more than half of surveyed Albanian adults think human trafficking is a serious problem but that it mostly concerns women and children, and that many people do not know how they can help suspected victims.

As that study did not address specifically the level of knowledge among youth, or their attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking, the present study explores the subject with the aim of filling important knowledge gaps. The results are intended to be useful to government and non-government stakeholders working in the area of prevention of human trafficking.

The present study is a second wave survey of knowledge, attitudes and practices of Albanian youth regarding human trafficking in four regions of the country, and among Roma. It follows on from the first wave survey, the results of which were published in December 2020.² This second wave survey replicates the first wave questions.

The present report focuses on the region of Shkodër in Albania, comparing results of the survey with those from three other regions: Dibër, Kukës and Tiranë. A major report, presenting the findings of the survey, is published alongside the four region reports and a report on Roma youth. For further analysis, data collected from the second wave survey are stored and visualised in a dedicated dashboard³.

Presentation of results at the regional level is designed to guide the development of contextually tailored human trafficking communication efforts. Comparison is not made here between the first wave and second wave survey results as changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices are minimal. It should further be noted that where the data in the tables and figures are not discussed it is because the variation was not significant.

¹ USAID, 2016, Gauging public opinion on human trafficking in Moldova and Albania employing survey experimentation to inform effective prevention and awareness programs.

² Davy, D., and Metanji, B., 2020, [First wave study survey on youth knowledge, attitudes and practices with regard to human trafficking, in four regions of Albania. Report on findings](#). UK Government, IDRA, UNICEF Albania:

³[Second Wave Survey Dashboard 2022](#)

2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The study sets out to understand and explore the level of youth⁴ knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking in the regions of Dibër, Kukës, Shkodër and Tiranë, as well as among Roma youth.

The study's objectives were to compare differences in the levels of knowledge, attitudes and practices among surveyed youth in the following areas:

Knowledge

- Where human trafficking occurs
- The forms of exploitation that occur in Albania, and in foreign countries
- Who is at risk of human trafficking
- Recruitment methods and human traffickers
- Ways to report suspected human trafficking cases
- Support services available for victims

Attitudes

- Level of concern about human trafficking
- Attitudes towards victims

Practices

- Interest in learning about human trafficking
- Interest in getting involved in human trafficking prevention and protection activities

2.1 Results of UNICEF communications

- Exposure to the human trafficking communication materials /messages over two years
- Increase in knowledge, attitudes and interest in engaging in anti-human trafficking activities as a result of the exposure.

2.2 Structure of the report

Following this introductory section, the report presents the methodology of the study, followed by the findings on youth knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking. The report concludes with a brief summary of the key points.

⁴ Age 15–29 years, as defined by the European Commission. See EUROSTAT, Youth - overview: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/youth>.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Approach to the survey

Approximately 1,600 youth were surveyed in the present study (Table 1), including respondents of age 15–29 years living in Dibër, Kukës, Shkodër and Tiranë (350 respondents in each county). The sample included a boost sample of 200 youth from the Roma population living in Kukës, Shkodër and Tirana. Survey participants were randomly selected. Official data⁵ show that in total there are about 300,000 people of age 15–29 years living in the four regions in which the study was conducted. Thus, a sample size of some 1,600 respondents guarantees results representative at the national level with a margin of error of 2.62 per cent and confidence interval of 95 per cent. The margin of error at the regional level is 5.24 per cent with a confidence interval of 95 per cent (see Annex for an overview of the methodology). The survey was carried out through face-to-face interviews. Only one person per household in the age range of 15–29 years was invited to participate. Software was used to randomly select households. The data collection was carried out during the period 14 January to 1 March 2022 by trained interviewers employed by IDRA Research and Consulting. Each interview lasted approximately 20 minutes.

Table 1. Number of survey interviews conducted in each target region and with Roma

Region	No.
Tiranë	350
Shkodër	350
Kukës	341
Dibër	346
Total, 4 regions	1,387
Roma	200
Total surveyed	1,587

3.1 Data analysis

Data analysis was conducted by IDRA using the statistical software package IBM SPSS 25. Data were weighted in order to be representative for each region and overall. This was done so that the contribution of the respondents from each region was proportional to the regional population figures. Results were disaggregated by main demographic indicators such as gender and age.

3.2 Ethical considerations

The survey questions on human trafficking did not ask youth any challenging or sensitive questions. Nevertheless, an ethics assessment was carried out as data were collected from children of age 15–17 years, as well as older youth (18–29 years). Prior to data collection commencing, the study was given ethical approval by Health Media Lab. Ltd. Ethical Research Board.⁶ For the study, the team complied with the following:

- The Regulation on ‘Ethics of Research and Publishing Activity’, and specifically article 1.1.4, which requires that institutions ‘maintain a climate of cooperation that promotes responsibility and ethics during research’. This guide (regulation) was issued by the Government of Albania to orient ethics-related issues for companies, institutions and consultants undertaking research.
- UNICEF Procedure on Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis (2021).

The research team upheld the following fundamental standards:

- that subjects are not placed at undue risk;
- that participation is voluntary, and subjects are provided with and agree to informed consent prior to their participation; and
- that written protocols are in place to ensure subject confidentiality and anonymity.

During the data collection, the interviewers shared leaflets with survey participants and their families, including information on support services for mental and psychological care, and reporting channels for human trafficking.

⁵ Institute of Statistics of Albania: [Results from the Census of 2011](#); last accessed July 2022:

⁶ See <https://www.healthmedialabirb.com/>.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 Profile of surveyed youth in Shkodër

Of the 350-youth surveyed in Shkodër, 65 per cent were female and 35 per cent were male (Figure 1), while the ratio was nearly 1:1 across the four regions. Most youth surveyed in Shkodër (60%) were 18–24 years of age, 17 per cent were 15–17 years and 24 per cent were 25–29 years (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Survey respondents, by sex

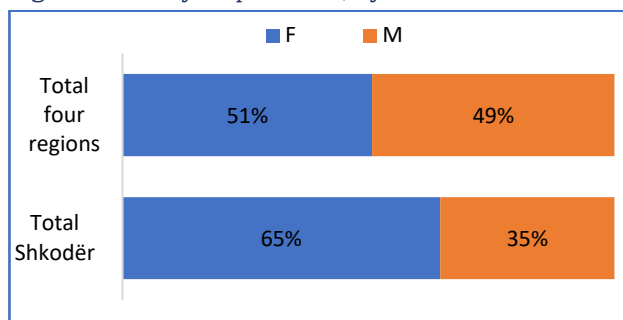
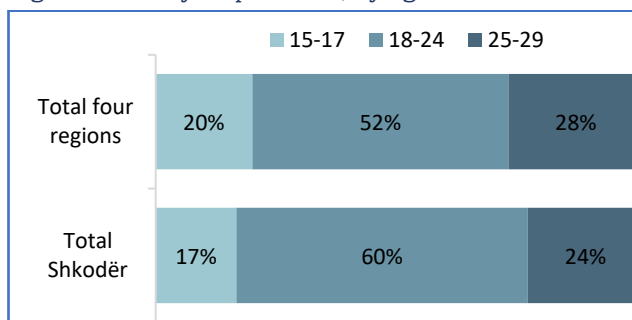
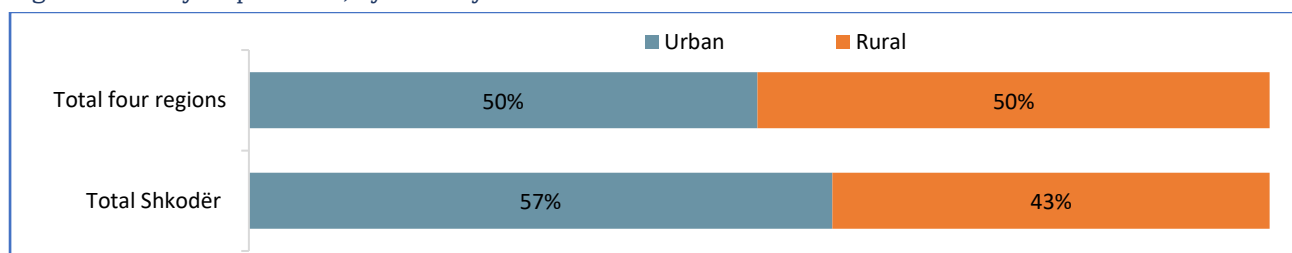


Figure 2. Survey respondents, by age



More than half (57%) of the youths surveyed in Shkodër were living in urban areas with the rest (43%) in rural areas (Figure 3), compared to a 1:1 ratio across the four regions.

Figure 3. Survey respondents, by urbanity

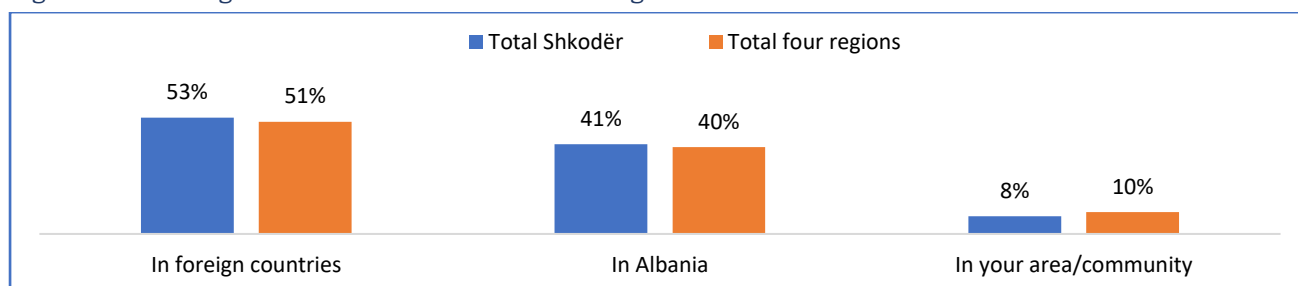


4.2 Knowledge of human trafficking

Where human trafficking occurs

The survey data show **that most youth in Shkodër know that trafficking of Albanian nationals takes place to foreign countries** (Figure 4). However, **they have more knowledge that trafficking also occurs within Albania, and even less that it occurs in their community or local area**. Fifty-three per cent of surveyed youth in Shkodër think that human trafficking of Albanian nationals to foreign countries takes place to a very large extent or to a large extent, while forty-one per cent think that it takes place in Albania to a very large or large extent. **Only eight per cent think that it happens within their community or area to a very large or large extent.**

Figure 4. Knowledge of occurrence of human trafficking of Albanian nationals

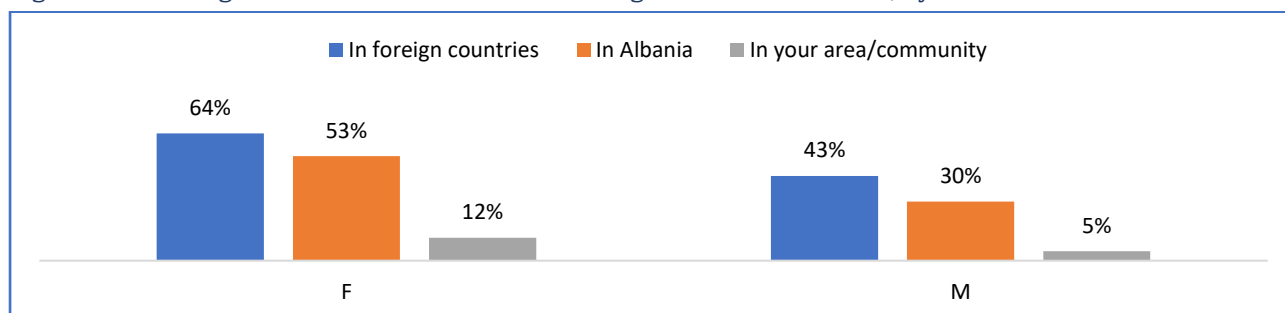


Survey question: To your knowledge, to what extent does human trafficking (of Albanian nationals) take place to foreign countries, in Albania and in your community or area? Graph presents percentages only for response options 'to a very large' and 'to a large extent'.

Target population: Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Among youths in Shkodër, more females than males know where human trafficking occurs (Figure 5).

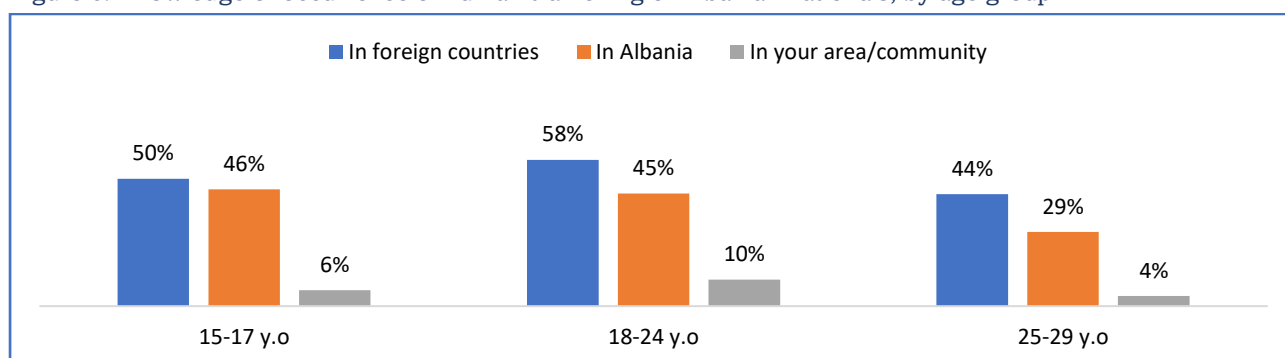
Figure 5. Knowledge of occurrence of human trafficking of Albanian nationals, by sex



Graph presents percentages only for response options 'to a very large' and 'to a large extent'. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Results by age group (Figure 6) show that youths of age 25–29 years have less knowledge than other youths regarding where human trafficking occurs, whether abroad, in Albania or in their community or local area.

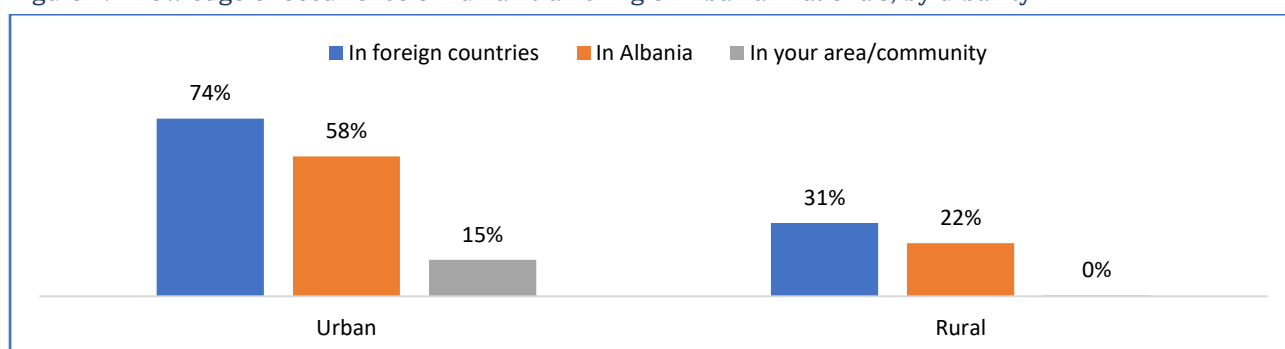
Figure 6. Knowledge of occurrence of human trafficking of Albanian nationals, by age group



Graph presents percentages only for response options 'to a very large' and 'to a large extent'. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Knowledge of where human trafficking occurs is significantly greater among youths living in urban areas than among those in rural areas (Figure 7), where 15 per cent think that it occurs in their local community occurs to a very large or large extent, compared to none of those in rural areas.

Figure 7. Knowledge of occurrence of human trafficking of Albanian nationals, by urbanity



Graph presents percentages only for response options 'to a very large' and 'to a large extent'. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Forms of exploitation of Albanians in Albania and abroad

Youth surveyed in Shkodër have less knowledge than the population surveyed across the four regions of the country with regard to the forms of exploitation that occur in Albania and abroad (Table 2). This is more pronounced with regard to knowledge of forced marriage here and abroad, forced begging of adults in Albania and abroad, forced begging of children in Albania and abroad, and forced criminality of children in Albania and abroad.

Table 2. Knowledge of forms of exploitation that occur in Albania and abroad (%)

Form of exploitation	In Albania		Abroad	
	Total, Shkodër	Total, 4 regions	Total, Shkodër	Total, 4 regions
sexual exploitation of adults	82	80	73	76
sexual exploitation of children	94	87	74	73
forced labour of adults	76	70	70	67
forced labour of children	82	83	70	70
forced marriage	65	67	48	56
early marriage	87	85	48	57
forced begging of adults	59	66	50	56
forced begging of children	92	93	69	76
forced criminality of adults	81	81	80	81
forced criminality of children	80	83	68	76
N.	350	1,387	350	1,387

Survey question: To your knowledge, do the following forms of exploitation involving Albanian nationals occur in Albania and abroad? Table reports percentages only for response option 'yes'. **Target population:** Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Those at risk of human trafficking

Survey results show that there is a gender-biased perception among Shkodër youth about the groups of people at risk of human trafficking (Table 3). The group they consider most at risk are girls younger than 18 years, with 76 per cent considering this group as being at great or very much at risk of being trafficked, compared to 77 per cent of the wider population. They regard the second-most at-risk group as trafficked women 18 years and older and national minorities. Only two per cent of surveyed youth in Shkodër think that men are at a high risk of being trafficked, compared to five per cent of the total survey population, and only 18 per cent that boys are at a great risk of being trafficked, compared to 26 per cent of the wider population.

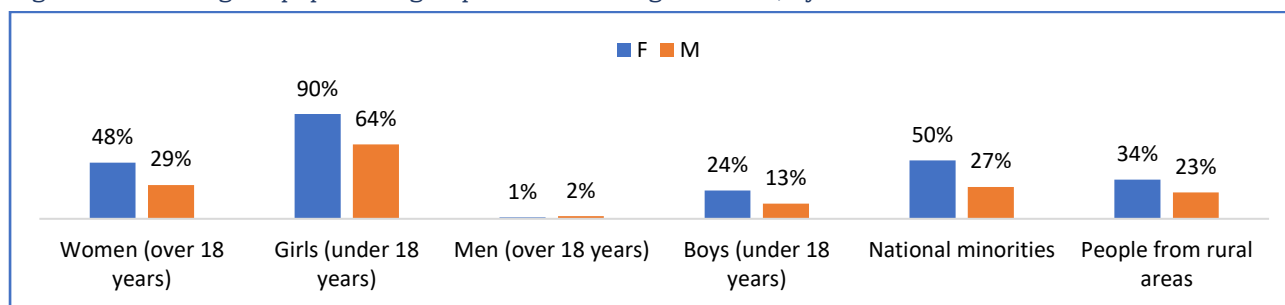
Table 3. Knowledge of population groups at risk of being trafficked (%)

Population group	Total, Shkodër	Total, 4 regions
women (18 years and older)	38	37
girls (under 18 years)	76	77
men (18 years and older)	2	5
boys (under 18 years)	18	26
national minorities	38	47
people from rural areas	28	30
N.	350	1,387

Survey question: To your knowledge, how much do you think each of the following population groups are a 'great deal' or 'very much' at risk of being trafficked? Table reports percentages of respondents of the opinion that specific groups are 'a great deal' or 'very much' at risk of being trafficked. **Target population:** Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

In Shkodër, more female youths than male youths know who is at risk of human trafficking (Figure 8). For example, 24 per cent of females think that boys are at great risk, compared to only thirteen per cent of males, while 50 per cent of females have knowledge that national minorities are at high risk, compared to only 27 per cent of males.

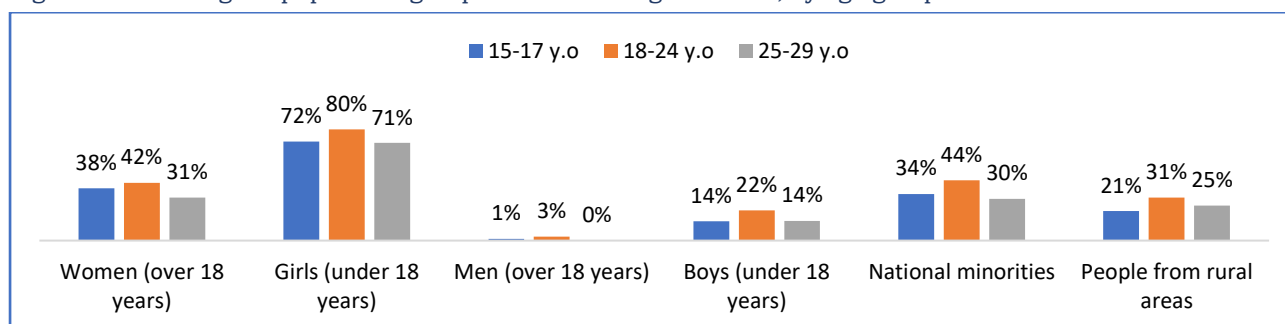
Figure 8. Knowledge of population groups at risk of being trafficked, by sex



Graph presents percentages of respondents of the opinion that specific groups are 'a great deal' or 'very much' at risk of being trafficked.
Target population: Shkodër.

Among Shkodër youth, 18–24-year-olds have more knowledge than other youths with regard to the groups at high risk of human trafficking in Albania (Figure 9). For example, 22 per cent of that age group know that boys are at great risk of being trafficked, compared to 14 per cent of 15–17-year-olds and 25–29-year-olds.

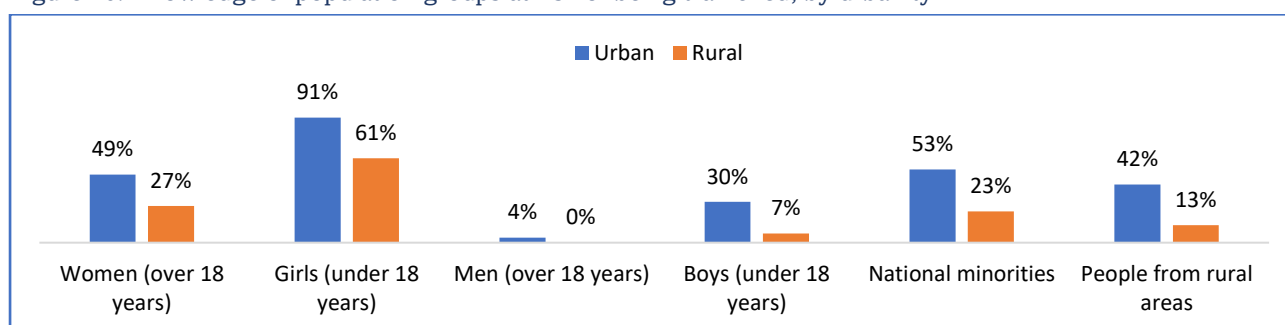
Figure 9. Knowledge of population groups at risk of being trafficked, by age group



Graph presents percentages of respondents of the opinion that specific groups are 'a great deal' or 'very much' at risk of being trafficked.
Target population: Shkodër.

In Shkodër, more youths living in urban areas than those in rural areas have knowledge of who is at risk of human trafficking (Figure 10). For example, 53 per cent of urban youth know that national minorities are at risk, compared to only 23 per cent of rural youth.

Figure 10. Knowledge of population groups at risk of being trafficked, by urbanity



Graph presents percentages of respondents of the opinion that specific groups are 'a great deal' or 'very much' at risk of being trafficked.
Target population: Shkodër.

Recruitment methods and human traffickers

In order to assess the knowledge among surveyed youth in Shkodër of methods of recruitment, and who might be a human trafficker, the youths were asked if they agreed with several statements regarding recruitment methods and human traffickers. The results (Table 4) show that Shkodër youth do have such knowledge, though the least known phenomenon (58%) is **that family members can be human traffickers, a figure that is nevertheless higher than for the wider population**, among whom 48 per cent think that family members might be traffickers.

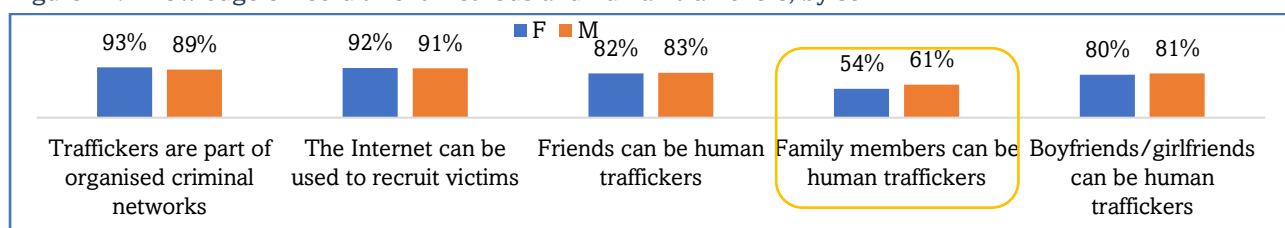
Table 4. Knowledge of recruitment methods and human traffickers (%)

Recruitment method	Total, Shkodër	Total, 4 regions
Traffickers are part of organized criminal networks	91	90
The Internet can be used to recruit victims	92	94
Friends can be human traffickers	82	86
Family members can be human traffickers	58	48
Boyfriends or girlfriends can be human traffickers	81	85
N.	350	1,387

Survey question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following? Table reports percentages of respondents who totally agree or somewhat agree with the statements. **Target population:** Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Among Shkodër youths, there is no significant difference between females and males (Figure 11), but females are less aware **than males that family members can be human traffickers (54% and 61%, respectively).**

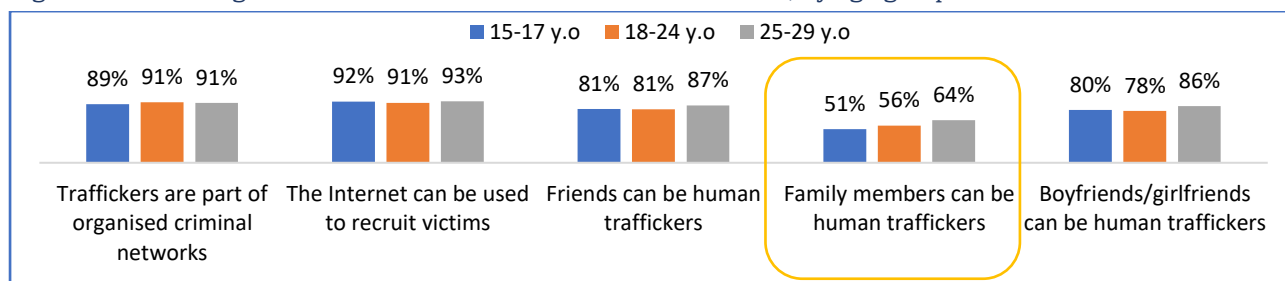
Figure 11. Knowledge of recruitment methods and human traffickers, by sex



Graph presents percentages of respondents who totally agree or somewhat agree with the statements. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Overall, **25–29-year-old Shkodër youths are slightly more aware of who might be a trafficker than other youths** (Figure 12), with e.g., 64 per cent knowing that family members can be traffickers, compared to about 56 per cent of youth aged 18-24 years and 51 per cent of the youth aged 15-17 years.

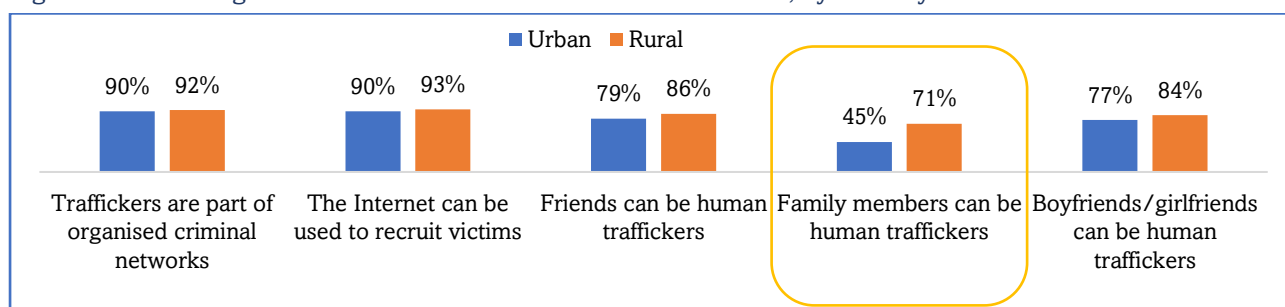
Figure 12. Knowledge of recruitment methods and human traffickers, by age group



Graph presents percentages of respondents who totally agree or somewhat agree with the statements. **Target population:** Shkodër.

In Shkodër, youths living in rural areas have better knowledge than those in urban areas of the methods of recruitment and human traffickers (Figure 13). **For example, 71 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively, think that family members can be traffickers.**

Figure 13. Knowledge of recruitment methods and human traffickers, by urbanity

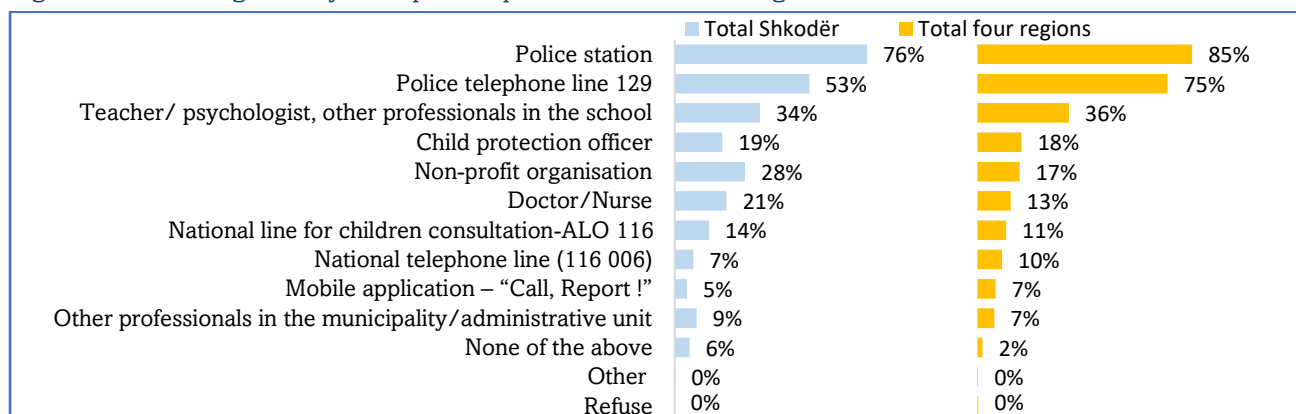


Graph presents percentages of respondents who totally agree or somewhat agree with the statements. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Ways to report suspected human trafficking cases

In general, youth in Shkodër know less than those in the population across the four regions of ways to report suspected human trafficking cases (Figure 14). Only 76 per cent of Shkodër youth know to report cases to the police station, compared to 85 per cent of the wider population, and **significantly fewer (53%) know of reporting to Police hotline 129 than do the wider population (75%), though slightly more known to inform non-profit organisations.**

Figure 14. Knowledge of ways to report suspected human trafficking cases



Survey question: To your knowledge, which of the following channels can be used to report a suspected human trafficking case?
Multiple. Target population: Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

More female youth in Shkodër than male youth know all the ways to report suspected human trafficking cases (Table 5). Meanwhile, **youths of age 25–29 years know more than other youths that they can report cases to the police station, though those of age 18–24 years know more that they can report cases to Police hotline 129.**

Surveyed youth in rural areas of Shkodër know less than those in urban areas of ways to report suspected human trafficking cases. Only 20 per cent of the former know that they can report suspected cases to teachers or other school professionals, compared to 47 per cent of the latter, and only 29 per cent of rural youth know that they can report cases to Police hotline 129, compared to 76 per cent of urban youth. The Mobile application “Call, Report!” is not known at all by youths surveyed in rural areas, compared to nine per cent of those in urban areas.

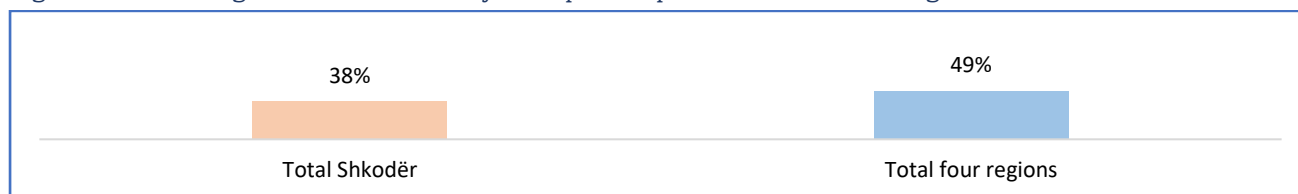
Table 5. Knowledge of ways to report suspected human trafficking cases, by sex, age group and urbanity (%)

Where to report trafficking cases	Gender		Age group (years)			Urbanity	
	F	M	15–17	18–24	25–29	Urban	Rural
police station	78	74	71	75	82	75	77
police telephone line 129	62	45	47	58	47	76	29
teacher, psychologist, other professional at school	46	22	31	36	30	47	20
child protection worker	25	13	16	20	19	24	14
non-profit organisation	31	25	25	29	27	35	20
doctor or nurse	25	16	24	20	20	28	13
national line for children consultation ALO 116	19	9	13	15	12	23	4
national telephone line (116 006)	8	7	9	6	9	10	5
mobile application (‘Call, Report !’)	6	4	5	3	8	9	0
other professional in municipality, administrative unit	10	7	5	6	16	14	3
none of the above	4	8	7	7	3	1	11
N.	226	124	58	209	83	200	150

Survey question: To your knowledge, which of the following channels can be used to report a suspected human trafficking case?
Multiple. Target population: Shkodër.

Only 38 per cent of Shkodër youth are aware of at least three ways of reporting suspected human trafficking cases (Figure 15), compared to 49 per cent of the total survey population across the four regions.

Figure 15. Knowledge of at least three ways to report suspected human trafficking cases



Target population: Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Face-to-face reporting to law enforcement officers is the preferred way of reporting for all youth **(76% for Shkodër youth and 72% of the wider population; Table 6).**

Table 6. Preferred channels of reporting a suspected case of human trafficking (%)

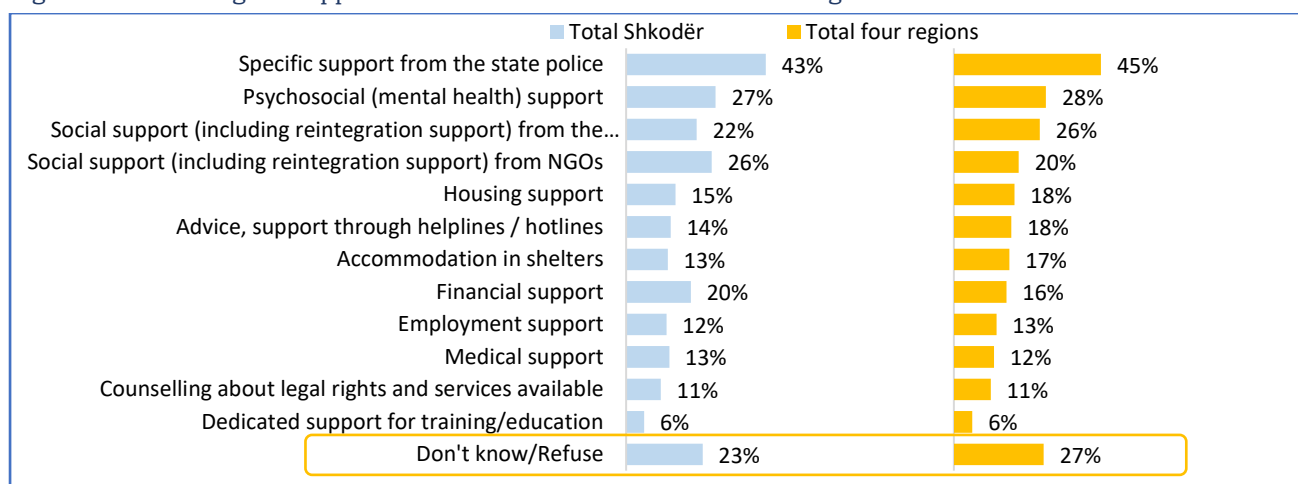
Means of reporting trafficking case	Total, Shkodër	Total, 4 regions
face-to-face law enforcement (police, prosecutor's office)	76	72
telephone-based services (hotline, helpline)	37	36
face-to-face reporting to non-law enforcement institutions	29	24
NGO specialising in issue	20	12
web-based platform, mobile application	11	9
none of the above	5	4
did not know	1	1
N.	350	1,387

Survey question: Which of the following channels of reporting a case of human trafficking would you consider or prefer to report? Multiple. Target population: Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Support services available to victims of human trafficking

Youth in Shkodër have knowledge of the support services available for victims of human trafficking in Albania, with more of them knowing of most such services than the wider population (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Knowledge of support available to victims of human trafficking in Albania



Survey question: To your knowledge, which of the following types of support are available to victims of human trafficking in Albania? Multiple. **Target population:** Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Among Shkodër youth more **females than males know of the types of support available in Albania for victims of human trafficking** (Table 7). In particular, more females (33%) than males (22%) know

that psycho-social support is available. **More youth of age 25–29 years (40%) know that psycho-social support is available to victims than do other age groups** (19% of 15–17-year-olds, and 24% of 18–24-year-olds). **Meanwhile, in Shkodër there is more knowledge among urban youth than among rural youth of the majority of the support services available to human trafficking victims.**

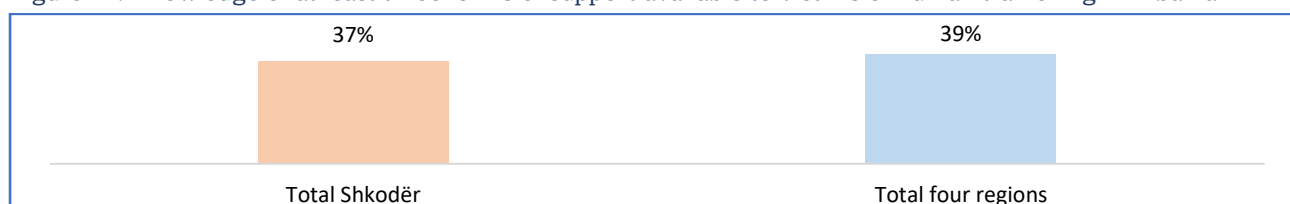
Table 7. Knowledge of support available to victims of human trafficking in Albania, by sex, age group and urbanity (%)

Type of support for victims	Gender		Age group (years)			Urbanity	
	F	M	15–17	18–24	25–29	Urban	Rural
specific support from the state police	45	40	43	44	40	50	35
psycho-social (mental health) support	33	22	19	24	40	34	20
financial support	22	21	19	23	20	25	17
social (including reintegration) support from government	26	27	28	26	26	23	29
social (including reintegration) support from NGOs	18	12	15	18	10	18	12
advice, support through helplines or hotlines	19	8	13	17	7	21	6
accommodation in shelters	18	8	14	13	11	21	4
medical support	25	15	18	21	19	30	9
housing support	17	8	10	15	9	17	7
employment support	19	8	8	14	16	20	6
counselling in legal rights and services available	14	7	11	8	17	16	5
dedicated support for training or education	7	4	1	8	3	8	3
did not know or did not answer	18	28	31	19	27	13	34
N.	226	124	58	209	83	200	150

Target population: Shkodër.

Only 37 per cent of youth surveyed in Shkodër are aware of at least three types support for victims of trafficking (Figure 17), compared to 39 per cent of the total survey population across the four regions.

Figure 17. Knowledge of at least three forms of support available to victims of human trafficking in Albania



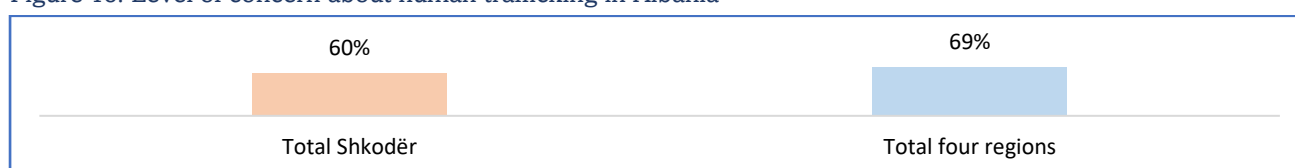
Target population: Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

4.3 Attitudes to human trafficking

Level of concern

There is less concern for human trafficking among Shkodër youth than in the wider population (60% and 69%, respectively; Figure 18).

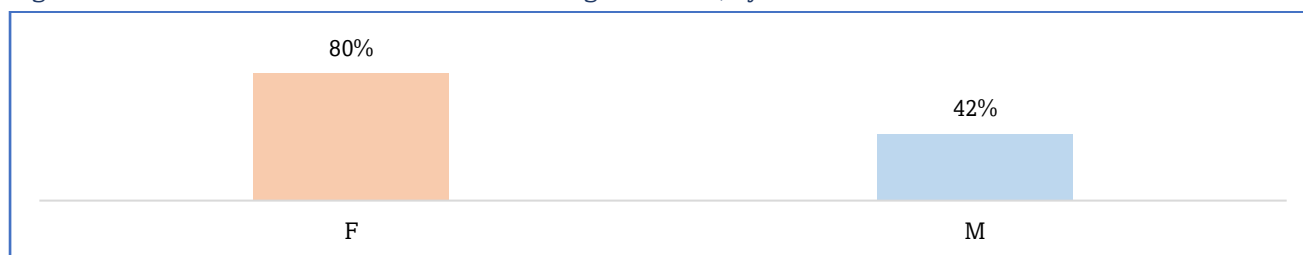
Figure 18. Level of concern about human trafficking in Albania



Survey question: How concerned are you about human trafficking in Albania? Graph presents the percentage of respondents who feel 'extremely' or 'very' concerned. **Target population:** Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Male youth surveyed in Shkodër have less concern than female youth regarding human trafficking in Albania (42% and 80%, respectively, express a high level of concern; Figure 19).

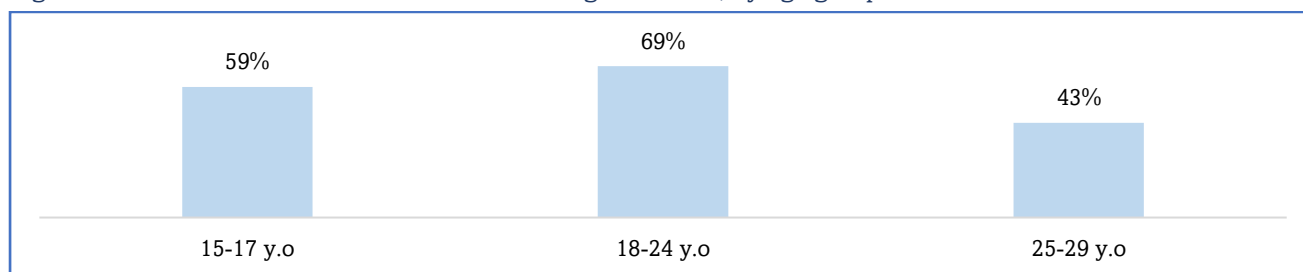
Figure 19. Level of concern about human trafficking in Albania, by sex



Graph presents the percentage of respondents who feel 'extremely' or 'very' concerned. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Shkodër youth of age 18–24 years are more concerned about human trafficking in Albania than are other age groups (69% are extremely or very concerned, compared to 59% of 15–17-year-olds and 43% of 25–29-year-olds; Figure 20).

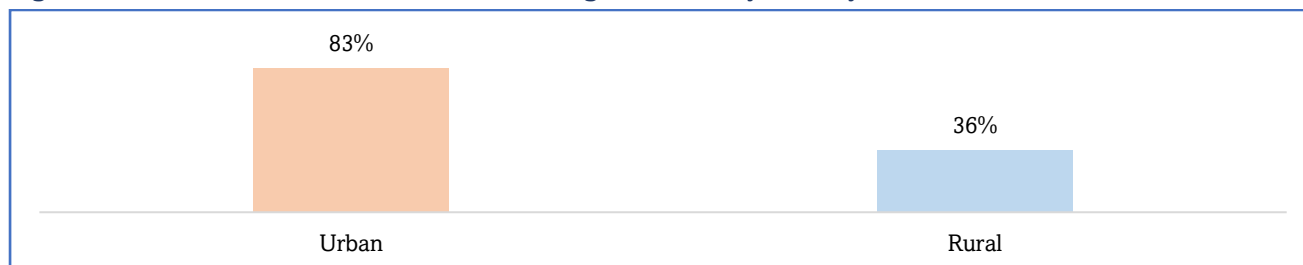
Figure 20. Level of concern about human trafficking in Albania, by age group



Graph presents the percentage of respondents who feel 'extremely' or 'very' concerned. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Figure 21 shows that, in Shkodër, more urban youth (83%) feel high levels of concern about human trafficking than do youth in rural areas (36%).

Figure 21. Level of concern about human trafficking in Albania, by urbanity



Graph presents the percentage of respondents who feel 'extremely' or 'very' concerned. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Shkodër youth reported that they are most concerned about lack of law enforcement, increase in trafficking of youth and children, and the low level of awareness among population about the phenomenon (Table 8).

More female youth in Shkodër are concerned about lack of law enforcement than are male youth (66% compared to 57%), though, on the other hand, more males than females are concerned about the link between illegal migration and human trafficking (24% compared to 14%).

Results suggest that there is more concern among rural youth than among urban youth about insufficient support for victims of trafficking (49% and 23%, respectively). Rural youth (31%) are also more concerned than urban youth (10%) regarding the link between illegal migration and human trafficking. And the low level of human trafficking awareness is considered a major concern by more than half of surveyed youth living in rural areas (54%), compared to only 29 per cent of those living in urban areas.

Table 8. Most significant areas of concern about human trafficking, by sex, age group and urbanity (%)

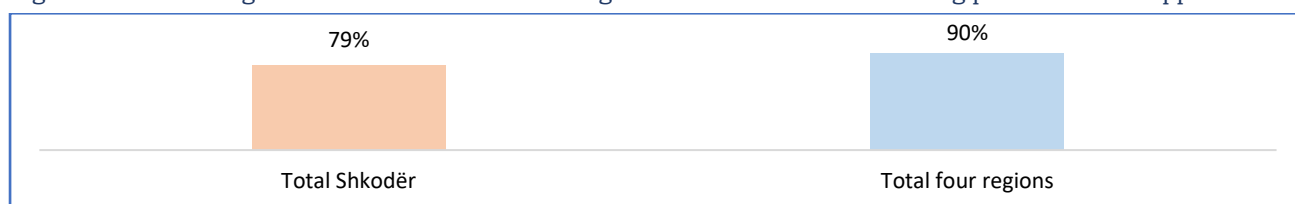
Area of concern	Total		Shkodër						
			Sex		Age group (years)			Urbanity	
	Shkodër	4 regions	F	M	15–17	18–24	25–29	Urban	Rural
lack of law enforcement	62	72	66	57	55	64	60	70	50
Increase in trafficking of youth and children	44	63	44	43	53	45	36	46	42
low level of awareness among population regarding this phenomenon	40	47	37	43	33	36	53	29	54
low reliability in relevant institutions where such cases are reported	28	41	33	20	15	29	30	24	33
insufficient support for victims	34	34	33	36	23	30	51	23	49
connection between organized crime and human trafficking	25	28	23	29	19	22	38	14	41
increase in trafficking of adults	24	28	24	26	24	27	19	23	27
link between illegal migration and human trafficking	19	17	14	24	5	15	35	10	31
N.	350	1,387	226	124	58	209	83	200	150

Survey question: What concerns you most? Multiple. **Target population:** Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Attitudes towards victims

Shkodër youth strongly believe that victims of trafficking should be provided with support, though fewer than the wider population (79% and 90%, respectively; Figure 22).

Figure 22. Level of agreement with human trafficking victims and those at risk being provided with support



Survey question: How much do you agree with special support being provided to victims, or those at risk, of trafficking? Graph presents the percentage of respondents that 'extremely' or 'very much' agree. **Target population:** Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Female youth in Shkodër have more empathy towards victims of human trafficking than do male youth (93% and 65%, respectively; Table 9). Youth of age 15–17 years have less empathy towards human trafficking victims than do other youth. Only 69 per cent of 15–17-year-olds believe that victims should be provided with support, compared to 85 per cent of 18–24-year-olds. Meanwhile, there is less empathy for human trafficking victims in rural areas of Shkodër. **Only 64 per cent of rural youth believe that victims should be provided with support, compared to 92 per cent of urban youth.**

Table 9. Level of agreement with trafficking victims and those at risk of trafficking being provided with support, by sex, age group and urbanity (%)

Level of agreement	Gender		Age group (years)			Urbanity	
	F	M	15–17	18–24	25–29	Urban	Rural
extremely or very much	93	65	69	85	71	92	64
moderately	7	23	14	13	21	7	24
a little or not at all	0	6	2	2	3	0	7
dnk or dna	0	6	0	0	5	1	5
N.	226	124	58	209	83	200	150

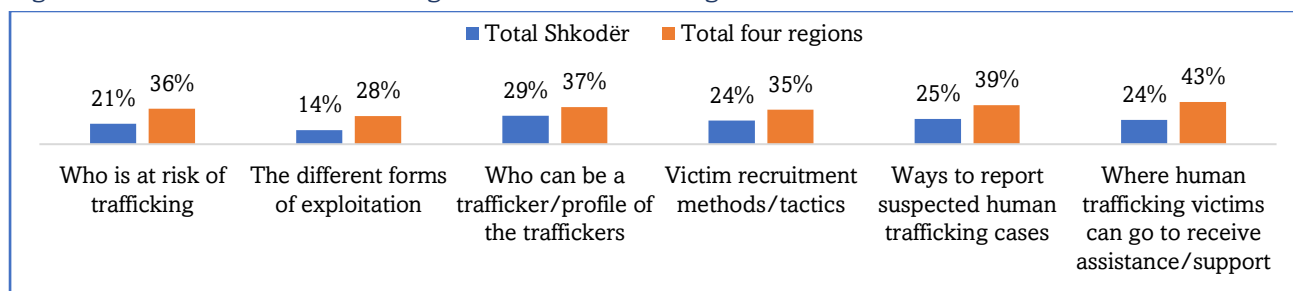
Target population: Shkodër. dnk, did not know; dna, did not answer.

4.4 Practices regarding human trafficking

Interest in learning about human trafficking

Surveyed youth in Shkodër have less interest in learning about human trafficking (Figure 23) than have the total survey population across the four regions. Only 25 per cent of surveyed youth in Shkodër are very interested in learning about ways to report suspected human trafficking cases, compared to 39 per cent of the wider population, and only 24 per cent of the former are very interested in learning about where human trafficking victims can go to receive support, compared to 43 per cent of the latter. Surveyed youth in Shkodër are most interested in learning about who can be a human trafficker or profile of human traffickers.

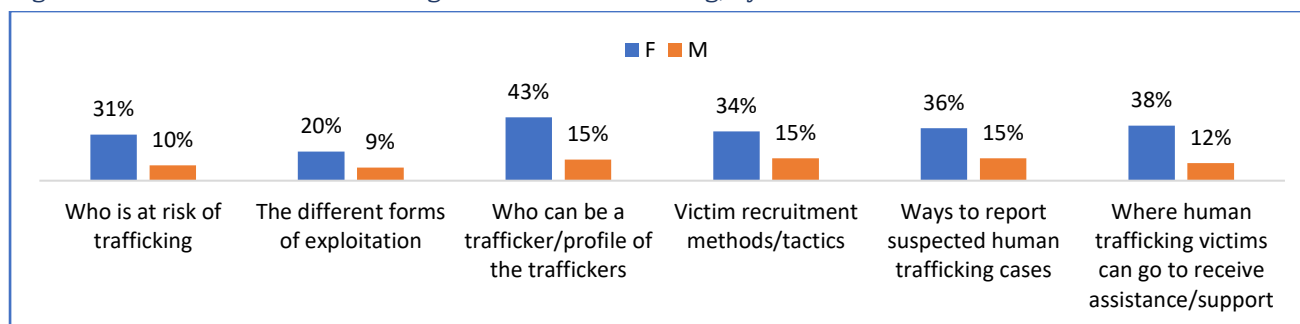
Figure 23. Level of interest in learning about human trafficking



Survey question: To what extent are you interested in knowing about these activities? Graph presents the percentage of respondents that are very interested. **Target population:** Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

In Shkodër, female youths have more interest in learning about human trafficking than have male youths (Figure 24). For example, 43 per cent of females are interested in learning more about human traffickers, compared to only 15 per cent of males.

Figure 24. Level of interest in learning about human trafficking, by sex



Graph presents the percentage of respondents that are very interested. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Younger youths (15–24-year-olds) are more interested in learning about human trafficking than are older youths, of age 25–29 years (Table 10).

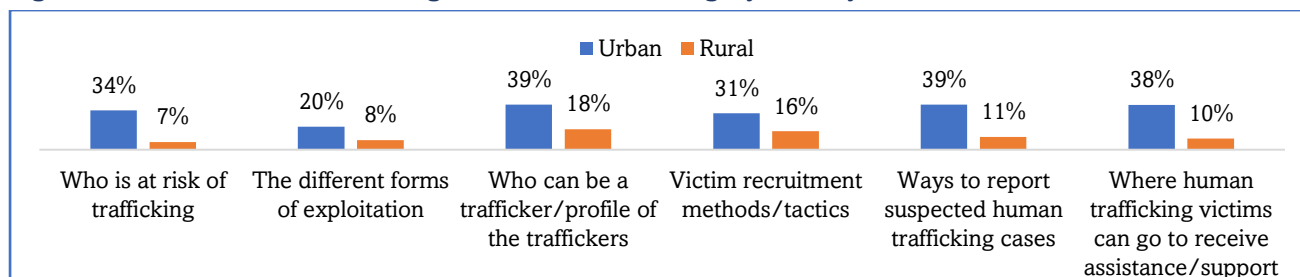
Table 10. Level of interest in learning about human trafficking, by age group (%)

Human trafficking issue	Age group (years)		
	15–17	18–24	25–29
Who is at risk of trafficking	20	25	12
Different forms of exploitation	11	19	6
Who can be a trafficker or profile of the traffickers	29	32	21
Victim recruitment methods or tactics	18	27	20
Ways to report suspected human trafficking cases	26	29	17
Where human trafficking victims can go to receive assistance or support	30	26	18
N.	58	209	83

Table reports the percentage of respondents that are very interested. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Surveyed youth in urban areas of Shkodër are significantly more interested in learning about human trafficking than are youth in urban areas (Figure 25). For example, 39 per cent of urban youth are interested in learning about who might be a trafficker or their profile, compared to only 18 per cent of rural youth.

Figure 25. Level of interest in learning about human trafficking, by urbanity



Graph presents the percentage of respondents that are very interested. **Target population:** Shkodër.

Interest in becoming involved in human trafficking prevention and protection

Shkodër youth are less interested in engaging in human trafficking prevention and protection activities than the wider population (Table 11). They are less interested on fundraising for anti-trafficking programmes (39%), or in volunteering for anti-trafficking work of an NGO (38%).

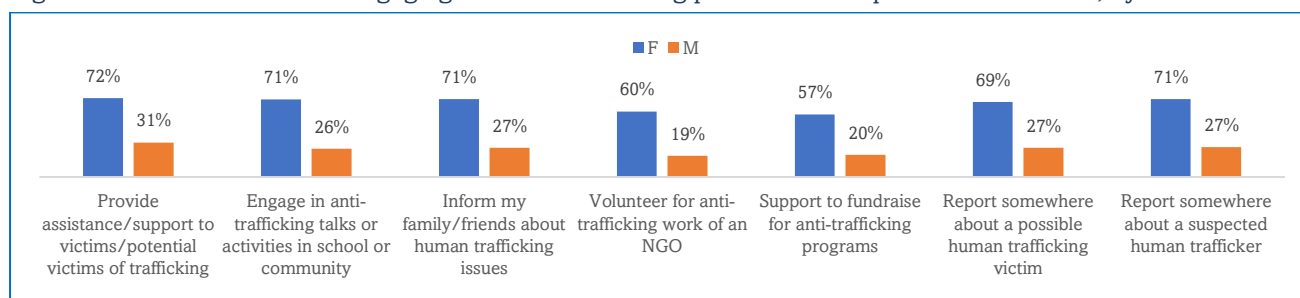
Table 11. Level of interest in engaging in human trafficking prevention and protection activities (%)

Human trafficking prevention and protection activity	Total, Shkodër	Total, 4 regions
Provide assistance or support to victims or potential victims of trafficking	51	59
Engage in anti-trafficking talks or activities in school or community	48	55
Inform my family or friends about human trafficking issues	48	61
Volunteer for anti-trafficking work of an NGO	39	39
Support to fundraise for anti-trafficking programmes	38	40
Report somewhere about a possible human trafficking victim	47	59
Report somewhere about a suspected human trafficker	49	57
N.	350	1,387

Survey question: How interested would you be in doing the following? Table reports the percentage of respondents that are 'very' or 'somewhat' interested. **Target population:** Shkodër; Total, 4 regions.

Female youth in Shkodër are significantly more interested in getting involved in anti-human trafficking activities than male youth (Figure 26). In all categories listed in the questionnaire, between 57 and 72 per cent of females reported being interested in engaging in such activities, compared to only 19–31 per cent of males.

Figure 26. Level of interest in engaging in human trafficking prevention and protection activities, by sex



Graph presents the percentage of respondents that are 'very' or 'somewhat' interested. **Target population:** Shkodër.

The younger youths (age 18–24 years) are more interested in engaging in activities for the prevention of human trafficking and protection of victims (Table 12) than are older youths (age 25–29 years).

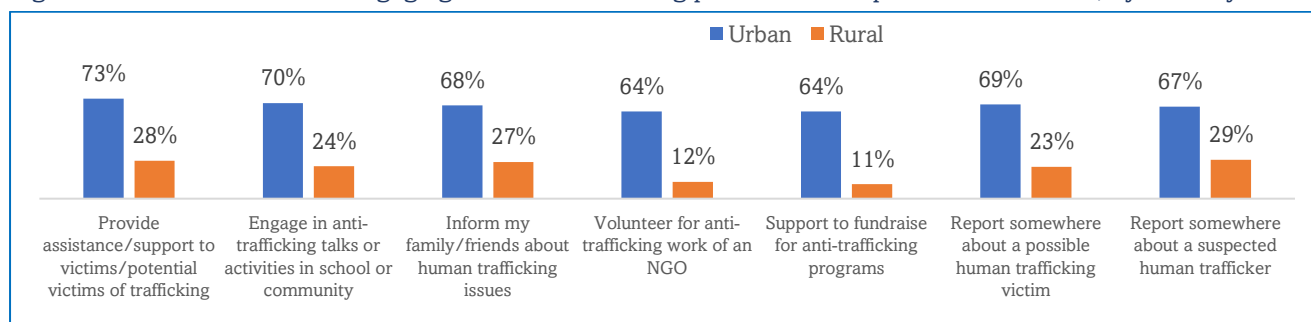
Table 12. Level of interest in engaging in human trafficking prevention and protection activities, by age group (%)

Human trafficking prevention and protection activity	Age group (years)		
	15–17	18–24	25–29
Provide assistance or support to victims or potential victims of trafficking	53	59	33
Engage in anti-trafficking talks or activities in school or community	46	55	33
Inform my family or friends about human trafficking issues	42	57	33
Volunteer for anti-trafficking work of an NGO	39	49	18
Support to fundraise for anti-trafficking programmes	38	46	21
Report somewhere about a possible human trafficking victim	43	56	30
Report somewhere about a suspected human trafficker	47	56	33
N.	58	209	83

Table reports the percentage of respondents that are 'very' or 'somewhat' interested. **Target population:** Shkodër.

In Shkodër, urban youth are significantly more interested in getting involved in anti-human trafficking activities than are rural youth (Figure 27). In all categories listed in the questionnaire, 64–73 per cent of urban youth reported being very or somewhat interested in engaging in such activities, compared to 11–29 per cent of rural youth.

Figure 27. Level of interest in engaging in human trafficking prevention and protection activities, by urbanity

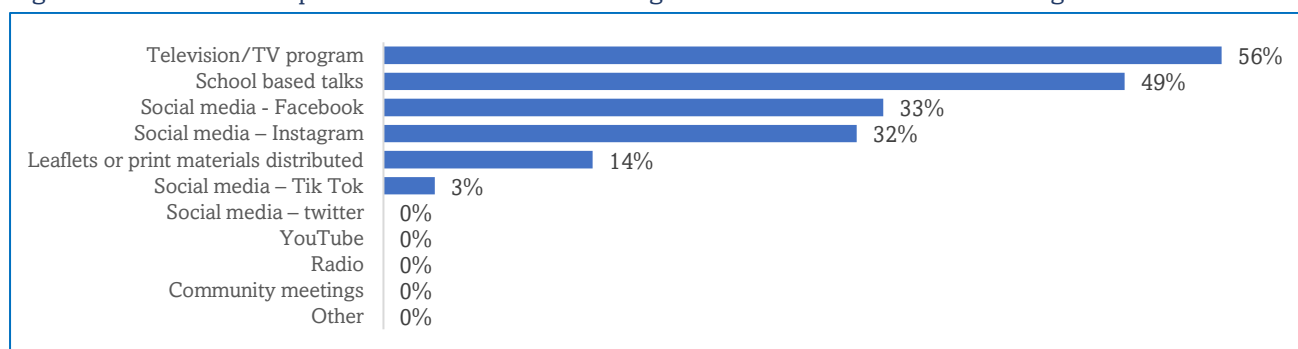


Graph presents the percentage of respondents that are 'very' or 'somewhat' interested. **Target population:** Shkodër.

4.5 Results of the UNICEF communications

Only twelve per cent of surveyed youth in Shkodër reported being exposed to human trafficking communication materials / messages during the last two years (Figure 28).⁷ Of those youths, 56 per cent had been exposed to the materials / messages via television, 49 per cent through school-based talks, 33 per cent via Facebook (Meta), 32 per cent through Instagram, 14 per cent via leaflets or printed materials /messages, and 3 per cent through Tik Tok.

Figure 28. Channels of exposure to anti-human trafficking communication materials /messages

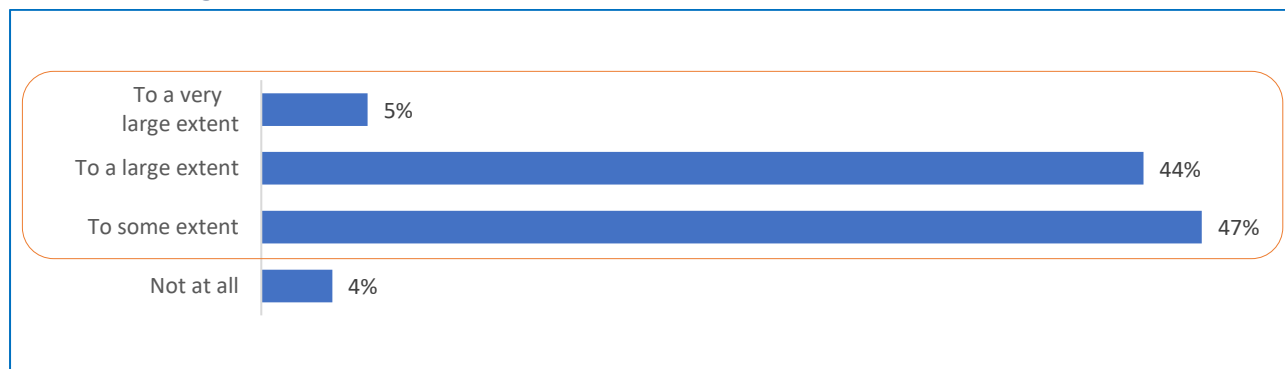


⁷ This refers to the work undertaken by UNICEF Albania and its partners, under the framework of the Programme Transforming National response to trafficking in and from Albania, from April 2020 to the time of the survey interview.

Survey question: Through which of the following communication channels did you hear about the events, messages or communication materials /messages on the subject of human trafficking? Multiple. **Target population:** Surveyed youth that have been exposed during the last two years to any events, messages or communication materials /messages on the subject of human trafficking; Shkodër.

Although few surveyed youth in Shkodër reported being exposed to human trafficking materials/messages over the past two years, **those who did so reported also that their knowledge of the subject had increased as a result of the exposure** (5% to a very large extent, 44% to a large extent, 47% to some extent; Figure 29).

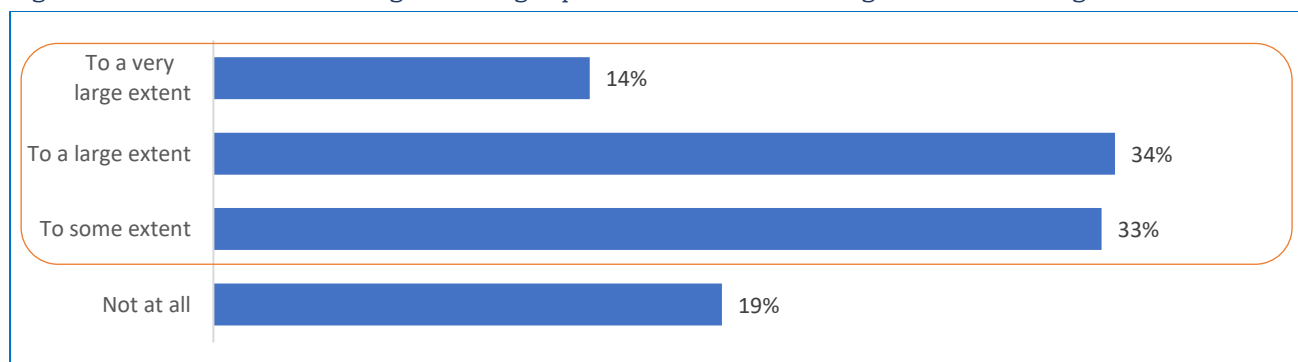
Figure 29. Extent of improvement of knowledge of human trafficking after exposure to communication materials/messages



Survey question: As a result of the exposure to the events, messages or communication materials /messages, to what extent has your knowledge around human trafficking improved? **Target population:** Surveyed youth that have been exposed during the last two years to any events, messages or communication materials /messages on the subject of human trafficking; Shkodër.

Moreover, **81 per cent of those that were exposed to such materials/messages declared that they have changed their attitudes towards human trafficking (Figure 30), and are now interested in playing a more active role in combating the phenomenon** (14% to a very large extent, 34% to a large extent, 33% to some extent).

Figure 30. Extent of attitude change following exposure to human trafficking materials/messages



Survey question: As a result of the exposure to the events, messages or communication materials /messages, to what extent has your attitude changed to playing a more active role in combating human trafficking? **Target population:** Surveyed youth that have been exposed during the last two years to any events, messages or communication materials /messages on the subject of human trafficking; Shkodër.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This report, which presents key findings from the second wave survey, provides valuable insights into the knowledge, attitudes and practices of surveyed youth in Shkodër regarding human trafficking. These findings will be of interest to anti-trafficking entities working in the area of human trafficking prevention, as well as victim protection.

In terms of results on the level of knowledge, the survey data show that most youth in Shkodër know that human trafficking of Albanian nationals takes place to foreign countries, though fewer know that it occurs within Albania and even fewer that it occurs in their community or local area. Among the youths, more females than males know where human trafficking occurs, and such knowledge is greater among younger surveyed youth, and among those living in urban areas. Shkodër youth have less knowledge than the wider population on the forms of exploitation that occur in Albania, and abroad, especially with regard to forced marriage, forced begging of adults and children and forced criminality of children. Most surveyed youth in Shkodër have little knowledge that groups other than women and girls (under 18 years of age) can be trafficking victims, though females, 18–24-year-olds and urban youth know more than other surveyed youths regarding who is at risk of being trafficked. Shkodër youth have knowledge of recruitment methods and of human traffickers. However, few know that family members can be human traffickers. Knowledge of human trafficking recruitment methods and human traffickers is greater among females, 25–29-year-olds and rural youth. Compared to the total survey population across the four regions, Shkodër youth have low levels of knowledge of some forms of reporting suspected human trafficking cases, especially of Police hotline 129. More female youth, 25–29-year-olds and urban youth know more of ways to report suspected human trafficking cases than do other youths. Shkodër youth also have little knowledge regarding the support services available to human trafficking victims. More than one-third of surveyed youth in Shkodër are unaware of any type of support for trafficking victims in Albania, while such knowledge is greater among females and urban youth.

Concern for human trafficking is less among youth in Shkodër than among the total population surveyed across the four regions, with such concern greater among females, 18–24-year-olds and urban youth. Attitudes towards victims are positive, with 79 per cent of youth surveyed in Shkodër reporting that victims should be provided with support. Females, 18–24-year-olds and urban youth are more supportive of victims than are other youth groups.

In terms of practices, Shkodër youth have less interest in learning about human trafficking than is the wider population. They are most interested in learning about who can be a human trafficker or the profiles of human traffickers. Interest in learning about human trafficking is greater among females, 15–24-year-olds and urban youth. They are less interested in getting involved in trafficking prevention and protection activities than is the wider population. Females, 15–24-year-olds and urban youth are more interested in getting involved than are other youths in Shkodër.

Few Shkodër youth (11%) reported being exposed to human trafficking communication materials/messages in the previous two years. However, 96 per cent of those who reported such exposure also reported increased knowledge of the phenomenon and, importantly, 81 per cent of those exposed reported their attitudes towards trafficking had changed and they had an increased interest in playing a more active role in combating the phenomenon.

The results reported above suggest that anti-trafficking entities should focus their efforts on improving the knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding human trafficking among male youth, of all age groups and youth in rural areas of Shkodër. Attention should be paid to strengthening knowledge of the presence of human trafficking in Albania, and in Shkodër; that men, boys, national minorities and youth in rural areas are at risk of human trafficking; that family members can be human traffickers; highlighting ways of reporting suspected human trafficking cases to entities other than the police; and of the support services that are available to human trafficking victims. Prevention programmes may also target improving youth attitudes towards human trafficking, while future education programmes may utilise communication methods that are popular among youth surveyed in Shkodër: namely television, school-based talks, social media and printed materials/messages.

