A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO RISKY BEHAVIORS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND TRAFFICKING IN KAZAKHSTAN
A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO RISKY BEHAVIORS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND TRAFFICKING IN KAZAKHSTAN

REPORT PREPARED BY

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FOREWORD

This report is the product of cooperation between UNICEF Kazakhstan and the National Human Rights Centre, with financial support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. It contains comprehensive information on vulnerable children and youth in Kazakhstan that have been sexually exploited and trafficked to, from and within Kazakhstan. This report is available in Russian, Kazak, and English languages.

This study was conducted with the recognition that around the world many children grow up in poverty and poor living conditions, and lack access to basic needs such as shelter, education, health care, and social services. Children also grow up in families wrought with conflict and violence, child abuse and neglect, and alcohol and drug abuse problems. Many children also suffer when their parents divorce, die, or desert the family. Children that experience one or a combination of these factors can become particularly vulnerable and face an increased risk of human trafficking and exploitation. According to UNICEF, every year some 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide, and trafficking, which represents a multimillion dollar business, exposes children to physical violence, sexual abuses, and grave emotional distress.

This report contains firsthand data which reveals that vulnerable children and youth in Kazakhstan and in the Central Asian Region are at increased risk of being trafficked to, from, and within Kazakhstan for purposes of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, and begging. This report reveals that internal child trafficking in Kazakhstan is a serious issue; among the 103 trafficking victims interviewed 65% were internal trafficking victims and only 35% were cross-border trafficking victims (31% were cross-border trafficked into Kazakhstan, and 4% were cross-border trafficked from Kazakhstan). This study also uncovered the push and pull factors that influenced the decision of children and youth to leave home, and their pathways into exploitation and human trafficking. Sadly, exploited and trafficked children and youth reported they were often forced by their traffickers and exploiters to engage in risk behaviors, such as alcohol and drug use, and unprotected sex. A significant proportion also admitted to engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors because of the physical violence, sexual abuses, and grave emotional distress they experienced at the hands of their traffickers and exploiters. Although many of the children and youth that were interviewed had contact with the child protection system, the police and justice system, and victim support services, there were numerous gaps in these systems.

The identities of the vulnerable, exploited, and trafficked children and youth who participated in the study are fully protected. Data analysis was performed to reveal differences between vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers (or sexually exploited girls) that were sampled; however, we did not run comparisons by regions in an effort to protect the identities of those that participated in the study. In no way does this study claim to be representative of all vulnerable, exploited, and/or trafficked children and youth in Kazakhstan; nevertheless, it does provide us with an understanding of children’s vulnerabilities to and experiences of sexual exploitation and human trafficking in Kazakhstan.

Findings from this study and the recommendations that follow can serve as a guide for developing a comprehensive national action plan for the prevention and elimination of all forms of child trafficking and exploitation in Kazakhstan, and for enhancing the protection of vulnerable, exploited and trafficked children. It also highlights the need to increase and improve efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking. Clearly, a wide range of actions must be taken and a variety of organizations and stakeholders need to be involved, including governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and other civil society institutes.
We are particularly grateful to the children and youth who participated in the study as without their willingness to share their time, experiences, and voices this study would not have been possible. We also would like to acknowledge and thank the state bodies for the support that they provided in conducting this study, particularly, the Children’s Rights Protection Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and local Akimats, as well as the International Organization for Migration, shelters for trafficking victims, and NGOs committed to the protection of child rights and working with trafficking victims and sex workers. We would also like to specially thank the Centers for Adaptation of Minors, Special Schools of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior, Special Dispensaries for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and AIDS Centers that helped to provide us access to vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers. Finally, special thanks to the international consultant, Dr. Robin N. Haarr, who designed this research specifically for Kazakhstan and analyzed the vast amount of data and wrote this report; as well as to the research company “Public Opinion Research Centre” that collected data in the field.

Askar Shakirov
Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Jun Kukita
UNICEF Representative in the Republic of Kazakhstan
ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT

Dr. Robin N. Haarr has been working for more than 15 years with organizations and government entities to conduct survey and assessment research, do monitoring and evaluation, develop policy and program recommendations, write professional reports, and conduct capacity building trainings. She has worked extensively on violence against children and women, human trafficking and exploitation, victim support services, child protection systems, access to justice and justice system responses, and women’s and child rights. She has worked on these issues with UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, ILO, OSCE, USAID, SDC, and the US Department of State/US Embassies. Dr. Haarr has worked throughout Asia and CIS and CEE countries, and in Africa. Her dedication and leadership to address violence against children and women, gender-based violence, human exploitation and trafficking, and victim support services and access to justice has brought about important policy changes and program development that benefit children and women, families, and communities.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Human Rights Centre (Ombudsman Office), with financial and technical support of UNICEF, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and in cooperation with the International Organization of Migration (IOM), initiated this comprehensive study of vulnerable children/youth in seven urban areas in Kazakhstan.

The four main goals of this study were:

- to learn more about the vulnerabilities of children/youth, the push and pull factors that influence their decision to leave home, and their pathways into exploitation and human trafficking;
- to learn more about internal trafficking of children/youth for purposes of sexual exploitation, including trafficking routes;
- to learn more about vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth’s engagement in risky behaviors; and
- to learn more about vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth’s access to the child protection system and victim support services, and to identify gaps in the child protection system and system of victim support services.

The study was designed specifically for Kazakhstan, with the objective that findings from this study would serve to inform and support the Government in their efforts to enhance the child protection system and reduce children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors and human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
RESEARCH DESIGN

In consultation with the National Human Rights Centre (Ombudsman), USAID, and UNICEF, the decision was made to conduct this research in seven urban areas in Kazakhstan, including: Almaty, Astana, Atyrau, Karaganda, Kokshetau, Shymkent, and Ust-Kamenogorsk. This research design included in-depth interviews with vulnerable children between 9 and 17 years of age, sexually exploited girls and sex workers between 11 and 23 years of age, and human trafficking victims of all ages in each of these seven urban areas.

The sample of respondents was identified across a variety of settings, including: NGO-run shelters for human trafficking victims; Centers for Adaptation of Minors (MoE); Specialized Institutions of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior (MoE); Special Dispensaries for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (MoH); and NGOs that work with street children, sex workers, and trafficked persons.

Structured in-depth interviews were conducted with each respondent. Geographic maps of Kazakhstan and each of the other Central Asia countries were also used in the interview to help the respondent recall their migration experiences and routes.

SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS AND VULNERABILITIES

CATEGORIES OF CHILDREN/YOUTH

Table 1 reveals the characteristics of the final sample of 468 children/youth, which included 259 vulnerable children (55.3%), 103 trafficking victims (22.0%), and 106 sex workers (22.6%). Among the 103 trafficking victims interviewed 65.0% were internal trafficking victims and only 35.0% were cross-border trafficking victims (31.1% were cross-border trafficked into Kazakhstan, and 3.9% were cross-border trafficked from Kazakhstan).

Many trafficking victims were never officially identified by governmental and nongovernmental organizations, despite having contact with these organizations. Some child trafficking victims were found in the Centers for Adaptation of Minors; mislabeled as vulnerable children by police and the child protection system. Moreover, some trafficking victims were still in situations of sexual and labor exploitation at the time of the interview, despite their contact with NGOs and the police.

Vulnerable child — a child under 18 years of age whose survival, well-being, or development is threatened by one or a combination of factors, including, but not limited to: poverty, death or desertion of parents/caregivers, severe chronic illness of parents/caregivers, alcohol and/or drug abuse by parents/caregivers, abuse and neglect of a child, physical and/or mental disability of a child, and lack of access to basic needs. The sample specifically focused on vulnerable children that left home and were living on the streets or entered a children’s residential institution in the past days, weeks or several months.

Trafficking victim — in keeping with the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, a person is a trafficking victim if they experienced one or more of the three constituent elements: the act (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons); the means (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); the purpose (for the purpose of exploitation, which includes prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, or similar practices).

Sex worker — a person that renders sexual services for money and does not have any of the three constituent elements in their background or pathway into sex work that would categorize them as a trafficking victim.

SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

In terms of sex, 60.5% of the full sample was female, and 39.5% male. Among vulnerable children, 65.6% were male and 34.4% female; whereas, among trafficking victims, 85.4% were female and 15.6% male. All of the sex workers were female.

In terms of age, the full sample ranged in age from 7 to 47 years; however, 66.7% of the full sample was between 7 and 17 years of age (a child). Vulnerable children ranged in age from 8 to 17 years, with 59.1% of vulnerable children between 15 and 17 years and 34.0% between 11 and 14 years of age. Trafficking victims ranged in age from 7 to 47 years; however, 33.0% of trafficking victims were between 7 and 17 years of age (a child). Some of the trafficking victims that were 18 years of age or older were actually trafficked when they were children (under
18 years of age); thus, were child trafficking victims that spent a year or more in exploitation and didn’t manage to escape or be rescued until they were 18 years of age or older. Finally, sex workers ranged in age from 16 to 32 years of age, with the majority of sex workers between 18 and 21 years of age (68.9%); however, 17.9% were children between 15 and 17 years of age.

In terms of ethnicity, ethnic Russians represented 45.9% of the full sample, while ethnic Kazakh’s represented 23.1% and ethnic Uzbeks 10.0% of the full sample. Other ethnic groups were also represented, but they were fewer in number. Bear in mind that ethnic origin does not equate to citizenship.

EDUCATION

In terms of educational attainment, the majority of full sample was undereducated or uneducated; more specifically, 69.5% of vulnerable children, 30.1% of trafficking victims, and 14.2% of sex workers had an unfinished compulsory education.

It is important to note that among child trafficking victims (under 18 years of age, as many as 55.9% had an unfinished education, yet only 32.4% of child trafficking victims were attending school and only 14.7% were attending school every day it is in session. In addition, 63.2% of sex workers under 18 years of age had an unfinished education, yet only 5.3% of these sex workers were attending school. Finally, among vulnerable children, 69.5% had an unfinished education and 77.6% were attending school; however, only 58.7% were attending school on a regular basis.

PLACE OF ORIGIN AND FAMILY LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

The majority of vulnerable children were from cities (67.6%). Among trafficking victims, a larger proportion were from towns (32.0%) and rural areas (22.3%) compared to cities (45.6%). Among sex workers, while 50.9% were from cities, a significant proportion came from towns (28.6%) and rural areas (20.8%).

A significant proportion of respondents lived in conditions reflective of poverty. In particular, as many as 57.3% of trafficking victims grew up in conditions of reflective of poverty; however, only 16.5% reported their family received government/community support/cash transfers to help alleviate the poverty. Many sex workers also grew up in conditions of poverty – as many as 43.4% lived in conditions of poverty, yet 34.9% reported their family received government/community support/cash transfers to help alleviate the poverty. Finally, although 29% of vulnerable children reported living in conditions of poverty, as many as 26.6% reported their family received government/community support/cash transfers to help alleviate the poverty.

EXPERIENCES LEAVING HOME

The majority of vulnerable children left home between 7 and 17 years of age. Trafficking victims were most likely to leave home between 11 and 21 years of age, with 30.1% leaving home between 15 and 17 years of age. In comparison, sex workers more likely to leave home between 15 and 21 years of age with 43.4% leaving home between 15 and 17 years, and 37.2% between 18 and 21 years of age.

Vulnerable children were least likely to report that someone encourage them to leave home (14.7%) or that they discussed leaving with someone in the family (16.0%); this is most likely because vulnerable children ran away from home. Whereas, trafficking victims were most likely to report that someone encouraged them to leave home (40.8%), and 35.0% discussed leaving home with someone in the family. Sex workers were significantly less likely to likely to report that someone encouraged them to leave home (16.0%), however, they were most likely to report that they discussed leaving with someone in the family (43.6%). Trafficking victims and sex workers were most likely to discuss leaving home with someone in the family because they typically left with the goal of earning money to help support their family and to find a better life (free of poverty, abuse, and violence).

DECISION TO LEAVE HOME: PUSH FACTORS

Vulnerable children reported they were most likely to leave home because of frequent quarrelling and fighting in the family (37.1%), because their mother or father had drug and alcohol problems (28.6%), because they lived with only one parent (27.8%), because the family did not provide them with the basic things needed in life, such as clothes, food, medical care, and a safe place to live (24.7%).

Trafficking victims had many more push factors influencing their decision to leave home. Trafficking victims were most likely to leave home because the family was poor (52.4%), because the family did not provide them with the basic things they needed in life (49.5%), because there were no job opportunities for them where they lived (44.7%), because there was frequent quarrelling and fighting

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1 Only 11 trafficking victims were over 26 years of age and included to learn about human trafficking in Kazakhstan and knowledge of children/youth in similar situations.
in the family (42.7%), and because they lived in a very large family and their parents had a hard time supporting and caring for everyone in the family (35.0%). A significant proportion of trafficking victims also left home because they lived with only one parent (25.2%), were physically abused by parents or other family members (24.3%), and because their mother and/or father had drug or alcohol problems (20.4%).

Sex workers also had many push factors influencing their decision to leave home. They were most likely to leave home because their family was poor (43.4%) and there were no job opportunities for them were they lived (41.5%). A significant proportion of sex workers also left home because they had a very large family and their parents had a hard time supporting and caring for everyone in the family (33.0%), their family did not provide them with the basic things needed in life (32.1%), and there was frequent quarreling and fighting in the family (32.1%). In addition, a proportion of sex workers left home because they lived with only one parent, in most cases their mother (26.4%).

**DECISION TO LEAVE HOME: PULL FACTORS**

In terms of pull factors, vulnerable children most often identified the desire to live independently (40.9%). This is because vulnerable children come from families with numerous problems, including poverty, family violence and conflicts, child abuse and neglect, and parent(s) with drug and alcohol problems. A significant proportion of vulnerable children also reported they thought they could live a better life or higher standard of living where they were going (27.8%), they wanted to live in a large city (24.7%), and they saw leaving home as a good opportunity to make money (22.0%).

Trafficking victims also identified numerous powerful pull factors. In particular, 75.7% of trafficking victims wanted to live independently. 72.8% thought they could live a better life or higher standard of living where they were going. 68.0% thought it was a good opportunity to make money. 63.1% wanted to live in a large city. 48.5% saw leaving home as an opportunity to make money. 22.0%.

**TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION**

**PATHWAYS INTO SEX TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION**

The report reveals the various pathways of children/youth into sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, including

- deceived by a “stranger trafficker”
- deceived by an “acquaintance trafficker”
- deceived by a “friend trafficker”
- deceived by a “lover trafficker”
- deceived by an “employer trafficker”
- sold into sexual slavery by a parent or other family member
- kidnapped and sold into sex slavery
- sold for virginity

Each of these pathways into sex trafficking and sexual exploitation is analyzed in-depth in the report. Most of the cases of sexual exploitation are of internal sex trafficking; however, there are also cases of cross-border sex trafficking.

**DEBT BONDAGE**

Sex trafficking victims often accrued a debt to their traffickers that they had to work off. The debt typically included the price the trafficker had to pay to purchase the girl and the costs of transporting the girl from her place of origin to the destination where she was exploited. Many traffickers added additional charges to the trafficking victims’ debt, including: expenses for accommodations, food, clothing, cosmetics, and bribes paid to the police. Debts were ultimately used to control trafficking victims and keep them locked in a state of debt bondage to their traffickers. Some traffickers even sold their trafficking victims to another trafficker when she had almost or already paid off her debt. In such cases, the trafficking victim accrued a whole new debt that she owed to a new trafficker.
VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION, AND CONTROL

Traffickers used different means of violence, intimidation, and control to keep sex trafficking victims cowed and acquiescent. In fact, psychological, physical, and sexual violence were regularly used by traffickers to control their victims. Physical violence was often brutal, torturous, and unpredictable.

Trafficking victims revealed that traffickers also relied upon video cameras and wiretaps in the rooms and hallways to monitor and control their victims 24 hours a day, including while they were with clients. Video cameras and wiretaps offer an additional layer of intimidation and psychological control over trafficking victims as they are always under the watchful eye and scrutiny of their exploiters. Police were often aware of the video cameras in the rooms and would destroy them during police raids of the establishment, but the traffickers would replace them after the police left.

Traffickers also rely heavily upon guards to monitor and control their victims, and to ensure they do not escape. In many cases, trafficking victims were under the supervision of guards 24 hours a day. Guards were responsible for controlling and disciplining the girls with physical violence, and for transporting the girls to/from the saunas, hotels, and apartments where they met clients and provided sex. Guards also collected the payment for sexual services to ensure trafficking victims did not have access to money.

PATHWAYS INTO LABOR TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

This study also examined labor trafficking and found three common pathways into labor trafficking:

• deceived by a “stranger trafficker”
• deceived by an “employer trafficker”
• sold into labor debt bondage by a parent

Each of these pathways into labor trafficking and labor exploitation is analyzed in report. The cases of labor trafficking and exploitation described in the report include both male and female victims, and cases of internal and cross-border labor trafficking.

ESCAPE AND RESCUE

Only 9.7% of trafficking victims reported that someone helped them escape from their traffickers, and only 14.6% reported that their traffickers were caught.

Some trafficking victims were able to escape when they saw a small window of opportunity to run, and it often occurred when they realized their guards and traffickers were not paying attention or left them unsupervised for a short period of time. Other trafficking victims found an opportunity to use a clients’ phone or their traffickers’ phone to call a family member or the police and inform them of their whereabouts. A few trafficking victims told a client about their situation and asked the client to help them escape. A few trafficking victims were able to escape when they were taken to the hospital after being beat, falling ill, or attempting suicide.

Some trafficking victims revealed that after they escaped they were picked up on the streets by the police, and the police returned them back to their traffickers. In only a few cases did the police actually show up and rescue sex trafficking victims out of exploitation.

Some sex and labor trafficking victims were still trapped in situations of exploitation and controlled by their traffickers. One or two revealed they had plans to escape, however, others did not.

TRAFFICKING ROUTES

The report reveals the trafficking routes that trafficking victims followed to the seven urban areas included in this study – Almaty, Astana, Atyrau, Karaganda, Kokshetau, Shymkent, and Ust-Kamenogorsk. Geographic maps and data were analyzed to take into consideration not only towns and cities of origin, but also transit towns and cities, and final destination cities. Trafficking routes were not always direct from the place of origin to the final destination, but included one or more transit cities.

RISKY BEHAVIORS

ALCOHOL USE/ABUSE

Sex workers were most likely to report alcohol use (70.8%), and that alcohol use was their choice (63.2%). Sex workers often used alcohol when working because it made it easier to perform sexual services for men.

In comparison, 60.2% of trafficking victims reported alcohol use, but only 39.8% reported that alcohol use was their choice. Trafficking victims were most likely to report that someone encouraged or forced them to use alcohol (20.4%). Both clients and pimps forced trafficking victims to drink alcohol, mainly so that they would be more unrestrained and willing to perform sexual services for clients. Trafficking victims that reported alcohol use was their choice revealed that they used alcohol to cope with the desperate situation they found themselves in and to mask the emotional and physical pain they were experiencing. As one trafficking victim stated, “Without alcohol it’s difficult to make it [sex]; first vodka, then sex.”
DRUG USE/ABUSE
Because of taboos surrounding drug use and the fact that many drugs are illegal it is likely that respondents underreported their drug usage. Trafficking victims (12.5%) were slightly more likely to report drug use than sex workers (10.6%) and vulnerable children (9.3%). Most drug users reported that drug use was their choice; however, 3.1% of trafficking victims reported that someone encouraged or forced them to use drugs. One trafficking victim reported that her traffickers drugged her on a regular basis, “They were giving me jabs by force. I don’t remember how often... they were giving me shots all the time.”

PROSTITUTION AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
The majority of trafficking victims (68.0%) and sex workers (100.0%) reported exchanging sex for money. Very few vulnerable children reported exchanging sex for money (3.1%).

Trafficking victims and sex workers started exchanging sex for money; as many as 47.6% trafficking victims and 62.3% of sex workers were sexually exploited as children, between 12 and 17 years of age. Only 20.4% of trafficking victims and 36.8% of sex workers reported that their sexual exploitation and involvement in sex work began when they were 18 years of age or older; most often between 18 and 22 years of age (Table 6.3). Regardless of age, sex trafficking victims did not consent to exchanging sex for money and were prostituted against their will for the profit by their traffickers/exploiters.

UNPROTECTED SEX AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES
For the full sample, 35.9% of respondents reported having sex without a condom, and 21.8% had oral sex without a condom. As many as 1 out 3 respondents were worried about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and nearly 1 out 2 respondents had been tested for sexually transmitted diseases.

Whether trafficking victims had sex without a condom was largely dependent upon their traffickers and clients. Traffickers allowed clients to have sex without a condom if they paid a “higher rate” and some clients demanded sex without a condom. Some sex workers also revealed that they were willing to have sex without a condom for a “higher rate.”

Nearly half the trafficking victims (48.5%) and sex workers (48.1%) reported having oral sex without a condom. Nearly 1 out of 3 trafficking victims and sex workers reported having oral sex without a condom on a weekly basis (as often as every day to several times a week to at least once a week).

Although 96.5% of sex workers and 60.4% of trafficking victims reported they had been tested for STDs, both sex workers and trafficking victims worried about contracting STDs and some had received treatments for STDs. Many trafficking victims revealed they did not have access to medical care during their period of exploitation; thus, it was not until after they escaped that they were tested and treated for STDs. In comparison, sex workers were more likely to be tested for STDs on a more regular basis. Despite the fact that sex workers were more likely to be tested for STDs, many complained of gynecological health problems symptomatic of infection and possible STDs.

SELF-HARMING AND SUICIDAL BEHAVIORS
Surprisingly, 27.4% of the full sample reported engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors. As many as 1 out of 3 trafficking victims (34.0%) engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors. In addition, 1 out of 4 vulnerable children (27.4%) and 1 out of 5 sex workers (20.8%) engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors.

The age at which vulnerable children began engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors ranged from 8 to 16 years of age, with an average age of 13.7 years. In comparison, the age at which trafficking victims began engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors ranged from 12 to 30 years of age, which an average age of 17.1 years. And, the age at which sex workers began engaging in self-harming and suicidal behavior ranged from 13 to 21 years of age, with an average age of 16.6 years.

Respondents attempted suicide mainly by means of hanging, jumping from heights, drowning, overdosing on pills, poisoning, cutting their wrists, and self-immolation. Some children/youth reported engaging in more deliberate self-harming behaviors, such as cutting and beating themselves.

Respondents engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors for a variety of reasons, including due to:

- conflict with a parent/caregiver
- child abuse
- witnessing family violence
- divorce or death of a parent/caregiver
- abandonment
- death of a sibling or best friend
- fight with/loss of a boyfriend/girlfriend
- mocked by peers at school
- institutionalization
- sexual assault/rape
- poverty
- loss of a child
- multiple stressors, strains, and problems...
Only trafficking victims and sex workers revealed engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors because of their experiences of being trafficking and exploited.

**CHILD PROTECTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

**POLICE CONTACT AND SATISFACTION**

Among vulnerable children, 74.1% had contact with the police, and only 16.1% of children said they were very satisfied with the police response to their problems; whereas, 46.9% were somewhat satisfied and 37.0% were not satisfied at all with the police response to their problems.

Among trafficking victims, 63.1% had contact with the police, and only 20.0% said they were very satisfied with the police response to their problems; whereas, 36.9% were somewhat satisfied and 43.1% said they were not satisfied with the police response to their problems. In comparison, only 45.3% of sex workers had contact with the police, but 47.9% of those said they were not satisfied with the police response to their problems.

Trafficking victims that reported they were satisfied with the police response to their problems felt the police had done everything they could to help them, such as rescue them from slavery/exploitation, refer them to the shelter and victim support services, and create a criminal case against their traffickers. Trafficking victims were more likely to be satisfied with the police when the police did their job properly and took their case seriously.

Unfortunately, many trafficking victims and sex workers had negative interactions with the police and complained that police were complicit in human trafficking. Some trafficking victims also expressed dissatisfaction with the police for not taking their complaint or application of human trafficking seriously. Many trafficking victims felt the police were doing very little or nothing to investigate their cases and bring their traffickers to justice.

Among vulnerable children, 37.0% reported they were not satisfied with the police response to their problems, and only 16.0% reported they were very satisfied. Some vulnerable children recognized that the police were assisting and protecting them; however, the police did not always do a good job of helping children, including screening children to see if they were abused or neglected at home, or were victims of trafficking and exploitation.

**LEGAL PROBLEMS, SUPPORT, AND SATISFACTION**

Among vulnerable children, 16.6% reported they had legal problems, yet only 8.1% reported they were receiving help/support for their legal problems. Among those receiving support, the majority were somewhat satisfied (61.9%) or very satisfied (28.6%) with the legal support they were receiving.

Trafficking victims were most likely to have legal problems (21.4%), yet only 16.5% of trafficking victims reported they were receiving help/support for their legal problems. Among those receiving support, 47.1% reported they were not satisfied, 23.5% were somewhat satisfied, and 29.4% were very satisfied. Some of the most common legal problems trafficking victims identified were that they needed legal assistance to get their documents and they wanted to go home but had to wait for their case to be completed. Some trafficking victims reported legal problems related to the criminal investigation and court case against their traffickers. Others reported they wanted justice and material damages. In most cases trafficking victims do not have the financial resources to pay a lawyer and were dependent on legal advocates and lawyers willing to take their case pro bono; however, they were not always satisfied with their legal representation.

Very few sex workers reported having legal problems (6.6%) or receiving support for their legal problems (3.8%); yet among those receiving support, the majority said they were not satisfied (75.0%) with the support. Their legal problems typically included problems with documents and registration.

**CONTACT AND SATISFACTION WITH LAWYERS AND COURTS**

For the full sample, 23.5% of respondents had contact with lawyers and courts; however, only 26.4% were very satisfied with the court response to their situation. Nearly 43% of respondents were only somewhat satisfied, and 30.9% were not satisfied at all with the court response to their situation. Vulnerable children were more likely to have contact with lawyers and courts (34.0%), compared to trafficking victims (17.5%) and sex workers (3.8%); yet trafficking victims were most likely to report that they were not satisfied with the court response to their situation.

**HEALTH PROBLEMS, SUPPORT, AND SATISFACTION**

The majority of trafficking victims (60.2%) and sex workers (55.7%) reported having health problems and they were equally likely to receive help/support for their health problems. The majority of
trafficking victims (68.9%) and sex workers (55.9%) were very satisfied with the help/support they were receiving for their health problems. A significant proportion of vulnerable children also received help/support for their health problems (44.4%) and reported they were very satisfied (56.5%) with that help/support.

Sex trafficking victims and sex workers reported a multitude of health problems, including gynecological problems and STDs as a result of their sexual exploitation/work. Trafficking victims identified a range of other chronic health problems related to the violence and exploitation they experienced, including: anxiety, heart problems, chronic joint and body pain, liver and kidney problems, headaches, stomachaches, and broken bones. Many vulnerable children spoke about suffering from similar health problems as trafficking victims, which are likely due to experiences with child abuse and neglect. Several vulnerable girls revealed that they were raped and contracted a STD from their rapist(s).

**PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, SUPPORT, AND SATISFACTION**

Among vulnerable children, only 25.5% reported having psychological problems; however, 42.9% reported they received help/support for their psychological problems. So many more children received help/support for psychological problems because children in state-run residential institutions have more regular contact with psychologists. In general, the majority of vulnerable children were either very satisfied (54.1%) or somewhat satisfied (32.4%) with the psychological help/support they were receiving; however, not all vulnerable children spoke positively about their contact with psychologists and 13.5% reported the psychologists were not very useful.

In comparison, 42.7% of trafficking victims reported having psychological problems, and 39.8% reported they were receiving help/support for their psychological problems. Among those receiving support, 70.7% reported they were very satisfied with the help/support they received. Still, there were some trafficking victims that were still asking for help.

Surprisingly, 31.1% of sex workers reported having psychological problems; however, only 25.5% received help/support for their psychological problems. Among those that received help/support, only 40.7% said they were very satisfied, and 22.2% were not satisfied. Numerous sex workers reported suffering from depression and self-harming and suicidal behaviors and wanted to find a good psychologist or have a psychologist visit them at their place of work.

**EDUCATION AND JOB SKILLS TRAINING**

Vulnerable children (91.5%) were most likely to receive education/classes to improve their level of education, compared to trafficking victims (27.2%) and sex workers (28.3%). In terms of job skills training, only 20.5% of vulnerable children, 17.5% of trafficking victims, and 23.6% of sex workers were receiving job skills training. It is concerning that so few vulnerable children and trafficking victims are receiving job skills training, particularly when lack of job skills, along with low levels of education, place children and youth at increased risk of being trafficked and exploited.

Lack of job skills trainings is not due to a lack of interest. In fact, vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers revealed aspirations for job skills that would enable them to acquire professional jobs that contribute to society. In fact, many sex workers had career aspirations that have nothing to do with rendering sexual services to men; sex work was not their career choice.

**HOUSING AND/OR RELOCATION SUPPORT**

Trafficking victims (27.2%) were significantly more likely to receive help/support with housing and relocation, compared to vulnerable children (13.5%) and sex workers (6.6%). Still, however, it is surprising that only 27.2% of trafficking victims were receiving help/support with housing and relocation.

**DIFFICULTIES BEING HONEST DURING THE INTERVIEW**

Among trafficking victims, 42.7% reported they had a difficult time being honest about what happened to them. They underreported and withheld information about their experiences because it was difficult for them to talk about what happened to them out of embarrassment and fear of being judged. As one trafficking victim explained, “At first I didn’t want to tell anything, it is hard.”

In addition, 36.8% of sex workers and 25.1% of vulnerable children reported they had a difficult time being completely honest about what happened to them. One sex worker said, “I am really embarrassed.” Also, one vulnerable child told, “Sometimes it is not pleasant to remember things. Most people that live here would like to forget the past.”

These findings can be interpreted to mean that nearly 25% to 42% of respondents, depending upon their categorization, underreported their childhood and family experiences, engagement in risky behaviors, and experiences of exploitation and trafficking.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific recommendations are offered in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership.

PREVENTION

Recommendation 1: Develop awareness raising campaigns focused on preventing child trafficking.

Recommendation 2: Identify vulnerable children and families and provide them with the necessary support and assistance to reduce their vulnerabilities and risks of being trafficked and exploited.

Recommendation 3: Promoting safe, legal migration for decent work for youth of legal working age.

Recommendation 4: Reduce the demand for child trafficking victims in Kazakhstan.

Recommendation 5: Child/youth suicide prevention programs and support services.

PROTECTION

Recommendation 6: Focus on proactive identification of child trafficking victims by governmental entities and nongovernmental organizations.

Recommendation 7: Develop a network of governmental and nongovernmental organizations that can provide child trafficking victims with protection and comprehensive support services.

Recommendation 8: Appoint a guardian to child trafficking victims.

Recommendation 9: Help each child trafficking victim obtain an education in accordance with his/her age, abilities, interests, and potential.

Recommendation 10: Trafficking shelters that accommodate children should have child-friendly play areas and structured activities for children.

Recommendation 11: Do not limit trafficking victims options for vocational/jobs skills training to a few low-paying, unskilled jobs.

PROSECUTION

Recommendation 12: Develop a comprehensive national policy and legislation that specifically combats child trafficking, including internal trafficking of children.

Recommendation 13: Develop and implement ethical and cultural sensitivity training for law enforcement officers.

Recommendation 14: Increase investigation and prosecution of child trafficking cases.

PARTNERSHIP

Recommendation 15: Establish working partnerships among and within governments, and between governments and nongovernmental organizations, local communities, and international organizations in the fight to protect vulnerable children and combat human trafficking.

Recommendation 16: Develop a multi-sectoral response to address child protection, specifically the child protection needs of vulnerable children and child trafficking victims.
Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Around the world, many children grow up in poverty and poor living conditions, and lack access to basic needs such as shelter, education, health care, and social services. In addition, they grow up in families wrought with conflict and violence, child abuse and neglect, and alcohol and drug abuse problems. Many children also suffer when their parents’ divorce, die, or desert the family. A child whose survival, well-being, and development is threatened by one or a combination of these factors is often referred to as a “vulnerable child.” A child’s vulnerability can also be heightened by their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, or other status variables.

Across the globe, vulnerable children are at increased risk of engaging in risky behaviors and being trafficked and exploited. According to UNICEF, as many as two million children (under 18 years of age) are subjected to prostitution in the global commercial sex trade, despite the fact that the use of children in the commercial sex trade is prohibited under the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the UN Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (1). This is largely because child trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation remains to be a highly profitable and low risk criminal business (2). In addition to being trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation, children are also trafficked for purposes of labor, domestic servitude, and begging to name a few (3). In the past, the focus was largely on cross-border trafficking; however, in recent years there has been an increased focus on internal trafficking (i.e., trafficking within a country’s borders).
According to international conventions, in cases of child trafficking (under 18 years of age), no proper means needs to be established for the act of trafficking to constitute a criminal offense, because children cannot consent in these circumstances. Furthermore, whether cross-border or internal trafficking, children’s engagement in prostitution does not mean that they consented to activities like sexual exchange for money or sex against their will for the profit of a pimp, unprotected sex, and forced alcohol and/or drug use (4).

Box 1.1. Key International Definitions

Child – any person under the age of 18 years (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Human trafficking – the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children)

Child trafficking – the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in the definition of trafficking in persons (UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children). Any child under 18 years of age who is recruited or moved from one place to another to be exploited is considered trafficked, even if no deception or coercion is used.

In Kazakhstan, research on vulnerable children and the vulnerabilities of children to trafficking and sexual exploitation is virtually nonexistent; thus, there is no clear picture of the nature of the problem of child trafficking and sexual exploitation. In addition, there has been no systematic attempt to analyze the response of relevant government and child protection bodies, and nongovernmental organizations to respond to the needs of vulnerable children and trafficked and sexually exploited children.

EQUITY-FOCUSED RAPID ASSESSMENT

According to UNICEF, all children should have an opportunity to survive, develop, and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias, or favoritism. This interpretation is consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which guarantees the fundamental rights of every child, regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, physical attributes, and geographical location. In recent years UNICEF has adopted an equity-based approach to their programs and policies, and has sought to understand and address the root causes of inequity so that all children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations in society, have access to education, health care, sanitation, clean water, protection, and other services necessary for their survival, growth, and development.

Using an equity-focused approach, this rapid assessment seeks to understand the patterns of inequity in children’s lives and the influence of those inequities on their vulnerabilities to trafficking and exploitation. It also seeks to understand inequities that may exist in the child protection system and strategies of protection and support offered to vulnerable children. In keeping with an equity-focused approach, this rapid assessment analyzes data in a manner that reveals divergent patterns and outcomes among different categorize of children/youth, including vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers. By disaggregating the data based upon these three categorizations (for an explanation of each of the categories see Chapter 3), a more comprehensive overview of patterns of inequity are revealed. Findings from such an analysis can serve to inform the national policy dialogue and programme planning process, with the overall objective of improving child protection and child rights for all children.

WHY STUDY CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN KAZAKHSTAN?

The National Human Rights Centre (Ombudsman Office), with financial and technical support of UNICEF, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, and in cooperation with the International Organization of Migration (IOM), initiated this comprehensive study of vulnerable children/youth in seven urban areas in Kazakhstan.

From the outset, it was the objective that findings from this study would serve to inform and support the Government of Kazakhstan in their efforts to enhance and reform the child protection system and reduce children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation.
There are four main goals of this study:
• to learn more about the vulnerabilities of children/youth, the push and pull factors that influence their decision to leave home, and their pathways into human trafficking and sexual exploitation;
• to learn more about internal trafficking of children/youth for purposes of sexual exploitation, including trafficking routes;
• to learn more about vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth’s engagement in risky behaviors; and
• to learn more about vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth’s access to the justice and child protection systems and victim support services, and to identify gaps in the justice and child protection systems and victim support services.

Hopefully, the way the data was analyzed and this report was written will speak to many audiences, including government officials and policy makers, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations committed to addressing children’s issues and child protection, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and victim protection and support services.

REFERENCES
Chapter 2

RESEARCH DESIGN

It is methodologically very challenging to study vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth because they are a hidden population. In Kazakhstan, the challenges faced in studying this hidden population were numerous. For one, many vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth go unidentified by the child protection system, and if they have been identified are often confined in state-run residential institutions or police detention centers which are closed to the general public. Two, vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth are typically reluctant to speak about their experiences, including their traffickers, exploiters, and involvement in risky behaviors (e.g., alcohol and drug use, unprotected sex, exchanging sex for money, and deliberate self-harming and suicidal behaviors). Three, trafficking victims often fear negative reaction from others, and even retaliation from their traffickers and exploiters for speaking about their trafficking experiences.
GOAL OF THE STUDY

THERE ARE FOUR MAIN GOALS OF THIS STUDY:

• to learn more about the vulnerabilities of children/youth, the push and pull factors that influence their decision to leave home, and their pathways into exploitation and human trafficking;
• to learn more about internal trafficking of children/youth for purposes of sexual exploitation, including trafficking routes;
• to learn more about vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth’s engagement in risky behaviors; and
• to learn more about vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth’s access to the justice and child protection systems and victim support services.

The National Human Rights Centre (Ombudsman Office), with financial and technical support of UNICEF, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and in cooperation with the International Organization of Migration (IOM), initiated this comprehensive study of vulnerable children/youth in seven urban areas in Kazakhstan. It was the objective that findings from this study would serve to inform and support the Government of Kazakhstan in their efforts to enhance the child protection system and reduce children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

RESEARCH DESIGN

To accomplish the goals of this study a fairly complex research design was developed, involving in-depth interviews with vulnerable children between 9 and 17 years of age, sexually exploited girls and sex workers between 11 and 23 years of age, and human trafficking victims of all ages. The sample of vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficking children/youth were identified across various settings, including:

• NGO-run shelters for human trafficking victims
• Centers for Adaptation of Minors under the Ministry of Education
• Specialized Institutions of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior under the Ministry of Education
• Special Dispensaries for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases under the Ministry of Health
• NGOs that work with street children, sex workers, and exploited and trafficked persons

Such a research design was needed given the challenges of identifying and gaining access to such a hidden population of vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children. In the following sections, the research design, including data collection methods and instruments are explained in more detail.

STUDY SITES

In consultation with the National Human Rights Centre (Ombudsman), USAID, and UNICEF, the decision was made to conduct this research in seven urban areas in Kazakhstan, including: Almaty, Astana, Atyrau, Karaganda, Kokshetau, Shymkent, and Ust-Kamenogorsk. This decision was based upon the fact that diversity exists across Oblasts/regions of Kazakhstan in terms of population demographics, numbers of vulnerable children/youth, and patterns of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

SAMPLE

As already mentioned, the sample of vulnerable, sexually exploited, and trafficked children/youth were identified across various settings, including:

• NGO-run shelters for human trafficking victims
• Centers for Adaptation of Minors under the Ministry of Education
• Specialized Institutions of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior under the Ministry of Education
• Special Dispensaries for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases under the Ministry of Health
• NGOs that work with street children, sex workers, and trafficked persons

Sampling in each of these organizations/entities is described in the following sections.

SAMPLE IN NGO-RUN TRAFFICKING SHELTERS

There are three NGO-run trafficking shelters in Kazakhstan: NGO “Korgau” in Astana; NGO “Rodnik” in Almaty; and the NGO-run trafficking shelter in Kokshetau. The goal was to interview as many trafficked persons as possible in each of the trafficking shelters between July and September 2011. This included males and females, children and adults, and internal and cross-border trafficking victims. The goal was to interview 25 to 30 trafficked persons in each trafficking shelter, and generate a sample of 75 to 90 trafficked persons from the three NGO-run trafficking shelters.
The research team was required to make contact with each of the NGO-run trafficking shelters on a weekly basis and interview trafficking victims in the shelters. Some victims stay only one to four days in the shelters, while others stay for weeks to months. No trafficking victims were interviewed more than once.

**SAMPLE IN CENTER FOR ADAPTATION OF MINORS AND SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS OF EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVIANT BEHAVIOR**

In each of the seven urban areas there are Centers for Adaptation of Minors where street children, migrant children, and children in difficult situations are placed after they have been picked up by the police on the streets for truancy, curfew violations, having no documents, and other minor infractions. The goal was to interview 35 to 40 children in each of the Centers for Adaptation of Minors between July and September 2011. This included boys and girls between 9 and 17 years of age, both Kazakh nationals and children from other countries. The goal was to generate a sample of 245 to 280 vulnerable children from the seven Centers for Adaptation of Minors.

The research team was required to make contact with the Centers for Adaptation of Minors in each of the seven urban areas on a weekly basis and interview children in the Centers. Some children stay for only one to four days in the Centers, while others stay for weeks to months. No children were interviewed more than once.

The research team faced some problems gaining access to the Centers for Adaptation of Minors in each of the seven urban areas. In some urban areas, the Centers were reportedly closed for renovations between July and September 2011 (because in 2011, the Ministry of Education took over the Centers from the Ministry of Interior). Centers that were under renovation were temporarily closed and children that would typically be placed in the Centers were placed in other state-run institutions, such as orphanages and shelters, which made it more difficult for the research team to identify and interview this group of children. To overcome this challenge, in some of the urban areas (e.g., Almaty, Atyrau, and Karaganda) the research team also interviewed vulnerable children in the Specialized Institutions of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior. In the Specialized Institutions of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior, the research team also interviewed vulnerable children in the Specialized Institutions of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior. In the Specialized Institutions of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior, the research team worked directly with street children, sex workers, and trafficked persons. Some of these NGOs were identified as IOM partners that work with migrants and trafficked persons; while others were identified as part of a mapping exercise. The research team, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Ombudsman Office screened and identified NGOs in each of the seven urban areas that would participate in the research and support the research team in making contact with street children, sex workers, and trafficked persons.

The goal was that each of the selected/approved NGOs would support the research team to interview 20 to 25 children/youth between July and September 2011, with a particular focus on street children between 9 and 17 years of age, sex workers between 11 and 23 years of age, and trafficked persons of any age. The goal was to generate a sample of 140 to 175 street children, sex workers, and trafficked persons through NGOs.

**SAMPLE IN SPECIAL DISPENSARIES FOR SKIN AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

In each of the seven urban areas there were Special Dispensaries for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) where persons go to be tested and treated for STDs. In particular, girls from trafficking shelters and state-run residential institutions for children (e.g., Centers for Adaptation of Minors and Specialized Institutions of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior) are sent to the Special Dispensaries for testing and treatment for STDs. Many sex workers, including sexually exploited girls, also go to the Special Dispensaries for testing and treatment of STDs.

The goal was to interview 15 to 20 girls in each of the Special Dispensaries between July and September 2011. This included girls between 11 and 23 years of age that had been involved in sex work and/or were sexually exploited. The goal was to generate a sample of 105 to 140 girls from the seven Special Dispensaries for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

The research team was required to make contact with each of the Special Dispensaries on a weekly basis to interview girls being tested and treated for STDs. Some girls stay for only hours in the special dispensaries, while other stay for days, weeks or mothers. No girls were interviewed more than once.

**SAMPLE OF STREET CHILDREN, SEX WORKERS AND TRAFFICKED PERSONS WITH THE SUPPORT OF NGOS**

In each of the urban areas there were NGOs that worked directly with street children, sex workers, and trafficked persons. Some of these NGOs were identified as IOM partners that work with migrants and trafficked persons; while others were identified as part of a mapping exercise. The research team, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Ombudsman Office screened and identified NGOs in each of the seven urban areas that would participate in the research and support the research team in making contact with street children, sex workers, and trafficked persons.

The goal was that each of the selected/approved NGOs would support the research team to interview 20 to 25 children/youth between July and September 2011, with a particular focus on street children between 9 and 17 years of age, sex workers between 11 and 23 years of age, and trafficked persons of any age. The goal was to generate a sample of 140 to 175 street children, sex workers, and trafficked persons through NGOs.
Once the research began, it was learned that some of the selected/approved NGOs did have access to the population we sought to interview. Thus, some NGOs withdrew or were removed from participating in this study. The final list of NGOs that assisted in this study included:

- NGO “Zabota” (Almaty)
- Public Union “Legal Center of Women’s Initiatives “Sana Sezim” (Shymkent)
- NGO “Zhan Zholdas” (Shymkent)
- Gender Informational Analytical Center (Karaganda)
- NGO “Megapolise” (Atyrau)

The research team was required to make contact with each of the selected/approved NGOs on a weekly basis between July and September 2011 to interview street children, sex workers, and trafficked persons. No person was interviewed more than once.

**STRUCTURED IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS**

The structured in-depth interview schedule was developed after an extensive review of international literature on issues of children’s vulnerabilities and human trafficking and exploitation. The UNICEF international consultant, Dr. Robin Haarr, took the lead developing the structured in-depth interview schedule and worked with the National Human Rights Centre (Ombudsman) to ensure the questions were appropriate and sensitive. The interview schedule was originally developed in English, and then translated into Russian, Kazakh, and Uzbek for use in the field. Translated surveys were reviewed and double-checked by the National Human Rights Centre (Ombudsman), the international consultant, and the local research team (CIOM) for proper translation.

The structured in-depth interview schedule consisted of a series of open- and close-ended questions that were developed to collect a vast amount of information, including:

- Demographics, including gender, age, ethnic status, school attendance, level of education, work status, family size and living arrangements
- Childhood poverty and living conditions
- Childhood experiences with family violence, including child abuse and neglect
- History of family migration
- Reasons for leaving home and family input into the decision to leave home
- Migration routes from origin to transit and destination cities/town/villages, and length of time spent in each location
- Migration experiences, including who arranged travel, who travelled with them, who controlled the journey, and demographics of others with whom they travelled
- Exploitation and trafficking experiences, including who controlled them and how they were controlled, debt owed, working conditions, demographics of others in the same exploitative situation, and length of time trafficked.
- Escape, including how they escaped or got away from their traffickers/exploiters
- How they found their way to the shelter/center and/or support services they were receiving
- Contact with family before and after escape, and desire to return home to their family
- Status of their traffickers/exploiters, including whether they were caught and prosecuted
- Alcohol use, including whether they were encouraged or forced to drink alcohol and frequency of alcohol consumption
- Drug use, including whether they were encouraged or forced to use drugs, type of drugs used, frequency of drug use, and history of sharing needles
- Sexual behaviors, including unprotected sex and exchange of sex for money
- Deliberate self-harming and suicidal behaviors, including age at which they began self-harming and suicidal behaviors, reasons for such behaviors, and number of suicide attempts
- Contact with police and level of satisfaction with police response to their problems
- Legal problems, support with legal problems, and level of satisfaction with their legal support
- Contact with lawyers and courts, and level of satisfaction with the court’s response to their problems
- Health problems, support for health problems, and level of satisfaction with their health care
- Psychological problems, support with psychological problems, and level of satisfaction with their psychological support
- Relocation and housing problems and level of satisfaction with support with housing and relocation
- Education and job skills training
- Help-seeking behaviors

After explaining the purpose of the interview to the interviewee, researchers conducted face-to-face
interviews. Each interviewee was guaranteed anonymity and confidentiality. To accomplish this, each respondent was assigned an identification number and this number was recorded on their interview schedule and detailed interview notes form. Interviewees were informed that they could select not to participate in the interview if they did not want or could end the interview at any time (without penalty). They were also informed that they could skip any questions that they did not want to answer. Interviewees received no form of compensation for participating in this study.

In-depth interviews took on average one to two hours. Two members of the research team were involved in each interview. One researcher was responsible for asking the questions, while the other researcher was responsible for taking detailed interview notes. All detailed interview notes were sent to the research team’s main office in Almaty where the interview data was input into SPSS and Word. After data input was complete, all interviews and detailed interview notes were transferred to the Ombudsman Office where they are being stored and secured.

GEOGRAPHIC MAPPING

Geographic maps of Kazakhstan and each of the other Central Asia countries were also used in the course each interview to help the respondent recall their migration route, including their origin, transit, and destination towns/cities. The researcher responsible for conducting the interview worked with the respondent to identify their origin, transit and destination towns/cities on the appropriate maps, and then numbered them in consecutive order to properly document their migration route. The names of origin, transit and destination towns/cities, along with the length of stay in each location were also recorded on the geographic mapping form by the researcher that was responsible for recording detailed interview notes. No names were used on the maps, instead the respondents’ identification number was recorded on the geographic maps and mapping forms.

All geographic maps and mapping forms were sent to the research team’s main office in Almaty where the geographic maps were scanned and the information recorded on the mapping forms was input into SPSS. After data input was complete, all geographic maps and mapping forms were transferred to the Ombudsman Office where they are being stored and secured.

PILOT TEST AND RESEARCH TEAM TRAINING

In an effort to test the research methodology and data collection tools, a pilot test was conducted July 11-14, 2011 in Astana. The pilot test included interviewing trafficking victims at the NGO-run trafficking shelter in Astana, and children at the Center for Adaption of Minors in Astana (children were temporarily being housed in one of the city orphanages). The research team also met with doctors at the Special Dispensary for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Under the direction and supervision of UNICEF’s international consultant, Dr. Robin Haarr, the local research team (CIOM) conducted the pilot test. The pilot test provided the international consultant the opportunity to provide the local research team with intensive training in the field on how to implement the research methodology and use each of the data collection instruments. Each researcher was trained specifically on how to conduct the in-depth interviews using the structured interview schedule and the geographic maps and mapping forms. Each researcher was also trained on how to take detailed interview notes, how to assign identification numbers, and how to record the identification number on each of the data collection instruments. During the course of the field training, the international consultant monitored and evaluated the research teams’ performance and provided feedback with the goal of developing their capacities to properly implement the research methodology, use the data collection instruments, and comply with ethical guidelines.

DATA ANALYSIS

The international consultant used SPSS to analyze all of the quantitative data from the interviews, and conducted a content analysis of all the qualitative interview data. Geographic maps and mapping forms were also analyzed to assist in the process of mapping trafficking routes. In an added effort to protect the identities of all respondents, all identification numbers assigned during the research process were changed and new identification numbers were assigned to each respondent during the data analysis process.

2 During interviews of children under 17 years of age, a staff member was allowed to sit in on the interview if they requested/required.
Chapter 3

DEMOGRAPHICS AND VULNERABILITIES

This chapter describes the sample of children/youth, including their categorization as vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers. In addition, it describes the sample demographics, including places of origin and living arrangements, experiences with leaving home, and the push and pull factors that influenced their decision to leave home. For all of the analysis, important comparisons are made between vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers.
CATEGORIES OF CHILDREN/YOUTH

In-depth interviews were conducted with 571 children/youth. Each interview was read separately and was coded into one of three categories based upon the details of their story:

- **Vulnerable child** – a child (under 18 years of age) whose survival, well-being, or development is threatened by one or a combination of factors, including, but not limited to, poverty, death or desertion of parents/caregivers, severe chronic illness of parents/caregivers, alcohol and/or drug abuse by parents/caregivers, abuse and neglect of a child, physical and/or mental disability of a child, and lack of access to basic needs (i.e., shelter, education, health care, social services, etc.). The sample was specifically focused on vulnerable children that left home and are living on the streets (outside of a residential institution for children) or entered a residential institution for children in the only the past days, weeks or several months.

- **Trafficking victim** – in keeping with the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, a person is a trafficking victim if they experience one or more of the three constituent elements of human trafficking:
  - the act – recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons;
  - the means – 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;
  - the purpose – for the purpose of exploitation, which includes the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, or similar practices and the removal of organs.

- **Sex worker** – a person that renders sexual services for money and does not appear to have any of the three constituent elements in their background or pathway into sex work that would categorize them as a trafficking victim.

Interview data revealed that there is often a blurring of boundaries between vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers. In other words, many vulnerable children became trafficking victims and sex workers. Most trafficking victims were vulnerable children and most rendered sexual services for money. Finally, many sex workers were vulnerable children and were actually found to be trafficking victims. In numerous cases, the interview had to be read multiple times to understand the details of the respondents’ experiences and qualitative data had to be checked against the SPSS data set before a proper categorization could be made.

As previously mentioned, 571 in-depth interviews were conducted; however, 103 interviews (18%) were eliminated because respondents did not fall into one of the three categories: vulnerable child, trafficking victim, or sex worker. Table 3.1 reveals the characteristics of the final sample of 468 respondents, which included 259 vulnerable children (55.3%), 103 trafficking victims (22.0%), and 106 sex workers (22.6%).

Table 3.1. Categories of children and youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable children</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>55.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking victims</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex workers</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among the 103 trafficking victims interviewed 65.0% were internal trafficking victims and only 35.0% were cross-border trafficking victims (31.1% were cross-border trafficked into Kazakhstan, and 3.9% were cross-border trafficked from Kazakhstan).

Throughout this report, data is analyzed for the full sample and important comparisons are made between vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers on each of the measures; such comparisons will help policy makers and professionals to better understand children’s vulnerabilities and experiences, and how those are powerful predictors of children’s pathways into sexual exploitation, trafficking, and engagement in risky behaviors.

SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 3.2 reveals the number of children/youth interviewed in each of the seven urban areas, and the place of the interview. The table includes data for the full sample, and for the separate groups of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers.

It is important to point out that only 28.2% of trafficking victims were interviewed in NGO-run trafficking shelters; whereas, 39.8% were found through NGOs, 10.7% were interviewed in Special Dispensaries for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 9.7% in AIDS Centers, 6.8% in police departments/police rooms, and 4.9% in Centers for Adaptation of Minors. This data, along with interview data reveals that many trafficking victims were never officially identified as trafficking victims by governmental or nongovernmental organizations, despite having contact with these organizations. In fact, some child trafficking victims were found in...
the Centers for Adaptation of Minors; mislabeled as vulnerable children by the child protection system. Moreover, some trafficking victims were still in situations of sexual and labor exploitation at the time of the interview, despite their contact with NGOs and the police.

In terms of demographics, Table 3.3 reveals that 60.5% of the full sample was female, and 39.5% male. Among vulnerable children, 65.6% were male and 34.4% female; whereas, 84.4% of trafficking victims were female and 15.6% male. All of the sex workers were female.

Table 3.3 reveals the full sample ranged in age from 7 to 47 years; however, 66.7% of the full sample was between 7 and 17 years of age (a child). Vulnerable children ranged in age from 8 to 17 years, with 59.1% of vulnerable children between 15 and 17 years and 34.0% between 11 and 14 years of age. Whereas, trafficking victims ranged in age from 7 to 47 years; however, 33.0% of the trafficking victims were between 7 and 17 years of age (a child). It is important to understand that some of the trafficking victims that were 18 years of age or older were actually trafficked when they were children (under 18 years of age); thus, were actually child trafficking victims that spent a year or more in exploitation didn’t manage to escape or be rescued until they were 18 years of age or older. Nevertheless, they should still be considered child trafficking victims. (only 11 trafficking victims were over 26 years of age but were included to learn about human trafficking and their knowledge of children in similar situations).

Finally, sex workers ranged in age from 16 to 32 years of age, with the majority of sex workers between 18 and 21 years of age (68.9%). Still, however, 17.9% of sex workers were children between 15 and 17 years of age.

Table 3.3 also reveals the ethnic origin of respondents; bear in mind, however, that ethnic origin does not equate to citizenship. Among vulnerable children, the majority were ethnic Russian (54.4%), followed by ethnic Kazakh (20.5%) and other ethnic groups (12.0%). Trafficking victims were more diverse in terms of ethnicity with 31.1% being ethnic Russian, 22.3% ethnic Kazakh, 22.3%, ethnic Uzbek, 10.7% other, and so on. It is important to understand that many of the trafficking victims identified were victims of internal trafficking, not cross-border trafficking; thus, many of the trafficking victims were Kazakhstan citizens regardless of their ethnic status (see Chapters 4 and 5). Finally, sex workers were largely ethnic Russian (39.6%) and ethnic Kazakh (30.2%), followed by ethnic Uzbek (12.3%), and so on.
All respondents were asked about their educational attainment and work status. Table 3.4 reveals that for the full sample, 48.3% of respondents had an unfinished compulsory education (< 9 grades), 29.5% had a completed compulsory education (9 grades), and 19.4% had some education beyond a compulsory education (referred to as higher/vocational education). Among vulnerable children, the majority had an unfinished compulsory education (69.5%) because of their age (< 18 years of age). Among trafficking victims, as many as 30.1% had an unfinished education; only 38.8% had a completed compulsory education (9 grades) and 25.2% had some higher/vocational education. These findings reveal that as many as 1 out of 3 trafficking victims were under-educated or uneducated.

**Table 3.4. Educational attainment and work status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full sample N=468</th>
<th>Vulnerable children N=259</th>
<th>Trafficking victims N=103</th>
<th>Sex Workers N=106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest level of education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfinished compulsory education</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed compulsory education</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher/vocational education</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Work status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not working</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>83.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, regularly</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, sometimes</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In comparison, 39.6% of sex workers had a completed compulsory education, and as many as 45.7% had some higher/vocational education. Still, 14.2% of sex workers had an unfinished compulsory education.

In terms of work status, Table 3.4 shows that the majority of vulnerable children (83.8%) were not working at the time of the interview. Among trafficking victims, 36.9% were not working, while 43.7% were working regularly, and 19.4% were working sometimes. Among sex workers, the majority were working regularly (72.6%) or sometimes (23.6%). Very few sex workers reported they were not working (3.8%). Interview data revealed the main reason sex workers were not working at the time of the interview was because of health reasons (most often they were being treated for STDs).

Table 3.5 reveals the percentage of children under 18 years of age with an unfinished education. Most important, 55.9% of child trafficking victims (under 18 years of age) had an unfinished education, yet only 5.3% of these sex workers were attending school.

Among vulnerable children, 69.5% had an unfinished education and 77.6% were attending school; however, only 58.7% were attending school on a regular basis.

### INSTITUTIONALIZATION

We also asked respondents about their experiences with institutionalization. Table 3.6 reveals that 48.5% of the full sample spent time in an institution (e.g., orphanage, shelter, special school, or detention center). Because the majority of vulnerable children were interviewed in a state-run residential institution for children it is not surprising that 70.7% of vulnerable children reported they spent time in an institution. More specifically, 39.0% had spent time in a special school, 31.3% in a detention center, 20.5% in a shelter, and 8.1% in an orphanage.

In comparison, 30.1% of trafficking victims and 12.3% of sex workers reported they spent time in an institution. Trafficking victims were more likely to spend time in shelters (12.6%) and detention centers (14.6%); whereas, sex workers were more likely to spend time in orphanages (7.5%).

| Table 3.5. School attendance for children/youth under 18 years of age |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                | Full sample of children < 18 years N=313 | Vulnerable children < 18 years N=259 | Trafficking victims < 18 years N=34 | Sex Workers < 18 years N=19 |
| Unfinished education           | 211 67.4                                 | 180 69.5                             | 19 55.9                           | 12 63.2                     |
| School attendance (< 18 years) | Yes 213 68.1                              | 201 77.6                             | 11 32.4                           | 1 5.3                       |
|                                | No 99 31.7                                | 58 22.4                              | 23 67.6                           | 18 94.7                     |
| How often attend school        | Every day school is in session 158 50.5   | 152 58.7                             | 5 14.7                            | 1 5.2                       |
|                                | Only sometimes 55 17.6                    | 49 18.9                              | 6 17.6                            | 0 0.0                       |

| Table 3.6. Institutionalization experiences |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                            | Full sample N=468                          | Vulnerable children N=259                  | Trafficking victims N=103                  | Sex Workers N=106 |
| Spent time in an institution               | 227 48.5                                  | 183 70.7                                 | 31 30.1                                   | 13 12.3                     |
| Orphanage                                  | 33 7.1                                    | 21 8.1                                  | 4 3.9                                    | 8 7.5                       |
| Shelter                                    | 68 14.5                                   | 53 20.5                                 | 13 12.6                                  | 2 1.9                       |
| Special school                             | 107 22.9                                  | 101 39.0                                | 5 4.9                                    | 1 0.9                       |
| Detention center                           | 99 21.2                                   | 81 31.3                                 | 15 14.6                                  | 3 2.8                       |
PLACE OF ORIGIN AND FAMILY LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Respondents were asked about their place of origin, whether it was a city, town, or rural area. Table 3.7 reveals 59.0% of the full sample originated from cities, 22.0% from towns, and 19.0% from rural areas. The majority of vulnerable children were from cities (67.6%). In comparison, trafficking victims were more likely to come from towns (32.0%) and rural areas (22.3%), compared to cities (45.6%). Among sex workers, 50.9% were from cities, 28.3% from towns, and 20.8% from rural areas.

In terms of who respondents lived with in their place of origin, Table 3.7 reveals that as many as 41.5% of respondents reported they lived with their mother only. Only 38.2% of respondents lived with both their father and mother in their place of origin, while 12.1% reported they lived with neither their mother nor father, but other relatives. Among vulnerable children, 49.0% lived with their mother only, while 31.7% lived with both their father and mother and 12.0% lived with neither their mother nor father, but other relatives. In comparison, trafficking victims were significantly more likely to live with their father and mother in their place of origin (42.7%), whereas only 27.2% lived with their mother only and 16.5% lived with neither their mother nor father, but other relatives. Similarly, the majority of sex workers lived with both their father and mother (50.9%) in their place of origin, yet as many as 35.8% reported they lived with their mother only.

Table 3.7 also reveals respondents’ number of siblings. A significant proportion of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers reported having only 1 to 2 siblings; however, trafficking victims were slightly more likely to come from larger families with 3 or more siblings. In comparison, sex workers were more likely to have no siblings.

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Table 3.7. Place of origin, family size and living arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full sample N=468</th>
<th>Vulnerable children N=259</th>
<th>Trafficking victims N=103</th>
<th>Sex Workers N=106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Origin place of residence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>67.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural area</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who lived with in place of origin:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both father and mother</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother only</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father only</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither mother nor father, but other relatives</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived alone</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of siblings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No siblings</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 siblings</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4 siblings</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6 siblings</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 or more siblings</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
mother nor father, but other relatives. Among vulnerable children, 49.0% lived with their mother only, while 31.7% lived with both their father and mother and 12.0% lived with neither their mother nor father, but other relatives. In comparison, trafficking victims were significantly more likely to live with their father and mother in their place of origin (42.7%), whereas only 27.2% lived with their mother only and 16.5% lived with neither their mother nor father, but other relatives. Similarly, the majority of sex workers lived with both their father and mother (50.9%) in their place of origin, yet as many as 35.8% reported they lived with their mother only.

Table 3.7 also reveals respondents’ number of siblings. A significant proportion of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers reported having only 1 to 2 siblings; however, trafficking victims were slightly more likely to come from larger families with 3 or more siblings. In comparison, sex workers were more likely to have no siblings.

### EXPERIENCES LEAVING HOME

A series of questions was also asked of respondents to learn about their experiences leaving home. Table 3.9 reveals that nearly half of the vulnerable children (53.3%) reported they still lived with their parents/family; whereas, only 33.3% of trafficking victims and 15.0% of sex workers reported they still lived with their parents/family.

Table 3.9 reveals the age at which respondents left home. The majority of vulnerable children left home
between 7 and 17 years of age. Trafficking victims were most likely to leave home between 11 and 21 years of age, with 30.1% leaving home between 15 and 17 years of age. In comparison, sex workers more likely to leave home between 15 and 21 years of age, with 43.6% leaving home between 15 and 17 years of age and 37.2% left home between 18 and 21 years of age.

Table 3.9 also reveals that 20.7% of respondents reported someone encouraged them to leave home and 26.7% discussed leaving home with someone in their family. Vulnerable children were least likely to report that someone encouraged them to leave home (14.7%) or that they discussed leaving home with someone in their family (16.6%). This is because vulnerable children most often ran away from home.

In comparison, as many as 40.8% of trafficking victims reported that someone encouraged them to leave home, and 35.0% discussed leaving home with someone in their family. Interview data revealed that many trafficking victims were actually recruited to leave home (see Chapter 4 for a detailed analysis of pathways into trafficking and exploitation).

Sex workers were significantly less likely to report that someone encouraged them to leave home (16.0%), however, they were most likely to report that they discussed leaving home with someone in their family (43.4%). Interview data revealed that trafficking victims and sex workers were most likely to discuss leaving home with someone in the family because they typically left with the goal of earning money to help support their family and to find a better life – a life free of poverty, abuse, and violence.

**DECISION TO LEAVE HOME: PUSH AND PULL FACTORS**

Table 3.10 reveals the numerous factors that pushed children/youth to leave home. Vulnerable children were most likely to leave home (or run away from home) because of frequent quarrelling and fighting in the family (37.1%), because their mother or father had drug and/or alcohol problems (28.6%), because they lived with only one parent (27.8%), because the family did not provide them with the basic things needed in life, such as clothes, food, medical care, and a safe place to live (24.7%).

In comparison, trafficking victims had many more powerful push factors that influenced their decision to leave home. Trafficking victims were most likely to leave home because the family was poor (52.4%), because the family did not provide them with the basic things they needed in life (49.5%), because there were no job opportunities for them where they lived (44.7%), because there was frequent quarrelling and fighting in the family (42.7%), and because they lived in a very large family and their parents had a hard time supporting and caring for everyone in the family (35.0%). In addition, a significant proportion of trafficking victims left home because they lived with only one parent (25.2%), because they were beaten by parents or other family members (24.3%), and their mother or father had drug and/or alcohol problems (20.4%).

Sex workers also had many powerful push factors that influenced their decision to leave home. Sex workers were most likely to leave home because their family was poor (43.4%) and there were no job opportunities for them where they lived (41.5%). A significant proportion of sex workers also left home because they had a very large family and their parents had a hard time supporting and caring for everyone in the family (32.1%), their family did not provide them with the basic things needed in life (32.1%), there was frequent quarreling and fighting in the family (32.1%), and they lived with only one parent, most often their mother (26.4%).

It is important to understand that vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers do not experience only one push factor, but experience multiple concurrent push factors which influence their decision to leave home. Figure 3.1 reveals a significant proportion of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers experienced one or more of the 12 different push factors identified in Table 3.10. In fact, trafficking victims had many more push factors in their lives, than vulnerable children or sex workers. The findings in Table 3.10 and Figure 3.1
### Table 3.10. Push factors for leaving home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full sample N=468</th>
<th>Vulnerable children N=259</th>
<th>Trafficking victims N=103</th>
<th>Sex Workers N=106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family was poor</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very large family and parents had a hard time supporting and caring for everyone in the family</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family owed money to someone</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce/loss of parent(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived with only one parent (mother or father)</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>27.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not live with parents</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents divorced or someone died in the Family</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect/Inability of parents to care for children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother/father had drug or alcohol problems</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family did not provide the basic things needed in life (clothes, food, medical care, safe place to live)</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>24.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family had no place to live or lost their home</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to attend school</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family violence</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent quarrelling/fighting in the family</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>37.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beat by parents or other family members</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of job opportunities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No job opportunities for you where you lived</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

demonstrate that the lives of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers were influenced by numerous intersecting push factors; this is especially true for trafficking victims.

Table 3.11 reveals the numerous pull factors that made leaving home an attractive option for respondents. For vulnerable children, pull factors most often included the desire to live independently (40.9%). Interview data revealed this is because vulnerable children come from families with numerous problems, including poverty, family violence and conflicts, child abuse and neglect, and parent(s) with drug and/or alcohol problems. Thus, the desire to live independently is a reflection of their desire to live a life free from their families/parents’ problems. A significant proportion of vulnerable children also reported leaving home because they thought they could live a better life or higher standard of living where they were going (27.8%), they wanted to live in a large city (24.7%), and they saw leaving home as a good opportunity for them to make money (22.0%). This is not surprising given the fact that 26.6% of vulnerable children identified poverty as a push factor (see Table 3.10).

In comparison, trafficking victims identified many more powerful pull factors (Table 3.11). In particular, 75.7% of trafficking victims wanted to live independently, 72.8% thought they could live a better life or higher standard of living where they were going, 68.0% thought it was a good opportunity to make money, 63.1% wanted to live in a large city, and 48.5% saw leaving home as an opportunity to earn money that they could send home to their family. A significant proportion of trafficking victims also reported the person that recruited them to leave home told them there were a lot of job opportunities for them in the city/town they were going to (46.6%). In addition, 45.6% of trafficking victims had friends that left their town in the past and were able to earn money and send it back to their families, and 36.9% had friends that encouraged them to leave home. Interview data also revealed that friends were sometimes involved in the processes of recruiting and convincing trafficking victims to leave home.
Sex workers also identified numerous powerful pull factors, including: they wanted to live independently (84.0%), they thought they could live a better life or higher standard of living where they were going (78.3%), they want to live in a large city (77.4%), they thought it was a good opportunity to make money (67.9%), and they saw leaving home as an opportunity to earn money that they could send home to their family (54.7%). A significant proportion of sex workers also identified having friends that left their town in the past and they were able to earn money and send it back to their families (42.5%).

Figure 3.2 reveals that most vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers reported experiencing one or more pull factors. The findings in Table 3.11 and Figure 3.2 demonstrate that the decision of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers to leave home was influenced by a multitude of intersecting pull factors, and those pull factors become more numerous and powerful when someone is recruiting a trafficking victim to leave home, often with false promises.

In the sections that follow interview data is analyzed and presented offering a more comprehensive picture and understanding of the various push and pull factors, and stresses and strains that shape children/youth’s lives and influences their decision to leave home (oftentimes at a young age) and places them at increased risk of being trafficked and exploited. What the interview data reveals is that the lives of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers are extremely complex and wrought with layers of vulnerability and victimization.
The quotes included in this section are taken directly from the interviews and presented to give “voice” to this largely hidden population of children/youth. Each respondent has a unique and tragic story; however, analyzed together they reveal important patterns and understandings of the difficulties, vulnerabilities, and risks that this hidden population of children/youth faces in life; often from a very young age or birth, which as you will learn in Chapter 4 places them at increased risk of being trafficked and exploited.

**PUSH FACTOR: POVERTY**

Table 3.10 reveals that a significant proportion of vulnerable children and the majority of trafficking victims and sex workers identified poverty as one of the factors that pushed them to leave home. Interview data also revealed that many vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers spoke about growing up and living in poverty, and the stresses and strains it caused in their families and lives. Many respondents spoke about how poverty influenced their decision to leave home, often at a young age. However, when poor children/youth leave home they are in a desperate situation to find work with the goal of earning enough money to not only to support themselves, but also to send money back to help support their families. Many of these children/youth have an incomplete education and lack job skills which make them particularly vulnerable to traffickers who promise them a high paying job in another city or country. In the quotes below, one trafficking victim and one sex worker explain how poverty shaped their lives and decision to leave home.

“After the 9th grade, we didn’t have money and clothes to go to school... I have one brother and three sisters... I left my family to come work in a shop; I had to help my family. My father was fired and my mother never worked. My sister is little and my brother bakes bread and earns little money. So we sell corn, bread, and all sorts of little things... An acquaintance who I have known for three years encouraged me to leave home; they promised me a job that would pay well... I thought I could leave the job at any moment. I told them that I just wanted to earn money and then I would come back... There were many reasons for my leaving home, but the first was poverty of my family. The second was my desire to look good; all my classmates are beautiful and well dressed and I want this too.” (395, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“I left home when I was 18 years old. My grandmother gets a small pension, so we do not even have enough for coal and firewood; that was the reason why I decided to look for a job in Astana. My mother died in childbirth when I was born and my father got married and left to Germany when I was one year old. He helped us at first, but it’s been five years now since he stopped. I have nobody, but my grandmother:” (445, sex worker, female, 19 years)

Female sex workers spoke not only about how poverty influenced their decision to leave home, but also influenced their decision to exchange sex for money [prostitution]. Prostitution was perceived by girls as the only option available to them to earn money, particularly because they lacked education and job skills. Often the money earned from prostitution was used to help support their families. As two sex workers explained.

“I left home when I was 16 years old. We lived poor... I have a younger brother and sister. I left home to earn money and be well off. I became a prostitute. I didn’t leave the city, I lived in various apartments with a man who paid me... I hoped to earn much money. I would buy nice clothes and would help my brother and sister.” (204, sex worker, female, 18 years)

“I was 17 years old when I left home... Money was not enough to provide children with clothes, shoes, and food. This caused fights between my parents; my mother blamed my father for his low salary. I was the eldest of the children. I could not find a job after finishing the 9th grade; I felt as if I was a burden. I did not know what to do and how to help my family with money. I decided to leave... I wanted to live independently, buy clothes and shoes for my sisters and brother, and collect...” (395, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)
money and send it to my mother. I wanted to settle her debt... My father always said that he would abandon us, and he did it eventually.” (235, sex worker, female, 20 years)

For some children/youth, family poverty was linked to having a parent and/or sibling that was extremely ill or disabled and in need of medical treatment that the family could not afford. For instance, two female trafficking victims and one sex worker explained that they left home to earn money so that they could help to support their families and earn enough money to pay for a family members’ medical treatment and medicines. As two trafficking victims explained,

“I was 19 years old when I left home. There was not enough money in our family. My father did not work and my elder sister was very ill and needed medicines, but we did not have enough money to buy them. There was not any good work [in my home town], and I and my mother decided to go to Kazakhstan. We did it by ourselves... We all discussed us leaving to earn money to buy the medicines because the salary is higher in Kazakhstan.” (212, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

“I was 19 years old when I left home. We lived very poor and the time had come for me to get married, but my parents had no money for my dowry. So, my sister and I told our parents that we would go to Kazakhstan to work. At first our parents were against it, but then they agreed. Our mother had to look after our little brother and our father who was paralyzed after a heart seizure. Then, after a long discussion they agreed. We hoped to earn money for me and my sisters’ dowry. We also wanted to earn money to buy school clothing for our little brother because he was supposed to go to the 1st grade... Our dad was very ill and he lacked medicines and money because his pension is very low and his two sons from his first marriage had abandoned us refusing to help.” (301, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

Many children/youth that lived in poverty also spoke about growing up in a single-parent household; most often a female-headed single parent household. In the quotes below two trafficking victims explain that they left home in hopes of finding work that would enable them to earn enough money to support their single mother and siblings; however, in the search for work they became trafficking victims.

“My parents are from Uzbekistan; they live there... I didn’t have a father and my mother worked, but it was hard for her to raise three kids. I decided to help her. At that time my younger sister was going to marry and we needed a lot of money for the preparations... At first, my mother was against it, but poverty forced her to agree... I hoped to find a good job in Kazakhstan, as one of my girlfriends was working in Shymkent and she invited me to come there... I wanted to help my mother and earn money.” (297, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

Several sex workers also revealed they entered into sex worker for the sole purpose of helping to support their single mother (who in some cases was ill or disabled) and siblings. These young girls perceived it as their familial responsibility to help support their mother, and to sacrifice their own well-being and reputation for the sake of their mother and siblings. As three sex workers explained,

“I left home when I was 18 years old... I lived with my mom only; my father left us when I was two years old. My mother works at the corrugated packing factory, all this time she supported me as much as possible. Thanks to her I didn’t suffer or need anything. We lived together in Semipalatinsk in a three-room flat. We were short of money, so I decided to earn some money in Almaty by providing sexual services because there was nothing to do for me. To be honest, I can draw very well, but no one needs it today, and sex is being promoted... I discussed my leaving with my mom. I told her I’m going to leave to Almaty to earn money and study. She approved. I hoped to come back and be employed and to rent a house, and to apply to the university I needed money, so I was engaged in the sex business. I yearned to meet my fate and work to help my mother as any other girl.” (398, sex worker, female, 19 years)

“I was 18 years old when I left home. I live only with my mother and younger sister; she doesn’t go to school yet, and my mom is ill. We are poor. I want to work to pay for my mom’s treatment and prepare my sister for school. Tokmak is a small town and there are no jobs, and you can’t prostitute there because people that know me would tell my mom, and my mom wouldn’t forgive herself for this. I told my mom that I would go to Almaty to work as a sales person in a market and she let me go... I need to help my mom. My family is not large, but we need money... I didn’t leave my family, I went to earn money to support my family with buying clothes and food, and repaying our debts.” (417, sex worker, female, 18 years)

“As a girl, I was 16 years old when I left home... my family had a difficult life situation. It was difficult for my mother to feed and provide for me and my sister with all the things we needed; therefore, I went to find a job to help my mother somehow.” (307, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)
disabled person. I had to earn money to feed our family... I wanted to find a job, earn money, and buy clothes and food for my family. I wanted to support my mom so that she stopped crying at nights because of lack of money.” (284, sex worker, female, 18 years)

Other sex workers explained that they got involved in prostitution because they were single mothers and were struggling to support their child(ren). In many cases, they also had the added responsibility of supporting and caring for their mother who was ill and unable to work, and in need of expensive medicines. For instance, one sex worker revealed that she began prostituting herself not out of choice or desire, but because it was the only option she saw for earning enough money to support herself, her daughter, and her mother and still have enough money to purchase the medicines her mother needed.

“I live with my mom. In the spring I married my husband and he serves in the army, and we have a one-year-old daughter... My mother is very ill, she needs expensive medicines. I tried to find a good job, but there is no job, so I look after my daughter in the day time, and work at nights [as a prostitute]. My husband doesn’t know, and if he knew, he will kill me. But where can I find money? His parents don’t even want to hear about their granddaughter, still less about me, and I don’t think that he will come back. His parents sent him to the army on purpose so that he was far away from me. I don’t have any other option. If my husband comes back, then I will stop this [prostitution]; I am sick and tired of this myself... My mom doesn’t know anything. I tell her that I work in the night shift at the hospital and she feels sorry for me. I feel more awful because of this. I need to endure it for some time. I hope to help my mom buy medicine and recover, and then I will find a good job and everything will be different... The reason is that I need to save money for my daughter so that she won’t look for money and doesn’t suffer as I do. I need to pay a nurse and pay well at that so that she will treat my baby well.” (123, sex worker, female, 19 years)

In addition to trafficking victims and sex workers, vulnerable children also spoke about leaving home to help support their single-parent and siblings. In particular, one boy explained that he left home in search of a job that would allow him to help support his single father and siblings. As the eldest child he saw this as his familial responsibility.

“I left home when I was 14 years old... I went to my friends to Shymkent to earn money, as we lacked money for food and clothes. I wanted to help my dad; it was hard for him to support us three children. I was the eldest child in the family. My mom left us and lives separately... I didn’t hope for anything, I just wanted to earn a lot of money and for my family to begin living better... I left home because we didn’t have our own house. The house where we lived, belonged to my dad’s parents, they told us to find another place to live. I wanted to earn money to buy a house.” (275, vulnerable child, male, 14 years).

Interview data revealed that some vulnerable children ran away from an unstable home environment, influenced heavily by poverty. Some children ran away in search of the opportunity to work and earn money for food and clothes, while other children ran away to a friend’s house that they perceived as economically more stable than their own home. In the process, some children found themselves in situation where they were exploited by others. For instance, in the two quotes below two vulnerable children explained how poverty defined their lives and their decision to leave home.

“I am 16 years old. I often missed school because I didn’t want to go... We often lacked money... I lived with my mother. We didn’t have our own apartment, so we often changed our place of residence and schools; then I started missing school. We rented an apartment where we could find one... I didn’t leave the city, but I often left home for three days or more. It is my life. I don’t want to talk about it... I just wanted to walk around... I don’t look to anything; this is my lifestyle... It doesn’t matter for my mother where I am – at home or walking somewhere.” (147, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“When I was 13 years old I left home; for more than half a year I didn’t live with my parents and didn’t go to school... We had a large family and we lacked money, so my father blamed his children. He was telling us that there were too many of us and we were at fault. My girlfriend’s parents offered me to live in their place and help them work. I agreed and left home... I thought that I would be poor no longer, but I didn’t know how my girlfriend’s parents lived. I thought they were well off, but when I came, I saw that they lived worse than us. But they planned to change the situation, so I believed them... Then her parents told us that we must earn money, they told us to walk around and beg at the railway station and markets... My girlfriend and I walked around and begged for money. The girlfriend’s parents took all the money. They told me that they would save the money for me so that I wouldn’t waste it. When we came home, they checked our pockets and socks for money to make sure that we hadn’t hidden any money... I stayed with them for 6 months.” (299, vulnerable child, female, 14 years)
Vulnerable children rarely reported being removed from their homes by the child protection system because of poverty; however, a few vulnerable children spoke about being sent by their parents or other family members to the local orphanage because their parents were too poor to care them. For instance, one vulnerable child explained how he and his mother decided it was in his best interest if he went to Center for Adaptation of Minors at a time when his mother was unable to provide him with a place to live because of poverty.

“I am 16 years old; one month ago I came here [to the Center for Adaptation of Minors]. I came here by myself because there is nowhere to live for me and my mother. I went to the school director and asked her to place me in an orphanage or the Center for Adaptation of Minors; so, I came to the Center. My mother works but her salary is low. We were renting a room, but the woman renting us the room forced us out because we couldn’t pay rent... I came here by myself because there was nowhere to live... I told my mother and she agreed. I plan to live here until my mother finds a place to rent... My mother began to live where she worked and I had nowhere to live... I talked to the school director and then the police came and took me and brought me here... I wanted to leave and told this. The principal of the school where I studied helped me. She called in the police and asked them to help me. My mother comes to see me and is glad to hear from me. We want to live together, but we haven’t seen each other for a long time.” (214, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

Another trafficking victim revealed that her trafficker used the promise of a well-paying job and a life free from family violence to convince her to leave her home town for Almaty.

“There were no jobs in the settlement where I had been living. My father lost his work and my parents quarreled with each other often. I have a younger sister and she sometimes cries when our parents quarrel or when I leave home for a long time. My friend lives and works here in Almaty, she offered me that I could work here and said that I could earn good money and nobody would beat me.” (419, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

Several sex workers also spoke about the intersection of poverty, family conflicts, and violence in their families, which ultimately led them to leave home at an early age. As one sex worker stated,

“I only have my grandmother... I left because my grandmother was giving me no peace at home and it was cold at home; the house was old and all the money was spent on repairs. I was like a “Molly” and people laughed at me. Then I fell in love, he was older than me. He had a hangout, so I often stayed overnight. He is a jerk... He promised me all and I believed that I would begin to live; it’s like I run into water, but thankfully I was not drowned... Honestly, I got what I hoped for, that there is a life better than life with my grandmother. What the hell do I need with studying? I am fed up with hunger; I need money.” (197, sex worker, female, 17 years)

In addition, some female trafficking victims and sex workers revealed that their decision to leave home was because of conflicts with their parents over the fact that they became pregnant out-of-wedlock at a young age. As one trafficking victim and one sex worker explained,

“I was 15 years old when I left home... I heard nothing but criticism and fighting... I became an adult early. I had my first love when I was 14 years old, and bore my son when I was 15 years old. My mother criticized me for my pregnancy and shouted at me all the time, but I bore the child anyway.

“I left school after 6th grade because we had no money to buy books and school uniforms. My parents didn’t care if I went to school... I left home when I was 14 years old because my parents were always scolding me and there was no money at home; we lived very poor. Our relatives (aunts and uncles) were also bothering me; they asked me to return home and told me that I was wrong and that God would punish me. They also told me that I was silly. I couldn’t bear it, so I left for Osh. I lived there in my good friend’s brother’s place [a classmate from some time ago]... I told my mother and sister that I was leaving, but they thought I was joking... I thought that I could work and earn some money and would be able to buy everything... I was sick and tired that I couldn’t buy clothes like other people buy, and buy meals at school... I wanted to have such beautiful books and a school bag like everyone has.” (425, trafficking victim, male, 17 years)

PUSH FACTOR: FAMILY VIOLENCE AND CONFLICTS

Table 3.10 reveals that a significant proportion of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers identified family violence and conflicts, including child abuse and neglect, as push factors for leaving home. Interview data reveals that for many children/youth, poverty is often coupled with child abuse and neglect, and family violence and conflicts. In such situations, the decision to leave home is often grounded in both a desire to live a life free from family violence and conflicts, and to escape poverty. As one trafficking victim explained,

“I left school after 6th grade because we had no money to buy books and school uniforms. My parents didn’t care if I went to school... I left home when I was 14 years old because my parents were always scolding me and there was no money at home; we lived very poor. Our relatives (aunts and uncles) were also bothering me; they asked me to return home and told me that I was wrong and that God would punish me. They also told me that I was silly. I couldn’t bear it, so I left for Osh. I lived there in my good friend’s brother’s place [a classmate from some time ago]... I told my mother and sister that I was leaving, but they thought I was joking... I thought that I could work and earn some money and would be able to buy everything... I was sick and tired that I couldn’t buy clothes like other people buy, and buy meals at school... I wanted to have such beautiful books and a school bag like everyone has.” (425, trafficking victim, male, 17 years)
My boyfriend, the father of my child, was put in prison and I had to carry him bags with food and cigarettes. I didn’t have money because nobody helped me... When he [the child] was eight months I left him with my mother and went to work as a prostitute. I liked that I was needed and economically independent from my mother.” (202, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“When I was 18 years old I gave birth and left home. My child doesn’t have a father... I didn’t have resources to live and my mother was almost blind, and my brother studies at school. I found a nanny for my child and began to work. Could you tell me where I can earn 1,000 USD monthly? I began to work as a prostitute and had net earnings to the amount of 1,000 USD; I was pleased with my life... The essential thing for me is my daughter; she shouldn’t see it or hear about it [my work as a prostitute].” (198, sex worker, female, 21 years)

Many vulnerable children also spoke about how family violence, including child abuse and neglect, was a reality in their lives. In fact, they often ran away from home to escape and survive episodes of violence and abuse in their families. Running away is a survival and coping strategy often used by abused and neglected children.

“In our family, if you do something wrong my step-father comes up and hits. My mom used to protect me but he also beats her. I wanted to hit him once. Then, my mom began to drink. We agreed that I wouldn’t run away from home and she wouldn’t drink. In the winter, my step-father and I had a disagreement, he wanted to hit me and I ran away from home. I lived in my friends’ place, and then spent nights in the computer club... Then they found me and placed me in the orphanage for three months for missing school, and because I didn’t live at home. Then they [my parents] brought me back home and my stepfather and I began to quarrel again and there were fights again” (109, vulnerable child, male 13 years)

“I had a fight with my mother and I wanted to teach her a lesson. I wanted her to look for me. I intended to live with my girlfriend so that nobody could ‘load me down.’ I was tired that everything in my life was handled without my input and that my mother taught me how to live and then scolded me... My mother was nagging me all the time and my father had his new family. I was of no importance to anyone, so I decided to go away and give a lesson to all of them.” (302, vulnerable child, female, 13 years)

Other children/youth spoke about experiencing severe physical abuse from their parent(s) and witnessing violence between their parents. In most cases, children witnessed their father beating their mother. Sometimes the family violence was related to one or both parents’ alcohol use/abuse problems and the family violence even affected children’s ability to attend school on a regular basis. In fact, one trafficking victim revealed dealing with all three of these problems in their childhood which influenced their decision to leave.

“I had no opportunity to attend school. I lived with my parents at the end of the town and the school was located in town. My family did not have enough money and it was hardly sufficient for travelling. My father prohibited me from attending school. He had beaten me several times and my mother defended me, but he beat my mother as well... both my parents drank a lot and we did not have enough money. I could not stand the fighting anymore and I left for Almaty when I was 16 years old to help myself and my parents with money.” (424, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

A few vulnerable children revealed that the conflicts and violence in their family had escalated to the point that one of their parents killed the other parent. These children ran away from home to escape the escalating family violence. As two vulnerable children explained.

“When I was 10 years old my mom died. My grandfather, dad, and I were left. My mom died because of my dad (it is personal) and I can’t forgive him for this. I don’t obey him and can be rude and answer back, ‘Let him look at himself, he needn’t teach me, what he does is to bring various women.’ My grandfather is not bad, but doesn’t see well; at any rate, he always protects me. So, when my dad bothers me, I go away to my aunt’s place, and if she goes to work on a night shift, I go to my friend’s place; his mother works 24 hours so she doesn’t know and never minds. My dad looks for me and yells at me, I told him, ‘If you touch me again, I will leave for good’. Once he beat me. My dad always drinks in the evenings... If I had a place to go, I would go forever. I am sick and tired of everybody – that is for sure.” (124, vulnerable child, male, 14 years)

“My mom hacked my drunken dad. He beat me severely and they put her in prison; she was given 8 years. My granny and granddad took me to them. Later my granddad died because of problems with his heart. My granny blames my mom and me for this. She curses me. Sometimes I sit on the porch until night; I don’t want to go home. Sometimes I sleep at my friend’s house (he is older), and sometimes I sit in the entertainment hall... Sometimes I run to my friend and live there in an empty house. Friends bring me food and it is good for me there.” (138, vulnerable child, male, 12 years)
PUSH FACTOR: PARENTS’ DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

Table 3.10 reveals that 28% of vulnerable children, 20% of trafficking victims, and 12% of sex workers reported they left home because one or both of their parents’ had drug and/or alcohol problems. Interview data revealed the experiences of children/youth that grew up in households where one or both parents had a drug and/or alcohol problem. Many of these children/youth also revealed that their drug and/or alcohol addicted parents physically abused and neglected them; in particular, their parents did not provide them with food or there was no money to buy food because all the money was spent on alcohol and/or drugs. They also spoke about witnessing violence between their parents. Many children/youth in such situations left home or ran away from home because of their parents’ drug and/or alcohol problems, oftentimes when their parents were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and they realized that the risk of violence was imminent. Again, running away became a survival and coping strategy for most of these children/youth.

Because so many children/youth spoke about their parents’ drug and/or alcohol-related problems, I have included numerous quotes to reveal the range of experiences children/youth have with a drug and/or alcohol addicted parent(s), and their efforts to run away and escape the violence, abuse, and neglect. It is clear from the interview data that the home environments for these children/youth were unpredictable and unsafe, and many of these children/youth were regularly afraid.

“I am 11 years old. I missed school when my mother was drinking heavily... I often left home and hid in basements, and simply walked around when my mother got drunk and had fights with her friends. I was afraid of them.” (146, vulnerable child, female, 11 years)

“I ran away from my home because my dad and mom drank the whole week and they quarreled, and my dad beat me... I walked around and asked for money from people. I wanted to gather money for a bicycle... Mom promised me she would buy me a bicycle, but she drank all this money.” (443, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

“I said to my parents that if they continue to drink I will run away from home. They said they will find and punish me. When my parents began to drink I ran away. Then they started to look for me, but at that time they were sober... Sometimes there was no food at home... I often run away from home because my parents drink and they also do not love me. When they are often drunk they forget about me. I am hungry. When I am asleep they can argue and fight, then they wake me up and beat me. When it happens I usually leave the house to walk in the markets. I ask people for money. They give me money and sometimes it is enough to buy some food and some clothes. When it is not enough to buy food I used to steal... Sometimes I carried bags and cases for sellers and they paid me 100 to 200 KZT.” (455, vulnerable child, male, 9 years)

“I left home when I was 9 years old... My aunt kicked me out of the house because my mom drank and scoed... My grandmother had died and my dad re-married and left home... My mom always had a headache... It was difficult for my mother to cope with problems alone... My mom scoed me because I disobeyed and sometimes she beat me... I always thought of leaving when my mom was drinking... I ran away and hid behind the house... Once my mom was drinking and returned home late and she had been beaten.” (464, vulnerable child, male, 9 years)

“I left home when I was 15 years of age. My parents started drinking and there were men who came and drank with my parents. My parents also beat me.” (467, trafficking victim, female 25 years)

“I lived with my mother; grandmother, sister, and two uncles... My mother, grandmother and uncles drank a lot and cursed. The uncles fought and sometimes they beat me... My mother drank and left us. She always drinks. We had not seen our mother for more than one month; she left us and drank a lot somewhere. There was no light or anything to eat at home.” (122, vulnerable child, male 9 years)

“I left home when I was 9 years old... I left home because my dad used to drink a lot and sometimes he beat me... I wanted to live well without my dad, but my mom didn’t want to get divorced, so I decided to leave home to make them divorce and because my dad used to beat me.” (276, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

“I have my mother; step-father, and a younger brother. My mother and step-father drink vodka. We often have nothing to eat. I didn’t run away from home, I only came to sleep and during the days my friend and I walked around and begged for money to buy food... I want to eat frequently and wear nice clothes... Yes, I have a friend like me with whom I walk around and beg for money and food. He doesn’t want to go to school. I thought that people would give us money and we could buy food and vodka for my mother and step-father. When I don’t buy vodka my stepfather bitterly scolds me... I thought that if I would bring money home they wouldn’t beat me. I would...
Some of the children/youth revealed that a family member or family friend intervened in their lives and attempted to protect them from the abuse and neglect of their alcohol and/or drug addicted parents. As three vulnerable children and two trafficking victims explained:

“My mom and dad divorced and I left home because they drank. I didn’t want to go with my dad from cellar to cellar. It became known at school and my friend’s mother decided to take me to live with them, and she said it would be good in the orphanage... My step-mother and dad decided to send me to the orphanage. My dad was always drinking and I was afraid to be left outdoors.” (465, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

“I didn’t go away anywhere, but used to run away from home to my friends or my grandparents’ place... We had a good family before, but then my mom began to drink. She drank heavily with her friends at her work and at home, then my dad began to drink too; they drank heavily together. I began to run away from home and lived in my grandparents’ place. Then my grandparents forced my dad to stop drinking and brought him to live in their house, but they couldn’t force my mom to stop drinking. My mom lived alone until she died of alcoholism. My dad has received treatment and doesn’t drink now. I stopped running away from home. My dad has a girlfriend now and she is good and doesn’t drink... I relied on my grandparents, and I hoped that my mom would be able to give up drinking, but she died... I didn’t leave home, but used to run away to my grandparents’, when I was sick and tired of drunken parents.” (112, vulnerable child, male, 12 years)

My mother, grandmother and uncles drank a lot and cursed... My mother brought me and my sister to my mother’s friend. We had been living at the house of my mother’s friend the whole summer... I helped her to clean the house and washed the dishes. My mother’s friend gave me some meals and their children helped me with my lessons. My mother’s friend has four children. Sometimes they scolded me when I behaved disobediently... I did not miss school and studied well. I did not leave the house. We lived in such places where our mother brought us to... The police came to the house of my mother’s friend and took me and my sister. We went to the police department and then were brought here [Center for Adaptation of Minors].” (122, vulnerable child, male, 9 years)

“I don’t remember my family because of all the stress. We had an alcoholic family, my mom and dad drank and there were often fights at home, sometimes they even beat us. My grandma saved

“When I was 5 years old my father left my mother and we moved near to where my grandmother lived... Sometimes my father visited us; he wanted to come back, but then left again. My father used drugs, he was a drug addict. He had many friends that also used drugs... They [my father and his friend] even fought with each other. My father started to use drugs when I was born; he doped up a lot. Then my father left us forever and my mother ruined herself by drinking. She often locked me at home, but I ran away. I spent the night at my friend’s house and the day selling vegetables. I helped one woman I met in the bazaar. In the morning, I came back home, put on my clothes, took the books and went to school. I always went to school, never missed lessons. My mother was looking for me and when she found me she used to drive me into the house and never let me go anywhere... I often ran away because I didn’t like to stay at home. My mother was always drunk, almost every day. She shouted at my grandmother. My grandmother worked and my mother didn’t. I witnessed a lot of conflicts between my mother and father since my childhood, and between my mother and grandmother. Sometimes, I have even seen the fighting in my dreams.” (405, vulnerable child, female, 13 years)

“I just run away from home for one to two weeks... they [my parents] do not notice my absence because they drink heavily. All the money they earn is spent on alcohol. If I do not take money from them, they will drink it. Sometimes I go to my granny in the village; she is good but she makes me go to school. My friend invites me to live with him, his Dad is an invalid and they do not have enough food... I do not have any hope, I just have a dream that one day I will wake up and see that my parents are not drunken and it is clean at home. When I am 18, I will leave them.” (143, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

“I left home when I was 16 years old... My father drank a lot and... he beat me. I was sick and tired of the quarrels and mackeries. I had to run away from home and stay overnight at the house of my friends. I am tired of this; I needed silence, understanding, and empathy. I could not live at home anymore. I decided to run away from home... My mother was opposed to my decision. She wanted me to live at home and study. I was tired of being humiliated by my father... I wanted to find a job, study, and help my mother with money.” (239, sex worker, female 19 years)
Other children/youth were not as lucky; when their alcoholic parents could no longer care for them there were people in their lives that were ready to exploit them. As one vulnerable child explained, not only was her single mother an alcoholic, but she was abandoned by her father and suffered the loss of a grandparent who was an important caregiver. The child protection system intervened in her life, but ultimately failed to protect her. When she was interviewed she was in one of the Special Institutions of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior, despite the fact that she was the victim of abuse, neglect, and sexual exploitation.

“My mother has been drinking since my birth. Sometimes my father visits me once a week. At first he didn’t give me anything, but now he gives me money, clothes and food. He cannot take me with him because he has his own family... When my mother did not drink she had work. Everything was all right until my grandfather died when I was 13 years old... After my grandfather died my mother started to drink more. There was nothing to eat at home and it was cold. I went to live at the house of my friend who lives nearby and we attended the same school. The mother of that girl knew about my situation and she permitted me to live at their house. I had been living there for one month, but then I went back home on the order of the commission, but my mother started to drink again and she had hallucinations. I was placed in a foster home and my mother was transferred to the nongedispensary. It was difficult for me to live there [in the foster home] and I left [ran away]. Food was bad and I was treated poorly. The mother of my friend and her boyfriend offered me to go to their house, and I did... They asked me to give them my house documents and for my grandmother to write a letter of attorney. They had been making me drunk and raping me. I wanted to go back home because they frightened me, but I stayed there for one month. After the documents were signed they let me go. Since then, they visit me very often [at the school for children with deviant behavior].” (339, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

Other children/youth revealed that in the process of running away or leaving home to escape the abuse and neglect from their alcohol and/or drug addicted parents, they became victims of human trafficking. In the quotes below two girls tell how they were trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation. The first girl was trafficked to the United Arab Emirates by a family friend, and the second girl was trafficked by a stranger into sexual exploitation in Karaganda. The two quotes do not speak directly to the girl’s trafficking experiences, however, they do reveal how having an alcohol and/or drug addicted parent(s) and growing up in a violent and abusive household made them particularly vulnerable to traffickers and exploiters.

“My mother’s friend offered me to earn money working as a nanny in the United Arab Emirates. Our family was so poor and my mother often drank, so we did not have money. My mother’s friend promised me that I would return home soon and earn a lot of money. I wanted to leave home as quickly as possible to escape the drinking and to live a new life... My mother was happy that I could earn money by myself... I wanted to earn money and treat my mother for alcoholism... I also wanted to change my environment and to see the good life... I was just 14 years old.” (306, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“I left home when I was 17 years old... I didn’t want to live with my parents because they always scolded me throughout my entire life. I was born in Temirtau and each third person there was imprisoned and every second was a drug addict, and my father belonged to the first and second categories, and my mom was an alcoholic. I lived with my granny most of my life, but I was fed up with this dark and boring city and decided to leave for Karaganda with two other girls, because there are more opportunities. I couldn’t see these drunkards anymore. My friends were in the same situation... I discussed leaving with my grandmother. She always support- ed me, and she did this time. My parents still do not know where I am or what happened to me; they are not interested. I always talked to my friends about it, and we all made this decision and supported each other. We were eager to leave this dark town and we hoped to find our place in the sun in Karaganda. There are more job opportunities and we thought we would live like other people.” (408, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

**PUSH FACTOR: DEATH OF PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS**

Table 3.10 reveals that as many as 20% of vulnerable children, 17% of trafficking victims, and 12% of sex workers reported that the death of one or both of their parents/caregivers made them particularly vulnerable. Some of the children we interviewed revealed that after the death of one of their parents, the other parent struggled financially and/or developed alcohol problems. In some cases, the living parent...
A sex worker explained that after the death of her grandmother (primary caregiver) she was alone, depressed, and desperate to find a way to earn money to support herself. At the urging of a friend she began prostituting herself. She recognized that she had no one to discuss her problems with, and saw prostitution as her only option.

“All my life I lived with my granny. My mother gave birth to me when she was 18 years old, but then she went to the North to earn money. Earlier she sent parcels, but she has not sent any parcels for the past five years. I do not know whether she is alive or not. Two years ago my granny died; she was my support, so I was left alone. We lived poorly, but my granny loved me very much; I was happy. When she died, the world crashed down. I had to fire the furnace in our small home which was on the left bank, but I had no money. My aunt wanted to send me to the orphanage, but there are people with hearts of gold. I was offered an option. It is no secret that I did not like this the first time, but they took care of me. I should thank our pimp woman. I left that small house and moved to a flat where I live with girls now... I had a neighbor who advised me of this. She was 19 years old. We spent our childhood together and we went to school... They just explained that I could earn money with them. I could repair that small house and continue my studies... I had nobody to discuss it with... I had not any hope, I just cried. Everything was like in a fog. Now I understand that I had no other way.”

(141, sex worker; female, 17 years)

Some children/youth explained that when their parents died they were placed in the home a relative that did not provide them with the love and support that they needed from a caregiver. As one trafficking victim explained,

“I did not know my parents; they died when I was still a very little boy. I lived with my father’s relatives. My uncle has many of his own children, eight persons, and I always felt unrelated. I always managed the hard work around the house and they often shouted at me, and if something was missing in the house they all thought it was me who stole it. I wore old used clothes and I was ashamed to go to school.”

(457, trafficking victim, male, 16 years)

In many cases, by the time the child turned 16 years of age, the relatives that took him/her in after the death...
of his/her parent(s) were anxious for them to leave home and support themselves. Despite their desire to attend a university, their relatives were unwilling to support them and they were forced to start working at a young age to support themselves; however, without job experience and job skills and lacking a higher/vocational education, they fell victim to traffickers.

“I have never seen my father and my mother died when I was 10 years old. My aunt took me; damn her! She had her own two children and I was a burden for her. She never gave me the money that the government paid me as an orphan. I studied well and asked my aunt to let me go to college. I was pleased when she placed me in the college, but she told me, ‘That’s it, now you owe me to the grave.’ So I came to Ust-Kamenogorsk... I discussed leaving with my aunt, but she told me that I will die without her. I don’t hope for anything even now, even for myself... I thought of only one thing and that was to leave that damned place. I knew that I can find a job, as I am young... My aunt used to beat me... When I was 16 years old I fell in love with an adult man from Ust-Kamenogorsk and that is why I set my mind on moving to there. I wanted to live alone so that nobody could tell me that I am a freeloader.” (196, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“I left home when I was 16 years old... I did not enter the university since I could not pay for my studies. I lived with my relatives [mom’s sister] from my childhood. I don’t remember my parents; they were killed in a motor accident. My relatives asked me to look for a job... They were happy when I left the house... They had five children, but only my aunt worked. My uncle drank and did not work... I told everybody that I would go soon and they told me that it would be better for me to go as soon as possible... I hoped to find a good job, earn money, and enter the University since I studied very well at school. I wanted to arrange my life... I was tired of living in a family where everybody humiliated me and seldom praised me... I had to wash the floor in other houses just to get money for my graduation assembly; they [my aunt and uncle] refused to give me money.” (441, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

Numerous children/youth that were interviewed revealed not only the loss of their parents during their childhood, but also the loss of their grandparents who served as their main caregivers following the death of their parents. As revealed in the quote below, such households can be difficult for some children as they suffer multiple losses, particularly the loss of the primary and stable caregiver in their lives. Sometimes the caregiver that remains living is not suited to care for the child; however, there is no one to intervene on behalf of the child.

“When I was two year old my mom was killed. No one could find her for a week, and when she was found her face was impossible to recognize. My father thought I was not his daughter, so he didn’t want to take me, and I lived with my grandparents and my aunt. Three years ago my grandma died with cancer and my granddad started to drink and he became very nervous and could break something. My granddad drinks... Now my aunt lives with a man and her children live with her, and I live with my granddad. My aunt comes and goes away when my granddad drinks because he is not quite right in the head. My aunt stopped drinking because she’s got AIDS... When my granddad gets his pension he drinks away everything and then gets into debt. When my grandma was alive she worked and everything was ok, now everything is bad... When my granddad was drunk he thought I was his daughter [that is my aunt]. He didn’t love her [my aunt] and always started to drive me out of the house, and I didn’t leave because I was afraid... I told everything to my granddad’s sister and when she came she swore at my granddad and brought food, clothes, and toys... I didn’t leave, I was afraid... My granddad registered a benefit in order so he could get money for me and he got guardianship only because of this. We had a lot of debts and my granddad always told me that everything went bad because of us children and that we didn’t have enough money for everything. He didn’t understand that he drank everything away.” (68, vulnerable child, female, 12 years)

**PUSH FACTOR: DIVORCE**

Interview data revealed that children/youth also spoke about the vulnerabilities they experienced as a result of their parents’ divorce and the re-marriage of one or both parents. For many children, divorce changed their lives; in some cases for the worse. Many vulnerable children revealed that after their parents’ divorced their lives became unstable. Many children spoke about living with their single mother after the divorce and experiencing poverty. Some children revealed that after their parents’ divorce they had to move on a frequent basis (from apartment-to-apartment and city-to-city) as their mother looked for work and affordable housing, and sometimes they lived for short periods of time with extended relatives or family friends. Other children spoke about living with one of their parents and a step-parent and having contentious relations with the step-parent, resulting in their leaving home or running away from home. Children/youth that ran away or left home after their parents’ divorce were at increased risk of being trafficked and exploited. As one trafficking victim and one sex worker explained,

“I left home when I was 17 years old. I left for my grandmother’s place. My parents divorced and...
that was bad. I left because of conflict with my step-father. My mother sent me to my grandmoth- er and my grandmother sent me to the shelter. Then, my mother took me back, but I ran away to my female friend and then my grandmother again. This lasted for two years.” (458, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“I left home when I was 15 years old... I lived with my mother and step-father, but I don’t have any family because my mother doesn’t need me. I don’t remember my father, though he lives in my town. He told me that I was my mother’s sin and he had nothing to do with me. My mother lives with my step-father and only takes care of herself... I left home to live in my girlfriend’s place. Her parents drink and they don’t care who lives in their place; they treated me well... I was hopeless. I realized that I was alone in the world. Even my mother doesn’t need me. Nobody believes in me. Why was I born?” (203, sex worker, female, 16 years)

**PUSH FACTOR: SEXUAL ASSAULT/RAPE**

Although sexual assault/rape was not identified as a push factor in Table 3.10, interview data revealed that sexual assault/rape was a push factor that increased girls’ vulnerabilities to trafficking and sexual exploitation. Numerous girls spoke about being sexually assaulted and raped during their childhood, either by a stranger, acquaintance, or relative. Many girls left home after they were sexually assaulted/raped because their parent(s) either didn’t believe them or blamed for them for the sexual assault/rape. At the same time, these girls were suffering psychological traumas as a result of the sexual assault/rape, including feelings of despair and shame. Some girls reported that people in their community knew what happened to them and were gossiping, and they understood that the loss of their virginity was going to affect their prospects for marriage in future. As one sex worker explained,

“I left home when I was 15 years old... I do not have parents. I lived with my relatives in Turkestan... I ran away because I had been raped and my relatives treated me ill. I left the school. I wandered in the railway stations but people looked at me as if I was a beggar. Investigation had not resulted in anything. I had been ashamed anyway. People from my town do not understand this and nobody would marry me... I hoped that somebody would help me with living and work... I left home because I had been raped and my relatives disgraced me.” (234, sex worker, female 17 years)

For these various reasons, girls that were sexually assaulted/raped left home; however, lacking social support, money, education, and job skills they were at increased risk of being trafficked and sexually exploited. In the quotes below three trafficking victims talk about being sexually assaulted/raped during their childhood; two of these trafficking victims were sexually assaulted/raped by their father.

“My father used beat my mother and me as well. He had tried to rape me twice, but my mother defended me and he was beating her until she was bloody. I could not stand the continuous fighting anymore and I left for Almaty to help myself and my parents with money... I wanted to help my mother with some money, who had by that time become an old, ill woman beaten by my father.” (424, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“When I was 15 years old my dad raped me after he was released from prison. He was intoxicated on alcohol and drugs... He began to take revenge on me and sold me for intimate connections. I was a prostitute and had to do everything they ordered me to do.” (444, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

“I left home when I was 15 years old because I didn’t have money to live on. It was very difficult. I worked till late in a shop and drunken men always accosted me, and twice I was robbed. I had to pay as if it was me who stole the money. I worked there for almost one year, but after the second robbery I was beaten up and dragged through the dirt. Then I sat at home. I got tired of this house and everybody who lived there, so I started to work and go to discos. In 2010, I was raped after the disco and I lost the meaning of life, and didn’t understand what I lived for and why it happened to me. Sorry, but I don’t want to talk about it. Only my mom knows about it and we didn’t write any applications... I told my mom that I couldn’t live in this town anymore. It reminds me of everything bad that happened to me. So, I decided to go to Almaty for work... I just wanted to forget everything, I didn’t care what could happen to me... I didn’t leave my family, but my town. I didn’t want to see anyone, I hate this city and myself;” (383, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

For other girls, the sexual assault/rape was part of their pathway into sexual exploitation and prostitution.

“I left home when I was 14 years old... I have not seen anything good in my life; there were only drunken parents, fights, and quarrels. One of the alcoholics raped me when I was 13 years old. He made me drunk a lot and in the morning he said that I offered to make sex with him on my own. He gave vodka to my parents and they beat me; they believed him [that I offered him sex]. I do not need them... I hoped that nothing bad would happen to me anymore. That bastard had been raping me for a year... He gave me...”
sweets to prevent me from telling anybody... I was beaten and I was sick and tired of violence from every side.” (194, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“My parents went to a New Year’s party and I was home alone. At night my step-brother came and raped me. He was 20 years old. He threatened and insulted me, so I kept silent; he said he would persuade my mother that I had thrown myself at the head of him and that I wasn’t a good girl. Then he had been forcing me to have sex with him for half a year. When I told my mother, she didn’t believe me and my step-father convinced her that his son couldn’t have done this; that I was worthless. They had a terrible fight and they forced me out by complaining. I left home to live in my girlfriend’s place.” (203, sex worker, female, 16 years)

“One day when a cow got lose I went to look for it, but it was dark. When I headed off to the field behind the village I saw guys whom I knew, four of them, and they were drinking vodka. They seized me and raped me, but the case wasn’t passed to the court because they managed to buy everyone off, so my guardians took 1,000 USD from each of them. So, my adult life started and I was ashamed to go to school after that, but I had only one year of school left.” (410, sex workers, female, 18 years)

Other girls that were sexually assaulted/raped found someone that listened to their story and was willing to support them and contact law enforcement authorities. This support may have reduced the girls’ risk of being trafficked and sexually exploited; however, we don’t know at this stage, we would need to follow up with the girls as they grow older and learn what impact the sexual assault/rape had on their lives. As one vulnerable child explained,

“I was raped; the sex was unsafe... I don’t want to have sex; I hate men. I will never have sex.” (205, vulnerable child, female, 16 years). When asked about the person that forced her to have sex, she replied, “I don’t want to answer your stupid questions, but I won’t cover it up.” Two other vulnerable girls talked about being raped at a party.

“I was 15 years old. It was a birthday of my friend where adult boys and girls had been. A guy who was 20 years old raped me. I struggled with all my force, but I could not manage him. He infected me with syphilis. Now I am registered at the dispensary and come with my mother to be examined. At first I did not tell my mother anything, but then I had to tell everything. I was very ashamed.” (201, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

“I am 16 years old... My girlfriend invited me to a party where I was given something to drink; I don’t remember anything. I was raped by several men. When I came to my senses and got home, my mother forced me to go to the police and submit a complaint. I was examined and it was proven that they gave me an infection. Now, I am receiving treatment; after the treatment I will go back home. My parents moved to Ust-Kamenogorsk to avoid disgrace. We took the complaint back because we were threatened and got paid.” (205, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

Some vulnerable children also reported being sexually assaulted or raped by a family member or step-parent. As one girl explained,

“My mother recently started to live with her boyfriend; before that he used to come to us as a guest. On weekends my mother and me usually cleaned our apartment and went to the shop to buy some products. On Sunday, my mother decided to go to the market and asked her boyfriend to go with her, but he refused saying that he felt very bad. I wanted to go with her; but he [the boyfriend] told my mom that this was the only day off and that it was better for me to stay home. So, my mother left me at home. After 10 minutes he seized me and dragged me to the kitchen; I was shouting and he punched me. Shutting my mouth he was rubbing his penis against me. He was very heavy and he leaned all his weight on me. After that he led me to the bathroom and washed me. He threatened that if I say to my mother about that, next time he would hurt me more. Then he went to sleep and I opened the door and ran away. I met my mother and told her about everything, but she did not believe me and hit me across my face. I ran away as fast as possible and did not listen to my mom shouting. I was crying near some other house and I had decided not to come back home. I went to my aunt’s house and her neighbor said that her family went away for the holidays. So, I was standing right in the street alone at night. I went to beg near the church to collect some money for food. I slept in the yard of the kindergarten. The next morning, I came back to the church to beg because I needed to find some money... Then I met my classmate and told her everything. She invited me to her home. Together we told about that to her mother... she called the police and they promised to help her... I ran away because I was scared and offended: I was afraid.” (448, vulnerable child, female, 12 years old)

**PUSH FACTOR: LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Table 3.10 reveals that 45% of trafficking victims and 41% of sex workers identified the lack of job opportunities in their home towns as a push factor for leaving home. Interview data revealed that in most
cases, trafficking victims and sex workers migrated to urban areas where they believed there were more job opportunities and that they would have an easier opportunity to earn money to not only support themselves, but also send money back to help support their families. As four sex workers revealed,

“I was 19 years old when I left home... I lived with my mother. My mother and I have neither a job, nor money in Chu. I didn’t want to sell drugs, so I came to Almaty to help my mother. We lacked money, although I had almost everything. I decided to go to a big city because I wanted to find a job on arrival and help my mother.” (354, sex worker, female, 19 years)

“I left home when I was 18 years old. In the town where I lived [Zharkent] there were no prospects for life, jobs, or a good family... Zharkent is a small town and finding a job is hard; they pay little but demand you work hard. My parents and I discussed it and decided that I should got to Almaty to study and work, and that part of the money I earn I would send to my parents.” (414, sex worker, female, 20 years)

“I was 18 years old when I left home. In Ushtobe there are no jobs and I don’t like living there; there is no place to have fun and relax. My parents offered me to graze livestock, but I didn’t want to. So, when I finished school I decided to go to Almaty to work there... My parents asked me not to leave them, but I didn’t care. I didn’t want to live there [in Ushtobe]... I wanted to come and live well, have fun, find a good job, and earn much money.” (355, sex worker, female, 19 years)

“I was 18 years old when I left home. In Fergana there are no jobs and my family is large. I have two brothers and three sisters; my sisters are little, they are 10, 11 and 12 years old, and my brothers are adults and they work in Russia in construction. I decided to help my parents, so I came to Almaty to earn money... I told my parents that I would go to Almaty and not to worry... I wanted to come and work, buy whatever I want, live independently, help my family, and for everything to be alright.” (353, sex worker, female, 18 years)

PUSH FACTOR: FAILING OF THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

Interview data revealed that some vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers spoke about the failings of the child protection system in their lives. In particular, they spoke about a child protection system that failed to treat them as victims and failed to protect them from their parents/caregivers and other relatives that were abusing and neglecting them. In addition, they revealed that the child protection system treated their running away as deviant behavior versus recognized it as a survival and coping strategy used to by children experiencing family violence and conflicts, child abuse and neglect, and other family problems, as well as girls that were sexually abused/raped. Children/youth also revealed that the child protection system sometimes returned them to their abusive parents with little or no intervention or monitoring, and the only option they had was to run away or leave home again.

In some cases, the child protection system even released children from the institution to a relative who did not necessarily have the best interest of the child in mind. Some children/youth revealed that their relatives treated them poorly (in comparison to their birth children), took the child allowance that they received from the government, and exploited them for labor. For instance, one sex worker revealed how the child protection system failed to protect her and released her to her aunt and uncle who abused and exploited her for labor for years. While the quote does not speak about her pathway into sex work, it does reveal that her early childhood experiences involving an alcoholic mother, death of her father, institutionalization, abuse and neglect, and exploitation by her aunt and uncle were part of the pathway into sexual exploitation (in a later section this young girl reveals that she was also raped by a group of four young men).

“Everything was alright until my mom began to drink and lead a dissolute life. She had new friends, alcoholics. She worked as a painter in construction and after work she used to drink, so she became an alcoholic. My dad had lung cancer and he was very ill. He always looked after my brother and me. He died when I was six years old. My mom became an alcoholic and she was deprived of her parental rights. My brother and I went to the orphanage. Half a year later, my uncle and his wife, who was a mean woman, took me from the orphanage and separated me from my brother. I didn’t want to go, but I was taken. I had known my relatives for a long time and when they took me from the orphanage they promised me a good life, school, clothes, and accommodations...When I came home, at first everything was alright, they gave me clothes, food and registered me in school. I began to go to school. My aunt was a very mean woman and she never loved me. I lived quiet well for a year, but after my sister married and left for another village my hard labor started. My aunt didn’t allow me to call her ‘mom.’ They began to exploit me. I milked cows, carried water by two big buckets, chopped wood, cleaned the house, and cooked; but there was no gratitude, they didn’t even give me pocket money. When I wanted chewing gum or a sweet I had to steal it. I couldn’t buy anything in school. I also had to take...
care of my sister’s daughter. When I didn’t obey or didn’t do something they beat, scolded, and often cursed me. Our neighbors were kind people, sometimes I helped them look after their kids and they gave me food and encouraged me. When my aunt kicked me out I spent nights in their house. After all those fights and beatings I left home for good. I went to our neighbors and this young couple sheltered me in their house. My grandma came twice to order me to chop wood and she didn’t even offer me to return. My aunt called me names and she refused to give me my birth certificate, but I needed it to receive my passport when I was 16 years old. She [the aunt] tried to sell us the birth certificate; such a mean woman. The young family took the birth certificate from her through the Akimat [the local government] and after that they formalized guardianship over me. I began to live happily; I went to school regularly and dressed clean.” (410, sex worker, female, 18 years)

PULL FACTOR: DESIRE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

Table 3.11 reveals that 41% of vulnerable children, 76% of trafficking victims, and 84% of sex workers identified the desire to live independently as a pull factor for them to leave home. In addition, interview data revealed that children/youth reported leaving home because they wanted to live independently, free of their parents’ control. As one trafficking victim explained, “I left home just to get rid of my parents’ control. I wanted freedom... I was tired of all of the taboos of my parents” (300, trafficking victim, female, 20 years). In addition, a sex worker stated,

“I lived with my mother and father. There were no scandals, but I decided to leave them. I wanted to live a life of independence... My father doesn’t know what I do. I wanted freedom, independence, and to taste all delights of life and deny myself nothing. I like adventures. I always have thoughts in my head and my work gives me adrenaline. I like it. Of course, I want to have a lot of money!... I have comfortable capital in my bank account.” (199, sex worker, female, 20 years)

In most cases, many of these children/youth’s lives were complicated by poverty, family violence and conflicts, child abuse and neglect, parents with drug and alcohol problems, divorce, and/or death of parents/caregivers. Thus, the desire to live independently was not a necessarily a selfish act, but more so a statement that they wanted to live a life independent and free from the problems facing their parents and family. As one trafficking victim explained,

“I left home when I was 17 years old. I wanted to earn money and my friend offered me to work as a waitress in a restaurant. It is considered shameful in our town, so we went to Karaganda... I discussed leaving with my aunt... I told her the truth, that I wanted to earn money and without an education I would only be able to work as a waitress or seller, and if somebody saw they would criticize me. She understood me and supported me... I just wanted to be more independent and not to feed on my relatives; they have their own children... I wanted to find myself and understand who I am and what I live for.” (393, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

Sometimes the desire to live independently was grounded in the fact that they did want to burden their parents with their problems, such becoming pregnant out-of-wedlock at a young age. As a sex workers revealed,

“I left home when I was 18 years old... I was pregnant, I did not want to frustrate my mother and burden her with the delivery of a child. I did not know how she would behave knowing that I was pregnant; I was afraid to tell her. I thought she would not be happy because she already had two children... and our material situation was difficult. I decided to leave home and to solve my problems on my own... I wanted to deliver and bring up my child. I wanted to live independently without reproaches and to work and maintain my child... I was afraid that my mother would know about my pregnancy and would not accept my child.” (238, sex worker, female, 20 years)

PULL FACTOR: FRIENDS ENCOURAGED YOU TO LEAVE HOME

Table 3.11 reveals that 13% of vulnerable children, 37% of trafficking victims, and 15% of sex workers had friends that encouraged them to leave home. Interview data revealed that trafficking victims, in particular, were deceived by friends. In most cases, their friends were actually involved in recruiting and trafficking young girls into sexual exploitation. Often girls were lured to migrate by their friends with the promise of a good job that would enable them to earn money to help support their families. In the quotes below, three trafficking victims revealed how they were deceived by their friends.

“My friend called me and offered me to go to Shymkent to work in a café as a waitress. I had known her for two years; we lived together in one yard in Tashkent. She said that it was a good opportunity to earn a lot of money... My mother dissuaded me at first, but I said that I would not be there too long, just for three months... I hoped to earn money and to help my family to overcome their difficulties.” (307, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)
In addition, one male trafficking victim revealed that it was a neighbor that recruited him to leave Uzbekistan and travel to Shymkent for work; however, once he got to Kazakhstan he found himself trafficked into labor exploitation.

“My parents were born in Uzbekistan in a village near to Samarkand... When summer came our neighbors were going to Shymkent to find a job... They were going there for a few days and offered my father to take me with them so that I could see the city. At first, my father didn’t allow me to go, but I talked him into agreeing... This was our neighbor who had been in Shymkent and was telling me how beautiful it was there. He told me that I could see the city and enjoy myself... My parents packed my bag, they gave my certificate of birth to the neighbor so that we could go through the border together, and told me to be careful. I hoped to have a rest and see the city... I went because I wanted to see how people live in another country, as I had heard that there are many entertainment places there.” (298, trafficking victim, male, 16 years)

PULL FACTOR: HISTORY OF MIGRATION FROM THE TOWN

Table 3.11 reveals that as many as 46% of trafficking victims and 42% of sex workers identified seeing others in their town migrate and being able to earn money and send it back to their families as an important pull factor in their decision to leave home. As one sex worker explained,

“I was 16 years old when I left home. We lived in a village and were an average income family. Most of the inhabitants [of the village], both men and women, left to Kazakhstan to earn money. I thought there are many high paying job opportunities [in Kazakhstan], even for uneducated people. You can work as a waitress or a housekeeper in a good restaurant... I wanted to help my parents and to prove that I am with the best. Like many other girls I wanted to meet my love, the rich person I dreamed of... I hoped to find a high paying job and to help my family, and to live a careless life. I wanted to dress pretty, to find a rich man, and to prove to everyone that I can attain success as well.” (407, sex worker, female, 18 years)

PULL FACTOR: FAMILY MEMBER MIGRATED

A significant proportion of trafficking victims and sex workers identified having a close family member that migrated to another country or another region of Kazakhstan for work as one of the pull factors that influenced their decision to leave home. As one sex worker explained,

“I lived with my mom and two brothers since I was a child. My dad died in the war in Afghanistan in 1994. My older brothers went to earn money; one of them to Russia, and the other to Astana. They used to send money, but we could buy only food, and couldn’t afford clothes. I had to work. My friend told me through the internet, that I could earn a lot of money and have fun. The job was in one of the hotels in Tokmak. It didn’t frighten me because I needed money. I was ready to do what they would pay me for. I went to Almaty so that my mom didn’t know what I was doing... I told my mom that we needed money; it worked, she let me go... My goal was to earn a lot of money in order to help my mom and buy new clothes and a mobile phone; I’ve never had one [a mobile phone]. (365, sex worker, female, 18 years)

CONCLUSION

While the numerous quotes presented in this chapter reveal that each child/youth has a unique and tragic story, bear in mind, that many children had a difficult time or were hesitant to talk about what happened to them and the problems in their families. Their stories are most likely much more complex and tragic than evidenced in the quotes. While this chapter identified many common patterns, it is important to note that many pieces of children/youth’s stories are not presented in this chapter, but will be revealed in later chapters, including the next chapter on the pathways of children/youth into trafficking and exploitation.
Chapter 4

TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

The previous chapter examined the numerous push and pull factors that influenced children’s decisions to leave home. This chapter describes how children that left home became victims of human trafficking and exploitation. The quotes in this chapter give “voice” to the trafficking victims that were interviewed. Their stories are extremely important because they reveal the pathways into trafficking and exploitation, including recruitment strategies used by traffickers, and traffickers use of debt bondage, violence, and intimidation to control their victims. This chapter also reveals how some trafficking victims were able to escape from their traffickers/exploiters. Some of the trafficking victims, however, were still trapped in situations of sexual and labor exploitation; they have not yet escaped or been rescued.
CATEGORIZING TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

During the interview, respondents were asked to explain how they left home, including:

- where they travelled to;
- whether they arranged the trip on their own or someone helped them, and if their trip was arranged, who arranged their trip;
- whether they travelled alone or with others and who they travelled with;
- whether someone in charged travelled with them;
- what happened when they got where they were going;
- whether the person they travelled with turned them over to someone else when they got to where they were going;
- what they did in terms of work when they got to where they were going;
- whether or not they were paid for the work they did and if they got to keep their money;
- whether they had a debt the owed or had to work off and pay to those that brought them there;
- whether they were controlled by those they work for and how they were controlled;
- whether they know of others in a similar situation as themselves, including how many there were and who they were in terms of gender, age, and ethnic/national status; and
- how long they remained/stayed in this place and situation.

In recognition that trafficking victims are often trafficked and exploited in more than one location (e.g., establishment or town/city), each respondent was asked to explain how many times they were moved or transported to other locations. For each location they went to, the same set of questions was asked about each location. In addition, specific data was collected on each of the town/cities they traveled to and that data on trafficking routes will be presented in Chapter 5.

The questions identified above were particularly helpful in the process of categorizing children/youth as a trafficking victim or sex worker, and to understanding their pathways into exploitation. As explained in Chapter 3, the pathways into exploitation were defined by some form of: a) recruitment, transportation, transfer and receipt of persons (the act); and b) coercion, threat or use of force, abduction, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim (the means).

PATHWAYS INTO SEX TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

The analysis that follows reveals the common pathways of children/youth into sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, including:

- deceived by a “stranger trafficker”
- deceived by an “acquaintance trafficker”
- deceived by a “friend trafficker”
- deceived by a “lover trafficker”
- deceived by an “employer trafficker”
- sold into sexual slavery by a parent or family member
- abducted/kidnapped and sold into sex slavery
- sold for virginity

Each of these pathways into sex trafficking and sexual exploitation is analyzed in the following sections, along with an analysis of traffickers’ use of debt bondage, violence, and intimidation used to control their victims.

Most of the cases of sex trafficking described below are cases of internal sex trafficking in Kazakhstan; although there are numerous cases of cross-border sex trafficking. It is also important to understand that many of the traffickers and exploiters are women, as well as men. In fact, human trafficking is one of the only forms of transnational crime in which women are significantly represented as victims, as well as perpetrators.

DECEIVED BY A “STRANGER TRAFFICKER”

Numerous sex trafficking victims revealed how they were deceived by strangers and trafficked into sexual exploitation against their will. There is no typical story that depicts the way sex trafficking victims were deceived by “stranger traffickers;” therefore, numerous quotes are included to demonstrate the different ways that “stranger traffickers” deceive and traffic girls into sexual exploitation. There is also no clear description of who “stranger traffickers” are.

In these quote below a trafficking victim explains how she was recruited and deceived by a “stranger trafficker” that offered her a well-paying job in Almaty. The trafficking victims travelled to Almaty with her “stranger trafficker.” Upon arrival in Almaty, the respondent realized she had been deceived when she was brought to a hotel where she was controlled and sexually exploited.

“In Bishkek we [me and my friend] met five Kazakh guys at the hotel... they told us they came to have a rest. Then, one guy said, ‘If you want to work, come with me to Kazakhstan’... He told us he had a sister...”
In a similar situation, one girl revealed that she was offered a high paying job with free accommodations in Shymkent; however, on the way to Shymkent with her traffickers she released that she had been deceived by the “stranger trafficker” that recruited her, and that she was on her way to being sexually exploited. When she attempted to confront them, they beat her into compliance.

“Once a woman came up to me and offered me a job in Shymkent, promising a high salary and free accommodations. The next day she put me into a taxi and we went; there was another girl with us... On the way I understood that we were going to be enslaved... When I began to ask which cafè we would work in, the taxi driver stopped the car and slapped me across my face once or twice so that I would stop speaking. We were brought to a flat where the woman and her husband lived and were placed in one of the rooms. The next day, I had to accept clients. I served about 10 to 12 clients and the woman took all the money... We worked for her and each evening we went to saunas and flats... I did everything the clients asked me to do, mainly it was oral sex and if we refused the clients beat us severely. Sometimes we had two types of sex at once – oral and anal sex. Often I fainted because of exhaustion... If there were many clients they brought the two of us together [both girls].” (441, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

Advertisements are another common method that “stranger traffickers” use in Kazakhstan to deceive and recruit girls into sexual exploitation. As one trafficking victim explained, in a state of desperation to earn money to help pay her rent and college education she responded to an advertisement for Russian and Kazakh language tutors. Already living in Almaty she was trafficked within the city by the “stranger trafficker” that posted the job advertisement.

“After finishing school, I wanted to enter the Medical College in Almaty. I came here and entered college, but then I lacked money for renting a room and for education... I had nothing to eat so I came to an apartment that I had called through an advertisement. They needed a female tutor that knew Russian and Kazakh languages; English was desirable, but I didn’t speak it well. I was met by a woman in her mid-40s. My first impression was that she was strange... She liked me at once and told me that everything would be alright. I worked there for two weeks and she took my documents. She paid me a good sum of money, but then she told me that I would render sexual services to work off my documents. I was purchase her train ticket and travel to Atyrau. Her recruiter saw her off at the train station in her hometown, and it was not until she arrived in Atyrau and was transferred from one trafficker to the next that she released she was the victim of sex trafficking, along with other girls.

“I was 18 years old when I got acquainted with a woman near a shop. She asked me why I was sad and if I wanted to make money; she offered me to work as a waitress in Atyrau. She promised me 25,000 KZT (166 USD) per month for working as a waitress. I left my home in a week after they transferred money to me to buy my ticket to Atyrau... From the start it seemed that I really could earn some money... The woman from Atyrau who offered me that work saw me off at the railways station... She gave me a telephone number of a person who would meet me in Atyrau... When I arrived in Atyrau a man met me and said that he was a coffee housekeeper and would bring me to the place of my work. When we arrived, a woman met us and showed us the way to a house; that man went away and I did not see him anymore. The woman made me have sex with men and she got the money... I did not get to keep the money because the clients gave money to the employer [exploiter]. I had to work every day without days off. I had to work off the money they had transferred to me for travelling (80 USD). I had to serve up to two to three clients per day... There were two of us. We were closed in a room and not allowed to get touch with our relatives.” (305, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)
shocked and couldn’t say anything... I couldn’t go anywhere without her. I lived for six months as if I was in hell!” (396, trafficking victim, female, 27 years)

Some young girls fell victim to “stranger traffickers” when they find themselves in debt after relocating to an urban area, such as Almaty. In one case, the flat owner was the “stranger trafficker” who was partly responsible for helping the young girl to accumulate a debt and then trafficked her into sexual exploitation to pay off her debt.

“I arrived in Almaty and found a flat for 42,000 KZT (280 USD) per month. I ran into debt. I had to borrow 30,000 KZT (200 USD) from my flat owner but I could not give back the money in the first month and the debt was increased up to 50,000 KZT (335 USD). I did not have money because I had not found a job. She [the flat owner] brought me to a shed backing to the city with other girls who had to settle their debts working as prostitutes. The shed was guarded and was inside the house yard... We were confined and we could use a toilet only one-by-one. It was not possible to escape, they could kill us, but I wanted to live. I hoped for a good life and proper job. I could not think that it would be a shed life and prostitute job... I was beaten and closed in the shed, and only let out when I was brought to work... I was there for about four years.” (424, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

In the quotes below, two other trafficking victims revealed how they were deceived by “stranger traffickers” in Astana. While both of these trafficking victims had travelled to Astana on their own, their stories differ in the way they were trafficked and sold by their “stranger traffickers.” The outcome, however, was the same – both girls were trafficked into sexual exploitation.

“I left Karaganda for Astana... In Astana, when I was walking on the streets I met a woman. She brought me to her home. There were three other girls [between 23 and 25 years of age] there that she made work [as prostitutes]; different men were brought to them. I didn’t want to do this [prostitution]. I was given only meals; I didn’t get money. We were locked up and we couldn’t get away. I lived there for a long time.” (462, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

Finally, one trafficking victim revealed that she was deceived at the Uzbek-Kazakh border by a taxi driver who was supposed to take her to her friends’ apartment in Shymkent; instead he handed her off to a trafficker that forced her to work in a sauna rendering sexual services to men.

“I left for Shymkent alone. At the border of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan a taxi driver met me... The taxi driver took me to Shymkent where I was met by a guy who had arranged my move... he took me to an apartment. In this apartment there were seven other girls. The guy brought me to a room and told me that he spent 27,000 KZT (180 USD) for transportation and that I had to work off 500 USD. He said that I would work in a sauna and render sexual services, and threatened me if I tried to run away. Since I am an Uzbek, nobody would listen to me and protect my rights. He took my passport... They locked me in the apartment. When a client called, the taxi driver came and drove us to the sauna and handed us over to the receptionist. After rendering sexual services, the receptionist didn’t let me out, she called the taxi driver and he drove me back to the apartment. In the apartment there were seven girls who came to Kazakhstan under false pretenses, they were between 18 and 23 years of age. They were forced to work. We couldn’t get in touch with our parents and ask for help.” (297, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

DECEIVED BY AN “ACQUAINTANCE TRAFFICKE‘R”

Numerous trafficking victims spoke about how they were deceived by acquaintances and trafficked into sexual exploitation. Again, there is no typical story that depicts the way that trafficking victims were deceived by “acquaintance traffickers;” therefore, numerous quotes are included in this section to reveal the different ways in which “acquaintance traffickers” deceived and trafficked girls into sexual exploitation. In these first two quotes, two trafficking victims explained how they were recruited and deceived by an “acquaintance trafficker” that they had known for several years.

“My acquaintance who I had known for three years encouraged me to leave home. They promised me a job that would pay well... When I was 17 years old I went with my good acquaintance from Bishkek to Almaty by taxi; she bought me a ticket... We came directly to a hotel where we are sitting right now... I provide sex for money... I get paid for the work that I do and I get to keep...” (335 USD). I did not have money because I had not found a job. She [the flat owner] brought me to a shed backing to the city with other girls who had to settle their debts working as prostitutes. The shed was guarded and was inside the house yard... We were confined and we could use a toilet only one-by-one. It was not possible to escape, they could kill us, but I wanted to live. I hoped for a good life and proper job. I could not think that it would be a shed life and prostitute job... I was beaten and closed in the shed, and only let out when I was brought to work... I was there for about four years.” (467, trafficking victim, female, 25 years)
One trafficking victim revealed that she was deceived when she was only 15 years old by her dance teacher who promised to take her, along with other girls, to Turkey. Instead, the dance teacher sold her and the other girls into sexual exploitation in Turkey.

“When I was 15 year old, my dance teacher offered me to go to Turkey to work as a dancer. They promised much money and undertook formalization of the documents. We had a contract as if we were going to study and participate in a contest. There were other girls from various schools with me... My grandma never forbade me anything; she knew that if there were not dances in my life there wouldn’t be me. She was afraid of my mental depression, like after my parents’ death... We flew from Almaty to Turkey by plane. They made passports for us and concluded a contract with us... They bought the tickets... We came and were taken to a bordel [house of prostitution]. We were placed into comfortable hotel rooms where we received clients... We were not allowed to go out; they brought us all we needed... They fed us once a day and beat us for every case of disobeying. We served 10 to 20 clients every day. They paid us 10% of income for every client. They took out money to buy cosmetics, pads, soaps, shampoo, and medicines; the ‘masters’ bought all this for us. Sometimes I managed to phone my grandma to tell her that everything was alright with me.” (370, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

In the trafficking cases presented above the “acquaintance traffickers” were all females. Sometimes, however, “acquaintance traffickers” were males. In the quotes below two trafficking victims revealed how they were deceived by male “acquaintance traffickers” that befriended them shortly after they left home.

“I graduated 9th grade and decided to go to Astana to go to college... I met one guy in Astana and he sold me to pimps... They kept me locked up for a month. I was not allowed to go out anywhere. They would fasten me with a chain to the radiator and when the clients came I was released. I had to serve 10 to 15 people [per day]. I was bullied and beaten. I often lost consciousness... I cannot talk about it anymore; it hurts a lot.” (446, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“I was 22 years old when I left home. I didn’t have any reason for leaving home; I just wanted to do it myself. I worked as a shop assistant and I met a guy that offered to take me to Astana... I left with that guy and he entrapped me. In Astana we went to an apartment and I started working there as a prostitute... I left with that guy through my stupidity. I was a prostitute and was able to keep

In this next quote, a trafficking victim revealed that her “acquaintance trafficker” was her neighbor, someone that she had known since childhood but did not consider a friend. Her neighbor promised her a beautiful life and well-paying job in a bar/club in Almaty. The “acquaintance trafficker” used her nice clothes to convince the girl that she too could have such economic success if she left with her for Almaty. Upon arriving in Almaty, the “acquaintance trafficker” brought the girl to a hotel where she was forced to exchange sex for money and to pay off a debt of 200 USD that she owed to her “acquaintance trafficker.”

“My neighbor, we lived in one block of apartments; I’ve known her as a child. She told me, ‘If you want a beautiful life, go with me.’ I went because I saw how well she was dressed, looked nice, and smelled good. She had a lot of money. I wanted to live that way... I had a terrible fight with my mother when I told her that I would go to work in a bar/club, but then she agreed because I promised to run away if she wouldn’t let me go... I relied on myself and my neighbor woman that she wouldn’t fool me... My neighbor woman paid for my transportation to the hotel in Almaty... I met some girls, two pimp women, a guard, and a bartender... Every day I slept with men for money, I got paid for the work I did and I got to keep my money. For the gold earrings that my neighbor woman bought me, I owed her 30,000 KZT (200 USD)... I’ve already paid them back... I’ve worked here for seven months.” (394, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)
only 50% of the money I earned. When I wanted to leave for home they told me that I had to pay my debt because they paid for my transportation and meals... I was always under the control of the pimp woman and a man, they didn’t let me go anywhere so that I would not escape.” (439, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

In one case, the “acquaintance trafficker” was actually the boyfriend of the girls’ girlfriend. After leaving home to live with her girlfriend’s boyfriend and his friend, this trafficking victim found that she was trafficked into sexual exploitation, along with her girlfriend. The boyfriend maintained they had to repay an exuberant debt that they owed for staying in the apartment and for food.

“My girlfriend encouraged me to leave home; we were friends since our childhood... We decided to live with my girlfriend’s boyfriend; he was from a foreign country [Uzbekistan] and had an apartment in Shymkent with his friend... We went to their apartment. At first we took care of the apartment, cooked and washed clothes, then the boys said that they didn’t have money to pay for the apartment and buy food, and they said that we should work off all the money which they had spent on us. And they said that we should be prostitutes... All the money that we earned the boys took away from us because we owed them for the accommodations and food. They told us that each of us owed 500,000 USD to them. They took our clothes off in the apartment. They brought clients to the apartment. They took our mobile phones away and there was not a stationary telephone in the apartment, so we could not contact anybody.” (300, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

DECEIVED BY A “FRIEND TRAFFICKER”

Numerous girls revealed that they were deceived by their friends who recruited and trafficked them into sexual exploitation. In most cases, the “friend trafficker” contacts her friend to inform them of a good job opportunity in another city (i.e., in the city where the “friend trafficker” is currently living and working). Sometimes the “friend trafficker” returns to her home town to recruit girls with the promise of a well-paying job and examples of nice clothes; other times the “friend trafficker” simply calls her friend on the telephone and tells them about the good job opportunities in the city. The friend, not knowing that her friend is a “friend trafficker,” trusts her because she has known her since childhood. In most cases, the “friend trafficker” was herself a sex trafficking victim, but has transitioned into the position of recruiter and she is now involved in trafficking other girls for her traffickers/exploiters. In such cases, these women are dressed in the finest clothes, given a great deal of money, and promised a commission for each new girl they recruit and turn over to their traffickers.

In most cases, the “friend trafficker” travels with the friend from their home town to the destination city or she provides her friend with directions on how to get to her apartment in the destination city. Upon arrival, the “friend trafficker” shows the friend a good time in the city for the first day or two (i.e., they walk around the city and visit parks, cafes, entertainment centers, and nightclubs). However, after a day or two, the exploiters/traffickers show up and the “friend trafficker” hands her friend over to them or sells her friend to them. Now the friend understands that she is the victim of sex trafficking and she is trapped. In most cases she has a debt that she owes to her “friend trafficker” and to her exploiters. The four quotes below reveal the experiences of four different trafficking victims who were victims of “friend traffickers.” Three of the cases involve cross-border trafficking, and one case is of internal trafficking. Some of these girls are still trapped in sexual exploitation.

“My childhood friend came and promised me that I could earn big money working at a job in Almaty. She said that she was working as a maid in an elite house and she got good money and everything was perfect. I agreed. In fact, my friend insisted and persuaded me that she had good money and turned my attention to her clothes... My parents agreed at once... I crossed the country with my friend by bus and we arrived in Almaty... My friend paid for my travels in full and organized the move. We arrived in Almaty and I found that my friend did not work as a maid. She was a prostitute and she had sold me into sexual slavery to some pimps. I do not know how much it cost, but I resisted. Men handed me over to an auntie [pimp woman] at that point. I was beaten and they gave me just bread and some water. My friend visited me and said that if I did not do what they said, they would tell my father and I would be disgraced. They had taken my passport and I had to prostitute. I did it unwillingly, but I had no choice. They promised me they would give me my documents back after I worked off a debt... The auntie [pimp woman] supervised me, including what I wore and how I serviced clients. It was this way until I became accustomed to it and they understood that I would not leave them... I had a lot of clients. There were also girls from nearby countries, namely Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan [between 16 and 22 years of age]. All of them came to find a good life; most of them were sold into slavery by the same people... Now I have my documents,
but I cannot go back home because I am afraid of shame. Moreover, I earn good money now... But, I was sold into the sex business... At first I did not get paid because I had to work off a debt and give money to my friend. Now, I can retain some money... I do not know how much I cost when I was sold, but anyway, I had to work off the debt.” (392, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“My good girlfriend went to Almaty to earn money... she began to send money to her parents. She told me that she had a job in a firm... We came from Tashkent to the border by bus and walked through the border far from the control post so that nobody could see us... my girlfriend’s guy was waiting for us in a beautiful Mercedes; I envied her. We got in the car and a few hours later we reached Almaty... My girlfriend and I came to her apartment where we began to live together. The apartment had three rooms, nothing special... I worked as a cleaner and they paid me 30,000 KZT (200 USD) per month. My girlfriend admitted that she had lied to me about a good life and the firm had problems with clients. She told me that I had to pay for the apartment and food because the firm couldn’t. I understood that my girlfriend was not a manager at all. She told me that she owed money because of me, so I was in debt for food and accommodation. She took the money that I earned in the firm, but it proved to be not enough and my debt to be 100,000 KZT (667 USD). She also took my passport. I didn’t know what to do, but couldn’t go home... My girlfriend then sold me to a scruffy Kazakh man, about 50 years old, for 1,000 to 2,000 USD. He brought me to a horrible sauna. I refused to render sexual services; I didn’t like him at all. I didn’t talk and refused to eat, so he began to beat me and told me that he bought me and I had to work his money off and then he would give me my passport back and give me some money to reach home and that my dad wouldn’t know about my disgrace. At first I was offered to an old man who defiled me for 30,000 KZT (200 USD). Then, I began to have sex with every man to whom I was offered; they told me that sex with me is pleasure for them... When I worked off my debts I began to get money for myself... Many of my clients come here now, they like me... Now I work for myself and send money to my parents every month... This ’rascal girlfriend’ proved to bring many girls like me here. She played according to one scheme. So, our stories are the same. Some of them continue prostitution; some restore their virginity and go back home, marry, and have babies. Some of them got lost, perhaps they moved to another city... I worked there for two years; I live here now.” (423, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“My friend called me and offered for me to go to Shymkent to work in a caf as a waitress. I had known her for two years; we lived together in one yard in Tashkent. She said that it was a good opportunity to earn a lot of money... My friend sent me money to cross the border and get to Shymkent... After I arrived in Shymkent my friend met me. She brought me to her flat where I could have a rest after travelling. Along toward evening she offered me to go for a walk and go sightseeing. Late in the evening we went back to the flat and there were two suspicious men waiting for us. Later, I found out they were the guards of one of the ’bowdy-houses’ [house of prostitution]. They told us to sit in a car and brought us to the ’master of the house.’ When we arrived at the guarded house, adult men met us and said that we would work for him from that day on and we would give 5,000 KZT (33 USD) to him every day. I was afraid and understood at once that we had to prostitute; I refused. The employer [exploiter] told his guards to beat me. After they had beaten me, the employer [exploiter] threatened to kill me if I did not work. I had no other choice... I had to prostitute. Me and other girls were brought by a car to the saunas and flats upon the clients’ calls. After I serviced a client the guard came and brought me back to the house... I got 4,000 to 7,000 KZT (27 to 47 USD) for each client per day. I serviced up to five clients per day. I retained money from all the clients, but I had to give 5,000 KZT (33 USD) to the employer every day.” (307, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

“My girlfriend and I came from Bishkek to Almaty by taxi for work... My girlfriend arranged everything, we were friends for more than 10 years; she was a little older than me. She deceived and betrayed me... She offered me to earn money in Almaty and told me that it was easy work... I didn’t know that she had been working in Almaty as a prostitute already for a year. She didn’t tell me about this... For two to three months we were trading things in the market, but they my girlfriend offered me to buy a place in the market and introduced me to a guy who was supposed to help with the documents. I gave him money and my documents and the nightmare began... I was told that the documents were stolen... I had a debt because I had borrowed money... it was a trap... I was offered to earn money easily and repay the debt working as a prostitute... I didn’t want to prostitute, but I was forced to do this... I have been working as a prostitute for two months, but I hate this work and myself as well... They don’t let me go anywhere alone, not even to a shop... I can’t run away from here; they will kill me... I didn’t want to leave home for good... Now I don’t know if they [my family] would accept me because I disgraced them.” (416, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)
One trafficking victim revealed that her “friend trafficker” was her neighbor. After a fight with her parents, the neighbor convinced her that she should go to Kazakhstan. Upset with her parents, the girl left home and travelled with her neighbor to Kazakhstan. However, once in Kazakhstan, the neighbor sold her to another woman that sexually exploited her.

“I had a fight with my parents and my neighbor suggested that I visit Kazakhstan. I took only my passport and left... I just wanted to have a rest and see the city and how people live in another country; but not to work... I drove with my neighbor; she covered all of my expenses and other necessary charges in full because I had no money; I only had my passport... When we arrived my neighbor passed me to a young woman and I gave her my passport. She informed me that I had been sold for 30,000 KZT (200 USD) and I needed to work off my debt providing sexual services. My neighbor left me... I worked in saunas on an on-call basis. I didn’t receive any money... I owed a debt to the amount of 30,000 KZT (200 USD), 500 KZT (3 USD) per day for food, and 800 KZT (5 USD) per day for accommodations. Two girls between 18 and 25 years of age worked with me, they were also from my district... They were also brought to Kazakhstan under false pretenses and promised that they would work at a cafe for 15,000 KZT (100 USD).” (296, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

Finally, two trafficking victims revealed that it was their parents’ friends that were the “friend traffickers.” In both of these cases, the “friend trafficker” promised the girls that they could earn a lot of money working in the United Arab Emirates. The “friend trafficker” arranged all the documents for the girls, purchased their airline tickets, and travelled with them to Dubai. Once in Dubai, the “friend trafficker” sold the girls to another woman who sexually exploited them. Bear in mind, while the stories are fairly similar they are two different cases of sex trafficking.

“My mother’s friend organized a trip to Bishkek where she rented a room not far from the railway station... She bought the tickets... After we arrived in Bishkek we had to sit and wait for our documents to be ready... I did not work there; we just sat and waited with my mother’s friend for our documents to be ready... My mother’s friend accompanied me everywhere, but I did not understand at that time that she controlled me... We spent two weeks in Bishkek... When our documents were ready, I flew with my mother’s friend from Bishkek to the United Arab Emirates... My mother’s friend executed the documents, passport and visa, and she bought the tickets to fly to the UAE... After we arrived I had been working as a nurse taking care of a woman’s children for a month or probably for one and a half months. My mother’s friend left me there. She went to look for work for herself, but my housewife said that she had bought me from her. One day she said that one Arab man liked me and that he wanted to meet up with me. If he said that he liked me, he would marry me. This lasted for a month because I had to meet up with not one man, but with several men. As I understood later, it was the clients who were looking for a virgin... I took care of the woman’s child in the afternoon and that woman made me go to the clients in the night time [prostitution]... I did not get money because I had to work off the money for my passport, visa, flight, housing, and meals. I did not get paid because I had a debt... At first I had to give 3,350 USD, and after I had been resold to another woman I had to work off 11,000 USD... When I was forced to go to the disco and prostitute a guard looked after us, and when we went back to the flat the employer closed us and was with us. We lived on the 11th floor of the building and could not cry or ask for help... There were two girls from Uzbekistan who were brought to the United Arab Emirates under false pretenses to prostitute, as I was... While we had been living together we went to the disco together and prostituted.” (306, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“When I was 19 years old my friend suggested that I go to work in the United Arab Emirates. I agreed. The woman was 36 years old, she was an old friend of our family and she had already sent other girls to the UAE... She promised me that I would earn a lot of money for my daughter and we would live better and deny myself nothing... My friend bought me an airline ticket and she flew with me and helped me to pass all of the checkpoints in Kazakhstan, as well as in Dubai upon arrival. When I arrived in Dubai, I was given a copy of my passport... My friend passed me to a woman who explained to me what my job was. I had to pay back her expenses which she had spent for me. I worked as a prostitute. I didn’t get money, as ‘granny’ [my exploiter] got the money. I had to pay 2,000 USD for the airline tickets. Annually, I had to pay 5,000 AED (1,360 USD) for extension of my visa and for food. We lived on the 11th floor and we couldn’t ask for help. If we didn’t obey we were beaten. One of the girls from Russia was beaten to death and then was taken away and buried in the sand. If we didn’t obey the same would happen to us... There was also a girl from Ukraine and two girls from Uzbekistan. We were in the same situation and promised each other if one of us could escape, she would help the others. There were four girls between 16 and 21 years of age. Nobody could find us and we didn’t have a telephone.” (295, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)
DECEIVED BY A “LOVER TRAFFICKER”

A few trafficking victims revealed they were deceived by a “lover trafficker.” As one girl revealed she met an older man and fell in love with him. Blinded by the dream of a good life with her lover, she abandoned her friends, left her job, and moved in with her lover. After a short time, her “lover trafficker” sold her into sexual exploitation. At the time of the interview she was still working for her traffickers/exploiters.

“I wanted to earn money and my friend offered me to work as a waitress in a restaurant. I got acquainted with a restaurant patron and he was an adult man. He said that he loved me and could not live without me and that I was unique. He proposed to me. We had been everywhere for the two weeks of my love affair. I was very happy. My friends and all the girls from the restaurant cautioned me and said that he was strange. I was foolish. I did not believe them. The idea of a good and beautiful life blinded me. I agreed with him on all things and left my job… I lived in the rented flat paid for by him… But then he sold me, and the people he sold me to brought me from Karaganda to Almaty… to be more specific they made me go and they took all my documents. They bought a ticket for me and went with me… I was with another girl, she was 18 years old. Now she works in a flat with that guy that deceived me… They [the pimps] just sold us for a ridiculous price. I don’t even know how much it was… Auntie bought us, but I cannot tell about it because they will kill me, or do something bad with me… They made us sleep with men for money… I practically got no money for my work… I don’t even know how much he had spent for us. He sent us to the beauty parlor where my hair color was changed… Auntie did not let us go anywhere. I do not have enough time to tell about them, a client is waiting for me and it is my business. There are 18 to 20 girls that work with me; they are between 15 and 30 years of age. I have worked here for 10 months and have lived here up to now. (393, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

In another case, a trafficking victim revealed that following a party where she got drunk with her friends, she was violently raped by her boyfriend and his friend. After they raped her they held her captive in an apartment for several weeks and sold her to different men for profit.

“My friend invited me to celebrate her birthday party in a rental apartment. We ate, drank, and smoked ‘kalian grass.’ I became drunk. I do not remember how I found myself in another flat with my boyfriend, but he raped me and my legs were black and blue. I had a strong headache. I wanted to go and began to wake him, but he, having drunk beer, called to his friend and asked him to come. His friend was very rude; he touched me and then threw me to the bed and began to tear my clothes. I shouted but he slapped my face and threatened that he would seal my lips with scotch tape. My boyfriend filmed this to his mobile phone. Then he called somebody else and I understood that I was in trouble. They took my mobile phone. Not knowing how to run away, I began to knock on the walls and batteries, but nobody heard this. I was there for two weeks and throughout the day and night men came and raped me. Windows were shut with boards and curtains. I thought that I would not get through all this and die. I asked my dead parents to help me and I prayed. I even did not know if it was day or night.” (442, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

DECEIVED BY AN “EMPLOYER TRAFFICKER”

Other girls revealed that they were trafficked into sexual exploitation by an “employer trafficker.” Employer traffickers typically hire girls or promise them a legitimate job (e.g., waitress or cleaning lady), but then traffic them in sexual exploitation. In the quote below, one girl revealed that she was hired by an employer to clean a café; however, after sometime her employer handed her off to another manager that brought her to a hotel where she was sexually exploited against her will.

“I took a job in a café mopping floors and washing dishes; they called me little Cinderella. The manager of that café introduced me to another manager for whom I work now. Now I live here together with other girls. In the hotel I was handed to the manager, but I’m controlled by the ‘mommy’ [pimp woman]. I fully depend on the ‘mommy’ for food, clothes, and trips… I have been working here for 10 months already.” (383, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

In a similar story, another girl revealed that she traveled to Karaganda along with her friends to find work. They found a job cleaning rooms in a hotel; however, after some time, the hotel manager convinced them to dance at a party for the annual anniversary of the opening of the hotel. Following the party, they realized the hotel manager deceived them and trafficked them into sexual exploitation. From that point on they were no longer cleaning rooms, but were sex trafficking victims in the hotel. They realized that other girls that worked as prostitutes in the same hotel had also been deceived by the hotel manager and trafficked into sexual exploitation.

“We found a job in a hotel that had a café and sauna bath. We were not asked how old we were and...
they hired us at once. The accommodation was free for us and at the end of the week we were given 10,000 KZT (67 USD). We adapted very quickly and we liked it very much... We cleaned the rooms in the hotel and sauna. We discovered that prostitutes were working there, but it didn’t concern us. A month passed very quickly and we were paid our allowance. We took the money home and I gave it to my grandmother. When the administrator returned he began to stare at us. One evening he invited us to the sauna and we drank beer. He began talking to us in a friendly manner and asked if we wanted to work like his girls for big money. We understood that they wanted the girls to dance on a big holiday – the hotel was celebrating the 5th anniversary. We thought we will dance and nothing more, and the men will pay us and will forget about us when they got drunk. A lot of men and prostitutes came to the party that day. We found out that after dancing we would not be able to leave the hotel because the pimp woman was sitting at the exit and was keeping an eye on everyone. When the party finished we were sent to separate rooms and the men came. This was when I began working as a prostitute. They made us do it against our will and set a guard to us... The pimp woman controls us... We got paid, only 2,000 KZT (13 USD) as they take the rest of the money for meals, accommodations, and clothes... The guard was always keeping track of us so that we would not escape anywhere. They brought clothes and the meals to us. We lived there for a month and they paid less attention to us, but still they didn’t let us go and they threatened us if we told our relatives... There were 12 girls working there between 16 and 22 years of age... I was there for one year.” (408, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

This same sex trafficking victim went on to speak about the movement of girls internally in Kazakhstan for sexual exploitation. She explained that after some time, her trafficker sent her by train, along with other girls, to work in a new hotel in another city (Almaty) where she is currently being sexually exploited by her along with other girls.

"Then we were sent to a new place to work in Almaty... We were in the same situation... We had a telephone number for a hotel administrator who was happy to greet us; he was an old friend of our former ‘master.’ They greeted us in the railway station and introduced us to the ‘pimp woman’ after our work began – client-by-client, and more and more [clients] every day. I had to drink a lot not to feel anything; the pimp woman recommended doing so. I was passed to the pimp woman and the administrator of the hotel where I am working now rendering sexual services to all clients...

There are 10 girls that work here from 17 to 26 years of age... Some girls get passed to another hotel, we have high personnel turnover.” (408, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

SOLD INTO SLAVERY BY A PARENT OR FAMILY MEMBER

Surprisingly, numerous children/youth revealed that they were sold into sex slavery by a parent or family member. In many parts of Asia, the sale of a child into sex slavery by a parent or family member is due largely to poverty and the inability of parents to care for all their children; thus, they sell one of their children to help support the rest of the family. In this study, however, it is not clear that any of the children sold into sex slavery by a parent or family member was because of poverty; their stories were much more complex. For instance, one trafficking victim reported that her father sold her into sex slavery out of revenge.

"Dad was engaged in drugs and mom helped him, and they were arrested for this. Mom took the blame upon herself and she was given 11 years and my dad was given 3 years... I was ashamed of my parents and that’s why I did not write letters to my father. When he was released he began to take revenge on me and sold me for sex. I was a prostitute and had to do everything they ordered me to do. My owner was soft to me and taught me how to treat men, but sometimes he could hit me between the legs. One day there was another girl, he bought her as well. We were going for a long time and we drank beer and came to a house at Balkhash. They played billiards and drank beer, and then they switched on a CD of pornography and began to torture me the whole night, then they locked me and slept. The next day we got into a car and went somewhere. I asked where we were going, but they laughed at me saying that a charming prince was waiting for me. They kept me in the dark. We came to Karaganda where they sold me to a bordel place [house of prostitution]. There were 15 prostitutes in the flat, including one woman who controlled us; she answered telephone calls and kept a register. Two men came to her and the other girls said they were our pimps, they brought food and clothes. The pimp woman gave us clothes at her sole discretion and appointed who was to make a meal and who was to clean the flat. In the evening, she told me to prepare for clients. I lived about two years in Karaganda. Then we were sold by turn, six girls have been sold already. Then they told me that I was sold as well and that I had to gather my things. A woman, a man, and two girls came to take me; they put me in the car and brought me to Astana. There were eight people in the flat. In the evening, they
sent me to clients in the sauna. I worked through the whole month at nights, nobody paid me.” (444, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

Another girl revealed that her mother got in trouble for possession of heroin, and her mother’s friends convinced her to sell her daughter into sex bondage (with some involvement from the police in the trafficking and sexual exploitation) in order to pay off her debts.

“One day my mother and her friends got caught with heroin. Her friends offered the following, sell your daughter into bondage. The police did not mind. I did not look like a 13 year old girl; I was tall and slim. And so I had to work for my mom. I was sleeping with cops and various clients. Sometimes I used to work in the streets with cops, and they used to look after me. Thus, against my will, I left my home. I have not seen my mother for 3 years... It was my mother who sold me for her debts... They [my exploiters] just took me away and beat me and told me that children should pay for their parents’ sin. They said that I will be free after I work off all my debt... I hoped that it was just a dream and that it was going to end someday... I had to sleep with one cop; after that there were a lot of them. I worked on call – they used to bring me to saunas, hotels and cottages. Sometimes I worked for usual clients’ right in the street. After one year I finally worked off my debt [I do not know the sum], but no one was going to let me go. Every month ‘new meat’ was coming [new girls], so they already had a house of prostitution. When I was 15 years old I had already become a leader of the 13, 14 and 15 year old prostitutes... Some girls were sold by parents and some girls got caught for stealing and hooliganism... Every day the quantity of girls was changing, but they were between 13 and 17 years of age. One day there were some showdowns among cops, but I managed to escape... But, I realized that it was my only proficiency [exchanging sex for money] and I started working as a prostitute again.” (390, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

In this next quote the trafficking victim revealed that her mother sold her at 14 years of age into sexual slavery. This girl also revealed police involvement in sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of young girls, and that her mother was also involved in exchanging sex for money.

“When I was 14 years old my mom and her boyfriend sold me to a pimp for 2,000 USD. I was expensive because I was a virgin... My mom yelled at me that she was sick and tired of me and that my life would change from that moment, because I was 14 years old and it was time for me to earn money. She threatened, that if I resisted she would do the same to my younger sisters; she knew that I loved them very much... I hoped that everything would be all right with my sisters... My mom also rendered sex-services to local rich men from time-to-time. I did this for a year until a few girls and I were handed to other pimps, it often happens; I was glad to leave the town where I had suffered a lot. At first, I was working off the money for which I was bought [her debt]; later, when I got used to it, I could get money myself. They [her exploiters/pimps] got good income thanks to me during those six months... We worked with various clients. They were young and old, rich and policemen. Sometimes we were called to parties and to saunas. Two guards were watching us so that the clients would not beat us. I worked every day... I had a debt of 2,000 USD for which my mom sold me... The other girls were from different places. One was sold by her friend, and one was brought by the police. Here, every girl has her own story with one end [sexual exploitation]; some of them came at their own will, they are from poor families. Some girls were caught by the police for small wrong doings or drugs. They were offered – prison or prostitution... There were from between 5 to 20 girls at one point, they were between 15 and 30 years of age... One of them, just like me, was handed to other pimps, one got lost, and one was lucky and got married. Some of them go back home, and some are killed. The clients often do this because they don’t want to pay or just to make fun of them.” (368, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

Finally, another trafficking victim revealed that she was sold into sex slavery by a relative; not by her parents.

“I was sold into slavery by a relative... I worked as a housekeeper for about 6 months, but then I was sold again and started receiving men [prostitution]. I didn’t get any money for that [rendering sex services]. Since 12 years old I have been working for someone rendering sex services; I do what my master wants. I keep silent and say nothing because if I open my mouth they beat me... I didn’t quite understand what was going on for a long time because they were injecting me with drugs. I don’t even know how long it lasted or how I found myself in Astana. I was kept under lock and key and I often blacked out and my hair was falling out. I am almost bald and toothless now and they dropped me off near the station; clients didn’t want to look at me this way. So the master threw me out.” (437, trafficking victim, female, 15 years)
**ABDUCTED/KIDNAPPED AND SOLD INTO SEXUAL SLAVERY**

Abduction or kidnapping is not as frequent a means of acquiring trafficking victims as the mainstream media would have us believe. In many countries, deceit, false job offers, and sale by family are much more common means for acquiring sex trafficking victim, than abduction/kidnapping. Nevertheless, several trafficking victims revealed that they were actually kidnapped off the streets by strangers and sold into sex slavery by their kidnappers. For instance, one trafficking victim revealed that she was kidnapped by three men. After being repeatedly raped for three days by these three men, they brought her to Almaty and sold her into sex slavery. As she explained,

“They brought me to Almaty by car. There were three young men in the car with me. They were strong. I did not know them. It seem that there was someone overseeing them, but I do not know... A man that was in the car handed me to another man... I was put to work in a hotel [as a prostitute] and did not get money for this work... The hotel employer said that he gave money to the men that brought me there and said that I had to work off my debt. I said I will not work, but he threatened me. I earned 15,000 to 30,000 KZT (100 to 200 USD) every day, but the employer took all the money from me, and if he found out that I had one KZT he beat me... I paid off my debt in three to four times months... There were other girls being exploited, we worked together. Some of them were kidnapped and brought there... They ranged in age from 12 to 30 years.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

After being kidnapped, some trafficking victims were passed from trafficker-to-trafficker before ending up in their final destination where she was sexually exploited.

“I was kidnapped from the Karaganda station when I went to buy a ticket to go home [to visit my family]. They took me away involuntarily... pushed me into the car. In Karaganda, I was turned over to a ‘supervisor’ [exploiter/trafficker] and they reseated me in another car and took me to another town outside of Karaganda... There were four people that kidnapped me... I then was passed over to another ‘supervisor.’ There were other girls, five of them. I was enslaved and offered sex services for free. I was paid nothing. They didn’t let me leave. The supervisor [exploiter/trafficker] kept an eye on us... There were 12 of us that offered sex services, all were girls between 19 and 27 years of age.” (463, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

One trafficking victim revealed that she was kidnapped by some men she became acquainted. After they got her drunk they took her to an apartment and sold her into sex slavery.

“I got acquainted with some guys and they got me drunk and kidnapped me. They brought me to an apartment where there were other girls and they told me that from now I would provide sexual services. There was a pimp woman... They said that if I resist they will take me outside the city and kill me. I pretended to obey... We provided sexual services, but were not paid. I knew that the other girls were also kidnapped and made to work, but we were not paid. There were two boys and 12 girls working with me, between 13 and 26 years of age.” (460, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

One girl that was living in a state-run youth home revealed that she was kidnapped by another girl in the youth home that was a ‘pimp’ woman. She was kidnapped for 24 hours and forced to exchange sex for money to pay back her debt to the ‘pimp’ woman for offending her.

“We were transferred to the Youth Home [from the orphanage] when we were 16 to 17 years of age. They have their own rules and ideas, you wouldn’t understand them. Like every girl at this age I wanted to wear nice clothes and live beautifully. I entered the University and began to work. I got money. But it was not enough. Older girls were living with us and one day I had a fight with one of them because of a small matter. As it turned out, she was a pimp. I was coming back home from work in the evening and some people dragged me into a car and brought me somewhere. I saw her there [the girl from the youth home that she had a fight with] and she told me that I had to repay for moral damage either willingly or through violence. That night she sold me and handed me to some men. I could say that I worked out everything that night... I don’t know the sum, but it was one night with three men... They threatened that if I didn’t do it they would punish me and would damage my face... I was afraid. I didn’t have other options... After that night, in the morning I went home when the men got drunk and fell asleep... That girl is from the orphanage and she became a pimp. She is older than me. After that incident, I haven’t seen her.” (367, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

Finally, another trafficking victim revealed that she and her friend were drugged by a “stranger trafficker” that they met in a caf. After being drugged, the “stranger trafficker” kidnapped them and took them across the border to Kazakhstan where he sold them to a woman that sexually exploited them.
“My girlfriend and I went to a café. We met a guy there and he treated us to beer. I think he added something to it [the beer] because I don’t remember anything. We woke up in a car and he told us that they would go through the border of Kazakhstan. When we began to shout and ask them to take us home, he stopped the car and beat us. He told us if we disobeyed he would kill us... Then we continued riding and he told us that everything would be ok, we would work there for a while and come back home... He took us through the border illegally at night... We drove to a house and a woman met us there. She looked at us from head to toe and told him that he shouldn’t have beaten us because he made us unmarketable. So, she would pay less. We began to scream and call out for help, but the woman told us that we had already gone through the border illegally so we had broken the law. She told us that she could report that we had stolen her things and because we didn’t have our documents the court would put us in jail. He handed us over to the woman for 20,000 KZT (133 USD) and she took us to her place and then made us have sex for money. In the daytime we cleaned the house where we lived and washed things, and when the clients chose me I used to go with them to a room and have sex with them. The pimp woman used to take all the money... There were various girls from Uzbekistan who were brought by that guy. I don’t know anything else, as we were not allowed to communicate with each other. There were two girls who were working at their own wish. The pimp trusted them and allowed them to go home.” (290, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

SOLD FOR VIRGINITY

Several trafficking victims revealed that they were initially trafficked for purposes of selling their virginity. In most cases, clients will pay more for a virgin girl. Some men prefer virgin girls because they know they are at reduced risk of contracting a STD from a virgin; other men simply like the fantasy and control that goes along with taking the virginity of young girls. One trafficking victim explained that her friends took her to Bishkek and sold her virginity. Her “friend traffickers” took the money and rewarded her with a new skirt for selling her virginity.

“When I was 14 years old my friends told me that it is possible to earn a lot of money for one night. They offered me to go to Bishkek and try. One of my friends was older than me by five years and she sold me for the first time to haulers from Naryn. I got a new skirt for losing my virginity. I worked as a prostitute twice a week to earn some money for living; I gave that money to my grandparents... At 17 years of age I started to work constantly as a prostitute.” (447, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

Two other trafficking victims spoke about having their virginity sold by their traffickers, and that it was an unpleasant experience. In the first quote, the trafficking victim reveals that her first client raped her, and then continued to return to her for sexual services.

“I was 17 years old when I started to exchange sex for money. When I came to my traffickers I was a virgin. The client that raped me for the first time chose me very often then... My trafficker spoiled my life and I wish her death or I wish she would experience the same that I had to experience. She lived with a husband and she was pregnant. She went to other towns and brought new girls; then she sold them to other pimps. Girls were chosen as a thing; she should be in a good form and have a beautiful face. The nicer the girl was, the more expensive she was.” (441, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

“I was 16 years old when my virginity was sold for 500 USD. At first it felt unpleasant, but then I got used to it.” (418, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

Another trafficking victim revealed that she was trafficked to the United Arab Emirates where her virginity was sold by her trafficker/exploiter.

“I had been purchased for my virginity in the United Arab Emirates, and then I was forced to prostitute, but I did not get money, my employer [exploiter] took it... My employer [exploiter] was a harsh woman and I saw how she made the guards beat those girls who refused to prostitute, and she gave them to the rude clients and threatened that she could kill them and nobody would know anything about where we were and what happened to us if we did not obey her. She was too cruel and a pitiless woman.” (306, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

DEBT BONDAGE

As revealed in many of the above quotes, sex trafficking victims often accrue a debt to their traffickers that they have to work off. The debt typically includes the price that the traffickers had to pay to purchase the girl and the costs of transporting the girl from her place of origin to the destination where she is exploited. Many traffickers also have a range of additional charges that they add to the trafficking victims’ debt, including, but not limited to expenses for accommodations, food, clothing, cosmetics, and the cost of bribes that must be paid to the police. Debts are ultimately used to control...
trafficking victims and keep them locked in a state of debt bondage to their traffickers. Some traffickers even sell their trafficking victims to another trafficker when she has almost or already paid off her debt. In such cases, the trafficking victim accrues a whole new debt that she owes to a new trafficker. In the quotes below trafficking victims talk about the debts they owe to their traffickers.

“I had a debt of 120,000 KZT (800 USD). I worked for 1.5 months for that, and that was very hard... I was controlled until I paid my debt. My pimp took my documents away and some part of my money as a security. (450, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“I had to work off the money they had transferred to me for travelling (80 USD). I had to serve up to two to three clients per day. She told me for 20 to 40 USD, but all the time she said that I had not paid off my debt yet.” (305, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“I owed a debt of 27,000 KZT for transportation (180 USD) and 1,500 KZT (10 USD) per day for accommodations and food.” (297, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“We served 10 to 20 clients every day. They paid us 10% of the income for every client. They took out money to buy cosmetics, pads, soaps, shampoo, and medicines; the ‘masters’ bought all this for us.” (370, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“In addition to the examples of violence offered in the above quotes, the quotes below offer additional insight into the psychological, physical, and sexual violence that sex trafficking victims endured at the hands of their traffickers/exploiters.

“Trafﬁckers/exploiters also use violence against one trafﬁcking victim to demonstrate to other trafﬁcking victims the violence they are capable of, and that if they do not obey and do as they are told they may suffer a similar fate. As one trafﬁcking victim explained,

“Our ‘mom’ [pimp woman], she is a mean, sly, deceitful, and vile woman, but we can’t do without her. She arranges everything and deals with clients, but she gets a lot of money. Sometimes she forces us to work for free – for her acquaintances or for rich clients. We can’t say anything.” (196, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION, AND CONTROL

Traffickers also use different means of violence, intimidation, and control to keep sex trafficking victims cowed and acquiescent. Interview data revealed that psychological, physical, and sexual violence are regularly used by traffickers to control their victims. The physical violence is often brutal, torturous, and unpredictable. The quotes below reveal that violence often begins early on, once a girl is acquired, as part of her initial entry into being trafficked and exploited, and continues over time. At this initial entry point, violence lets the trafficking victim know that the traffickers are in control and can do anything to them; thus, they better do as they are told if they want to survive. As one trafficking victim revealed,

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“We lived on the 11th floor and we couldn’t ask for help. If we didn’t obey we were beaten. One of the girls from Russia was beaten to death and then was taken away and buried in the sand. If we didn’t obey the same would happen to us.” (295, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

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In addition to the examples of violence offered in the above quotes, the quotes below offer additional insight into the psychological, physical, and sexual violence that sex trafficking victims endured at the hands of their traffickers/exploiters.

“I was made to have sex for money because when I refused to do it for the first time they sent me to “subbotnik,” that is when one and all pass you around and rape you. Since then, I did not resist anymore... The employer [exploiter] was an adult woman. She had two daughters who supervised us.” (305, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“They kept me locked up for a month... They would fasten me with a chain to the radiator and when the clients came I was released. I had to serve 10 to 15 people. I was bullied and beaten. I often lost consciousness.” (446, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“The man who forced us to work, if we did not fulfill his plan, he beat us, shaved off our eyebrows, and tied our hands and legs... We could not even have any money in our pockets; if they found a coin they beat us.” (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)
“We were not allowed to go out; they fed us once a day and beat us for every case of disobeying.” (370, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“They said that if I did not do it [prostitution] they would kill me!” (424, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“We were not able to sleep for some days, and we did not always get to eat.” (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

“The pimp woman used to take all the money. She used to look through our things even when the clients tipped us. If we didn’t give her all the money they used to beat us. They locked us in the rooms without any windows and they used to put us in the cellar to punish us. They used to bring us to the clients and when the time was up they took us back to the cellar again.” (290, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“I was forced to render sexual services, and when I refused I was beaten by the pimp to the extent that I had to agree... He was very brutal and when we refused to go to the sauna to the clients he beat us harshly.” (297, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“Clients were by order and I was escorted to the clients. I only had sex for money. We were forced to have sex 18 hours per day; one client came after another. When I could not do it [sex] anymore and my leg was cramped I was beaten by both ‘pimp woman’ and the ‘supervisor.’ Then I stole vodka from the clients and got drunk because we were not brought to work if we were drunk.” (202, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“The girls can’t speak to each other; they cry and say ‘I want to go home.’ The masters beat the girls so that they cannot get up from the bed. There was a girl, they beat her very often and she has problems with her mind. If you come up to her, she starts shouting and beating. When she sees people, she becomes nervous. My friends and I helped her and talked to her and gave her a meal. The master told us not to come up to her, but we helped her anyway. Soon she couldn’t recognize us. Then she was sent to an insane hospital, but this didn’t help. She stopped recognizing us, her state worsened... One girl had a pustule between her legs. One client brought the medicine. We went to her at night and helped her. One Kazakh girl said ‘Why do you help her? She will die anyway.’ (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

Several trafficking victims revealed that traffickers also rely upon video cameras and wiretaps in the rooms and hallways to monitor and control them 24 hours a day, including while they were with clients. Video cameras and wiretaps offer an additional layer of intimidation and psychological control over trafficking victims as they are always under the watchful eye and scrutiny of their exploiters. In the quotes below, one trafficking victim revealed that the police were aware of the video cameras in the rooms and would often destroy them during police raids of the establishment, but the traffickers would replace them after the police left. Again, there is evidence that the police have contact with traffickers and trafficking victims, but in many cases fail to identify and rescue the victims and to arrest the traffickers.

“The clients gave side money to the girls, but if employers knew about it they would kill the girls. Each hotel room was equipped with wiretaps and the corridors had video cameras. Even when the employer would have a rest he would hear everything at the same time. The clients asked us, ‘Why do you work here? and we had to say that we came here voluntarily because the employer heard everything.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

“If two girls speak to each other and another one says about it to the boss, then these girls get it in the neck, they were beaten with truncheons/clubs and their body was ironed because they talked to each other and didn’t obey the ‘master’... Sometimes the clients asked ‘What happened to you? Why do you have bruises all over your body?’ We had to tell them that we had a fight with the other girls. Every room has video cameras... The police officers sometimes happen to come and conduct a check and then they would break the cameras in the rooms, but the masters set the cameras once again after they left. And they [the masters] would hide us in the basement so the police officers would not see us... There were around 80 girls and women between 12 and 40 years of age.” (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

Traffickers also rely heavily upon guards to monitor and control their victims, and to ensure they do not escape. In many cases, trafficking victims are under the supervision of guards 24 hours a day. Guards are typically responsible for controlling and disciplining the girls with physical violence, and even keeping them from speaking to each other. Guards are also responsible for transporting the girls to/from the saunas, hotels, and apartments were they would meet clients and provide sex for money. Guards typically collect the payment for sexual services to ensure that trafficking victims do not have access to money. It is important to note that guards can be men or women. In the quotes below, several trafficking victims speak about the role of the guards and how they monitored and controlled them.
PATHWAYS INTO LABOR TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

The analysis that follows is focused on revealing the various pathways of children/youth into labor trafficking and labor exploitation. While the number of labor trafficking victims interviewed were fewer in number than sex trafficking victims; nevertheless, that did appear in our sample. Data analysis revealed that the pathways into labor trafficking were fewer than into sex trafficking; still, however, three common pathways did emerge:

- deceived by a “stranger trafficker”
- deceived by an “employer trafficker”
- sold into labor debt bondage by a parent

Each of these pathways into labor trafficking and labor exploitation is analyzed in the following sections. The cases of labor trafficking and exploitation described below include both male and female victims, and cases of internal and cross-border labor trafficking.

DECEIVED BY A “STRANGER TRAFFICKER”

Some labor trafficking victims revealed that they were deceived by strangers. There is no typical story that depicts the way that labor trafficking victims were deceived by “stranger traffickers;” therefore, numerous quotes are included to reveal the different ways in which “stranger traffickers” deceived and trafficked both girls and boys into labor exploitation. Moreover, there is no clear description of who the “stranger traffickers” are.

In the first three quotes, two male and female labor trafficking victims revealed that they were deceived by “stranger traffickers” that they met at the Kazakh border. In the first two cases, a woman “stranger trafficker” approached them as they were preparing to cross the border and offered to help them cross the border. In the first case, the young man did not have the necessary documents to cross the border. In the second case, the girls had their documents, but the “stranger trafficker” informed him that she could solve this problem. In the second case, the girls had their documents, but the “stranger trafficker” convinced the girls that she could help them cross the border and ensure that they would not be harassed by the border guards. In both cases, once the “stranger trafficker” helped them cross the border, and they were in Kazakhstan they were immediately approached by a second “stranger trafficker.” The woman “stranger trafficker” then passed their documents to the second “stranger trafficker” along with the promise of a job in Kazakhstan. Each of the quotes revealed how the labor trafficking victims were transported and controlled by their traffickers.

There is evidence in the interview data that sometimes trafficking victims will move up in the hierarchy of sex workers and take on the role of ‘main prostitute’ who will help the traffickers to control the other trafficking victims and train new arrivals. Giving into the demands of their traffickers, these victims may say that moving up the hierarchy provides them with some status, power, and control over other victims in an environment where they are exploited and powerless to their traffickers. As one trafficking victim explained,

“I was 22 years old when I started to exchange sex for money. When we came to Astana and they showed me how to do it, then I myself realized that this is a big money and soon I became the main prostitute among others and I shouted at them [the other prostitutes] and I forced them to have oral sex and I showed them to have sex in different positions. I worked 10 hours a day... The pimp woman and man they have only money on their minds.” (329, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)
“I went to the border and met a woman. She offered me a job in Kazakhstan. I told her that I didn’t have any documents and she promised to solve this problem... She [the woman] paid for my crossing over the border and told me that I would repay her when I got money... I crossed the border with other people, there were only men and all of them were going to work... We were met by two men and they took me to work in the field and construction site; the other people were taken too... We came to a house and the owner of the house met us there and I began to work for him... I built a house, mixed cement, weeded the garden, and looked after the livestock... I was not paid; I heard only promises. I had no place to go so I had to stay there... I owed them money for the trip and then for food... In the daytime they watched us... There were two other men who were taken together with me, but when I ran away, they stayed there... I was there for one year.” (291, trafficking victim, male, 22 years)

“My sister and I took a bus which carried us to the border of Kazakhstan. When we were going to cross the border a woman came up to us. She said that we were young girls and that we should not cross the border alone because we could be harassed by the border guards. Then she proposed that she would help us cross the border. She took our passport and we followed her. It was a big queue there but she arranged everything and we crossed the border in 20 minutes. When we were in Kazakhstan, another woman came up to us and asked whether we needed a job. She proposed that we cook and clean the rooms in a house, and work in the field where she grows melons and watermelons. So, we agreed. Then, the woman who helped us pass the border gave our passport to the woman for whom we were supposed to work. Then we drove in a car for about 1.5 to 2 hours. We came to the field and there we were met by the woman’s brother-in-law. She gave him our passports and said that she had brought him new workers and she left. Then we were brought to the field and they showed us how to weed that field growing melons and watermelons. We were also supposed to keep the farm (10 hens and 5 sheep), cook, and do the rooms in the house. We began to refuse saying that we had not made such an agreement, and we asked for our passports back, but he began to fight and then he beat us and threatened that if we didn’t obey, and if we didn’t do he says he will rape us. He said that he had paid money for us... At first we weeded the garden, did the house, cooked for the master and his friend who often stayed overnight in his house. Then, we had to pick watermelons and carry them to the shed... We did not get paid for the work that we did there... The master often told us that we owed him; he had paid for us. But we did not know how much we owed. We also had to pay for food. He told us that we would work off our debt as soon as the season was finished... Every evening the master [exploiter] used to lock us in the room which didn’t even have windows, and he went to bed near the door. In the daytime he watched us. After six months we ran away.” (301, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

In the third case of cross-border trafficking, the male labor trafficking victim revealed that his “stranger trafficker” was a taxi driver that picked him up after he crossed the border into Kazakhstan. The taxi driver “stranger trafficker” took the four boys/men’s documents and handed them over to a labor trafficker that controlled them and forced them to perform construction work. The boy remained as a labor trafficking victim for two months.

“When summer came our neighbors were about to go to Shymkent [from Samarkand]... they were going for a few days and offered to take us with them so that I could see the city. At first, my father didn’t allow me to go, but I talked him into agreeing... This was our neighbor who had been in Shymkent and was telling me how it is beautiful there... My parents gave my birth certificate to the neighbor so that we could go through the border together... When we were about to cross the border we were not allowed to go because my neighbor didn’t have my parent’s permission letter, and I had to pass over the river. In Kazakhstan, we met a taxi driver who told us that he knew where to find a job and offered to take us there. We agreed to go with him. I thought that they would agree about the job, and then I would see the city and return to Samarkand. My neighbor was supposed to return me home. The taxi driver took our document at once and told us that the police would check him and he would have to tell who he was driving... When the taxi driver brought us there [to the job] he gave our documents to a man who met us near a house; he said that was needed for registration. The owner of the house met us and told us that we would live and work at his place. My neighbor told him that he needed to see the scope of the work and that there was no agreement, and that I was supposed to return to my parents. But, the owner of the house told us that he kept our documents and we must work to take them back. I carried bricks for building a house, mixed concrete, and then I carried it to workers in buckets... I didn’t get paid... I had to work for the owner of the house to get my documents back. He told us to build a house, and then he would let us go. The house gate was always closed so we couldn’t get out. The owner’s brother watched us working. At nights we were..."
locked in a barn where we slept. There were three other people held along with me [my neighbor and two of his relatives] between the ages of 23 and 30 years of age. I worked there for two months.” (298, trafficking victim, male, 16 years)

In this next quote, a 7-year old girl reveals how she met her “stranger trafficker” in the bus station when she was begging for money. The woman recognized the child as a “street child/beggar” and lured her into her car with the offer of food. Once in the car, the “stranger trafficker” transported the young girl to a house where the girl was held against her will and exploited for purposes of domestic labor. This is a case of internal labor trafficking in Kazakhstan.

“I was with my sister in the railways station and we were begging for money in buses... One woman with a child came to me and asked my name and then offered to feed me. I followed her, sat in her car, and we left. The woman took my hand and brought me to a house; there were other women there but I could not understand their speech. They closed the door by key and I could not get out. I was crying and calling for my mother. Then one man came and he brought me a dress, shoes, and a kerchief. He led me to another house where they fed me. After that they gave me a pail and a cloth and told me to do cleaning... I was keeping order in the house, cleaning floors, and peeling potatoes, onions, and carrots. The woman kept control over me. They did not give me any money. The woman who worked there used to bring food. She was always standing nearby and saying what I am to wash... I was there for a long time, maybe a month; I don’t know exactly... The house was very big. I was staying in a room, but the door was closed.” (449, trafficking victim, female, 7 years old)

DECEIVED BY AN “EMPLOYER TRAFFICKER”

The majority of labor trafficking victims revealed they were deceived by an “employer trafficker.” In the three quotes below, three labor trafficking victims revealed how they were deceived by their “employer traffickers” and enslaved against their will for a period of several months to years.

“I decided to go to Moscow by train with my documents and an employer. They bought my tickets, and they gave us food and solved all the problems on the way. The owner of the shop who accompanied us organized the trip and bought the tickets. A fellow from my town was going with me. The owner of the shop brought us to a workplace. I found out that I had to live there and they took my documents. I saw all personnel came their against their will... The first two days I worked as a cash keeper, and then I became a general worker since I did not know Russian language very well. I had to do all the dirty work – wash the floors and unload heavy cargo... I did not get any money, we worked for free, and nobody gave us money for our needs... There were cameras in the shop; it was prohibited to speak with each other and clients. When we spoke with relatives someone from security stood near us and did not let us say unwanted words. We had to tell them that everything was good so that my relatives could not understand. Everybody was strictly controlled. We did hard work and had to lift heavy cargo, and if somebody refused to work they beat us bitterly. There were 10 to 12 other people like me there working, they were between 18 and 32 years of age... I do not know what is with them now. I cannot speak with my sister who is still working there. I was there for three years [she was 15 years old when she was trafficked and 19 years old now].” (304, trafficking victim, female, 19 years

“I was 22 years old when I left home. My cousin offered me to go to work in Moscow where I could earn money... I went to the train station with my brother. A woman met us and told us that I do not need clothes and money. She put me on the train... They sent me without tickets because she arranged with a train man for my travel to Moscow... In Moscow, I was met by the daughter of the shop owner where I had to work. When the daughter of the shop met me we went to the shop and I was immediately sent to work in storage. I had a Koran in my bag where I put my ID Card; in the evening, I came and found that it was stolen. Then they introduced me to a woman who was an administrator; she controlled our work and us. I saw my brother and we greeted each other, but did not speak because they prohibited us to speak with each other... In the morning, I worked in the wine and alcohol section, and unloaded and brought goods, washed floors, dusted, picked potatoes, and made meals for personnel. I did not get paid for the work that I did there... I had a debt for travel and then they said that we had to pay for food and accommodations; however, they did not tell us the amount... I wanted to go home and told this to my employer [trafficker/exploiter] because it was very difficult for me to carry goods, but they always beat us. The employer [trafficker/exploiter] told me that he would not give me money. The shop was equipped with cameras which they used to control us. The administrator and security was always near and controlled us. They beat us for any faults... Six or seven people from Kazakhstan worked in this shop, and lived under the same conditions. They were between 18 and 25 years of age... One girl managed to run away. I was there for three months.” (303, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)
In the quote below, this labor trafficking victim revealed that in an effort to run away from his traffickers/exploiters he was picked up by individuals that promised to help him, but then turned out to be “stranger traffickers” who trafficked him into new situation of labor exploitation. He was trafficked three consecutive times, each time he tried to escape his initial “employer trafficker.”

“I was standing at the textile plant and two men came and offered me to work building the foundation of a house. They told me they needed only one man. Other workers didn’t agree, they said that it was hard work for one worker. I agreed... We went by car to the workplace and they gave me covering boards and showed where cement and sand was. They told me that I would live together with them in a small house. They told me that they would watch me so that I wouldn’t steal materials. I asked to phone my sister so that she wouldn’t worry; they told me that I would do it later. After a week passed, I finished the work and asked them to pay me and take me home, but they beat me and then tied me to a pole and told me they wouldn’t let me go until I finished all work, and if I was stubborn they would kill me and bring another worker instead of me. Then I began to look around and figure out how I would be able to run away. But I had no chance, as I was tied to the place where I worked and they watched me. I built walls and they built the roof themselves. We began to live there. I asked them to let me go several times, but it was in vain. There answer was that they needed a worker and that I couldn’t complain, as they were feeding me. I also had to wash their things, clean the stable, and milk their cows; I was their slave... I stayed there and worked for three and a half years... I was building a house, worked around the house, cleaned the stables, cleaned the house, washed things, carried water, unloaded coal, and did everything around the house... They used to tie me up and lock me up at nights. They threatened me, beat me, and insulted me... One day, a cow strayed away and they sent me to look for it. Apparently they thought that I was broken and was bent to submission. It was this time when I escaped. I was walking alone in the field and didn’t know where I was going; then I saw a man riding on a horse. I began to tell him about myself and asked for help. He promised to help me and took me to his sheep-stable on the horse... I thought he was helping me, but this man whom I met by chance took me to his place... He told me a car from town would be there in two to three weeks, as they had already brought food; so the next trip to town would be not soon. They offered me to live in their place for a while and help around the house. I understood that I didn’t have choice as I didn’t know where to go or where I was living, and nobody wanted to explain it to me. In two weeks I fell ill and I had a high temperature. I was lying and didn’t notice that a car came from town. Then I asked the master to let me phone my sister so that she would come and take me home. But the master refused and told me, you remember how cruel those men were, you don’t want such treatment so work and be quiet. They began to watch me closely so that I wouldn’t run away. When the master left, his son took his place and he turned out to be a real tyrant, and he beat me and his mother and sisters. He began to lock me in a barn. My only dream was to run away. So another year passed... I cleaned the stable, prepared hay, worked in the watermelon field... I was not paid for my work... They watched me, locked me up, and beat me... When the master’s son was drunk and the women were sleeping I managed to get out through the window with bars in the barn. I ran away... I walked for 3 days then a car stopped in the road and the people in the car offered me to get in. I couldn’t resist as I was very weak. I realized that I had no option... They put me in the car and took me to town... We came to a house and they told me that I would start working in the morning to pull down a barn and clean all the rubbish. They told me that they would pay and feed me. I didn’t argue as I knew what will be the ending of the story. I began to work, I didn’t ask for money because my health is more valuable. But here I lived better. I ate together with the masters and slept in the house and they didn’t beat me, but sometimes cursed me. They didn’t leave me alone at home as I am still a stranger... I pulled down the barn, cleaned out the rubbish for a new barn. I looked after the livestock, cleaned the stable and fed them, as before... I didn’t ask for money, as I was afraid... They were always watching me... I was there for 6 months. (288, trafficking victim, male, 25 years)

Finally, one child labor trafficking victim revealed that he was deceived by an “employer trafficker” that operated construction sites in Astana. In this case, the child found himself in a situation of debt bondage and his documents had been confiscat- ed by his “employer trafficker.” Once he was even picked up by the police for having no documents, and they failed to identify him as a child labor trafficking victim. Instead they labeled him as a “vulnerable child” and placed him in the Center for Adaptation of Minors.

“I came to the person who hired people to work at construction sites in Astana. We agreed that he will take half of my salary for himself; I agreed because I did not have a choice. I did not have money to buy a ticket and that option suited me. Our employ- er was still hiring people and I waited about one
week. He informed me through the acquaintance when we are leaving. I told nobody at home about my leaving. I had just written a letter and left it in a room in order not to worry them... My acquaintance agreed that I will work the debt off in Astana. This person organized the trip for us at his own expense. There were 16 of us and we were all going to work at a construction site in Astana. At that time I realized that they divided us into groups to work in different sites. On arrival in Astana, the senior had broken us into three groups. Having reached the construction site we remained there. During the day the senior took away all groups. I and five other people were taken to a small village where we started to build a cottage. We lived in rail car. The ‘senior’ then transferred us to the ‘construction superintendent’... We began to build a three floor cottage from the base. In four months we constructed the cottage and our construction superintendent told us that he had given our salary to our senior who agreed with him. When the senior made payment it appeared that he retained not only half, but also the expenses for meals, mobile communication, and adjustment of problems with the police. He paid me only 20,000 KZT (133 USD), and due to this we seriously argued and he fired me from the brigade. There were 11 of us that worked there, they were between 11 and 35 years of age... I worked there for four months. Then I went to a bus stop, but I could not leave for two days as nobody wanted to take me without documents. While people were getting in the bus the driver finally agreed to let me go, but police officers came and asked me to produce my documents. At first they brought me to the Regional Department of Domestic Affairs where I was interrogated by a female children’s officer, and then brought to CAM.” (457, trafficking victim, male, 16 years)

SOLD INTO LABOR DEBT BONDAGE BY A PARENT

Finally, one child labor trafficking victim revealed that he was sold into debt bondage by his mother. He worked on a truck that transported fruits and vegetables throughout Central Asian countries. He was able to cross country borders by hiding in the cargo body of the truck. He had to work long hours for no money, was often deprived of sleep, and was beaten by his traffickers for any indiscretion or mistake.

“My mother sold me to work for the people who transport vegetables and fruits. I was not paid, only fed. My mom had already been paid the money for me and all I had to do was work... We went nonstop from Samarkand to Tashkent... At the border I was not allowed to leave the cargo body; I sheltered myself. Later we made a stop in Turkestan... I was always alone in the cargo body. At first I was frightened, but later got used to it. We travelled from Turkestan to Saryagash and then to Astana... I was forced to work hard and I got tired, cried, and wanted to sleep. I felt bad. If I accidently feel asleep I was shaken awake and beaten for it... If I made a mistake they complained to the owner. When I put fresh tomatoes to the packing box of rotten ones the seller beat me up. There was a scandal and the goods were returned to her. She said it was my fault and she beat me up bad. I ran away and afraid to go back there.” (453, trafficking victim, male, 12 years old)

ESCAPE AND RESCUE

Trafficking victims were asked to explain how they escaped or were rescued from their traffickers.

Table 4.1 reveals that only 9.7% of trafficking victims reported that someone helped them escape their traffickers, and only 14.6% reported that their traffickers were actually caught.

Interview data revealed that trafficking victims who were able to escape did so when they saw a small window of opportunity to run, and it often occurred when they realized their guards and/or traffickers were not paying attention or left them unsupervised for a short amount of time. It is apparent from the interview data that many trafficking victims wait for that moment in time when they are unsupervised or a door is left open that they can run and escape their traffickers. In some cases, they find someone on the streets that is willing to help them; however, this is not the typically the case. In the quotes below, eight trafficking victims explain how they escaped their traffickers.

“I escaped two weeks after I had worked off my debt. I went to the toilet and got over a fence.” (424, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“I managed to run away when the door was open because a lot of men came there... I met a man when I was walking around the city and he took me to his home. The policemen took me from there and brought me to the police station.” (467, trafficking victim, female, 25 year)

“I ran away at night when our employers [trafficker/exploiters] had guests and they got drunk.
The overseer was looking after us, but she went to sleep as well. There was nobody at the visual control camera. When I ran away I asked street sweepers for help and they brought me to the station and arranged with a train man about my pass to Kazakhstan... Those people were citizens of Kyrgyzstan that worked in Russia. They brought me to the station and arranged with a train man since I had no documents with me and only money which I took from cash for my escape.” (304, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“One of the boys went to a shop which was not far from home. My girlfriend noticed that he didn't lock the door and told that we needed to do something to distract the other boy who stayed with us. I came to the kitchen and broke the tap. My girlfriend came to him and told him that the tap in the kitchen was broken and water leaked to the floor. He went to the kitchen to repair the tap and in this moment we ran away from the apartment leaving our belongings. We took a taxi and went to my place. My mother was at home. She paid for the taxi and led us to home.” (300, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“One day, a cow ran away and I was sent to look for it. They didn't think that I would run away because I always obeyed them. I looked for the cow for some time, and then ran away.” (291, trafficking victim, male, 22 years)

There was some party among cops and some criminals. After drinking a lot of alcohol they started to divide the territory and fight. All the guards ran into house and left the gates opened. I collected my things and money and ran away.” (390, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

“One day when the supervisor was distracted during the work, I managed to run away... When we worked in Karaganda, the hostess of the rented flat helped us to contact the police.” (463, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“One day, a cow ran away and I was sent to look for it. They didn't think that I would run away because I always obeyed them. I looked for the cow for some time, and then ran away.” (291, trafficking victim, male, 22 years)

“I went to the flat upon the client's call. The guard was in a car in the yard close to the porch. Going up the stairs I saw the porch had two exits. When I came to the client he was drunk. I went to the bathroom immediately, and when I left the bathroom the client was already sleeping. At that moment, I decided to escape taking some money from his wallet. I escaped through the second exist of the porch taking a taxi and going to the police.” (307, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

“I ran away from a client after I made him drunk and tied him up with a belt. Before the guards arrived, I had time to get to the police.” (460, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

Other trafficking victims revealed they found an opportunity to use a clients’ phone or their traffickers’ phone and called a family member or the police for help and informed them of their whereabouts. As four trafficking victims explained,

“While one of the clients was taking a shower and could not see me I took his phone and called my mother. I informed her of my location and asked for help. Then police came two days later and rescued me.” (305, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“The master left his mobile phone on a cabinet in the hall and I phoned my sister and told where I was, and asked her to rescue me. In three days the police came and took me home... It proved that when I phoned my sister she contacted the center and they initiated a police search for me.” (288, trafficking victim, male, 25 years)

“I managed to steal a client’s phone and phone home to ask for help. Then the police came and asked for my last name and took me away... The police brought me to the police office.” (290, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

A few trafficking victims revealed they told a client about their situation and asked the client to help them escape, and the client did.

“One day our neighbor lady dropped in at our place to take rice. The owner of the house ordered me to take a sack of rice to her house. When I was carrying it I talked to the woman and asked her to phone my father and tell him where I was so that he would take me back home... One day a policeman and some other people came and I saw my father among them. They had a terrible fight and then the police took our documents and the four of us from the owner of the house.” (298, trafficking victim, male, 16 years)

In addition, two trafficking victims revealed how they ran away when they were alone with a client and saw an opportunity to escape without being seen. In both cases, once they escaped they went directly to the police.
“I had one regular client, he is Korean. When I decided to escape he had been hiding and protecting me. I did not know what to do and where to go. I escaped because I had fought with the auntie [pimp woman]. She wanted me to serve a fat old man. I had been living for a week at the Korean’s home. Then, I called the girls and we rented a flat.” (392, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“I told one of the clients and asked for help. The police came the next day and set me free. (446, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

One child labor trafficking victim that was sold into debt bondage by his mother explained that he ran away after being beat by his traffickers. Once on the street a woman found him and helped him; however, instead of being treated as a child trafficking victim, he was labeled and treated as a “vulnerable child” by the police and the child protection system. He was placed in the Center for Adaptation of Minors along with other vulnerable children.

“The owner was beating me badly. My arms and cheeks were hurt, and she pushed me to the ground. I was screaming that I would be more careful next time; the people around were watching and laughing. I rushed across the road towards another bazaar and nobody followed me. Then, I reached a bus stop and went to the city. I met one woman in the city and she asked me about something, but I could not understand her. She took me to a house and left me there. I was examined and questioned where I was from and later me and two other boys were taken here [Center for Adaptation of Minors].” (453, trafficking victim, male, 12 years old)

Some trafficking victims revealed that after they escaped they were picked up on the streets by police, and the police returned them back to their traffickers/exploiters (for more information about the role of police in trafficking and exploitation see Chapter 7). In the quote below, one trafficking victim explains how the police returned her to her traffickers, and that it took her three attempts before she was able to escape her traffickers. This case reveals that the first escape attempt is not always successful and some trafficking victims must attempt escape numerous times before they succeed and find someone that is willing to help and protect them.

“I managed to escape someway. I went to the bus station, but I was caught on the way... police officers detained me. They had been searching for me by photo everywhere... Somebody said to the police officers that that girl took a taxi, so police officers caught me by themselves and returned me to my traffickers/exploiters. I managed to escape on the third attempt... My employer’s new driver who had been working in the hotel for one month helped me to escape.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

In addition to running away, a few trafficking victims revealed they were able to escape their traffickers when they were taken to the hospital after being beat, falling ill, and attempting suicide. For these trafficking victims, having to go to the hospital enabled them to escape their traffickers. In the below quotes, three trafficking victims explain their escape.

“Once they beat me and I fell ill. My employer [trafficker/exploiter] accused me of deceit. Then they had to call for a doctor. The doctor said that it was necessary to place me in a hospital, but my employers said that nothing was to be done... The next day I came to work, but it was very difficult and painful to work. Sometimes I even sat down because of pain. One client saw me and said to my employer that it was bad for me. My employer came and asked me to go to the storage room where she gathered all the workers and made them beat me. After the beating, I felt worse. I had a strong liver ache and my leg swelled. In the evening, after supper, I felt worse. I vomited and I had to call for a doctor. I was placed in a hospital where I was subject to an operation and then I managed to come back home [to Kazakhstan].” (303, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“I wanted to escape the flat where I had been kept, so I jumped from the window and broke my leg. The pimp woman sent me to the hospital... then police officers brought me from the hospital to here.” (438, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

One trafficking victim revealed that she was bought out of slavery by a client that fell in love with her. As she told, “I was 18 years old when one client fell for me and bought me out. Now, I live with him and receive treatment for venereal diseases.” (202, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

Another girl revealed that her traffickers actually let her go after she got into a fight with one of the clients. As she explained,

“One evening I had to serve a drunken client, the pimp’s friend; his grandson was born, so I was the present. After the service he drank another 100 grams of vodka and began to demand to stretch in the bed in an unnatural pose. The man seized my hair, wrung my hands, and called me a prostitute. He demanded me to do everything he wanted. I began to break loose and grabbed a bottle of vodka which stood by the bed and hit him on his head. The girls began to gather to the screams and they saw that he was bleeding and I was black and blue. The girls took me to the hospital; I was there for two days. On
In only a few cases did the police actually just show up and rescue the girls out of exploitation.

“I was brought to the flat to clients where we entertained them. They were badly drunk and then they began to fight because of some business. Then somebody knocked on the door and one of them came up and opened it. It was the police and they took us to the police station.” (444, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

“Once when clients were leaving me, police officers entered the flat and caught the clients and I was put in the car. I began to cry and I didn’t even know if it was for joy or for grief. In the local police precinct, I told everything and they held me there for some time. The police told me that there was a statement on my disappearance and they found this flat following all the evidence. I don’t even know how to live with this in the future.” (442, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

Some girls revealed that once they or one of the other trafficking victims was rescued they led the police back to the location where the other trafficking victims were being held and helped to rescue them.

I was the first one who ran away. I went to the legal bodies and reported them, gave them the address, and filed an application; then the others were rescued.” (460, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

“One of the girls ran away; a client helped her. He drove her to the Center and left her at the doors on the condition that she wouldn’t tell anybody who helped her. She applied to “Sana Sezim” Center, and with the help of the policemen during investigation measures, the pimp was caught and two nests were closed; one in which I was staying.” (297, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“When I was rescued I told them that there were other girls who wanted to run away or be rescued. But they couldn’t find a 16 year old girl because she was sent to another nest [house of prostitution].” (290, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

Access to Trafficking Shelters and Support Services

After escape some trafficking victims went to the NGO-run trafficking shelters or centers where they were provided with victim support services; however, other victims received no services. Data was analyzed to understand how trafficking victims access and who referred them to the shelters and victim support services. In some cases, the police referred or brought trafficking victims to the NGO-run shelters and/or the centers where they provide victim support services; however, not all trafficking victims were screened by the police and identified as trafficking victims. As several trafficking victims explained,

“Police officer brought me here. I will be here until the court is over. I have been here for a half year already. I cannot be released without a passport. My father says that my passport is being prepared.” (433, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

“When I left home my parents applied to the police and submitted an application to search for us. The policemen told them that there was the “Sana Sezim” Center in our town and this center could also help them to find me. My mother applied to them and when my girlfriend and I came to my home, my mother took us to this center at once.” (300, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“Police officer brought me here after the hospital. They gave me meals and clothes, but I don’t like this place. You know, they are looking at you when we are eating.” (438, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“The police helped me and the officers of the Department of Domestic Affairs brought me to the shelter.” (462, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

Other trafficking victims revealed that IOM was influential in their return to Kazakhstan and assistance in accessing victim support services. As two trafficking victims explained,

“After I arrived from Dubai, IOM officers met me and took to Almaty asylum, then I went to Shymkent. My mother and workers of “Sana Sezim Center” met me in Shymkent.” (307, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

“Medical workers applied to employees of IOM in Moscow who accompanied me to the airport. And I went to Almaty. IOM employees in Kazakhstan met me in Almaty and sent me to Shymkent. My relatives and employees of Sana Sezim Center met me in Shymkent.” (303, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)
Parents were also influential in referring their children, who were trafficking victims, to victim support services.

“When I had arrived from Atyrau, I went to Sana Sezim with my mother because my mother had already applied to this center to help me to be free.” (306, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

There was a psychologist from ‘Sana Sezim’ center in the police office. It was them who told the police where I was. My mom had applied to an organization in Uzbekistan, from where its workers phoned ‘Sana Sezim’ Center.” (290, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

In one case, a client that helped a sex trafficking victim run away from her traffickers actually brought her to the center that provides victim support services.

“One of the girls ran away, a client helped her. He drove her to the Center and left her at the doors on the condition that she wouldn’t tell anybody who helped her. She applied to “Sana Sezim” Center, and with the help of the policemen during investigation measures, the pimp was caught and two nests were closed; one in which I was staying... the girls were taken to the center... All of them refused to write a complaint against the pimp due to fear publicity. The Center workers and policemen helped to take the passport back, after that the girls left.” (297, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

In one case a trafficking victim revealed that a health care worker at one of the Special Dispensaries for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases referred her to the NGO-run trafficking shelter.

“I accidentally got pregnant and my medical analysis showed that I was infected with gonorrhea. I was registered in the special dispensary for skin diseases and STD. the doctor prescribed a treatment for me and told me to go to a psychologist; he advised me to apply to the shelter for help as I needed registration and wanted to quit that job [prostitute]... The shelter helped me and found a job for me. Now I am supervised by an obstetrician and in the special dispensary... The shelter provided me with psychological and legal services.” (450, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

Surprisingly, one of the male trafficking victims revealed that he was not referred by anyone, but saw an advertisement for “Sana Sezim” Center in the bazaar and went on his own for victim support services.

“I went to the indoor market looking for a job so that to go back to Tashkent. I saw an advertisement, that migrants could get help in “Sana Sezim” center, so I went there... They help me to recover my documents so that I could go through the border legally.” (291, trafficking shelter, male, 22 years)

Child trafficking victims were more likely to reveal that the police transferred them to one of the Centers for Adaptation of Minors, versus to a trafficking shelter or center where they provide victim support services.

“At first they brought me to the Regional Department of Domestic Affairs, where I was interrogated by a female children’s officer, and then they brought me to CAM... They [CAM] have feed me well and I have taken a shower and laid down in a clean bed and fell asleep. I liked that place and wished to remain there.” (457, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

**VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES RECEIVED**

NGO-run trafficking shelters and victim support services are crucial; despite the fact that they are few and far between in Kazakhstan. As trafficking victims revealed they receive a wide range of support services that help them access the justice system and receive necessary medical testing and treatments. As the quotes below reveal, most trafficking victims face legal problems, health care issues, and psycho-social problems that continue long after their escape and/or rescue. As one trafficking victim explained, “I still experience these horror dreams. At the moment I’m settled in the shelters and they’re getting a job for me, but I’m still living in fear.” (446, trafficking victim, female, 19 years) Several other trafficking revealed the various types of victim support services they are receiving.

“Center workers applied to police with me to file an application, they also accompanied me to get diagnostic and medical assistance, also a psychologist worked with me to help me to get rid of nightmares, night-fears, and to learn how to live a normal life.” (306, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“They returned my child whom I delivered in Moscow. The retrieved the documents, made documents for my child, sent my child to the infant’s home, provided accommodations and food. They sent back to the college, paid for my studies and provided 1C account courses.” (304, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“Upon arrival at Sana Sezim Center, I received medical treatment and psychological rehabilitation. They helped me to retrieve the documents. I completed accountant courses.” (303, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)
CONTACT WITH FAMILY BEFORE AND AFTER ESCAPE

Trafficking victims were asked about their contact with family before and after their escape. Table 4.2 reveals that only 42.7% of trafficking victim were able to communicate with their family while they were trafficked and exploited. Interview data revealed that sometimes traffickers would let trafficking victims phone their relatives to let them know that everything was alright. These phone calls were always supervised by the traffickers to make sure that the trafficking victim did not speak about their situation. Very few trafficking victims (19.4%) said that they were actually able to send money they earned back to their family. This is because, as interview data revealed, trafficking victims typically have a debt and they were paid little to nothing for the work they performed.

Table 4.2 also reveals trafficking victims contact with their family after their escape. Only 38.8% of trafficking victims reported they had contact with their family since their escape, and 36.9% reported that their family was glad to hear from them.

As one trafficking victim explained, when she was finally able to contact her parents after her escape, “my father was crying. He said that he handed in the application for a search two years ago. Then, my parents thought that I had been dead. They had been searching for me in Shymkent.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

When I was in slavery, I couldn’t call anywhere. So, when we were rescued and when we came here I called my brother. When I talked to him, he told me he was looking for me; he initiated the search to RAIA four times in Kyrgyzstan. When my brother heard my voice he began to cry, he thought I was dead... When we had been living at the hotel I couldn’t communicate with anyone. I couldn’t take a phone or a pen. I had no chance to write to somebody or give someone a note, we were under control, and cameras were set everywhere. (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

Some trafficking victims revealed they did not want to have contact with their family for various reasons. As one trafficking victim explained, “I don’t want to have contact with my family because of my brother and those who raped me.” (462, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

Table 4.2 reveals that only 38.8% of trafficking victims reported they had a desire to go home. As revealed in Chapter 3, many trafficking victims came from poor and dysfunctional families, so for some trafficking victims returning home was not a desired option or outcome. As one trafficking victim explained, “As for my mom, I don’t know where she is now. She handed my younger sisters to the orphanage. I want to save money, and when I am 18, I will take them back.” (368, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

Other trafficking victims maintained they were afraid to contact their family and afraid to have their family learn about what happened to them.
Chapter 5

TRAFFICKING ROUTES

This chapter reveals the trafficking routes that trafficking victims followed to the seven urban areas included in this study – Almaty, Astana, Atyrau, Karaganda, Kokshetau, Shymkent, and Ust-Kamenogorsk. Geographic maps and mapping data was analyzed to take into consideration not only towns and cities of origin, but also transit towns and cities, and final destination cities. Thus, when interpreting the maps it is important to understand that trafficking routes were not always direct routes from the place of origin to the final destination, but included one or more transit cities. It is also important to understand that most of the human trafficking cases uncovered in this study were of internal trafficking, not cross-border trafficking. This means that the place of origin, transit towns and citizens, and final destination cities were all in Kazakhstan; in other words, the trafficking victims originated in Kazakhstan and were trafficked internally within Kazakhstan.

For purposes of this analysis, the focus is largely on trafficking routes into and within Kazakhstan; thus, only maps of Kazakhstan are included.
TRAFFICKING ROUTES TO ALMATY

Diagramme 5.1 reveals the trafficking routes to Almaty from other towns and cities in Kazakhstan, as well as other countries in the region. Trafficking victims interviewed in Almaty came from various places of origin within Kazakhstan, including, but not limited to: Aksu, Shardara, Shu, Kirovskoye, Maktashi, Sarayagash, Shymkent, Taraz, Temirtau, Ushtobe, and Zharkent. They also came from places of origin in other countries, including: Bishkek, Tokmak, and Jalal-abad, Kyrgyzstan; Tashkent, Beruni, and Yangiyo’l, Uzbekistan; Tajikistan; and China.

As can be seen in Diagramme 5.1, the trafficking routes that trafficking victims followed were not always a direct route from the place of origin to Almaty. Many trafficking victims were transited through other cities or from one city to another where they were exploited, before arriving in Almaty. In particular, trafficking victims interviewed in Almaty were transited to and exploited in towns and cities in Kazakhstan before arriving in Almaty. These transit towns and cities, include, but are not limited to: Abay, Arys, Karaganda, Krasnoe pole, Maktashi, and Saryagash.

Diagramme 5.1. Trafficking Routes to Almaty

TRAFFICKING ROUTES TO ASTANA

Diagramme 5.2 reveals the trafficking routes to Astana from other towns and cities in Kazakhstan, as well as other countries in the region. Trafficking victims interviewed in Astana came from various places of origin within Kazakhstan, including, but not limited to: Aris, Atbasar, Karaganda, Kyzylorda, Mirnyy, Petropavlovsk, Ruzayevka, Samarkand, Saryagash, Shardara, Shuchinsk, Shymkent, Taraz, and Timofeevka. The also came from places of origin in other countries, including: Issyk-kul, Kyrgyzstan; Dushanbe, Tajikistan; and Belopole, Ukraine.

Diagramme 5.2 reveals that trafficking routes were not always direct routes from the place of origin to Astana. Many trafficking victims were transited through other cities or from one city to another where they were exploited, before arriving in Astana. In particular, trafficking victims interviewed in Astana were transited to and exploited in towns and cities in Kazakhstan, including, but not limited to: Almaty, Akadyr, Balhash, Karaganda, Kokshetau, Osakarovka, Pavlador, Petropavlovsk, Saran, Syrdarya, and Shymkent.
Diagramme 5.2. Trafficking Routes to Astana

Diagramme 5.3 reveals that trafficking victims in Atyrau came from Symkent, Kazakhstan and Hadzheli, Uzbekistan.

Diagramme 5.4 reveals the trafficking routes to Karaganda from other towns and cities in Kazakhstan, as well as other countries in the region. Trafficking victims interviewed in Karaganda came from various place of origin within Kazakhstan, including, but not limited to: Aris, Aktogay, Almaty, Karaganda, Ruzayevka, Shymkent, Taraz, and Temirtau. The also came from places of origin in other countries, including Osh, Kyrgyzstan.

Diagramme 5.4 also reveals that trafficking routes were not always direct routes from the place of origin to Karaganda. Many trafficking victims were transited through other cities or from one city to another where they were exploited before arriving in Karaganda. In particular, trafficking victims interviewed in Karaganda were transited to and exploited in towns and cities in Kazakhstan, including, but not limited to: Astana, Agadyr, Balhash, Karaganda, Kokshetau, Osakarovk, Pavlodar, Saran, and Shakhtinsk.
Diagramme 5.4. Trafficking Routes to Karaganda

TRAFFICKING ROUTES TO KOKSHETAU

Diagramme 5.5 reveals the trafficking routes to Kokshetau from other towns and cities in Kazakhstan, as well as other countries in the region. Trafficking victims interviewed in Kokshetau came from various places of origin within Kazakhstan, including, but not limited to: Gorodeckoe, Makinka, Ruzayevka, Sergeevka, and Shuchinsk. They also came from places of origin in other countries, including Omsk, Russia.

Diagramme 5.5 also reveals that trafficking routes were not always direct routes from the place of origin to Kokshetau. Many trafficking victims were transited through other cities or from one city to another where they were exploited, before arriving in Kokshetau. In particular, trafficking victims interviewed in Kokshetau were transited to and exploited in towns and cities in Kazakhstan, including, but not limited to: Aysary, Arys, Astana, and Sergeevka.

Diagramme 5.5. Trafficking Routes to Kokshetau
TRAFFICKING ROUTES TO SHYMKENT

Diagramme 5.6 reveals the trafficking routes to Shymkent from other towns and cities in Kazakhstan, as well as other countries in the region. Trafficking victims interviewed in Shymkent came from various places of origin within Kazakhstan, including, but not limited to: Karatau, Kizilorda, Namangan, Saryagash, Sas-Tobe, Shardara, Shymkent, and Myrzakent. The also came from places of origin in other countries, including: Kokand, Langikogranshi rayon, Samarkand, and Tashkent Uzbekistan; and Tajikistan.

Diagramme 5.6 also reveals that trafficking routes were not always direct routes from the place of origin to the final destination. Many trafficking victims were transited through other cities or from one city to another where they were exploited, before arriving in Shymkent. In particular, trafficking victims interviewed in Shymkent were transited to and exploited in towns and cities in Kazakhstan, including, but not limited to: Almaty, Atyrau, Kara-Tobe, Maktashi, Syrdarya, and Zhetysu.

TRAFFICKING ROUTES TO UST-KAMENOGORSK

Finally, Diagramme 5.7 reveals that trafficking victims in Ust-Kamenogorsk came from Bobrovka and Zyryanovsk in Kazakhstan.
Chapter 6

RISKY BEHAVIORS

This chapter describes the risky behaviors of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers. Risky behaviors include alcohol use/abuse, drug use/abuse, prostitution, unprotected sex and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, and engagement in self-harming and suicidal behaviors. This chapter reveals that for trafficking victims, many were forced to engage in risky behaviors such as alcohol use/abuse, drug use/abuse, prostitution, and unprotected sex and exposure to STDs by their traffickers and exploiters.
**ALCOHOL USE/ABUSE**

Table 6.1 reveals that 53.8% of the full sample reported alcohol use, and 43.8% reported alcohol use was their choice. Sex workers were most likely to report alcohol use (70.8%), and they were most likely to report that alcohol use was their choice (63.2%). In comparison, 60.2% of trafficking victims reported alcohol use, but only 39.8% reported that alcohol use was their choice. Trafficking victims were most likely to report that someone encouraged or forced to use alcohol (20.4%). Among vulnerable children, 44.4% reported alcohol use and 37.5% reported that alcohol use with their choice.

Respondents were also asked how often they used alcohol. Some sex workers and trafficking victims reported daily use of alcohol; however, they were more likely to report alcohol use several times a week or several times a month. In comparison, vulnerable children were more likely to report alcohol use several times a month.

Interview data offered greater insight into alcohol use among trafficking victims. Table 6.1 reveals that as many as 1 out of 5 trafficking victims reported that someone encourage or forced them to use alcohol. Interview data revealed that both clients and pimps forced trafficking victims to drink alcohol, mainly so that they would be more unrestrained and willing to perform sexual services for clients. As five sex trafficking victims revealed,

“The other girls [exploited girls forced to prostitute themselves to pay off their debt] said that it would help me [to drink alcohol]. And the pimp made me drink because drunken women become more unrestrained.” (424, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“I had to drink a lot not to feel anything. The pimp woman recommended me to do so [drink alcohol].” (408, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“Sometimes clients made us drink alcohol and sometimes they poured; I drank since it was easier to work.” (444, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

“When I was working in the disco, I had to drink and push the clients to buy alcohol and something to eat.” (306, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“‘Granny’ [her pimp woman] forced us to drink alcohol so that clients would drink with us. It was the way to promote clients. Now I don’t drink, because I know what it leads to... Now I don’t drink, but before I drank every day.” (295, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

Not all trafficking victims were encouraged or forced to drink alcohol; in fact, Table 6.1 reveals that 39.8% of trafficking victims reported that alcohol use was their choice. Interview data revealed that trafficking victims used alcohol to cope with the desperate situation they found themselves in and to mask the emotional and physical pain they were experiencing. One trafficking victim revealed,

“Without alcohol it’s difficult to make it [sex]; first vodka, then sex.” (46, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

Four other trafficking victims explained,

“When you drink you don’t feel anything and you can receive more clients. Girls from the sauna advised me to do this.” (423, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“For two years I have not drank or smoked. I smoked and drank before when I felt despair... Nobody persuaded us. We drank ourselves not to feel the pain all over our body... because we had bad lives... Before I drank beer every day.” (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

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**Table 6.1. Alcohol use/abuse**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full sample N=468</th>
<th>Vulnerable children N=259</th>
<th>Trafficking victims N=103</th>
<th>Sex Workers N=106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol use</td>
<td>252 (53.8)</td>
<td>115 (44.4)</td>
<td>62 (60.2)</td>
<td>75 (70.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol use was their choice</td>
<td>205 (43.8)</td>
<td>97 (37.5)</td>
<td>41 (39.8)</td>
<td>67 (63.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encouraged/forced to use alcohol</td>
<td>47 (10.0)</td>
<td>18 (6.9)</td>
<td>21 (20.4)</td>
<td>8 (7.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of alcohol use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>26 (5.6)</td>
<td>6 (2.3)</td>
<td>10 (9.7)</td>
<td>10 (9.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a week</td>
<td>91 (19.4)</td>
<td>29 (11.2)</td>
<td>28 (27.2)</td>
<td>34 (32.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a month</td>
<td>135 (28.8)</td>
<td>80 (30.9)</td>
<td>24 (23.3)</td>
<td>31 (29.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“I used drink a lot of alcohol... Nobody forced me; I did it by myself because I had some difficulties... I have not used alcohol for one year at this point.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

“At first I had to drink on purpose not to feel disgusted; nowadays, I feel pleasure drinking alcohol.” (244, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

Sex workers were most likely to report alcohol use, but they were more likely to report that alcohol use was their choice. Interview data revealed that sex workers often used alcohol when they were working because it was easier to perform sexual services for men if they drank alcohol. As five sex workers revealed,

“Nobody forced me to drink alcohol... I drink alcohol during every sexual act with a man.” (206, sex worker, female, 18 years)

“I drink alcohol before every intercourse with a man. It makes it easier.” (207, sex worker, female, 19 years)

“It is easier to service several men simultaneously in this way.” (390, sex worker, female, 17 years)

“Our work requires this, though I don’t want myself, so I prefer mild drinks.” (123, sex worker, female, 19 years)

“Sometimes I drink a lot, it helps me.” (188, sex worker, female, 21 years)

One sex worker revealed that her customers made her drink. As she explained, “I don’t like drinking, but some customers make me drink.” (246, sex worker, female, 18 years)

Vulnerable children spoke about their alcohol use in different ways than trafficking victims and sex workers. The below quotes are reflective of the way that vulnerable children generally spoke about their alcohol consumption.

“When I was 4 years old our neighbors gave me wine to drink; they were older than me. Then I began to drink myself, wine mostly. I didn’t drink vodka often... When I was 9 years old I didn’t buy them, I just looked for them under foot.” (345, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

“I drink beer with my friends, sometimes vodka.” (115, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

One vulnerable girl did reveal that she began to drink heavily after she was removed from her home and placed in an orphanage. Her parents had alcohol abuse problems which resulted in them neglecting and physically abusing her, which is most likely why she was removed from her home. After being placed in the orphanage her mother died and she did not know the whereabouts of her father. During the interview she revealed that she drank often to cope with the loss of her parents and the feeling of being alone.

“My father was always drinking and so did my mother... In 2009, I was placed in an orphanage where I spent a year. Then I was placed in another orphanage... I began to drink badly. I was drinking for a year; I drank vodka almost every day. I withdrew in the hospital. I underwent treatment on my nerves and the doctors thought I was insane. I escaped that place with one girl.” (119, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

What was also interesting is that several vulnerable girls spoke about being raped when under the influence of alcohol. As one girl explained, she was raped by the men that provided her with the alcohol.

“I was talked into drinking alcohol at the party [where I was raped by several men]. My friends talked me into it [drinking alcohol].” (205, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

**DRUG USE/ABUSE**

Respondents were also asked about drug use; however, because of the taboos that surround drug use and the fact that many drugs are illegal, it is likely that respondents underreported their drug usage. Table 6.2 reveals that trafficking victims (12.5%) were slightly more likely to report drug use than sex workers (10.6%) and vulnerable children (9.3%). Most respondents reported that drug use was their choice; however, 3.1% of trafficking victims reported that someone encouraged or forced them to use drugs. One trafficking victim reported that her traffickers drugged her on a regular basis. As she stated,

“They were giving me jobs by force. I don’t remember how often... they were giving me shots all the time.” (437, trafficking victim, female, 15 years)

The most common drug used by the full sample of respondents was marijuana (4.7%) Trafficking victims (7.3%) and sex workers (6.2%) were most likely to report marijuana use; whereas, vulnerable children were more likely to report using other drugs (4.6%). Table 6.2 also reveals that very few respondents reported sharing needles to inject drugs; however, the few that did reported sharing needles multiple times.

Interview data revealed that very few respondents spoke about drug use; however, some vulnerable
Table 6.2. Drug use/abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full sample N=468</th>
<th>Vulnerable children N=259</th>
<th>Trafficking victims N=103</th>
<th>Sex Workers N=106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug use</td>
<td>48 (10.3)</td>
<td>24 (9.3)</td>
<td>14 (13.6)</td>
<td>10 (9.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug use was your choice</td>
<td>36 (7.7)</td>
<td>17 (6.6)</td>
<td>11 (10.7)</td>
<td>8 (7.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encouraged/forced to use drugs</td>
<td>12 (2.6)</td>
<td>7 (2.7)</td>
<td>3 (2.9)</td>
<td>2 (1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of drugs use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection drugs</td>
<td>7 (1.5)</td>
<td>3 (1.2)</td>
<td>1 (1.0)</td>
<td>3 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>22 (4.7)</td>
<td>8 (3.1)</td>
<td>8 (7.8)</td>
<td>6 (5.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy</td>
<td>3 (0.6)</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
<td>1 (1.0)</td>
<td>1 (0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhalants (e.g., glue or dissolvers)</td>
<td>9 (1.9)</td>
<td>7 (2.7)</td>
<td>2 (1.9)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain pills</td>
<td>5 (1.1)</td>
<td>4 (1.5)</td>
<td>1 (1.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>6 (1.3)</td>
<td>1 (0.4)</td>
<td>2 (1.9)</td>
<td>3 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>13 (2.8)</td>
<td>12 (4.6)</td>
<td>1 (1.0)</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frequency of needle sharing to inject drugs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-10 times</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-30 times</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31+ times</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children spoke about smoking cigarettes, marijuana, and hashish. As two vulnerable children explained,

“I used to smoke naswar... My friends offered me to try smoking it and I liked it. I smoked for five years, but now in Srebryanka, I don’t smoke.” (115, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

“I only smoke. I tried when I was about 12 years old. Now I am addicted to it. I want it badly, but I don’t have enough money... My dad doesn’t like it. I tell him, ‘I smoke and will smoke.’ And he threatens that he would cut off my head.” (124, vulnerable child, male, 14 years)

One vulnerable child revealed that in addition to smoking hashish, she also used Diphenhydramine, an antihistamine that has sedative properties and can have a powerful hypnotic effect.

“When I was 15 years old I first tried hashish... I used hashish two to three times per day... I also used Diphenhydramine... I left my home and drank and smoked hashish... District policeman and school policeman, and the school teacher searched for me. I was caught and then placed in a narcological dispensary.” (347, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

Other vulnerable children spoke about using stronger drugs, such as injection drugs and sniffing glue.

“A boy from the orphanage gave me cigarettes to try smoking; then, I began to smoke when I was 5 years old... I have been sniffing glue for two months now... I also smoked hashish.” (345, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

“My friends tried to force me to sniff the glue, but I didn’t. They sniffed glue - lacquer and shoe glue. They squeeze out a little and sniff it. I don’t want to become like them.” (29, vulnerable child, male, 14 years)

“Once I tasted “dizzy.” My friend gave me some, a drop of it... Now I don’t taste anything... Once when I was small I tried to smoke a cigarette, but my father saw this and burned a bit of my mouth with a match. I won’t do that again.” (215, vulnerable child, female, 12 years)

“My step-father’s brother insisted that I try drugs. I injected drugs three times, and I smoked hashish.” (335, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

Interview data revealed some vulnerable children started using drugs as young as 5 and 9 years of age, while others were between 12 and 15 years of age.
Respondents were also asked if they ever exchanged sex for money and if they were forced by someone to exchange sex for money or not paid for rendering such sexual services. Table 6.3 reveals that 39.1% of the full sample exchanged sex for money. More specifically, 68.0% of trafficking victims and 100.0% of sex workers reported exchanging sex for money. Very few vulnerable children reported exchanging sex for money (3.1%). Two vulnerable children that reported exchanging sex for money revealed,

“When I was 13 years I joined a group, drank, and sometimes didn’t remember anything. Then I began to have sex for alcohol and money.” (247, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“When I was 15 years old, they [boys] used to come, bring various things – wine, cigarettes, perfume or various small things. They like were thanking us that way [for sex]. It was fun with them... they were nice to us. (113, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

It is surprising that only 35.9% of trafficking victims reported that someone forced them to provide sex for money and was not paid for it (see Table 6.3). This finding is most likely grounded in the fact that some girls blamed themselves for their own sexual exploitation and others girls reported that they were paid, even if only a small amount for the sexual services they rendered. Also, after paying off their debt, many trafficking victims continued to render sexual services for their traffickers because they remained trapped in sexual exploitation (see Chapter 4 for a detailed analysis of pathways into sex trafficking and exploitation, including the use of debt bondage and violence and intimidation by traffickers to control victims).

Table 6.3 also reveals the age at which trafficking victims and sex workers started exchanging sex for money; as many as 47.6% (1 out of 2) trafficking victims and 62.3% (2 out of 3) sex workers were sexually exploited as children, between 12 and 17 years of age. According to international conventions, children’s engagement in prostitution does not mean that they consented to activities like sexual exchange for money or sex against their will for the profit of a pimp; such cases should be categorized as cases of sex trafficking and the children treated as trafficking victims.

Only 20.4% of trafficking victims and 36.8% of sex workers reported that their sexual exploitation and involvement in sex work began when they were 18 years of age or older; most often between 18 and 22 years of age (Table 6.3). Regardless of age, sex trafficking victims did not consent to exchanging sex for money and were prostituted against their will for the profit by their traffickers/exploiters.
UNPROTECTED SEX AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Respondents were asked about their experiences of having unprotected sex and their worries about sexually transmitted diseases. Table 6.4 reveals that for the full sample, 35.9% of respondents reported having sex without a condom, and 21.8% had oral sex without a condom. In addition, as many as 1 out 3 respondents were worried about sexually transmitted diseases, and nearly half of the respondents had been tested for sexually transmitted diseases.

Interview data revealed that whether or not trafficking victims had sex without a condom was largely dependent upon their traffickers and clients. Traffickers would often allow clients to have sex without a condom if they paid a “higher rate.” Some clients demanded having sex without a condom. As four different trafficking victims explained:

“Sometimes this [sex without a condom] was a requirement by a client” (202, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“Sometimes [I would have sex without a condom] when a client pays money for it.” (370, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“I've had sex without a condom about five times.” (395, trafficking victim, 18 years)

“When I drink a lot I have sex without a condom.” (200, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

One trafficking victim revealed that while they had condoms, their traffickers did not allow them to use them for free; they were required to sell the condoms to the clients.

“We had a chance to use condoms. The clients bought the condoms themselves in our bar or they brought theirs... We also have packs of condoms, but they [exploiters] force us to sell them to the clients; not to distribute them for free.” (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

Some sex workers also revealed that they were willing to have sex without a condom for “additional pay” or a “higher rate.” Sex workers also reported having unprotected sex when condoms tore. One sex worker even revealed, “After several meetings and an HIV test I have sex without a condom.” (207, sex worker, female, 19 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 6.4. Unprotected sex and sexually transmitted diseases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full sample N=468</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex without a condom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of sex without a condom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only once or twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral sex without a condom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of oral sex without a condom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only once or twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worried about sexually transmitted diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tested for sexually transmitted diseases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 6.4 also reveals that nearly half of the trafficking victims (48.5%) and sex workers (48.1%) reported having oral sex without a condom. In regard to how frequently they had oral sex without a condom, nearly 1 out of 3 trafficking victims and sex workers reported having oral sex without a condom on a weekly basis – as often as every day to several times a week to at least once a week.

Interview data revealed that not all trafficking victims and sex workers perform oral sex. In fact, two trafficking victim spoke of a three-tiered hierarchical system of sex workers in which “ugly girls” are forced to perform oral sex and the “beautiful girls” are not forced to do so.

“There were girls who had oral sex, but the beautiful girls were not forced to. The main thing was to fulfill a plan. If you don’t, they will beat you and force you to do what you don’t want to do...” (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

“We did not have oral sex without a condom, it was just standard sex, but there were girls who did. The girls were divided into three groups. The third group included ugly girls who gave oral sex.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

Table 6.4 also reveals that as many as 65.5% of sex workers and 45.8% of trafficking victims worried about STDs. While 96.5% of sex workers reported they had been tested for STDs, only 60.4% of trafficking victims had been tested for STDs. Interview data revealed that both trafficking victims and sex workers worried about contracting STDs and some had been treated or were receiving treatment for STDs. As one trafficking victim explained,

“I am worried that I may have a sexually transmitted disease and I have recently undergone a course of treatments.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

Trafficking victims revealed they typically did not have access to medical care during their period of exploitation. One trafficking victim revealed, “We were not sent to the doctor or to the hospital when we felt bad” (203, trafficking victim, 29 years). It is often not until they escape or are rescued from sexual exploitation that they can be tested for STDs. Two trafficking victims explained,

The main thing that troubled me is that I can catch a sexual disease... I was not tested at the hotel. When I came here, I passed tests.” (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

“I’m worried about sexually transmitted disease, but I go to the doctor virtually every two months.” (196, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

Interview data revealed that sex workers were much more likely to be tested for STDs on a regular basis, as often as every month or every several months. Most sex workers reported going to private clinics to be tested for STDs. In fact, Table 6.4 reveals that only 3.5% of sex workers had not been tested for STDs. One sex workers that had not been tested for STDs maintained,

“I don’t have any symptoms, I always have sex with married men and they are healthy.” (409, sex worker, female, 18 years)

**SELF-HARMING AND SUICIDAL BEHAVIORS**

Respondents were asked about their self-harming and suicidal behaviors. Surprisingly, Table 6.5 reveals that 27.4% of the full sample reported ever engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors. Trafficking victims were most likely to engage in self-harming and suicidal behaviors at 34.0%. However, a significant proportion of vulnerable children (27.4%) and sex workers (20.8%) also engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors.

While most respondents started engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors between 14 and 16 years of age (11.8%), there were some important differences between vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers. The age at which vulnerable children began engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors ranged from 8 to 16 years of age, with an average age of 13.7 years. In comparison, the age at which trafficking victims began engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors ranged from 12 to 30 years of age, which an average age of 17.1 years. Finally, the age at which sex workers began engaging in self-harming and suicidal behavior ranges from 13 to 21 years of age, with an average age of 16.6 years.

Table 6.5 reveals that as many as 1 out of 3 trafficking victims engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors. In addition, 1 out 4 vulnerable children and 1 out 5 sex workers engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors. Interview data revealed that respondents attempted suicide by means of hanging, jumping from heights, drowning, overdosing on pills, poisoning, cutting their wrists, and self-immolation.

Some respondents engaged in more deliberate self-harming behaviors, such as cutting and beating themselves. Sometimes children/youth that engaged in self-harming behaviors did so with the intention of committing suicide, but other times they had no intentions of committing suicide but just wanted to purposely hurt themselves and feel
the pain. For instance, one vulnerable child revealed that she repeatedly engaged in self-harming behaviors to feel the pain.

“The first time I set myself on fire, but I do not want to speak about this. The second time I tried to hang myself when I ran away from home, as I did not want to live. I missed my grandmother so much I wanted to jump in front of the train, but one boy rescued me. I also jumped in front of a car but they rescued me. I cannot control myself. Now when I am talking to the psychologist and it is getting much better... Now I understand a lot... I began to purposely hurt myself when I was 10 years old... I liked feeling pain. I had a hard life... I attempted suicide 15 times... I liked it... No one knew about it even my mother.” (333, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

Interview data revealed that vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers engage in self-harming and suicidal behaviors for a wide variety of reasons, such as due to:

- conflict with a parent/caregiver
- child abuse
- witnessing family violence
- divorce or death of a parent/caregiver
- abandonment
- death of a sibling or best friend
- fight with/loss of a boyfriend/girlfriend
- mocked by peers at school
- institutionalization
- sexual assault/rape
- poverty
- loss of a child
- multiple stressors, strains, and problems

Only trafficking victims and sex workers revealed engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors because of their experiences of being trafficked and exploited.

In the sections that follow, each of the various reasons for engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors are explained in more detail and numerous quotes are included to give “voice” to those respondents that engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors. The quotes reveal that many children/youth have engaged in repeated acts of self-harm and suicide attempts over the years.

**DUE TO EXPERIENCES OF BEING TRAFFICKED AND EXPLOITED**

Many female trafficking victims revealed they engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors while being held captive and exploited by their traffickers. As trafficking victims, they were not only exploited (sold and re-sold for profit) with no regard for their health and well-being, but also physically and sexually abused, and tortured and treated in inhumane ways. Often trafficking victims saw self-harming and suicidal behaviors as the only way to manage and escape the miserable situation they found themselves in; however, self-harming and suicidal behaviors did not bring an end to their exploitation. Often, their traffickers simply bandaged them up and sent them back to work. The numerous quotes that follow provide significant insight into trafficking victims self-harming and suicidal behaviors as it related to their experiences as a trafficked and exploited person.

“I was 16 years old when I started to hurt myself on purpose because I hate myself and everyone around me. I have attempted suicide twice, now I feel myself like a doll for entertainment because of the things that I am doing.” (416, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)
"I thought about purposely hurting myself, I wanted to hang myself... I was beaten every day. One girl wanted to cut my veins because of such difficulties, and my employers [exploiters] said that if I wanted to die, they could kill me... They beat us with straps every day. If you write an application to that point, the employer would receive it [probably from police officers] and tear it before your eyes." (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

"I began to purposely hurt myself when I was 19 years old because I felt abandoned, deceived, and unimportant. I attempted suicide once. I was in a trap and did not know whether I could get out of there. In despair, I wanted to lay hands on myself." (442, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

"I was 17 years old when I started to hurt myself on purpose. In the first week, I wanted to kill myself since I could not bear all this, but I did not manage because somebody was always near me and prevented this. I attempted suicide because of the violence." (441, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

"I attempted suicide when I was 17 years old, after he [my boyfriend] had sold me. He so swore that he loved me. I hate him! I did not want to live, but Asel saved me. Thanks a lot to her." (393, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

"I was 16 years old when I purposely hurt myself because of despair. My physical pain muffled my emotional pain." (367, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

"When I came to hell I didn't want to live and cut my veins, but I was saved. 'Granny' [her pimp woman] threatened me that if I did it again she knew where my daughter and sister were living and would kill them. " (295, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

"I attempted suicide once... When you sleep with any men who pay you money and when your mother sells you, I loved her and trusted her! She betrayed me! I cut my veins, but I was saved. I thought that it was my destiny, and the master began to treat me better after that incident." (368, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

"When I was 17 years old I attempted to cut my veins after I had sex with a client. He was so ugly, dirty, and stupid. I do not want to talk about it... I do not consider this attempt as suicide. I just wanted to injure myself." (419, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

One trafficking victim revealed that after she attempted suicide her traffickers actually chained her up to keep her from attempting suicide again.

"I was 16 years old when I started to deliberately hurt myself. I wanted to cut my veins when I was locked up. I managed to cut one hand, but clients were in time to save me and they bandaged my hand. After that I was kept on a chain... I saw no reason to live on." (446, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

Another trafficking victim revealed that her suicide attempt – jumping out the window of the flat where she was being held – enabled her to ultimately escape her traffickers after they had to send her to the hospital for a broken leg.

"I was 20 years old when I started to purposely hurt myself. I wanted to escape the flat where I had been kept, so I jumped from the window and I broke my leg. The pimp woman sent me to the hospital... then police officers brought me from the hospital to here." (438, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

One trafficking victim even revealed that sometimes fights and physical violence occurs between trafficking victims who are being held together. She attempted suicide after a physical fight with another trafficking victim, in which she suffered physical injuries.

"Once I had a fight with one girl [another trafficking victim], we fought and then I had a pain in my kidneys. I wanted to hang myself. I thought it would be better to die than to be beaten by her. But the guard stopped me... I don't remember how old I was when I first damaged myself, but it happened once only. (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

Some sex workers revealed that they attempted suicide because of their involvement in prostitution; they found providing sex services to strange men extremely difficult and not in keeping with what they envisioned they would be doing for a living. As two sex workers explained,

"I was 16 years old when I began to purposely hurt myself and attempt suicide. I found myself unhappy and I did not want to live. I considered myself not good looking... I attempted suicide four time because I did not want to live because of prostitution. In fact, I had imagined my future otherwise. Sometimes I have depressions and I cannot find a way out of it, and I think that I don't want to live and the final solution is suicide. My girlfriends stop me and tell me that it isn't a solution for this situation." (249, sex worker, female, 19 years)

"I attempted suicide once. It was very disgusting to make sex and I was upset. I swallowed a great number of tablets, but my mother saved me. I
thought that I would die, but then I changed my mind and decided that there was no sense in poisoning myself because of those men.” (248, sex worker, female, 17 years)

**DUE TO CONFLICTS WITH A PARENT/CAREGIVER**

Interview data revealed that vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors as a result of conflicts and disagreements with one of their parents/caregivers; more often their mothers, than their fathers. In the quotes below, two trafficking victims and four vulnerable children speak about engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors because of conflicts and disagreements with their mothers.

“I was 15 years old when I started to purposely hurt myself. I did it because of a conflict with my mother. I attempted suicide twice. The first time was because of a conflict with my mother. I wanted to frighten here. I was comatose for three days. The second time I wanted to deliberately commit suicide.” (460, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

“I was 14 years old when I started to hurt myself. I did it because my mother and I had a fight.” (394, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

“When I was 14 years old I attempted suicide. My mom lost her money, a large amount of money; my youngest brother had taken it, but told her that I had taken it. It hurt me when they blamed me. I began to cut my veins. I felt great pain, stopped, and bandaged the wound.” (111, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

I began to purposely hurt myself when I was 15 years old... I beat myself because of my mom, she didn’t understand me... I attempted suicide three times... I did all this because of my mom. (277, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“I attempted suicide one time because I quarreled with my mother a lot and decided to commit suicide. I jumped off the bridge, but I fell into a snow bank and survived. I didn’t even hurt myself.” (220, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

“When I was 14 years I attempted suicide, I had quarreled with my mother and I just did not want to live.” (182, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

One sex worker revealed that she attempted suicide after a serious quarrel with her mother. Reflecting back on the suicide attempt, she maintains that maybe she didn’t really want to die at the time, but wanted to scare her mother and get her to pay attention to her needs.

“I attempted suicide when I was 13 years old. I had a serious quarrel with my mom. I did not want to live and swallowed a lot of tablets, but there was only vomiting. Anyway, I did not want to repeat that because my throat was aching. When I swallowed those tablets, I did not want to die; I only wanted to scare my mom. She finally drew her attention to my sickness. (372, sex worker, female, 17 years)

Some vulnerable children revealed that their suicide attempts occurred after a conflict with their grandmother who was an important or primary caregiver.

“We had a fight with my grandma, I slashed my wrists and hanged myself... I didn’t want to live. I didn’t want to control myself. It was better to die.” (77, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

“Yes, it so happened that I had a row with my mom and grandma, I wanted to hang myself.” (115, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

Fewer children/youth revealed that they attempted suicide due to conflicts with their father; however, those that did explained.

“I attempted suicide two to three times because my dad didn’t let me go with my mom.” (275, vulnerable child, male, 14 years)

“I swallowed pills because my father would criticize me all the time that I didn’t do anything. I tried to avoid meeting him; I came home when he left for work and left home before he arrived... I attempted suicide once because of the indifference and fathers’ constant criticisms.” (89, sex worker, female, 19 years)

One vulnerable child even spoke about attempting suicide after a disagreement with her step-father. She reveals how she attempted to poison herself with poison for beetles.

“I was 16 years old when I attempted suicide. One day I wanted to open veins, but instead I drank some poison for beetles. It did not bring any effect, except I had a temperature for two days and that was all. I was angry and quarreled with my step-father – he bothered me and made me work.” (129, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

**DUE TO CHILD ABUSE**

Some vulnerable children and sex workers spoke about engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors because of the abuse they experienced in
their family from their parents/caregivers, including harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and physical abuse. For some children, the violence and abuse was related to their parents’ drug and/or alcohol abuse problems. As five vulnerable children and one sex worker explained,

“I began to purposely hurt myself when I was 13 or 14 years old... My drunken mother exasperated me, she yelled at me and grabbed my hair and beat me. She did not control herself. I did not want to live that way.” (339, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

“When I was 14 years old I attempted suicide. I swallowed pills because they scolded me and chased me out of the house and frightened me. I was hurt. It all started because of the fact that I slept for a long time and had not washed the dishes. My feelings were hurt when mother and everyone chased me out of the house.” (92, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

“I began to purposely hurt myself when I was 13 years old because of my mom always shouted at me.” (253, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“I attempted suicide about 5 times because I was angry that everyone mistreated me. My granddad swore at me all the time that I didn’t help him enough and didn’t spend too much time with the kids, although I always helped, cleaned, and stayed with kids. They always said that because of us [kids] we didn’t have enough money.” (68, vulnerable child, female, 12 years)

“When I was locked at home, I took a knife and wanted to cut my veins, but I was caught and stopped.” (109, vulnerable child, male, 13 years)

“I began to purposely hurt myself when I was 14 years old... I had enough of all of that, my mother beat me. I intentionally cut my hand... There are scars left.” (247, sex worker, female, 16 years)

One child revealed that after witnessing violence between her parents and threatening suicide, her father encouraged her cut her wrists by handing her a knife.

“I was five years old when I attempted suicide. My mother and father were fighting and my mother left. My father said something and I replied that I would cut my veins. He gave me a knife and said, ‘If you are brave enough to do it.’ I took the knife and tried to do it, but it hurt, so I was afraid and ran away to the summerhouse. I was crying.” (405, vulnerable child, female, 13 years)

One vulnerable child explained that she attempted suicide after a fight with her older brother in which he hit her. In many families, older siblings, particularly elder brothers, are expected to watch over their younger siblings and discipline them if needed.

“I attempted suicide once when my eldest brother and I had a fight. He hit me once. He hadn’t hit me before, so I wanted to hang myself. I was preparing a rope and crying. My eldest sister saw me and understood what I was doing and stopped me.” (108, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

Due to Witnessing Family Violence

Some children/youth revealed they engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors because of the violence they witnessed between their parents. In most cases, they witnessed their father beating their mother. Sometimes the violence was related to poverty and/or alcohol abuse problems by one or both parents. As one vulnerable child and one trafficking victim explained,

“I started to purposely hurt myself when I was 14 years old because of my mom’s drinking, and because of my step-father and the conflicts [violence]. My step-father always beat my mom. I cut my arm with a razor blade, and I have several scars. A neighbor woman saw me and hit me in my face and poured water on me.” (106, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“I started to purposely hurt myself when 14 years old. Once in the evening it was very bad, there wasn’t even a small piece of bread at home and my parents swore and my sister cried. I wanted to slash my wrists, but my sister stopped me, and then we cried together.” (382, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

One child revealed that after witnessing violence between her parents and threatening suicide, her father encouraged her cut her wrists by handing her a knife.

“I was five years old when I attempted suicide. My mother and father were fighting and my mother left. My father said something and I replied that I would cut my veins. He gave me a knife and said, ‘If you are brave enough to do it.’ I took the knife and tried to do it, but it hurt, so I was afraid and ran away to the summerhouse. I was crying.” (405, vulnerable child, female, 13 years)

Due to Divorce or Death of a Parent(s)/Caregiver(s)

Some vulnerable children revealed that they engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors as a result of their parents’ divorce or the death of a parent/caregiver. As two vulnerable children explained,

“When I was 15 years old I attempted suicide when my dad left us. I wanted to die and to hang myself, but I felt sorry for my mom.” (345, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

“One vulnerable child revealed that her parents died when she was young and her grandparents became
her main caregivers; however, when her grandfather died she attempted suicide three times by different means – overdose of pills, hanging, and jumping from heights.

“I don’t have parents; I only have a brother and sister. It is hard for me to live, and my grandfather’s death affected me most... I attempted suicide three times after my granddad died. I began to drink and missed the classes, and poisoned myself by taking lots of pills. I also tried to hang myself. My girlfriend used to encourage me. I left the orphanage, promising the principal not to be late, but was late, so I was shameful. I wanted to jump from a window.” (116, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

Another vulnerable child revealed that she attempted suicide multiple times in the past five years, beginning at 9 years of age. Her first suicide attempt was related to the death of her mother. Her second suicide was related to the death of her grandfather [one of her main caregivers], and her third and fourth suicide attempts were due to conflicts she was having with her grandmother [her remaining caregiver]. Three times she attempted suicide by cutting her veins, and once she attempted suicide by hanging.

“I was 9 years old when I started to purposely hurt myself and attempt suicide... The first time was when my mother died, I cut my veins with blades... The second time was when my grandfather died, I was 10 years old. I cut my veins... The third time was when I was 13 years old. I cut my veins with a knife in the presence of my grandmother. I was tired that I was compared to others. Also, once, when I was 11 years old I tried to hang myself. I quarreled with my grandmother after the death of my grandfather. I decided to commit suicide on the balcony, but my grandmother saved me.” (331, vulnerable child, female, 14 years)

DUE TO ABANDONMENT

Some children reported engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors because they felt abandoned by their parents or were abandoned by their parents. As two vulnerable child and one sex worker explained,

“When I was 16 years old I purposely hurt myself, I was sick and tired of everything. When I was alone at home I cut my veins... I attempted suicide one time. It was hard, I was sick and tired.” (346, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

“I was 15 years old when I attempted suicide. Everything was boring and it seemed to me that nobody needed me and there was no reason for living. I didn’t want to live the life I used to live. It happened at my grandmother’s house when I stayed with her. I wanted to cut myself with a knife, but my brother came and stopped me.” (168, vulnerable child, male, 17 years)

“I was 17 years old when I attempted suicide... I did not want to live since nobody needed me... I thought that if I die, my problems would be solved.” (13, sex worker, female, 20 years)

DUE TO THE DEATH OF A SIBLING OR BEST FRIEND

A few children/youth revealed they engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors after the death of a sibling or very close friend that they considered to be like a sibling. As one vulnerable child and one sex worker explained,

“When I was 16 years old I attempted suicide by drug overdose because my smaller brother died. He was 6 years old; he was born prematurely and his heart broke down.” (323, vulnerable child, male, 17 years)

I was 19 years old when I started to purposely hurt myself... I worried about my friend’s death. We were friends since our childhood, she was like my sister, and I didn’t want to live without her... I attempted suicide once. I wanted to commit suicide because of my friend’s death.” (282, sex worker, female, 21 years)

DUE TO A FIGHT WITH OR LOSS OF A BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND

Girls were more likely to report engaging in self-harm and suicidal behaviors because of a fight with or loss of a boyfriend, than boys did because of a girlfriend. As four girls (one vulnerable child, two trafficking victims, and one sex worker) explained,

“I started to purposely hurt myself and attempt suicide when I was 16 years old... I cut my veins when I felt bad; then I stopped the blood by myself. When I was 14 years old, I took 20 tablets and they took me to the hospital to have my stomach pumped. After intensive care, I was in the hospital for a period of three weeks. It happened after a quarrel with my boyfriend. I told him nothing, but he heard from my friend and visited me.” (332, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“I began to hurt myself on purpose when I was 16 years of age. I had a spat with my boyfriend.” (468, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

“I was 14 years old when I attempted suicide... When my boyfriend left me I wanted to drown myself but they yanked me out of the water. Then I understood that he was not worthy of it.” (13, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)
“When I was 16 years old I purposely hurt myself. I had a hard time when my boyfriend cheated on me with my friend. It was an emotional, psychological trauma; I could not believe it and could not accept it. I began smoking then I was sitting and needling my hand; then I collected my thoughts and thought that anything could happen in life and that that was not for me. I began to cope with it.” (369, sex worker, female, 17 years)

One sex worker explained that she attempted suicide after she became pregnant, her boyfriend abandoned, and her mother kicked her out of the house. She maintained, however, the suicide attempt was because of the loss of your boyfriend.

“I attempted suicide when my mother kicked me out of the house. I was pregnant at that time, and my boyfriend abandoned me. I came on strong for him... I attempted suicide because I was unlucky in love.” (195, sex worker, female, 19 years)

Only one boy spoke about engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors following a fight with his girlfriend. The fight resulted because a teacher communicated bad things about him to his girlfriend and his girlfriend’s parents.

“I began to purposely hurt myself when I was 13 years old. I did it because I quarreled with my girlfriend. It [the quarrel] happened due to the teachers who had told her and her parents bad things about me.” (178, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

DUE TO BEING MOCKED BY PEERS AT SCHOOL

Some children/youth also revealed that they engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors because they felt particularly isolated from and humiliated by their peers or other children in school that made fun of them, mocked them, and gossiped about them. Because of the peer bullying (mocking and gossip) these children felt they had no friends among their peers at school. Many of these children also had other stressors and strains in their lives, such as the loss of parents, family violence and conflict, and child abuse and neglect. As one trafficking victim and three vulnerable children explained,

“I was 13 years old when I deliberately hurt myself. I felt humiliated because everybody laughed at me. I did not have friends. I always wore old clothes and nobody wanted to talk to me. At school I always sat alone at a desk in the last row.” (457, trafficking victim, female, 16 years) [Earlier in the interview this child revealed her parents died when she was very little. She lived with her relatives, but always felt unrelated. She had to manage the hard work around the house and they often shouted at her and accused her of stealing. She revealed that she wore old use clothes and I was ashamed to go to school.]

“When I was 15 years old I deliberately hurt myself. I moved to a new school and made friends with everyone. Then a new girl came and she made my classmates stop talking to me by saying that I talked bad things about everyone. I went to a shop and bought razor blades and cigarettes. I sat under the alcove, thought, and smoked. Then I took a razor blade. First I wrote names of my friends and then I began to cut my veins and blood began to run. Then a friend saw me and brought me to his house and his mother bandaged my arm.” (110, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

“I started to purposely hurt myself when I was 15 years old... I drank beer with my friends about three months ago and then we fought. They left me and went away. I was frustrated; therefore, I took a square of glass and cut the whole of my arm.” (220, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

“I was 13 years old when I started to purposely hurt myself... I was a fool... I attempted suicide three times because of a boy. I knew that I was adopted and everyone at school gossiped about me; therefore I did not want to live.” (225, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

DUE TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Numerous vulnerable children reported engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors because they were sent to one of the state-run children’s residential institutions. As three vulnerable child explained,

“I beat myself. I am 12 years old and started to purposely hurt myself when I got here [CAM]. I swear at myself for that walk that led me here. I beat myself when I’m angry.” (215, vulnerable child, male, 12 years)

“I deliberately hurt myself when I was 16 years old. I missed my home very much. I wanted to injure myself.” (118, vulnerable child, male, 17 years)

“When I was 13 years old I attempted suicide when I was in children’s home because they did not allow me to go home.” (227, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

Other vulnerable children reported attempting suicide because of their experiences in the children’s residential institutions, including the stresses and strains of being institutionalized, and the harsh treatment that experienced at the hands of staff in the institution. As three vulnerable children revealed,
“I started to deliberately hurt myself when I was 15 years old. I wanted to die. When I studied in the orphanage the teachers always shouted at me. I don’t like when people yelling at me, I begin to panic and gasp. I am all in cuts. Sometimes I just sit, think and don’t want to live. Somebody used to stop me or I used to stop myself realizing what I was doing.” (107, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

“I was 13 years old when I attempted suicide. I lived in the orphanage. I was in a bad mood because I had some problems with older guys I the orphanage and I did not want to talk to anyone about this. I thought, maybe I should cut my veins... But, I was not brave enough to do it.” (330, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

“I attempted suicide five times... I want to hang because I do not want to live in CTIARM. Everything is bad here, everything is performed according to a regime and we have to wake up at 7 o’clock in the morning and have a meal three times a day. That is good, but I do not want to wake up early in the morning... This Center is like a prison, bars are everywhere and personnel are afraid of our escaping as if we are bandits.” (400, vulnerable child, male, 13 years)

For some vulnerable children they attempted suicide because of the impact institutionalization had on the way that others (including their parents, teachers, and peers) treated them after they were released from the institution.

“I was 13 years old when I started hurting myself because I was studying at school when they humiliated me. I was unhappy and I had to overcome many difficulties. I cried a lot. I want everybody to forget about CTIARM. I have been there already five times.” (400, vulnerable child, male, 13 years)

**AFTER A SEXUAL ASSAULT/RAPE**

Numerous girls revealed they engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors after they were sexually assaulted/raped, and in some cases infected with STDs.

“I started to hurt myself on purpose when I was 16 years old because I am ashamed that I was raped. I attempted suicide one time, after I knew that I had been infected after being raped. I tried to poison myself. My mother understood what I wanted to do and prevented me from it. Now I do not know what to do because I will have to marry and I am nervous what the children will be like.” (207, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

“When I was 13 years old I was raped. I attempted suicide because I was raped and I was tired living. (221, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“When I was 13 years old we got drunk and then I did not remember anything. It is possible to say that I was raped by two guys. When I awoke in the morning I started to cry. They [her two rapists] left the place when they knew how old I was... When I found out that I had several venereal diseases... I don’t even want to tell you about it and it is not necessary for you to know about it. They [the doctors] frightened me that I could not deliver a child, and that I could infect my younger brother and sister, and that I could not cure myself. I did not want to live. I had come home and took a lot of pills, but my grandmother noticed in time and called the emergency doctors. I am a silly girl, of course, because I live a normal life now. The doctors said that I would be cured in half a year. I attempted suicide one time. I wanted to poison myself. And now I think that probably I did not want to do it. I cannot forgive myself up till now. How could I do this? And now I have a pain in my stomach.” (200, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

Some girls revealed that they were “gang raped” by a group of boys, and in some cases infected with STDs as a result. As two girls revealed,

“Now I am afraid to live [after being raped at a party by several men and currently receiving treatment for sexually transmitted diseases], I don’t want to live after what happened. I tried to cut my veins. The psychologist works with me now. There is some relief, but I still feel bad. I tried to kill myself once because I didn’t want to live after what happened to me.” (205, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

Other girls revealed that they attempted suicide after being sexually abused by a family member, such as a parent and step-sibling.

“I was 14 years old when I started to hurt myself on purpose. It was because of my father; I wanted to kill him. I attempted suicide two to three times, it was because of my father; he spoiled my life. He did not let me be happy.” (440, trafficking victim, female, 28 years)

“I wanted to commit suicide because nobody wants me. But I ran into my girlfriend and she talked me out of it. We got drunk and I moved to her place to live with her... I tried to kill myself once due to being offended, distrusted, and my mother’s betrayal..."
My parents went to a New Year’s party and I was home alone. At night my step-brother came and raped me. He was 20 years old. He threatened and insulted me, so I kept silent; he said he would persuade my mother that I had thrown myself at the head of him and that I wasn’t a good girl. Then he had been forcing me to have sex with him for half a year. When I told my mother, she didn’t believe me and my step-father convinced her that his son couldn’t have done this; that I was worthless. They had a terrible fight and they forced me out by complaining... She was with her husband and fearing that he would leave her. What about me? Why did she bear me, if nobody wants me?” (203, sex worker, female, 16 years)

DUE TO POVERTY

Two sex workers revealed that they attempted suicide because of conditions of poverty they faced in their childhood and/or adulthood. Poverty created significant stress and strain in their lives.

“I was 17 years old when I attempted suicide because of my family problems. I wanted to live well, but my parents couldn’t afford it... I attempted suicide one time. I took pills and wanted to kill myself because my family was poor.” (279, sex worker, female, 20 years)

“I was 18 years old when I attempted suicide... I didn’t want to live; I was sick and tired of everything. My situation was not stable, I didn’t have a job.” (284, sex worker, female, 18 years)

DUE TO THE LOSS OF A CHILD

One sex worker revealed that she attempted suicide after giving her child up for adoption.

“I attempted suicide once... I refused to live without my daughter. Because of problems with accommodations and financial difficulties I gave her [my daughter] to another family for adoption. That was why I decided to commit suicide. I knew that I would never see her. My friends entered the room in time when I had just cut my veins and rescued me.” (241, sex worker, female, 21 years)

DUE TO MULTIPLE STRESSORS, STRAINS AND PROBLEMS

Several vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers recognized that it was the cumulative effect of multiple stressors, strains, and problems in their lives that contributed to their self-harming and suicidal behaviors. Many of the stressors, strains and problems in their lives were already discussed in the above sections, but because there was no main reason for their self-harming and suicidal behaviors they are discussed below. As four vulnerable children and one trafficking victim explained,

“I cut my veins. My mom fell ill and I didn’t have friends among my classmates in the school. After I spent time in the institution, they [her classmates] seemed to be cold to me. Then, a man began to bother me. I couldn’t bear all that happening at the same time (114, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

“I am fed up with everything. I am always alone, I don’t have parents nearby. I have undergone treatment in the PND [Poison and Narcological Dispensary], I drank a lot and was losing my mind... I was fed up with everything and I was losing my temper. I didn’t want anything. I cut my veins. I missed my parents. I was in love with one guy and it made me want to commit suicide.” (119, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

“I was 15 years old when I started to purposely hurt myself for different reasons, sometimes because of school problems and sometimes because of quarrels with my boyfriend. I attempted suicide four times mainly because of school problems.” (217, vulnerable child, 16 years)

“I started to purposely hurt myself and attempted suicide when I was 16 years... One time, someone stole my cell phone and my boyfriend raped and beat me. I wanted to jump off the bridge, but one boy saved me. The next time, I wanted to cut my veins with a blade... I tried to commit suicide several times. I feel bad about my mom, and my dad is not with me. My mom did not love me and I did not love her; I love my father.” (380, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

“I was 26 years old when I started to purposely hurt myself... I wanted to open my veins because I had unreciprocated love. I attempted suicide twice, I was fed up with my life, I was unemployed and had problems with my private life. I made all attempts before I was engaged in prostitution.” (30, trafficking victim, female, 28 years)

Some children/youth that reported multiple suicide attempts revealed they attempted suicide for a wide range of reasons and spoke about being predisposed to suicide.

“I was 16 years old when I started to purposely hurt myself. I am a woman who cuts her veins. I poisoned myself because I didn’t want to live. It was offence for “jerks.” I believed them but they always betrayed me... I attempted suicide 8 to 10 times... When I met with failures and when my best friends betrayed me, I am predisposed to suicide. I want everything; otherwise, it is better to die, but doctors always catch me.” (198, sex worker, female, 21 years)
This chapter describes the experiences of vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers with various governmental and nongovernmental organizations that provide child protection and support services. The child protection and support services analyzed include: police protection, legal support, health care, psychological and psycho-social support, educational and job skills training, and support with housing and/or relation. Respondents were also asked about their help-seeking behaviors, and challenges they face in terms of honestly answering the interview questions.
POLICE CONTACT AND SATISFACTION

Respondents were asked about their contact with the police and their level of satisfaction with the police response to their problems. Table 7.1 reveals that 65.2% of the full sample had contact with the police. Among those 305 respondents that had contact with the police, only 16.7% were very satisfied with the police response to their problems, 43.3% were somewhat satisfied, and 40.0% were not satisfied.

Among vulnerable children, 74.1% had contact with the police. Among the 192 vulnerable children that had contact with the police, only 16.1% said they were very satisfied, 46.9% were somewhat satisfied, and 37.0% were not satisfied at all with the police response to their problems.

Among trafficking victims, 63.1% had contact with the police. Among the 65 trafficking victims that had contact with the police, only 20.0% said they were very satisfied with the police response to their problems, 36.9% were somewhat satisfied, and 43.1% said they were not satisfied at all.

In comparison, only 45.3% of sex workers had contact with the police. Among the 48 sex workers that had contact with the police, as many as 47.9% said they were not satisfied with the police response to their problems.

Table 7.1 revealed that some trafficking victims (20%) and sex workers (14%) reported they were very satisfied with the police response to their problems. Trafficking victims that reported they were satisfied with the police response to their problems felt the police had done everything they could to help them, such as rescue them from slavery/exploitation, refer them to the shelter and victim support services, and create a criminal case against their traffickers. Trafficking victims were more likely to be satisfied with the police when the police did their job properly and took their case seriously.

“When I left home my parents went to the police; they wrote an application to search for me... I want to the police and wrote a complaint against the guys [her trafficking/exploiters]. I wrote explanatory letters and I told them what and how everything happened. The police helped us... they have done all things needed.” (300, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“I wrote a complaint to the Office on the Fight against Organized Crime to file a lawsuit against my pimp... The police helped. They caught the pimp and closed the nest where they kept us. I am satisfied, the pimp was sent to prison for six years... The police did all the necessary things.” (297, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“They helped me when I escaped and they created a criminal case in relation to the people who kidnapped me... They provided me with help and assistance... I want them to punish my kidnappers and take them to prison.” (460, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

“The police are helping us now. I am very satisfied with the help of the police. They call us and ask how we are doing.” (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

“When we were working as prostitutes, they [the police] helped as to enter the shelter... They helped us to escape the pimp men.” (31, trafficking victim, female, 27 years)

“I had a contact with the police when they were setting us free... The police helped me, they helped me a lot.” (30, trafficking victim, female, 28 years)

Table 7.1 also reveals that as many as 43% of trafficking victims and 48% of sex workers were not satisfied with the police response to their problems. Unfortunately, many trafficking victims and sex workers had negative interactions with the police and complained that police were complicit in human trafficking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 7.1. Police contact and satisfaction</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Full sample N=468</strong></td>
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<td><strong>N %</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Contact with the police</strong></td>
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<td>N=305 N=192 N=65 N=48</td>
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<td>N=305 N=192 N=65 N=48</td>
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<td><strong>Somewhat satisfied</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Not satisfied</strong></td>
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<td>N=468 N=259 N=103 N=106</td>
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</table>
Some trafficking victims also expressed dissatisfaction with the police for not taking their complaint or application of human trafficking seriously. Many trafficking victims also felt the police were doing very little to investigate their cases and bring their traffickers to justice. Some trafficking victims expressed frustration that their traffickers had not yet been arrested or punished, and accused the police of protecting their traffickers. As several trafficking victims explained,

“I wrote an application and letter of explanation to punish the employer [exploiter]... I would like the police to detain and punish my employer [exploiter].” (307, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

I gave testimony, I wrote the letters of explanation. I went to the procedures of employer’s identification. I was at the police office and talked to the officers... I think that police officers did not try to help me. It seemed that everything was brought there... I am sure our police cannot do anything.” (305, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“I filed an application on criminal proceedings against those people who made me work [her traffickers/exploiters]. I went to the local police department and wrote an application and a letter of explanation... I want to them [the police] to find the people in the United Arab Emirates who made me a prostitute and punish them with the utmost rigor of the law.” (306, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“I wrote an application against the owners of the shop who exploited me. I gave evidence and I wrote applications and explanatory notes. I wrote, but they did not initiate proceedings... I would like the police to investigate the case more actively.” (303, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“I wrote a statement explaining what and how this situation happened to me... The police tried to help me, but I wasn’t pleased... The man for whom we worked only paid a fine. He treated us as we were animals. I think he should be punished more strictly.” (298, trafficking victim, male, 16 years)

“I have contact with the police during questioning. They question me all the time. It is interesting, the case details always vary. The owners of the shop say one thing and now another, and the police and court officers listen to them, but not to me... I am dissatisfied with the police response to my situation... I want them to give me my passport back and let me go home.” (212, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

Other trafficking victims expressed their frustration and dissatisfaction with the police because their traffickers had not been arrested or punished.

“I want that they [the police] punish everybody who caused harm to me and my health, and that held me illegally.” (442, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“I am afraid for my life... I want that they [the police] put to prison all those who exploited me and to punish all of them.” (463, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“When they treated me as a prostitute, the other girls advised me to apply to the police, and I turned to them... I want those that kept me by force to be put to prison.” (457, trafficking victim, male, 16 years)

“We wrote a complaint against them [our traffickers/exploiters] to the police because we were kept and forced to work. We had conversations with the police, meetings, and explanations of the situation. The police tried to help us, but nothing has changed because their work is done very slowly... I want this to end as soon as possible.” (301, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

Table 7.1 revealed that 47% of vulnerable children reported they were somewhat satisfied with the police response to their problems, and 16% reported they were very satisfied. Most vulnerable children that were interviewed were in a Center for Adaptation of Minors (37%) or a Special School of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior (39%). In the quotes below, numerous vulnerable children talk about their contact with the police and how the police assisted them and provided them with some degree of protection from their problems, even if it simply entailed transferring them to one of the Centers for Adaptation of Minors or sometimes regularly checking in on them.

“I told the police where I lived when I ran away; however, I don’t know where my girlfriend and her parents are now [they forced her into begging] because when the policemen and I went there together [the home of her girlfriend], there was nobody there; they moved... The police talked to me and told me that I could register. Now the school supervisor controls me all the time... My mother told me the police searched for me.” (299, vulnerable child, female, 14 years)

“The only time I had contact with the police was that night when I got caught and brought here [the Center for Adaptation of Minors]. The police were taking me here and they wanted to find my mother and take me home... I was always with my mother, but sometimes I went for a walk in the night and the policemen caught me and brought me here. Now, I’m here. It’s been two weeks...
already... My mother sometimes comes to me; she is always glad. I want to go home to my mother.” (215, vulnerable child, female, 12 years)

A policeman came to our place and asked how we lived. Sometimes once a week the policemen come and ask how we live... The police did everything they could do.” (294, vulnerable child, male, 11 years)

“Once in the evening I was caught by the patrol officers on the street. They brought me to the police office and called my home, but my mother didn’t come. I asked my teacher to take me to her home. I lived with her as long as my mother was on a toot [drunk]... Now my mother does not drink, but she is ill and was diagnosed with a tumor.” (146, vulnerable child, female, 11 years)

“I was registered for vagabondism for missing classes. One police officer worked on my case; he/she was a good person... I left school now and will never see the police officer again.” (147, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“When we were asking for money in the park some policemen came up to us and asked where our parents were. My girlfriend’s parents came and took her back home, but I didn’t tell them my parents’ names because I didn’t want to go back home, and asked the police to send me to the orphanage. So they took me there.” (299, vulnerable child, female, 14 years)

“When my aunt’s husband was drunk I was afraid of him because my granddad didn’t like him and they always had a fight... I called for police. They came and wanted to take my granddad, and told my aunt’s husband to calm down otherwise they would take him. They also wanted to put granddad to the medical-labor center... They always told me that I could call them if something happened.” (68, vulnerable child, female, 12 years)

“I began to steal toy cars, food, and bikes. One day, I stole my friend’s bike. At night, when I was sleeping on a street bench some guy took the bike from me. They offered me food and alcohol. The police caught me. Next time, I went into a hair dressers to ask for money and the police caught me again and sent me to the narcological dispensary, and then here [the special school for children with deviant behavior].” (345, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

“When I was raped [for one mother by friends to her alcoholic mother] my family was registered as dysfunctional... They [the police] were considerate and careful... they warned my mother about deprivation of parental rights. They came home and took some documents.” (339, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

“The police brought me here [the Center for Adoption of Minors] when the school principal called them in. They helped me, but they didn’t help my mother [his mother is a single parent and has no work or place to live].” (214, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

Table 7.1 reveals that 37% of vulnerable children reported they were not satisfied with the police response to their problems. Interview data revealed they were dissatisfied with the police because the police used physical violence against them or one of their family members and/or because the police bothered them and would not leave them alone.

“Police detained me. Police officers scream at everybody... After I was placed in the Center for Adaptation of Minors, police officers regularly came to my home and checked whether I was at home or not... I do not need any help, I do not want contact with the police. I want my stigma to be removed. I want to become a normal person to work and serve in the future.” (400, vulnerable child, male, 13 years)

“At school, the district police officer keeps an eye on me all the time. I was registered as a problem child so that I wouldn’t run away again... I want all of them to leave me alone. I don’t want to be registered. The district police officer said that if I don’t behave I will be sent to the orphanage and it is like a jail... I want them to allow me to live with my grandmother and I want them to not bother me.” (302, vulnerable child, female, 13 years)

### LEGAL PROBLEMS, SUPPORT, AND SATISFACTION

Respondents were also asked about their legal problems, if they were receiving help/support for their legal problems, and how satisfied they were with the support they were receiving. Table 7.2 reveals that 15.4% of the full sample had legal problems, and only 9.0% of respondents reported they were receiving support for their legal problems. Among those receiving support for their legal problems, only 28.6% reported they were very satisfied with the support, 40.5% were somewhat satisfied, and 31.0% were not satisfied with the help/support they were receiving for their legal problems.

Table 7.2 also reveals that 16.6% of vulnerable children reported they had legal problems, and only 8.1% reported they were receiving help/support for...
their legal problems. Among those receiving support, the majority were somewhat satisfied (61.9%) or very satisfied (28.6%) with the help/support they were receiving for their legal problems.

Trafficking victims were most likely to have legal problems (21.4%), and only 16.5% of trafficking victims reported they were receiving help/support for their legal problems. Among those receiving support, 47.1% reported they were not satisfied, 23.5% were somewhat satisfied, and 29.4% were very satisfied. Interview data revealed that one of the most common legal problems trafficking victims experienced was that they did not have their documents and needed legal assistance to get their documents or were waiting on the government to provide them with documents. Other trafficking victims were still in situations of exploitation and reported that their traffickers were controlling their documents.

“Mainly, I have problems with my ID card... I want to receive my ID card. I wish there was a lawyer who could protect our rights, but people don’t consider us as human beings.” (383, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

“I don’t have documents; they [the government] will issue them, but not so soon. The shelter helps me with my legal problems.” (462, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“I don’t know where to go, I don’t have documents, a house, or work. I am in despair. I need my documents since I cannot find a job without them.” (441, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

“I have had trouble with my documents for three months. My pimp-mother says that policeman took them from her... Not only me, but every woman who works here doesn’t know their rights... I wish there was a person to help us.” (418, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

“Auntie has all my documents. How can I execute them [legal issues] without her? I want to retrieve my documents and go back home.”(393, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

“One of my clients took my ID card and didn’t give it back to me. Now I have problems... I want to have my documents done fast, but a month has passed and I can’t do it.” (396, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

“I would like to go to work in Turkey, but I can’t go without my mother’s permission and documents. I really want to try to work there; they say that you can get a lot of money.” (394, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

Some trafficking victims revealed that they simply want to go home. These trafficking victims had escaped their exploitation but found they were unable to return home because they had to wait for their legal case to be completed. As three trafficking victims explained,

“I want to go home, that’s all... I want this to end as soon as possible.” (301, trafficking victim, female, 21 years).

“I just want to go home and that’s what I need now.” (438, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“I want to buy a ticket and go home. I want to be on time for my sister’s death-day, but I don’t know whether I can manage. I have to wait until the court proceeding is over.” (212, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)
One trafficking victim spoke about being unable to leave until her court case was over, and she felt that her lawyer was not interested in helping her. She wanted to find a new lawyer.

“Because of the court, I wish everything would be over as soon as possible. I want to go home. There is a lawyer, but it seems that he helps me unwillingly. I want to change lawyers.” (212, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

Other trafficking victims expressed the desire to go home; however, they feared returning home and having their family find out that they were sexually exploited.

“I need assistance to return to Tashkent. I would like to return, but I am here anyways although I have some money. I can go, but I am afraid of meeting with my mother. If she knows, she will kill me! (424, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

Some trafficking victims reported that their legal problems related to the investigation and court case related to their trafficking and exploitation. For instance, some trafficking victims revealed that the state was helping them, while others had the assistance of a victim advocate.

“Now the state helps me and helps me in court as well. We live here thanks to the state.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

“The investigation is under way now and I attend the interrogations with the assistance of a victim advocate. The proceeding will start soon.” (438, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

Finally, other trafficking victims reported that they wanted justice and material damages. As one trafficking victim stated, “I want those slaveholders to be put in jail. (259, trafficking victim, female, 24 years). Two other trafficking victims explained,

“I want to put them [my exploiters/traffickers] to prison and to gain moral and material compensation... I need consultation and the help of an attorney... I would like to get moral and material compensation from those who exploited me.” (463, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

“I want the pimps to pay for moral damages and to be imprisoned (434, trafficking victim, female, 36 years)

In most cases trafficking victims did not have the financial resources to pay a lawyer and were dependent on legal advocates or lawyers willing to take their case pro bono. One trafficking victim spoke to this issue,

“I have had 8 years of difficulties; I cannot afford to pay for lawyer’s services. But the most important thing is to detain my employers [exploiters] and give me money to go back home.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

In comparison, Table 7.2 reveals that very few sex workers reported having legal problems (6.6%) or receiving support for their legal problems (3.8%); yet, 75.0% said they were not satisfied with the support they received for their legal problem. Interview revealed that among sex workers their legal problems included problems with documents and registration.

**CONTACT AND SATISFACTION WITH LAWYERS AND COURTS**

Respondents were also asked about their contact and satisfaction with lawyers and courts. Table 7.3 reveals that for the full sample, 23.5% of respondent had contact with lawyers and courts regarding their problems. Among those that had contact with lawyers and the courts, only 26.4% were very satisfied with the court response to their situation, 42.7% were somewhat satisfied, and 30.9% were not satisfied with the court response to their situation.

Table 7.3 reveals that vulnerable children were more likely to have contact with lawyers and courts (34.0%), compared to trafficking victims (17.5%) and sex workers (3.8%). Among vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers, as many as 22% to 27% were very satisfied with the court response to their situation. However, 29.5% of vulnerable children, 38.9% of trafficking victims, and 25.0% of sex workers reported they were not satisfied with the court response to their situation.

Interview data revealed very few comments from respondents about their experiences with lawyers and courts; however, one trafficking victim reported,

“They took all the necessary measure to protect my rights... Now I don’t need any legal aid, the case has been completed.” (297, trafficking victim, female, 23 years). Another trafficking victim explained, she wanted the courts to “change the judgment; the advocate and the lawyer did everything they could.” (461, trafficking victim, female, 22 years).

Two vulnerable children also spoke about their experience with lawyers and the courts. As one vulnerable child explained, he has been to court twice,

“one was normal, but the second resulted to probable separation from my mother... I want them to leave me and my mother alone... I do not need legal support.” (400, vulnerable child, male, 13 years) Another vulnerable child maintained the
inspector and court did not provide him with the opportunity to speak during his hearing. As he explained, “When there was a hearing in the court, the inspector provided the wrong data and half was not true. I tried to tell the truth, but the inspector said, ‘Shut your mouth.’ They should have listened to me as well, not only the inspector.” (119, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

**HEALTH PROBLEMS, SUPPORT, AND SATISFACTION**

The interview was also designed to learn about respondents’ health problems and the support they receive for their health problems. Table 7.4 reveals that 46.8% of the full sample reported health problems and 50.2% were receiving help/support for their health problems. The majority of respondents (59.6%) reported they were very satisfied with the help/support they were receiving for their health problems.

More specifically, the majority of trafficking victims (60.2%) and sex workers (55.7%) reported having health problems and they were nearly equally likely to receive help/support for their health problems. The majority of trafficking victims (68.9%) and sex workers (55.9%) revealed they were very satisfied with the help/support they were receiving for their health problems. In addition, a significant proportion of vulnerable children were receiving help/support for their health problems (44.4%) and reported they were very satisfied (56.5%) with the help/support they were receiving for their health problems.

Interview data revealed that vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers had a wide range of health problems. In particular, sex trafficking victims and sex workers reported a multitude of health problems, including STDs and gynecological problems resulting from their sexual exploitation/work. As one trafficking victim stated, “It seems to me that work as a prostitute has affected my health.” (202, trafficking victim, female, 18 years).

Some of the gynecological problems trafficking victims and sex workers experienced included inflamed genitals, genital rash, uterine and abdominal pain, repeated discharge from reproductive tract, frequent and painful urination, and lesions on reproductive organs to name a few.

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“In my uterus hurts all day and all night, because they forced us to have sex without interruption.” (439, trafficking victim, female, 22 years)

“It seems to me that work as a prostitute has affected my health.” (202, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

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“Some of the gynecological problems trafficking victims and sex workers experienced included inflamed genitals, genital rash, uterine and abdominal pain, repeated discharge from reproductive tract, frequent and painful urination, and lesions on reproduc
injections, medicines and treated me with solutions... I am afraid to be infected with AIDS, but one client had clap; now I undergo treatment.” (234, sex worker, female, 17 years)

“I have problems with my kidneys and my genital organs are constantly inflamed... I constantly pass analyses at the AIDS Centre or consult physicians in private clinics for a complete examination. I would like to stay at the hospital to have a full examination and medical treaty.” (242, sex worker, female, 20 years)

“I am nervous about gynecological diseases. Half a year ago I had clamidia, and I had complications after that. I am afraid to be infected again.” (421, sex worker, female, 19 years)

“I am worried about my gynecological organs. I had gonorrhea.” (412, sex worker, female, 18 years)

“In our work, we have to take tests and look after our health... I had candidiasis [yeast infections] several times. I took tests two weeks ago and everything is all right.” (363, sex worker, female, 17 years)

“I got infected by the last rascal, how to call him otherwise? I haven’t been working for two months and who will support me now? Now I am receiving intensive treatment.” (203, sex worker, female, 16 years)

Some trafficking victims ended up pregnant as a result of their sexual exploitation and worried not only about their own health problems, but also the health of their unborn child. As one trafficking victim explained,

“I am 8 months pregnant. I think about myself and the health of my child... I get support at the AIDS Center. I was prescribed some medicines and analyses... I want the delivery to pass safely.” (463, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

Traffic victims identified a wide range of other chronic health problems they suffered from as a result of the violence and exploitation they endured. More specifically, several trafficking victims revealed suffering from anxiety and heart problems. As two trafficking victims revealed,

“I have tachycardia [an excessively rapid heartbeat] especially during group sex or if I must go with a client. My heart hurts because of fear. When I am ill our pimp-mom brings us drugs and necessary things. We want not only to consult with a gynecologist, but also a psychologist and other doctors.” (418, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

“My nerves are shot and sometimes I have a pain in my heart.” (31, trafficking victim, female, 27 years)

Traffic victims also reported suffering from chronic joint and body pain, in addition to other health problems. As one trafficking victim stated,

“I have pain all over my body and my leg. I also have headaches.” (438, trafficking victim, female, 20 years).

Traffic victims also revealed that the physical abuse from their traffickers caused them various chronic health problems, including liver and kidney problems, headaches, broken bones, and so on. As three trafficking women explained,

“I have pain in my ribs; this pain was caused by an injury which I got when my pimp’s friend beat me. I have problems with coordination of movement.” (424, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

“They beat me many times so I often have headaches, broken jawbones, and I used to catch colds

<table>
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<th>Table 7.4. Health problems, support, and satisfaction</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full sample N=468</td>
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<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receiving help/support for your health problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with the help/support you are receiving for your health problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
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<td>Not satisfied</td>
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and didn’t receive treatment. Now I plan to get examined and start the treatment.” (288, trafficking victim, male, 25 years)

“I’m going to a neuropathologist because I have frequent headaches and sleep bad. There are lumps on my head because of beatings. I also have high blood pressure... Also, my jaw was broken and it should be put back. I also need to be cured from tumors of uterus... The NGO “Sana Sezim Center” provide us with medical care.” (295, trafficking, female, 23 years)

One trafficking victim even revealed that she worries about the ability to bear and deliver a healthy child in the future, given the health problems that she has as a result of the violence and exploitation she experienced. As she explained,

“After my beating and operations I look after my liver and kidney. Can I bear and deliver a healthy child with these traumas received?” (303, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

Numerous trafficking victims reported suffering from both frequent headaches and stomachaches. According to one trafficking victim his stomachaches are due to “bad food and malnutrition.” (457, trafficking victim, male, 16 years). Three other trafficking victims revealed that along with headaches and stomachaches they suffer other chronic health problems,

“I often feel dizzy and I lose consciousness... I need a daily appointment with a psychologist.” (446, trafficking victim, female, 19 years).

“My hair is falling out. I also have black outs and headaches.” (437, trafficking victim, female, 15 years)

“My kidneys hurt and I have gastritis. All the rest I will withhold... I get medical support here in the shelter.” (468, trafficking victim, female, 27 years)

Trafficking victims and sex workers revealed receiving medical examinations, testing, and treatment for their health problems from government health care facilities and private health care clinics (e.g., polyclinics, hospitals, and the special dispensary of skin and sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS Centre and the AIDS Centre Mobile Laboratory), as well as non-governmental organizations (e.g., NGO “Sana Sezim Center” and NGO “Zhan Zholdas”). In particular, in Shymkent, trafficking victims identified NGO “Sana Sezim Center” as an important service provider that renders required help with health problems.” (303, trafficking victim, female, 23 years). Three other trafficking victims spoke about the important role that NGO “Sana Sezim Center” has played in assisting and providing them with health care.

“I have headaches, sometimes eye pains, and a disturbed state of mind. I am worried all the time... I have received treatment from doctors in the polyclinic and a psychologist from NGO “Sana Sezim Center”... Actually, I got all the things needed.” (300, trafficking victim, 20 years)

“After I came back home a gynecologist examined me and it was found that I had a lot of diseases due to working as a prostitute. Now I undergo treatment. NGO “Sana Sezim Center” provides me with assistance, pays for diagnostics, doctors’ attendance, and medicines... At the moment, I have everything required to improve and repair my health.” (306, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“I suffer from constant lower abdominal pains and a rash on my genitals... A social worker from NGO “Sana Sezim Center” accompanied me to the hospital to get my blood tested for sexually transmitted diseases and to consult a gynecologist and get an ultrasound, after which we were prescribed medicines. I am provided with all necessary medicines.” (207, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

“Employees of NGO “Sana Sezim Center” have accompanied me to the medical center for an ultrasound examination and for consultation with a gynecologist.” (296, trafficking victim, female, 20 years)

Sex workers in Shymkent also identified NGO “Zhan Zholdas” as an important service provider that goes to hotels, saunas, and apartments to meet with sex workers and distributes condoms and booklets regarding STDs. As several sex workers explained,

“Zhan Zholdas came to us and distributed condoms and booklets... I got free condoms and talked to the psychologist... I get from ‘Zhan Zholdas’ Center everything I need.” (283, sex workers, female, 20 years)

“Some volunteer workers from ‘Zhan Zholdas’ came to our apartment and distributed booklets and condoms... I take tests for sexually transmitted infections. They give me free condoms.” (284, sex worker, female, 18 years)

“Some volunteer workers from ‘Zhan Zholdas’ center often come to the sauna where I work... They give me condoms and booklets.” (281, sex worker, female, 22 years)

Some trafficking victims revealed challenges they faced going to the doctor, which included an inability to get away from their traffickers to seek medical...
treatment and fear of being caught with fake documents. As one trafficking victim explained,

“I am often dizzy... It would be great if doctors could come more often, not only to the hotels, but to rented apartments too. We can’t go to the AIDs center. We don’t have time and it is too far to get to.” (396, trafficking victim, female, 17 years)

In addition, one labor trafficking victim revealed that he was afraid to go to a doctor for medical treatment because he didn’t want to be identified. As he explained,

“Since my childhood I often catch colds. When I am ill the master builder always buys medicine for me... I am afraid to go to doctors because they would learn that I have fake documents. It is frightening.” (425, trafficking victim, male, 17 years)

Many vulnerable children spoke about suffering from similar health problems as trafficking victims, which are likely due to child abuse and neglect. Vulnerable children often had a multitude of health problems. Children in state-run residential institutions for revealed that they were generally receiving medical care for their health problems. As several vulnerable child explained,

“I have diseased kidneys and spleen. I always have a headache and I often feel dizzy. I sometimes have rings under my eyes... I receive health care here in the orphanage. I take pills and they give me injections and get me on a drip. I often spend my time in the infirmary, but I have not been taken to the hospital... I want to recover and never take pills.” (415, vulnerable child, female, 13 years)

“I have ill health, bronchitis, nephritis [severe inflammation of the kidneys caused by infection], cystitis [inflammation of the urinary bladder often caused by infection], arthritis, and early stages of varicosity [swollen or enlarged veins]... The medical office doctors give me ointments and herbs to treat my joints... I need a good examination by specialist doctors; a complete examination and tomography [ultrasound or x-rays].” (346, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

“I have problems with my stomach and backbone... When I am at home the district doctor and medical worker in the special school treat me.” (114, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

“I have a backache and stomachache... I receive medical treatment from the doctors in the orphanage and hospital... I receive all the help that I need.” (122, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

Several vulnerable girls revealed that they were raped and contracted STDs from their rapist(s). As two vulnerable girls explained,

“I don’t want to talk about it [she found out she had STDs, after being raped at a party by several men and currently receiving treatment for sexually transmitted diseases]. My parents, medical specialists in the hospital, and my ward mates encourage me. They do everything they can.” (205, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“I am very anxious about my health, I am afraid that my children will be ill [she was raped a friend’s birthday party]... My mother, relatives and doctors help me with my medical problems.” (201, vulnerable child, female, 17 years)

**PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, SUPPORT, AND SATISFACTION**

Respondents were also asked about psychological problems they struggled with and the support they received for their psychological problems. Table 7.5 reveals that for the full sample 30.6% of respondents reported having psychological problems, and 38.2% reported they were receiving help/support for their psychological problems. Among those respondents receiving support for psychological problems, 55.9% were very satisfied with the help/support they were receiving.

Among vulnerable children, only 25.5% reported having psychological problems; however, 42.9% reported they received help/support for their psychological problems. Interview data revealed that so many more vulnerable children received help/support for psychological problems than reported having psychological problems because children in schools and state-run residential institutions have regular contact with psychologists. In general, the majority of vulnerable children were either very satisfied (54.1%) or somewhat satisfied (32.4%) with the psychological help/support they were receiving.

In comparison, 42.7% of trafficking victims reported having psychological problems, and 39.8% reported they were receiving help/support for their psychological problems. Among those trafficking victims that received help/support for their psychological problems, 70.7% were very satisfied with the help/support they had received for their psychological problems.

Surprisingly, as many as 31.1% of sex workers reported having psychological problems, however, only 25.5% had received help/support for their psychological problems. Among those that received help/support, only 40.7% said they were very satisfied,
37.0% were somewhat satisfied, and 22.2% were not satisfied with the help/support they were receiving for their psychological problems.

Table 7.5 reveals that trafficking victims were most likely to report having psychological worries and problems due mainly to the experiences, cruelty, and traumas they suffered as a trafficking victim. Interview data revealed that trafficking victims suffer from problems of depression, anxiety and stress disorder, fear and distrust of people, and self-harming and suicidal behaviors. While many trafficking victims were receiving help/support for their psychological problems and were satisfied with the help/support they were receiving, largely from NGOs, there were still some trafficking victims that were asking for help. Those trafficking victims that were asking for help explained,

“I have not met with a psychologist, nobody has rendered me assistance... I want to talk to a psychologist but I hesitate.” (435, trafficking victim, female, 21 years)

“I tell my girlfriend everything, she lives here. But there is no real psychologist here. I would like them to be here.” (395, trafficking victim, female, 18 years)

One trafficking victim that had contact with the police and psychologists, but was not identified by either as a trafficking victim revealed, “I need expert psychologist advice. I often have depression. I am distressed for my mother and it is difficult for me to stand it and everything depresses me. Once I had gone to a psychologist in a private clinic, but I had no results and just threw away my money.” (424, trafficking victim, female, 19 years)

Several other trafficking victims, still in situations of exploitation maintained they would like to visit a good psychologist. As one trafficking victim stated,

“I would like a good psychologist to come to the hotel to help us.” (394, trafficking victim, female, 16 years). In addition, one male labor trafficking victim revealed, “Nobody will help... I wish somebody would come to us and talk to us as you do. It is so nice and interesting. It is pleasant to know that somebody is interested in a boy’s life, who is a simple worker from a poor family.” (425, trafficking victim, male, 17 years)

Some trafficking victims also reported they were afraid to go to a psychologist because they were afraid of travelling to the psychologists office and being identified by their traffickers. As two trafficking victims revealed,

“It would be convenient if psychologist came to us, as we are afraid to go to them ourselves. It is far to reach there and somebody can notice us. (418, trafficking victim, female, 18 years, )

“Now I live beyond Shymkent and there is a problem of how to visit a psychologist; now it is difficult.” (306, trafficking victim, female, 23 years)

It is important to note that numerous sex workers also reported suffering from depression and self-harming and suicidal behaviors. Thus, it is not surprising that many sex workers maintained they would like to find a good psychologist or have a psychologist visit them at their place of work. One sex worker maintained,

“We need more hotlines. We get tired and suffer mental depression. It is very hard. We need a good psychologist.” (354, sex worker, female, 19 years)

Among vulnerable children, 54% of children reported they were very satisfied with the help/support they received for their psychological problems. Some children explained the help/support that they received had a positive impact on them.

### Table 7.5. Psychological problems, support, and level of satisfaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full sample N=468</th>
<th>Vulnerable children N=259</th>
<th>Trafficking victims N=103</th>
<th>Sex Workers N=106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological problems</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving help/support for psychological problems</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with help/support receiving for your psychological problems</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>54.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13.5</td>
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A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO RISKY BEHAVIORS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND TRAFFICKING IN KAZAKHSTAN
“After my mom’s death, the psychologists in my school worked with me, and now I sometimes go to talk to them.” (112, vulnerable child, male, 12 years)

“Sometimes I have confrontations with other children and I want to run away. The psychologist talks to me sometimes two times a day.” (334, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

“I’m happy with everything, my teachers and psychologists help me.” (77, vulnerable child, male, 16 years)

“A social worker and a psychologist always come to our place [home]. They talk to my mother and see if the house is clean and if we have food, so that my brother and I are fed. In the autumn we will go to school. They made my mother work and earn money for us to buy clothes, copy books, pens, and pencils for school.” (294, vulnerable child, male, 11 years)

In most cases, children had contact with psychologists through school or state-run residential institutions. However, some vulnerable children had contact with NGOs that provided them with psychosocial support. As one vulnerable child explained,

“There were workers from “Sana Sezim” Center with the policemen. They visited me at the orphanage and we talked. Later, I told them who my parents are and where they live... They helped us [me and my parents] make peace. A psychologist was always working with us and a social worker visited us at home. I went back to school. “Sana Sezim” workers spoke to my school teachers, the principal, and helped me to join my previous class.” (299, vulnerable child, female, 14 years)

Not all vulnerable children spoke positively about their contact with psychologists. In fact, several vulnerable children reported the psychologists they spoke to at school or in the institutions were not very useful.

“When I was attending school, a psychologist work with me... The support I received from them was nonsense.” (147, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“The psychologist calls me to talk, but I don’t trust her, I can’t tell her everything. I calm down, when I begin to write poems. I don’t need anything else.” (116, vulnerable child, female, 16 years)

“I talked to the psychologist but it didn’t make a difference. I don’t even know what I need.” (115, vulnerable child, male, 15 years)

“They [the psychologist] should talk to children, but when you come here you get crazy. Every day it is the same thing, it is tiring. I want to talk to the psychologist, but she is always busy.” (108, vulnerable child, female, 15 years)

The reality is that vulnerable children do not so easily forget what happened to them in their lifetimes, and the problems in their lives and their families. As one child reported,

“I won’t forget things.” (352, vulnerable child, male, 9 years)

**EDUCATION AND JOB SKILLS TRAINING**

The interview was also designed to learn about the education and job skills training that respondents were receiving. Table 7.6 reveals that vulnerable children (91.5%) were most likely to receive education/classes to improve their level of education, compared to trafficking victims (27.2%) and sex workers (28.3%). In addition, only 20.5% of vulnerable children, 17.5% of trafficking victims, and 23.6% of sex workers were receiving job skills training. It is concerning that so few vulnerable children and trafficking victims are receiving job skills training, particularly when lack of job skills, along with low levels of education, risk factors for being trafficked and exploited.

Interview data revealed the lack of job skills trainings was not due to a lack of interest on the part of vulnerable children or trafficking victims. In fact, vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers all revealed aspirations for job skills that would enable them to acquire jobs that contribute to society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 7.6. Education and job skills training</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Full sample</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>N=468</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vulnerable children</strong> <strong>N=259</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Trafficking victims</strong> <strong>N=103</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sex Workers</strong> <strong>N=106</strong></td>
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<th></th>
<th>Full sample</th>
<th>Vulnerable children</th>
<th>Trafficking victims</th>
<th>Sex Workers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N=468</td>
<td>N=259</td>
<td>N=103</td>
<td>N=106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving education/classes to improve your level of education</td>
<td>295 63.0</td>
<td>237 91.5</td>
<td>28 27.2</td>
<td>30 28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving job skills training</td>
<td>96 20.5</td>
<td>53 20.5</td>
<td>18 17.5</td>
<td>25 23.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is concerning that so few trafficking victims are receiving job skills training, and those that are receiving training in cooking and hairstyling. Trafficking victims expressed a desire to receive more professional job skills training that would enable them to work in a professional work setting in the future. For instance, they expressed long-term desires to:

- learn to drive
- learn to sew and knit
- study English
- develop computer skills
- work as a secretary
- work as an accounts’ assistant
- be a journalist and a TV reporter
- be a Russian language teacher in a primary school
- work in the hotel business as an administrator or manager
- be a builder
- be a bookkeeper
- be an artist
- be a psychologist
- be a lawyer
- be a doctor

As one male trafficking victim explained, “I have a diploma cum laude [in engineering] and knowledge, so I want to make use of it. (288, trafficking victim, male, 25 years). In addition, one female trafficking victim explained, “The main thing for me is to find a well-paying job and take care of my daughter, and place my child in school.” (295, trafficking victim, 23 years)

Interview data revealed that children mainly spoke about attending school, and very few revealed they were receiving job skills training. However, some children in the Special Schools of Education for Children with Deviant Behavior revealed they were receiving some job skill training; however, mainly in woodworking, drilling, and sawing, or sewing, knitting, embroidery, and cooking. Some children, however, had career aspirations that included being a lawyer, photographer, translator, computer engineer, and crane operator.

Interview data also revealed that many sex workers also had career aspirations that have nothing to do with rendering sexual services. This is because most sex workers revealed that they only began to exchange sex for money because they were young and desperate for money. Thus, their career aspirations included receiving either a vocational or higher education to become a/an:

- selling assistant
- designer
- teacher
- office manager
- accountant
- lawyer

**HOUSING AND/OR RELOCATION SUPPORT**

Respondents were asked if they were receiving any support for housing and/or relocation. Table 7.7 reveals that only 15.0% of the full sample was receiving help/support with housing and/or relocation. Trafficking victims (27.2%) were significantly more likely to receive help/support with housing and/or relocation, compared to vulnerable children (13.5%) and sex workers (6.6%). However, it is surprising that only 27.2% of trafficking victims reported receiving help/support with housing and/or relocation.

Interview data revealed that trafficking victims were receiving important shelter and protection from NGO-run trafficking shelters and other NGOs, such as NGO “Sana Sezim Center” which provides temporary shelter/accommodations for trafficking victims, as well as food and transportation fees for some trafficking victims to go back to their home countries. As one trafficking victim explained the shelter provides a safe place for trafficking victims; yet, they are still afraid and have problems trusting people.

“We have received help with accommodations. Now we are living in the shelter. We feel like people. We haven’t got used to freedom and we are afraid of the people and do not trust anyone. We trust only ourselves and we do not talk to the strangers.” (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

**Table 7.7. Housing and relocation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full sample N=468</th>
<th>Vulnerable children N=259</th>
<th>Trafficking victims N=103</th>
<th>Sex Workers N=106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receiving help/support with housing or relocation</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO RISKY BEHAVIORS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND TRAFFICKING IN KAZAKHSTAN
HELP-SEEKING BEHAVIORS

Respondents were asked about their help-seeking behaviors, in particular who they would contact if they had problems. Table 7.8 reveals that 72.2% of the full sample reported they know who to contact if they have problems. Vulnerable children (78.8%) were more likely to report that they know who to contact if they have problems, than sex workers (67.9%) and trafficking victims (60.2%).

Interview revealed that the majority of vulnerable children, trafficking victim, and sex workers reported they would seek help from their parents, family, and/or friends. Few respondents said they would seek help from more formal organizations, such as governmental or nongovernmental organizations. However, some vulnerable children said they would seek help from their teacher, the police, and/or a social worker if they had problems. Some trafficking victims said they would seek help from NGO “Sana Sezim,” NGO “Korgau,” the AIDS Center or a private health clinic, the police, and/or the courts. Finally, some sex workers said they would seek help from a private health clinic or NGO “Zhan Zholdas.”

While many respondents were willing to seek help from their family and friends and maybe a few formal organizations, other respondent revealed they would not seek help from others. As one trafficking victims revealed,

“I do not go to anybody. I am afraid. I think they cannot insure my safety.” (392, trafficking victim, female, 18 years).

In addition, some vulnerable children maintained they didn’t need help, that they could solve their problems themselves. As one vulnerable child stated,

“I can address to my educator or to the police, but I am strong and I prefer to solve my problems by myself.” (405, vulnerable child, female, 13 years).

Another vulnerable child stated, “No, I don’t have anyone to ask for help.” (119, vulnerable child, female, 17 years).

DIFFICULTIES SPEAKING ABOUT THEIR SITUATION

One of the final questions asked of respondents was whether it was difficult for them to be completely honest throughout the interview. Table 7.9 reveals that for the full sample, as many as 31.6% of respondent reported they had a difficult time being completely honest about what happened. Moreover, as many as 42.7% of trafficking victims reported they had a difficult time being completely honest about what has happened to them. This finding can be interpreted to mean that trafficking victims underreported and withheld information from the interviewers, most likely because it was difficult to recall memories and for fear of embarrassment and judgment. Trafficking victims also fear telling others about their experiences because they still fear retaliation from their traffickers. One trafficking victim explained,

“At first I didn’t want to tell anything, it is hard.” (395, trafficking victim, female, 18 years).

The quotes below reveal the hesitancy of trafficking victims to speak about their experiences.

“Yes, it was difficult to answer the questions. I need to reproduce everything in my mind and the memories are so unpleasant, my heart hurts, then and I become nervous. I want to forget everything and start a new life from a new beginning. (433, trafficking victim, female, 29 years)

“I would not like to tell you all this… It is difficult for me to live this way.” (200, trafficking victim, female, 16 years)

“It was difficult at the beginning and in the end. At the beginning because I didn’t know you well and I didn’t want to tell strangers about my family. Then I talked and wanted to talk more, especially when you explained to me that after the interview somebody would help the people like us, people who got into trouble and live poor. It was hard in
the end, as I was talking about how I was living and those people . . . My dream is to live well off and never have any problem, or my kids, and to have a beautiful and good wife.” (425, trafficking victim, male, 17 years).

“Sorry that I hurry, but if somebody tells the auntie [pimp woman] that I was speaking with you, they will hurt me. Please do not tell anyone about our talk.” (393, trafficking victim, female, 18 years).

In addition, Table 7.9 reveals that as many as 36.8% of sex workers and 25.1% of vulnerable children reported they had a difficult time being completely honest about what happened to them. As one sex worker explained, “I am really embarrassed.” (353, sex worker, female, 18 years). In addition, one vulnerable child revealed,

“Sometimes it is not pleasant to remember things. Most people that live here [special school for children with deviant behavior] would like to forget the past.” (346, vulnerable child, female, 17 years).

The findings in Table 7.9 can be interpreted to mean that nearly 25% to 42% of respondents, depending upon their categorization, underreported their childhood and family experiences, their engagement in risk behaviors, and their experiences of exploitation and trafficking.
Chapter 8

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations that follow are grounded in the findings contained in the preceding chapters of this report and guided by the human rights obligations of the Government of Kazakhstan under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the UN Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. In particular, Article 35 of the CRC appeals to State Parties to take “all appropriate national, bilateral, and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of, or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.” In addition, Article 34 appeals to State Parties to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, including exploitative use in prostitution and pornography. Finally, Article 39 of the CRC calls on State Parties to “promote physical and psychological recovery and reintegration of a child victim.” The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons further defines these standards as it relates to child trafficking, particularly trafficking of children for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography.

The recommendations that follow are also guided by international standards and best practices to address child sexual exploitation and trafficking by means of prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership as promoted in the US Department of State’s 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report, and outlined in the preamble for the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Person.
Given the fact that Kazakhstan is a dominant source of inspiration to other countries in the region, the success of the Government of Kazakhstan to seize the opportunity to implement institutional reforms, specifically reforms related to systems of promoting child protection and to effectively combatting child trafficking and exploitation is vital not only for the children of Kazakhstan, but also for children in other Central Asian countries.

The recommendations that follow are divided into the four component areas: preventing child trafficking, protecting vulnerable children and child trafficking victims, prosecuting child trafficking cases, and partnership for the sake of combatting child trafficking and promoting child rights and child protection.

**PREVENTION**

Preventing child trafficking requires increasing public awareness of child trafficking for purposes of sexual and labor exploitation, including the public’s ability to identify warning signs of child trafficking and to report suspected cases. To prevent child trafficking, it is also important that the Government identify vulnerable children and families and provide them with the support and assistance needed to reduce their vulnerabilities and risks of being trafficked and exploited. In addition, the Government must identify ways that they can address the internal demand for child sex and labor trafficking victims.

**RECOMMENDATION 1: Develop awareness raising campaigns focused on preventing child trafficking**

Both the government and local media have important roles to play in educating the public about human trafficking and exploitation, in general, and specifically about practices of child trafficking in Kazakhstan for purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. It is also important that anti-trafficking awareness raising initiatives generated by both the government and local media are designed to reach children, youth, and families that are particularly vulnerable and at risk of being trafficked and exploited. Awareness raising campaigns focused on preventing child trafficking should be designed to target children of different ages and gender; this will likely require the development of several different awareness raising campaigns. Awareness raising campaigns should also be designed to target children and families in towns and rural areas, as well as in urban areas. It is also important that awareness raising campaigns be designed to focus on the realities of internal trafficking for purposes of sexual and labor exploitation, and not focus only on cross-border trafficking. Such campaigns should also focus on raising the public’s awareness to different types of recruiters and traffickers (e.g., stranger trafficker, acquaintance trafficker, friend trafficker, lover, employer trafficker, etc.) to be aware of, the different pathways into trafficking and exploitation, the use of debt bondage and violence and intimidation to control victims (see Chapter 4).

The local media can also play an important role in investigating and revealing cases of child trafficking, as well as in monitoring and reporting on law enforcement and justice system responses, or lack thereof, in cases of human trafficking.

Internationally, there are numerous examples of how local and international media have played an influential role in the fight to end human trafficking, including investigating and revealing cases of child trafficking, and documenting the justice system response to human trafficking. For instance, in 2011, CNN became a partner in the fight to end modern-day human slavery when they began their Freedom Project. The goal of CNN’s Freedom Project has been to shine a spotlight on the horrors of modern-day human slavery, including trafficking of children for sexual and labor exploitation. The outcome has been to raise global public awareness to the realities of human trafficking around the globe, to amplify the voices of trafficking victims, highlight success stories, help reveal the complicated network of criminal enterprises involved in the trade of human beings, reveal law enforcement responses to human trafficking, and the important role of NGOs in providing protection and victim support services.

The media can be a valuable tool in mobilizing public opinion in the fight against human trafficking and exploitation, including educate the general public on how to identify and report suspected cases of human trafficking and exploitation that they encounter within their own communities. The fight to end human trafficking, including child trafficking, must involve the public, and an informed public depends upon responsible and reliable media.

**RECOMMENDATION 2: Identify vulnerable children and families and provide them with the necessary support and assistance to reduce their vulnerabilities and risks of being trafficked and exploited**

A key component of prevention is to reduce the risks of vulnerable children and families to traffickers. On the one hand, risk reduction requires that vulnerable children are informed about the risks of child trafficking, strategies of recruiters and traffickers, how
to protect themselves and reduce their risks, and to whom to report suspected recruiters and traffickers.

On the other hand, risk reduction efforts require that governmental and nongovernmental organizations work together to identify vulnerable children and families and provide them with the support and assistance they need to alleviate their poverty and address their vulnerabilities (particularly the push factors that this research has revealed are powerful factors in the lives of human trafficking victims) and reduce children and youth’s risks of leaving home at an early age and falling victim to traffickers and exploiters. Based upon findings from Chapter 3, particular attention should be given to children that live in conditions of poverty, children living with only one parent (particularly a mother) or no parents (living with other relatives or on their own), children living in families with frequent conflicts and violence or where they are experiencing abuse and/or neglect, and families where one or both parents has alcohol and/or drug use/abuse problems.

Where possible, government and community support, including cash transfers, should be provide to poor families to help alleviate the poverty and reduce their children’s risk of leaving home early in search of job opportunities to help support the family.

**RECOMMENDATION 3: Promoting safe, legal migration for decent work for youth of legal working age**

Internationally, there has been a growing realization that one of the important ways to prevent internal and cross-border human trafficking, including child trafficking, is to promote safe, legal migration for those of legal working age (1). Safe migration includes awareness raising about the migration process, as well as putting in place procedures for safe migration of young people of legal working age, so as to ensure that people who migrate, either internally or cross-border, have a clear path to decent work/employment or training if it cannot be found in their place of origin (2).

Safe migration includes making sure that the migrant understands the realities of the labor market at their intended destination and mechanisms for migrating safely. Safe migration should be specifically designed to speak to different gender- and age-groups, as well as particularly youth from rural areas that are particularly prone to migrate in search of job opportunities, an urban lifestyle, and independent living (see Chapters 3 and 4). Such safe migration campaigns should also focus on raising the public’s awareness to different types of recruiters and traffickers (e.g., stranger trafficker, acquaintance trafficker, friend trafficker, lover, employer trafficker, etc.) to be aware of, the different pathways into trafficking and exploitation, the use of debt bondage and violence and intimidation to control victims (see Chapter 4).

**RECOMMENDATION 4: Reduce the demand for child trafficking victims in Kazakhstan**

Governmental and nongovernmental organizations must work together to address the demand side for child trafficking victims, including the demand for sex with children or young women, and the demand for cheap and subservient labor and child labor (3). Oftentimes, prevention efforts focus on the supply side of child trafficking, and do little to address the demand side. However, in recent years, international best practices demonstrate that addressing the demand for child trafficking victims is crucial.

**RECOMMENDATION 5: Child/youth suicide prevention programs and support services**

In recent years, there is growing awareness in Kazakhstan that child/youth suicide is a serious problem that needs to be better understood and must be addressed. Findings from this study reveal a great deal about rates of suicide, and means and reasons for suicide among vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers. Suicide prevention should include training teachers, social workers, health care professionals, police officials, and others that have regular contact with vulnerable children, trafficking victims, and sex workers to understand child/youth suicide, to recognize the warning signs of suicide among children/youth, and to understand how to intervene in such situations and to whom to refer the child for support.

**PROTECTION**

Victim protection is another critical component of any government’s anti-trafficking efforts (4). Victim protection begins with proactive identification of trafficking victims, including child trafficking victims, and includes meeting the immediate- and long-term needs of trafficking victims for protection, recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration (5). It is important that the special needs of child trafficking victims are considered, and are not an afterthought for governmental and nongovernmental organizations that are responsible for providing protection and support services to trafficking victims. Without special provisions for child trafficking victims, these children risk being returned to families which may
have been involved in their trafficking and exploitation, and/or face difficult circumstances (e.g., poverty, family conflict and violence, drug and/or alcohol addiction, loss of a parent/caregiver) that can place the child at increased risk of being re-trafficked and returning to a situation of exploitation.

RECOMMENDATION 6: Focus on proactive identification of child trafficking victims by governmental entities and nongovernmental organizations

Governmental entities, particularly law enforcement officials that operate at the street level, as well as division specialists responsible for human trafficking and organized must be trained to identify child trafficking victims and intervene on their behalf. In addition, governmental child protection officials, migration authorities, health care professionals, and educators that have contact with children must be properly trained to identify child trafficking victims and intervene on their behalf (6). Nongovernmental organizations that work with vulnerable children, street children, sex workers, and migrants must also be properly trained to identify child trafficking victims in situations of sexual and labor exploitation. The reality is that trafficking victims, particularly child trafficking victims, typically lack the agency, power, and voice to identify themselves and to describe what happened to them; thus, the various professionals identified above should be trained on how to speak to, question, and identify child trafficking victims, and what to do once they identify a child trafficking victim.

In fact, this study found that many child trafficking victims were not identified despite their contact with police, the child protection system, and nongovernmental organizations. In particular, girls between 15 and 17 years of age that were sex trafficking victims were often overlooked by police officials because they were not properly screened. In many cases, child sex trafficking victims in this age group were released by police back to their pimps/traffickers/exploiters or were labeled as vulnerable children and transferred to the child protection system and the Center for Adaptation of Minors. This study also found that nongovernmental organizations that worked with sex workers and child laborers sometimes failed to identify child trafficking victims.

In addition to training, it is important that government officials are provided with incentives to proactively identify and investigate suspected cases of child trafficking. Being proactive requires being aware that child trafficking is as much an internal problem, as a cross-border problem, and that anyone can become a victim of human trafficking (7).

RECOMMENDATION 7: Develop a network of governmental and nongovernmental organizations that can provide child trafficking victims with protection and comprehensive support services

This research revealed that there are significant gaps in the child protection system and availability of support services for child trafficking victims. Depending on the needs of individual child trafficking victims, services required for protection and recovery may include any or all of the following:

- emergency and transitional housing with long-term housing assistance
- medical care
- mental health counseling
- education
- job skills training and placement
- family location and reunification
- translation and interpretation
- legal advocacy in the criminal justice system
- immigration legal assistance
- safety planning
- life skills training
- nutrition and hygiene training
- repatriation assistance

While this list is long and daunting, it typically requires a network of governmental and nongovernmental organizations that can cooperate with each other on a timely basis to ensure that child trafficking victims are provided with the protection and full range of comprehensive support services that they need to help them transform their lives, overcome traumas and abuses, and return to the community as independent, productive individuals.

In order to ensure trafficking victims access to a full range of support service, it is crucial that the Government of Kazakhstan make provisions within the national budget to ensure appropriate funding for the immediate- and long-term protection and support services that trafficking victims need. The number of shelters and support services for trafficking victims need to be increased in Kazakhstan, and the Government of Kazakhstan should help to fund these shelters and support services, including those operated by nongovernmental organizations, to ensure their continuous operation and availability to victims, and increase the range and quality of services these organizations are able to provide victims. It is also important that specialized shelters for child trafficking victims are established, as child trafficking victims should not be housed with adult trafficking victims, as children have special needs and protection and
support requirements as in UNICEF Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking.

In addition, it is important that shelters and support services for trafficking victims are developed based upon models that have proven successful for rehabilitation, reintegration, and recovery in other countries. For instance, Hagar’s Three-Stage Approach to Recovery has proven successful in numerous countries throughout Asia (8).

**Stage One:** Initial recovery. The first month in the shelter is designed to ensure that the trafficking victims feel safe, is provided with food, clothes, medical check-ups and treatment. A needs assessment must be conducted to assess what is in the best interest of the child, and to consider the child’s view. Counselling and group therapy by well-trained counsellors should also be provided. Victims are also encouraged to participate in simple activities to help them gain confidence and interact and bond with other children staying at the shelter. The purpose of this stage is to give the victim a sense of self-worth through the care and acts of compassion of the staff and other residents.

**Stage Two:** Rehabilitation. Depending upon the individual, victims may stay in the shelter for six to nine months (or longer). During this time, the victim continues counselling and begins literacy and numeracy education, life-skills development, health and hygiene training, and vocational training of their choice.

**Stage Three:** Reintegration. After consultation with the counselling and reintegration teams regarding readiness, trafficking victims are able to re-enter their communities or settle into a safe environment supporting their attempt to secure worthwhile employment, housing and social integration. Victims receive continued counselling through regular follow-up visits and peer groups support for up to two years.

Governmental and nongovernmental organizations that are part of such a network must be responsible for providing child trafficking victims with protection and comprehensive support services are well trained and qualified to work with child trafficking victims, and that they operate and provide protection and support services in keeping with international standards and best practices in the best interests of the child. Standards and best practices for protecting and supporting child trafficking victims are outlined in the following key documents:

- UNICEF Guidelines on the Protection of Child Trafficking Victims (I believe this has been translated into Georgian)
- ILO Child-Friendly Standards & Guidelines for the Recovery and Integration of Trafficked Children
- ILO Rehabilitation of the Victims of Child Trafficking: A Multidisciplinary Approach

It is also crucial that the network of governmental and nongovernmental organizations responsible for protection of and providing support services to trafficking victims are regularly monitored by an independent monitoring body for compliance and provision of quality support services.

**RECOMMENDATION 8: Appoint a guardian to child trafficking victims**

According to UNICEF Guidelines on the Protection of Child Trafficking Victims, “as soon as a child victim is identified, a guardian shall be appointed by a competent authority to accompany the child throughout the entire process until a durable solution that is in his or her best interests has been identified and implemented (9).”

If the trafficked child is accompanied by a parent/caregiver when identified, care should be taken to assess whether his/her parent/caregiver is suitable – will ensure the child’s safety and fully represent the child’s interests. If a family assessment reveals the parent/caregiver cannot represent the child’s best interests, guarantee the child’s safety, or was involved in trafficking the child, another guardian should be appointed. In keeping with UNICEF Guidelines on the Protection of Child Trafficking Victims it is “the responsibility of the government to define the competent authority in charge of appointing the guarding, the legal status of the guardianship (e.g., legal guardian, temporary guardian, adviser/representative, social worker, or NGO worker), and all the necessary protocols and procedures. Agencies or individuals whose interests could conflict with those of the child, or any individual or institution that is accused of or complicit in the trafficking of the child, cannot be eligible for guardianship (10).”

It appears from this study that there is no system in place for appointing a guardian or temporary guardian to child trafficking victims to ensure that the child victim’s best interests are identified and implemented, and that the child is kept informed about their status and case. “Individuals appointed as guardians must have relevant child protection experience, knowledge of child rights and an understanding of the specific needs of child victims, including those specific to gender and their form of exploitation. In addition, guardians should have specialized training, professional support, and
appropriate assistance in the performance of their responsibilities (11)."

When appointing a guardian, consideration should be given to the child’s views and the child should be informed throughout the process of appointing a guardian. In keeping with international standards, the appointed guardian should accompany the child throughout the entire process until a durable solution in the child’s best interest is identified and implemented.

**RECOMMENDATION 9: Help each child trafficking victim obtain an education in accordance with his/her age, abilities, interests, and potential**

This study found that the majority of trafficking victims were uneducated or undereducated. Among child trafficking victims (<18 years), as many as 56% had an unfinished education; yet only 32% were attending school and only 15% were attending school on a regular basis. In addition, children residing in trafficking shelters were neither attending school in the local community, nor being home schooled by certified teachers. In addition, trafficking victims that were trafficked as children (<18 years of age), but did not escape or were not rescued until they were older than 18 years of age typically had their education interrupted because of they were trafficked. Many of these child trafficking victims were victims of internal trafficking (and were Kazakh citizens) and not victims of cross-border trafficking.

The opportunity for child trafficking victims to complete their primary and secondary education is an important right of children as outlined in the UNICEF Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking and the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Thus, child trafficking victims who cannot read or write should be provided with a basic education. Children who are interested in progressing past a basic education to a secondary education and/or vocational training should also be supported.

According to international guidelines, it is in the best interest of a child staying in a shelter for more than one month to be allowed to attend a regular school and establish a normal routine. In some cases, children might even want to stay in the shelter until they finish their education because they do not have the same opportunities outside. Enabling children to attend a regular school will most likely require training teachers at the local primary and secondary schools near to the shelter to understand child trafficking victims, and dispel the myths and victim-blaming surrounding trafficking victims.

**RECOMMENDATION 10: Trafficking shelters that accommodate children should have child-friendly play areas and structured activities for children**

Trafficking shelters that accommodate children should have a secure and enclosed area where children can safely play outside, and a separate children’s room inside the shelter where children can play, child-centered structured activities can be carried out, and child counseling sessions can be conducted.

Children’s rooms inside the shelter should be filled with children’s educational and recreational items, including a library of children’s books (to support children of different reading levels), building blocks and puzzles (of different levels of difficulty), shape sorting games, art materials, trucks and cars, and dolls and stuffed animals. Children should have daily structured recreational activities designed to support their social, emotional, and intellectual development. Children should not be left to their own devices all day.

**RECOMMENDATION 11: Do not limit trafficking victims options for vocational/jobs skills training to a few low-paying, unskilled jobs**

In regard to vocational/job skills training, it became evident in this study that few trafficking victims were provided with vocational/job skills training, and if they were it was typically in low-paying, unskilled jobs – mainly cooking and hairstyling. Best practices from other countries have revealed that trafficking victims need to be provided with a wide range of vocations/jobs in areas that are of interest to them, are market-driven to the local community to which they will return, and are well paying. Trafficking victims should not be directed or pressured into only low-paying, unskilled jobs that will place them at increased risk of exploitation and being re-trafficked as they seek higher paying and alternative job opportunities. Vocational/job skills training should be coupled with job placement in businesses that have been screened and are regularly monitored to ensure that victims are not exploited. The trafficking shelter should establish signed agreements with each of these businesses.

When working with child victims, vocational/job skills training may not necessarily be the priority because the children are too young, and the focus should be on education. For older adolescents, educational development can be coupled with vocational/job skills training; however, they should not be restricted to a couple of low-paying, unskilled job choices.
When a victim expresses an interest in a vocation/job that may not have been offered in the past, steps should be taken to develop the possibility for the victim to pursue their job interest. It is important that shelter staff and victim service providers provide adolescents with vocational/job skills training that they are interested in and that will be market-driven to the local community in which they will be reintegrated.

**PROSECUTION**

According to the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report, the Government of Kazakhstan has enacted legislation to criminalize trafficking in persons, and in 2010 amended its penal code, adding Article 132.1, which strengthened punishments for child sex trafficking offenders. Still, however, criminal and penal laws specific to child trafficking are weak and should be further amended to include the international definition and conceptualization of child trafficking.

**RECOMMENDATION 12: Develop a comprehensive national policy and legislation that specifically combats child trafficking, including internal trafficking of children**

It is necessary to develop a national policy and legislation that specifically combats child trafficking, both internal and cross-border child trafficking, in keeping with the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the UN Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the UN CRC.

A comprehensive national policy to combat child trafficking should also include specific objectives and related implementing measures to prevent and combat child trafficking, as well as protect and rehabilitate child victims. Ministries and state entities should be specifically tasked with implementing the objectives and related measures, because currently it is not clear which state bodies are responsible for combating child trafficking and protecting and supporting child victims.

Special provisions also need to be developed that recognize the most vulnerable children, including orphaned, abandoned, and street children, as well as runaways and children already in prostitution and informal labour markets. It is also crucial that child victims are recognized as particularly vulnerable and provided with special protections, informed of their rights, and allowed the right to express their views, needs, and concerns in all matters that affect them, including administrative and judicial proceedings, and decisions concerning their return to their family or country of origin.

**RECOMMENDATION 13: Develop and implement ethical and cultural sensitivity training for law enforcement officers**

Since the adoption of new anti-trafficking legislation in 2008 and implementation of extensive training programs for police, prosecutors, and judges, Kazakhstan has significantly improved investigation, prosecution, and trial of human trafficking cases. However, despite these advances, the performance and attitudes of law enforcement with respect to combating human trafficking remains inconsistent, as the report’s accounts of failure by some police officers to assist trafficking victims indicate.

Social and cultural attitudes in Kazakhstan often downplay the impact of crimes against women and exploitation of other powerless individuals (e.g. immigrant workers, impoverished persons). Consequently, sex-trafficking victims often feel stigmatized and vulnerable; they do not receive adequate assistance and undergo additional stress during criminal investigations and upon return to their homes, where they are sometimes considered to have shamed their families or are forced to return to a family with an abusive parent or guardian.

While cultural norms and social attitudes can take a long time to change, the Government of Kazakhstan must take immediate action to change the attitudes and responses of its officials and law enforcement officers. Stringent ethical guidelines for law enforcement officers that are complemented by annual professional ethical training programs should be implemented and supported by the government. These courses would cover a wide range of topics including, but not limited to, cultural diversity, gender, and sexism; corruption and receipt of gratuities or informal payments; abuse of force or authority; and introduction of new ethical codes of behavior for government officials. While the principal driver of this initiative would be combating trafficking offenses, such an initiative would have a broader impact on the credibility of law enforcement in combating all varieties of crime.

**RECOMMENDATION 14: Increase investigation and prosecution of child trafficking cases**

According to the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report, over the past year, the Government of Kazakhstan has taken steps to improve the abilities of law enforcement officials to assist trafficking victims. As the report’s accounts of failure by some police officers to assist trafficking victims indicate.
enforcement to detect and respond to suspected cases of human trafficking. Still, however, human trafficking remains a low risk, high profit activity in Kazakhstan. The lack of investigation, prosecution, conviction, and punishment in human trafficking cases undermines any deterrent effect of existing legislation designed to combat human trafficking.

It is necessary to provide training at all governmental levels and to strengthen procedures for law enforcement and judicial officials to protect the rights and interests of child trafficking victims at all stages of the criminal justice process, in accordance with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Training should focus on topics including, but not limited to: the various forms of child trafficking and exploitation; the vulnerability of child victims and their special needs as victims and/or witnesses; informing child victims of their rights and legal proceedings; allowing the views, needs, and concerns of child victims to be presented and considered in proceedings where their personal interests are affected; protecting the privacy and identity of child victims and avoiding the inappropriate dissemination of information that could lead to the identification of child victims; and establishing the best interest of the child.

PARTNERSHIP

The need for partnership and interagency coordination and cooperation has been highlighted in some of the recommendations outlined thus far; nevertheless, it is important to clearly identify the importance of partnership for purposes of prevention and protection of this very vulnerable population, and prosecution of those individuals that perpetuate crimes of child trafficking (12).

RECOMMENDATION 15: Establish working partnerships among and within governments, and between governments and nongovernmental organizations, local communities, and international organizations in the fight to protect vulnerable children and combat human trafficking

Partnerships and coordination efforts must begin at the national level and be overseen by heads of state, cabinet members, and ministerial leaders; those in a position to organize and coordinate a “whole-of-government effort” that includes: protecting vulnerable persons, particularly vulnerable children and youth from trafficking and exploitation; identify, investigate, and prosecute human trafficking cases; and ensure that trafficking victims have access to needed protection and comprehensive support services (13). It is also important that the Government cooperate with independent bodies that should exist to monitor child protection and handling of human trafficking cases and victims access to protection and support services.

RECOMMENDATION 16: Develop a multi-sectoral response to address child protection, specifically child protection needs of vulnerable children and child trafficking victims

The Government of Kazakhstan, in cooperation with international and nongovernmental organizations, should establish a multi-sectoral response to address child protection, including: the prevention of child abuse and neglect and child trafficking and exploitation; and identification and protection of vulnerable children and child trafficking victims. It is important to remember that vulnerable children and child trafficking victims are two distinct groups of children (although some vulnerable children go on to become trafficking victims, and trafficking victims were once vulnerable children) that require different protections, care, and support services; thus, they should not be lumped together by those working in the area of child protection.

A multi-sectoral response requires building horizontal linkages across a range of differences sectors (child protection and social welfare, health care, education, support services, police and courts, and the media), and vertical linkages from akiamats to Ministry officials. One should remember that not all sectors or levels of government will be equally able to or willing to address problems of child protection and to support child victims, so implementation of such a multi-sectoral response will require training to build the capacity of representatives from the various sectors and government offices to identify and respond to vulnerable children and child trafficking victims and to ensure children are being protected in keeping with international standards and best practices. Effective implementation also requires monitoring of the functioning of the multi-sectoral, multi-level response.
REFERENCES:


This draft report was sent to the following government agencies in the Republic of Kazakhstan to provide comments, notes, and recommendations: the Supreme Court, Prosecutor General’s Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Akimats (Municipal Councils) of Astana City, Almaty City, Akmola, Atyrau, East Kazakhstan, Karaganda, and South Kazakhstan Regions.

After giving due consideration to the draft report, the following government agencies of the Republic of Kazakhstan stated that they did not have any comments or recommendations: the Supreme Court, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Akimat of Almaty.

The comments, notes and recommendations made by other agencies are given below. The constructive recommendations and comments were included in the final version of the report.
The Prosecutor General’s Office has reviewed the results of the study on “Children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking” conducted by the National Human Rights Centre jointly with UNICEF.

It is important to note that certain measures on children’s rights protection are taken by the Republic of Kazakhstan.

For example, under the Action Plan by the Government of Kazakhstan on Fighting and Preventing Crimes related to Human Trafficking for 2009-2011 approved by Regulation # 462 by the Government of Kazakhstan dated 2 April 2009, a number of efforts have been implemented, including information campaigns to fight human trafficking, to train children and youth, etc.

A National Action Plan for Implementation of the CIS Cooperation Program on Fighting Human Trafficking for 2011-2013 has been recently developed.

At the same time, considering the findings of the study, we recommend that authority bodies take into account some recommendations made based on these findings within the framework of the National Action Plan.

However, we believe that some recommendations need further development.

Recommendation 3 (promoting safe migration programs) does not include specific suggestions to prevent human trafficking as part of migration processes. The recommendation is based on the need to raise awareness, which is already covered by Recommendation 1 (developing awareness raising campaigns focused on prevention of child trafficking).

Recommendation 4 (reducing the demand for child trafficking victims in Kazakhstan) does not include specific suggestions either. Furthermore, the materials of the study do not contain any data that confirm any study of such demand.

Implementation of Recommendation 8 (appointing a guardian to a child trafficking victim), which supposes appointing a temporary guardian to a child trafficking victim when admitted to shelters for trafficking victims, needs appropriate rationale. The child rights protection system that exists in the Republic of Kazakhstan binds local executive bodies and management of organizations, where minors are temporarily placed, to take all actions to ensure children’s best interests, including those related to their placement.

Head of the Department

K. Seidgapbarov

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After giving due consideration to the results of the study on “Children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking” (hereinafter – Report) prepared by Robin Haarr, UNICEF international consultant, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter – MES) informs the following:

1. Regarding the actions focused on eliminating child sexual exploitation. The Committee for Child Rights Protection of MES and its Regional Departments for Child Rights Protection conduct raids called “Children in the night city” in all regions of Kazakhstan to identify violations of child rights, child neglect and homelessness, and to prevent child labor exploitation.

MES annually conducts a national information campaign “12 Days against Child Labor Exploitation” jointly with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the “Women’s Union of Intellectual Work” NGO.

In order to provide children in difficult situations with consultations, legal and psychological support, and to identify and prevent cases of human trafficking, regions have public consultation offices for children and a hotline. Also, there is a free 24-hour telephone line – 150 – that every child can call to seek help (the National Hotline for Children and Youth #150). As of December 2011, 315 488 calls had been received on the crisis hotline 150, including 1341 calls from children and youth concerning various problems, 2% of them were about issues such as violence and sexual exploitation.

Consultants on the National Hotline for Children and Youth # 150 work with each person individually, i.e. considering his/her age and gender differences and their specific situations. In case a child is at risk, the National Hotline for Children and Youth # 150 experts immediately contact the police, local juvenile police office, guardianship bodies of education system and the Department for Children Rights Protection.

To ensure the child’s safety and further work with his/her family, the child can be taken from his/her family and placed in the Centers for Adaptation of Minors (hereinafter - CAM) or shelters for minors.

Moreover, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Internal Affairs have proposed to include a provision in the Code on Administrative Violations concerning officials’ and other persons’ liability for failure to perform their duties related to informing a guardianship body on cases of children whose life and well-being are threatened, and on violation of their rights and their entitled interests. The above responsibilities are stipulated in Article 67 of the Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Marriage and Family”.

The above proposal enables improvement of the system used to identify children in difficult situations, including children trafficked and sexually exploited.

2. Comments. In general, the Ministry supports the recommendations in the report that ensure improvement of the work on timely identification of children in difficult situations by educational institutions. The report can be used in the development process of programs for professional trainings on prevention of violence against children and child abuse and sexual exploitation.

Recommendation 8 concerning appointment of guardians to child trafficking victims needs more elaboration and a wider presentation of the issue.

Furthermore, we believe that Recommendation 9 regarding obtaining education by each child trafficking victim in accordance with his/her age, abilities, interests, and potential is not relevant.
In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Law “On Education”, and national mandatory educational standards, all children of school age, including those in difficult situations, receive compulsory secondary education.

To ensure work in all CAMs and special schools for children with deviant behavior on daily basis, based on children’s age, abilities, interests, and potential, teachers, psychologists, and lawyers render support of different kind, including indentifying child trafficking victims.

Please provide information on prevention of child trafficking cases and on the number and citizenship of the interviewed children. This information will be used during work with children from migrant families.

Vice Minister M. Sarybekov

Prepared by A. Sekerbayev
Tel: 74-20-49
COMMENTS BY THE AKIMAT OF ASTANA

The National Human Rights Centre
Re: Letter #01/3518-И
dated 22 December 2011

Please find attached our recommendations for the study on “Children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking” conducted in Astana.

Attachment: 1 page.

Deputy Akim of Astana A. Balayeva

Prepared by: G. Taigokova,
Tel.: 556479

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STUDY ON “CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO RISKY BEHAVIORS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND TRAFFICKING”

The study report on “Children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking” (hereinafter – study) conducted in Astana by the National Human Rights Center has been reviewed and taken into consideration by all concerned bodies.

The study findings reflect the objective picture of existing problems such as human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The study has revealed reasons, conditions, and categories of persons who were trafficked and sexually exploited.

This problem is very serious, thus we need to raise public awareness on it through media, the public should be informed of its existence in our country to eliminate and prevent such cases in the future.

In addition, there is a need to conduct a study of this kind throughout the country, and based on its results it will be necessary to publish a manual to be used in practice by governmental and non-governmental organizations working in this field. While we support the recommendations outlined in the report, we consider it reasonable to:

- develop special government programs aimed to fight sexual exploitation and human trafficking;
- create a clear structure of governmental and non-governmental organizations extending their cooperation with international organizations that deal with the protection of vulnerable children and fight against human trafficking;
- expand the network of shelters across the country and increase their functions and capacities in rendering assistance, support, and protection to victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking;
- develop a clear system to work further with vulnerable children and their families creating an integrated database of the above categories with the goal to prevent trafficking, labor and sexual exploitation;
- develop awareness raising campaigns, plan publication and distribution of booklets, posters, newsletters about these problems among school and college students.
COMMENTS BY THE AKIMAT OF AKMOLA REGION

Re: Letter #01/3525-и
dated 22.12. 2011

Please find attached our recommendations for the draft report on the study “Children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking”.

Attachment: 2 pages.

Deputy Akim of Akmola Region D. Adilbekov

Prep. by: D.Koishina
Tel.: 29 72 66

RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE STUDY ON “CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO RISKY BEHAVIORS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND TRAFFICKING” CONDUCTED IN ASTANA

The Akimat of Akmola Region, with the goal to improve the child protection system, eradicate sexual and labor exploitation and child trafficking, makes the following recommendations for Section 8 of the Report – “Recommendations”:

IN THE PART “PREVENTION”

1. inform through media on crisis hotlines of “The Union of Crisis Centers” Association of Legal Entities, and other crisis hotlines that can be contacted for free and confidential consultations on legal and social matters. Post information on the hotlines in educational institutions and places, where children, youth, and parents have access to;

2. widely use visual promotional materials (banners, pylons) focused on prevention;

3. awareness raising among travel companies management teams on human trafficking;

4. create database of child labor exploitation cases, owners of entertainment places where children are exploited;

5. awareness raising work with minors and their parents, arrange lectures for parents on prevention of child labor exploitation, increase media coverage of the above subject;

6. organize children’s leisure activities: consider employment of children from low-income families during their holidays, create quota jobs for the indicated group of children in accordance with the labor legislation, expand the networks of children’s outside-of-school centers, children and youth art studios, clubs for young technicians, tourists, natural scientists, and sport schools.

IN THE PART “PROTECTION”

1. Develop a mechanism of assistance to trafficking victims with education, employment, housing, etc. by government agencies (identification of trafficking victims – shelters – education (employment agency) – housing assistance).

IN THE PART “PROSECUTION”

1. Establish a responsible agency counteracting human trafficking and providing comprehensive support to trafficking victims.

FOR “PARTNERSHIP” PART

1. Support nongovernmental organizations dealing with protection of vulnerable children and fighting human trafficking.
The Akimat of Atyrau Region has reviewed the study on “Children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking” conducted by the National Human Rights Centre jointly with UNICEF Kazakhstan.

The issue of child trafficking and sexual exploitation in Kazakhstan requires joint comprehensive efforts aimed at eradicating sexual exploitation of minors and their trafficking.

In order to improve and reform the child protection system and decrease the vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking, it is necessary to:

1) Develop and implement a mechanism of intersectoral joint activities between governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, and media;

2) Develop and adopt a National Action Plan for child protection with the following measures:
   - arrange public awareness raising campaigns focusing on prevention of child trafficking;
   - take joint actions with governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations to identify difficult children and their families; with the purpose of lowering the poverty rate and solving the issues related to the above, provide necessary support;
   - train and support law enforcement and government officials responsible for child protection, migration service workers and workers of healthcare and educational institutions dealing with children on methods of identifying child trafficking victims;
   - establish crisis centers rendering a wide range of support services required for human trafficking victims and provide financial and organizational support in order to rehabilitate and assist human trafficking victims focusing on changing their lives, prevent violence traumas and consequences, and returning them to society as independent and self-supporting individuals by involving nongovernmental organizations.

3) Ensure active information support for campaigns conducted by governmental agencies, nongovernmental and international organizations on child protection issues.

4) Conduct charitable campaigns aimed to solve the issue of social orphanhood and to provide support to children in difficult situations.

5) Introduce into practice of educational institutions programs and methodologies on shaping law-abiding behavior among minors and fostering ethical behaviour and healthy lifestyle.

Head of the Akimat of Atyrau Region

A. Dosbayev

Prepared by A. Dauletova
Tel. 8 (7122) 35 50 32
COMMENTS BY THE AKIMAT OF KARAGANDY REGION

Head of the National Human Rights Centre

Dear Vyacheslav Afanasyevich!

After giving due consideration to the draft report on children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking in Kazakhstan prepared by the UNICEF’s international consultant (hereinafter – draft report), let us inform that a significant part of vulnerable children, human trafficking victims and sex workers is determined by family violence and conflicts, including child abuse and neglect as factors that push them to leave home, eventually resulting in child neglect and homelessness.

To reduce family violence and child neglect and homelessness, the following actions are taken in the region to prevent offence among minors and child neglect and homelessness:

1. Ensuring the protection of rights of orphans and children deprived of parental care;
2. Rendering social and psychological support and legal aid to youth in difficult situations (after serving prison sentence, migration, etc.);
3. Placing boxes for recommendations and anonymous contacts in educational institutions across the region, and posting information with telephone numbers that provide legal, counseling, and psychological support;
4. Annual update of the database of neglected children, regular checking of information on children registered in guardianship bodies, juvenile departments, social protection and education agencies;
5. Conducting raids to identify neglected and homeless children and youth who do not attend educational institutions; taking actions to eliminate causes and conditions enabling school absenteeism;
6. Arranging summer cultural and leisure activities for children and youth registered in the juvenile departments;
7. Promoting through media good practices of organizations that ensure prevention of child offences, neglect, and homelessness;
8. Identifying children at risk in educational institutions, arranging targeted educational and psychological, psychocorrectional, and psychotherapeutic work with them to provide adequate assistance in tackling problems that lead to drug or alcohol abuse.

Moreover, in accordance with the Educational Programs Plan for law enforcement staff, courts, and healthcare organizations in the region dealing with violence victims as of 2011, in partnership with governmental agencies and rights protection NGOs, on the initiative and with participation of the Regional Internal Affairs Department officers, 6 trainings, 8 panel discussions, 4 conferences, and 7 various campaigns (“Stop Family Violence”, “Stop Trafficking”, “Children in the Night City”, “Youth and Street”, «Minor – Law – Safety”, “Safe Road to School”, etc.) were conducted during the reporting period.

Educational courses for juvenile departments officers in the region are conducted biannually at the professional development and retraining institution for government officials and educators of the region. During these courses, issues such as arrangement of educational and preventive work with children, parents, as well as trainings in conflict management, psychological and educational support for school police officers activities, and panel discussion were reviewed and discussed.

During the past 12 months, there were 2844 lectures organized, including: 1074 in educational institutions, 1219 in regional agencies and organizations; through media: 12 on radio, 69 on television, and 110 articles and interviews published in newspapers. These lectures were organized by the Internal Affairs Departments for women’s protection against violence jointly with the Department on Fighting Organized Crimes under the Regional Internal Affairs Department.

In order to take effective actions on preventing human trafficking, sexual exploitation, to increase effectiveness of women and children’s search, we recommend creating a Search Center for Children kidnapped and exploited at the Criminal Police Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and respective departments in the regions of the country.

Deputy Akim of Karagandy Region

A.O. Kyrykbayev

Prepared by G.K.Amirova, tel. 8(7212) 42 10 96
COMMENTS BY THE AKIMAT OF EAST KAZAKHSTAN REGION

Head of the National Human Rights Centre

After giving due consideration to the draft report on “Children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking”, the Akimat of East Kazakhstan Region is sending you this information on actions taken according to its content in response to your letter #01/3526 dated 22.12.2011.

Attachment: 4 pages.

Deputy Akim of East Kazakhstan Region

Y. Kosherbayev

Prepared by D.Aryngazin, M. Asanova
Tel. 252403

ATTACHMENT

In order to raise public awareness, including among adults and children, about the efforts to eradicate child sexual exploitation and trafficking, and about the worst forms of child labor, the campaign “12 Days Against Child Labor Exploitation” was conducted in the region from 1 to 12 June.

On 31 May 2011, a press conference devoted to the International Children’s Day was organized and conducted in the region, and a National Information Campaign was launched. This measure was broadcasted in news programs on TV channels “Kazakhstan-Oskemen” and “Kalkan TV”.

Within the framework of the International Children’s Day under the auspices of East Kazakhstan Branch of “Kazakhstan” channel, a special live program devoted to 1 June – the International Children’s Day – was organized.

On 1 June, as part of the International Children’s Day celebrations, festive events were conducted in all towns and districts in the region. Approximately, 200 thousand children took part in these celebrations across the region.

On 3 June 2011, under the National Information Campaign, a “Child labor as a global and regional issue” panel discussion was held. Officials of the Department for Child Rights Protection, the Department for Control and Social Protection, senior assistant of the Regional Prosecutor, Director of “Phoenix” Center for Development and Adaptation, Director of the Oskemen Center for Child and Family Support, and media participated in the event. On 8 June 2011, a contest of posters “We are against child labor exploitation” among children clubs of Oskemen city was held in “Vostok-5” Children Club which is in “Phoenix” Center for Development and Adaptation Public Association.

More than 50 children took part in the competition. The children’s colourful drawings were about impermissibility of child labor which is harmful for children’s well-being.

The best works were drawings from “Topolek”, “Vostok-5”, “Kedr”, “Young technician” children clubs, and were awarded certificates by the Department for Child Rights Protection.

On 8 June 2011, a “Social and Psychological Model of Child Labor” workshop for minors in centers for adaptation of minors in Oskemen was conducted. The goal was to raise awareness among the children, to teach life skills, confront sexual exploitation and child trafficking, as well as the worst forms of child labor, to explain risks of accepting controversial job offers, develop an algorithm and plan for minors’ personal safety focused on prevention of the worst forms of child labor.

The organizers were the Education Department of East Kazakhstan, regional Department for Child Rights Protection, and “Phoenix” Center for Development and Adaptation Public Association. The participants of the workshop were 16 minors between 6 and 16 years of age, who live in centers for adaptation of minors. During the training, the following topics were covered: what is child labor, the worst forms of child labor, the
worst forms of child labor in Kazakhstan in the 21 century; child neglect and homelessness as a result of the worst forms of child labor, and 12 June is the World Day against Child Labor.

At the end of the training, “No child labor exploitation!” information campaign was conducted through distribution of information materials – booklets, flyers, pamphlets.

Hotline telephones worked in the Center for Child and Family Support in Oskemen, “Phoenix” Public Association and districts of the region. In total, 25 teenagers from Oskemen have called; they received consultations over the hotline, mostly concerning job opportunities in summer. No information on child labor exploitation and sexual exploitation of minors and trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor was received. This shows that minors of Oskemen know that they can call the hotline to seek help.

On 5 June, a “Red Card to The Worst Forms of Child Labor” training was conducted in “Children’s home #8” State Institution of family type in Semei; it was conducted by Vagiz Esilkanov, the Coordinator of volunteering from the “Istok” Center for Children Art Public Association, who is also a student at the Kazakh Humanities and Law Innovative University. 20 children from the Children’s home took part in the training.

On 7 June, Oskemen Children Village children’s meeting with representatives of the Levoberezhnii Police Department was held. R. Djesenov and A.D. Bapayev, juvenile officers from the Levoberezhnii Police Department, explained to the children the labor legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and key aspects of child labor monitoring in the national legislation. During the meeting, the children asked the officers of the Levoberezhnii Police Department questions and received full answers with real-life examples.

Similar events were organized in other regional institutions for orphans and children deprived of parental care.

In line with the Regional Plan, at the Semei College of transport, a “Safe employment” panel discussion with 1-2 year students was held to discuss their employment in and outside the city, safety of child labor, assistance in employment during summer holidays.

Campaigns against the worst forms of child labor, child sexual exploitation and trafficking were arranged and conducted in all towns and districts of the region.

In Oskemen city, a campaign on raising awareness about the hotline 262-313 and crisis e-mail was held. The campaign was conducted in 45 schools of the city; on 1-12 June, it was held in parks, children’s cafes, and other places where young people gather to socialize. 2560 young residents of Oskemen took part in the campaign.

In 37 school summer camps, under UNICEF program “Have fun, be safe!” activities were conducted for 3,000 children, where they learned how to behave safely in the city and deal with strangers in particular, which is also important for prevention of child labor.

Within the the campaign “We are your children, Kazakhstan! We will live in a new world”, a meeting with 24 children was held by a group of consultants from the Center for Child and Family Support in the Center for Adaptation of Minors. During the meeting, the children were given gift books “Child rights”, in which all child rights that are provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstn are clearly defined.

On 3 June 2011, contests of drawings on asphalt “We are for happy childhood!” were held in school summer camps of Semei. Through their drawings, children showed their attitude to child labor exploitation and called upon happy childhood protection.

On 6 June 2011, a “Mercy” campaign was held by most schools in Glubokov District. There were festive concerts in the schools, orphans were given school supplies as a gift on this day. After the campaign, a festive dinner was held.

Students of educational institutions in Zyryan District posted leaflets against child labor exploitation.

On 11 June, a disco party with motto “Stars are against child labor exploitation” was organized in all educational institutions of Ulan District.

Meetings with parents on “Responsibility of Parents for Children in Using Their Labor”, “Fight against Child Labor Exploitation” were held in Katon-Karagai district. The parents had an opportunity to share their views.

In Kurchum district, meetings with parents and children were organized in a park, where they talked about “Child labor at home and school”. The children shared their thoughts how they work at home, what works they do around the house. The participants discussed the question “Do we need labor at school and home? Why?”. The children and their parents expressed their opinion and came to a conclusion that labor is important and that work enriches people.
During the National Information Campaign, a video clip “Children at dangerous work!” in two languages was broadcasted on the regional television.

Information on banned forms of minors’ labor and employment rules was posted on the website of the Education Department to raise awareness among the public.

On 13 June 2011, at the end of the National Information Campaign “12 Days Fight against Child Labor Exploitation”, a press conference was held in the National Press Club.

In the “Rudnii Altai” regional newspaper, issue #62 of 4 June 2011, an article “Child Labor within the Law”, which informed on the National Information Campaign “12 Days Fight against Child Labor Exploitation” launched on 1 June 2011, was published.

In the “Moi Gorod” city newspaper, issue # 23 of 9.06.2011, an article “Work for Children”, which informed minors on their right to work, was published.

Also, the “Ust-Kamenogorsk” city newspaper issue #22 of 9 June 2011 published an article “At School Yard” devoted to the issues of children’s summer work.

These articles were an outcome of interaction with executive governmental and law enforcement bodies.

The issue of preventing child labor exploitation and the worst forms of child labor is monitored not only during these 12 days, but constantly.

No cases of trafficking, child prostitution, child pornography have been found. In addition, hotlines operate in education departments of towns and districts, where children and adults submit complaints and suggestions, but no calls concerning child abuse have been registered so far.

During summer holidays, most school children, particularly those from low-income families, wished to earn in order to help their parents. For this purpose, educational institutions signed agreements with Centers for Employment of Ridder town, Ayagoz, Beskaragai, Zaisan, Zyryan Districts, under which employers employ minors while abiding by the Law “On child rights”. As such, during 2011 summer holidays, 135 minors were employed in companies under contracts with their employers.

The results of the study will be further used in work by educational institutions of East Kazakhstan Region.

Acting Head of Education Department          D. Aryngazin
COMMENTS BY THE AKIMAT OF SOUTH KAZAKHSTAN REGION

The National Human Rights Centre
8, Orynbor Street, Astana

Re: Letter #01/3529-И
dated 22 December 2011

The report on the 2011 study on “Children’s vulnerabilities to risky behaviors, sexual exploitation, and trafficking” conducted by the National Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been given due consideration by the Akimat of South Kazakhstan Region.

The studies conducted in seven cities of Kazakhstan: Astana, Almaty, Karagandy, Atyrau, Kokshetau, Shymkent, and Oskemen are very important for execution of this project. This project is of topical and vital concern.

Vulnerable children between 9 and 17 years of age, sexually exploited girls and sex workers between 11 and 23 years of age, and human trafficking victims of all ages are issues that need immediate response.

For that purpose, the Regional Department for Children Rights Protection, Department of Education, non-governmental organizations, centers for adaptation of minors, officers of the Juvenile Department and police inspectors, special organizations for children with deviant behavior, special dispensaries for skin and sexually transmitted diseases should be involved in joint efforts; regular trainings and seminars for teachers and parents should be conducted.

The letter is sent for your information.

Deputy Akim of South Kazakhstan Region                  S. Kanybekov

Prepared by L.Bekeeva
Tel.: 53-06-22
ANNEX II

STUDY ON CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO RISKY BEHAVIORS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING IN KAZAKHSTAN

SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSIS – HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

INFORMATION TO INFORM PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Of the 103 trafficking victims interviewed 65.0% (n=67) were internal trafficking victims and only 35.0% (36) were cross-border trafficking victims (of which 31.1% were cross-border into Kazakhstan, and 3.9% were cross-border from Kazakhstan).

Among the trafficking identified at least 61% reported they knew of others in a similar situation as themselves in Kazakhstan. In fact, they identified knowledge of some 1,035 other person in similar situations as themselves - trafficked for purposes of sex and/or labor exploitation.

Table 1 reveals that trafficking victims had knowledge of other trafficking victims that ranged in age from 9 to 70 years of age. The majority of trafficking victims had knowledge of child trafficking victims, particularly children between 11- and 17 years of age. A significant proportion of trafficking victims also had knowledge of trafficking victims between 18 and 19 years, 20 and 29 years, and 30 and 39 years of age.

| Table 1. Age range of other trafficking victims of which trafficking victims had knowledge |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| ≤10 years                      | 2   | 1.9 |
| 11-17 years                    | 56  | 54.4|
| 18-19 years                    | 24  | 23.3|
| 20-29 years                    | 42  | 40.8|
| 30-39 years                    | 26  | 25.2|
| 40-49 years                    | 11  | 10.7|
| ≥50 years                      | 7   | 6.8 |

In terms of gender of other trafficking victims, as many as 84% of trafficking victims had knowledge of other female trafficking victims, and as many as 35% of trafficking victim had knowledge of male trafficking victims.

In terms of ethnic status, trafficking victims identified knowledge of trafficking victims of different ethnic groups. For instance, as many as 58% of trafficking knew of other ethnic Kazakh and ethnic Russian trafficking victims, 48% were aware of ethnic Uzbek trafficking victims, 17% were aware of ethnic Kyrgyz and ethnic Tajik trafficking victims, 4% were aware of ethnic Turkmen trafficking victims, and 21% were aware of other ethnic groups that were in situation of exploitation of trafficking, similar to their own.

GENDER DIFFERENCES AMONG TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PLACE OF INTERVIEW OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Table 2. Place of interview by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGO-run trafficking shelter</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>40.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Adaptation of Minors</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Dispensary for Skin and STDs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS Center</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Internal Affairs, police room, inspector</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surprisingly, Table 2 reveals that male trafficking victims (53.3%) were significantly more likely to be interviewed at NGO-run trafficking shelters than female trafficking (23.9%). In comparison, female trafficking victims were more likely to be interviewed at NGOs (40.9%) and at the Special Dispensaries for Skin and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (12.5%), AIDS Centers (11.4%), and Department of Internal Affairs’ police rooms (8.0%). Finally, as many as 13.3% of male trafficking victims were identified in the Centers for Adaptation of Minors, compared to only 3.4% of female trafficking victims.
**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN DEMOGRAPHICS OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS**

Table 3 reveals demographic data for female and male trafficking victims. In terms of ethnic origin, female trafficking victims were more likely to be of Kazakh origin (25.0%) and Russian origin (31.8%), while male trafficking victims were more likely to be of Uzbek origin (53.3%) and Russian origin (26.7%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic origin</th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kazakh</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyz</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajik</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbek</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN DECISIONS TO LEAVE HOME AMONG TRAFFICKING VICTIMS**

Table 4 reveals that the majority of male trafficking victims (57.2%) left home between 7 and 14 years of age; in comparison, while the majority of female trafficking victims left home as children (<18 years of age), many as many as 47.6% left home between 15 and 17 years of age. In addition, some of the female trafficking victims in our sample reported leaving home when they were over 22 years of age; while male trafficking victims did not. These findings are likely grounded in later findings that females are much more likely to leave home to find work that would enable them to earn money to help support their families (Table 5). Also female trafficking victims are much more likely than male trafficking victims to be recruited by someone to leave home and/or encouraged by a friend to leave home (in most cases the friend and/or recruiter is a trafficker; Table 5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age left home</th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7-10 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14 years</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21 years</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25 years</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-29 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30+ years</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 also reveals the age status of male and female trafficking victims. The majority of male trafficking victims (57.2%) were between 7 and 14 years of age; as a result, male trafficking victims were more likely to have an unfinished compulsory education (69.2%). The majority of female trafficking victims were also under 18 years of age; however, as many as 47.5% were between 15 and 17 years of age (a bit older than the boys). It is important to note that female trafficking victims were more likely to have a completed compulsory education (45.2%) and higher education (28.2%) compared to boys (15.4% and 15.4% respectively). Still, however, as many as 1 out of 4 female trafficking victims had an unfinished education (< 9 grades).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of education</th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unfinished education (&lt; 9 grades)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed compulsory education</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 also reveals that the majority of female (56.8%) and male (60%) trafficking victims reported living in conditions of reflective of poverty before they left home. Thus, poverty is a powerful push factor for both male and female trafficking victims.

Table 5 reveals some significant gender differences in terms of push factors that influenced the decision of trafficking victims to leave home. Females (22.7%) were significantly more likely to report leaving home because their mother and/or father had drug and/or alcohol problems, compared to male trafficking victims (6.7%). Female trafficking victims were also significantly more likely to leave home because of frequent quarrelling/fighting in their families (46.6%) and because they were beat by their parents or other family members (28.4%) compared to male trafficking victims (20.0% and

Table 4. Demographics by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic origin</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kazakh</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyz</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajik</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uzbek</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Ukrainian</td>
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<td>3.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Trafficking victims’ age at which left up and poverty by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age left home</th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7-10 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14 years</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21 years</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25 years</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-29 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30+ years</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grew up and lived in conditions of poverty</th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 also reveals that the majority of female (22.7%) and male (6.7%) trafficking victims left home because their mother and/or father had drug and/or alcohol problems, compared to male trafficking victims (6.7%). Female trafficking victims were also significantly more likely to leave home because of frequent quarrelling/fighting in their families (46.6%) and because they were beat by their parents or other family members (28.4%) compared to male trafficking victims (20.0% and
0.0% respectively). Clearly, violence against girls and women in the family is a significant problem and push factor that influences the decision of female trafficking victims to leave home, often at an early age. It is also important to note that female trafficking victims were slightly more likely to report that their family owed money to someone (20.5%), compared to male trafficking victims (13.3%).

Table 5 also reveals that male trafficking victims were slightly more likely to report that they did not live with their parents (20.0%) and that their family had no place to live or lost their home (20.0%), compared to females (11.4% and 11.4% respectively).

Table 6 reveals some significant gender differences in term of pull factors that influenced the decision of trafficking victims to leave home. Female trafficking victims were significantly more likely to see leaving home as an opportunity to earn money (70.5%) and earn money that they could send home to their families (51.1%), compared to male trafficking victims (53.3% and 33.3% respectively). Female trafficking victims were also significantly more likely than male trafficking victims to report that someone recruited them to leave home; in particular, 42.0% of female trafficking victims had friends that encouraged them to leave home and 52.3% reported the person that recruited them to leave home told them that there were a lot of job opportunities for them in the city/town where they were going. Also female trafficking victims (73.9%) were more likely to want to live in a large city compared to male trafficking victims (26.7%). The majority of male and female trafficking victims reported they left home because they wanted to live independently and they thought they could live a better life or higher standard of living where they were going.

**Gender Differences in Forms of Exploitation**

Among the 103 trafficking victims interviewed, 68.9% were sex trafficking victims and 31.1% were labor trafficking victims. Table 7 reveals that 80.7% of females were sex trafficking victims and 19.3% were labor trafficking victims; whereas, all the males were labor trafficking victims.
### Table 6. Trafficking victims’ pull factors by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to earn money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saw leaving home as an opportunity to earn money that you could send home to your family</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>51.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thought it was a good opportunity for you to make money</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>70.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example of friends/family that migrated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had friends that left town in the past and saw they were able to earn money and send it back to their families</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>46.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a close family member that went to another country for work</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a close family member that went to another region of Kazakhstan for work</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruited by someone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had friends that encouraged you to leave home</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>42.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person that recruited you to leave home told you that there were a lot of job opportunities for you in the city/town that they were bringing you to</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire for a better life</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanted to live in a large city</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>69.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanted to live independently</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>77.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thought that you could live in a better life or higher standard of living where you were going</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>73.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 7. Forms of exploitation by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex trafficking victim</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>80.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor trafficking victim</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 7. Forms of exploitation by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex trafficking victim</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>80.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor trafficking victim</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GENDER DIFFERENCES IN SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Table 8 reveals that 79.5% of females trafficking victims ever exchanged sex for money. The majority of female sex trafficking victims were trafficked as a child (< 18 years of age). More specifically, 7.1% were trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation between 12 and 13 years of age, 27.1% were trafficked between 14 and 15 years of age, and 35.7% were trafficked between 16 and 17 years of age. In comparison, 30.0% were trafficked into sexual exploitation as adults (18 years of older). For all sex trafficking victims, regardless of age, the traumas...
related to their sexual exploitation were severe and traumatic as revealed in the interview data.

Table 8 also reveals that among female sex trafficking victims, 98.6% provided sexual services to men on a weekly basis; 70.0% were required to provide sexual services to men every day of the week and 22.9% provided sexual services to men several times a week.

**UNPROTECTED SEX AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

Table 9 reveals gender differences in unprotected sex and sexually transmitted diseases. It is important to point out that 53.4% of female and 33.3% of male trafficking victims had sex without a condom. In addition, 43.2% of female trafficking victims reported having oral sex without a condom. Female trafficking victims had sex without a condom; while male trafficking victims had unprotected sex in the process of being sexually active (no male trafficking victims were sexually exploited). Females had unprotected sex on a weekly basis as sex trafficking victims.

Table 9 also reveals that female trafficking victims were much more likely to worry about STDs (53.4%) than male trafficking victims (6.7%), and 73.9% of females reported they were tested for STDs. No male trafficking victims were tested for STDs until after their escape or rescue and they were provided with victim support services by local NGOs.

**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND VICTIMS SUPPORT SERVICES**

Tables 10 through 15 reveal gender differences in trafficking victims’ access to and experiences with police, legal support, the court system, and victim support services such as health care, psychological support, education and job skills training, and house/relocation support.

**Table 9. Unprotected sex and sexually transmitted diseases by gender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female trafficking victim</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N=88</td>
<td>N=15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex without a condom</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td>N %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every day</td>
<td>5 10.6</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a week</td>
<td>21 44.7</td>
<td>1 20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>5 10.6</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only once or twice</td>
<td>16 34.0</td>
<td>4 80.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=88</td>
<td></td>
<td>N=0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral sex without a condom</td>
<td>38 43.2</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every day</td>
<td>9 23.7</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a week</td>
<td>16 42.1</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>5 13.2</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only once or twice</td>
<td>8 21.1</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=88</td>
<td></td>
<td>N=15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worried about sexually transmitted diseases</td>
<td>47 53.4</td>
<td>1 6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tested for sexually transmitted diseases</td>
<td>65 73.9</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
female (42.1%) trafficking victims were not satisfied with the police response to their problems. It is important to note that while 22.8% of female trafficking victims reported they were very satisfied with the police response to their problems; no male trafficking victims reported they were very satisfied with their contact with the police.

Table 11. Trafficking victims’ with legal problems, legal support, and satisfaction with legal support by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have legal problems</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving support for legal problems</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with legal support</td>
<td>N=13</td>
<td>N=4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11 reveals that male trafficking victims (33.3%) were significantly more likely to report having legal problems than female trafficking victims (19.3%); however, both male and female trafficking victims were nearly equally likely to received support for their legal problems. It is important to note that female trafficking victims were significantly more likely to report they were not satisfied (53.8%) or only somewhat satisfied (30.8%) with the legal support they received compared to male trafficking victims (25.0% and 0.0% respectively). Whereas, male trafficking victims (75.0%) were significantly more likely be very satisfied with the legal support they received compared to female trafficking victims (15.4%).

Table 12. Trafficking victims’ contact and satisfaction with courts by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact with courts</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with the courts’ response to their situation</td>
<td>N=16</td>
<td>N=2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12 reveals that very few female and male trafficking victims had contact with the courts; in fact, only 20% of trafficking victims that had contact with the police actually had contact with the court system. While 50% of male trafficking victims and 37.5% of female trafficking victims were not satisfied or only somewhat satisfied with the courts’ response to their situation; as many as 25.0% of female trafficking did report they were very satisfied with the courts’ response to their situation.

Table 13. Trafficking victims’ with legal problems, legal support, and satisfaction with legal support by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female trafficking victim N=88</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim N=15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have legal problems</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>63.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving support for legal problems</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>67.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with legal support</td>
<td>N=59</td>
<td>N=2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 13 reveals that the 63.6% of female trafficking victims and 40.0% of male trafficking victims had health problems, and that females (67.0%) were significantly more likely to receive support for their health problems than male trafficking victims (13.3%). This is most likely because most females were sex trafficking and experienced higher rates of physical and sexual violence as part of the trafficking experience. It is important to note that 69.5% of female and 50% of male trafficking victims reported they were very satisfied with the health care support they received.

Table 14 reveals that female trafficking victims (46.6%) were significantly more likely to report worries about their psychological well-being compared to male trafficking victims (20.0%). This finding is likely grounded in the fact that females were more likely to be sex trafficking victims and experienced sexual, physical, and psychological violence; whereas males were labor trafficking victims. In fact, female trafficking victims (36.4%) were significantly more likely to engage in self-harming and suicidal behaviors, compared to male trafficking victims (20.0%). It is also important to point out that as many as 72.5% of female trafficking victims reported they were very satisfied with the psychological support they were receiving.
A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO RISKY BEHAVIORS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND TRAFFICKING IN KAZAKHSTAN

Table 15 reveals that few female and male trafficking victims were equally likely to receiving education classes; however, male trafficking victims were significantly more likely to receive job skills training (26.7%) and housing/relocation support (46.7%) compared to female trafficking victims (15.9% and 23.9% respectively).

Table 15. Trafficking victims’ receiving education, job skills training, and housing and relocation support by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female trafficking victim</th>
<th>Male trafficking victim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N=88</td>
<td>N=15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving education</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td>N %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>classes</td>
<td>24 27.3</td>
<td>4 26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving job skills</td>
<td>14 15.9</td>
<td>4 26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing/relocation</td>
<td>21 23.9</td>
<td>7 46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

PLACES OF INTERVIEWS FOR SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

In the section, sex trafficking victims were compared to labor trafficking victims. Table 16 reveals that sex trafficking victims were identified and interviewed in six of the urban areas (except Atyrau) and labor trafficking victims were found in five of the urban areas (except Ust-Kamenogorsk and Kokshetau). Table 16 also reveals as many as 50.0% of labor trafficking victims were interviewed at NGO-run trafficking shelters, whereas only 18.3% of sex trafficking victims were interviewed in NGO-run trafficking shelters. A significant proportion of sex (40.8%) and labor trafficking victims (37.5%) were also identified and interviewed with the help of NGOs working with sex workers and migrant populations.

Table 16. City and place of interview for sex and labor trafficking victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sex trafficking victim</th>
<th>Labor trafficking victim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N=71</td>
<td>N=32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of interview</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astana</td>
<td>14 19.7</td>
<td>9 28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almaty</td>
<td>24 33.8</td>
<td>12 37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karaganda</td>
<td>8 11.3</td>
<td>1 3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shymkent</td>
<td>11 15.5</td>
<td>9 28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ust-Kamenogorsk</td>
<td>10 14.1</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atyrau</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
<td>1 3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kokshetau</td>
<td>4 5.6</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of interview</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO-run trafficking</td>
<td>13 18.3</td>
<td>16 50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shelter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>29 40.8</td>
<td>12 37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Adaptation</td>
<td>2 2.8</td>
<td>3 9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Minors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Dispensary</td>
<td>11 15.5</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for Skin &amp; STDs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS Center</td>
<td>10 14.1</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Internal</td>
<td>6 8.5</td>
<td>1 3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affairs, police room</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sex trafficking victims were also identified in the Special Dispensaries for Skins and STDs (15.5%) and AIDS Centers (14.1%); whereas labor trafficking victims were not. A small proportion of sex and labor trafficking victims were also found in the Centers...
A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN’S VULNERABILITIES TO RISKY BEHAVIORS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND TRAFFICKING IN KAZAKHSTAN

for Adaptation of Minors and the Department of Internal Affairs (police room).

DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Table 17 reveals that sex trafficking victims tended to be of Russian origin (36.6%), Kazakh origin (21.1%), Uzbek origin (15.5%), and other (12.7%); whereas, labor trafficking victims tended to be of Uzbek origin (37.5%), Kazakh origin (25.0%), and Russian origin (18.8%). Other ethnic groups were represented among sex and labor trafficking victims, but to a lesser degree.

Table 17. Demographics for sex and labor trafficking victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic origin</th>
<th>Sex trafficking victim N=71</th>
<th>Labor trafficking victim N=32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kazakh</td>
<td>15 (21.1)</td>
<td>8 (25.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyz</td>
<td>6 (8.5)</td>
<td>1 (3.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajik</td>
<td>2 (2.8)</td>
<td>2 (6.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbek</td>
<td>11 (15.5)</td>
<td>12 (37.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>26 (36.6)</td>
<td>6 (18.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>2 (2.8)</td>
<td>1 (3.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9 (12.7)</td>
<td>2 (6.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 17 also reveals the age groups of sex and labor trafficking victims. A significant proportion of sex trafficking victims were between 15 and 17 years (31.0%) and 18 and 21 years of age (46.5%); whereas, labor trafficking victims range in age more so, but a significant proportion were between 18 and 21 years (21.9%) and 22 and 25 years (31.3%).

Finally, Table 17 reveals that labor trafficking victims (41.4%) were significantly more likely to have an unfinished compulsory education (<9 grades) compared to sex trafficking victims (27.9%). Still, however, as many as 1 out of 4 sex trafficking victims had an unfinished education. Sex trafficking victims were slightly more likely to have a completed compulsory education (42.6%) and higher education (29.5%) compared to labor trafficking victims (37.9% and 20.7% respectively).

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS’ DECISIONS TO LEAVE HOME

Table 18 reveals differences between sex and labor trafficking victims in regard to the age at which they left home. Sex trafficking victims were more likely to leave home between 11 and 14 years (22.4%) and 15 and 17 years (53.1%), compared to labor trafficking victims. Labor trafficking victims were more diverse than sex trafficking victims in terms of the age at which they left home, and 14.3% of labor trafficking victims reported leaving home between 7 and 10 years while 23.8% left home between 15 and 17 years, and 38.1% left home between 18 and 21 years of age.

Table 18 also reveals that sex and labor trafficking victims were nearly equally likely to grow up and live in conditions of poverty prior to leaving home.

Table 18. Age left home and poverty for sex and labor trafficking victims by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age left home</th>
<th>Sex trafficking victim N=71</th>
<th>Labor trafficking victim N=32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7-10 years</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>3 (14.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14 years</td>
<td>11 (22.4)</td>
<td>2 (9.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
<td>26 (53.1)</td>
<td>5 (23.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21 years</td>
<td>9 (18.4)</td>
<td>8 (38.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25 years</td>
<td>2 (4.1)</td>
<td>1 (4.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-29 years</td>
<td>0 (0.0)</td>
<td>1 (4.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30+ years</td>
<td>1 (2.0)</td>
<td>1 (4.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 19 reveals the factors that push sex and labor trafficking victims. Sex trafficking victims were significantly more likely to report leaving home because their family was poor (59.2%) and their family owed money to someone (23.9%), compared to labor trafficking victims (37.5% and 9.4% respectively). Sex trafficking victims were also more likely to leave home because they were living with only one of their parents (32.4%), in most cases their mother, compared to labor trafficking victims (9.4%).
Sex trafficking victims were also more likely to leave home because their mother and/or father had drug and/or alcohol problems (23.9%) and because their family did not provide them with the basic things needed in life (56.3%) than did labor trafficking victims (12.5% and 34.4% respectively). Sex trafficking victims were also more likely than labor trafficking victims to leave home because of family violence; in particular, 49.3% of sex trafficking victims left home because of frequent quarrelling/fighting in the family, and 31.0% left home because they were beat by their parents or other family members (31.0%).

In comparison, labor trafficking victims (25.0%) were more likely than sex trafficking victims (7.0%) to leave home because the family had no place to live or they lost their home.

Table 20 reveals some significant gender differences in term of pull factors that influenced the decision of trafficking victims to leave home. Sex trafficking victims were significantly more likely to see leaving home as an opportunity to earn money (76.15%) and earn money that they could send home to their families (53.5%), compared to labor trafficking victims (50.0% and 37.5% respectively). Sex trafficking victims (53.5%) were also significantly more likely than labor trafficking victims (28.1%) to report that they had friends that left town in the past and they saw that they were able to earn money and send it back to their families. At the same time, sex trafficking victims were significantly more likely to report that someone recruited them to leave home; in particular, 50.7% of sex trafficking victims had friends that encouraged them to leave home and 59.2% reported the person that recruited them to leave home told them that there were a lot of job opportunities for them in the city/town where they were going. Also sex trafficking victims (71.8%) were more likely to want to live in a large city compared to labor trafficking victims (43.8%). The majority of sex and labor trafficking victims also reported they left home because they wanted to live independently and they thought they could live a better life or higher standard of living where they were going.

Table 19. Push factors for sex and labor trafficking victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Push factors for sex and labor trafficking victims</th>
<th>Sex trafficking victim N=71</th>
<th>Labor trafficking victim N=32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>61 50.7</td>
<td>22 62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family was poor</td>
<td>42 59.2</td>
<td>12 37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a very large family and parents had a hard time supporting and caring for everyone in your family</td>
<td>25 35.2</td>
<td>11 34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family owed money to someone</td>
<td>17 23.9</td>
<td>3 9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family had no place to live or they lost their home</td>
<td>5 7.0</td>
<td>8 25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce/loss of parent(s)</td>
<td>23 32.4</td>
<td>3 9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with only one of your parents (mostly mother only)</td>
<td>12 15.0</td>
<td>3 9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not live with your parents</td>
<td>9 12.7</td>
<td>4 12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents divorced or someone died in your family</td>
<td>14 19.7</td>
<td>4 12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect/inability of parents to care for children</td>
<td>22 31.0</td>
<td>3 9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother and/or father had drug and/or alcohol problems</td>
<td>17 23.9</td>
<td>4 12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family did not provide you with the things you needed in life (e.g., clothes, food, medical care or a safe place to live)</td>
<td>40 56.3</td>
<td>11 34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You weren’t able to attend school</td>
<td>6 8.5</td>
<td>1 3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family violence</td>
<td>35 49.3</td>
<td>9 28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There was frequent quarrelling/fighting in your family</td>
<td>22 31.0</td>
<td>3 9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beat by your parents or other family members</td>
<td>5 7.0</td>
<td>8 25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of job opportunities</td>
<td>31 43.7</td>
<td>15 46.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 20. Pull factors for sex and labor trafficking victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sex trafficking victim N=71</th>
<th>Labor trafficking victim N=32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N %</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to earn money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saw leaving home as an opportunity to earn money that you could send home to your family</td>
<td>38 53.5</td>
<td>12 37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thought it was a good opportunity for you to make money</td>
<td>54 76.1</td>
<td>16 50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples of friends/family that migrated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had friends that left town in the past and saw they were able to earn money and send it back to their families</td>
<td>38 53.5</td>
<td>9 28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a close family member that went to another country for work</td>
<td>17 23.9</td>
<td>9 28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a close family member that went to another region of Kazakhstan for work</td>
<td>12 16.9</td>
<td>9 28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruited by someone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had friends that encouraged you to leave home</td>
<td>36 50.7</td>
<td>2 6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person that recruited you to leave home told you that there were a lot of job opportunities for you in the city/town that they were bringing you to</td>
<td>42 59.2</td>
<td>6 18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire for a better life</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanted to live in a large city</td>
<td>51 71.8</td>
<td>14 43.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanted to live independently</td>
<td>55 77.5</td>
<td>23 71.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thought that you could live in a better life or higher standard of living where you were going</td>
<td>55 77.5</td>
<td>20 62.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER TRAFFICKING AMONG SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Table 21. Sex and labor trafficking victims’ status as an internal vs. cross-border trafficking victim

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sex trafficking victim N=71</th>
<th>Labor trafficking victim N=32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N %</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal trafficking victim</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=71</td>
<td>N=32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N %</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-border trafficking victim</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=71</td>
<td>N=32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N %</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among the 103 trafficking victims interviewed, 68.9% were sex trafficking victims and 31.1% were labor trafficking victims. As Table 7 revealed, 80.7% of females were sex trafficking victims and 19.3% were labor trafficking victims; whereas, all the males were labor trafficking victims. Table 21 reveals that 78.9% of sex trafficking victims were internal trafficking victims and 21.1% were cross-border trafficking victims; whereas, 65.6% of labor trafficking victims were cross-border trafficking victims and 34.4% were internal trafficking victims.

SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS’ ACCESS TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND VICTIMS SUPPORT SERVICES

Tables 22 through 27 reveal differences between sex and labor trafficking victim in terms of their access to and experiences with law enforcement, legal support, the court system, and victim support services such as health care, psychological support, education and job skills training, and house/relocation support.

Table 22. Sex and labor trafficking victims’ contact and satisfaction with police

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sex trafficking victim N=71</th>
<th>Labor trafficking victim N=32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N %</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact with the police</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=45</td>
<td>N=20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>9 20.0</td>
<td>4 20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>16 35.6</td>
<td>8 40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
<td>20 44.4</td>
<td>8 40.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 22 reveals that sex and labor trafficking victims were equally likely to have contact with the police. There is also no difference between sex and labor trafficking victims in terms of their level of satisfaction with their interactions with the police.

Table 23 reveals that labor trafficking victims (28.1%) were slightly more likely to report having legal problems than sex trafficking victims (18.3%); this finding is most likely grounded in the fact that sex trafficking victims are more likely to be internal trafficking victims and sex trafficking victims are more likely to be cross-border trafficking victims. It is important to note that sex trafficking victims were significantly more likely to report they were not satisfied (66.7%) with the legal support they received compared to labor trafficking victims (25.0%). Whereas, labor trafficking victims (50.0%) were significantly more likely to report they were very satisfied with the legal support they received.

Table 24 reveals that labor trafficking victims (25.0%) were more likely to have contact with the court system than sex trafficking victims (14.1%). Sex and labor trafficking victims were equally likely to be dissatisfied with the courts’ response to their situation; however, sex trafficking victims (30.0%) were more likely to be very satisfied with the courts’ response to their situation compared to labor trafficking victims (12.5%).

Table 25 reveals that 59.2% of sex trafficking victims and 62.5% of labor trafficking victims reported having health problems; however, sex trafficking victims (73.2%) were significantly more likely to support for their health problems compared to labor trafficking victims (28.1%). This is likely because sex trafficking victims were provided with testing and treatment for STDs. Overall, the majority of sex and labor trafficking victims were very satisfied with the health care they received; however, labor trafficking victims (88.9%) were more likely to be very satisfied compared to sex trafficking victims (65.4%).
Table 26. Sex and labor trafficking victims’ psychological problems, support, and satisfaction with psychological support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sex trafficking victim N=71</th>
<th>Labor trafficking victim N=32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worries about psychological well-being</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>43.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaged in self-harming and suicidal behaviors</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>36.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving psychological support</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>39.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with psychological support</td>
<td>N=28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>67.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 26 reveals that sex and labor trafficking victims were equally likely to report worries about their psychological well-being. In addition, a significant proportion of sex and labor trafficking victims reported engaging in self-harming and suicidal behaviors; however, sex trafficking victims (36.6%) were more likely to engage in self-harming and suicidal behaviors compared to labor trafficking victims (28.1%). Table 26 also reveals that sex and labor trafficking victims were equally likely to receive psychological support, and they were similar in terms of their level of satisfaction with the psychological support they received.

Table 27 reveals that few sex and labor trafficking received education or job skills training; there were no significant differences. However, labor trafficking victims (46.9%) were significantly more likely to receive support with housing and relocation compared to sex trafficking victims (18.3%). This finding may be grounded in the fact that labor trafficking victims were more likely to be cross-border trafficking victims; whereas, sex trafficking victims were more likely to be internal trafficking victims.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

CITY AND PLACE OF INTERVIEW FOR INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Table 28. City and place of interview by trafficking victims’ status (cross-border vs. internal trafficking victim)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Internal trafficking victim N=67</th>
<th>Cross-border trafficking victim N=36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of interview</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astana</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almaty</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karaganda</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shymkent</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ust-Kamenogorsk</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atyrau</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kokshetau</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of interview</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO-run trafficking shelter</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Adaptation of Minors</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Dispensary for Skin &amp; STDs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS Center</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Internal Affairs, police room</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 28 reveals that internal trafficking victims were found in six of the urban areas (except Atyrau) and cross-border trafficking victims were found in five of the urban areas (except Ust-Kamenogorsk and Kokshetau). The majority of cross-border trafficking victims (52.8%) were interviewed in Almaty; in addition, as many as 27.8% were interviewed in Shymkent.

Table 28 also reveals that a significant proportion of internal and cross-border trafficking victims were interviewed in NGO-run trafficking shelters and with the support of NGOs. In addition, more internal trafficking victims were interviewed in Special Dispensaries for Skin and STDs (16.4%) and AIDS Centers (13.4%) than were cross-border trafficking victims (0.0% and 2.8% respectively).

DEMOGRAPHICS FOR INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Table 29. Demographics by trafficking victims’ status (cross-border vs. internal trafficking victim)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Internal trafficking victim</th>
<th>Cross-border trafficking victim</th>
<th>N=67</th>
<th>N=36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>63 94.0</td>
<td>25 69.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4 6.0</td>
<td>11 30.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakh</td>
<td>20 29.9</td>
<td>3 8.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyz</td>
<td>2 3.0</td>
<td>5 13.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajik</td>
<td>1 1.5</td>
<td>3 8.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbek</td>
<td>4 6.0</td>
<td>19 52.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>30 44.8</td>
<td>2 5.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>1 1.5</td>
<td>2 5.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9 13.4</td>
<td>2 5.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age grouping</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-10 years</td>
<td>1 1.5</td>
<td>2 5.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14 years</td>
<td>2 3.0</td>
<td>2 5.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
<td>18 26.9</td>
<td>9 25.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21 years</td>
<td>31 46.3</td>
<td>9 25.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25 years</td>
<td>8 11.9</td>
<td>10 27.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26+ years</td>
<td>7 10.4</td>
<td>4 11.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfinished education (&lt; 9 grades)</td>
<td>16 24.2</td>
<td>15 48.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed compulsory education</td>
<td>29 43.9</td>
<td>11 35.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td>21 31.8</td>
<td>5 16.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 29 reveals that 94.0% of internal trafficking victims were female; whereas, 69.4% of cross-border trafficking victims were female and 30.6% were male. In terms of ethnic status, 44.8% of internal trafficking victims were of Russian origin and 29.9% were of Kazakh origin. In comparison, 52.8% of cross-border trafficking victims were of Uzbek origin and 13.9% were of Kyrgyz origin.

In terms of age, Table 29 reveals that 26.9% of internal trafficking victims were between 15 and 17 years of age and 46.3% were between 18 and 21 years of age. In comparison, labor trafficking victims were more diverse in terms of age and there was no majority in one age grouping.

Finally, Table 29 reveals that cross-border trafficking victims (48.4%) were more likely to have an unfinished education compared to internal trafficking victims (24.2%). In comparison, internal trafficking victims were more likely to have a completed compulsory education (43.9%) and higher education (31.8%) than cross-border trafficking victims (35.5% and 16.1% respectively.

Table 30. Age at which left up and poverty by trafficking victims’ status (cross-border vs. internal trafficking victim)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Internal trafficking victim</th>
<th>Cross-border trafficking victim</th>
<th>N=67</th>
<th>N=36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age left home</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td>N %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-10 years</td>
<td>1 2.0</td>
<td>2 9.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14 years</td>
<td>10 20.4</td>
<td>3 14.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
<td>22 44.9</td>
<td>9 42.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21 years</td>
<td>13 26.5</td>
<td>4 19.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25 years</td>
<td>2 4.1</td>
<td>1 4.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-29 years</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
<td>1 4.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30+ years</td>
<td>1 2.0</td>
<td>1 4.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grew up and lived in conditions of poverty</td>
<td>34 50.7</td>
<td>25 69.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 30 reveals there are few significant differences between internal and cross-border trafficking victims in terms of the age at which they left home. Table 30 does reveal, however, that cross-border trafficking victims (69.4%) were significantly more likely than internal trafficking victims (50.7%) to grow up and live in conditions of poverty before they left home.
In terms of age at which sexual exploitation began, Table 32 reveals that female internal trafficking victims (69.6%) and female cross-border trafficking victims (71.4%) were equally likely to be exploited for purposes of sexual exploitation between 12 and 13 years of age (7.1%). In comparison, female internal trafficking victims (26.8%) were more likely to report that they were sexually exploited several times a week, compared to cross-border trafficking victims (7.1%).

Table 32 provides data on the female trafficking victims only and compares female internal to female cross-border trafficking victims in terms of their sexual exploitation. Although the majority of female internal and cross-border trafficking victims were sexually exploited, it is interesting to note that female internal trafficking victims (90.3%) were significantly more likely to be trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation compared to female cross-border trafficking victims (66.7%).

In terms of frequency of sexual exploitation, Table 32 reveals that the majority of sex trafficking victims were forced to provide sexual services on a daily basis; however, female cross-border trafficking victims were significantly more likely to provide sexually services for money on a daily basis, than internal trafficking victims (64.3%). In comparison, internal trafficking victims (26.8%) were more likely to report that they were sexually exploited for purposes of sexual exploitation (7.1%).

Table 31 reveals that internal trafficking victims (88.9%) were significantly more likely to be sexually exploited than cross-border trafficking victims (56.0%). There were no significant differences in terms of the age at which internal and cross-border trafficking victims started being sexually exploited. There were significant differences, however, in terms of the frequencies of sexual exploitation. In particular, cross-border trafficking victims (92.9%) were significantly more likely to provide sexually services for money on a daily basis, than internal trafficking victims (64.3%). In comparison, internal trafficking victims (26.8%) were more likely to report that they were sexually exploited several times a week, compared to cross-border trafficking victims (7.1%).

Table 32. Sexual exploitation of females only by internal and cross-border trafficking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Internal trafficking victim N=56</th>
<th>Cross-border trafficking victim N=14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ever exchanged sex for money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>56 88.9</td>
<td>14 56.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>7 11.1</td>
<td>11 44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age started exchanging sex for money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13 years</td>
<td>4 7.1</td>
<td>1 7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15 years</td>
<td>17 30.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-17 years</td>
<td>18 32.1</td>
<td>7 50.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-19 years</td>
<td>9 16.1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>22+ years</td>
<td>5 8.9</td>
<td>2 14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of exchanging sex for money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every day</td>
<td>36 64.3</td>
<td>13 92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a week</td>
<td>15 26.8</td>
<td>1 7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>4 7.1</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only once or twice</td>
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<td>0 0.0</td>
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</table>

Table 31. Sexual exploitation by trafficking victims’ status (cross-border vs. internal trafficking victim)

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Cross-border trafficking victim N=36</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ever exchanged sex for money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>56 88.9</td>
<td>14 56.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>7 11.1</td>
<td>11 44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age started exchanging sex for money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13 years</td>
<td>4 7.1</td>
<td>1 7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15 years</td>
<td>17 26.8</td>
<td>2 14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17 years</td>
<td>18 32.1</td>
<td>7 50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19 years</td>
<td>9 16.1</td>
<td>2 14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-21 years</td>
<td>3 5.4</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22+ years</td>
<td>5 8.9</td>
<td>2 14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of exchanging sex for money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every day</td>
<td>36 64.3</td>
<td>13 92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a week</td>
<td>15 26.8</td>
<td>1 7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>4 7.1</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only once or twice</td>
<td>1 1.8</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNPROTECTED SEX AND STDs

Table 33 reveals that internal trafficking were slightly more likely to report having sex without a condom (61.9%) and oral sex without a condom (46.0%) compared to cross-border trafficking victims (52.0% and 36.0% respectively). There were some minor variations in terms of the frequency of sex and oral sex without a condom. For instance, cross-border trafficking victims were slightly more likely to report having oral sex without a condom on a weekly basis compared to internal trafficking victims.

Table 33 also reveals that internal and cross-border trafficking victims equally worried about STDs; however, internal trafficking victims (84.1%) were significantly more likely to be tested for STDs compared to cross-border trafficking victims (48.0%).

Table 34 provides data on the female trafficking victims only and compares female internal to female cross-border trafficking victims in terms of their engagement in unprotected sex and sexually transmitted diseases. Surprisingly, female internal trafficking victims (61.3%) were significantly more likely to report having sex without a condom compared to female cross-border trafficking victims (42.9%); however, this finding can be explained in part by the fact that fewer female cross-border trafficking victims were sexually exploited compared to female internal trafficking victims.

Table 34 reveals few significant differences between female internal and cross-border trafficking victims in terms of the frequency of unprotected sex; however, female internal trafficking victims (19.4%) were slightly more likely to have unprotected sex every day compared to female cross-border trafficking victims (11.1%).

| Table 33. Unprotected sex and STDs by trafficking victims’ status (cross-border vs. internal trafficking victim) |
|-----------------|-----------------|
|                  | Internal trafficking victim N=67 | Cross-border trafficking victim N=36 |
|                  | N   | %   | N   | %   |
| Sex without a condom | 39  | 61.9 | 13  | 52.0 |
| Frequency of sex without a condom | | | | |
| Every day | 4 | 10.3 | 1 | 7.7 |
| Several times a week | 16 | 41.0 | 6 | 46.2 |
| Once a week | 5 | 12.8 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Only once or twice | 14 | 35.9 | 6 | 46.2 |
| Oral sex without a condom | 29 | 46.0 | 9 | 36.0 |
| Frequency of oral sex without a condom | | | | |
| Every day | 7 | 24.1 | 2 | 22.2 |
| Several times a week | 11 | 37.9 | 5 | 55.6 |
| Once a week | 4 | 13.8 | 1 | 11.1 |
| Only once or twice | 7 | 24.1 | 1 | 11.1 |
| Worried about sexually transmitted diseases | 35 | 55.6 | 13 | 52.0 |
| Tested for sexually transmitted diseases | 53 | 84.1 | 12 | 48.0 |

| Table 34. Unprotected sex and sexually transmitted diseases of females only by internal and cross-border trafficking |
|-----------------|-----------------|
|                  | Female internal trafficking victim N=56 | Female cross-border trafficking victim N=14 |
|                  | N   | %   | N   | %   |
| Sex without a condom | 38  | 61.3 | 9  | 42.9 |
| Frequency of sex without a condom | | | | |
| Every day | 4 | 19.4 | 1 | 11.1 |
| Several times a week | 16 | 42.1 | 5 | 55.5 |
| Once a week | 5 | 13.2 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Only once or twice | 13 | 34.2 | 3 | 33.3 |
| Oral sex without a condom | 29 | 46.8 | 9 | 42.9 |
| Frequency of oral sex without a condom | | | | |
| Every day | 7 | 24.1 | 2 | 22.2 |
| Several times a week | 11 | 37.9 | 5 | 55.6 |
| Once a week | 4 | 13.8 | 1 | 11.1 |
| Only once or twice | 7 | 24.1 | 1 | 11.1 |
| Worried about sexually transmitted diseases | 35 | 56.5 | 12 | 57.1 |
| Tested for sexually transmitted diseases | 53 | 85.5 | 12 | 57.1 |
Table 34 also reveals that female internal and cross-border trafficking victims were equally likely to perform oral sex without a condom; however, female cross-border trafficking victims did so more often (several times a week), compared to female internal trafficking victims.

Finally, Table 34 reveals that while female internal and cross-border trafficking victims were equally likely to worry about sexually transmitted diseases, female internal trafficking victims (85.5%) were significantly more likely to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases compared to female cross-border trafficking victims (57.1%).

Finally, Table 34 reveals that female internal and cross-border trafficking victims were equally worried about STDs; however, female internal trafficking victims (85.5%) were significantly more likely to be tested for STDs than female cross-border trafficking victims (57.1%).

SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS’ ACCESS TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND VICTIMS SUPPORT SERVICES

Tables 35 through 40 reveal differences between internal and cross-border trafficking victim in terms of their access to and experiences with law enforcement, legal support, the court system, and victim support services such as health care, psychological support, education and job skills training, and house/relocation support.

Table 35 reveals that internal and cross-border trafficking victims were equally likely to have contact with the police; however, cross-border trafficking victims (52.2%) were more likely to report they were not satisfied with their interactions with the police, compared to internal trafficking victims (38.1%).

Table 36 reveals that cross-border trafficking victims were slightly more likely to have legal problems (25.0%) and to receive support for their legal problems (88.9%) compared to internal trafficking victims (19.4% and 69.2% respectively). Cross-border trafficking victims (37.5%) were significantly more likely to be very satisfied with the legal support they received than internal trafficking victims (22.2%); however, at the same time, 50.0% of cross-border trafficking victims reported they were not satisfied with the legal support they received.

Table 37 reveals that cross-border trafficking victims (22.2%) were slightly more likely to have contact with the court system compared to internal trafficking victims (14.9%). There was no difference in their level of satisfaction with the courts’ response to their legal problems.

Table 38 reveals that cross-border trafficking victims were significantly more likely to have contact with victim support services such as health care, psychological support, education and job skills training, and house/relocation support.
Finally, Table 40 reveals that internal and cross-border trafficking victims were equally likely to receive education and job skills training; however, cross-border trafficking victims (44.4%) were significantly more likely to receive housing and relocation support than internal trafficking victims (17.9%).

Table 38 reveals that internal and cross-border trafficking victims were equally likely to report having health problems; however, internal trafficking victims (65.7%) were more likely to receive health care support than cross-border trafficking victims (47.2%). Surprisingly, cross-border trafficking victims (82.4%) were significantly more likely to report they were very satisfied with the health care support they received than internal trafficking victims (63.6%).

Table 39 reveals that internal and cross-border trafficking victims equally reported having worries about their psychological well-being and received psychological support. However, cross-border trafficking victims (85.7%) were significantly more likely to report they were very satisfied with the psychological support they received than internal trafficking victims (63.0%).
### Table 41. Trafficking victims’ contact and satisfaction with police by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Astana</td>
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<td>Almaty</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td>Karaganda</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shymkent</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ust-Kamenogorsk</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>66.7</td>
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<td>55.6</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>16.7</td>
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<td>100</td>
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</table>

### Table 42. Trafficking victims’ with legal problems, legal support, and satisfaction by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
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<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Astana</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Almaty</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td>Karaganda</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shymkent</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ust-Kamenogorsk</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>N=3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>N=9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N=1</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>25.0</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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### Table 43. Trafficking victims’ contact and satisfaction with lawyers and court system by region

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<th>Region</th>
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<th>%</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<tr>
<td>Astana</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Almaty</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td>Karaganda</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shymkent</td>
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<td>Ust-Kamenogorsk</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N=9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N=3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N=2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N=1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact with lawyers and courts</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<td>10.0</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with court response to their problems</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22.2</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Table 44. Trafficking victims' health problems, support, and satisfaction by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N=23</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=36</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=9</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=20</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=10</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=4</th>
<th>N %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>19</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>66.7</td>
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<td>55.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving help support for health problems</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>71.4</td>
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<td>88.9</td>
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<td>70.0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 45. Trafficking victims' psychological problems, support, and satisfaction by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N=23</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=36</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=9</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=20</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=10</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=4</th>
<th>N %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worries about psychological well-being</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>47.2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving psychological support</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of satisfaction with psychological support</td>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36.4</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
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<td>7.7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 46. Trafficking victims' receiving education, job skills training, and housing and relocation support by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>N=23</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=36</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=9</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=20</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=10</th>
<th>N %</th>
<th>N=4</th>
<th>N %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receiving education classes</td>
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<td>39.1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>27.8</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
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<td>25.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receiving job skills training</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>27.8</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
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<td>50.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing/relocation support</td>
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<td>26.1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing/relocation support</td>
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<td>4.9</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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