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Organised in cooperation with:

Smuggling and trafficking of unaccompanied and separated children

Developing preventive strategies,
Delivering child victim support

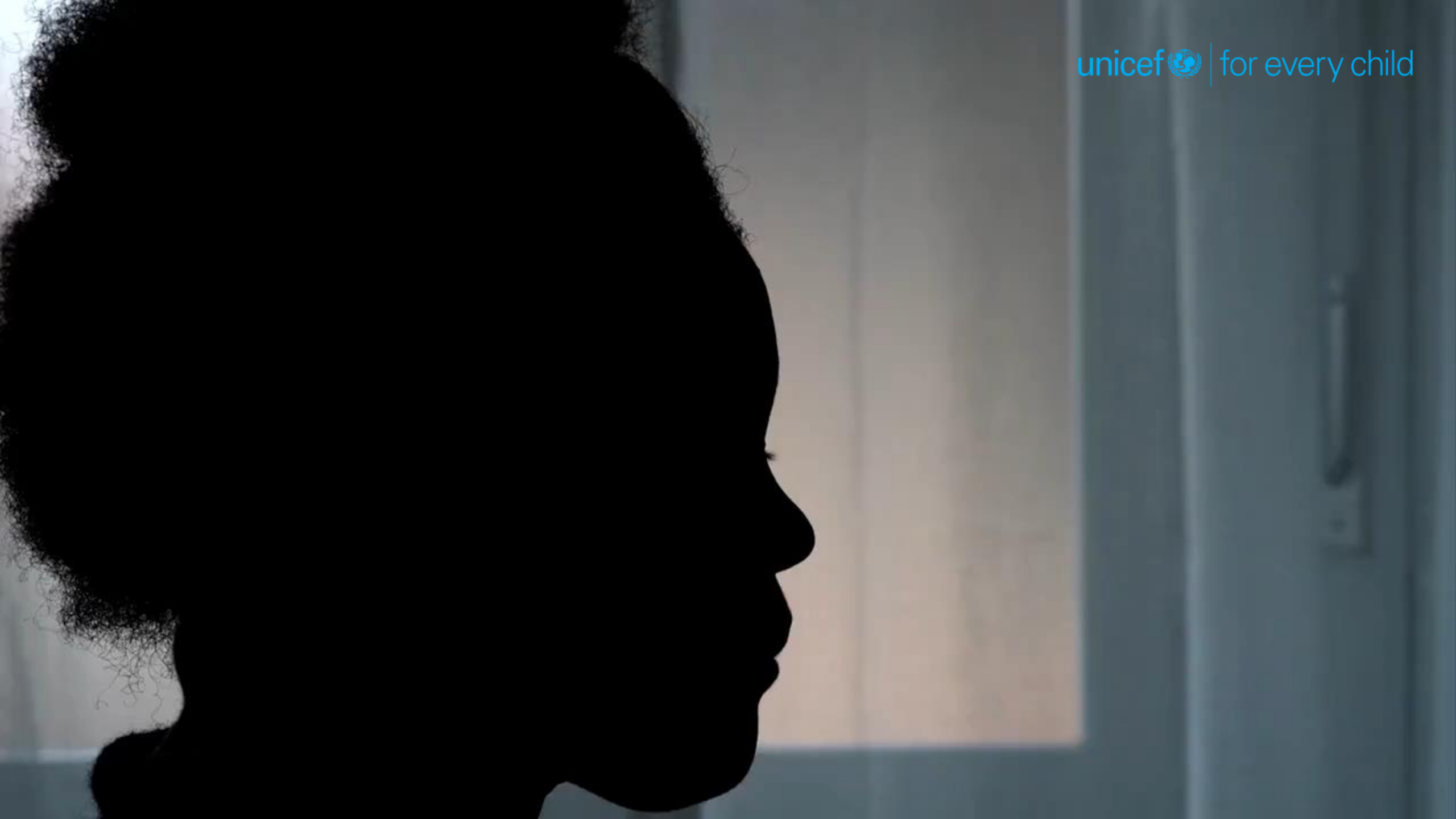
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Refugee and migrant situation in Europe

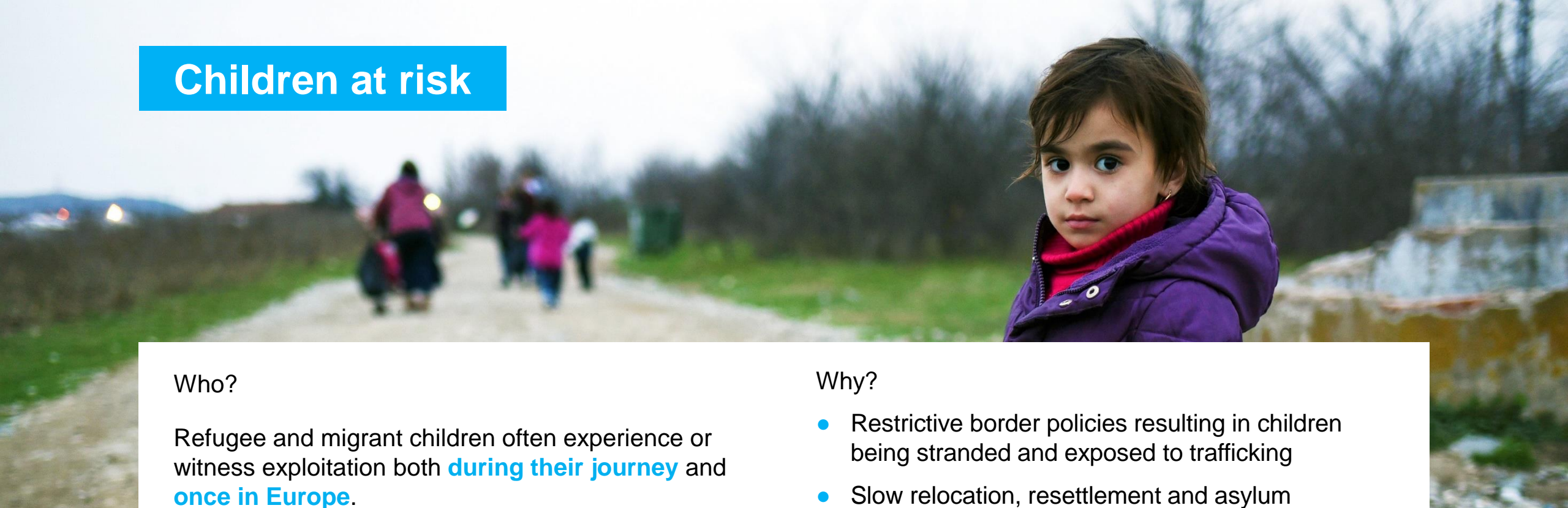
1,556,000 people arrived in Europe in 2015-2017
393,600 of which were children
133,000 incl. 23,300 children through the Central Mediterranean in 2017

11,480 people died in the Mediterranean in 2015-2017
1,400 of which were children
2,500 incl. 300 children died in the Mediterranean in 2017

70,900 people stranded in Greece, Bulgaria and the Balkans
22,700 of which were children in June 2017



Children at risk



Who?

Refugee and migrant children often experience or witness exploitation both **during their journey** and **once in Europe**.

Unaccompanied and separated children are particularly at risk. They make **over 90%** of children arriving in Italy.

Children who **travel alone**, have **lower levels of education** or originate from **sub-Saharan Africa** are more vulnerable. (UNICEF/IOM, *Harrowing Journeys*)

Why?

- Restrictive border policies resulting in children being stranded and exposed to trafficking
- Slow relocation, resettlement and asylum procedures
- Accommodation in sub-standard centres without perspectives for future
- Limited opportunities for family reunification
- Limited access to guardians, services and child protection systems
- Detention for migration control purposes and fear of return

Region of origin
Sub-Saharan Africans show significantly higher vulnerability than individuals from other regions.

- Sub-saharan Africa
- Other regions

Age
Adolescents are more likely to report exploitation compared to those 25 and above.

- From 14 to 17 years of age
- More than 25 years of age

Education
Adolescents with no education are more likely to be exploited than those with secondary schooling.

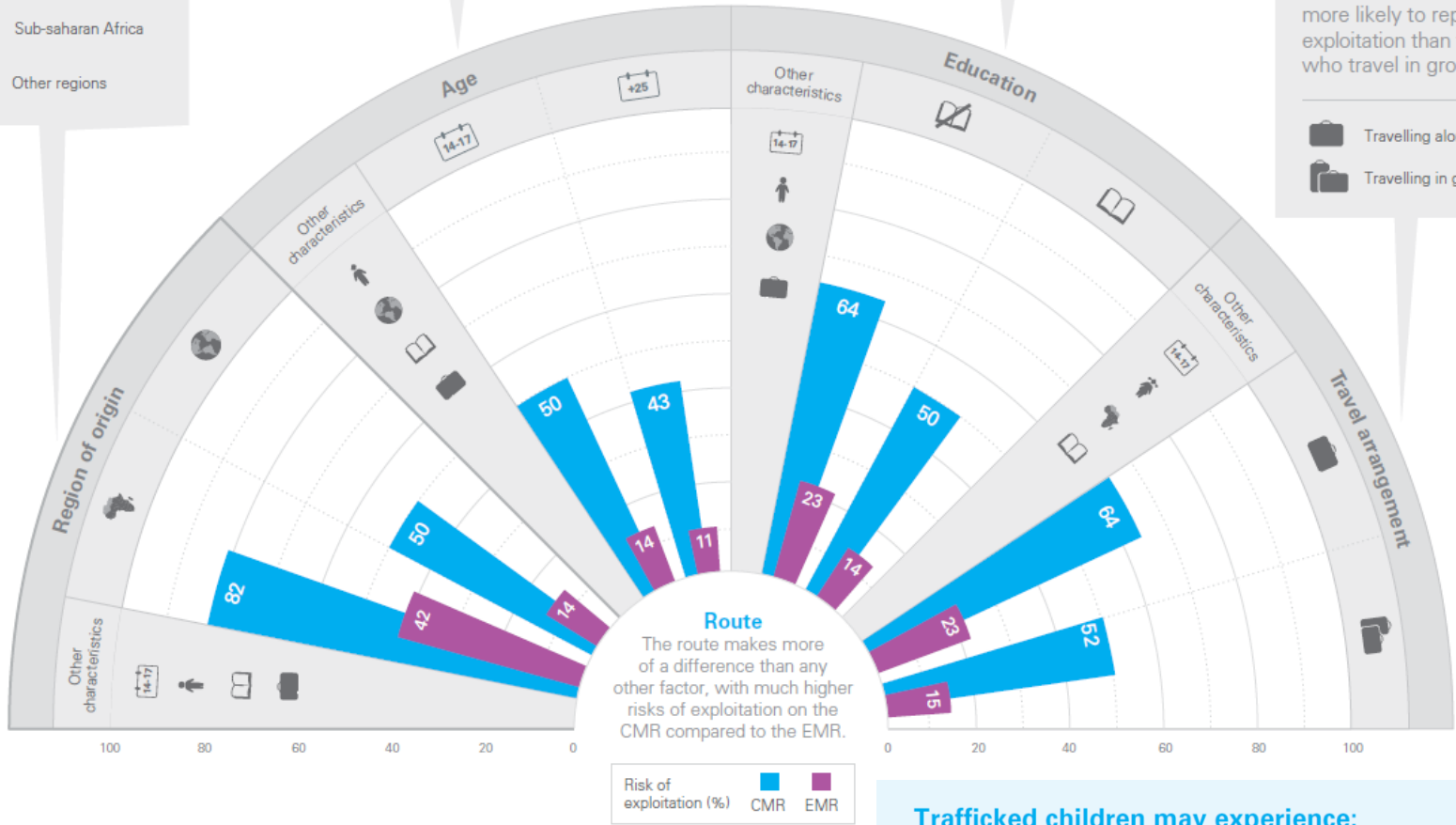
- No education
- Secondary education

Sex

- Male
- Female

Travel arrangement
Adolescents travelling alone are much more likely to report exploitation than those who travel in groups.

- Travelling alone
- Travelling in group



Route
The route makes more of a difference than any other factor, with much higher risks of exploitation on the CMR compared to the EMR.

Risk of exploitation (%)
 CMR
 EMR

Trafficked children may experience:

- Forced labour
- Sexual exploitation
- Violence and abuse
- Child marriage
- Captivity

Source: UNICEF/IOM, *Harrowing Journeys*

Data gap

There exists **no overall and comprehensive data** on trafficking in Europe or globally. The most recent data is from 2014.

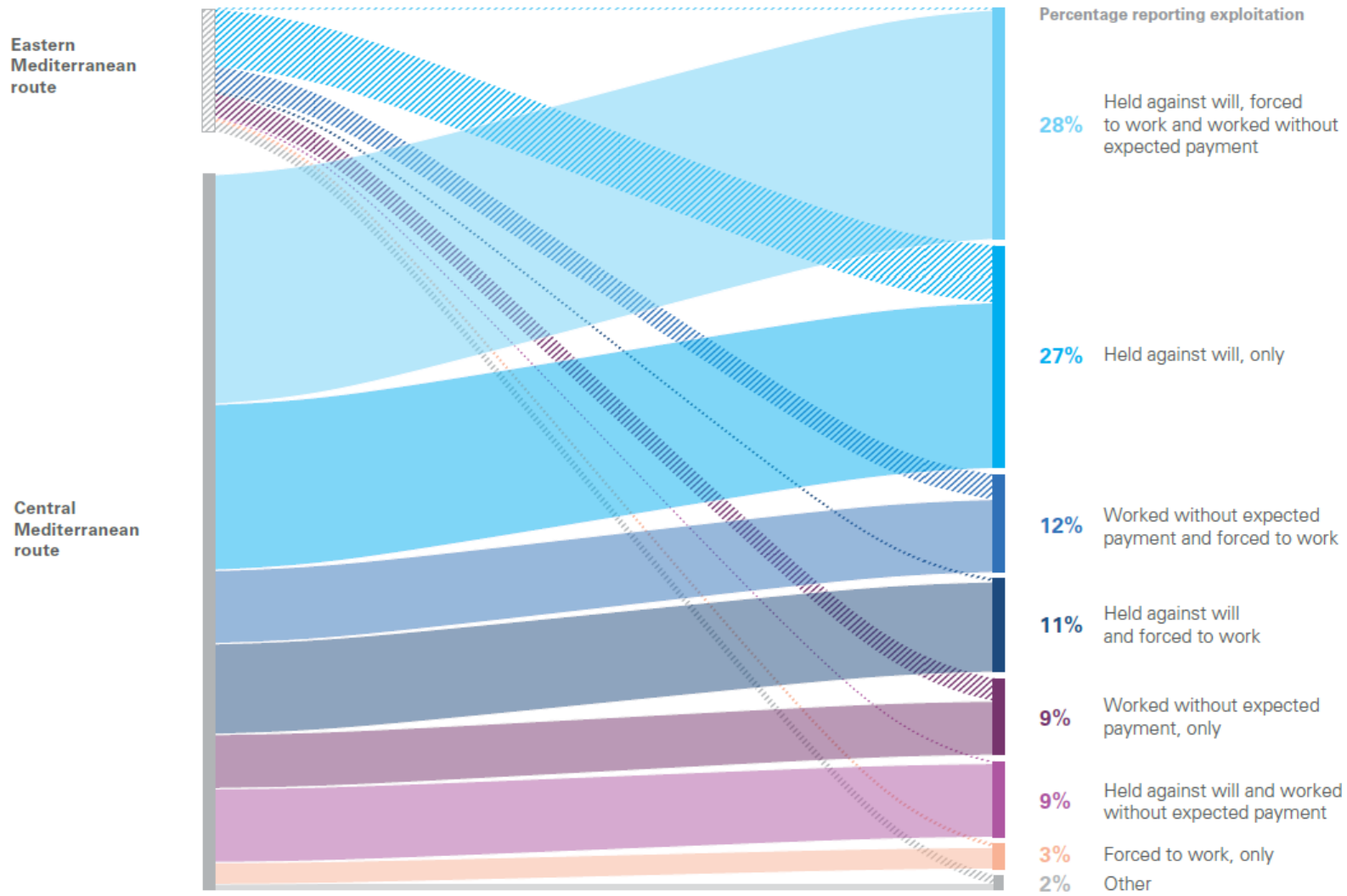
Children are the **second largest group of trafficking victims** globally after women. In Europe, they account for **a quarter** of detected victims.

This data gap is in part due to the fact that trafficking remains a **hidden phenomenon**.



On the Central Mediterranean route, many adolescents and youth experienced multiple types of exploitation

Fig. 12: Most common reported exploitation experiences of survey respondents aged 14–24 years, by migration route, 2016–2017



Note: Subsumed under the category 'other' are indications of exploitative practices such as "received offers of arranged marriage" and further combinations of types of exploitation. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix Flow Monitoring Surveys, January 2016–May 2017.

UNICEF action

- Identification and referral of children at risk by mobile teams with **cultural mediators**
 - **20,900 children** at risk identified
- Technical assistance and specialised training on **guardianship** and alternative care of UASC
 - **Ongoing programme** to train professionals on guardianship and alternative care of UASC in Italy
- Support to alternatives to immigration detention of children through **group homes** for UASC
 - **240 UASC** provided with accommodation and a package of services in four shelters in Greece



UNICEF action

- Development of and training on child protection **minimum standards** in centres
 - **4,000 frontline workers** trained on child protection standards
- Provision of **psychosocial support**
 - **192,000 children** received psychosocial and other community-based child protection support
- Support of long-term inclusion into formal **education** and provision of structured non-formal education
 - **9,000 children** supported

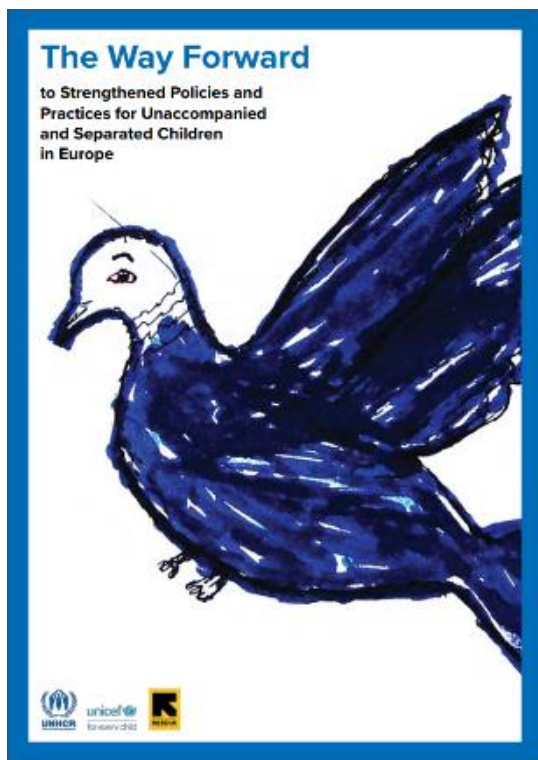
Promising practices

- A **new law** on the protection of foreign unaccompanied children in Italy
- An **independent agency** in charge of guardianship and foster care in the Netherlands
- **Minimum Standards** for the protection of children, adolescents and women in refugee accommodation centres in Germany
- The **Communication** of the European Commission “The protection of children in migration” guiding Member States to address the rights and needs of all children on the move



Recommendations

Preventive strategies



The Way Forward Call for Action



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Recommendations

Child victim support

- Strengthen child protection systems to prevent, identify, refer and address cases of trafficking
- Invest in outreach to children exploited or at risk and provide long term support
- Ensure support is not conditional to children's collaboration with authorities
- Prevent the prosecution of trafficked children for criminal activities committed as a direct consequence of their exploitation
- Offer children access to services and durable solutions built with them



Agenda for action

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PROTECT UPROOTED CHILDREN FROM EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE



HELP UPROOTED CHILDREN TO STAY IN SCHOOL AND STAY HEALTHY



END THE DETENTION OF REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN BY CREATING PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES



PRESS FOR ACTION ON THE CAUSES THAT UPROOT CHILDREN FROM THEIR HOMES



KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER AND GIVE CHILDREN LEGAL STATUS



COMBAT XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION

Thank you



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