



# Asylum-Seeking Children and Trafficking

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Everyone has a role: How to make a difference together  
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# Key challenges

## Key challenges include:

- Insufficient safe and regular pathways resulting in children stranded and exposed to trafficking
- Lengthy and bureaucratic procedures for family reunification and asylum
- Accommodation in sub-standard centres without perspectives for future
- Limited access to services such as education and gaps in the child protection system
- Detention for migration control purposes
- Increased smuggling and exploitation along migration routes

## Key figures

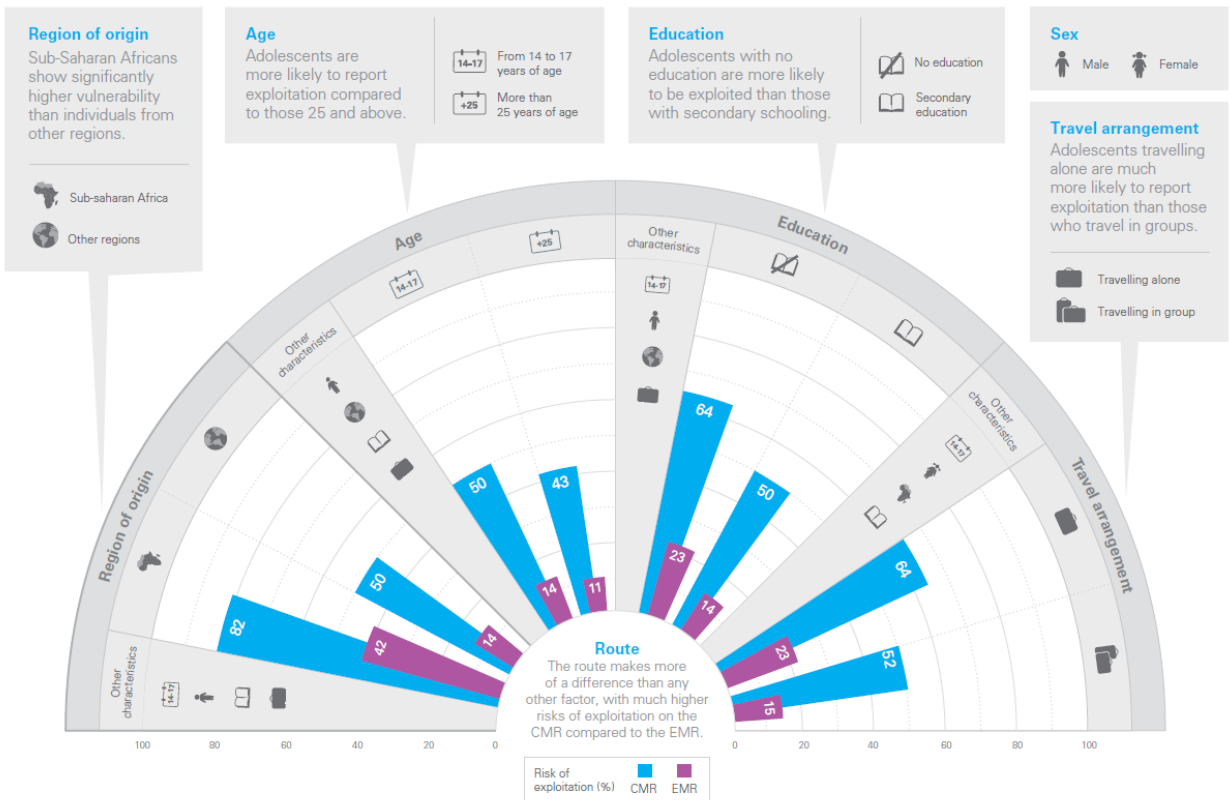
**79%** of globally detected trafficking victims are **women and children**

**88%** of children arriving in Italy experienced at least one **human trafficking** or other exploitative practice

**11,700** unaccompanied children are **unaccounted for** in Germany, Italy and Greece

at least **2,000** of the 12,000 fatalities in the Mediterranean Sea recorded in 2014-2017 were **children**






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

## Promising practices

### Through its programmes, UNICEF:

- Provides support to Governments and other actors to strengthen **child rights monitoring**
- Improves **protection standards** in reception centres in Germany, Austria, Italy and Greece
- Strengthens **child protection systems** through the training of frontline workers
- Ensures **access to services**, including access to education
- Identifies **alternatives to detention** for unaccompanied and separated children

## Essential partnerships



Robust data  
and  
knowledge

Coordinated,  
complementary  
and/or joint  
programming

Evolving  
practices,  
legal reforms  
and social  
norms

# Recommendations

## Recommendations for preventive strategies and victim support:

- Provide safe and **regular pathways**
- Strengthen child protection systems to **prevent, identify, refer and address** cases of trafficking
- Appoint **guardians**, provide **child-friendly information** and ensure access to **legal aid**
- **End the detention** of children on the move
- Prevent the **criminalization of trafficked children** for status offenses e.g. transactional sex, abscondment...
- Offer children **access to services and durable solutions** built with them



Thank you!