

# INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER ADULT SEX TRAFFICKING IN GHANA

A BASELINE REPORT



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AHSTIP	- Anti-Human Smuggling in Persons
AHTU	- Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
AIDS	- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AST	- Adult Sex Trafficking
BAR	- Brong-Ahafo Region
CAPI	- Computer-Assisted Personal Interview
Col	- Column
CSOs	- Civil Society Organizations
DSW	- Department of Social Welfare
ECOWAS	- Economic Community of West African States
EU	- European Union
FGDs	- Focus Group Discussions
GAR	- Greater Accra Region
GHS	- Ghana Cedi
GIS	- Ghana Immigration Service
GPRTU	- Ghana Private Road Transport Union
GPS	- Ghana Police Service
HIV	- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HTMB	- Human Trafficking Management Board
ID(s)	- Identity Card(s)
IJM	- International Justice Mission
ILO	- International Labour Organization
IOM	- International Organization for Migration
KII	- Key Informant Interview
MoGCSP	- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
NCCE	- National Commission for Civic Education
NGOs	- Non-Governmental Organizations
SOPs	- Standard Operating Procedures
STIs	- Sexually Transmitted Infections
TIPs	- Trafficking in Persons
UER	- Upper East Region
UN	- United Nations
UNDP	- United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	- United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UWR	- Upper West Region



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adult sex trafficking (AST) as a form of human trafficking is gendered, and has implications for victims, families and communities at large. Due to the dearth of information concerning AST (as acknowledged by stakeholders in the counter-trafficking terrain in Ghana), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) contracted a consultant to conduct a national baseline study on Internal and Cross-Border Adult Sex Trafficking in Ghana in May 2019.

This study aimed to determine the prevalence of AST, explore its characteristics and associated push and pull factors, and generate information that will serve as the basis for further research for evidence-based decision-making with respect to AST in Ghana. Specifically, the study seeks to assess the incidence and prevalence of trafficking in general and AST in Ghana; ascertain what the internal and cross-border trends of AST are in Ghana; explore the methods used by traffickers in recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring and receiving victims of AST both within and across the borders of Ghana; ascertain the goals of AST and the factors promoting internal and cross-border AST in Ghana; identify and characterize the perpetrators and victims of AST in Ghana; examine the social consequences of AST in terms of violence, crime and health, and make key recommendations to curb AST in Ghana.

Informed by earlier studies, a mixed method approach was employed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Participants were clustered by nationality and geography (Ghanaians versus Non-Ghanaians, and internally trafficked versus externally trafficked). The analysis was based off surveys of 83 victims of sex trafficking, 47 individual interviews and 20 focus group discussions. Participants included victims and perpetrators of sex trafficking, representatives from public institutions (GPS, GIS, GSW), NGOs involved in the provision of support to victims or potential victims of sex trafficking and key informants from selected communities. Victims were identified in consultation with relevant institutions at the regional level and the snowball approach was used to identify more victims. Five instruments of data collection were utilized: a questionnaire for victims, three interview guides for victims, perpetrators and institutional representatives in charge of the AST mandate respectively, and a focus group guide for selected communities. The survey data was analysed using STATA while the qualitative data was transcribed and uploaded into the Nvivo software Version 11.

Due to the sensitive nature of the study, steps were taken to ensure the effective and efficient generation of quality data. First, ethical clearance was sought from the Ethics Committee for the Humanities (ECH), University of Ghana as a guarantee that victims would not be harmed. The ethical considerations of informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity were adhered to throughout the research and analysis process. Enumerators were taken through the data collection instruments over five days before pretesting. Through the pretesting, some feedback were gathered, with which the data collection instruments were finalized. To ensure that victims were not re-traumatized, a psychologist trained enumerators on the psyche of AST victims, how to handle them and how to navigate the interviews with them. Enumerators were provided some psychological support after the pre-test due to the observations they had in the field.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Here each enumerator was given the chance to recount their experiences during the pre-test exercise. They also expressed the challenges they faced in conducting the interviews. Based on their experiences, the

Major findings of the study are as follows:

- Victims' age averaged between 20 and 30 years, as well as some cases of minors, and women aged over 40 years.
- Overall, 53 per cent of the total sample of 83 AST victim-respondents were Non-Ghanaians and were mostly trafficked across-borders.
- About 58 per cent of respondents had at least a secondary education with about 10 per cent of the sample indicating they had been educated to the tertiary (training beyond secondary education, including universities and colleges) level. Non-Ghanaians seem to have higher levels of education than Ghanaian victims.
- Economic factors (poverty and unemployment) are the main factors underlying vulnerability to sex trafficking.
- Victims suffer psychological and physical abuse with far reaching consequences for the individual and community.
- Friends/neighbours are the most common recruiters of victims of sex trafficking, especially for victims trafficked internally.
- Victims were generally transported in groups, with victims of internal trafficking and Ghanaian victims being trafficked in large groups.
- The number of clients a sex trafficked victim had per day is not related to their country of origin, as indicated by the results of the data analysis; however, the type of trafficking (internal or cross-border) tends to affect the number of clients a victim had to attend to within a day. Internally trafficked victims reported a higher number of clients in a day.
- Although it is difficult to estimate the level of prevalence for the whole country, the study found AST prevalence within the country varied across regions and towns. Border towns (notably Aflao, Hamile, Paga), commercial centres (Accra, Kumasi) and mining towns (Takoradi, Obuasi) had higher levels of AST.
- Because of the profitability of the trafficking business, traffickers are willing to put in all the necessary efforts to recruit victims and undertake all the initial financial investment with the hope of recouping later.
- Sex traffickers in Ghana use various methods to attract victims. The most common methods nationwide are the use of advertisements, word-of-mouth, or direct approach. This last method is popular amongst "connection men" (so called intermediaries who have contacts in the destination countries for trafficked women and scout for victims in the source communities to make the necessary arrangements to transfer the girls to the destination countries) and "former victims who became perpetrators". This method of recruitment is popular within the country and also within the subregion, as it was mentioned by Nigerian traffickers interviewed.
- Deception and force are the most commonly used tools by sex traffickers to recruit, control and exploit victims. Traffickers may deceive victims with regard to the activities to be undertaken by the victim(s) and life in their destination regions during recruitment. Former victims who become traffickers tend to use their modes of dressing<sup>2</sup> as a deceptive tool to attract victims.

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psychologist provided them with some strategies to adopt to ensure that the respondent is calm during the interview and what the enumerator could do to control their own emotions during the interviews.

<sup>2</sup> Former victims tend perpetrators may dress nicely (or sometimes extravagantly) as a show of wealth and this attract potential victims who are ultimately recruited.

- Psychological force comes in the form of insults, threats to their lives and (or) extortion for fear of harm.
- Transporting victims by road is the most popular mode of trafficking victims into and out of Ghana. Internally trafficked victims are sent across the country through the major towns and cities (especially those active places along the main trunk roads and international airports). Externally trafficked victims interviewed stated that from Accra, there are vehicles which connect to the capitals of various West African countries - Lagos, Abidjan, Ouagadougou, Niamey and Tripoli.
- Victims of international sex trafficking from Nigeria are brought in by road through Aflao and sent to Accra, Takoradi, Koforidua, Kumasi, Sunyani or Tamale, where they may be sent to Côte d'Ivoire through Elubo, Sampa, Osei Kojokrom; or to Libya through Hamile, Paga via Ouagadougou or Niamey. Similar routes are also used by Ghanaian victims who are sent to work abroad within the West African subregion and beyond.
- For victims who are brought into Accra by bus from other parts of the country, they are usually housed in the city while their travel documents for external travel are being prepared. It is also worth mentioning that although there are many unapproved (illegal border entry points) routes used by traffickers, the study indicates that a majority of traffickers now use approved routes. This is as a result of the relaxation of immigration rules due to the ECOWAS agreement on free movement of people and goods across member countries.
- The second-most commonly used transport route (estimated) is by air. As a result of heavy security and scrutiny around air travel, traffickers tend to invest large sums of money to procure passports, visas and flight tickets for their victims. They use this method as it is very difficult for immigration authorities to detect victims, especially after they have been trained on what to say or how to answer questions posed by authorities.
- In all sex trafficking cases, perpetrators tend to cover the costs of transport, which they utilize as a loan to keep victims indebted to them. On arrival at the destination areas, victims usually have their travelling documents seized, are kept indoor and are continually reminded of their indebtedness to the perpetrator(s), thereby making them vulnerable to further exploitation.
- Sex trafficking has very severe effects on victims, their families and communities, as well as the nation. On the personal level, the study observed that victims of sex trafficking suffer physical violence and psychological breakdowns, sometimes resulting in mental illness and future well-being of a survivor. Victims may also suffer from various health problems, such as HIV/AIDS. Additionally, victims may become drug addicted (both narcotic and medical) as a result of their trauma. Some families go through trauma when asked to pay a ransom to get their relative back. When victims return with physical and emotional breakdown, they become a burden for their families.
- Victims often tend to self-isolate themselves not to involve into communal activities, as such activities may force them to discuss their travel experiences.
- Three Government institutions are directly engaged in the fight against AST through complementary roles: DSW, GPS and GIS. The DSW, legally mandated by law to protect the rights of children, participates in the rescue of victims of AST, provides shelter and basic needs for the rescued persons, sees to their health

needs where necessary and counsels them as a first step towards reintegration. The DSW leads sensitization and awareness creation.

- The GPS (through the AHTU) arrests, detains, investigates and prosecutes perpetrators. GPS also participates in education and sensitization of the public on AST.
- The GIS (through the AHSTIP) monitors the movement of people in and out of the country to identify perpetrators and victims of AST and facilitates the repatriation or reunification of victims with their families.
- NGOs engaged in the fight against AST are concentrated in Southern Ghana. They sensitize potential victims, provide shelter for the rescued and counsel them prior to reintegration.
- Government institutions collaborate with each other as well as with NGOs. Critical areas of collaboration include information sharing (on various CT issue, including repatriation, prosecution, sheltering and rehabilitation), investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, referral of victims, infrastructural support, and staff capacity-building.
- Generally, institutional support through the provision of equipment, tools and training is provided by more resourced international NGOs. These resources support the rehabilitation of victims by the DSW and local NGOs, and crime prevention and control efforts by GPS and GIS.
- Government institutions are faced with challenges which include but are not limited to, finance, limitations in coordination of activities; political interference; lack of personnel; and the lack of a systematic information sharing mechanism which potentially derails the process of rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims.
- Evidence from the study indicates that the DSW is woefully under-resourced with few trained officers, office infrastructure and shelters for victims in most of the regional capitals. Currently, only the Greater Accra Region has a State-run shelter.
- Cross-border trafficking of non-Ghanaians is more prevalent in Ghana than internal trafficking of Ghanaians. The majority of these non-Ghanaians are Nigerians (77.23%), in addition to Togolese (15.9%) and others (6.8%).
- Victims are young and have above-average educational levels, but higher education is not a guarantee of safety as there are other factors that influence vulnerability to AST. There is a need for more targeted sensitization for young individuals as well as communities about the deceptive ways being adopted by perpetrators to traffic victims. This will help ensure that potential victims are aware and able to say no to suspicious offers which can land them into AST.
- Perpetrators work in groups and use innovative deceptive ways to lure unsuspecting victims and elude security agencies. They also target young girls who are physically attractive, economically vulnerable, and seek better economic opportunities.
- Agreements on employment and salary between traffickers and victims are typically verbal agreements rather than written contracts.
- The three main Government institutions directly engaged in the fight against adult sex trafficking need more financial resources to cater for recurrent expenses like catering for rescued victims, plus adequate office space, equipment and means of transport. The Human Trafficking Fund can be useful in this regard with education of officers on how to access it.

- The institutions in Ghana supporting the fight against AST have well-defined roles and, and there is a firm recognition among them that there is benefit in collaboration. However, modalities regarding these collaborations are not well laid out both at the national and regional level. This results in different institutions struggling to undertake their activities efficiently. Collaboration is also undermined by the lack of adequate resources, low capacity and limited availability of personnel – a matter which deserves attention if these institutions are to combat the increasingly sophisticated methods utilized by traffickers.

Proposed recommendations include the following:

- Government should dedicate more resources towards creating employment opportunities for youth. This can be done in various ways, including the siting of appropriate factories under her flagship programme of IDIF in rural areas as well as areas of net outmigration.
- Government should intensify public education on the issue of HT and AST, and budget needed resources appropriately, coordinating with all relevant stakeholders including public media and religious platforms.
- Institutions involved in the fight against AST, namely the GPS, GIS and DSW, should be strengthened with needed funding and equipment for better management against AST in Ghana – specifically for the prevention of TIP, protection of victims, prosecution of perpetrators and the strengthening of partnerships/collaboration stakeholders at the local and national levels.
- Given that GPS training school curriculum on human trafficking is not examinable, it seems police recruits do not place the needed emphases on it during their training. It is therefore recommended that courses related to AST should be added to the examinable subjects in the GPS training schools. This can ensure that all officers have the requisite skills to identify and investigate cases of AST, as well as to prevent institutional apathy of officers handling AST.
- Sensitization and advocacy will be needed to boost public confidence in the counter-trafficking institutions like the GPS to increase public participation in the identification and investigation of offenders, and protection of victims.
- Efforts should be made by Government for stronger collaboration between State institutions and NGOs in the management of TIP, especially at the local level.
- The role of parents in ensuring their children's safety, by creating a nurturing home environment for them to grow, is very crucial. This should be pursued despite prevailing economic challenges to prevent young women from taking potentially dangerous routes towards the pursuit of better socioeconomic opportunities.
- Young women must verify all advertisements regarding job opportunities before pursuing them to avoid potential trafficking situations. The Migration Information Centres of GIS in Accra, Sunyani and Tamale are useful in this respect.
- To curtail the staffing issues faced by the GIS, GPS and DSW in terms of capacity and numbers, innovative investments are required. Frequent and up-to-date training and review courses should be organized for officers in the relevant institutions in charge of combating AST, in order to keep them abreast with changing trends in trafficking patterns and methods. The importance attached

to courses related to AST should be reviewed by the training schools and expanded to include emerging dimensions of the problem within the country. In the short to medium term, the shortage of personnel may be difficult to change. However, the challenge could be innovatively managed if GPS and GIS personnel have access to vehicles dedicated to CT efforts, allowing them to respond quickly when the need arises.



# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background and context of study

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a serious human rights violation and a crime, defined by Ghana's 2005 Human Trafficking Act (Act 694) and by Article 3(a) of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which was accepted by the Government of Ghana in 2012. It takes place in every region of the world and is caused, *inter alia*, by poverty and economic inequality, structural or interpersonal violence, gender inequalities, political conflicts and other factors (Salt, 2000). Trafficking manifests in multiple forms affecting women, girls, boys and men who are exploited for domestic servitude, sex, forced labour and forced marriage for any forms of exploitation, among others.

The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018 report by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) indicates that globally, countries have reported increased numbers of trafficking victims over the last few years. The report further stated that countries in West Africa tend to detect more trafficked victims than other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>3</sup> Predominantly, the victims are trafficked for forced labour, with 31 per cent trafficked for sexual exploitation. Describing the scope of trafficking in West Africa, the report states that a significant proportion of victims (79%) are trafficked within their own countries.

Ghana is no exception to global and subregional types of trafficking, including sex trafficking. Ghana is a place of origin, transit and destination for sex trafficking (United States Department of State, 2017). For instance, Ghana has acted as a transitory route for the transportation of Nigerian women recruited as sex workers to European countries such as Italy, the Netherlands and Germany (Adepoju, 2005, United States Department of State, 2019). One other practice which has been in existence since the mid-1970s and 1980s is the recruitment of Ghanaian women to work as prostitutes in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire (Anarfi, 1998). There is also significant evidence to suggest that victims are trafficked across and along the West African coast (from Liberia to Nigeria) to neighbouring countries within the region as well as within the respective countries (Makisaka, 2009).

It is therefore not surprising that Ghana is considered a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking in the forms of forced labour and sexual exploitation (United States Department of State, 2016; 2019). The 2016 TIPs report indicates that human trafficking activities within Ghana are more prevalent than transnational trafficking activities. The report further indicates that sex trafficking is a phenomenon that exists across the entire nation. However, it is more prevalent in the Volta Region and is growing in the oil-producing areas of the Western Region. The 2019 TIPs report suggests that Ghanaian nationals are recruited and sent to the Middle East, other parts of West Africa and Europe with the intention of exploiting them for labour or sex trafficking. These recruitments as the 2019 report notes, are promoted by the unscrupulous agencies which use deceit to recruit and exploit their victims.

Similarly, other studies have established that mining and farming communities in the Eastern Region can serve both as places of origin and destination for human trafficking in Ghana (Arjarquah, 2017). Concerns are therefore being raised among social protection agencies about the high incidence and prevalence of sex trafficking in the country. This recent attention paid to

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<sup>3</sup> [www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP\\_2018\\_BOOK\\_web\\_small.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf).

AST is because human trafficking has security and developmental implications for the country, while the lack of development in Ghana can exacerbate sex trafficking causes and incidence.

One of the main reasons cited for the high prevalence of sex trafficking in Ghana is poverty, derived from social problems such as a lack of employment opportunities, inadequate employable skills and low levels of formal education (MoGCSP, 2017). Thus, the rising numbers of fraudulent employment agencies in the country which promise young women (and sometimes men) jobs in the Gulf region target many unsuspecting youths in Ghana (MoGCSP, 2017). Additionally, the rising demand for sex services in the tourism sector has also been mentioned by some scholars and practitioners as the cause of the increasing prevalence of sex trafficking in Ghana (MoGCSP, 2017).

Further, Ghanaian adult females as well as children of both sexes have been recruited from various parts of the country, especially the rural north and neighbouring West African nations, into the sex trade (United States Department of State, 2018; MoGCSP, 2017). In a few instances, some foreigners (other West African nationals, Vietnamese and Chinese) also travelled into Ghana on their own volition but are intercepted at points of entry by human traffickers and sexually exploited. Regions noted for high prevalence of sex trafficking are Greater Accra, Ashanti, Central, Volta and Western. International destinations for trafficked women from Ghana include the Middle East, Europe (mainly Italy and Germany) and other West African countries (United States Department of State, 2018).

Victims of sex trafficking are lured with the promise of good-paying jobs in the cities or outside the country. Some of VoTs, both local and foreign, are forced to pay transport, documentation and transit costs by the traffickers, often through threats and coercion (United States Department of State, 2018). Other young Ghanaian women and children are recruited and transported to West African countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, the Middle East, and Europe for forced labour and sex trafficking.

Being a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking, the Government of Ghana has committed to prevent trafficking in persons. To do this, the 2017 to 2021 National Plan of Action for Elimination of Human Trafficking<sup>4</sup> in Ghana has been adopted. This Plan of Action acknowledges that, TIP cannot be eliminated, however by staying true to the strategies outlined in the plan, significant gains can be made. In October 2017, the action plan was accompanied by the institutionalization of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on human trafficking, which emphasize child trafficking. However, there are significant gaps in knowledge of trends and scope of TIP for sexual exploitation, due to a lack of data. Despite the above-mentioned policy initiatives, high quality data is required to build a national protection and prevention framework and strategy to address the causes and consequences of TIP for sexual exploitation. There is also limited information-sharing among institutions from the national level down to the regional and district levels on TIP, poor data collection and dissemination, insufficient inter-agency coordination and reporting mechanisms, and inadequate sheltering, protection and assistance for victims. This reality was unanimously acknowledged as such at the national stakeholders' meeting in Ghana.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [www.unicef.org/ghana/media/1851/file](http://www.unicef.org/ghana/media/1851/file).

<sup>5</sup> 10 January 2019 IOM organized the national stakeholders' meeting to discuss counter-trafficking situation in Ghana, identify gaps and challenges in TIP for sexual exploitation. The participants recognized, by consensus, the lack of evidence-based data on sex trafficking in Ghana and expressed the need for a baseline study.

State and non-State stakeholders who took part in the meeting raised the need for accurate and up-to-date data on the scale of TIP for sexual exploitation in the country, internal and cross-border routes, prevailing trends, affected populations and regions. In their view, this information is fundamental for development of national prevention and protection frameworks and strategies. To address these challenges, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched a new project in 2019 in partnership with the Ghanaian Government - *to strengthen the Government of Ghana's capacity to provide services for adult victims of trafficking and prevent TIP in targeted sectors* – which aims among other things, to conduct a nationwide comprehensive study on sex trafficking in Ghana.

## 1.2 Purpose and scope of study

The overall objective of the study is to determine the prevalence of adult sex trafficking, its characteristics and associated push and pull factors, and to build a baseline for evidence-based prevention and protection action plans in Ghana. Specifically, the study seeks to:

- i. Assess the incidence and prevalence of AST in Ghana;
- ii. Ascertain what the internal and cross border trends of AST are in Ghana;
- iii. Explore the methods used by traffickers in recruiting, transporting, transferring; harbouring and receiving victims of AST both within and across the borders of Ghana;
- iv. Ascertain the factors promoting internal and cross-border AST in Ghana;
- v. Identify and characterize the perpetrators and victims of AST in Ghana;
- vi. Examine the social consequences of AST in terms of violence, crime and health;
- vii. Make key recommendations to curb the crime of AST in Ghana.

The main target population and study participants were victims of sex trafficking and perpetrators, Government departments, agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) combating sex trafficking, and members of communities affected by sex trafficking. The study covered all ten administrative regions<sup>6</sup> in Ghana and made use of both quantitative and qualitative approaches. In addition, a desk review of studies conducted on the subject matter and existing relevant documents was undertaken. Data collection were done in September and October 2019 after a very instructive training session for the enumerators and a pre-testing of the questionnaires. Analysis and report writing began in October 2019 and ended in December 2019. In terms of research and analytical design, participants were disaggregated into type of trafficking (internal and cross-border) and nationality of victims (Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians).

## 1.3 Outline of report

This report is organized into seven (7) chapters. Chapter 1 provides background to the study; Chapter 2 examines existing literature on AST, how perpetrators operate, the factors which promote AST, their consequences, the role played by institutions to curb the menace, and an overview of some of the methods which have been used in previous studies; Chapter 3 outlines the methodology used for the study.

Chapter 4 presents and discusses findings from the study. The sociodemographic characteristics of victims, perpetrators, governmental and NGOs engaged with are presented and discussed, in addition to the incidence and prevalence of AST, perpetrators' mode of operation and the

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<sup>6</sup> Although Ghana currently has 16 administrative regions, the study relied on the 10 old regional demarcations since the new regions were not in existence during the period over which the study covers. The new demarcations were undertaken in 2019 but the study mainly covers 2014 to 2018.

consequences of their operation. In Chapter 5, the report discusses current AST trends in each administrative region and draws lessons about combating AST. Chapter 6 analyses the status and roles of various government and non-governmental organizations, which are operating within the AST environment in Ghana and were part of the study. Attention is paid to what each of these institutions are currently doing in combating AST, the challenges they face and the outlook for the future. Chapter 7 summarizes the major findings of the report, draws conclusions from the findings and then makes recommendations for curbing AST in Ghana.

## CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature on the subject matter with the aim of understanding some of the theoretical underpinnings of AST. The chapter begins with a global perspective on the nature of AST, the perpetrators and their *modus operandi*. The review continues with a report on studies, which have looked at the regional and country-level dynamics, causes, push and pull factors, methods of recruitment, means of transportation, and effects of the crime. The legal and institutional frameworks supporting the fight against AST at the global as well as the national levels are reviewed. The chapter concludes with a brief review on methods used in previous studies and the challenges encountered in conducting a study on AST in various parts of the world. These challenges inform the approach used in the study detailed in Chapter 3.

### 2.2 Nature of sex trafficking from the global perspective

Human trafficking has been identified (globally) as a crime typically perpetrated by people involved in organized crime, and which has grave consequence on societies and nations (Salt, 2000). The predominant purpose of trafficking individuals is for forced labour and sexual exploitation (Deshpande and Nour, 2013). Trafficking is made up of three elements: actions, means and purpose. Operators of sex trafficking usually are the part of a transnational network of traffickers who work together with pimps and target women seeking employment and (or) better living opportunities (Hughes, 2000).<sup>7</sup> Victims of sex trafficking are exploited for prostitution, pornography, exotic dancing, stripping, live sex shows, mail order brides, military prostitution and sex tourism which bring economic benefits to the perpetrator (Deshpande and Nour, 2013).

Actors involved in human trafficking vary considerably and may include “clean” entrepreneurs who lack a criminal background, officials devoid of illegal backgrounds, agencies managing legal and illegal ventures, and conventional organized crime groups (Ruggiero, 1997). Aronowitz (2011) and Raymond and Hughes (2001) report that members of criminal groups involved in human trafficking are usually small—ranging from two to six people.

Jacobsen et al. (2010), however, argue that traffickers operate within a network involving a wide range of individuals from different sectors who perform different roles at a time, either as financiers, transporters or pimps. Other scholars such as Raymond and Hughes (2001) and Ruggiero (1997), argue that the nature of human trafficking groups is very difficult to describe, as they are usually involved in other criminal activities as well (such as fraud and money laundering), which makes it difficult to estimate the prevalence of AST and its culprits.

Siegel and de Blank (2010) argue that generally, victims of sex trafficking are relatively young, ranging from 17 to 30 years, whereas perpetrators are usually older (over 40 years) and, in the case of female perpetrators, may have been victims in the past. In describing the actors involved in the human trafficking structure, Rahman (2011) identifies five groups: the victims; the recruiters who transport the victims to their destinations; the buyers who claim ownership of the victims and control and exploit them; the enablers who work behind the scenes to facilitate the movement of victims from origin to destination; and the consumers or buyers who engage the services of the victims.

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<sup>7</sup> Also applicable for Ghanaian context.

In describing the trafficking of women, Roby (2005) calls it a “shadow economy” which does not necessarily bring financial benefits to the communities from which these women are taken, or to the women themselves. A greater percentage of proceeds from AST ends up in the hands of traffickers in destination countries (mostly Western countries), thus leaving victims impoverished. There is also substantial evidence of trafficked women suffering from physical, emotional and psychological health disorders (Struensee, 2000; Roby, 2005, Altun et. al., 2017). Studies also show that most women trafficked for sexual purposes tend to be infected or are more vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases (Struensee, 2000; Huda, 2006).

According to Raymond and Hughes (2001) and Huda (2006), trafficking for sexual exploitation in all parts of the world thrives on demand and supply. Thus, sex trafficking activities are found in urban, suburban and rural areas, as well as in areas surrounding military bases, commercial and mining areas in the United States. Additionally, it has been noted that the liberalization of border controls – which is a requirement for regional economic groupings such as the European Union (EU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) – tends to encourage trafficking flows between countries (Hernandez et al., 2015). It was further noted from the literature review that in countries such as India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Russian Federation, Nigeria, South Africa, United States, the Netherlands and Germany, sex trafficking is more profitable and less risky than drugs and arms trafficking, due in part to: ineffective implementation of international and national laws against human trafficking; poverty; negative cultural values that promote sex trafficking; the covert nature of trafficking; a thriving sex tourism industry in destination countries; and the methods used to control victims. among others (Struensee, 2000; Huda, 2006; Schauer and Wheaton, 2006; Adepoju, 2005; Samarasinghe, 2012).

While all countries may serve as source or destination areas of sex trafficking, it was found from the literature review that, countries that are poor, less developed, experiencing conflict, newly independent and have patriarchal cultural systems tend to serve as source countries. Countries that typically serve as destination countries tend to be affluent and developed (France, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States); or have a thriving sex industry for prostitution or have legalized prostitution (Germany and the Netherlands); or have a large sex tourism industry (Indonesia, India) or pornography industry (United States) (Hughes, 2000, Straunsee, 2010, Hernandez et al., 2015; Crawford, 2017). There is also much evidence to suggest that within source countries for international sex trafficking, internal trafficking of women is also rife (Crawford, 2017). Although victims of female sex trafficking are recruited from all parts of the world, countries within the Southern Americas and Asia are the predominant areas of recruitment of women (UNODC, 2018).

### *2.2.1 Methods used by sex traffickers*

Traffickers and pimps use several methods to lure victims from source countries/regions to destination countries/regions (Crawford, 2017; Hernandez, 2015; Meshkovska 2015). Existing literature suggests that advertisements of lucrative job offers in destination countries are a common method of recruiting women for sexual exploitation (Raymond and Hughes, 2001; Struensee, 2000; Hughes, 2000; Crawford, 2017; Hernandez, 2015). These advertisements are featured on both traditional media as well as social media, which has been noted to offer recruiters new methods of attracting foreign women (Straunsee, 2000). Specifically, Donato (2002) and Filipino Women Hired (2002) report that women are recruited through advertisements that offer jobs in developed countries as dancers, waitresses or bar girls in night clubs. Some traffickers and pimps also use victims’ family members to lure victims (Raymond



and Hughes, 2001; Cruz, 2002). Raymond and Hughes (2001), in their analysis of sex trafficking of women in the United States, find that unfavourable economic conditions forced family members into acting as conduits for recruitment of young women into the industry.

Other studies report that recruiters tend to engage their victims as friends, acquaintances or distant (unknown) family members in order to lure them into the trade (Jacobsen et al., 2010). Gozdzia (2012) argues that sex trafficking victims who are recruited in this manner, especially those recruited by supposed family members, tend not to identify themselves as victims but rather as individuals who willingly wanted to travel for economic reasons. Other methods of recruitment include social events such as auditions and marriage agencies as used in Asia (Hughes, 2000; Deshpande and Nour, 2013; Filipino Women Hired, 2002). Okonofua et al. (2004) in their analyses, reveal that 32 per cent of women interviewed in Southern Nigeria reported to have been approached by someone offering assistance to travel abroad. Whereas Crawford (2017) and Meshkovska (2015) identify marriage promises by traffickers as a way of attracting women for sex trafficking, Raymond and Hughes (2001) find that some pimps make use of smuggling networks to traffic women into the United States. The results of Siegel and de Blank's (2010) study indicate that most perpetrators arrested on the charge of sex trafficking are usually women, although there are many males involved in the network. Furthermore, findings show that at the global level, female perpetrators ("madams") from Africa tend to hold key positions within international human trafficking rings.

Globally, trafficking routes begin variously from villages, urban slums, and mining communities in remote areas, developed towns, cities or countries (Demir, 2003). Although victims of sex trafficking are usually transported via bus, trains and boats, in some instances they are also airlifted with legally acquired travel documents to their destination areas on either tourist visas or entertainment visas (Filipino Women Hired, 2002; Surtees, 2008). In some instances, traffickers acquire false documents for their victims which do not indicate their legal names or true countries of origin (Filipino Women Hired, 2002; Surtees, 2008). In transporting victims, Estes and Wiener (2001) posit that some traffickers tend to traffic women in stages by making them transit in several countries before the victims are transported to their destination. Victims who are transported through many countries and sold to different owners tend to fetch higher prices on their arrival at their final destinations, which are usually developed countries (UNODC, 2006; Estes and Weiner, 2001). Additionally, whilst some studies established that traffickers recruit their victims from specific sources, Surtees (2008) posits that there are instances where people take legal means to migrate to other countries but get trapped by traffickers upon their arrival. The operations of sex traffickers are held in secrecy and its victims are usually silenced with fear of harm being done to them or their relations, thus making it difficult for victims to be identified (Hughes, 2000; Rahman, 2011). Similarly, traffickers tend to hold victims by alleging that the victims owe them money which needs to be repaid (Deshpande and Nour, 2013).

### *2.2.2 Push and pull factors of adult sex trafficking*

Related studies on sex trafficking identify numerous push and pull factors responsible for sex trafficking. Poverty and unemployment are identified as the major push factors (Hughes, 2000; Richards et al. 2015; Crawford, 2017; Meshkovska, 2015). Major pull factors include the desire to emigrate and to seek a better life (Meshkovska, 2015; Hughes, 2000). These push and pull factors together with others identified in literature are discussed under economic, political, individual/ familial and institutional factors below.

### *Economic and political factors*

Several writers identify economic issues as major push and pull factors for adult sex trafficking. Poulin (2003) reviews factors that encourage sex trafficking of adult females from an economic viewpoint and argues that the rapid rise of globalization over the past decades has led to the commodification of human beings in many developing countries where tourism is a central part of the economy. Rahman (2011) argues that poverty, high rates of unemployment and high costs of living in most developing countries in Africa, South–East Asia and Eastern Europe tend to make women from these regions vulnerable to the promises made by sex traffickers.

Weitzer (2014) argues that most people who are trafficked, especially for sexual purposes, act in response to limited economic opportunities or poor working conditions in their communities. Outshoorn (2005) observes that women are sometimes pushed into sex trafficking when they seek to migrate to work as domestic helpers in richer countries and escape poverty. Adding to the economic debate, Crawford (2017) holds the view that international sex trafficking is usually attributed to poverty and underdevelopment, which is caused by a complex matrix of economic and cultural factors. In taking an economic-political view, Hughes (2002), Hughes et al. (2007), Klopicki (2004) and Smith et al. (2008) argue that economic problems following political instability, as well as the presence of international military forces in a country also encourage sex trafficking. Deshpande and Nour (2013) observe that sex traffickers usually target poor families with the promise of a better life in a developed country.

Military presence as a result of war or conflict and migration crises have also been identified as factors that contribute to sex trafficking (Roby, 2005; IOM, 2015). Poulin (2003) and Roby (2005) argue that traffickers often operate in areas surrounding military bases, as the presence of soldiers creates a demand for sex workers. Furthermore, Outshoorn (2005) notes that political instability also contributes to the recruitment of women for sexual purposes. For instance, the massive sex industry in South-East Asia has been attributed to the Viet Nam War which saw American military personnel stationed in neighbouring countries such as Thailand and the Philippines (Poulin 2003; Rahman, 2011). In sub-Saharan Africa, Rahman (2011) reports that women from war-torn countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone have fallen victim to sex traffickers in their bid to move away from areas of conflict.

### *Individual and family factors*

Some authors argue that breakdown in family relations coupled with abuse and neglect tend to make women susceptible to trafficking, as they are assured of better living and working conditions in their destinations (Roby, 2005). McCain and Garrity (2011) further add that individual characteristics such as drug addiction, school failure and a history of criminal behaviour may also make individuals susceptible to recruitment by traffickers. Furthermore, Dovydaitis (2010) adds that individual characteristics and circumstances which make women vulnerable to sex traffickers include illiteracy, physical disabilities, and being an orphan.

Similarly, Bernat and Zhilina (2010) opine that globally, when females are exposed to both physical and sexual abuse at home, they tend to look outside the home for a source of security and fulfilment, making them vulnerable to traffickers. Sexual and physical abuse undermine the individual's self-esteem, impede self-identification and make them accept sexual exploitation as normal practice. Deshpande and Nour (2013) add that women who are already involved in prostitution are easily recruited by sex traffickers, who promise them work in prostitution in a rich country. In all of these instances, Dahpaden and Nour (2013) argue that traffickers may either use soft methods such as showing compassion, kindness, and using psychological games



to make the victim feel appreciative of the perpetrator or use hard methods which involves the use of violence, threats and intimidation.

### *Institutional factors*

The literature on institutional factors sees institutions as organizations (see Hughes, 2000) and institutions as a system of norms and values (see Roby, 2005). Hughes (2000) notes that in some cases traffickers work together with officials (such as the police), to whom they report victims who have completed their “service” and are due for payment, to be arrested and deported. Furthermore, Wheaton et al. (2010) argue that corrupt law enforcement officers are often involved in trafficking, acting as protectors and informants to traffickers. Additionally, State functionaries such as politicians and staff of foreign services sometimes contribute to human trafficking, using their positions and power to aid individuals within the trafficking network, either by ensuring free passage through their territories or securing falsified legal documents for victims (Surtees, 2008). Some of these State functionaries may not just be facilitators of the trafficking process but could also be pivotal persons within the human trafficking network. Others may act as intermediaries or are corrupt politicians at relevant administrative and political positions to benefit traffickers (Surtees, 2008). Roby (2005) states that institutional factors such as traditional norms, beliefs and practices which often accord low levels of respect to women and allow women to be treated as property of male relations, encourage the sale of women to traffickers. Similar views are held by Risley (2010) who ascribes sex trafficking to gender-based discrimination experienced by women, especially in patriarchal societies.

## 2.3 Sex trafficking in Ghana

Literature on AST in Ghana is limited, as most studies focus on child trafficking which is relatively easier to study as a result of widespread public knowledge about the issue (Taylor, 2002). Women in Ghana are trafficked for sex both internally and externally. The country also serves as a source, transit and destination country, with most victims being brought in or transported out with legitimate travel documents (Taylor, 2002; Sertich and Heemskerk, 2011; US Department of State, 2014; Barner et al. 2018). Popular destination countries of trafficked Ghanaian women include developed western countries (such as Canada, Germany, Italy, , Russian Federation, the Netherlands United Kingdom and United States), the Gulf States and Middle East, and other African countries (notably: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa) (Taylor, 2002; Sertich and Heemskerk, 2011; Vijeyaresa, 2013; Adepoju, 2005). There is also much evidence of the existence of sex trafficking victims from Asia (China, the Philippines and Thailand). Most Ghanaian victims travel with legally acquired travel documents obtained through connection men and visa contractors<sup>8</sup> which is one of the major economic activities undertaken by Ghanaian perpetrators (Taylor, 2002). Perpetrators of sex trafficking in Ghana may be Ghanaians or from neighbouring West African nations, notably Nigeria (Ghanaweb, 2019).

### *2.3.1 Methods used by sex traffickers in Ghana*

The study observed the areas of recruitment of women for sexual exploitation in Ghana. In recent times, traffickers target the women living in rural areas as a result of the presence of many illiterate, semi-literate unemployed girls (Taylor, 2002). These women are often lured with the promise of well-paying job opportunities abroad (Taylor, 2002). In other instances, victims are sold to sex traffickers by their own parents or relations as a result of poverty (Adjei, 2006;

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<sup>8</sup> Intermediaries who recruit and transport the potential victims to the country of exploitation.

Atuguba and Raymond, 2005). Posing as distant or close relatives of victims has also been noted as one of the methods used by sex traffickers in Ghana to lure their victims (Taylor, 2002). The use of black magic in sex trafficking has also been widely reported in Ghana, Nigeria and other African nations (Siegel and de Blank, 2010). These methods are used to control victims and force them to obey perpetrators. Siegel and de Blank (2010) note that most Ghanaian female perpetrators are former victims who have risen through the trafficking network's ranks to become recruiters. Also observed is the tendency of such perpetrators to work as prostitutes together with their victims or collaborate with their male pimps in recruiting other victims. The popular routes being used by traffickers in Ghana include the bus transportation through Sahara Desert, Morocco and Libya, especially for victims who are being trafficked without valid documentation.

### *2.3.2 Push and pull factors of sex trafficking in Ghana*

Fong (2004) argues that one factor contributing to sex trafficking in West Africa, including Ghana, is the high demand for women from this region for sexual exploitation. Further, poverty is quite common among women in rural areas, particularly Northern Ghana, and it pushes young ladies to major commercial towns and cities. In these towns and cities the women act as head porters (*Kayayei*) and domestic helpers, and get sexually exploited by the recruiters (Atuguba and Raymond, 2005; Ansah, 2011; Sertich and Heemskerk, 2011).

Ansah (2011) argues that although poverty and other economic indices are major push factors, these issues tend to work together with other social, political and cultural factors that are embedded within the Ghanaian culture that encourage the subordination of women. Rahman (2011) further adds that Ghana's predominantly young population, coupled with limited job opportunities, encourages youth to seek employment in other countries or cities which may make them susceptible to recruitment by sex traffickers.

Linked to poverty (especially in the rural areas) is rapid urbanization and commercial activities in parts of the country, which tend to attract young women seeking work (Sertich and Heemskerk, 2011). Adjei (2006) notes that the decision by young women to migrate to urban areas may come in two forms. First is the individual's own decision to migrate, while the second is being linked to a stranger or distant relation. In both instances, Adjei (2006) reports that there are cases where these ladies end up being exploited for sex by pimps and "*madams*".

Additionally, it has been argued that the abuse of the Ghanaian cultural practice of sending youth to relatives in larger towns and cities for education, social and business skills, and to strengthen family ties encourages sex trafficking (Atuguba and Raymond, 2005). Barner et al. (2018) also adds that the frequent abuse of this cultural practice is usually a result of poverty, which sometimes "pushes" parents to sell their daughters to seemingly distant relatives who exploit these girls. Ansah (2011) and Mensah-Ankrah and Osei-Sarpong (2017) further argue that certain cultural practices which create unequal opportunities for males and females within the same family increase women's vulnerability to sex trafficking. In discussing the matrilineal inheritance system practiced by the Akan ethnic group, Ansah (2011) argues that this system has led to a situation where husbands often view children as belonging to their wives' families, which leads them to neglect their duties as fathers. This factor, coupled with low levels of education and high levels of poverty and unemployment among women, increases the vulnerability of young girls to trafficking recruitment (Ansah, 2011).

The cultural view among most Ghanaians that economic betterment can be achieved abroad also encourages international sex trafficking. The findings of Vijayarasa (2013) indicate that an

individual who successfully migrates from abroad or elsewhere in the country is held to a very high social standing. Thus, in instances where the returnee migrant is a perpetrator, he or she may easily recruit victims by dispelling any myths and awareness the people may have about sex trafficking without much effort (Vijayarasa, 2013). Also, recruiters' exaggerated stories about living abroad, and their outwardly luxurious lifestyles are very effective at convincing potential victims that migrating is in their best interest (Vijayarasa, 2013). Vijayarasa further argues that victims who are recruited by this method may be aware of sex trafficking but may have the impression that they are exempt from the activities of sex traffickers (Vijayarasa, 2013).

Rahman (2011) states that Ghana's relative political stability has pushed people from neighbouring conflict-affected countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone) into major slums within Accra, where they are often exploited by pimps. Although not a push or pull factor, Fong (2004) argues that the low level of birth registration in Ghana and across Africa, and consequent lack of evidence of citizenship, makes individuals vulnerable to traffickers. This is due to the fact that victims without proof of citizenship are more likely to be unable to return to their countries of origin.

## 2.4 Legal and institutional responses to sex trafficking

In this section a discussion is made on the various responses national, regional and global made to address human trafficking through legislation. The next subsection begins the discussion from the Ghanaian perspective.

### 2.4.1 Ghana's response and experience

In Ghana, successive Governments have implemented policies and laws, and strengthened institutions to combat trafficking. The first step the nation took in addressing trafficking is signing the Palermo Protocol in the year 2000, although ratification of the law took place in 2012 (Ghanaweb, 2019). With regard to legislations and policies, the Ghanaian Government, under the auspices of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) developed the Human Trafficking Act (Act 694), which was enacted in 2005 and amended in 2009 (Act 784). The Human Trafficking Act (2005), which was created in line with Palermo Protocol (2000), defines what acts constitute human trafficking, and describes all forms of human trafficking<sup>9</sup> as a criminal action for which perpetrators can be arrested by police and private individuals without warrant. Additionally, the Act mentions the procedures for rehabilitation and reintegration of victims back into society as well as giving authority for the establishment of the Human Trafficking Fund and the Human Trafficking Management Board. The Human Trafficking Act (2005) prescribes a sanction of a minimum of five years of imprisonment for perpetrators.

Related to the Human Trafficking Act 2005 (Act 694) and Amendment (Act 784) the Human Trafficking Legislative Instrument 2015 (L.I. 2219) is an implementing guideline for both Acts. The L.I 2219 includes plans for the training of security personnel and law enforcement officers to handle cases of human trafficking as well as plans for the establishment of more shelters for victims of human trafficking. The L.I. 2219 advises the judiciary to study the facts of the case before sentencing the criminal and proposes that trafficking criminals can be sentenced to prison for five to twenty-five years depending on the magnitude of the crime. Additionally, in cases where parents or guardians are involved in trafficking, they may be fined or imprisoned for five to ten years. The United States Department of State (2018) observes that the

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<sup>9</sup> Sex trafficking forced labour (involuntary servitude) and debt bondage.

punishments recommended by the L.I. (the payment of fines in lieu of imprisonment) is not commensurate with the punishments prescribed for other serious crimes like rape in the Criminal Code.

National Plan of Action on the Elimination of Human Trafficking in Ghana (2017–2021) as described on p.3 defines the responsibility and commitment of the Government and identifies the measures to prevent, protect, prosecute TIP as well as partners with NGOs, media and IOs. At the institutional level, the Government of Ghana has established the Human Trafficking Secretariat under the MoGCSP to provide public education and sensitization on human trafficking. Furthermore, the Ghana Police and Immigration Services have set up the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and the Anti-Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons (AHSTIP) Unit respectively, which deal with the cases of trafficking, investigate and prosecute offenders.

At the bilateral level, the Government of Ghana in 2017 signed an agreement with the Government of Jordan to formalize recruitment of labour between the two countries and provide support for the return of Ghanaian victims of human trafficking rescued and identified in Jordan (United States Department of State, 2018).

The anti-human trafficking structure in Ghana is decentralized, involving key institutions from the national level to the district levels with support from international organizations such as IOM and UNICEF. For instance, UNICEF was actively involved in the creation of the Human Trafficking Act (2005) while IOM is actively involved in the rescue of victims as well as supporting institutions responsible for anti-human trafficking. Local NGOs such as Free the Slaves and Partners in Community Development, and international NGOs including International Needs Ghana are also major partners. Ghana's framework for addressing trafficking is centred on four pillars: prevention (ensuring social protection for vulnerable population, education and awareness-raising on trafficking, etc.), protection (of victims by ensuring their privacy, security, health and rehabilitation), prosecution (of traffickers and their cohorts) and lastly through partnership (with all stakeholders at the local and international levels) (MoGCSP, 2017).

Although Ghana has been actively engaged in the fight against human trafficking, in recent times the Government has committed less funding towards combating trafficking, causing state institutions to rely solely on donor funding (United States Department of State, 2018). Furthermore, it has been observed that some of the key State institutions involved in the prevention of human trafficking do not have well-trained personnel (especially at the local level) to address this issue (United States Department of State, 2018). At the national level, the Human Trafficking Secretariat, which is mandated to collect data, research and conduct monitoring and evaluation activities, has not been able to fulfil its mandate due to insufficient personnel and lack of funding from the Government. Additionally, there is evidence of high levels of corruption and bribery in the judicial system, which hinder policy measures against human trafficking (United States Department of State, 2018).

#### *2.4.2 Regional and global legislation as a response to human trafficking*

Governments and institutions at the global level and subregional level have responded to trafficking issues through legislation, as well as preventive, protective and rehabilitative mechanisms. Table 1 presents some of these legislations and the provisions they make to prevent human trafficking in all forms.

Table 1: International conventions on human trafficking and their provisions

Conventions	Provisions
The 1949 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.	Which requires States parties to “undertake, in connection with immigration and emigration, to adopt or maintain such measures as are required, in terms of their obligations under the present Convention, to check the traffic in persons of either sex for the purpose of prostitution” (Art. 17).
The UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1957.	Here any act which seeks to enslave others or any practice which has elements similar to those of slavery are not tolerated.
The 2000 Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocol.	Seeks to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the 1981 UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).	Seeks to secure and protect the rights of children.
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990).	Provides for destination countries to ensure that the rights of migrants and their relatives are protected and upheld.
African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (OAU, 1981).	Upholds peoples’ rights and freedoms.
Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003).	Upholds peoples’ rights with specific emphases on women.
ECOWAS Declaration on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons of the Economic Community of West African States (2001).	Specific provisions in the West African subregion which frowns on trafficking in Persons.

International agencies such as the IOM, ILO, UNICEF and the UNDP have also taken up the fight against human trafficking especially with regards to women and children (Roby, 2005). Actions undertaken by Governments at the national and local levels on domestic anti-human trafficking are dependent on the role played by respective countries in the trafficking structure as a country of origin, transit or destination (Fong, 2004). Fong (2004) posits that countries of origin tend to have high awareness of trafficking and thus have more legislation to address AST, whereas transit/destination countries are more likely to have low levels of awareness and understanding of trafficking and may perceive trafficking as a non-national issue.

## 2.5 Existing gaps in human trafficking research

The field of human trafficking has received enormous attention over the past few years. However, there exists some inconsistencies in definitions and unreliable methods for estimating the number of trafficked persons. Several authors have bemoaned the dearth of empirical data in the field (Stephanie et al., 2013; Okech et al., 2018; Weitzer, 2014). This is a result of the secrecy surrounding trafficking, and the difficulty in identifying victims, as explained by Tyldum and Brunovskis (2005). Because of the difficulty in identifying victims, data collection for

empirical studies is also difficult. To make the collection of empirical data less challenging, Tyldum and Brunovskis (2005) recommend that researchers adopt a survey technique, which allows victims to share their experiences, and allows researchers to collect data directly from victims. Furthermore, Tyldum and Brunovskis (2005) add that researchers must understand the stage of trafficking an individual has reached in order to establish and know the characteristics of individuals at risk of being trafficked, current victims and former victims.

Other authors such as Adepoju (2005) have adopted mixed methods of research in studying victims of sex trafficking. Adepoju (2005) reports of a study conducted on sexual trafficking of females in the Edo and Delta States of Nigeria. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods in data collection, including purposive household surveys for household heads, populations at risk, victims and returnees; in-depth interviews with stakeholders and focus group discussions, and the use of secondary data from sources such as the police, media reports, case studies and policy statements from Government institutions and NGOs. Mensah-Ankrah and Osei Sarpong (2017), in conducting their study on trends in human trafficking in Africa, mainly use qualitative analysis, which they support with a case study design to arrive at their findings. However, their paper did not explicitly describe the methods used.

Sampling methods used in most sex trafficking studies are network approaches such as the snowball method (IOM, 2002; Andrees and van der Linden, 2005) and respondent-driven sampling (Heckathorn 1997). Although using these methods may create a bias in sampling, Andrees and van der Linden (2005) posit that in such a situation, ethical considerations must be put ahead of all other considerations. Adepoju (2005), in his report on human trafficking in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) states that the sampling method used in a study is dependent on the objective of the study and the target population. For instance, if the purpose of the study is to understand or identify the push and pull factors of sexual trafficking, surveys of households within a risk population is needed. However, Adepoju (2005) proposes the use of mixed methods in data collection and advocates for the involvement of anti-human trafficking institutions in the identification of victims, their location, and the administration of data collection instruments. Gozdziaik and Collett (2005) also stipulate that using both qualitative and quantitative methods allow for both macro and microlevel understanding of the human trafficking phenomenon.

Brenan (2005) suggests that when researchers follow ethical principles requiring the explanation of their actions and written consent from participants, this usually affects the success of data collection as victims may withdraw. To address this issue, researchers can tell victims and potential study participants that their participation will not offer them any direct tangible benefits, but may instead promote action by CSOs, NGOs and other advocacy groups on the issue. Adding to the above, Tyldum (2010) proposes that since current victims of sex trafficking are usually unavailable or unknown, it is best for researchers to target former victims, because they are easily identified. The ethical implications of interviewing current victims of sex trafficking and allowing them to remain in distress can also be avoided by targeting former victims. According to Tyldum (2010), leaving victims in distress may ruin their trust in people, and their hope of being rescued.

## 2.6 Conclusion

This chapter reviewed literature on the subject matter, and generally finds that the AST industry is complex, and composed of both well-connected networks and poorly connected individuals who lure victims through deception, either within their own country or to other countries. Voluntary migrants are also sometimes taken advantage of by traffickers because of their



vulnerabilities and coerced into the trade. Victims' own socioeconomic conditions, and conditions within their countries or communities make them susceptible to sex trafficking since they are seeking a better life and may be enticed by seemingly lucrative job offers. Gender inequality in some societies may exacerbate the risk of women being trafficked.

Global, national and subnational legal frameworks are strongly against sexual trafficking and trafficking broadly. However, the involvement of some State officials and actors in either facilitating AST or failing to enforce the law weakens the policies and initiatives in place to secure the safety of victims and potential victims.

Despite the existence of numerous studies in the area of AST, methodological challenges resulting from the underground nature of the industry continue to persist. Major challenges associated with identifying trafficked victims versus those who are voluntarily provide sex services are crucial considerations to pay attention to in the development of methodological approaches. For this study, use of well-structured screening questions have been found to be helpful in addressing these challenges. Mixed method approaches, based on this review, seem to be agreed upon by many researchers. And whether qualitative, quantitative or life history approaches are adopted, snowballing or referrals are the most common sample selection procedure since randomization is extremely difficult to undertake.

## CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the study's data collection process in detail, specifically the sample size, the analytical approach, and ethical considerations made throughout the data collection, transmission, storing and analysis process.

### 3.2 Data collection approach

This study uses both quantitative and qualitative approaches in data collection. This mixed methods approach was selected as it allows researchers to collect and triangulate data on an observed phenomenon, observe trends from different viewpoints and gain deeper understanding of the different perspectives surrounding sex trafficking in Ghana (Creswell and Creswell, 2017). The qualitative component of the study provides context and nuanced understanding of the quantitative results. Additionally, a rigorous desk review of studies conducted around the topic within the last two to three decades was conducted to strongly support the data received from the field. The choice of these years is backed by the findings of a study by Lackzo (2005), who identifies that the amount of scholarly work on human trafficking rose steadily from 1999 when 23 papers were produced, compared to the previous year's 12 papers.

#### 3.2.1 Sampling and sample size

A quantitative survey was carried out in all ten regions of Ghana, paying attention to external and internal dimensions of trafficking. A cluster<sup>10</sup> sampling approach based on an internal and external stratification was adopted. This method was combined with key information from relevant institutions and the snowballing approach in each cluster to select victims and perpetrators for the administration of the survey. In total, 83 victims were surveyed for the quantitative data collection across the ten regions. Of this number, 21 were internally trafficked and 62 were externally trafficked. Out of the 83 victims interviewed, 39 were Ghanaians and 44 of them were non-Ghanaians (Table 2).

Table 2: Distribution of survey respondents.

	Trafficking Type		Nationality		
Region	Internal	External	Ghanaians	Other Nationals	Total
Western	2	10	2	10	12
Central	2	4	5	1	6
Greater Accra	0	2	2	0	2
Volta	2	15	10	7	17
Eastern	6	2	6	2	8
Ashanti	0	5	0	5	5

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<sup>10</sup> Regional capitals mostly served as our cluster and we examined what is happening in each region in relation to the Capital.



Brong Ahafo	0	6	2	4	6
Northern	3	8	5	6	11
Upper East	1	6	1	6	7
Upper West	5	4	6	3	9
Total	21	62	39	44	83

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

With regards to the qualitative approach, the study employed Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). This aspect of the study was undertaken at the national and local (regional) levels of governance. At the regional level, the study emphasized on all the ten regions.

At the national level, one officer in charge of human trafficking from each of the following institutions was contacted for in-depth interviews: Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service (GPS) and the MoGCSP (Department of Social Welfare - DSW). At the regional level, at least one key informant was contacted from the GIS, GPS and DSW respectively. These officers were selected from all ten regions. Additionally, contact was made at the regional levels with NGOs that are working in the area of human trafficking prevention and officials of six NGOs identified were interviewed. These included one each from Ashanti, Greater Accra, Eastern and Volta Regions, and two in the Western Region (Table 3).

Table 3: Distribution of interviews and group discussion by region.

Region	DSW	MoGCSP	GIS	GPS	NGO	Perpetrator	Victim	FGDs
Western	1		1	1	2	1	1	2
Central	1			1			1	2
Greater Accra	1	1	1	1	1		1	2
Volta	1		1	1	1		1	2
Eastern	1		1	1	1	1	1	2
Ashanti	1		1	1	1	1	1	2
Brong-Ahafo	1	1	2	1			1	2
Northern	1		1	1				2
Upper East	1		1	1				2
Upper West			1	1				2
Total	9	2	10	10	6	3	7	20

Source: TIPS Field Study, 2019.

A regional engagement with relevant stakeholders to identify victims and perpetrators yielded with the interview of seven victims (additionally to 83 survey respondents) and three perpetrators. These individuals were interviewed at various places – the chosen venue for the victims and the prisons for perpetrators. Two of these interviews (those in the Western Region), were conducted by telephone because the respondents did not want a physical meeting. Selection of participants for this level of data collection was done through the snowballing approach for the survey and was dependent on the willingness of the victim to be audio-recorded.

At the microlevel, FGDs were conducted in 10 selected communities (see Appendix 4) where there is a prevalence of human trafficking as perceived by local institutions. The FGD in each community was conducted in two sessions – a male group and female group. At each session, a

least six community members participated. Participants in the FGDs were selected paying attention to age groupings where possible. Youth, middle age and elderly community members were represented adequately. In total 20 FGDs were conducted. Details of the interviews and groups discussions held at the regional level are shown in Table 3.

### *3.2.2 Data collection instruments*

The survey instruments were developed in consultation with the IOM Ghana Counter-Trafficking Unit to ensure that the instruments met the objectives of the project (see Appendix for Questionnaire and Interview Guides). A pretest exercise was conducted before the field data collection began. The pretest exercise was undertaken after a five-day training exercise for enumerators (appendix 3). The pre-test exercise was followed by a two-day debriefing meeting which allowed enumerators to share their experiences and challenges for peer and professional inputs to be made.

There were five instruments in total. The first was a survey comprising a structured questionnaire with several open-ended questions. This instrument was administered to victims of AST. The second was an interview guide with generally open questions and administered to selected victims of AST, with the aim of soliciting in-depth information. Thirdly, a perpetrator interview guide was also available and was used to solicit information from individuals who had been involved in the trafficking business in the past. The fourth instrument was a guide for focus group discussions (FGDs). Finally, an institutional interview guide was also developed and used for the collection of information from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Questions in these instruments covered areas based on the objectives of the study.

## *3.3 Data management and analyses*

The data management process began with questionnaire design using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) programming, and the selection<sup>11</sup> and training of field enumerators before field data collection. There was close monitoring (both remotely and physically) of the data collection process by the research team. This ensured that field teams followed agreed field protocols to guarantee data quality while safeguarding the rights of respondents. Additionally, daily reviews of collected data was conducted by the data management staff and timely feedback was provided to field teams on the quality of data synced to the server. These processes, together with the quality of field staff has yielded high quality data presented in this report.

Data retrieved from the survey was analysed using the Stata software to produce descriptive statistics on the indicators. Two main dimensions have been used to present the quantitative results for each of the research questions. Firstly, analyses were done based on the type of trafficking, either internal or external. Secondly, most analyses were implemented looking at the nationality of the victim, either Ghanaian or non-Ghanaian (Other nationals) or Internal (Domestic) verses Cross-Border (Transnational) trafficking.<sup>12</sup> Where possible, the regional dimension is also introduced.

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<sup>11</sup> An advert with requirements (experience, language, residence) was shared with the pool of enumerators.

<sup>12</sup> Non-Ghanaian and Other Nationals are used interchangeably in this report; Internal and Domestic Trafficking are used interchangeably in this report; transnational, cross-border and external trafficking are also used interchangeably.

For the qualitative data collection, all interviews and all FGDs were audio-recorded. Each interview was conducted in a language which the respondent or FGD participants preferred. Institutional interviews were mostly conducted in English and the remaining interviews and group discussions were conducted in the appropriate Ghanaian local languages of the victim, perpetrator or community. For interviews conducted in the various local languages, translations were done by native speakers of the respective languages to ensure that data was not compromised. These were then transcribed into English. Transcripts of the interviews were uploaded into the NVivo software version 11 for coding. The data was then thematically analysed under the guidance of a deductive coding scheme.

### 3.4 Ethical issues and considerations for respondents' safety

The project team acquired ethical clearance from the Institutional Review Board of the University of Ghana to undertake this study. In order to protect the information collected, all data collected was transmitted securely into a main database using synchronization devices, which do not allow third-party involvement or access. All data received into the database was secured and used solely for this analysis and report.

Due to the sensitivity of the subject matter, enumerators were given extensive training to equip them with skills on how to deal with the various challenges that may arise from dealing with the victims and affected communities. To this end, a qualified and experienced psychologist was an integral part of the training process.

The engagement of the psychologist was premised on the WHO guiding principles of engaging with sexual assault victims. The guiding principles including "Do No Harm" formed the basis of this engagement. Enumerators were taken through the psyche and behaviours of victims of sexual violence, and later trained on how to relate to them and ask questions without re-traumatizing them while ensuring that data quality was not compromised. The psychologist was also available to address any emotional effects of the study on the enumerators.

## CHAPTER 4: DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

### 4.1 Introduction

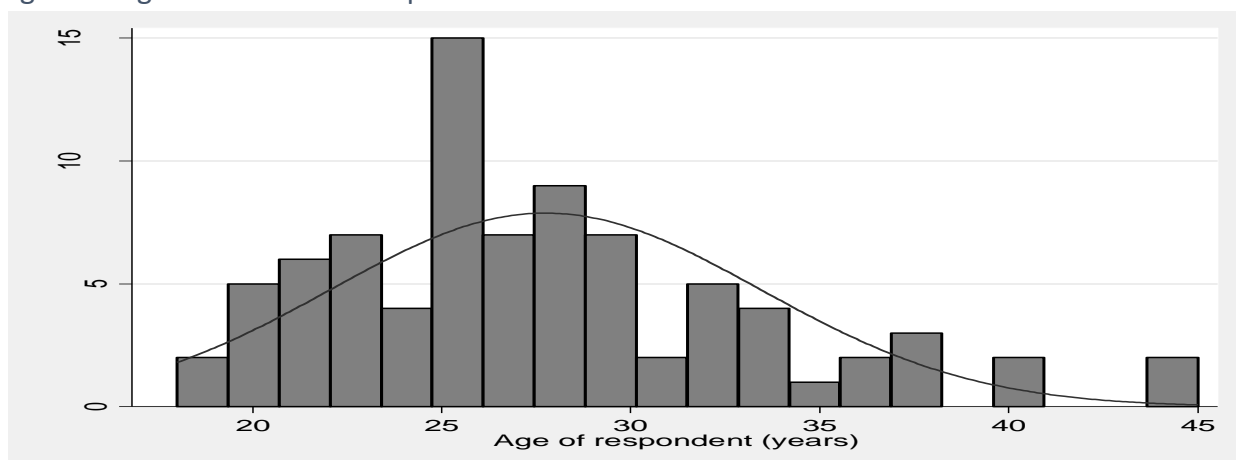
This chapter discusses results from the quantitative survey as well as the qualitative data. In total 83 trafficked victims were interviewed. Twenty-one (21) of these victims were internally trafficked and the remaining 62 were externally trafficked. The characteristics of individuals who are typically trafficked within Ghana, out of Ghana or into Ghana were analysed. This chapter also draws on the data from a total number of 47 interviews with institutional representatives, individual victims and perpetrators as well as 20 group discussion with community members.

### 4.2 Characteristics of victims

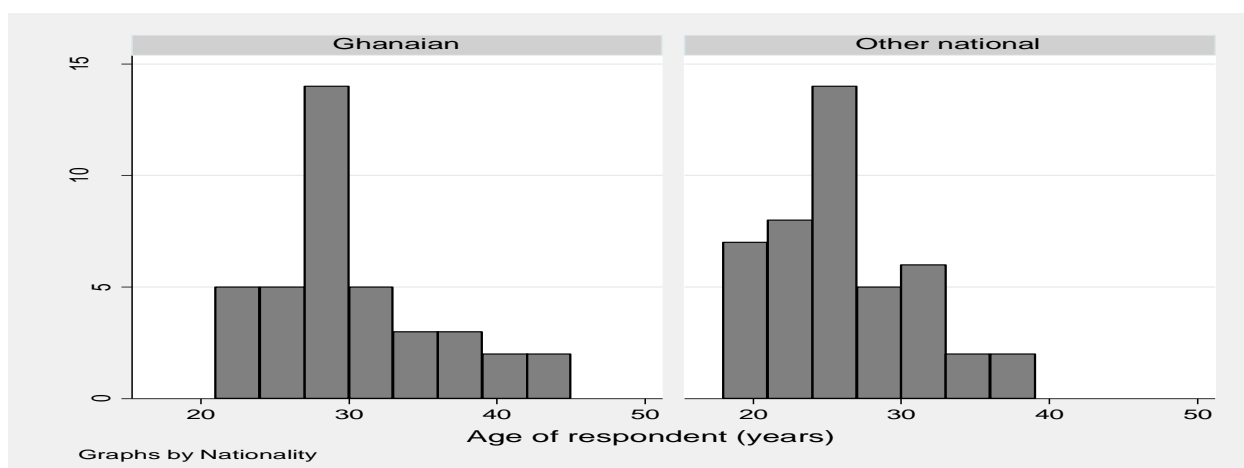
#### 4.2.1 Age

The average victim was 27 years old, with the youngest being 18 years old and the oldest being 45 years old (Figure 1; Panel A). At the regional level, victims contacted in the Upper East had the lowest average age of about 24 years. The highest average age of victims (30.5 years) was recorded in the Greater Accra Region (Table 1; Col I). The modal age (the age with the highest frequency) amongst victims is 25 (Figure 1; Panel A).

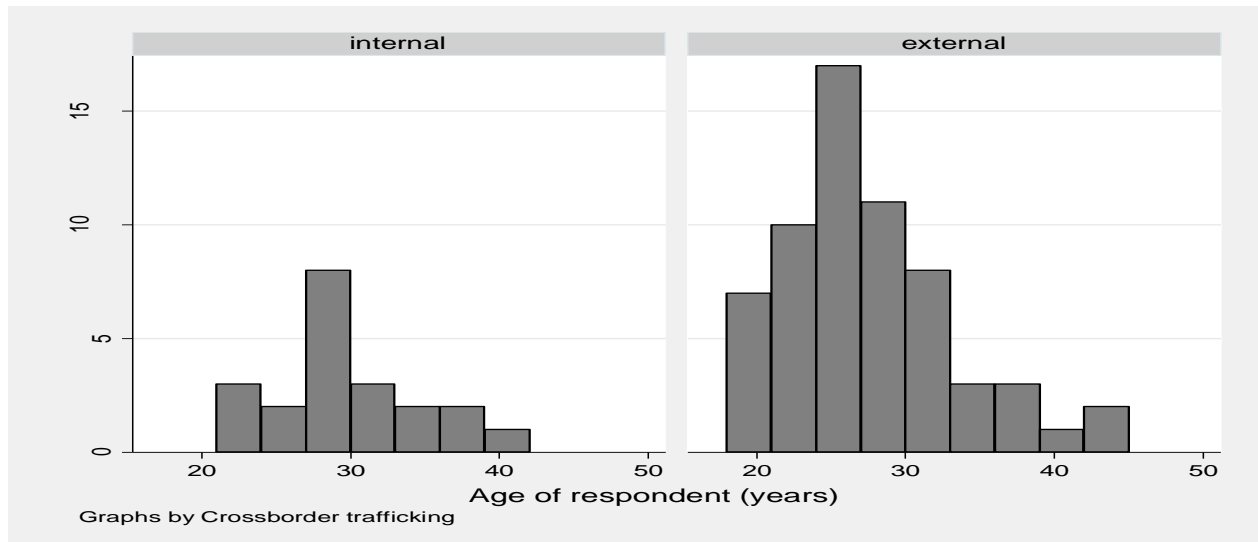
Figure 1: Age distribution of respondents



Panel A



Panel B



Panel C

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

However, interaction with some key informants indicate that there were some underage victims, as indicated by a GPS Officer who said,

*“Some of the victims are minors. That is some may be below the age of 18. Last year we had about two cases like that – two victims of sex trafficking being under 18 so minors are also exploited...”*

There were some differences in age by nationality and type of trafficking. On the nationality front, Ghanaian nationals who were victims were relatively older (30 years) compared to other nationals who recorded an average age of 25 (Table 4; Col II and Col III) which is statistically significant at 95 per cent CI. On the other hand, although internally trafficked victims were much older (29 years on average) than those who had been trafficked across borders (27 years) (Table 4; Col IV and Col V). This difference was not statistically significant.

Table 4: Age distribution of respondents by region, nationality and trafficking type.

	All			Nationality						Trafficking Type					
	I			II			III			IV			V		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
				Ghanaians			Other Nationals			Internal			Cross border		
Region	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N
Western	27.8	6.6	12	35.0	14.0	2	26.4	6.2	10	35.0	1.4	2.0	26.4	6.2	10
Central	32.7	7.1	6	34.2	6.8	5	25.0	0.00	1	31.0	3.5	2.0	33.3	8.9	4
Greater A	30.5	10.6	2	30.5	10.6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.5	10.6	2
Volta	26.0	6.0	17	27.6	6.8	10	23.7	3.9	7	22.5	0.7	2.0	26.5	6.2	15
Eastern	29.1	4.2	8	29.5	3.7	6	28.0	7.1	2	29.5	3.7	6.0	28.0	7.1	2
Ashanti	28.0	3.1	5	-	-	-	28.0	3.1	5	-	-	-	28.0	3.1	5
Brong Ahafo	27.0	3.6	6	30.0	2.8	2	25.5	3.1	4	-	-	-	27.0	3.6	6
Northern	29.4	6.3	11	34.0	5.8	5	25.5	3.6	6	34.3	4.9	3.0	27.5	5.9	8
Upper East	24.6	5.8	7	27.0	0.00	1	24.2	6.3	6	27.0	0.00	1.0	24.2	6.3	6
Upper West	26.7	2.7	9	26.5	3.2	6	27.0	2.0	3	26.2	3.5	5.0	27.3	1.7	4
Total	27.7	5.7	83	30.0	5.9	39	25.7	4.6	44	29.3	4.9	21.0	27.2	5.9	62

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

#### 4.2.2 Education

About 48 per cent of victims had some secondary education (Table 5; Col I). This is followed by nearly a third having had some primary education (28.9%). 9.6 per cent of victims had tertiary education, with 13.3 per cent having never had any formal education at all - suggesting that majority of trafficked women have had at least primary education. This was corroborated by an Officer of the GPS who intimates, “...Some of the victims have even completed the university, some have completed the SHS....” This observation, however, shows that irrespective of one’s educational background, there is the likelihood of falling prey to AST.

In terms of nationality, there was twice as many trafficked Ghanaian women who had no formal education (18%), compared to other nationals (9.1%). Eight percent (8%) of non-Ghanaian victims had tertiary education, although in the same category there were no Ghanaians (Table 2; Col II). This educational attainment by victims may be an indication that other nationals in our sample who are trafficked seem to have a higher educational attainment than their Ghanaian counterparts. Many of the non-Ghanaian cross-border victims were identified as Nigerian nationals, as indicated by participants during interactions with both officials and community members as follows:

*“...The victims are coming from Kirobo, Nigeria. That’s where the suspects and the perpetrators are also coming from.” (KII, GPS).*

*“Most of the ladies that have been trafficked are sent to the big towns like Kumasi, Accra and Tamale. Some are also trafficked to Wa especially the Nigerians and the Ivorians. Some are in Wa around Kambali (Mexico) where they provide sexual services to men for their money...” (FGD, UWR).*

By trafficking type, both internally and externally trafficked victims had some level of secondary education, with internally trafficked victims having a proportionately higher level (57.1%) in relation to their cross-border counterparts (45.2%) (Table 5; Col III).

Table 5: Educational level of respondents by nationality and trafficking type (frequency and percentages).

		Nationality		Trafficking Type	
	I	II		III	
Educational level completed by respondent	All Respondents	Ghanaians	Other Nationals	Internal	Cross Border
None	11 (13.3)	7 (18.0)	4 (9.1)	3 (14.3)	8 (12.9)
Primary	24 (28.9)	12 (30.8)	12 (27.3)	6 (28.6)	18 (29.0)
Secondary	40 (48.2)	20 (1.3)	20 (45.5)	12 (57.1)	28. (45.2)
Tertiary/ Post-secondary	8 (9.6)	_( _)	8 (18.2)	_( _)	8 (12.9)
Total	83 (100)	39 (100)	44 (100)	21 (100)	62 (100)

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

The mean educational attainment on a Likert Scale of 1 to 4<sup>13</sup> is 2.5, suggesting that many victims had above average levels of education. On the nationality indicator, other nationals had a higher mean (2.7) than Ghanaians (2.3). Based on a t-test comparing the two groups in terms of educational levels and a p-value of 0.0333, there is a significant difference between the groups

<sup>13</sup>where 1=no formal education; 2=low formal education; 3=high formal education and 4=higher formal education.

at the 5 per cent confidence level. However, even though externally trafficked victims have a higher average educational level (2.6) than those trafficked internally (2.4), the associated t-test suggests that there is no statistical difference between the two groups with a p-value of 0.4795 (See Table 6).

Table 6: Mean educational attainment on a Likert scale of 1 to 4.<sup>14</sup>

		Mean	SD	N	P-value
Nationality	Ghanaian	2.3	0.8	39	
	Other nationals	2.7	0.9	44	0.0333
Trafficking Type	Internal	2.4	0.7	21	
	External	2.6	0.9	62	0.4795
Total		2.5	0.8	83	

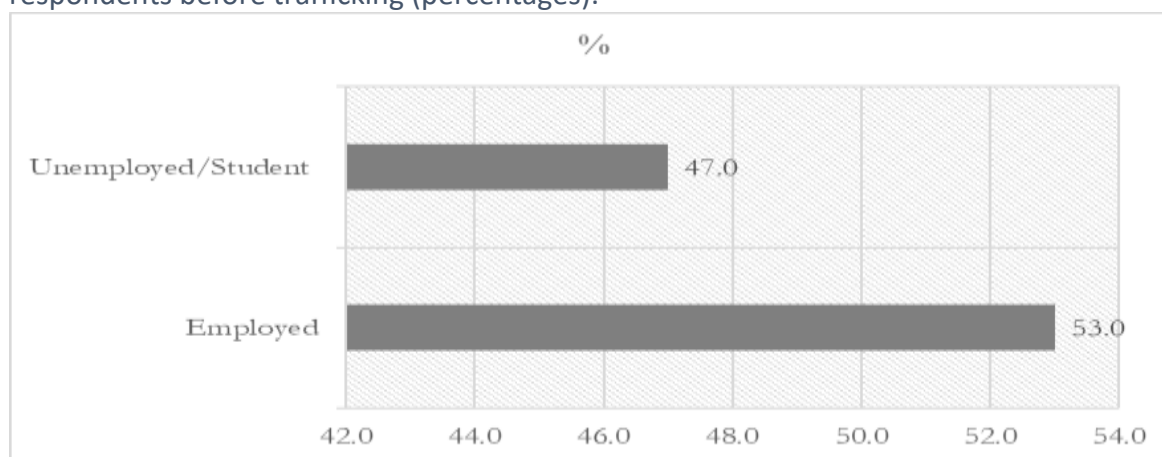
Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

#### 4.2.3 Employment

Overall, more than 47 per cent of the victims in the sample were either unemployed or enrolled in an educational institution before being trafficked from their home region or country. On the other hand, 53 per cent of victims had jobs immediately before being trafficked (Figure 2; Panel 1). For those who were employed, they were mostly engaged in the services sector (44.6% of sample). Typical industries in the services sector which these women were engaged in includes trading in second-hand goods and cosmetics; dressmaking; hairdressing and related jobs like nails fixing; and working as receptionists/waitresses in hotels, guest houses and restaurants.

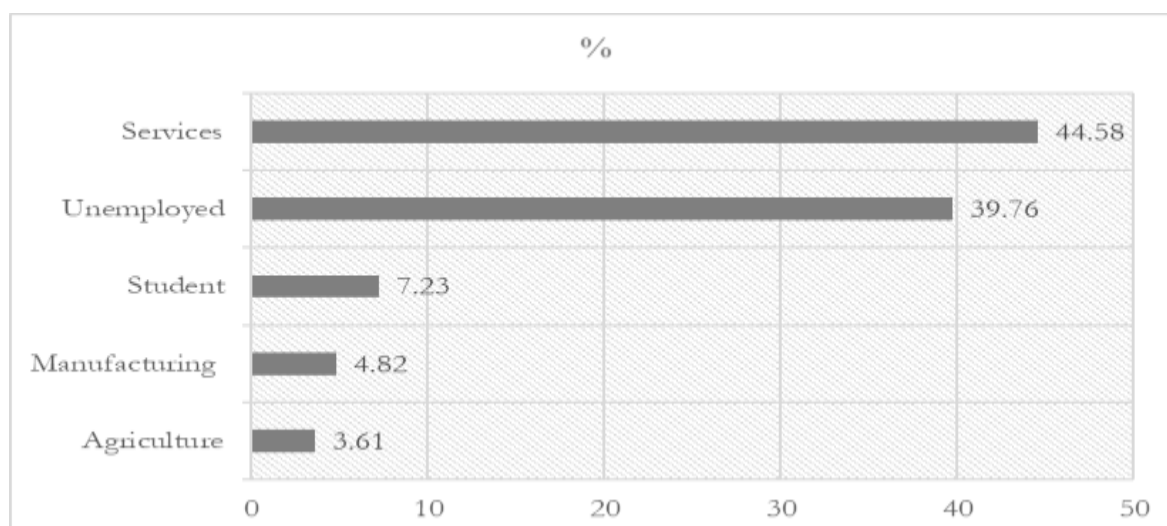
Less than 5 per cent of the victims were involved in the manufacturing sector (where typical products they produced included liquid soaps). A handful of respondents were engaged in the agricultural sector (3.6%) as labourers in both poultry and crop farms (see Figure 2; Panel B). Based on this data, employment as an indicator for trafficking suggests that young women who are employed in the services sector are more likely to be trafficked than those in agriculture or manufacturing. Being unemployed also makes young women vulnerable to trafficking (39.8% of sample). It is also important to note that more than 7 per cent of all the trafficked women were enrolled in some educational institution and yet were trafficked – suggesting that the pull and push factors must have been very strong.

Figure 2: Employment status and type of employment engaged in by respondents before trafficking (percentages).



<sup>14</sup> Where 1=no formal education; 2=low formal education; 3=high formal education and 4=higher formal education.

Panel A



Panel B

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

By nationality and trafficking type, some differences were observed in the types of employment engaged in by respondents before being trafficked for sex. For example, no Ghanaians in our sample were engaged in agriculture prior to being trafficked. However, nearly seven per cent (7%) of non-Ghanaian victims were employed in the agricultural sector prior to trafficking. In the manufacturing sector, a reverse trend was observed where more Ghanaian nationals trafficked (7.7%) were employed as compared to only 2.3 per cent for other nationals. More Ghanaians were also concentrated in the services sector (nearly 1 in 2) as opposed to two out of every five for other nationals.

From all Ghanaians sampled 38.5 per cent were unemployed before being trafficked, whereas more than 40 per cent of other nationals were unemployed before being trafficked (Table 7; Col I). There were also more young women who were engaged in the services sector prior to being trafficked externally (48.4%) than those trafficked internally (33.3%). On the other hand, internally trafficked persons engaged in the services sector were significantly more (52.4%) than those trafficked externally (35.5%) (Table 7; Col II).

Table 7: Employment status and type by nationality and trafficking type (% and total frequency).

	Nationality		Trafficking Type		Total (%N)
	Ghanaians	Other Nationals	Internal	Cross Border	
Employment Type	I		II		III
Agriculture	0	6.8	0.00	4.8	3.6 (3)
Manufacturing	7.7	2.3	4.8	4.8	4.8 (4)
Services	48.7	40.9	33.3	48.4	44.5 (37)
Unemployed	38.5	40.9	52.4	35.5	39.7(33)
Student	5.1	9.1	9.5	6.5	7.2 (6)
Total	100	100	100	100	100 (83)

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

#### 4.2.4 Work experience



Table 8 is made up of two panels. The first considers work experience in months for all victims prior to being trafficked. The second panel examines the work experience of only victims who had jobs immediately before being trafficked. Overall, the average victim in our sample had about 25 months of work experience prior to trafficking (Panel A; Col I). Ghanaians had longer work experience (33 months) compared with Other Nationals (17 months). Victims who had jobs immediately prior to being trafficked had more work experience (47 months) (Panel B; Col I) than the overall sample's work experience. There were also some differences based on nationality and trafficking type. Ghanaians (about 59 months) and internally trafficked victims (about 50 months) had worked more than Other Nationals (about 35 months) and externally trafficked victims (46 months) (Table 8; Panel B; Col II and Col III).

Table 8: Respondents work experience before being trafficked by nationality and trafficking type (in months).

	All			Nationality						Trafficking Type					
	I			II			III			IV			V		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
				Ghanaians			Other Nationals			Internal			Cross Border		
Region	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N
<b>All respondents</b>															
Western	19.3	34.0	12	30.0	8.5	2	17.1	37.0	10	30.0	8.5	2	17.1	37.0	10
Central	18.0	30.1	6	21.6	32.2	5	0.00	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	2	27.0	34.5	4
Greater A	120.0	135.8	2	120.0	135.8	2							120.0	135.8	2
Volta	20.4	29.7	17	23.8	35.9	10	15.4	19.2	7	0.00	0.00	2	23.1	30.6	15
Eastern	31.5	28.6	8	34.0	29.8	6	24.0	33.9	2	34.0	29.8	6	24.0	33.9	2
Ashanti	24.4	25.0	5	-	-		24.4	25.0	5	-	-		24.4	25.0	5
Brong Ahafo	28.0	22.3	6	48.0	0.00	2	18.0	20.8	4	-	-		28.0	22.3	6
Northern	46.1	34.3	11	62.4	42.8	5	32.5	20.1	6	44.0	38.6	3	46.9	35.4	8
Upper East	6.9	18.1	7	-	0.00	1	8.0	19.6	6	0.00	0.00	1	8.0	19.6	6
Upper West	4.0	12.0	9	6.0	14.7	6	0.00	0.00	3	0.00	0.00	5	9.0	18.0	4
Total	24.8	36.0	83	33.2	44.1	39	17.4	25.0	44	18.9	27.0	21	26.8	38.5	62
<b>Employed respondents only</b>															
Western	33.0	39.8	7	30.0	8.5	2	34.2	48.5	5	30	8.5	2	34.2	48.5	5
Central	54.0	25.5	2	54.0	25.5	2	-	-	-	-	-		54	25.5	2
Greater A	120.0	135.8	2	120.0	135.8	2	-	-	-	-	-		120	135.8	2
Volta	43.3	29.7	8	47.6	38.4	5	36	0.00	3	-	-		43.3	29.7	8
Eastern	50.4	15.6	5	51.0	18	4	48	0.00	1	51	18	4	48	0	1
Ashanti	30.5	24.2	4	-	-		30.5	24.2	4	-	-		30.5	24.2	4
Brong Ahafo	42.0	6.9	4	48.0	0.00	2	36	0	2	-	-		42	6.9	4
Northern	50.7	32.4	10	78.0	28.6	4	32.5	20.1	6	66	8.5	2	46.9	35.4	8
Upper East	48.0	0.00	1	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		48	0.00	1
Upper West	36.0	0.00	1	36.0	0.00	1	48	0.00	1	-	-		36	0.00	1
Total	46.8	37.6	44	58.8	44.1	22	34.7	25.5	22	49.5	18.6	8	46.2	40.8	36

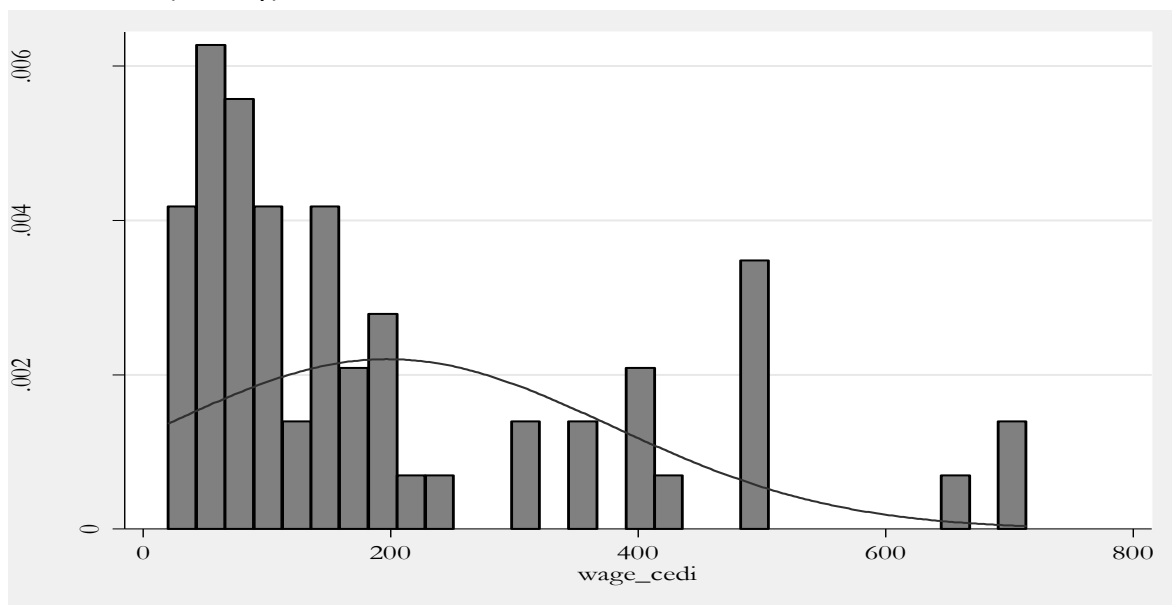
Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

#### 4.2.5 Wages and incomes

Trafficked women in our sample earned between GHS 15 and GHS 800 per month, prior to being trafficked. For many trafficked women however, these earnings clustered around GHS 200 and

below. Individuals who earned more than GHS 200 were relatively fewer and quite scattered (See Figure 3). On average, any trafficked victim regardless of nationality or trafficking type, earned GHS 194.05 per month before being trafficked. With a standard deviation of 181.15, it suggests that some victims were earning as low as GHS 15 to 20 per month. There were also some differences in terms of nationality: the average Ghanaian victim earned GHS 236.97 compared to GHS 147.79 for Other Nationals. This difference was significant at the 95 per cent confidence interval with a t-test yielding a p-value of 0.0502. Internally trafficked individuals earned GHS 202.22 a month compared to externally trafficked individuals, GHS 191.42. There is, however, no significant difference between the two earnings since a t-test undertaken yielded a p-value of 0.8326 (See Table 9).

Figure 3: Respondents' wage earnings distribution prior to being trafficked in Ghana Cedis (density).



Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

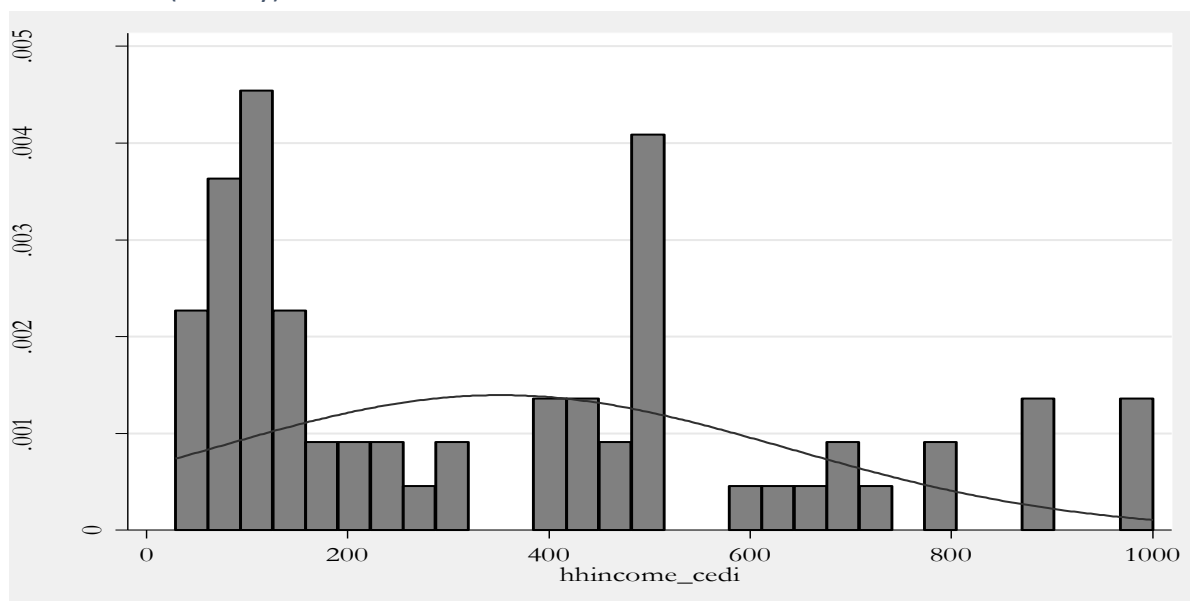
Table 9: Respondents' average earnings prior to being trafficked by nationality and trafficking type (Ghana Cedis).

		Mean	SD	N	P-value
Nationality	Ghanaian	236.97	204.23	33	
	Other nationals	147.79	140.79	30	0.0502
Trafficking Type	Internal	202.22	206.41	18	
	External	191.42	172.46	45	0.8326
Total		194.5	181.15	63	

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Figure 4 presents a histogram of the distribution of household incomes of victims prior to being trafficked in Ghana Cedis. Quite a significant number of respondents had a household income clustered around GHS 200, GHS 400 and GHS 700. This suggests a wide range of incomes up to about GHS 1,000 per month. It is, therefore, difficult to say that individuals coming from extremely low-income households become victims of sex trafficking industry.

Figure 4: Respondents' household income distribution prior to being trafficked in Ghana Cedis (density).



Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

By nationality, we observe that victims coming from Ghanaian households had significantly higher average household incomes (GHS 654.74) than Other Nationals (GHS 459.65). This was significant at a 95 per cent confidence interval based on a t-test conducted. Despite coming from households with higher incomes (GHS 687.50), internally trafficked persons' household incomes were not statistically higher than externally trafficked respondents, whose average household income was recorded as GHS 506.48 (See Table 10).

Table 10: Respondents average household incomes prior to being trafficked by nationality and trafficking type (in Ghana Cedis).

		Mean	SD	N	P-value
Nationality	Ghanaian	654.74	539.1	38	
	Other nationals	459.65	668.02	43	0.0778
Trafficking Type	Internal	687.50	633.29	20	
	External	506.48	607.59	61	0.2559
Total	Total	551.17	615.06	81	

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

#### 4.2.6 Dependants and children of respondents during the time of trafficking

In general, each trafficked woman had at least two dependants on average. This varied by each sub-group of trafficked women. Other Nationals and Externally trafficked women recorded the highest number of dependants, at 2.7. This is followed by Ghanaian Nationals (2.5) and internally trafficked victims at 2.0 on average (See Table 11).

Table 11: Respondents' dependants during trafficking by nationality and trafficking type (number).

		Mean	SD	N
Nationality	Ghanaian	2.5	1.9	17
	Other Nationals	2.7	1.9	23
Trafficking Type	Internal	2.0	0.6	6
	External	2.7	2.0	34
Total	Total	2.6	1.9	40

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Table 12 examines the ages of respondents' children, up to the respondent's third child. On average, the first child each respondent left behind or had during the time of trafficking was about 9 years old. The second was 8 years old on average and the third was about 7 years old on average. This suggests that many of the trafficked persons had kids who were still growing up and required parental care at the time of the victim's recruitment. There are slight differences between the ages of children by nationality and by trafficking type but are not significant (See Table 12).

Table 12: Age of respondents' children at the time they were trafficked.

		Variable	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
All respondents		First Child	57	8.5	4.6	2	23
		Second Child	25	8.0	4.0	2	18
		Third Child	9	5.9	4.6	0	14
Nationality	Ghanaian	First Child	29	9.7	4.9	3	23
		Second Child	15	8.6	4.2	4	18
		Third Child	5	5.2	5.4	0	14
	Non-Ghanaian	First Child	28	7.2	3.9	2	19
		Second Child	10	7.0	3.7	2	13
		Third Child	4	6.8	3.9	2	10
Trafficking Type	Internal	First Child	14	9.9	4.2	5	21
		Second Child	9	8.6	4.0	4	17
		Third Child	2	4.5	2.1	3	6
	External	First Child	43	8.0	4.6	2	23
		Second Child	16	7.6	4.1	2	18
		Third Child	7	6.3	5.1	0	14

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

#### 4.3 Characteristics of perpetrators and their firms

It is important to also understand how perpetrators operate (Table 13). Some of those interviewed were involved in more than one business or operated in only the sex industry. 56.25 per cent of perpetrators who were involved in more than one business, according to the victims surveyed, operated independently and about 19 per cent of them operated in groups. For those who were involved in the sex business only, 43.33 per cent did so independently and another 40 per cent operated with other people (See Table 13).

Table 13: Nature of operation by perpetrators (%).

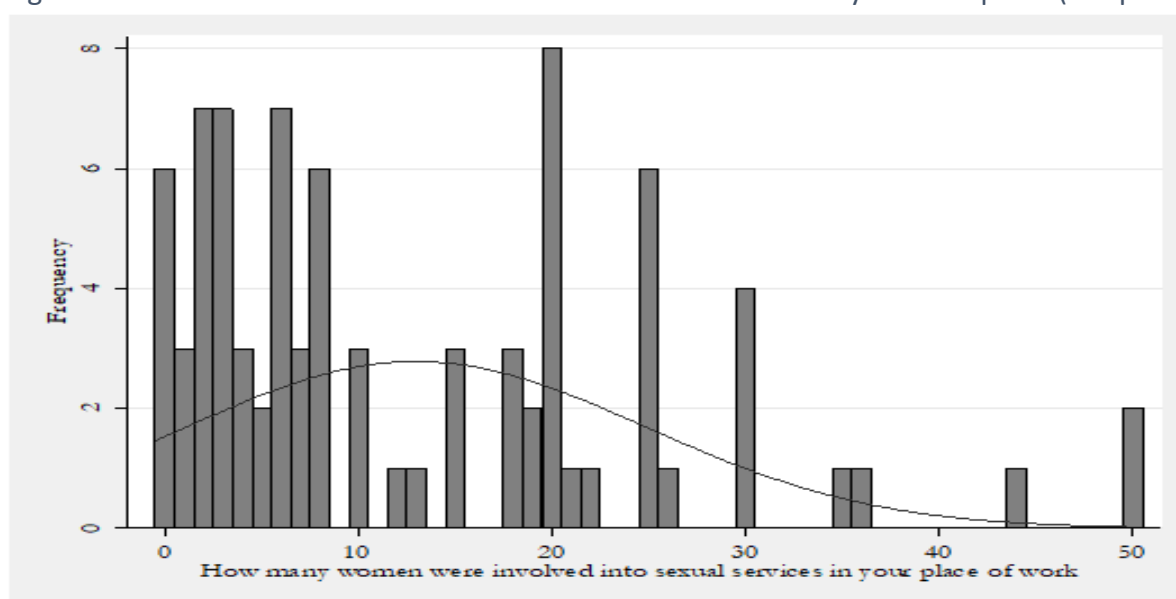
	Involved in other businesses	Involved in only sex industry	Don't know	Total
Operate independently	56.25	43.33	2.78	28.05
Operate with others	18.75	40	2.78	19.51
Don't know	25.00	16.67	94.44	52.44
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

This suggests that there is significant opportunity for perpetrators to mask their sex trafficking operations with other activities or with other people they work with. This is a challenge to law enforcement agencies since the complex structure of businesses and its employees make it difficult to isolate who is perpetrating the sex trafficking acts. The businesses owned by perpetrators ranged from boutiques, hairdressing salons, restaurants, pubs, catering services, transport businesses and travel and tour. In many instances, victims worked in these businesses during the day and were sexually exploited at night. Victims took strict instructions from perpetrators or their subordinates and reported to them. Because male perpetrators were mostly in total control of the victims, they forced and sexually assaulted victims. About 1 in 5 respondents were sexually assaulted by their bosses or “madams”.

Some of the establishments had as many as 5 victims. However, the number of women involved in sexual services per establishment typically ranged between 1 and 10, with the most common victim numbers per establishment standing at about 3 women (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Number of female victims involved in sexual services in your workplace (Frequency).



Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Table 14 examines the extent to which sexual violence was perpetrated against victims in the sample and the response or action taken by the trafficking group head against a client who perpetrated such violence. Even though most trafficking groups did not screen men for diseases, more than two-thirds of victims in the sample were forced to have sex with clients without condoms. Only 33.33 per cent of internally trafficked victims were forced to have sex without condoms, suggesting that internally trafficked victims within our sample faced a relatively lower risk in this regard. The trafficking group had substantial incentive to allow this practice of sex

without condoms to continue since clients paid more for it, as indicated by 46 per cent of victims interviewed.

From the sample, three out of every five victims indicated that they were physically abused by the men who came in for their services, and more than 70 per cent of victims indicated they were asked by clients to do sexual acts they did not want to do. Of those who were asked to perform these acts, 43 per cent had the permission of their “madams”/traffickers to refuse to perform those acts. For over 67 percent of victims, the sex acts were often violent and many (56.25%) of them thought at that time that they were going to be killed. Most trafficking groups did not take any measures to ensure the safety of victims. Only 13.41 per cent of these groups acted against a client who was violent towards the woman.<sup>15</sup>

**Table 14: Sexual violence perpetrated against victims (%).**

*Source:* Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

	<b>Ghanaians</b>	<b>Other Nationals</b>	<b>Internal</b>	<b>External</b>	<b>Total</b>
Were you ever forced to have sex with men without condom?	46.15	37.21	33.33	44.26	41.46
Did the men pay more having sex with you without condom?	46.15	45.45	57.14	41.94	45.78
Did the men ever hurt you?	74.36	45.45	61.9	58.06	59.04
Did the clients ask you to do things you did not want?	74.36	68.29	66.67	72.88	71.25
Did you have the right to refuse or choose to perform any of these acts?	37.93	50.00	57.14	39.53	43.86
Did the sex ever get violent?	69.23	66.67	57.14	71.67	67.9
Did you ever think you were going to be killed?	56.41	56.10	38.10	62.71	56.25
Did the establishment do anything to any man who was violent towards you?	5.13	20.93	0.00	18.03	13.41

#### 4.4 Incidence and prevalence

In Table 15, an attempt is made to examine the prevalence and incidence of AST in Ghana by region. Column (1) gives us an idea of the proportion of potential sex trafficked persons contacted by enumerators through snowballing who met the criteria of AST. That for each region, enumerators were directed to some potential victims by key informants but only a proportion of those recommended as victims turned out to have been trafficked for sex. To put the discussions here in context, although this estimation may give as an idea of prevalence, it might have some errors since the sample sizes used were quite small in many instances and the reliability of key informants’ information will vary across regions and cannot be controlled for. Nevertheless, this might be a first step in examining the prevalence of AST as it tells us how easily it is to find a victim. For example, in the eastern region where key informants gave names of 8 potential victims, they all turned out to be victims. That is 100 per cent of all the respondents contacted were victims. On the other hand, in the Ashanti Region where 20 victims were contacted, only 5 (25%) turned out to be victims.

<sup>15</sup> In the instances where pimps took action against violent clients, physically pushing the client out of the facility and forbidding them to return.

Columns (2) to (7) represent the views of various institutions and individuals who rated the prevalence and incidence of adult sex trafficking in their regions. There are three colour coding for each of three broad categories of prevalence and incidence. The first colour which is red, represent increasing incidence. The yellow colour represents stable prevalence. Third, green colour represents the decreasing prevalence. Overall, different key informants presented different views about the prevalence situation in regions. The divergent information provided by different key informants by region limits the potential for the consultants to make direct conclusions in terms of regional prevalence and leaves the question open for further research (Table 15).

Table 14: Incidence and prevalence of AST by Region.

Region	Snowballing Results (%) (1)	GPS (2)	GIS (3)	DSW (4)	FFGD (5)	MFGD (6)	Perpetrator (7)
Ashanti	25.00						
Brong Ahafo	46.15						
Central	NA						
Eastern	100.00						
Greater Accra	NA						
Northern	61.11						
Upper East	38.89						
Upper West	42.86						
Volta	94.44						
Western	63.16						

Source: Generated from TIPS field Survey and Interviews, 2019.

## 4.5 Operations of sex traffickers in Ghana

### 4.5.1 Recruitment

Out of the 83 respondents, only one victim suggested that she got into the sex industry on her own volition. The remaining 82 were all brought into sex business by someone else. For those who were brought into the industry by someone else, friends and neighbours were the most frequent recruiters (nearly 60%), followed by strangers (23%) and Businesses/Agents (10%) (Table 16; Col III).

Table 15: Recruiters of victims of sexual trafficking into the sex industry by nationality and type of trafficking (%).

	Nationality		Trafficking Type		Total % (N)
	Ghanaians	Other Nationals	Internal	Cross Border	
Employment Type	I		II		III
Friend/ Neighbour	55.6	63.64	80.00	53.23	59.76 (49)
Stranger	23.68	22.73	15.00	25.81	23.17 (19)
Business/ Agency	13.16	6.82	0.00	12.9	9.76 (8)
Family Member	5.26	4.55	5.00	4.84	4.88 (4)
Print Media	2.63	2.27	0.00	3.23	2.44 (2)
Total	100	100	100	100	100 (82)

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

This observation was corroborated by some victims who shared their stories on how they got into the sex trafficking business, shown in Box 1.

**Box 1: Victims' Recruitment Experience**

*"So na my friend, na him direct me for here so I no no say na dis work wey I dey work."*

- (32 years, previously a hairdresser and currently unemployed, AR).

*"I met this friend of mine who says she lives at Togo and so I visited her, she gave me money and bought things for me, so she later on introduced me to the night business, so I went there to stay with her."*

- (45 years, previously a hairdresser, still a hairdresser and prostitute, VR).

*"One day I was sitting here and this man was passing and he approached me and told me I looked like someone he knew in Canada. And I told him I have never been to Canada before. He asked if I had a passport and I told him I didn't have one. And he told me that something was telling him to help me and that I needed to do my passport because he wanted to send me to Lebanon."*

- (28 years, previously unemployed).

*"But for her, she told me that an agent had told her of job openings in Dubai."*

- (28 years, previously an apprentice hairdresser, now a hairdresser, BAR).

Source: TIPS Study 2019 Field Interviews.

Table 17 presents survey respondents who were trafficked with others and examines the number of individuals they were trafficked with. Overall, the average victim was usually trafficked with 5 others. Ghanaians are usually trafficked with up to 7 others while other nationals are trafficked with about 3 additional people. Internally trafficked people are usually moved in bigger groups (up to 7) compared to cross-border victims, who are moved in groups of 5.

Table 16: Number of female victims trafficked with respondents.

		Mean	SD	N	P-value
Nationality	Ghanaian	6.9	6.1	21	
	Other nationals	3.61	3.37	31	0.0157
Trafficking Type	Internal	6.7	7.09	10	
	External	4.52	4.22	42	0.2094
Total		4.94	4.89	52	

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Views from 83 victims interviewed show that the other trafficked women in the victims' company could be higher than the averages indicated in Table 17 from the survey. Two victims of Ghanaian origin had different experiences as spelt out below:

*"Ooow, we were many; with me inclusive we were 7", (28 - years, BAR).*

*"We were about 16", (28-year old victim, CR).*

#### 4.6 Contracts, conditions and promised benefits



About 27 per cent of respondents signed some form of contract or a verbal agreement with their recruiters, establishing terms of agreement. The remaining 73 per cent either had no contract or simply followed their friends. For victims who had no specific agreement, they knew their traffickers quite well, and were primarily motivated by the desire for better economic opportunities. These contracts covered a period of approximately 20 months on average. Out of 83 arrangements of all types (verbal or written contracts), 71 came with monetary promises to the potential victim from the trafficker, with an average monthly monetary promise of GHS 3,115.67. There were some slight differences between different subgroups of victims in terms of money promised, but there were no significant differences by nationality or trafficking type (See Table 18).

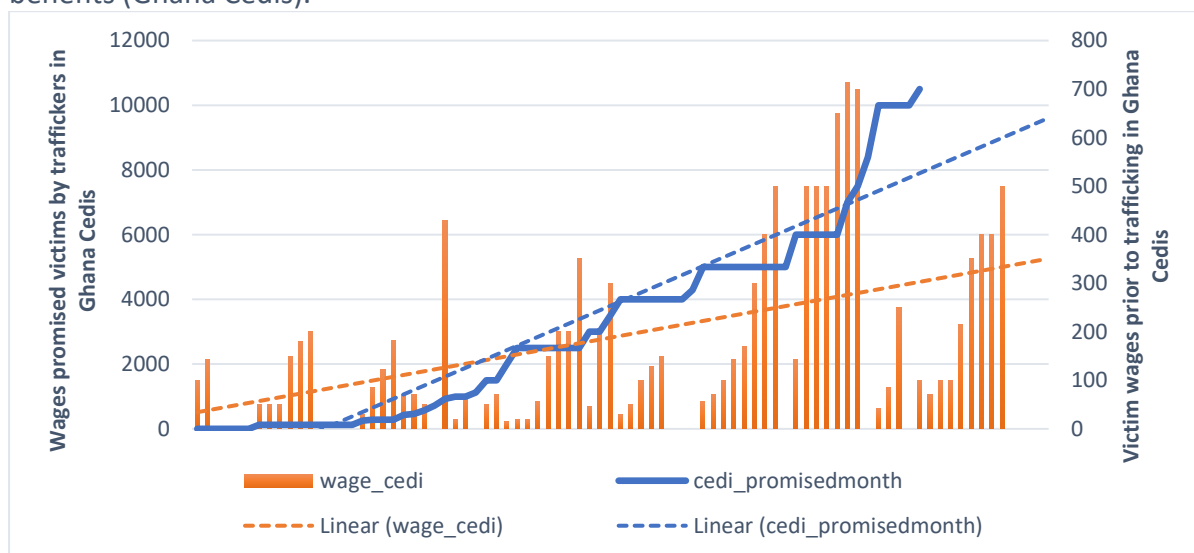
Table 17: Amount of money promised victims prior to being trafficked (in Ghana Cedis).

		Mean	SD	N	P-value
Nationality	Ghanaian	3002.9	2999.24	31	0.5726
	Other nationals	3202.07	2995.44	41	
Trafficking Type	Internal	2782.63	2602.87	19	0.781
	External	3237.36	3117.54	52	
Total		3115.67	2977.29	71	

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Figure 6 examines the relationship between monthly earnings of victims prior to trafficking and the amount of money promised by traffickers. The data indicates a general positive correlation between the two variables, as the amount of money promised to victims mostly increased relative to victims' earnings before trafficking. Individuals who earned more were convinced by a higher monetary promise before being trafficked and vice versa.<sup>16</sup>

Figure 6: Relationship between victim wage prior to trafficking and promised monetary benefits (Ghana Cedis).



Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Table 19 examines the ratio between monetary promises made to the victims and the wages they earned before being trafficked. It is instructive to note that the offerings made by traffickers were on average about 36 times greater than the amount victims earned before being trafficked.

<sup>16</sup> A pairwise correlation between the two variables yielded a correlation co-efficient of 0.3848.

This suggests that traffickers ensure that their monetary promises to victims are attractive enough to lure the victims into AST, and that the amount promised may be irrational since they do not intend fulfilling the promise. The differences in these ratios by nationality and type of trafficking were not significant.

Table 18: Ratio between promised money and wage earnings of respondents prior to trafficking

		Mean	SD	N	P-value
Nationality	Ghanaian	32.18	42.15	27	0.5973
	Other nationals	38.96	51.76	28	
Trafficking Type	Internal	46.79	49.16	16	0.2631
	External	31.05	45.91	39	
Total		35.63	46.97	55	

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Aside from the monetary promise made to victims, more than half of the respondents (54%) were also given some non-monetary promises, such as accommodation (86%), food (27%), clothing (11%), health care (9%) and mobile phones (7%).

Several victims or their family members were also asked to make monetary commitments prior to the journey. In this regard, 32.5 per cent<sup>17</sup> of victims had to pay some money to the perpetrators prior to transferring, with the average being over 2,000 GHS (Table 20). There was no significant difference in the amount paid by nationality or trafficking type, although externally trafficked persons seem to have paid more.

Table 19: Amount paid by victims to perpetrators prior to trafficking (Ghana Cedis).

		N	Mean	SD	P-value
Nationality	Ghanaian	13	2238.81	2626.56	0.188
	Other nationals	14	1891.91	2063.51	
Trafficking Type	Internal	4	637.5	359.11	0.7048
	External	23	2306.14	2422.22	
Total		27	2058.94	2311.78	

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

These observations are similar to the experiences of some of the victims interviewed. The initial understanding of the promised work was far from reality as show in Box 2.

<sup>17</sup> In other words, 67.5 per cent of the victims did not pay anything to their perpetrators prior to their transfer.

**Box 2: Victims' Initial Understanding of the Work Promised, Terms of Engagement and Payment**

*"This man didn't tell me I was going to do sex work. he wasn't truthful with me. I did not sign any contract with him. He helped me to do my passport and he told me he had spent a lot of money on my documents."*

- (28-year old, unemployed victim, GAR).

*"She told us that, each one of us will receive a salary of about 12 million Cedis every month. Not knowing, she was lying. She took us there and she was being paid here in Ghana. She informed us she was sending us to Libya to go and learn hair dressing. She used her own money for the police report. She used her own money for the passports. When we arrived, at our destination, she took us to shop for clothes. bags and everything we will need. She will tell you that she used her own money to sponsor your travel and that you still owe her some money. She did not come out to state the amount. All she said was that, before I will receive my passport, I must pay off all my debts."*

- (28-year old, previously a trader, now unemployed, CR).

*"A friend of mine told me to come with her to Tarkwa to do "galamsey" so I came with her and she then told me that we should do prostitution because that's the work we are here to do. We signed a contract because she said I might not be trustworthy and might not pay the money and might also go and tell people about it so there is a river nearby.... She was the one who paid for my transportation."*

- (32-year old, previously farming, internally trafficked by a friend, WR).

*"No, there wasn't any kind of agreement or understanding whatsoever, normally she introduces me as her first daughter."*

- (45- year old, engaged in prostitution, VR).

*"I signed a contract here in Ghana before leaving and upon reaching there, I signed another one. As for our feeding and accommodation expenses, he bore all of them. Concerning our feeding, he (the agent) was feeding us and catering for our expenses. He said my monthly salary will be GH¢1,200.00 so that GH¢1,200.00 can defray all the costs I will incur here in Ghana."*

- (28-year old, hairdresser. BAR)

Source: TIPS Study 2019 Field Interviews.

#### 4.7 Trends and consequences in adult sex trafficking in Ghana

Given that trafficked victims are often denied freedom while with the perpetrator, Table 21 considers issues of victims' freedom and safety. For all the victims who responded, 41 per cent indicated that they had some level of freedom after being trafficked; thirty-one per cent (31%) were allowed contact with family and friends; and more than half (56%) could find additional employment elsewhere.

A potential effect of this lack of freedom is for victims to be harmed, beaten or killed. Victims were, therefore, asked whether they knew of other victims being beaten or harmed. It was found that about one out of every two victims knew someone who had been beaten or harmed. On the other hand, just about one out of every four victims had ever heard of victims being killed.

Table 20: Freedom and safety of respondents (proportion).

	Ghanaian	Other Nationals	Internal	External	All	N
In your opinion did you have freedom?	0.36	0.46	0.43	0.41	0.41	80
Were you allowed contact with family or friends?	0.26	0.37	0.38	0.29	0.31	34
Were you free to find employment anywhere?	0.5	0.6	0.56	0.56	0.56	80
Did you witness others being harmed or beaten?	0.54	0.47	0.62	0.46	0.5	82
Did you ever see or hear anyone being killed?	0.23	0.26	0.10	0.3	0.25	81

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

To understand the extent of victims being harmed or beaten, respondents were asked of the number of times they heard of such abuse in Table 21. On average, each victim reported hearing more than three instances of another victim being beaten or harmed while in the sex trade. This number was larger for Ghanaian nationals (4.71) than the Other Nationals (2.68). Externally trafficked women knew of more women being beaten or harmed (4.47) than internally trafficked victims (1.85). This suggests that internally trafficked women may be operating in a safer environment than those who are trafficked abroad.

Table 21: Number of women whom respondents witnessed or heard were beaten or harmed.

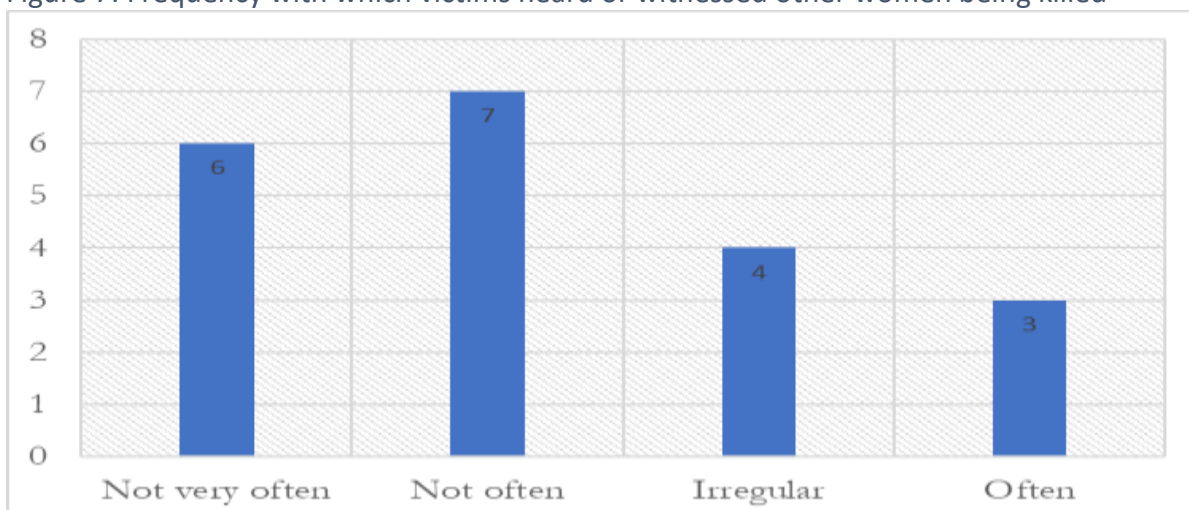
		Mean	SD	N
Nationality	Ghanaian	4.71	6.72	21
	Other nationals	2.68	2.87	22
Trafficking Type	Internal	1.85	0.99	13
	External	4.47	6.00	30
Total		3.67	5.16	43

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Respondents who said they knew of other women being killed in the sex industry were asked of the frequency of such occurrences. Their responses are outlined in

Figure 7. More than half of the respondents (13 out of 20) suggested that it was either not very often or not often. Four out of the twenty also suggested that it was irregular. There were, however, three individuals who stated that the incidence was often.

Figure 7: Frequency with which victims heard or witnessed other women being killed



Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

A victim typically served more than 5 clients a day, while internally trafficked victims served over 6 clients daily (see Table 23). Because of the stresses and strains that come with this level of activity per day, many of the victims attempted escaping or adopted some coping mechanisms (Table 24). Typically, victims used drugs, alcohol or some medication to cope (approximately 7 out of 10 victims in sample). Despite these coping strategies, some victims (53%) in some instances tried to escape or leave the industry.

Table 22: Respondents' daily number of clients.

		Mean	SD	N	P-value
Nationality	Ghanaian	5.38	4.03	39	0.9163
	Other nationals	5.49	4.68	41	
Trafficking Type	Internal	6.33	3.93	21	0.2744
	External	5.12	4.48	59	
Total		5.44	4.35	80	

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

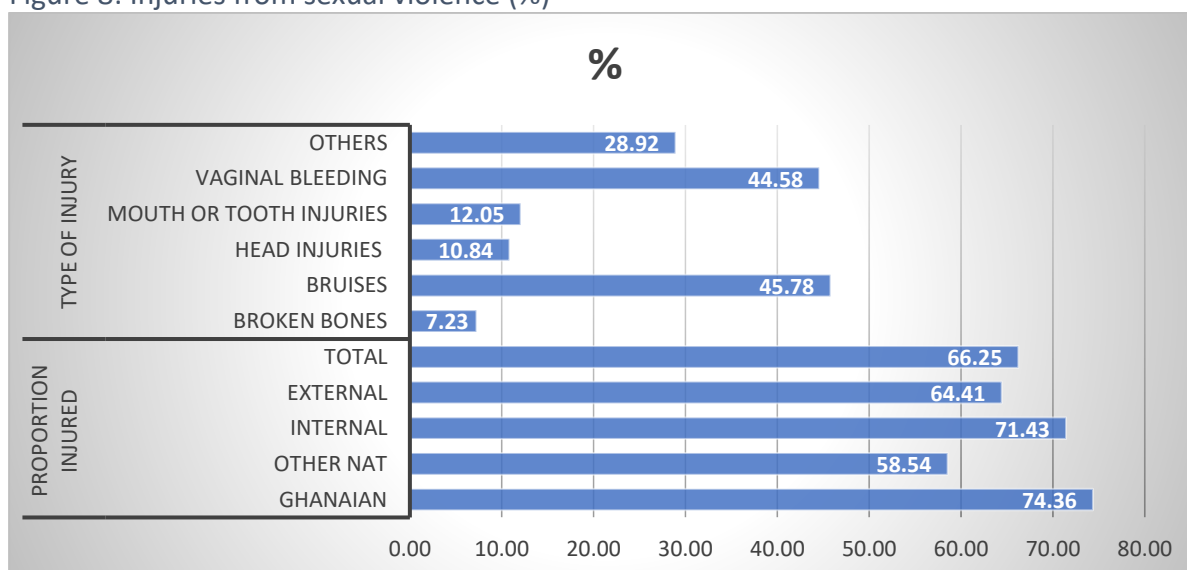
Table 23: Coping mechanisms and escape from the industry (proportion).

	Ghanaian	Other Nationals	Internal	External	All	N
Did you ever use alcohol or take medication?	0.5897	0.7317	0.7317	0.6780	0.6625	80
Did you ever try to escape/ leave this industry?	0.6923	0.3902	0.6190	0.5085	0.5375	80

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

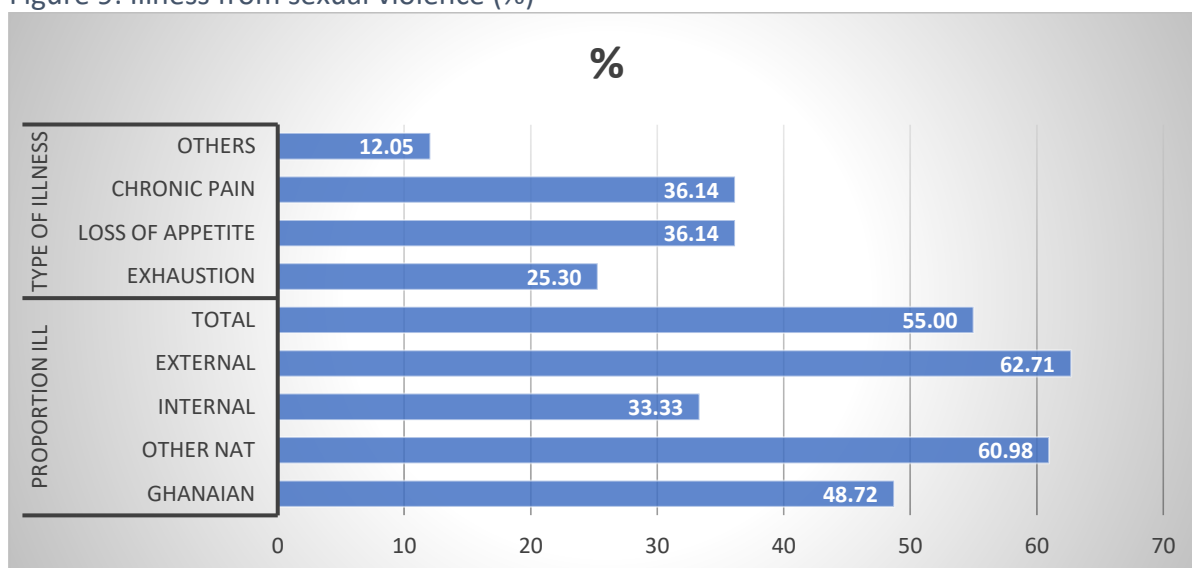
The sexual violence perpetuated against trafficked victims has resulted in injuries and illnesses (Figure 8 and Figure 9). Ghanaian nationals are the most affected by injuries resulting from sexual violence (about 72%). The most common injury suffered by all trafficked women is vaginal bleeding (Figure 8). On the other hand, externally trafficked victims are the most likely group to get ill after sexual violence (63%) and common illnesses affecting them is chronic pain and loss of appetite (35%) (Figure 9).

Figure 8: Injuries from sexual violence (%)



Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Figure 9: Illness from sexual violence (%)



Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

As demonstrated in Figure 8 and Figure 9, sexually trafficked victims may sustain injuries or become ill, which can have repercussions long after the abuse has occurred. There is a risk of victims contracting sexually transmitted infections and/or becoming pregnant. Their access to health care services during their exploitation is considered in Table 22. Less than 40 per cent of victims visited the hospital while in the sex trade. More than 85 per cent of them knew about birth control and emergency contraception and 75.90 per cent of them used birth control methods at some point. Up to 31 per cent of the victims contracted sexually transmitted diseases. Close to 50 per cent of them experienced bleeding, itching and burning sensations during intercourse. About 84 per cent had information about sexually transmitted infection and a similar proportion (80.72%) had been tested for HIV/AIDS. About 18 per cent of victims got pregnant while in the trade and about 87 per cent of these either willingly aborted or were forced to abort (See Table 25). This indicates that although the incidence of pregnancy is relatively low, a substantial proportion of victims who get pregnant undergo abortions.

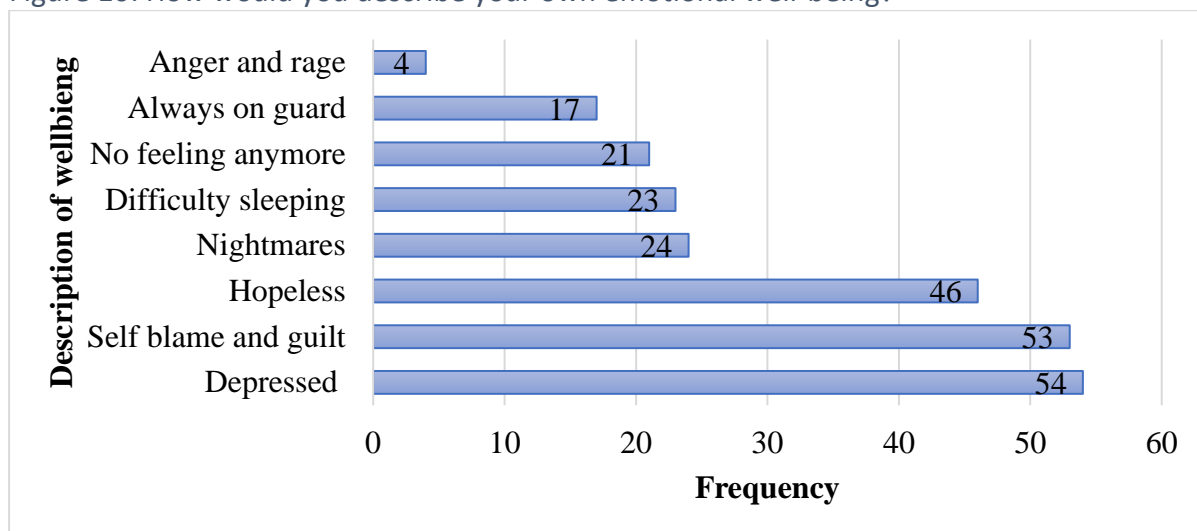
Table 24: Health of victims and their health care seeking behaviour (%)

	Ghanaians	Other Nationals	Internal	External	Total
Did you have to go to the emergency room/ hospital?	38.46	39.02	28.57	42.37	38.75
While in the industry did you know about birth control and infection prevention?	87.18	83.72	85.71	85.25	85.37
Did you use any form of birth control at that point?	64.1	86.36	71.43	77.42	75.9
Did you ever have any sexually transmitted infections?	23.08	39.02	19.05	35.59	31.25
Did you have any symptoms? (e.g. bleeding during intercourse, itching, burning?)	51.28	44.19	33.33	52.46	47.56
Were you ever told that you might get HIV or other sexually transmitted infection?	82.05	86.36	85.71	83.87	84.34
Have you ever been tested for HIV or any other disease?	74.36	86.36	61.9	87.1	80.72
Did you ever get pregnant while in the industry?	17.95	18.18	14.29	19.35	18.07
Any abortion/ were forced to abort?	100	75	100	83.33	86.67

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Within the context of sexual violence, exploitation and lack of freedom, victims were asked to describe their own emotional well-being. The most common state in which the victims found themselves was depression (54% of respondents). Some either had a self-blame attitude, believing that they were at fault for the situation they found themselves in (53%) or felt hopeless (46%). Others could not sleep (24%) because of nightmares and were always on guard – perhaps for fear of being re-trafficked. In a checklist provided for participants, more than 20 per cent victims indicated they no longer had any feelings and about 5 per cent felt full of rage and anger (see Figure 10).

Figure 10: How would you describe your own emotional well-being?



Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

Institutional support to victims is key to helping them cope with injuries, illnesses and lack of freedom. Table 26 presents the percentage of victims who contacted health, law enforcement and social service institutions, and the outcomes of these efforts. Overall, 52.5 per cent had access to medical examination while being trafficked. 19.5 per cent of victims were referred to social services from the hospital and only 17.07 per cent of them were referred to social services from the police station. One in five victims were forced to have sexual intercourse with a policeman in return for assistance. Very few of the respondents (7.23%) had to deal with immigration services and rarely appeared before courts. None of the victims who dealt with immigration services were ever referred to any social service by immigration officials (see Table 26).

Table 25: Dealings with health and law enforcement agencies (%).

	Ghanaians	Other Nationals	Internal	External	Total	N
Did you have access to medical examination while in the trafficking situation?	43.59	60.98	47.62	54.24	52.50	80
Were you ever referred to any social services from the hospital?	17.95	20.98	19.05	19.67	19.51	82
Were you ever referred to any social services from the police station?	17.95	16.228	14.29	18.08	17.01	82
Did you ever have to have sex with any police officer in exchange for assistance?	20.51	22.73	10.05	22.58	21.69	83
Have you ever had to deal with immigration?	10.26	4.55	0.00	9.68	7.73	6

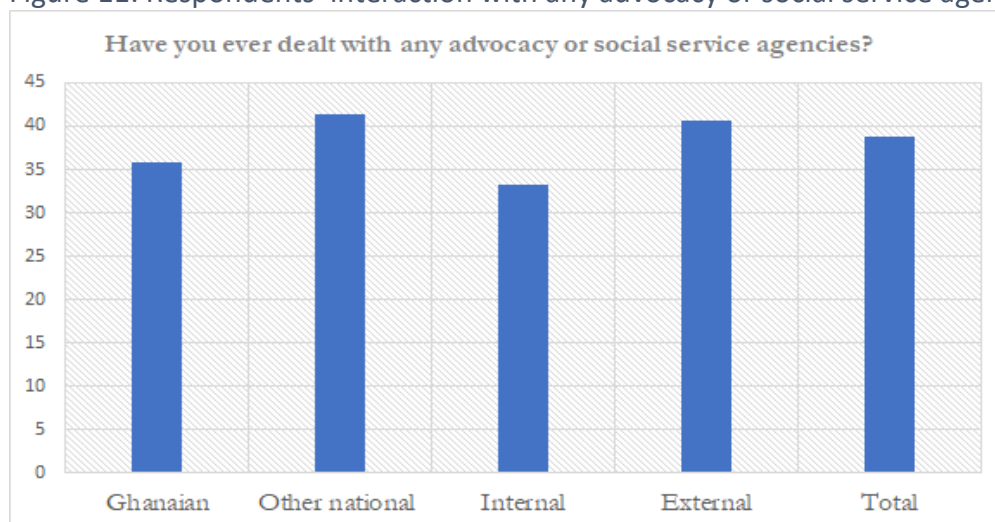


Were you required to appear in court?	0.00	0.00	-	0	0.00	6
Were you informed of your right?	0.00	50	-	16.67	16.67	6
Was information presented to you in a way that you could understand?	25	0.00	-	16.67	16.67	6
Were you ever referred to any social services from immigration?	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	6
Did you ever have to have sex with any immigration agent in exchange for assistance?	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	6

Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

On average, nearly four out of every ten victims reported having interacted with an advocacy agency or social services after being trafficked. Other Nationals were more likely to have encountered these agencies than Ghanaian nationals. Similarly, externally trafficked women had a higher chance of accessing these agencies than internally trafficked victims (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Respondents' interaction with any advocacy or social service agencies.



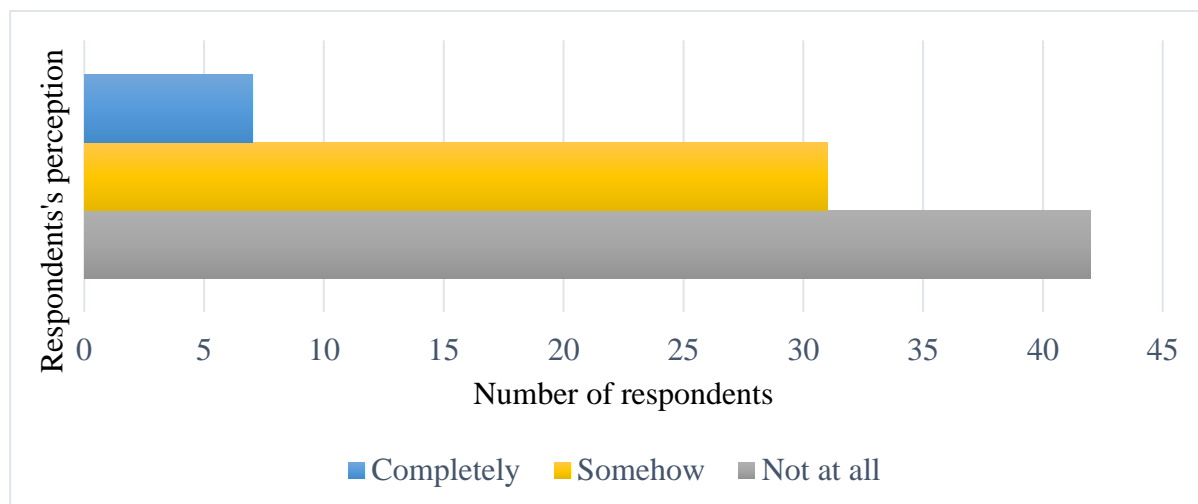
Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.



#### 4.9 Outlook of victims

Figure 12 presents respondents' perception of the adequacy of the laws governing trafficking crimes. More than two out of every five victims believed that the laws are not adequate at all.

Figure 12: Respondents' perception on the adequacy of anti-trafficking laws.



Source: Generated from TIPS field survey, 2019.

## CHAPTER 5: SITUATIONAL ANALYSES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

### 5.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the current state of AST in Ghana at the regional level is examined, based on the data obtained through interviews, discussions and survey in the respective regions. In each region, the perpetrators and victims are characterized, and the incidence and prevalence levels assessed. Additionally, internal (domestic) and cross-border (external – Ghanaians sent abroad, or other nationals brought into Ghana) trafficking trends, methods used by traffickers, factors promoting AST and the consequences of AST by region are discussed. Although some of the occurrences across regions may be similar, it is still useful to highlight these as well as the differences to broaden the understanding of the AST phenomenon for evidence-based action. The regional perspectives are presented in the subsequent sections.

### 5.1 Western Region

#### 5.1.1 Perpetrators and victims

##### *i. Perpetrators*

In the Western Region, most perpetrators are Ghanaians or Nigerians. They are of both sexes with a large proportion known to be adult female “*madams*” who control the victims. They are between the ages of 35 and 40 years on average. However, some of the perpetrators are also young women – as young as 20 years of age. These young women have been able to recruit their friends into the business after serving their “term” under a “*madam*”. In most cases, these women are very matured in their dealings and present themselves as classy and successful and take advantage of the victims’ vulnerability. They give the victims an offer and introduce them to the work, then take a percentage from their daily earnings.

However, in the recruitment process, victims are mostly received and transported to the “*madams*” (female pimps) by adult male perpetrators. From the interviews in the region, these perpetrators are either friends of the victims, third-party agents or long-distance drivers who work across Ghana and neighbouring countries. For example, these drivers and/or mates are those who travel through the Abidjan-Accra-Lagos routes. They traffic young women and sometimes school-going children to Accra and Abidjan.

##### *ii. Victims*

Interviews indicate that victims of sex trafficking in the Western Region are usually young girls seeking better living conditions. They usually come from broken homes, are indebted or do not know about the real intentions that recruiters may have. Thus, they are lured and subsequently trafficked into the sex trade. Some of these young girls have been involved in the business for a very long time. A relative of a victim in one of the interviews noted that his sister was involved in the sex trade for nearly a decade:

*“...my sister was trafficked to Côte d'Ivoire at around 26-27 years. When she came back, she was around 36-37 years. Almost 10 years after.” (Male FGD).*

This suggests that the victims are usually in their 20s. This assertion was also supported by participants in the female FGD in the region. According to them, victims are usually within the

ages of 18 and 23 years with little or no education. Younger victims are perceived by key informants to make up a larger proportion of AST persons. Some of these trafficked victims had apprenticeship training in various vocations such as hairdressing and dressmaking. However, the income they were generating from these businesses was quite low, leading them to search for better business opportunities and often into the hands of traffickers.

The clients to whom victims render services are of different geographic and ethnic backgrounds. Beyond Ghanaian nationals, there are also foreigners including Chinese and Lebanese nationals. One of the victims interviewed also stated that police personnel (including one CID officer who was one of her most frequent clients) make up a significant proportion of clients. According to her:

*“...for the police people when they come over to sleep with you, they pay you very well and treat you better than the others.” (Victim, Western Region).*

#### *5.1.2 Incidence and prevalence*

The interviews with the various stakeholders involved in the sex trade prevention show that generally, trafficking is very prevalent in the Western Region and seems to be increasing in prevalence and complexity. In the region, some of the perpetrators own small businesses like restaurants, hairdressing salons or boutiques. Female perpetrators are older women who were once in the business and have recruited younger victims. They are usually called “*madam*” by these victims and operate in the form of a cartel with network locations across the region and some scattered locations across the country and sub-region. In their network, different participants undertake different duties, as demonstrated by the participant quoted below:

*“...you realize that somebody recruits the person, somebody transports, somebody harbours, somebody picks the person. It’s like a chain sort of.” (Interview with GIS, Western Region).*

Traffickers provide victims with needed services (acquisition of travel documents, transportation cost, accommodation at destination) in the beginning, and later ask them to pay a fixed amount of money for a period before these young girls can get their freedom. Some are asked to pay amounts ranging from as little as GHS1,000 to as much as GHS8,000 before they can gain their freedom to either go back to their countries or remain in their current location without the recruiter’s interference. One respondent in an interview said:

*“...My lady friend, they’ve charged her GHS5,000 or GHS6,000. She has to finish paying before they let her go.” (Female FGD, Western Region).*

Other victims pay daily rates to their recruiters – between GHS25 and GHS50. Consequently, these young ladies become recruiters after clearing their debts with their “*madams*” to remain in the familiar business and earn money by exploiting the others.

According to the interviews with GIS, GPS and some NGOs, trafficking is prevalent in the “*galamsey*” (illegal mining) communities such as Tarkwa, Prestea and Huni Valley. These “*galamsey*” communities play a two-way role in the sex trade in the region. First, sex work is lucrative around those areas because mine workers have money to spend. Secondly, the “*galamsey*” business seems to be declining due to police-military raids, resulting in some female *galamsey* miners transitioning into the sex trafficking business to augment their income. The other communities where victims are trafficked into are Nsuaem, Abooso, Bogoso Daman,

Akropong and Asankragua. According to the GPS, New Takoradi, Vienna City, Sekondi Beach are additional places where the sex trade is thriving. Some victims are brought in from as far as Tamale in the Northern Region. In addition to this, the high prevalence of “ghettos”<sup>18</sup> in the communities have been identified as a major factor contributing to the increasing incidence and prevalence of sex trafficking.

Trafficked individuals are known to cause societal unrest in the communities they work in. Some fight with their male clients for non-payment for services, while others are alleged make a lot of noise and disturbances in the neighbourhoods in which they live. In one of the interviews, a respondent complained that:

*“...sometimes too they play loud music, dance and will be shouting and then everybody will come out of their rooms to watch them ... they quarrel among themselves.” (Male FGD, Western Region).*

### *5.1.3 Domestic and transnational trends*

In the Western Region, internal AST cases are generally predominant in communities where illegal mining thrives. Aside from having a high incidence and prevalence of sex trafficking, mining communities also act as source communities from which victims are trafficked to other regions within the country. Generally, when the mining business goes down within a community, traffickers are sometimes forced to send their victims to other cities and towns in the country. The main destinations are Accra in the Greater Accra Region and Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. Beyond the region, the sex trafficking business is interconnected with other large communities and towns across the country, to an extent. These communities serve as transit points and temporary destinations where trafficked persons are initiated into the sex trade before being transported into communities and towns in the Western Region. According to one of the NGOs interviewed:

*“When the person is brought new, they let the person start the prostitution in Accra before they are transferred to other places.” (Interview with an NGO, Western Region).*

On the transnational front, the Western Region serves as a source of and destination for trafficked women. As a source, trafficked women from the region mostly end up in Côte d'Ivoire, with others transported to Cameroun, Kuwait, Liberia, Ukraine, and United Arab Emirates. As a destination region for transnational victims, most of them come from Nigeria. A large proportion of traffickers are Nigerians who operate small businesses and use these businesses as a cover to traffic young women into the region with a promise of employment. At some points, some victims manage to escape from their destinations and are later aided to return to their home communities, either within or outside Ghana. However, some do not manage to escape and spend most of their time in locked rooms, where they are fed daily and only allowed out to service male clients. In such cases, their passports are seized and the money they earn is largely taken by the trafficker. According to the GIS representative interviewed:

*“...most of the cases that we have handled here are transnational, in terms of their movements. You will scarcely find Ghanaians; a lot of the cases are from Nigeria. We have specific area, Edo State, where they come from.” (GIS Interview, Western Region).*

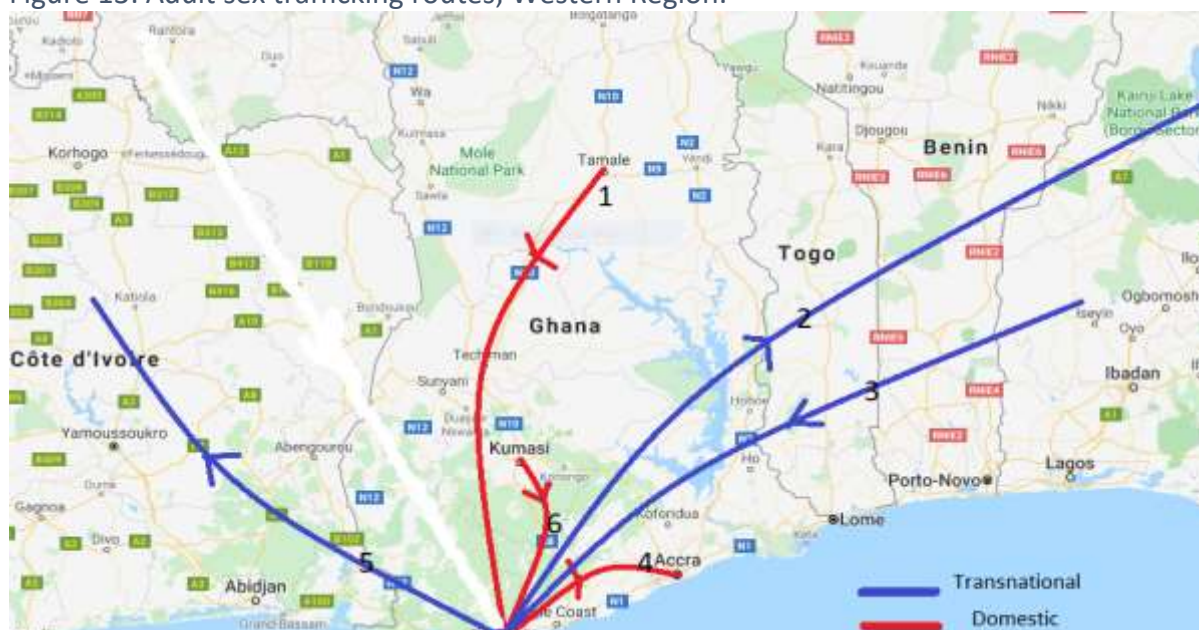
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<sup>18</sup> a part of a city, especially a slum area, occupied by a minority group or groups.

Thus, 10 out of 12 VoTs surveyed in the Western Region were of other nationalities.

Figure 13 is a map showing how the victims of sex trafficking are moved into and out of the Western Region. The blue arrows show the movement of the victims across the boundaries of Ghana (cross-border or external trafficking) and the red arrows shows how they are moved domestically (internal trafficking). Arrow 1 shows the movement of victims from the Northern Region of Ghana to the Western Region specifically Takoradi. Arrow 2 shows how they are moved from Takoradi to the Gulf Region of Kuwait, Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In Arrow 3 which is also cross-border trafficking, the victims are brought in from Nigeria into the mining areas of the Western Region. On the other hand, arrow 4 shows how some victims are transported from the Western Region to the Greater Accra Region. Arrow 5 shows how other victims are moved to Côte d'Ivoire from the Western Region of Ghana.

Figure 13: Adult sex trafficking routes, Western Region.



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interviews, 2019.

#### 5.1.4 Methods used by traffickers

##### i. Recruitment methods

Most of the perpetrators employ complex methods for recruiting victims, away from the radar of security personnel. In the Western Region, traffickers showcase signs of affluence and wealth to recruit young girls, most of whom come from rural communities. Victims who are lured with false employment opportunities are often brought to towns far from their communities, where it is difficult for the victims to find their way back. This is demonstrated by what one victim had to say about their circumstance:

*"...I am a Nigerian... Somebody brought me to Ghana come. She said she had a supermarket in Ghana in which I could work. When I followed her here, it was a different story. She did not have a supermarket, she rather used me for sex work until I was able to pay her 5,000 Ghana Cedis. So, I am a "madam" now. I finished serving her in 2016 and started bringing my own girls. I brought three girls, one of them run away but I still have two of them. The two have serve me GHS1,500 each so far." (Perpetrator Interview, Western Region).*

At the domestic level, it is reported that recruitment is very lucrative for traffickers, as each recruited victim is used to recruit more and more individuals:

*"I am 32 years. I and my mother were farming and a friend of mine told me to come with her to Tarkwa to do "galamsey" so I came with her and she then told me that we should do prostitution because that's the work we are here to do." (Victim Interview, Western Region).*

Some of the trafficked women are made to serve their "madams" for a period with a stipulated amount to pay at given intervals. Later, when these ladies go back to their communities of origin, they bring gifts, money and items so they are perceived to be gainfully employed. In this regard, other young unsuspecting girls (some as young as 15) who want to be like them easily fall prey to recruitment. One of the NGOs interviewed reported that some underage child victims are disguised as adults:

*"...what they do nowadays is that they let the children wear wigs to look matured, so when you see them, you might not be able to tell." (NGO1 Interview, Western Region).*

They are then brought into the Western Region and forced into the sex trade for survival. To avoid them easily running away or reporting to the police, the girls are sometimes compelled to swear an oath of secrecy using river gods. According to one of the victims interviewed, she had to swear by a river called "Nana Peepee". In her narration, she stated that:

*"...you will go to the river and swear that, I will pay the money and I won't run away or tell anybody." (Victim Interview, Western Region).*

At the transnational level, most traffickers do not travel with the victims, especially if the risk of interception by the GIS or GPS is high. Victims are instead coached as to what to say when they meet a policeman. The recruiter may often travel at a safe distance from victims to avoid detection as well. Victims are therefore often given a contact number to call after crossing the border, or the contact number is provided to the driver or agent transporting the victims; once victims reach their destination, they can call to be picked up. Therefore, these recruiters are sometimes the drivers who work in the region, especially between Ghana and Nigeria. The drivers or mates either directly lure victims into the country or transport them to other countries such as Côte d'Ivoire. In the same way, there are other drivers who act as agents alongside the main traffickers coordinating between the destination and source countries. As noted by a participant in an FGD, sometimes:

*"...Some of the children too are kidnapped from school to here. Because you will see their school uniforms inside their school bags." (Female FGD, Western Region).*

With regards to victims trafficked internationally, especially those transported to Dubai and Kuwait, perpetrators will often pay for victims' travel documents at their own expense. This raises the victims' expectations, giving them the impression that their recruitment is legitimate.

## *ii. Transporting and transferring*

The main means of transport for victims from the Western Region is by bus. Victims are sometimes trafficked through the border towns of Aflao in the Volta Region through Elubo to Abidjan. It was observed that due to the ECOWAS Protocol on free movement of goods and people, mobility across neighbouring countries is easy. Security checkpoints only require IDs and not necessarily passports. In numerous cases, according to the interviews with GIS, the



perpetrators use their IDs to enter Ghana along with recruited victims. This is easily done by the long-distance drivers and/or mates who traffic the young women in their vehicles. When they arrive, the victims are then handed over to awaiting vehicles, which transport them from the border town to their destinations. Across West Africa, these border towns are usually Lomé in Togo and Aflao in Ghana.

### *iii. Location of victims*

Most of the victims trafficked into the Western Region are housed in selected hotels and guesthouses in the community in question. Owners of these hotels and guesthouses are sometimes known to have a long-standing relationship with perpetrators. One popular hotel identified was the Zenith hotel in Takoradi. There are others located in Kwesimintim in the Zongo area and another in Dotey where the trafficked women are accommodated. The rooms are rented out to these young women through their “madams”.

Victims are usually forced to work by the roadside in the evening and return the morning after. Sometimes, some of these victims are invited to either clients’ houses or other hotels where clients are staying. A single sex worker can have between 5 and 10 customers per day, and the cost of sex could range between GHS 20 to GHS 50 per client. Some clients pay extra if they request for additional sex services which require more time or stay overnight in a client’s house during the parties. In such instances the charges may range between GHS 100 and GHS 200.

#### *5.1.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Western Region*

Across almost all interviews conducted, a lack of financial support due to poverty emerged as the most dominant factor that pushes vulnerable girls into being trafficked, especially in rural areas. In a FGD, a participant argued that hardships push them into such situations, as demonstrated in the quote below:

*“The whole thing is dependent on one thing, hardship, if the person has some work doing to feed herself and the children daily and someone comes to deceive her about travelling, I’m very certain she will not go.” (Female FGD).*

In another FGD, a male participant disclosed that a female victim told him that the job she was in before being trafficked did not pay well:

*“...the welding job, they don’t pay them and they don’t even have money to buy food and pay her children’s school.” (Male FGD).*

Coupled with this is the increasing number of youth unemployment, and the porousness of national borders that allows traffickers to cross without much difficulty due to limited screening.

Another factor contributing to AST is the issue of broken homes where there is a lack of proper care and love for children. In addition to this, some of the victims complain that the fathers of their children fail to provide for them, leading them into the sex trade to care for themselves and their children/siblings.

Furthermore, security personnel in the GPS often do not readily understand the issues surrounding sex trafficking and are unable to determine or trace cases across the country. In addition, there is lack of logistical capacity, awareness-raising and counselling support for trafficked victims. There are also insufficient shelters available to provide temporary rest points

for the rescued victims. These challenges reduce the capacity of the security agencies to effectively combat trafficking.

#### *5.1.6 Consequences of adult sex trafficking in the Western Region*

Three main consequences of AST for the VoTs are identified in the Western Region as violence, crime and injuries. Some victims transferred out of the Western Region and out of Ghana have attested to being severely beaten and maltreated. For example, one victim who was being taken to Côte d'Ivoire was asked to pay a ransom, which she could not. As demonstrated in the quote below, the perpetrators treated her with much violence:

*"...She was beaten and maltreated for three good days. She was told to call the family back home for them to bring money and she said, there is no one there and she doesn't even have a phone. So finally, they just dumped her at the Elubo border." (DSW Interview, Western Region).*

Some participants in an FGD in the Western Region also admit that AST promotes crime through the use of narcotic drugs by the victims to manage their pain. There have also been suggestions that trafficked women who are being used for prostitution sometimes act as spies who give information to armed gangs to attack and rob clients. A participant in an FGD had this to say:

*"...It brings a lot of social problems like prostitution, drug abuse, robbery and many more." (Male FGD, Western Region).*

Finally, victims are also known to suffer injuries (based on the survey – more than 66 per cent – see Fig.8), especially when the sexual act turns violent. As noted by a victim:

*"for some men, you experience extreme pain in your abdomen after sleeping with them." (Victim, Western Region).*

#### *5.1.7 Recommendations to curb adult sex trafficking in the Western Region*

Based on the Western Regional analysis, recommendations include the need for efficient border controls and issuance of verifiable work permits which should be checked and implementation monitored by GIS and the Labour Office regularly, public education and awareness creation. Specifically, GIS needs to strengthen screening at Ghana's border with Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. Both approved and unapproved routes of entry will need firmer controls to ensure that young women travelling into or out of the country are examined to ensure that they are not being trafficked. A participant in an FGD had this to say:

*"at the border, GIS should be committed to an efficient job and screen the people well. GIS should up their games because their inefficiencies sometimes allow adult and child trafficking for sex to be rampant in Ghana." (Female FGD, Western Region).*

On immigration, attention should be paid to proper documentation of immigrants into Ghana so that their stay and purpose of stay can be monitored to prevent them from being recruited into the AST system, whether as victims or perpetrators. In a female FGD, a participant elaborates the point quite well:

*"One other thing is that, if you are a foreigner and you are living in another country I'm sure you are given a paper that authorizes you to stay in that country because you have been able to cross*



*the border to come and stay. In Ghana here we don't seem to check as is done abroad all the time. So, foreigners are enjoying their freedom to the extent that they can use that freedom to commit crime. So, if somebody comes and stays in your house, you should find out and make sure that the person indeed used the right means to come.” (Female FGD, Western Region).*

Again, there is also some evidence to suggest that awareness of the problem, and how perpetrators operate is limited among those who need it most (vulnerable young women in their early 20s). This means that some additional education for the public is essential. As a participant in an FGD notes:

*“...we have to do more education. If we do that, it will help it to reduce the menace. If you tell them (young women) this thing (promise of jobs elsewhere), it is this or that and not good, if even the person wants to go and do it, the person will rethink and say that what the woman said it's true so she may back out.” (Male FGD, Western Region).*

The awareness creation agenda can be taken up by the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE).<sup>19</sup> Although some projects in the past have promoted awareness, these efforts often end as soon as the project ends, in the view of a DSW representative. As a result, it is recommended that the NCCE be assigned this agenda in the long term. It is also suggesting that places of worship should be encouraged to promote this awareness creation. This is what the representative of DSW had to say:

*“We have been creating awareness but what is going on is that we do this using project resources. Unfortunately, when the project is over, then awareness creation stops. But if it should go on in the religious places of worship, be it the mosque or the church. If it should go on, on every public function, five or ten minutes. After all, migration is a global issue and what is happening should be of concern to everyone. People are taking advantage of them (victims), So, there should be that sensitization or awareness wherever people gather, if possible.” (DSW Interview, WR).*

## 5.2 Central Region

### 5.2.1 Perpetrators and victims

#### i. Perpetrators

Perpetrators have been identified to operate in a network, with recruiters being those who have direct contact with the victims and perhaps the community. According to the GPS in the Central Region, the perpetrators can work individually or in groups as part of a well-designed organization with the necessary funding, people and connections to engage in AST.

Furthermore, although it was observed that most perpetrators who bring young Nigerian women into Ghana as victims are Nigerian males, other discussions revealed that with internally recruited victims, women tend to be the main perpetrators. One issue that came up in the FGD with the males in the Central Region is the involvement of non-Ghanaian women (mostly other West African nationals) in the recruitment of Ghanaian women. These perpetrators pose as very

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<sup>19</sup> The NCCE, established by the National Commission for Civic Education Act, 1993 (Act 452) has functions to help develop among the citizenry, a culture of democracy through awareness creation, sensitization, and participation. The commission has four main functions one of which is the promotion and protection of the rights of children, the vulnerable and the excluded in society, including AST.

rich women with luxurious cars and other material wealth to display, which deceives potential victims.

#### *ii. Victims*

Victims of AST are usually young women between the ages of 18–35 years and were described by respondents to be very beautiful physically. According to one respondent:

*“There are all kinds of people including old women ranging between 18 and 35 and sometimes even up to 50 years.” (Male FGD, Central Region).*

Before recruitment, many of the victims are unemployed or may have been engaged in the informal or unskilled labour market with an unstable income. Discussions also show that in the Central Region, most victims are from Nigeria.

#### *5.2.2 Incidence and prevalence*

From interviews with the GPS and FGD participants<sup>20</sup>, it was suggested that trafficking of women from the region may be low, although participants acknowledged that parts of the region serve as hotspots for receiving trafficked women from other parts of the West African subregion, particularly Nigeria. This is corroborated by the following participants:

*“...as for our local people, I am not sure this issue is that prevalent among them... From what we have seen around here, it is not that much compared to the others we here from elsewhere (say Nigeria).” (Female FGD, Central Region).*

*“...we have few cases concerning adult sex trafficking in the region. This is predominantly because human traffickers normally look for places where economic activities are booming in order to sell their services.” (GPS Interview, Central Region).*

Nonetheless, communities that have been identified to be areas of prevalent sex trafficking include communities in the Cape Coast area such as Golden State, Kobo, 18 and Gab. Within these parts of Cape Coast City, it is observed that “business” is lucrative at night, especially Tuesdays and Saturday evenings. An interview with a representative of the GPS also shows that there are few reported cases in the region. She argues that:

*“...the latest was a Nigerian syndicate which was operating around Dunkwa area specifically at Ayenfuri.” (GPS Interview, Central Region).*

Most of the victims of sex trafficking observed within the region are non-Ghanaians. Natives from the area are usually taken outside the country to the Middle East, including Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

#### *5.2.3 Domestic and transnational trends*

Though it is argued that prevalence of sex trafficking is low in the Central Region, it is agreed that, on a national scale, it is increasing from the viewpoint of the police:

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<sup>20</sup> The FGD participants were mainly community members and community leaders.

*“... adult sex trafficking has been on the increase lately due to the youth’s desire to be rich at all cost... I have noticed that this phenomenon has been on the increase since the discovery of oil in large quantities. This has made our market more attractive to players in the sex trade.” (GPS Interview, Central Region).*

Domestically, it was observed that victims of sex trafficking in the Central Region were from Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Unlike local victims, over time most Liberian victims were transferred outside the region, especially to the Kwame Nkrumah Circle in the Greater Accra Region, and returned when they are done.

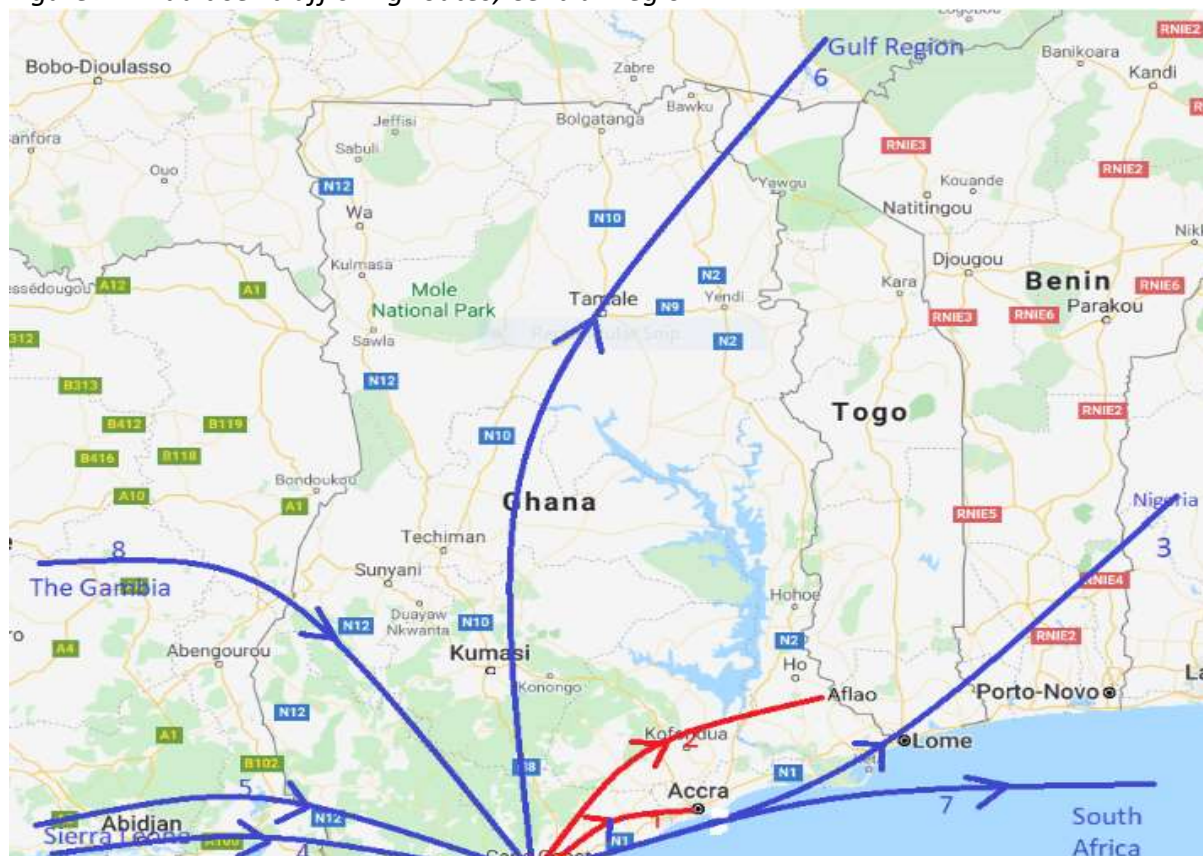
*“The Liberians themselves, they want a lot of money, so they don't even do those things here. They will go into the city and do what they want to do before they come back.” (Interview, Female FGD)*

At the transnational level, women trafficked from the Central Region are usually transported to the Gulf States, specifically Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. There were instances where others were taken to other African countries such as the Gambia and South Africa. According to the GPS, one typical trend is the trafficking of women from Nigeria to the Central Region:

*“...in the case of the most recent arrest of adult sex trafficking, the perpetrator lured the victims from Nigeria for some attractive jobs in Ghana... all 4 of them [perpetrators] were arrested and the case transferred to the GPS Head Office in Accra.” (GPS Interview, Central Region).*

Figure 14 illustrates how victims are trafficked in and out of the Central Region. The information from key informants and some indicators from the survey was put together. The red arrows show the domestic (internal) movement of the sex trafficked victims while the blue arrows show the movement of victims across Ghana’s borders. Arrow 1 shows the route through which victims are transported to the Gulf Region Kuwait, Qatar and The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Arrow 2 shows the movement from the Central Region to Aflao while arrow 3 shows how Victims are trafficked out of the Central Region to Nigeria. In arrow 4 and 5 victims are trafficked from Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone into the Central Region. Arrow 7 shows how victims are moved from the Central Region to South Africa.

Figure 14: Adult sex trafficking routes, Central Region



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interviews, 2019.

#### 5.2.4 Methods used by traffickers

##### i. Recruitment methods

Recruiters (who are usually males) were described by FG discussants as going to various towns with job advertisements targeted at young women. Perpetrators use various techniques to attract the attention of unsuspecting women, including the use of posters advertising lucrative jobs that pay significantly higher wages than local minimum wages. In an FGD, this is what a discussant had to say:

*"...They send notices [usually posters] around about jobs availability for 18 to 20-year old young women and all that... A certain foreigner used this approach and took 3 young women along with her, eventually maltreated and exploited them. The young women were freed by the perpetrator only when she was satisfied that she had covered her costs."* (Interview, Female FGD).

Expected incomes range from GHS 1,000 to as high as GHS 8,000 for jobs such as cleaning. As a result, victims are swayed by the possibility of earning much higher salaries compared to their current earnings. One respondent described a friend's recruitment as follows:

*"...they told her that if she (victim) goes with them (perpetrators), she was going to receive an amount of 1,000 cedis a month and that was quite huge. Living in Ghana, you'll work for someone and then they give you an amount of 200 Cedis a month and that would not do much for you."* (Female FGD, Central Region).

In addition, perpetrators who are sometimes friends with victims may convince them with pictures of other friends who have travelled and are successful and “making it”. As victims are usually unable to verify such stories, they are easily lured into travelling with recruiters. One respondent recounts of her ordeal with one perpetrator:

*“...this even reminds me, was it like 2 months ago, I was here and a friend of mine called me from Gomoa Fetteh a town in the Central Region... she doesn't know the kind of job it is but this girl went there for like a year and she's been sending pictures, she looks fine and all that. So they try to portray a fine aspect to the whole enterprise, you'll easily be deceived if you're not smart or careful enough.” (Female FGD, Central Region).*

According to the GPS, the victims are usually sent to a location where clients are brought to use their services, with fees going to the perpetrators or agents. The victims are told that a certain amount of money has been expended on them which they must pay back through sex work. Generally, all respondents held the view that perpetrators use multiple recruitment methods in order to avoid surveillance and easy detection and identification by authorities.

#### *ii. Transporting and transferring*

Amongst victims who are transported outside the country, air transport is commonly used for those destined for the Middle East. Victims transported to countries within the West African subregion are usually transported by public buses. In order to send victims abroad, perpetrators acquire up-to-date travel documents for victims in order to avoid detection by law enforcement officers. The same applies to victims who are brought in from other West African countries. According to the GPS:

*“...they usually use the borders especially through the Togo border to Ghana but with the cross-border trafficking, they travel to the Gulf Region using the airports...It is usually difficult for law enforcement agencies to detect at the borders because they bring them in batches.” (Central Region).*

Perpetrators also use illegal routes to transport victims. This makes it even more difficult for security services to apprehend them.

#### *iii. Harboursing and receipt of victims*

Community members indicated that perpetrators from Nigeria usually come into the community to rent houses in which they stay with victims.

*“...A Nigerian could come and hire a place... Even me myself, my husband's house, there is this tenant, he once brought about 20 people to the house... I went to report the thing to the police because I found it weird. So, these people are essentially not from here.” (Female FGD, Central Region).*

At the transnational level, most victims are housed in the perpetrators' house or in selected hotels known for harbouring traffickers. Referring to a recent case of sex trafficking, the respondent from GPS narrates that:

*“...the perpetrator lured the victims from Nigeria for some attractive jobs in Ghana and used 3 other Nigerian agents already in the country to help perpetrate the act. One of the agents had a guest house in the area and that was used to facilitate the business.” (GPS Interview, Central Region).*

Interviews with the GPS also show that immediately after the victims arrive, their passports are seized, and they are sometimes abused by the agents before being taken to their final destinations.

#### *5.2.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Central Region*

The high level of unemployment among youth (coupled with limited economic opportunities for women in the Central Region) was cited as factors which make women vulnerable to seek employment elsewhere. As a result, many end up being recruited by traffickers. The quote below supports this assertion:

*"...the main cause (of adult sex trafficking), I think is the lack of jobs. You see, in this place there is no real work." (Female FGD, Central Region).*

Additionally, the high levels of single parenting which usually results in poor parental control was highly cited by respondents in the Central Region as a major cause of AST. One respondent argues that:

*"... the men are a part. There are some men, when you get pregnant for them, they don't talk to the kids much. So, it's as if, the children are left on their own with no one to advise them." (Female FGD, Central Region).*

Single parenting usually leads to broken homes that cannot instil full discipline in young girls. These young females are left vulnerable without proper parental control and guidance, making them vulnerable to the enticing offers from perpetrators. It is also argued by interview participants that sex trafficking is prevalent amongst victims of low or no education. Most of the victims are being preyed upon because of the high level of ignorance and their inability to fully understand perpetrators' dangerous acts and schemes.

#### *5.2.6 Consequences of adult sex trafficking in the Central Region*

Some victims are subjected to serious physical and sexual violence that sometimes results in death, deformity and other medical conditions. According to participants of the FGDs, some victims are subjected to serious physical and sexual violence that results in injury to their pelvic structure, which causes them to pass urine and faecal matter indiscriminately. One such victim died shortly after her return. One respondent explains her encounter with a friend of a victim below:

*"According to her, even one friend she went with couldn't walk again because they slept with her from morning to sundown. That was what they were doing...So, when she came back, whenever she talked about it, you only saw tears stream down her eyes." (Female FGD, Central Region).*

Another, explains her personal ordeal with a client after being trafficked to Accra from the Central Region:

*"...ma'am, the kind of abuse I had to endure in Accra, if I were to talk about, you'll surely be saddened. It got to a point, her husband wanted to have sex with me, and I refused so he asked his wife to throw me out. In fact, I'm using my life as an example." (Female FGD, Central Region).*



Interviews with the GPS also show that some victims worked long hours without food, while a few reported of abuse by agents and clients at their destination, and close monitoring without any freedom:

*“One lady reported that whenever they are taking their bath it has to be done in the presence of the agent.” (GPS Interview, Central Region).*

In cases where Ghanaian victims return, they usually come back disappointed and emaciated. They often have less contact with their communities as a result, because of the stigma and ridicule they face from the public. Family support and continuous counselling sometimes helps to reintegrate them into society.

*“...this person has left the community, she has been thoroughly disgraced because before she left, she was beautiful and now when she came back, she didn't look so good...I saw some people in this community who went and came back looking like broomsticks.” (Male FGD, Central Region).*

*“My classmate, she got entangled in one of these situations... when she returned, it was quite sad, she had lost so much weight.” (Female FGD, Central Region).*

Another also recounted:

*“Those who went earlier and came back, we saw what they looked like before they left and what they were like when they returned, dramatic negative change. So, me seeing something like this, I will never go.” (Female FGD, Central Region).*

Victims also suffer different health problems after their return, including fevers, STIs and chronic medical conditions. Victims are also either forced or use as a coping mechanism the hard drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and others, as well as alcohol, all of which have effects on their mental health. The psychological trauma that the victims go through is often very high. If the victim does not have access to counselling offered by the DSW or a recommended psychologist, the victim may not interact much with her community and wider society.

#### *5.2.7 Recommendations to curb adult sex trafficking in the Central Region*

Based on the discussions and information gathered from the interviews in the Central Region, the following is recommended; avenues should be created for people to find employment. Since trafficking is endemic in areas of high unemployment, well-paying work will complement incomes and increase standards of living. This will ensure that young women are not easily swayed by promises of higher incomes somewhere else. Both the central and local Governments, as well as NGOs, can take up the task of nurturing employment-intensive businesses which create opportunities for young women in local communities. One female respondent suggests that:

*“Giving them money may not do much. So, let's say this girl that I know who has finished SHS, if she could be given a certain job to help her, that wouldn't be bad.” (Female FGD, Central Region).*

For the Central Region in particular, fishing and fishing-related jobs must be examined. The decline in fish stocks is affecting the sub-sector, which is not anticipated to change in the short

term. Therefore, alternative approaches, like encouraging the development of fish farms in the region could be helpful. Another male participant in an FGD also laments that:

*“what I can say is that our problem is a big one. First, there is no legitimate work available here. Governments have changed hands for a long period and yet we still have the same problem.”*  
(Male FGD, Central Region).

Additionally, effective parental control at the household level is needed with the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders. Parents must be encouraged and counselled by relevant institutions such as religious institutions, Parent-Teacher-Associations and the NCCE to ensure effective parenting and guidance are promoted in vulnerable households. Both parents (mother and father) must work together to instil discipline in female children and assure the children of continuous family support. This will help prevent them from being easily recruited by traffickers. Government agencies and NGOs must also enact public education campaigns in various communities with a high trafficking prevalence. This could help create and increase the level of awareness and reduce the prevalence of recruitment in these communities.

Furthermore, increased collaboration is needed to combat AST. Interviews with the GPS suggests that there is some level of collaboration with the GIS, DSW, other ministries and NGOs such as Friends of the Nation and Challenging Heights. However, collaboration between State security agencies on trafficking can be improved according to the GPS. Inasmuch as these collaborative efforts need to be intensified, there is also the need to bring in the faith-based organizations to ensure a holistic approach to victim reintegration into society.

All stakeholders involved in curbing AST are encouraged to undertake public awareness efforts to educate communities on how to identify fraudulent job offers and unrealistic incomes. From the interview with the GPS, it is observed that awareness creation is becoming more proactive since security agencies have intensified media engagements. All other avenues for which information can be disseminated should be similarly explored. This includes television stations, community centres and community youth groups.

According to the GPS, one of the major challenges with human trafficking for sex is a lack of statistics. Increased research, logistical support and capacity-building of the security services is needed. It is therefore recommended that Government ensures that research and data gathering is given increased attention and funding in order to obtain relevant figures to make projections and implement effective policy interventions.

Personnel from the security services also need to be trained and equally resourced logistically to facilitate their work in curbing AST. It is observed from the interviews that staff capacity and training on current trends of sex trafficking has serious deficits. Moreover, very few GPS personnel in the Central Region have the requisite skills to combat the crime. This hinders potential progress that can be made in curbing AST. Therefore, the support of the central administration will be needed in providing the necessary leadership in this regard.



## 5.3 Greater Accra Region

### 5.3.1 Perpetrators and victims

#### i. Perpetrators

There was no willing perpetrator interviewed in this region. Discussions with the police and other institutions indicated that perpetrators (males or females, but mostly females) tend to work within a network, where individuals play specialized roles depending on their status within the gang's hierarchy. Some of these perpetrators specialize in transporting the victims from one point to another. There are also some who specialize in obtaining passports for victims in transnational trafficking cases. There may also be individuals in the network who fund the activities of the victims and recoup these costs later. These financiers or investors are at the end of the line or chain of activities. The financiers are usually unknown by the people at the lower levels, and do not actively involve themselves in the trafficking itself.

Perpetrators who deal directly with the victims are highly intelligent and tend to cover their bases by ensuring they use legal methods to recruit and transport victims. Police records indicate that these groups of offenders usually fall within the ages of 40–50. In most cases, perpetrators were once victims who decide to establish their own business upon gaining their freedom. Most of them have been in the business for years. Traffickers include Ghanaians who go to other countries like Nigeria to recruit victims. There are also situations where some Ghanaians are trafficked outside Ghana by Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians.

#### ii. Victims

Victims are usually between the ages of 18–30 years. As noted by a representative from the GPS, victims of this age group are desired by perpetrators because they are attractive and potentially attractive to clients as noted in the quote below:

*“...victims are mostly between 18 and 30 years old because, it is the sex industry and they want young ladies who are very beautiful and attractive that can attract clients. Because of this, they will not use old women...” (GPS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

There are however certain instances of victims below the age of 18, as noted from the interview with a representative of the GPS:

*“Some of the victims are minors. That is some may be below the age of 18. Last year we had about two cases like that – two victims of sex trafficking being under 18 so minors are also exploited...” (GPS Interview, Greater Accra).*

Some of them are Ghanaians, and some brought from Nigeria, Asia (specifically Thailand and Viet Nam) and other countries as narrated by an officer of GPS who was interviewed, saying:

*“...Some women were brought from Asia, specifically Thailand and Viet Nam.” (GPS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

*“...We have rescued about two Thai women and some Vietnamese before....” (GPS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

Some of these victims are individuals who have left Senior High School (SHS), while others are graduates from tertiary institutions as said during an interview with a representative of GPS as quoted below:

*“...Some of the victims have even completed the university, some have completed the SHS....” (GPS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

There are also men who fall victims to sex trafficking which was accidentally discovered in Greater Accra with no data on the prevalence. Some men are interested in men and therefore recruit males for AST. This was confirmed by a representative of GPS as quoted below:

*“...You know the trafficking it is not only women. With males, they can sodomize you, yes because some men are interested in men, they are not interested in the natural way of sex. So, they will also want to sodomize you and you can become a victim. So, men are also trafficked....” (GPS, Greater Accra Region).*

### 5.3.2 Incidence and prevalence

The institutions involved in the prevention of AST in the Greater Accra Region were not able to clearly indicate the level of incidence or prevalence due to no data. It is worth noting that the GPS and Don Bosco Child Protection Centre, an NGO which operates in the region, stated that perpetrators have moved their activities to the rural areas where poverty levels are high. There is also limited economic opportunities for youth, and most people there are not very assertive because of their environment<sup>21</sup> and the high level of trust they have for others. Thus, the promise of a well-paid job elsewhere sounds very enticing, and they accept without taking steps to verify these offers. The police also added that criminals frequently change their methods of operation, which makes it difficult to detect and investigate.

### 5.3.3 Domestic and transnational trends

From discussions with the key informants and respondents, a criss-cross trend was observed. The first observation was that women who are trafficked from the Greater Accra Region were transported to other West African countries (particularly Nigeria and South Africa), as well as the Middle East and Europe. This was confirmed by a representative of GPS in the Greater Accra Region and Don Bosco:

*“At the end of the day, we also have Ghanaians who are also trafficked outside and who are also forced into prostitution....” (GPS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

*“Some victims are shipped straight to the Middle East. We have received some girls who were trafficked to the Middle East....” (Don Bosco, Greater Accra).*

The second observation, which is transnational, is the transportation of victims from other West African countries (particularly Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria into the region to be exploited sexually as stated by a representative of the DSW in the Greater Accra Region:

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<sup>21</sup> The communities in which many of the vulnerable groups live are quite homogeneous and so individuals tend to trust each other. Under such circumstances potential victims rarely assume that family and friends can lead them into trafficking. Thus, victims are more likely to be lured by perpetrators.

*“...What we know is that, for some time now, for years, we have had children who most of the time have been brought in from Côte d'Ivoire or Nigeria –mostly....”, (DSW Interview, Greater Accra).*

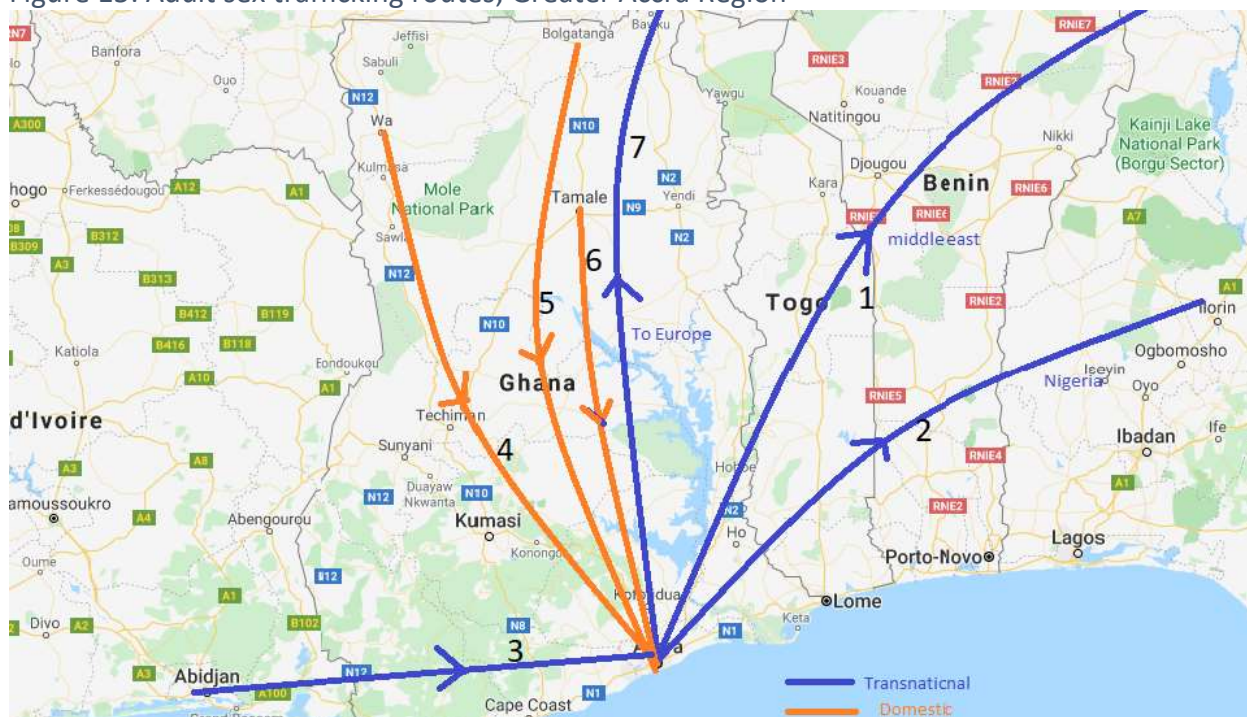
The last trend is more domestic, with women brought in from the other regions (particularly the three northern regions) to the Greater Accra Region for sexual exploitation. With regards to transnational trafficking, most of these victims are transported through approved routes like borders and airports, whereas some come in through unapproved routes as indicated by the officer from GPS who states:

*“...Ok, within ECOWAS, they use the approved routes – some come through the Aflao border, the airport- and if you are not careful, you will not be able to detect. They come with genuine documents and they will tell you they are coming to do this business and if you are at the airport, you might not know that the person is in for this kind of thing. The Nigerians especially come by commercial transport through the Aflao border. Some of them also use the unapproved routes.” (GPS, Greater Accra Region).*

In Figure 15, red arrows show the movement of the sex trafficked victims from the Greater Accra Region to other cities within Ghana (internal or domestic trafficking) while the blue arrows show the movement from Greater Accra Region to other cities outside Ghana and vice versa (external or cross border trafficking). From Figure 16, arrow 1 shows the movement of the victims from the Greater Accra Region to the Gulf Region which include countries like Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Arrow 2 shows how the victims move from the Greater Accra Region to Nigeria. Arrow 3 shows how victims are moved from neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire to the Greater Accra Region. Arrow 4 indicates how the victims are brought in from the Upper West Region into the Greater Accra Region while 5 shows the movement from the Upper East Region to Accra. Arrow 6 on the other hand shows how victims are moved from the Northern Region to Accra. Some victims are moved from the Greater Accra region to Europe and this is depicted by arrow 7.

Figure 15: Adult sex trafficking routes, Greater Accra Region



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interviews, 2019.

#### 5.3.4 Methods used by traffickers

##### i. Recruitment methods

Recruiters often promise to secure the victims employment, or if they are already employed, to get them better-paid jobs as stated by a representative of the GPS below:

*"...If I should tell you I have a job for you in Canada that can fetch you about 50,000 dollars a month, I believe you will run away from ISSER and you will be willing to go ..."* (GPS Interview, Greater Accra Region).

Victims recruited from within the Greater Accra Region are usually promised jobs outside the country as shop attendants, waitresses, care givers and house maids with very good payment far above what victims would make annually in Ghana. Victims recruited from rural communities in the region are promised well-paying jobs in Accra. Another observation within the region involves trafficked victims from other West African countries, particularly Nigeria and some from Asia, notably China, Thailand and Viet Nam. These other nationals are also similarly promised jobs. Whereas victims of African descent are promised jobs similar to those offered to Ghanaian women, victims from Asia are promised jobs in massage parlours, restaurants or hotels that have Asians as their clientele as confirmed by a GPS representative below:

*"We had a case where a young man- a graduate from the University of Education, Winneba – was trafficked to Indonesia and in addition to that, they also faked another university qualification for him to go and teach in Indonesia. Lucky for him, he was rescued, and we collaborated with IOM and we arranged and brought him back..."* (GPS, Greater Accra).

## *ii. Transporting and transferring*

Victims involved in internal trafficking are transported using the major road transport connection points to Accra (mainly by bus). Foreign victims also come in using legal entry points, using authentic documents to facilitate their passage. In the case of Nigerians and other West African nationals, they are usually transported by road through the eastern border – Aflao and the Ho routes being the most popular; Liberians and Ivorians come in through the western border with Elubo being the most used route, while those from Burkina Faso often come in through Paga as indicated by the GIS officer interviewed in the Greater Accra Region. As the GIS Officer notes during an interview:

*“From what we have, I will say that most of them use the Elubo border from Côte d'Ivoire, others use Sampa in the Brong Ahafo Region. Others use these same areas to cross into Côte d'Ivoire. Others too use Aflao into Accra and then some continue to Tamale, Takoradi. There are so many places they go to. It is not like they have a specific place they go. You can find them everywhere...” (GIS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

Their entry is quite easy as the ECOWAS agreement on free movement allows them to enter Ghana by presenting the required travel documents at the border posts. Talks with the GPS, GSW and GIS indicate that once the victims are brought to Accra (from both local and foreign regions), the perpetrator works to acquire their travel documents for them. Among this group, some may be airlifted to the Middle East, South Africa and Europe.

## *iii. Harboursing and receipt of victims*

The discussions showed that on arrival, victims are usually kept in houses or brothels and given some sort of orientation about the job they are going to do. A victim who went through such an experience in the Greater Accra Region stated the following;

*“So, when I got to Lebanon, the first day we arrived at Lebanon, they told us that everybody will come and pick his client, but I did not understand what was going on. This man did not tell me I was going to do housework he wasn't truthful with me....” (Victim Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

Since the perpetrators envisage victims' reluctance and the possibility of victims running away or getting law enforcement agencies involved, they usually subject the victims to psychological, emotional, physical and sexual abuses. Their passports are also taken from them on arrival in the destination country. Below is a quote from a victim in the Greater Accra Region:

*“The first day I arrived, I was locked up in a room after they had taken my passport from me. I don't know, they felt I will run away or something...” (Victim Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

In addition to the above, perpetrators play on the minds of the ladies by using fetish acts, accompanied by swearing an oath of secrecy as quoted below from the GPS:

*“For one victim, the perpetrators took nude photos of her and stored them and threatened her that if she reports to anybody of the activity that she was going to be introduced to, they will post her pictures on social media. In addition to that, she sent her to a juju man at Ashaiman and made her to swear to their local deity that if she should mention anything about it, she will go mad. So, this girl was forced into the streets and was made to sleep with men.” (GPS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

### 5.3.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Greater Accra Region

Based on the interviews in the region, there are three main factors promoting AST in the Greater Accra (and basically, in all regions). These are poverty, unemployment and lack of good parenting. First, poverty is one of the largest contributors to sex trafficking in the Greater Accra Region. People in poverty are easily lured into sex trafficking due to their vulnerability. According to Don Bosco (NGO):

*“...Poverty is one, the educational system we have now is also producing more white-collar graduates...” (Don Bosco NGO).*

Another major factor that promotes sex trafficking in the Greater Accra Region is unemployment. Most of the perpetrators lure their victims with promises of employment.

*“White collar graduates mean that the kind of unemployment in the system is so high.” (Don Bosco NGO).*

*“Most of these people come in search of jobs and end up being trafficked. Some victims, however, do arrive with the intention of engaging in sex work.” (Female FGD).*

Thirdly, because of lack of good parenting, most kids do not get enough care and education from their parents on the dangers of migrating to Accra for work, as indicated from a FGD with participants in the region:

*“... Lack of good parenting is really on a high rise now. I say so because, as a result of poverty, people move from pillar to post chasing money. We no longer have time for our children at their formative ages...” (FGD, Greater Accra Region).*

### 5.3.6 Consequences of adult sex trafficking in the Greater Accra Region

Victims are subjected to different forms of violence. Discussions with victims indicated that starvation and rape are the two main forms of violence and abuse that are used. This was confirmed by a victim who states:

*“...The first day I arrived, I was locked up in a room after they had taken my passport from me. I don't know they felt I will run away or something. I used to wake up by 6 am and slept at 12 am or 1 am. There was nothing to eat. You know when you are working hard and you eat well, you may be ok. But when you work hard and there is no food, you just grow weak. I was growing weaker and weaker by the day. I washed and cleaned their house, after which I will be taken to my “madman”s mother's house where I will iron so many clothes and clean as well....” (Victim Interview, Greater Accra).*

Being trafficked at a younger age for sex is linked to a higher chance of STI infection as most of these victims are abused sexually without any protection. Trafficked women suffer both medical and psychological conditions. Below is a quote from a victim who went through such an experience:

*“... he did not use a condom, but he did not release in me. However, after having sex with him, I was so scared. When I returned to Ghana, I went for check-up at La Polyclinic. Fortunately, there was no infection in my blood”. (Victim, Greater Accra Region).*



### 5.3.7 Recommendations to curb adult sex trafficking in the Greater Accra Region

Funding was mentioned as one element that is required in addressing AST in the Greater Accra Region. As confirmed by a representative of GPS, this is a major obstacle in addressing sex trafficking in the Greater Accra Region as quoted below:

*“...we need to be well resourced in terms of even finances...” (GPS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

Related to funding is the provision of shelters. There are inadequate shelters to house rescued victims, as quoted below by a representative of the GPS:

*“...recently, we rescued some victims and we had no place to send them...” (GPS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

Institutions (GIS, GPS and DSW) are generally poorly equipped, particularly with regards to vehicles and office space. This affects the ability of institutions to offer needed medical, social and economic services to victims. Officials also need training in the identification of victims of sexual exploitation and their case management. Although all the GPS, GIS and DSW have some trained psychologists, social workers and security officers, there is the need for the recruitment of more officers in this regard.

All respondents recommended that Government should address unemployment and poverty in the country, in order to reduce individuals' search for economic opportunities elsewhere. Additionally, engaging in active education of the public on the issue by involving all stakeholders is important, especially the media. Respondents from the institutions, particularly MoGCSP, advocated that while current sensitization against sex trafficking discusses recruitment methods and other key issues in trafficking, the public must also be sensitized against stigmatizing victims, as this will encourage victims to share their experiences with the public and deter others. It was also recommended to introduce AST as a topic in the educational curriculum of students in basic and secondary schools.

People who are approached by agents wishing to recruit them outside the country have the opportunity to visit the GIS to verify the credibility of agents as stated by a representative of the GIS below:

*“We also have a unit called the Migration Information Centre. They normally do a lot of sensitization and counselling so their phone numbers are out there that you can call for any migration issues and when you tell them, they will give you the support that you need.” (GIS Interview, Greater Accra Region).*

There is a need to strengthen the level of coordination among the various institutions addressing sex trafficking. Currently, although there is some form of coordination, there is limited information sharing between Government institutions. Therefore, there may be information available to the GPS that is not available to GIS. Sometimes the GPS may undertake raids without informing the DSW, leaving DSW unprepared to shelter victims. This affects the overall performance of the institutions within the districts and the region in general.

## 5.4 Volta Region

### 5.4.1 Perpetrators and victims

#### *i. Perpetrators*

Perpetrators are mostly women between the ages of 30 to 35 based on GPS records. There are few instances where perpetrators are found to be males. Perpetrators are mostly Nigerians, with few being Ghanaians. Ghanaian perpetrators are usually involved in recruiting and trafficking of young women to the Gulf countries such as Lebanon and Jordan. Based on interviews with the GPS, DSW and GIS in the Volta Region, perpetrators operate mostly in groups or syndicates. Perpetrators pose as businessmen/businesswomen and pretend to help victims cross the border to wherever they are going.

GIS also stated that they can identify the perpetrators and victims because victims are usually left on their own to cross the border, thus signalling GIS officials to investigate and intercept them. They then interview the victims to get more information and determine that they are being trafficked. When the GIS apprehends the traffickers, they interrogate them and can verify the information provided by victims. With this approach, they can identify victims and traffickers and what their motives are, and then proceed with their investigations.

Based on the interviews, some of perpetrators are gangs or syndicators from urban communities who go to the rural communities to recruit victims. According to a representative from GIS:

*"....the perpetrators are able to lure the girls into thinking that they are going to provide very good jobs for the victims and so some perpetrators are able to go to the extent of going to see the parents of these girls (victims); others too are able to meet the girls and convince them in such a way that they eventually become willing to come with them. So, when our officers (GIS) intercept the victims, they try to let them know that there are no lucrative jobs and that the perpetrators are only deceiving them for their personal gains."*

Perpetrators in the Volta Region are mostly men and adult women known as "madams" who recruit the young ladies. There seems to be some division of labour here which is gendered. The men mostly concentrate on the recruitment of victims for trafficking outside Ghana. On the other hand, "madams" concentrate on sex trafficking within Ghana. These individuals are either from within the country or from destination countries Togo.

Based on an interview with a victim in Volta Region, perpetrators are sometimes friends with the victim's parents or relatives. The perpetrators convince the victim's parents or relatives to let them believe that they will provide good jobs for them in the cities or urban communities.

A victim in Volta Region shared her experiences on how a "madam" in Keta lured her into the sex trade. The victim said things were difficult for her in her stepfather's house because her father and the mother broke up and the mother remarried. She met a woman who claimed she wanted to help upon hearing the maltreatments she received from her stepfather and her own mother. So, her "madam" took her to the house of the "madam" in Keta. When they arrived there, the "madam" gave her food and money to buy all that she wanted. As time passed by, the "madam" started to introduce her to men, which the victim could not refuse because of the good things the "madam" did for her. The men would come to the house of her "madam" and take her to either a hotel or their own homes to sleep with her. The experiences of the victim are shared in the quote below:



*“Yes, before I went to her end and because I wasn't doing anything so she buys things, gave me food to eat, so she later on introduce me to the night business, so I went there to stay with her, [were you staying in the same room] yes I was, we were staying in same room so anytime we have work I go and sleep at the person's end and come back after and when I have money I give her but we were not in any agreement in terms of the sharing the money I get from the sex business.” (Victim Interview, Volta Region).*

#### *ii. Victims*

Victims involved in sex trafficking in the region are mostly females between the ages of 16 and 30 years. Victims include Nigerian girls who are recruited in Nigeria and promised lucrative jobs in Ghana. Most victims have no education though a few have some basic education.

#### *5.4.2 Incidence and prevalence*

From our engagement with GPS, DSW and GIS in the Volta Region, the incidence of AST is not growing. According to the GPS, only three sex trafficking cases have been recorded since 2014. Based on the cases recorded, AST is therefore not rampant in the region compared to trafficking of children for labour exploitation. However, it is unknown whether there are unreported AST cases. Aflao, a border town, used to be one of the towns with high incidence of sex trafficking activities. Many girls used to be trafficked from Nigeria, Benin and Togo into Aflao. There has been some reduction in sex trafficking activities in the Aflao township due to interventions by community members, GIS and GPS. The community has created a committee which works hand in hand with the Police to look after the perpetrators. Through this committee the strong signal is sent out to criminals to warn of criminal accountability.

From the interviews, it was observed that the prevalence of the sex trade in Volta Region is lower than other regional destinations such as Accra, Kumasi and Takoradi. However, the region is noted as a source of victims of sex trafficking who are taken to other destination countries outside Ghana through Aflao, such the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. The quote below demonstrated the low prevalence of AST in the Volta Region:

*“In the region, trafficking in person for sex is not on the ascendancy. The prevalence rate is less than 0.5 per cent because since 2014 till date, the service dealt with only three of such cases.” (GPS Interview, Volta Region).*

Within the region, many of the victims of AST are from the North who claim they came to look for alternate livelihoods to supplement their income or further their education. Most of these women can be found in the border towns of Katanu, Shia and Dadease. At Dadease and Nkwanta, for example, according to a representative from the GIS, a significant number of sex traffickers in Aflao are known to be Nigerians. This is backed by the quote below:

*“When it comes to sex trafficking, I can only speak in the context of my jurisdiction. In Volta Region, the situation is minimal it is not something that is rampant. Most of the cases we have dealt with in the region involved individual foreigners, mostly Nigerians who are doing this for their personal gain. We identified the players through interrogating the victims and sometimes through Ghana Immigration Service.” (GIS interview, Volta Region).*

### 5.4.3 Domestic and transnational trends

The Volta Region rarely receives adult sexually trafficked persons from other regions.<sup>22</sup> In some cases, people are trafficked from Greater Accra to Aflao. However, it came out that the region is noted for more cross-border sex trafficking activities due to the many entry points in the region. Transnational sex trafficking activities in the region mostly involve foreigners. These foreigners come from Benin, Togo and especially Nigeria, according to evidence collected. Traffickers take advantage of the many unapproved entry points at Aflao, Akanu, Dadease and Shia borders.

Another group of people who are victims of transnational sex trafficking are Ghanaian ladies between the ages of 20 to 30 years who are recruited from Brong Ahafo, Western, Northern, Upper East, Upper West and Greater Accra Regions and transported to the Gulf Region. Local Ghanaian agents involved in the recruitment of these ladies use the Aflao border and other unapproved routes in the region for their trafficking activities. An interview with the GIS Officer at the Aflao border alluded to this as follows:

*“You see, currently we have these girls who have been trafficked to the Gulf and a lot of them are being recruited from different parts of the country. Mostly they are from the Brong Ahafo Region, Western Region. Upper East, Upper West and Northern Regions. So, they recruit them and promise giving them lucrative jobs in the Gulf Regions. So sending them, the whole trend changes; it’s no longer what they were promised of like getting these jobs as domestic house help or nannies, rather they go into this; they divert the whole thing and take them into a whole different thing which they are not aware of or they have not been informed before they were been sent.” (GIS Interview, Volta, Region).*

Figure 16 demonstrates the movement of Victims in and out of the Volta Region. Red arrows represent movement into the region of victims from other parts of Ghana. Blue arrow represents movement out of the region to other parts of the world. Arrow 1 shows how victims are trafficked from the Upper West region to the Volta Region. Arrow shows movement of trafficked victims from the Upper East Region into the Volta Region. Arrow 3 shows the movement of victims from the Northern Region whiles 4 shows how they are moved from the Volta Region to the Gulf. Region.

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<sup>22</sup> Based on interviews and supported by the data. Of the 11 Ghanaian victims interviewed in the Volta region 9 of them had their region of origin as the Volta and the other two were from the Eastern and Greater Accra respectively.

Figure 16: Adult sex trafficking routes, Volta Region



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interviews, 2019.

#### 5.4.4 Methods used by traffickers

##### i. Recruitment methods

Our interview with GPS, DSW and GIS revealed that victims from Togo, Nigeria and Benin are lured with purported better job opportunities in Ghana. Ghanaians who are trafficked to the Gulf Regions are also recruited through similar methods.

##### ii. Transporting and transferring

The main means of transportation is by bus for both internal and cross-border sex trafficking activities in the Volta Region. Prior to the strict immigration checks on young women travelling to the Gulf States<sup>23</sup> by the GIS in 2017, Ghanaian agents used to transport victims of sex trafficking through the Kotoka International Airport. As a result of these checks, local agents and traffickers resorted to the use of the Aflao, Akanu, Dadease and Shia borders to Togo and Benin for onward transportation to the Gulf States. The unapproved routes along the Aflao border are located between Beat 0 and Beat 13. Traffickers who recruit/transport ladies from Nigeria cross the Aflao border in small groups, then reunite and continue their journey. Traffickers sometimes pose as businessmen/businesswomen who are voluntarily facilitating the immigration processes for these girls to cross the border.

Most of the perpetrators are both men and women who are facilitating sex trafficking. This demonstrated in the quote on the next page:

<sup>23</sup> This included Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Oman and for women travelling there to work as domestic help.

*“The perpetrators normally are both women and men, but women are the dominant which play a part in trafficking these girls. But they only tell us the GIS that they are only facilitating their crossing to the other side or they are only coming to escort them.” (an interview with GIS, Volta Region).*

### *iii. Harboursing and receipt of victims*

Victims in the Volta Region are usually brought to Aflao and held in hotels and guest houses. Some victims are also housed in homes located around the Aflao border. The traffickers rent these facilities and keep their victims there during the day, while in the evening victims either go out to work or patrons come to these facilities to utilize their services. The perpetrators send the victims to hotels or their own rented place in towns and cities. They normally keep the victims there until they depart for their final destinations. According to the GPS and GIS, sometimes perpetrators force the victims to pay their own travel expenses. Other perpetrators pay all the costs involved in victims’ travel and lie to the victims that they have already secured them lucrative jobs through which they can pay off their debt.

GIS has its own procedures in place to support rescued victims. First, this involves finding a temporary place for the victim to stay before contacting their families to take them home. It can be a shelter in case of availability or private accommodation. Some of these arrangements are part of GIS policies implemented by the Government of Ghana. As noted by a GIS Officer in the quote below:

*“When we rescue them here, immediate needs like food, for instance, are provided, those who are not well are also given some first aid. Those who may need a shower and clean clothing are also assisted with that. For severely ill victims, they are taken to the hospital and when health issues are complicated, the victim is sent to the hospital at GIS Headquarters in Accra.” (GIS Interview, Volta Region).*

The quote below demonstrated some of the processes undertaken by GIS:

*“...Yes. We have a hospital at our headquarters; we have a hospital there so immediately we refer; if the person needs medical assistance ... all that we do is we pick them and refer them.” (GIS Interview, Volta Region).*

#### *5.4.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Volta Region*

There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that the main factors promoting AST both within the region and externally are poverty, single parenting, lack of parental care and joblessness/unemployment among victims. Interviews corroborated this evidence, as indicated by the GPS representative below:

*“...Main causes are poverty, single parenting, unemployment and lack of parental care’ (GPS interview.” Volta Region).*

#### *5.4.6 Consequences of adult sex trafficking in the Volta Region*

Several consequences of AST have been observed in the Volta Region. These include sexual abuse at the working place and forced prostitution (known as night workers), drug abuse, robbery, contraction of diseases/sickness such as HIV/AIDS, and sometimes death. First, in the absence of the jobs promised by perpetrators, victims are forced into prostitution as a way of

survival, as they may face death threats otherwise from traffickers, and have had their travel documents seized. On average, some may have to see 2 or 3 clients in a day.

In addition, some men may request unprotected sex with victims for which they pay extra money. This sometimes leads to the contraction of deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other conditions. As a result, some resort to using medications that lead to substance abuse. Some victims go to the extent of using cocaine and excessive alcohol to reduce the pain and stress of frequent sex.

#### 5.4.7 Recommendations to curb adult sex trafficking in the Volta Region

First, poverty is a major push factor in trafficking vulnerability, and calls for more employment opportunities to raise the standard of living for women and their families is crucial. This is suggestive that if young women were to gain some employable skills, it could help curb the menace. Therefore, vocational training and apprenticeships for young women who do not already have them may help. For those who are unwilling to go through such apprenticeships, the skills they may already have such as catering could be harnessed and used as a starting point to get them set up for business. In addition, continuous education for the vulnerable youth about trafficking and schemes adopted by traffickers could help. For example, in an interview with GIS officer at Aflao, he recommended the following:

*“My advice to the youth especially the ladies, is that they should be very careful. They should be very cautious with the kind of information they get about travelling outside Ghana. They are rather being recruited and would be used for sex trafficking; they’d use them for forced labour and other forms of exploitation, so they have to be very very careful with people who come to them promising them of jobs in the Gulf Region especially. This is the current trend that is going on so girls need to be very careful so that they don’t end up in those places and destroy their future because they’re the future leaders and we don’t want to lose them.” (GIS, Volta Region).*

### 5.5 Eastern Region

#### 5.5.1 Perpetrators and victims

##### i. Perpetrators

Perpetrators in the Eastern Region are mostly women who either engage in AST alone or in an organized group. In terms of geographical background, apart from Ghanaians, these perpetrators are mainly from Nigeria. Nigerian perpetrators were identified to be coming from places such as Kirobo as well as Kokore in the Delta State Region. While some engage in sex trafficking (mainly for the monetary returns), others are enticed into it after they have served their “term” as victims. Perpetrators may include extended family members, workplace acquaintances, and even friends of the victims. The quote below gives insight into the nature of perpetrators:

*“I usually talk with one of my cousins [in Nigeria]. I pay my cousin to look for the young women for me...” (Perpetrator Interview, Eastern Region).*

##### ii. Victims

Victims of sex trafficking in the Eastern Region are young female adults who are in their 20s and 30s. Some of them have children and are usually single parents. They are usually unemployed

with little or no education seeking better opportunities, with others being orphans as the quote below suggests:

*“...I have dealt with victims as low as 9 years up to 21 years and some up to I think 38 years and most of them are unemployed and they have children.” (GPS Interview, Eastern Region)*

*“...most of them are orphans and they need help, so they quickly accept the offers of people to assist them. Most often those who go are between the ages of 19 and 25 years old – mostly females.” (Male FGD, Eastern Region).*

At the domestic level, these victims may have moved to the urban centres voluntarily, lured by perpetrators. At the transnational level, most victims end up outside the country after being deceived into accepting non-existent “good” job opportunities. Usually, those who were trafficked from outside Ghana had some form of business they were engaged in but sought better opportunities due to insufficient incomes. A participant in a female FGD explains this:

*“...It’s because of our selfish gains... because this lady am talking about was learning a trade and then the boyfriend came to deceive her.” (Female FGD).*

Due to the stigma surrounding AST to influence the children in the orphanage homes, many NGOs avoid giving shelter to rescued victims of sexual exploitation who are to be returned to their communities of origin. Besides, most of the shelters are for children with limited opportunities for adult VoTs.

*“Most of these shelters don’t want to accept them at the orphanages...I went for the victim and brought them to my office and they had to spend the night in my office because the following day they have to go to court, they have to go and testify...they spent two other days in the office before the Nigerian Embassy sent somebody to come for them.” (GPS Interview, Eastern Region).*

The few that provide shelter, such as the Ark Foundation in Koforidua, require formal permission from their Accra head office which can take several days of waiting, further worsening the plight of the victims:

*“The one (shelter providing NGO) we know of is the Ark Foundation which have a shelter at New Tafo but that shelter before somebody is admitted, the orders must come from Accra. So, imagine, you have a case in Koforidua here, you have to call Accra for them to do whatever they want to do before if they agree, they give you the green light.” (DSW Interview, Eastern Region).*

It is observed that some of the victims are forced to serve about 10 clients a day. This sometimes leaves them traumatized and depressed. As a result, they are provided counselling by DSW or Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) counsellors, or counsellors within the security services.

*“...We realized that somebody who has been traumatized through trafficking and you put the person in police cells, it compounds the situation; it makes the investigations difficult; yes, if the person is not stabilized. But putting the person at Social Welfare, it will stabilize the person for you to do your investigations and get the perpetrators which is our interest.” (GIS Interview Eastern Region).*



### 5.5.2 Incidence and prevalence

From the engagements with GPS, GIS and the DSW, it is understood that sex trafficking is highly prevalent in the region, though it varies throughout the region. However, interviews with selected community leaders and key informants suggest mixed opinions. While some community members do not recognize the trafficking problem, others are of the view that there has been a low prevalence of sex trafficking over the past 5 years due to some of the current Government initiatives (free education at the secondary level, NABCO<sup>24</sup>), the key informants held a contrary view. The latter's opinion is based on the fact that increased economic activities lead to a boom in the sex trade and increase in solvency, which may lead to more young women being trafficked. They therefore acknowledge the increase in economic activities in places such as Koforidua, the regional capital may be driving sex trade in general and trafficking in particular up. On the other hand, economic hardships in other communities keep them (victims and trafficking networks) away, leading to low prevalence in those communities. These divergent views are stated below:

*"So far it [sex trafficking] has reduced because of the current president's desire to make things better for the youth. He introduced the NABCO program which has absorbed and given jobs to some tertiary graduates who were initially jobless. This has kept them calm." (Participant, Male FGD, Eastern Region).*

*"I wouldn't say it's going down, I'd say it's increasing; yes, because a lot of development is going on and wherever development is ongoing, then all kinds of activities are going on there." (GPS Interview, Eastern Region).*

In Koforidua, through the interview of GIS representative, trafficked victims are normally found at places such as Total 2 (Filling Station), Omama Drinking Spot, Little Bentsil Drinking Spot, Joy Daddy Drinking Spot, Shell Filling Station Area, and Bula Drinking Spot at Gala, which is suspected to be a place designated for lesbians and prostitutes. Interviews with the GIS suggests that AST is more prevalent at the Bula Spot, followed by the Shell Filling Station Area and Total 2, with relatively minimal incidence at the others. Beyond Koforidua, other places include Effijaase, Somanya, Suhum, Begoro, Nkawkaw and Afram Plains.

It is also observed that some perpetrators are former victims. As noted by the GPS below:

*"I have dealt with cases where perpetrators are victims, who also want to cash in by bringing in other victims to continue the cycle, we have individuals who also engage in the act and when they realize it's so lucrative, they lure in others to join them. So, you realize that the sex trafficking issue is increasing." (GPS Interview, Eastern Region).*

To curb the prevalence, the security services work in tandem with the DSW and DOVVSU, as well NGOs and orphanages such as the Ark Foundation, Challenging Heights and Jehovah Rapha to apprehend perpetrators at their various hideouts or at checkpoints, and rescue and reintegrate victims back into their communities.

*"I have one case in court... two at the AG office and three under investigation and they are cross border trafficking. The US, Ghana to US." (GPS Interview, Eastern Region).*

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<sup>24</sup> Nation Builders Corp is a central Government initiative which provides jobs for the youth across the regions in Ghana.

### 5.5.3 Domestic and transnational trends

Information gathered from the GIS suggests that internal trafficking cases outnumber cross-border cases in the Eastern Region, although there seems to be more attention on cross-border trafficking. This gives room for internal trafficking to thrive in the region. Some of these internal VoTs were identified to be hairdressers, seamstresses and teachers. However, looking for better opportunities they can easily be deceived and trafficked. Other victims can cohabit with their traffickers, which makes it difficult to prosecute. As noted by an immigration officer in the region:

*"...we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that sometimes these traffickers and their victims have a relationship where it becomes difficult to permeate. Some have become like lovers; some have become like cohabiters: they are living together peacefully so it's very hard to pursue charges of adult sex trafficking..." (GIS Interview, Eastern Region).*

In the Eastern Region of Ghana, most cross-border trafficking victims are Nigerians from the Delta State. There were recent cases from the DSW where three women reported to the GIS that they were brought from Nigeria by two ladies with the intention to come and work in Ghana but were instead forced into AST. They have since been repatriated to Nigeria. In this matter, the Police Officer in charge of the case worked hand-in-hand with the Attorney General's Department to prepare all the necessary documentations and clearance before the VoTs were handed over to the Embassy of Nigeria in Ghana for them to be sent back home.

Other nationals include Ivorians and Togolese. Instances shared by key informants are elaborated below:

*"...The victims are coming from Kirobo, Nigeria. That's where the suspects and the perpetrators are also coming from. The perpetrators travel from Ghana to those places and deceive the parents of the victims that they are coming to work in the Supermarket but when they came, they forced them into prostitution." (GPS Interview, Eastern Region).*

*"...a case I handled about 2 months ago, about one lady who was arrested by the Police at Begoro; she was from Nigeria so I did some work on her and after the interrogation and investigations, it was revealed that she was brought into Ghana by her sister's friend to be given to a woman in Kumasi so that she could get a job here but unfortunately when she was brought here, she was put into prostitution." (GIS Interview, Eastern Region).*

Another view of transnational sex trafficking involves Ghanaians trafficked from the Eastern Region and sent to Nigeria and some Gulf States. Other destinations include Liberia, Egypt, Libya and Togo. As in other regions, travel documents are confiscated upon arrival in the destination country:

*"They take them to Liberia, Libya and then they use them for sex so in the long run they come back with sickness." (Female FGD, Eastern Region).*

*"I have handled cases where women have been taken to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. We handled a case where a lady was trafficked to South Africa ... A married woman from Koforidua trafficked her to South Africa with the promise of working in a salon but when she got there, instead of salon work it was rather prostitution." (GPS Interview, Koforidua).*



Figure 17 is a map showing the movement of the victims into and out of the Eastern Region. Red arrows show internal movements from other parts of Ghana into the Eastern Region. Blue arrows on the other hand shows movement of victims from the Eastern Region to other parts of the world or from other parts of the world to the Eastern Region of Ghana. First arrow 1 shows movement from Côte d'Ivoire to Koforidua. Arrow 2 shows how some victims are transported from other West African countries into the Eastern Region. Arrow 3 shows how other victims are moved to the Gulf Region. Arrow 4 from the Eastern Region to Nigeria and 5 shows how some victims are sent from the Eastern Region to South Africa. Arrow 6 shows how some come from Volta region through Accra and end up in the eastern region as depicted in arrow 7.

Figure 17: Adult sex trafficking routes, Eastern Region



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interviews, 2019.

#### 5.5.4 Methods used by traffickers

##### i. Recruitment methods

It is highly acknowledged in the Eastern Region that recruitment of victims into AST is done through deception of high incomes and better opportunities. As noted by a GIS Officer:

*“They give them more false hopes that there’s going to be greener pasture; they’ll tell you the amount you’d take; at times maybe, 1 hour you’d take maybe \$1000.00 or \$2000.00 per month so they’d let you know that this is how the things are but is that the reality?” (GIS Interview, Eastern Region).*

Recruitment is done subtly through similar methods as in other regions. Recruiters take advantage of victims’ economic vulnerabilities and appeal to victims’ conscience by promising better income. A case is shared by a former teacher who became a victim:

*“One of the parents of the pupils I was teaching called me to acknowledge my beauty and said I shouldn’t waste my time teaching and introduced me to another business where I could earn more than I used to earn at the school on daily basis. She took me inside [the] club where I saw some big men who would call her and chat and laugh with her... she told me the other ladies who have dressed nicely are into prostitution, and that I now know her secret so there is no way I will*

*not accept her offer. I became interested because I was facing financial difficulties. I was the breadwinner of the home, so I accepted the offer.” (Victim Interview, Eastern Region).*

When victims give in to promised employment, the perpetrators buy them all the necessities to make sure the victim feels at home and trusts them. For local recruits, perpetrators buy all the jewellery, dresses and other items needed and pay all transportation costs. For cross-border trafficking, all documentation expenses are taken care of by the perpetrator as well. These initial expenses are then used as leverage against AST victims, who are forced to pay traffickers back with very little left for themselves. A Nigerian perpetrator interviewed suggested that for the two girls she recently recruited from Nigeria, she paid GHS 200 each and paid for the acquisition of their passports.

For cross-border trafficking, recruiters work individually, or work in an organized group that recruit people outside the country. Male FGDs corroborated this fact.

#### *ii. Transporting and transferring*

Within the country and the West Africa subregion, sex trafficking is known mainly by road and sea. Traffickers from the West Africa subregion normally prefer using the coastal areas and fishing towns especially in the Volta Region. They mainly come through Aflao to Accra and then to Koforidua. Others too come through Aflao, through Ho, Atimpoku and then to Koforidua. There are other known routes through the northern part of the Volta Region such as Dambai and Jasikan.

Beyond the West African region, perpetrators transport victims by air. Thus, a mixed transport approach is used whereby victims from the Eastern Region are sometimes transported by road to the coastal areas of some of Ghana’s neighbouring countries before being airlifted to their destination. An immigration officer notes that:

*“I think 2007, when we went for the workshop, Aflao had arrested some ladies who wanted to use that side because the Ghanaian Airport was no go area so they tried to use Aflao to get to maybe Togo and fly out from there.” (GIS Interview, Eastern Region).*

#### *iii. Harboursing and receipt of victims*

Usually, after the victims have gotten to their destinations, they are normally initiated into the sex trade by their perpetrators through coaching about its supposed benefits<sup>25</sup>. In other cases, after victims have interacted with clients, traffickers instruct them on how to get clients. As the GPS interview suggests:

*“...a typical case I did, the victim told me that they were taken through tutorials, how they should dress, how they should pose straight, how they should lure men when they go out for the night.” (GPS Interview, Eastern Region).*

Perpetrators usually provide accommodation to victims at the hotels, bars, casinos or restaurants where there is a high prevalence of sex work. When the victims arrive, perpetrators initially make them feel comfortable by providing for their needs and establishing a ‘mother-daughter’ relationship. These victims rarely go out during the day except to buy small items such as food, and never keep large sums of money as the “madam” buys everything for them. As suggested by a perpetrator:

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<sup>25</sup> These benefits come in the form of regular incomes which helps victims to offset their debts to the trafficker and gain their freedom; promise of good clothes and accommodation.

*“...we eat together we do everything together... I don’t stress them. We live like sisters... Yes, I told them if they need anything, they should tell me I will do it.” (Perpetrator Interview, Eastern Region).*

At the domestic level, there are local hoteliers or house-owners who have established relationships with some of the perpetrators and provide accommodation to the victims upon their arrival. These victims spend the nights soliciting clients or move to a place as requested by the client. As noted during an interview with GPS:

*“...at Bula spot, the owner is not the organizer of the sex trafficking, but he trades, he rents the place to them [perpetrators]. For the victims who are brought there, some of them come in groups and others come individually. Other Queens/“madams” recruit and keep them in the house and gives them out for men.” (GPS Interview, Eastern Region).*

However, it is observed from the interviews that most victims and perpetrators prefer to stay in the hotels and meet clients there than to seek clients on the street. This is primarily because of security considerations for the victims.

#### *5.5.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Eastern Region*

The main factors identified as promoting sex trafficking in the Eastern Region are the poverty levels resulting from the lack of employment avenues, lack of parental control and family support, peer pressure, and lack of education. It is largely stated across all the interviews that the main cause of sex trafficking in the region is the lack of ready employment. Most of the victims are unemployed or are employed in low-paying jobs. The two quotes below support this assertion:

*“I have dealt with victims as low as 9 years up to 21 years and some up to I think 38 years and most of them are unemployed and they have children. It’s like it appears poverty drives most of them into that business.” (GPS Interview, Eastern Region).*

*“There are no ready jobs after school so most of the youth depend on their families for survival which makes their families overburdened hence, they complain bitterly. This demoralizes the youth and it pushes them to go out there and fend for themselves and eventually they fall prey to the substantive issue at stake here.” (Participant, Male FGD, Eastern Region).*

Ineffective parental control and lack of family support has also been stated to lead young women into AST. Parents who are unable to take proper care of their children and are easily drawn by material gifts, they quickly give out their young daughters to perpetrators they least suspect. From the DSW point of view:

*“Most parents are irresponsible, they cannot take care of their children, so children have to go out and fend for themselves. And some of these children end up being sex trafficked.” (DSW Interview, Eastern Region).*

Furthermore, the influence from fellow peers also lead to sex trafficking. Some of these young females are influenced by their peers to have expensive items, like, dressing and gifts and it pressures their peers to possess the same and lure into the sex trade.

*“Aside poverty, peer pressure is also a key factor to the contribution of this substantive issue. An individual who could have survived on GHS10 would now wish he had more than that because he/she has seen his or her friends do things and he would like to do same or similar.” (GPS Interview, Eastern Region).*

There are also concerns that the lack of education also plays a major role in promoting sex trafficking in the region. As most of the observed victims are illiterate or have low education levels, they are especially vulnerable to traffickers. Victims’ ignorance becomes a major hindrance in fully adhering to public education and understanding the schemes and practices of recruiters.

#### *5.5.6 Consequences of adult sex trafficking in the Eastern Region*

The major consequences of cross-border and internal AST are usually reported to be sickness and diseases, emotional and psychological trauma, physical abuse, kidnapping and robbery, and even murder.

Firstly, due to the sexual nature of their business, there are clients who will pay higher amounts to the perpetrators to have unprotected sex with victims. Victims are therefore at high risk of contracting STIs and other diseases. Women who contract STIs such as HIV/AIDs are usually left with no other choice than to continue in the trade, which makes rehabilitation difficult. A case handled by the police representative interviewed supports this claim:

*“The lady confided in us that, as a result of the prostitution she attracted HIV. So, she wouldn’t want to come back to Koforidua, so she wanted to remain there [South Africa].” (Interview, GPS).*

In addition, some victims are left traumatized by their ordeals at the hands of both traffickers and clients. This trauma usually arises from physical abuse or forced sexual encounters:

*“...For the women, some go through horrifying experiences. Some are traumatized, some get sick, I mean a whole lot. I have sent some to hospital and sometimes they have to detain them at the hospital, take care of them till the person recovers. I’m speaking to issues that I have sent to court and they wish they had never travelled to such a destination and they are mostly crying to want to go back to where they are coming from.” (GPS Interview, Eastern Region)*

*“...Some men wanted to have anal sex with me but when I disagreed, they forced me, so I had to oblige. Yes, sometimes they beat me till I bleed but they don’t care because they’ve paid.” (Victim Interview, Eastern Region).*

Some victims are also attacked at gunpoint, kidnapped or robbed of their valuables by clients. In some cases, some are even murdered, and it is believed that they are sometimes killed for rituals by their clients (as reported by one of the participants, Male FGD, Eastern Region). Some victims also suggest that sometimes they are robbed and beaten by people who pretend to be clients, which is affirmed by the GPS:

*“Sometimes I sit in somebody’s car and the person can collect your money and beat you on top... Yes, it has happened to me twice. They took my phone, my purse containing the money inside. Since then I decided not to follow anyone to his house except the hotel.” (Interview, Victim).*

*“Those who roam the streets they are vulnerable to all forms of security attack including kidnapping, murder, sometimes they even suffer robbery. As for the attack and the robbery on them, that one is rampant.” (Interview, GPS).*

#### *5.5.7 Recommendations to curb adult sex trafficking in the Eastern Region*

To curtail AST in the Eastern Region, it is recommended that employment avenues are made available for the youth, alongside reliable data which can be used by security agencies to facilitate their rescue missions, effective public education, parental control and family support.<sup>26</sup> First, the Government should collaborate with the private sector and facilitate the private sectors’ efforts to provide more avenues for employment, especially for young women. There seem to be over concentration of businesses in very few large cities and this denies less-active places like Koforidua the opportunity to expand the productive sectors which serves as a conduit for youth employment. Although the Government has introduced Nation Builders Corps (NABCO) to curb unemployment, it is observed these are short-term measures which need a different approach for sustainability. Second, NABCO targets first degree holders and as observed earlier on, very few victims have educational levels up to the first degree. It is therefore important for Government to look at ways which promotes the provision of employment avenues which serves the needs of less privileged youths in terms of formal education.

It is difficult to quantify the impact of Government interventions to combat AST. From the interviews, we observe divergent opinions between some selected communities and security services on the prevalence of AST. In some cases, communities and even Government officials rely on anecdotal evidence. This may not help to adequately fight the sex trafficking menace. It is therefore important for Government and other international organizations to support research initiatives to drive effective policy formulation.

It is also recommended that parental efforts should complement Government efforts to ensure sex trafficking is dealt with at the foundational level. Family care and supporting the provision of quality education is key. The Government’s recent implementation of free senior high school can be taken advantage of by parents to address AST vulnerability within their households.

*“If you educate the child and there are more jobs or she’s able to learn a trade, it will reduce unemployment. Education will keep her informed about certain things and when things aren’t clear to her she can ask questions for clarification.” (Female FGD, Eastern Region).*

However, over time, it is expected that effective family care and discipline can help reduce AST prevalence. Young women can be persuaded to follow parental advice if these indicators are met and can be further supported by strong public education and awareness campaigns in communities with high AST prevalence. Interviews indicate that GIS and some NGOs currently have active public education campaigns in target communities. However, these efforts can be strengthened through collaboration with religious groups.

Additionally, it is important for Government to critically assess the capacities and needs of the various law enforcement services (GPS and GIS) and other stakeholders involved in combating

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<sup>26</sup> Parental control will require from the parents the cooperation with and capacitation by immigration and police services as well as social welfare department to be able to make compelling arguments to their children and suggest the available alternative solutions (study, better employment, sustainable development counselling, etc.). Available counselling centres should therefore empower the parents to become a conduit for young people to get reliable information about migration and AST.

AST in the Eastern Region and the country. Interviews indicated that there were not enough personnel specially trained to handle AST cases in the region. Where trained personnel exist, there is limited logistical support to available to carry out their duties; for instance, there are no available shelters to house rescued victims while reintegration or repatriation efforts are underway. This creates additional challenges on DSW, GPS and GIS staff, who often have to use their personal resources to support victims. This can be risky for victims, as they have to sleep in the homes or offices of authorities:

*“Unfortunately, Eastern Region we don’t have Shelter for abused cases [So officers sometimes have to keep victims in their offices or homes for days]...If the Government can put up maybe in every region a shelter for all categories of cases it will help and put officers there to manage. But if the shelter is there, we don’t have officers to manage that means we haven’t done anything.” (DSW Interview, Eastern Region).*

To the extent that offices used by the DSW or GIS are not designed for harbouring rescued victims, they can be broken into by perpetrators and re-traffic victims or hurt them to prevent them from given information to the security authorities.

There should also be a strong security presence in the identified localities, and effective interrogation, investigation and prosecution should be implemented to deter other perpetrators. Border points, especially coastal checkpoints, should also be strengthened with police and military presence, especially in the evening when AST is most prevalent.

*“...I would like to say that if I look at other regions, they have senior police officers mounting the human trafficking unit but Eastern Region we don’t have any police officer mounting the unit...If you look at the nature of trafficking issue in the Eastern Region, we need everybody on board, we need the community members, we need social workers and commitment of officers who are supposed to work on these cases. As for the issue of logistics, it’s always an issue. We need capacity-building training for officers and motivate them to take up such cases.” (Interview, GPS)*

## 5.6 Ashanti Region

### 5.6.1 Perpetrators and victims

#### i. Perpetrators

There are three main types of perpetrators in the Ashanti Region. The first group consists of Ghanaian women who live in Kumasi and rely on agents in other regions or within the Ashanti Region to recruit young women. The second group are Ghanaian agents or agencies who recruit young women and promise them jobs in the Middle East. They may know that their clients are being trafficked for sex or may not. This group of perpetrators is predominately male. The third group of perpetrators are relatively older women (compared to their victims) from countries within the West African subregion, mainly Nigeria. These perpetrators have engaged in the sex industry as prostitutes over a period in Ghana in the past and have transitioned into roles such as recruiters or managers and are usually called “*Madams*”.

#### ii. Victims

The main victims of AST are Nigerian nationals who were mostly unemployed before being trafficked and are also in some cases school dropouts, according to the GPS. The GPS also suggests that Ghanaian victims are mainly sent to the Gulf countries, with another group of



victims brought to the region or Kumasi from other parts of Ghana (mainly the Northern, Upper West, Upper East and Brong Ahafo Regions).

#### 5.6.2 Incidence and prevalence

According to our engagements with the GPS, GIS and DSW in the Ashanti Region, the incidence of AST is perceived to be rising. Respondents say the rise is the result of the influx of new cases from neighbouring Nigeria. In the Ashanti Region, successful “*madams*” can have an average of 12 girls under their control. These “*madams*” seem to be increasing in all the flashpoint areas within the Kumasi metropolis. Worthy of note are suburbs of Adum, Asafo, Dichemso and Denyame. The incidence of trafficking continues to grow as “*madams*” recruit more vulnerable women from their communities of origin, especially in Nigeria.<sup>27</sup> Most of the new recruits end up in Kumasi and in mining communities where *galamsey*<sup>28</sup> was prevalent before a recent central Government ban on *galamsey* activities.

With the ban on illegal mining, there is some evidence to suggest that the number of trafficked women in the Kumasi Metropolis is rising, as trafficked sex workers formerly in mining towns are moved to the city. This trend could however see a reversal as soon as the ban on illegal mining is lifted.

On the other hand, prevalence seems to have seen significant increases in the last five years. According to the GPS in the Ashanti Region, in the absence of adequate information sharing by the public and limited cooperation by hotels and guest house managers, attempts to address the problem has faced many challenges, especially in the Kumasi Metropolis. In addition, inadequate capacity of security agencies in terms of logistics,<sup>29</sup> manpower and coordination have also stalled efforts. Thus, despite widespread evidence of new cases, rescue efforts cannot keep pace with these cases.

#### 5.6.3 Domestic and transnational trends

Internally, the Ashanti Region mostly receives trafficked women from the Brong Ahafo, Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. Young women are often lured with lucrative job offers and trafficked from their villages to the Kumasi Metropolis. For Ghanaian nationals trafficked on these two routes (Brong Ahafo to Kumasi and Northern Region to Kumasi), they have a better chance of being rescued and returned home than externally trafficked victims, because of the higher likelihood that their relatives will file complaints with police.

However, for transnational Ghanaian victims who are trafficked by mainly local agents into countries in the Middle East, it is sometimes extremely difficult for the police in the region to help. In some instances, relatives of stranded or disgruntled victims report agents to police officers in Kumasi to seek the return of their relatives, who then ask the agents in question to initiate the process of returning the victim. It has been quite difficult for the police to follow through with some of these rescue efforts since at some point the relatives who report the cases

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<sup>27</sup> *Madams* visit Nigeria regularly and sell the idea of providing jobs for unsuspecting young women in Nigeria and then transport them to Ghana.

<sup>28</sup> Illegal small-scale mining.

<sup>29</sup> For example, the GPS note that many of their stations do not have adequate room for holding suspects and victims temporarily whilst investigations are going on. The situation becomes very difficult to manage because many of the police cells do not have enough restrooms especially for women.

stop following up, after which it is difficult to tell whether the victim has been returned or otherwise.

A second victim group in transnational AST includes victims predominantly from Nigeria, and others from other West African countries like Liberia. Those in Nigeria come to the region mainly through Aflao – Ghana’s border with Togo. In the last five years, there is evidence to suggest that the frequency of such groups coming into the region has increased, as indicated by the increasing number of Nigerian victims<sup>30</sup> rounded-up under alleged sex trafficking cases during police raids.

Figure 18 gives an idea of sex trafficking in the Ashanti Region. The Red arrows show the movement of the sex trafficked victims to and from the Ashanti Region relative to other places in Ghana. The blue arrows indicate how victims are moved out of Ghana from the Ashanti Region and from other countries into the Ashanti Region.

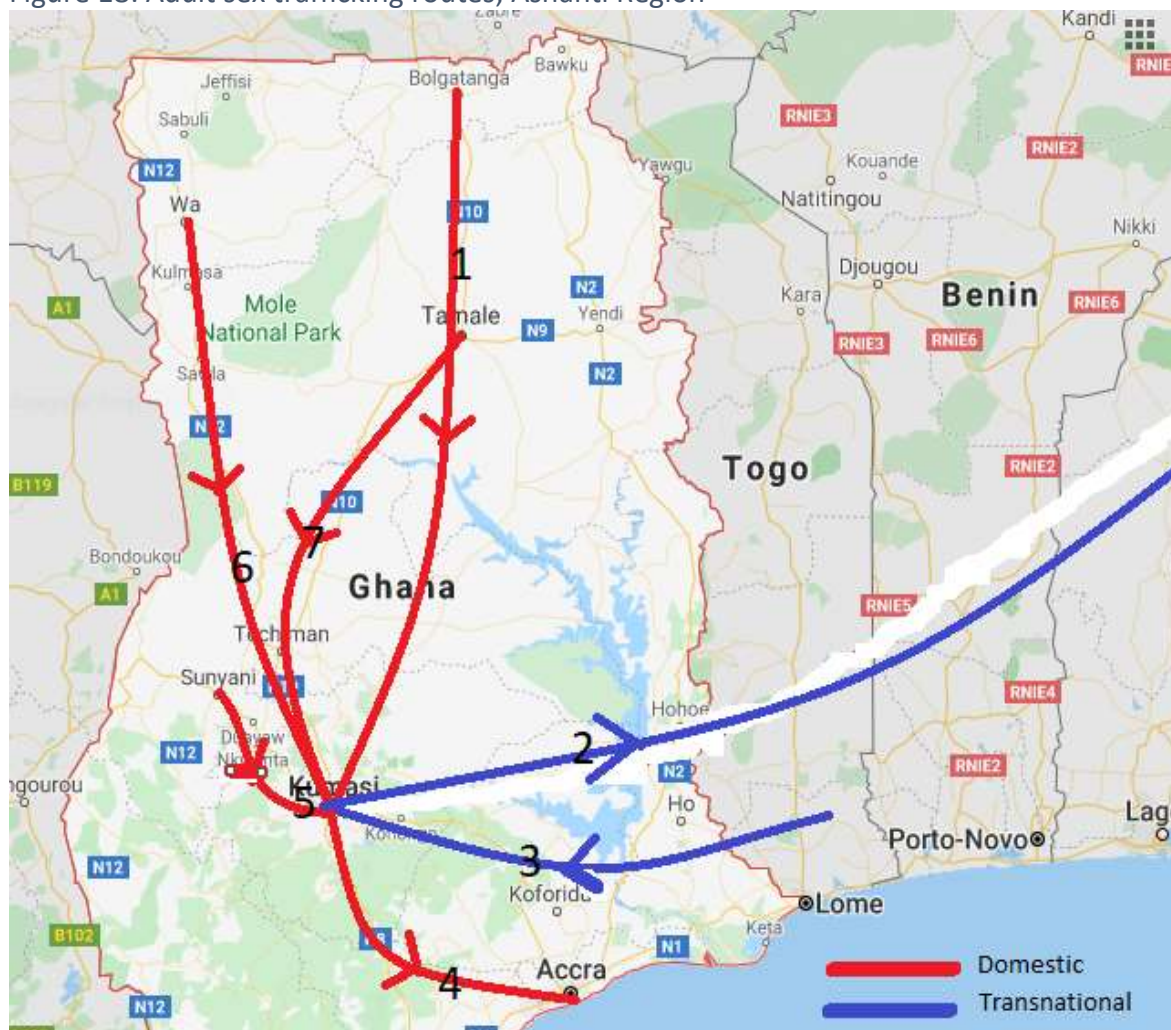
From the Map in Figure 19, arrow 1 shows how victims are brought in from the Upper East Region to Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. Arrow 2 shows how some victims are trafficked from the Ashanti Region to the Gulf region and arrow 3 shows the movement from other West African countries to the Ashanti Region. The arrow 4 shows how victims are moved from the Ashanti Region to the Greater Accra Region while arrow 5 shows how some victims are moved from the Brong Ahafo region to the Ashanti Region. The arrow 6 shows the movement of victims from the Upper West Region to the Ashanti Region while arrow 7 shows the movement from the Northern Region to the Ashanti Region.

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<sup>30</sup> Police raids usually target arresting prostitutes since prostitution is illegal in Ghana. In many of these instances some of the people arrested are found to be victims of sex trafficking.



Figure 18: Adult sex trafficking routes, Ashanti Region



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interviews, 2019.

#### 5.6.4 Methods used by traffickers

##### i. Recruitment methods

To recruit victims, traffickers either operate alone or in a group. These female traffickers, as noted earlier, are sometimes former victims themselves. After gaining their freedom they work in the trade for some time recruiting others. They go to towns and villages mostly in Brong Ahafo along the Kumasi-Sunyani-Nkrankwanta Road. Others also operate in communities linking Wenchi through Bole to Wa in the Upper West Region and beyond. Evidence gathered through interviews with the GPS suggests that some traffickers operate on the Kumasi-Techiman-Tamale route to recruit potential victims in the Northern and Upper East Regions. They usually promise potential victims a better life with well-paid jobs in restaurants and chop bars, which is very appealing to these women, who are sometimes unemployed or are engaged in dressmaking/hairstyling.

A slightly different approach is used by transnational traffickers to recruit victims, mainly from Nigeria. Traffickers are usually former victims as seen in other regions, and between the ages of 30 and 40. They return to Nigeria after being freed, and present themselves as wealthy to lure potential victims, dressing luxuriously and spending money. Some of them also return with

capital and set up some businesses, such as jewellery shops. This artificial demonstration of wealth attracts the attention of some of the young women in their immediate environment.

When these potential victims get close to the traffickers, they are told that business is good in Ghana and that they can be brought to Ghana if they are interested, to also begin their journey to a successful life. Some of the victims are lured to follow the traffickers to Kumasi, only to realize that they have been trafficked into the sex trade. According to the GPS in Kumasi, some of these perpetrators change the names and identities of victims and coach them on how to respond to the police in case they are arrested or rescued. This makes it difficult for the police to gather reliable information to support their rescue efforts.

For the cross-border cases involving Ghanaians going to Kuwait and Côte d'Ivoire in particular, there is a strong sense of agreement among female FGD participants in the Ashanti Region that there are three main ways used for recruiting. The first is the use of radio adverts promising jobs in Kuwait and other Middle East countries. These adverts are repeated daily on popular radio stations in Kumasi and other towns in the region. With many youths in the city desperately looking for opportunities to make an income quickly, such adverts are highly appealing. Secondly, posters advertising a better life in the Middle East and opportunities for young men and women to obtain travel documentation and work contracts in this region are also quite popular. The same FGD notes that there are a significant number of youths in the region who do not want to do any difficult work even if it is available in Ghana. Therefore, when they see posters that promise quick access to wealth, they are tempted to pursue these opportunities. Thirdly, there is a growing number of agents working in teams, going from house to house presenting such lucrative contracts to young people and their families in Kumasi and its environs. They spend time with these young women to convince them to travel to either Libya, Kuwait or Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan and Yomo).

#### *ii. Transporting and transferring*

The main means of transportation is by bus for both victims trafficked within Ghana and the West African subregion. In the past, traffickers (especially those from Nigeria attempting to smuggle victims through the Aflao border) did so in groups. However, with time they have realized that such a strategy looks suspicious to border agencies, so their new approach is to pretend at the border that each of them is travelling individually. Once they cross the border, they reunite and continue the journey by public transport to Kumasi. The internally trafficked victims are also transported using public buses plying the routes on which the victims are recruited. On the international front, where young women in the region are taken to a Middle East country, they are usually transported by bus and temporarily kept in homes in Accra before being moved to the airport to depart.

#### *iii. Harboursing and receipt of victims*

Victims in the Ashanti Region are usually brought to Kumasi and harboured in hotels and guest houses, mainly located in suburbs like Asafo and Dichemso. There are some victims who are also harboured in guest houses and hotels located around Adum and KO in Kumasi. The traffickers hire these facilities and keep their victims there during the day and in the evening, clients come to these facilities to patronize their services. These hotels and guest houses in which victims are harboured have sometimes become grounds for stand-offs between law enforcement agencies, facility managers, victims and traffickers as the security services do random raids in the facilities to arrest culprits.

#### *5.6.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Ashanti Region*

The main factors promoting the trafficking business in the Ashanti Region, either internally or externally, are predominantly influenced by the demand for sexual services. Within this context of demand for sexual services, perpetrators adopt measures which scare victims from escaping. Perpetrators also intimidate community members and make them afraid and unwilling to divulge information about their operations for the police to follow up. Ultimately, the issue of youth unemployment came up strongly as a major push factor. We discuss these in turn.

Firstly, there are some groups of traffickers who use extreme means to recruit individuals into trafficking. For instance, new victims are sometimes taken to fetish priests to consult oracles and make them swear oaths of allegiance. Some of these oaths are taken in such a way that to incite fear in the victims to the extent that they never divulge information to the police or contemplate running away. They are made to believe that doing so will lead to their death, as noted by a police officer in an interview.

Secondly, community members are also afraid to report traffickers since they believe the traffickers work in a gang and could easily harm them if they find out. There seems to be some mistrust between the police and the public. The police need tip-offs from community members to act, but some community members doubt whether what they tell the police will be kept confidential. They are afraid of being exposed to attacks by traffickers.

Thirdly, there are issues about unemployment and poverty, which drive some individuals and families to send their relations abroad under some strict contracting arrangements. In such instances, victims have very little independence or power. Some of the victims who also had the desire to pursue their education but had no one to assist them especially in their home country (Nigeria) follow perpetrators in the hope that they will raise some money in the shortest possible time and return to school. There are also school dropouts from Nigeria whose economic potential are limited and thus follow recruiters because of the promise of greener pastures.

#### *5.6.6 Consequences of adult sex trafficking in the Ashanti Region*

There are three broad consequences of AST in the Ashanti Region based on this study. Firstly, AST, nested within the broad context of prostitution, places a strain on security enforcement and social welfare resources. A case in point is when in the year 2018, a GPS raid in Kumasi resulted in the arrest of several alleged perpetrators and victims. The operation was conducted at night and so there was the need to hold the suspects till the next morning so that their statements could be taken, and appropriate actions followed through. The officers on duty made contacts with several police stations to find out if the suspects could be kept in their cells, but in most instances, there were no spaces. There is no room for taking on additional females and so police stations which were willing to take some of these suspects had to stretch their physical infrastructure to the limit.

Secondly, AST also potentially creates a state of insecurity and disturbs public peace in the communities in which they occur. Police raids to rescue victims and arrest perpetrators is sometimes associated with some resistance from the operators of hotels and guest houses in which the alleged victims are harboured. This sometimes escalates and creates some level of mayhem. Although the GPS in the Ashanti Region did not report any case of fatality during any of these raids, they note that there is a growing lack of cooperation by managers of hotels and guest houses in Kumasi.

Finally, it also creates a state of insecurity for the victims and compromises their natural adult lives. In one typical instance, a group of young girls brought from Nigeria by an organized group of perpetrators were taken to one village in the region with the usual promise of being given jobs. Upon arrival and realizing that the perpetrators intended to exploit them (the young women) sexually, they resisted, and this raised an alarm, which drew the GPS's attention. The GPS followed up on the issue and were able to zero in on the culprits in the village. However, before the police could clamp perpetrators down, they bolted to an unknown location in Kumasi where it took the GPS several days before finally rescuing the girls. The victims were traumatized through the process.

#### *5.6.7 Recommendations to curb the menace of adult sex trafficking in the Ashanti Region*

To address the issue of AST in the Ashanti Region, first, information volunteering by the public will be key. There seems to be a lot going on in the region especially in Kumasi, but the GPS, given the limited resources assigned for the purpose of rescuing victims can only work effectively if reliable information from the public is available to them.

Secondly, the Association of Hotels, in the region should be engaged with by the GPS. This engagement should be underpinned by a genuine desire by the police to understand the nature of their businesses and encourage them to cooperate when it comes to victims being harboured in their facilities. This working relationship and engagement should be maintained through agreed meeting periods during which new developments will be tackled. Perhaps, some verbal praise by the GPS for cooperating facilities may encourage others to support the police in rescuing victims.

A third and final recommendation here is for the GPS's national administration to take a second look at the design of their cells and temporary holding rooms which seems to be male focused and provides limited accommodation for women (either victims or perpetrators). The emphases here should be on the toilet facilities, which are woefully inadequate for women. In the meantime, while modification of infrastructure is being considered, GPS officers in the region are also encouraged to gauge the resources available before undertaking raids so that whoever is arrested is not simply left to go because there is no room in the stations.

### **5.7 Brong Ahafo Region**

#### *5.7.1 Perpetrators and victims*

##### *i. Perpetrators*

Perpetrators in the Brong-Ahafo Region are mostly "*connection*" men and adult women known as "*madams*" who recruit the young ladies for sexual transactions. There seems to be some division of labour here. The *connection* men who are adult males mostly concentrate on the recruitment of victims for external trafficking of victims out of Ghana — cross-border trafficking. On the other hand, "*madams*" concentrate on internal sex trafficking within Ghana. These individuals are either from within the country and/or the destination countries where the sex trafficking business is undertaken. A third group of perpetrators mainly operate as travel and tour agencies within the region and use media houses as the main means of reaching out to potential victims. Through the media houses mainly radio stations, the travel and tour agencies announce "juicy" job opportunities outside Ghana to get victims on board.

From the interviews, it was realized that some of the perpetrators are either friends or individuals from the urban communities who go to the rural communities to get their “preys”. In the chain of activities to recruit victims, third-party perpetrators in the form of agents located in the destination countries also make sure victims are received and harboured prior to their release to the final master who must have paid for the victim to be brought in.

According to a representative from MoGCSP, the perpetrators are able to lure the girls into thinking that where they are going to be is very good for them and so some are able to go to the extent of going to see the parents of these girls; others too are able to meet the girls and convince them in such a way that they eventually become willing to come with them.

## *ii. Victims*

Victims of sex trafficking in the region are mostly women. Most of them have no education with few having some basic level of education:

*“...I can confidently tell you that, about 95 per cent of them are not educated. Or even if they have any slight education, it is up to JHS<sup>31</sup> level...” (Representative, GIS Headquarters, Brong Ahafo Region).*

These victims are usually young women who are looking for greener pastures because of poverty and are from different geographical areas within the Brong-Ahafo Region. Some are migrants - international migrants - and others are locals. Some fall prey to unverified media advertisements and others get involved through friends who link them up with the perpetrators. A victim’s experience elaborates this:

*“As for me, I went there through the influence of a friend. But for her [my friend], she told me that an agent had told her of job opening in Dubai. She added that it was a house help job and the salary was good.” (Victim Interview, Brong Ahafo Region).*

It was observed that not all victims are able to come forward into the public domain after the ordeal of being trafficked and exploited sexually. Some hide themselves for about 2 to 3 months because first, they might have come back empty handed without the promised wealth. Second, they might have also come back home sick and in some cases would have lost significant weight. The stigma associated with such a state is enormous and so some returned victims prefer to hide. However, after their return, some victims recover quite quickly. And for those who did recover they received counselling and support from NGOs<sup>32</sup>, friends and family members.

### *5.7.2 Incidence and prevalence*

From the interviews, it was observed that the prevalence of the sex trade in Brong-Ahafo Region is lower when compared to other regional destinations such as Accra, Kumasi and Takoradi. However, the region is noted as a source of victims of sex trafficking who are taken to other destination countries outside Ghana, as demonstrated by the quote below:

*“People are not being trafficked to BA, but they are rather being trafficked out of BA a lot. Most of the girls are being sent to Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi for sex trade. Last month, we were in Adamsu and the Sampa Districts...we had an encounter with over 23 females who were being prepared to be sent to Saudi Arabia by an agent.” (GIS Interview, Brong Ahafo Region).*

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<sup>31</sup> JHS-Junior High School.

<sup>32</sup> The most popular NGO in this respect in the Brong Ahafo Region is Don Bosco.



Since the Brong Ahafo is a region in the middle belt of Ghana, it also serves as a transit point for victims. For example, a key informant from the MoGCSP suggests that the cases which have come before her, point to the fact that girls from Northern Ghana are being moved to the south for greener pastures:

*“Most of them that I have encountered are young women being brought from the North to the South...some say they are coming to look for resources to further their education and therefore poverty plays a major role.” (MoGCSP Interview, Brong Ahafo Region).*

Thus, within the region, many the victims of AST are from the North who claim they came to look for alternate livelihoods to supplement their income or further their education. Most of these women can be found in the border towns of Sampa, Adamsu, Dormaa, Kyekyewere in the Tain District and Buokuo in the Wenchi Municipality. In other areas within the region, migrants from other West African countries constitute a large proportion of sex traffickers. For example, according to a representative from the MDSP, in Sunyani, a significant number of sex traffickers are known to be Nigerians leading the trade.

*“...you see them at some of the “bases” or “corners”...in Sunyani, there’s an area called Area 1 that is where mostly when you go, you’d find some of these migrant sex workers.” (Representative from GIS Headquarters, Brong Ahafo).*

#### 5.7.3 Domestic and transnational trends

In terms of the domestic trends, a large proportion of the trafficked women do not get what they were initially promised. Hence, they are forced into the sex trade since they do not have a ready alternative; more so, since they are outside their local communities where they originally reside. Although it was difficult to map out the perpetrators by the various interviewees, it was largely found that these victims are from rural communities and others are from the northern part of the country as well as other places like Takoradi where they were trafficked from to Sunyani or Dormaa Ahenkro in the Brong Ahafo Region. On few occasions when the security forces have raided their hideouts, some of these women are rescued and sent back to where they came from.

At the transnational levels, there are lots of Ghanaians from Sunyani who are being lured into the sex trade to the Gulf countries such as Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Some of them are trafficked to these Gulf countries through the Mediterranean or the desert without knowing what they were going to do. At some points, GPS and GIS can use certain indicators<sup>33</sup> to identify perpetrators and rescue victims at the border towns before they make their exit. The families are then contacted after they have received some level of counselling and education from either Social Welfare or the security forces. Some of these victims who escape return with virtually nothing and they find it difficult for them to return to their local communities. It has been quite challenging for the security forces to apprehend perpetrators due to lack of resources coupled with the rapid changes in the modus operandi of these perpetrators.

Within the West Africa subregion, there are reported cases of trafficked victims from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Togo. However, evidence shows that a large proportion from the West African bloc are Nigerians who are found in Kumasi. Sometimes they are noted for

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<sup>33</sup> The way they are dress, and intonation sometimes gives them away and then the GIS/GPS interrogate them further. In other cases when victims are being questioned, perpetrators respond, and this gives them away.

their aggressive character and have no regard for security agencies in their sex trade or the communities they live in.

Sometimes it is very difficult to tell how they travelled into the country, but it is largely gathered that these travels are rather through a lot of unapproved routes that have links with neighbouring countries like Burkina Faso and Togo.

Figure 19 elaborates on the dynamics of victim movements into and out of the Ashanti Region. Red arrows indicate internal movements within Ghana and Blue arrows indicates external movements outside Ghana. Arrow 1 shows how some of the trafficked victims are moved from the Upper East Region to the Brong Ahafo Region. Arrow 2 shows how they are transported from the Brong Ahafo Region to the Gulf Region.

Arrow 3 shows how some are trafficked from Nigeria into the Brong Ahafo Region, while arrow 4 shows the movement of victims from Togo into the Brong Ahafo Region. In arrow 5, some of the victims are trafficked from the Brong Ahafo Region to Aflao in the Volta Region and arrow 6 shows some victims are trafficked to the Greater Accra Region from the Brong Ahafo Region. In arrow 7, some are trafficked from some communities in Côte d'Ivoire to the Brong Ahafo Region in arrow 8. Arrow 9 and 10 shows how some victims are trafficked from the Upper West and Northern Regions respectively in the Brong Ahafo Region.

Figure 19: Adult sex trafficking routes, Brong Ahafo Region



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interviews, 2019.

#### 5.7.4 Methods used by traffickers

##### *i. Recruitment methods*

There are different ways that perpetrators use to recruit their victims into the sex trade in Brong-Ahafo. Most noticeable are through influence and taking advantage of the economic hardships these individuals face to lure them into non-existent jobs. Another means identified is the use of the various media organizations especially radio to trumpet jobs in the Middle East as a travel and tour agency recruitment service. Perpetrators either do these as individuals or in a coordinated group scheme.

These unsuspecting victims are usually enticed with promising jobs and they are usually recruited from rural communities where the level of literacy is low, and the average income is, also, low. These perpetrators are usually from the urban areas. Sometimes, when they go to the village, they try to shower gifts on the young women through which they build trust and able to lure the young women to wherever they want them to practice the sex trade. They may sometimes assure the parents of the victim's safety and that it is their own way of assisting the *poor child*. They will promise sending them to school, put in apprenticeship or a reputable work. However, when they come to the urban area in question or across the borders, the promise turns to be untrue. Hence, these transnational victims are mainly trafficked by local agents through a middleman at the destination country before being sold to the final perpetrators who engage them for the sex trade.

At the transnational level, the agents who are usually known as "connection men" get birth certificates and the required travelling documents such as passports and visas and provide the necessary accommodation and food in the recruitment process. They do all these to ensure that the victims feel at home and gain their trust. Sometimes the female perpetrators known as the "queens" have correspondence with final recipient or perpetrators in the destination country, so they pre-inform them of the number of victims for any given consignment. As noted by a male participant in an FGD:

*"I have a sister who got enticed into going with the promise of working as a dressmaker, it wasn't the case when she got there and had to use her body. By then too, you are on a strange land now and even your phones and other stuffs are seized by the agent until the agent makes enough from you and then return you later."* (Participant, Male FGD, Brong Ahafo).

An interview with a victim shows that some of the victims are made to go to Accra to apply for their passports, conduct medical examinations and then get their yellow card. After doing all that at the expense of the perpetrators, they may return to Brong Ahafo Region and then after some few weeks, they are called back to Accra when all documents are ready for them to embark on the trip.

After all the initial transaction cost is catered for by the perpetrators, any reward that comes is paid to them back home. Upon their arrival at the destination country, the victims' passports and documents are brought back to Ghana or confiscated and this traps the vulnerable victim and makes them helpless.

Interviews with a representative of the GIS show that these perpetrators are also able to use the media stations to recruit unsuspecting victims in Brong Ahafo Region. These media houses advertise the information for travel and tour organizations with little background check on the veracity of the business and the business registration status of these organizations. Some victims



end up falling prey to these unverified advertisements that promise work opportunities mostly in the Gulf Region. At points when the security services try to find out the source of the information to apprehend the perpetrators, these media houses find it difficult to disclose the identities of the perpetrators.

### *ii. Transporting and transferring*

Traffickers usually use the roads within the country and across the West Africa sub-region. However, for most transnational travels that involve the Middle East, air transport is mostly used. There are also few cases where perpetrators use the northern corridor road to get through the desert areas of Libya and then the Mediterranean from where they go to the destination countries. From there, they are picked up by another agent. One victim narrated that:

*“When we got there (Abu-Dhabi), we were picked up by another agent into a house. But I spent about a week there before someone came for me to a town called Shadja.” (Victim Interview, Brong Ahafo).*

In the Brong-Ahafo Region, places like Sampa is a border town so perpetrators are also able to come in with victims from Côte d'Ivoire. Some of the perpetrators transit through Sampa to Nigeria and Benin. Likewise, those coming from those areas – Benin, Burkina Faso, Nigeria Togo – also transit through Sampa to Côte d'Ivoire and subsequently to towns and cities in that country. From the interviews with GIS, it was learnt that since 2017, immigration rules in Ghana governing the travel of young women to Saudi Arabia or the Gulf Region has become relatively tighter. As a result, these perpetrators now traffic the people across other West African countries where they may stay for a while in the sex trade for about 2 to 3 months until their documents are ready for them to move to their final destinations.

Furthermore, interviews with the GIS show that, for the transnational travel by road, the perpetrators use the northern belt. That is, when coming from Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, and Cape Coast, they pass through Techiman to Bolgatanga, with a few using Paga. Those who use the Paga route continue to Bawku and continue through Kulungugu or Mognori in Burkina Faso to Bittou, and then to Agadez which serves as a “slave trade market” to Libya. At Agadez, strong vehicles can be accessed to enter Libya. However, perpetrators who use this corridor seem to be changing the route. On the Northern Ghana route to Agadez, extortion by security personnel outside the borders of Ghana has become rampant and some perpetrators changed their route from the northern belt, using currently the eastern belt through Aflao in Volta Region to Benin and from Benin to Agadez.

### *iii. Harboursing and receipt of victims*

Most of the time, victims in the Brong-Ahafo are harboured with pimps or accommodation provided by the queens/“madams” where they will be catered for a while before being introduced into the sex trade. For victims who arrive from the West African countries, especially those coming from Nigeria, the perpetrators usually seize their passports and other travel documents, make them work for a period for them before returning the documents to them after which they can become their own boss.

At the transnational level, in Saudi Arabia, key informants suggest that the perpetrators lure the victims into a place called “hostels” where the victims are kept. Anytime a house help is needed, you walk to these hostels to get the individual, preferably physically strong. However, these victims eventually end up as sex slaves for their masters.

#### 5.7.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Brong Ahafo Region

There are various push and pull factors which lead victims into the trap of AST within the Brong-Ahafo Region and outside Ghana. These factors include unemployment, media advertisements, peer pressure, lack of parental control, weak international border control laws or its enforcement.

From the interviews, the lack of ready job opportunities is one of the major factors leading to the trafficking of these young victims mostly women into sex trade. Unemployment breeds poverty and reduces the standard of living. The perpetrators, therefore, take advantage of their vulnerability and the economic hardships to entice them with the promise of non-existing better-paid jobs. In addition, some of these victims too are more easily trafficked when they do not have any skill at hand for them to engage other sectors of the economy apart from agriculture whose prospects are, sometimes, curtailed because of lack of ready market as noted in the quote below:

*“...if there had been ready market for the cashew business here, and the Government buys them for us, we wouldn’t have people migrating if they’d be able to sell after harvesting.” (Male FGD, Brong Ahafo Region).*

Sometimes before being taken away as victims of AST, these women might even have children, and that is what urges them to go but when they get there it turns out to be a lot of disappointments. That is the desire to make money and take good care of their children push them to accept these offers which are deceitful.

There is also the factor of peer pressure coupled with greed for quick wealth and laziness. One respondent argues that:

*“... it is greed. Greed is a factor because if I see that my sister has returned with goodies from such a trip, I will also want to go and get some.” (Female FGD, Brong Ahafo Region).*

Others also argued that hard work is becoming difficult for some people hence they resort to “get rich quick” mediums. Hence, any job that promises good money, they will go for it and this eventually lands them into trouble.

There were strong arguments raised about the lack of effective parental control contributing to young women’s vulnerability to AST and the lack of parental commitment in ensuring that their wards appreciate the benefits of hard work. This problem is aggravated in the context of peer pressure. Some parents pressurize their wards into being trafficked as they make comparisons with other young women who are dressing fashionably. In their quest to make their children like the fashionable young women, these victims end up being trafficked.

*“...we should try and show our youth how to work hard/diligently. Because currently, there are various types of work, which include tiling, masonry, and with the ladies too, there is tailoring, but our ladies are lazy. All these are as a result of laziness” (Female FGD, Brong Ahafo).*

*“The youth of today mostly want quick money, and do not want to suffer or enter into any long-term investment like farming which would take you 3 – 7 months to get your yield to sell.” (GIS Interview, Brong Ahafo).*

Some key informants also suggest trade agreements/protocols in the subregion may be a contributory factor to the menace. For instance, the freedom of movement especially across borders in the sub-region could also be a menace. It was observed that the rising prevalence of sex trafficking in the region could also be attributed to the ECOWAS protocol that allows the free movement of persons within the West Africa subregion.

The media stations in Brong Ahafo Region especially Sunyani also contribute to the promotion of AST in that they air the advertisements of these travel and tour agencies without conducting a good background check on them. Interviews with the GIS show that for most of the statistics gathered in 2015 on the national level, there were about 224 firms operating as travel and tour agencies. However, a crosscheck reveals that only 22 had registered. The remaining 202 that had not been registered are purported to be linked to the ones engaged in the sex trafficking and the promotion of deceitful adverts on radio.

Other factors emanating from the interviews include ignorance as a result of lack of education to understand and be well informed on sex trade business and its effects. At the societal level, marital breakdowns have also been identified as push factors. In cases where families are torn apart, and the men refuse to cater for their children, the woman is left alone to shoulder all the responsibilities. Such women become vulnerable and are easily lured into sex trade through trafficking.

#### *5.7.6 Consequences of adult sex trafficking in the Brong Ahafo Region*

Interviews from the Brong Ahafo Region show various consequences of AST. These include forced prostitution, drug abuse, robbery, contraction of diseases/sickness and sometimes death. Firstly, in the absence of the jobs promised by perpetrators, they finally give in to forced prostitution without which they cannot survive otherwise they may face death threats. Moreover, they are left with no other option since their travelling documents have already been seized and there is no way of getting them back easily. On average, some may have to sleep with at least 2 or 3 men in a day.

Consequently, in cases where they are not fortunate, some men may make extra payment to have unprotected sex with these victims. This sometimes led to the contraction of STIs and other diseases that affect their health and well-being. As a result, some resort to certain medications leading to substance abuse including cocaine and excessive alcohol to numb the pain and stress of the frequent sex.

The effects of substance abuse amongst others lead to violence and social vices such as theft. In extreme cases, there are reported incidents from victims who have returned to narrate the death of other colleagues who fail to comply with the perpetrators' demands or refused to have sex with a paid client of the perpetrator. Deaths are also recorded in cases where those who eventually get pregnant, die as a result of unsafe abortion or non-treatment of infections.

#### *5.7.7 Recommendations to curb the menace of adult sex trafficking in Brong Ahafo*

Based on the information gathered from the interviews, to curb the menace of sex trafficking in the Brong Ahafo Region, it is recommended that there should be more job opportunities for the young females, development of skills for personal trade should be enhanced, personal contentment of young people to find their own feet within the region, strong public education, prosecution of unregistered travel and tour agencies and provision of resources for research to

obtain data for action. All these should be coupled with resourcing the existing institutions that are helping to curtail the sex trafficking trade as well as strong political will.

It is deduced from most of the interviews that poverty plays a major push factor hence the need for more employment avenues to raise the standard of living of women and the family to prevent them from being easily coerced into sex trade. In addition, young women may also develop basic skills through apprenticeship in hairdressing, sewing, fashion or they may take advantage of their culinary skills to open food joints to maximize their source income. As demonstrated in a contribution during an FGD, employment creation through skills development could help curb the menace:

*“What we can do is to provide employment opportunities for people because if persons are gainfully employed, they wouldn’t abandon their jobs in search of greener pastures elsewhere.” (Female FGD)*

By way of education, the young ladies should learn to be content with what they have and avoid greed through unnecessary comparison with their fellow peer for money or over certain kind of lifestyles. These efforts should be complemented by parental controls and guidelines, as an FGD participant pleaded:

*“...we’d like to plead with our fellow women that we should try and be content with what we have and stay within our country.” (Female FGD, Brong Ahafo).*

In addition, public organizations such as the NCCE should intensify the public education on the repercussions of the sex trade and the various trafficking operating modules being implemented by perpetrators.

Moreover, uncertified travel and tour agencies operating in the region without proper license should be clamped down and prosecuted for breach of laws and for perpetuating crimes under false pretence. This means that the various security institutions such as the GPS and GIS as well as other stakeholders such as the DSW and Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of GPS (DOVVSU) should be properly resourced by the GPS to help curtail the menace. Resources such as staff, logistics and finance should be made available to smoothen the operations of the Unit.

Availability of reliable and high-quality data to make informed decisions and for action by the various security agencies and other stakeholders is key. To this end, there is the need for the DSW to be resourced by the MoGCSP to collect the necessary data at the district level and share same with the region so that at the national level such data will be available. Currently, they rely on data generated from programs and activities undertaken at a time. This may not be able to give ready information over time and therefore it makes it difficult to track the level of progress of work done. As noted by a representative from the MoGCSP:

*“I think the information that will be useful to me is quantitative data because whatever we do, if we don’t have the numbers to prove it, it becomes hearsay.” (Representative, MOGCSP, Brong Ahafo).*

By this, it behoves Government to develop strong political will to support the necessary institutions to churn out quality data and the prioritization of discussions and evidence-based solutions for the menace within the region.

## 5.8 Northern Region

### 5.8.1 Perpetrators and victims

#### *i. Perpetrators*

The characteristics of perpetrators vary and depend on the kind of activity they are undertaking. From the discussions with community members and institutions in the Northern Region, it was noted that men usually serve as recruiters of women for sexual exploitation outside the country. These perpetrators are usually Ghanaians who understand the local customs and can speak the language. This group of perpetrators usually send their victims outside the community. The other group of recruiters, mostly women and usually former victims themselves, are usually from Nigeria. They go back to their country to recruit victims after they have successfully “served” the terms of their masters or former “madams”.

Male perpetrators are aged about 40 years upwards while female perpetrators are relatively younger – starting at about 30 years old to 40 years. It is also reported that perpetrators come in ranks and it is usually those on the lowest point of the organizational hierarchy that are seen by the victims and end up getting arrested. Apart from the pimps and “madams”, the drivers and vehicle owners who transport victims from one point to another are involved, including the financier who makes investments and benefits and many others who act as agents to facilitate needed services, such as travelling documents.

#### *ii. Victims*

The characteristics of victims are as widespread as the characteristics of the general population. This is because, quoting the Regional Officer responsible for AHT in the GPS, “anybody can be a victim, whether male, female, educated or uneducated, a national or a foreigner, – we are all at risk.” In the Northern Region, victims usually come from neighbouring West African countries, particularly Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Mali and Nigeria. Victims are usually young women aged between 18 and 30 years and very beautiful. Victims usually come from poor homes, and mostly unemployed and in dire need of well-paid jobs since a significant proportion of them have dependents.

### 5.8.2 Incidence and prevalence

The prevalence is high to medium. As a result of the high incidence of female migration, it is very difficult to distinguish between those who leave to be exploited for sex and those going south to work as head porters.

### 5.8.3 Domestic and transnational trends

At the local level, key stakeholders like the GPS and GIS state that sex trafficking is happening in the region. However, they believed that in terms of internal trafficking, the region serves more as a source or transit rather than being a destination. That is, young women are either brought from Upper East or Upper West in transit to cities in the south or they are simply taken from the Northern Region and sent southwards. It was further observed that transnational sex trafficked victims being exploited in the Northern Region are mostly nationals of neighbouring West African countries, with Nigerians being cited as the most known victims in the area.

Figure 20 demonstrates the movement of trafficked victims into and out of the Northern Region. Arrow 1 shows how some victims are trafficked from Burkina Faso to the Northern Regional

capital. Arrow 2 shows the movement of the victims from Upper East to the Northern region while arrow 3 shows how some are moved from Nigeria to the region. Arrow 4 shows how some are trafficked from the Northern Region to the Greater Accra Region while arrow 5 tells the story of how some end up in the Ashanti region. From Arrow 6, it can clearly be seen that some victims are brought from Côte d'Ivoire while that of 7 shows the movement from the Upper West Region into the Northern Region.

Figure 20: Adult sex trafficking routes, Northern Region



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interviews, 2019.

#### 5.8.4 Methods used by traffickers

##### i. Recruitment methods

Ghanaian recruiters usually approach the parents or the family of the victim with promises of securing them good jobs in the city or elsewhere. Amongst the foreigners who are brought into the country, perpetrators often recruit victims from within their own circle of friends and family members who are unemployed or face economic hardships. They gain their confidence by dressing well and telling them how lucrative work in Ghana is, and the abundance of available jobs. Victims and their families fall for these lies only to realize their mistake in the end. It was also detected that although some of the girls are initially not trafficked from home, some of those who travel south may fall victim to perpetrators.

##### ii. Transporting and transferring

Victims from the Northern Region are transported by vehicles from the eastern and western borders, while those from Burkina Faso come in through the northern borders and are sent directly to Tamale or other popular areas such as Walewale, Wa and Bolgatanga by local GPRTU



buses. Additionally, some victims who use the eastern border have been observed to come in through two main routes. These are through Aflao to Accra where they are given training and are coerced to obey before they are sent to the north by road transport. The second route is through Ho, transiting through Kumasi to the north by bus. A few, however, have been noted to cross the border between Northern Ghana and Togo on foot, and then are sent straight to their destinations in the Northern Region. Discussions with the community members and services showed that the Northern Region also serves as a place of transit for Nigerian victims who are transported to the Middle East via Burkina Faso and the Niger.

### *iii. Harboursing and receipt of victims*

When victims are received by their “*madams*”, they (“*madams*”) intimidate them by sometimes taking them to fetish priests to create fear, making them drink concoctions and taking their shaved pubic hairs and personal belongings to the shrine to scare them and to ensure they partake in all tasks assigned to them by the “*madams*”.

#### *5.8.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Northern Region*

The main factors promoting AST in the Northern Region includes peer influence, poverty, unemployment and the money to be made by traffickers along the chain of activities. As suggested by a representative of the DSW in the Northern Region, the influence that friends have on victims is quite immense. Through dressing and what they tell other young women, friends exert a lot of peer pressure on potential victims who eventually give in to traffickers. There are also a significant number of young women who are poor as a result of lack of employment, as agreed on by female participants in a FGD conducted in the Northern Region. Lack of employment or underemployment or simply poorly paid jobs make young women become vulnerable to the promise of better jobs elsewhere and finally become victims of AST.

Finally, perpetrators will go all out to ensure that they get victims recruited because of the potential wealth to be derived from exploiting victims. Perpetrators study the system, spend time and money and build robust networks which are usually below the radar of security agencies. They are effective in luring victims, transporting and harboursing and ultimately exploiting them. This makes it difficult for victims to resist the perpetrator.

#### *5.8.6 Recommendations to curb the menace of adult sex trafficking in the Northern Region*

There is significant evidence to suggest that information about traffickers and their operations have not gone down to potential victims who are mostly in their 20s. It is therefore, recommended that State apparatus like the NCCE together with the security services should develop and disseminate information about perpetrators and their schemes and make these available in schools and in the communities. As suggested by a community member in a FGD in the quote below:

*“I think the Government has a role to play; let’s say like giving more sensitization to this issue because some people, they don’t have much information about it so if they give them the information ... it will help.”* (Female FGD, Northern Region)

## 5.9 Upper East Region

### 5.9.1 Perpetrators and victims

#### i. Perpetrators

Perpetrators of sex trafficking in the Upper East Region of Ghana are identified by GIS, GPS and DSW by their mode of operation and their level of influence in the society. A large proportion of the perpetrators are women. These women are easily able to approach and speak with unsuspecting victims. Male perpetrators also use fraud and deceptive wealth to lure females into being trafficked for sex. Some of them drive expensive cars and live exorbitant lifestyles, which they use to convince vulnerable individuals. Most of the perpetrators take up this sex trafficking as personal business and go through the ranks under their masters as alluded to by the DSW officer and participants in the FGD respectively:

*“Some [traffickers] profess to be business-people but in fact they do not do anything apart from the trafficking business.” (DSW, Upper East Region).*

*“These perpetrators once worked for their masters and graduated and now also have apprentices.” (Female FGD, Upper East Region).*

Further, perpetrators are individuals, but these individuals also have agencies who connect them to these young girls. An interview with the DSW representative indicated that these agencies (mostly individual private recruitment agencies) are illegal.

*“The moment they see that law enforcement agencies are chasing after them, then they dismantle. The agency closes up.” (DSW, Upper East Region).*

Most of these perpetrators are older and well-experienced in the trade. There are instances where the perpetrators can be found in the communities of the municipality. They are usually middle-aged women and are very well connected and do everything in their power to convince unsuspecting victims. Some of them are known to be foreigners who are more powerful than the indigenes as indicated by the male FGD:

*“If you try them, you will see the kind of people coming to give them police bail or offer them support. And they have security men behind them. They have strong network and if you joke with them, you could go to jail and they would be free.” (Male FGD, Upper East Region).*

#### ii. Victims

The victims are mostly young females who are usually novices. Some of them have had some level of education but a large proportion of them are uneducated, hence their susceptibility to being taken advantage of by perpetrators. Nonetheless, there are cases of girls who are university graduates that have been trafficked as revealed in group discussions with male community members:

*“These university ladies would come with the promise of getting jobs. But when they come, the promised jobs are non-existent and therefore forced to engage in prostitution to survive.” (Male FGD interview, Upper East Region).*

According to GIS in Upper East Region, “it is a very pathetic experience to see a woman being trafficked without knowing it. Some of them are so ignorant and when you tell them they are in



trafficking situation; they start to panic and want an immediate repatriation. These are individuals from Nigeria. We mostly get to know of them through our officers at various border check points especially through the unapproved routes and police at the various check points. Both the victims and the perpetrators are repatriated to their country and handed over to the law enforcement agencies there when apprehended”.

#### 5.9.2 Incidence and prevalence

In the Upper East Region, most of the news of sex trafficking is known through the life experiences shared by previous victims, as well as through social media like WhatsApp and Facebook. The girls are sent under the pretext of getting jobs but are instead trafficked into prostitution. A lot of them are known to face difficulties with all kinds of maltreatment. Respondents are of different opinions that sex trafficking is prevalent in this community. Some have only heard and therefore cannot attest to its veracity while others have had the chance to witness incidents. The prevalence rate in the region is considered high because one of the main borders to the country – Paga - is located in this region. Trafficking is also known to be rampant in Tamale, Kumasi and Accra. Specific locations of the sex trades in Bolgatanga include VRA Area enroute to New Lifeline, California near the Anilazanga Primary School, and the Black Star Hotel. It is a worrying concern such that older women in the communities even complain of their husbands patronizing the services of the trafficked girls as indicated below:

*“It is a very big issue because, we see them every day and our husbands patronize their services all the time. Some of them are natives of this town” (Female FGD, Upper East Region).*

Despite its prevalence, most of the witnesses to this illegal business do not like reporting cases for varied reasons, including feelings that the case would end up being a “foolish case” in the long run due to the perpetrators’ wealth and influence. This was attested by the representative from DSW who expressed that:

*“They get to know the case, but they don’t want to report. And even if they report and you say that it will be good, you go with them to the police station for them to report, they don’t. This makes the work of NGOs and DSW difficult since they find it difficult to arrest perpetrators despite the prevailing evidence.” (DSW, Upper East Region).*

The prevalence of the trafficking business, especially those brought from outside the region and outside Ghana is a cause of worry to parents. Parents claim that young people have been influenced to copy the lifestyles of foreigners, especially in terms of dressing. The local girls also want to dress in expensive dress like the foreigners without giving thought to the fact that they are coming from poor homes. Subsequently, they are easily convinced or lured by the perpetrators who promise to give them jobs both locally and internationally.

#### 5.9.3 Domestic and transnational trends

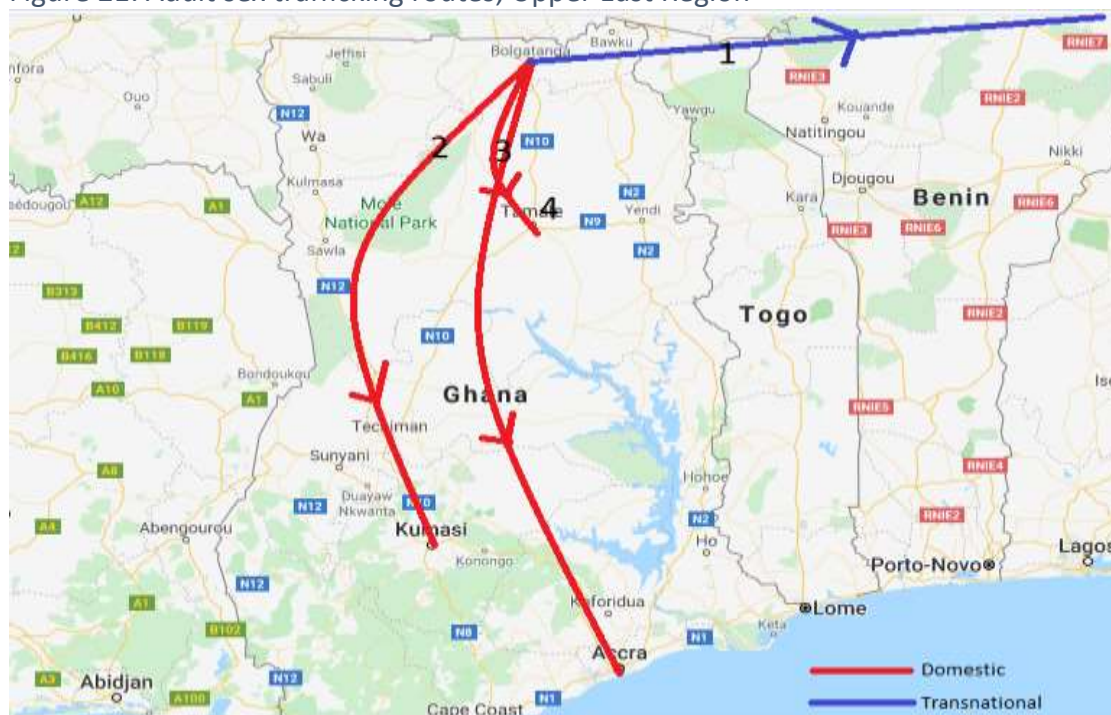
Women are trafficked equally into the country as well as out of the country. It is reported that girls are trafficked into the country from, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Togo. The known transit points to the Upper East Region are through Paga and Bawku, and other unapproved routes. They are found in communities such as Fumbisi, Sandema, Navrongo, Zebilla, Bawku, and Bolgatanga. Sometimes, when returning to their native countries, victims buy a lot of things which they use to recruit others. Since there is high desire to become rich quickly, many of them fall victims to this strategy. They are usually lured with the assumption of

engaging in promising businesses to make money and create wealth for themselves. Traffickers are known to be wealthy or claim to have wealth and are therefore able to easily recruit girls. Within the Upper East Region, some of the girls in the sex trafficking business are even known to rotate their locations. In the North, it is reported that they may rotate between Tamale, Wa and Bolgatanga. According to the interaction with GIS, GPS and FGD participants, most victims are kicked out of the business when the perpetrators realize the victims have become old with the claim that the clients become fed up with them after sex, hence the need to replace them to keep the sex trade profitable.

At the transnational level, the girls from various regions or towns or countries such as Northern, Accra, Kumasi, Nigeria and other places are known to be trafficked to Libya, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Since the Upper East Region is largely characterized by unemployment and poverty, it makes it a viable source for sex trafficking victims to other countries. Perpetrators rarely use the airports as entry points into the country. In the Upper East Region, there is a border at Paga and others near Bawku through which girls are trafficked. Beyond these, there are other well-known routes which are not officially documented that are used by these traffickers to get victims in and out of the region. For example, those from Burkina Faso can pass through Guelwongo, Sankaasi or through the Bongo District to enter or exit from the region as well as Aflao and Zabzugu-Tatale. This calls for strengthening and careful monitoring of all potential and available routes. It also calls for tightening of security. However, people complain about GIS's ability to combat this crime. It is claimed they take bribes and do not arrest traffickers.

From Figure 21, Arrow 1 shows the movement of the victims from Upper East to the Gulf Region. Arrow 2 shows how they are transported to the Ashanti Region. Arrow 3 shows how they are trafficked to the Greater Accra Region whilst Arrow 4 shows their movement to the Northern Region.

Figure 21: Adult sex trafficking routes, Upper East Region



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interview, 2019.

#### 5.9.4 Method used by traffickers

##### *i. Recruitment methods*

Traffickers employ various methods to get through the borders. With the advent of social media, traffickers are also able to use these media platforms to engage in sex trafficking. They can change their modus operandi by rotating and substituting themselves across the communities where girls are trafficked. They develop new plans and strategies and operate differently, making it difficult for one to clearly understand their methods of operation. There are recruiters and transport personnel who take victims to a destination, where they are handed over to other groups until they get to their final destination after harbouring them for a period of time.

When victims leave, some return as agents. It is reported that, when they come back home having accumulated wealth, they are not allowed to disclose how they obtained this wealth by traffickers. They therefore have to lie about how they acquired this wealth, which they use to lure others. It is not always the intention of some of these victims to be recruited.

In the Upper East Region, some perpetrators are believed to use charms on a lot of the girls as an entrapping mechanism for them to submit to their instructions. The girls are often made to swear an oath of secrecy, forcing them to stay silent when they return home. At the borders, perpetrators may bribe security officials to allow them to enter the country, claiming they are businessmen/women or caterers who own restaurants in the country and the girls are cooks and attendants. Their real intent for bringing in the girls may not be disclosed.

##### *ii. Transporting and transferring*

The transporters who take the girls outside are usually agents of the main traffickers in the destination countries. Some of the girls are assisted with visas to the destination countries. Those who are unable to go through the airport due to lack of a visa or possible suspicion, travel through unapproved routes. Most of the Nigerian victims are trafficked through Sankasi Road. Those who can afford plane tickets pass through Accra and take a flight to Tamale and then continue to Upper East and continue by bus. Immediately upon arrival, victims have their passports seized to stop them from travelling back. Those who come through Southern Ghana to the Upper East Region, pass through the Accra-Kumasi Road to Bolgatanga. Most of the victims and perpetrators use these roads or flights. However, the road travel seems more preferred because they are cheaper, and inspections are less rigorous compared to the airports.

##### *iii. Harboursing and receipt of victims*

To ensure victims' smooth transition into the trafficking destinations, the perpetrators do everything possible to process their documents. When they get to the destination country, victims are accommodated in a hotel. At the initial stages of arrival, victims are treated well and fed for a few days. After a brief stay (usually one or two days), they are asked to follow their masters to go to work but are later forced to engage in prostitution while the traffickers claim to be searching for work for them. If the girls refuse, they would be denied food. In the Upper East Region, some of the popular places known to employ trafficked victims are "The Black House", "Lesken Junction", "Nana Yaa Bar", "Madam Boloko Hotel", "Alamisi House" and "California City". There are other important places where victims are harboured as demonstrated by a quote from the FGD participants:

*"it is not only in Zongo here that they are practicing prostitution, ... If you go to Boloko Hotel right now, they are there. If you go to the SSNIT junction at night, you will see them. If you go to*

*the hospital roundabout around 10:00pm, you will see these young girls there.” (Male FGD, Upper East Region).*

#### *5.9.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Upper East Region*

The main push factors that have been identified in the Upper East Region are lack of trust between the police and the community members, the desire for quick wealth, lack of education, parenting deficiencies and unemployment.

First, the community feels that the police have been corrupted by perpetrators to the extent that even if they report incidents of trafficking, traffickers will not be prosecuted due to the power and influence they have. Community members are even more hesitant to report cases because they are convinced the police are aware of trafficker’s whereabouts. Community members reported that there were instances where they reported cases and found later that an insider from the police service had informed perpetrators to evacuate before planned police raids. The situation is more serious as community members are of the opinion that some police officers utilize the services of trafficked girls. This is supported by the quote below:

*“If you try them, you will see the kind of people coming to give them police bail or offer them support. And they have security men behind them. They have strong network and if you joke with them, you could go to jail and they would be free.” (Male FGD, Upper East Region).*

Hence, the incidence of trafficking continues with less convicted cases. It is reported that the desire for wealth among youth, especially young women, is a result of peer influences and lack of proper parental control. When the parents are unable to provide for the family, coupled with anxiety, the young girls are forced to pursue any opportunity for better living just to escape poverty. This may continue as a vicious cycle as the phenomenon keep increasing.

#### *5.9.6 Consequences of adult sex trafficking in the Upper East Region*

Upper East Region shows various consequences of AST which include psychological and emotional trauma, residential instability, contraction of STIs and in some cases loss of life. First, in the absence of the jobs promised by perpetrators, they finally give in to forced prostitution without which they cannot survive otherwise they may face death threats. Moreover, they are left with no other option since their travelling documents have already been seized and there is no way of getting it back easily.

Consequently, in cases where the victims are not fortunate, some men may make extra payment to have unprotected sex with these victims. This sometimes leads to the contraction of STIs and other diseases that affect their health and well-being. As a result, some are given certain medications leading to substance abuse. Some of the victims go to the extent of taking in cocaine and excessive alcohol to reduce the pain and stress of the frequent sex. A victim explains shares her experience as follows:

*“...when it got to a point where I’m experiencing that [severe heartache] and I don’t get the injection, then it feels like I’m dying. But when it happens that way, unless you have slept with the number of men he has asked you to, before he gives it to you.” (Victim, Upper East Region).*

### 5.9.7 Recommendations to curb the menace of adult sex trafficking in the Upper East Region

To curb the menace of sex trafficking in the Upper East Region, it is recommended that there should be more job opportunities for the young females, strong public education, prosecution of perpetrators and increased commitment of parents to be more responsible for their children. It is acknowledged that poverty plays a major push factor hence the need for more employment avenues to raise the standard of living of women and the family to avoid them being easily forced into sex trade. In addition, young women may also develop basic skills through apprenticeship in hairdressing, sewing, fashion or they may take advantage of their cooking skills to open food joints to maximize their income sources. The young ladies should learn to be content with what they have and avoid greed through unnecessary comparison with their fellow peer for money or over certain kind of lifestyles. These efforts should be complemented by parental controls and guidelines.

The police must be strengthened through training to understanding how sex traffickers operate and how best to handle them and eschew corrupt practices to gain public confidence or gain community trust as this trust has been undermined in the community's opinion. Furthermore, public organizations such as the police should intensify the public education on the repercussions of the sex trade and the perpetrators caught in the act should be brought to book.

## 5.10 Upper West Region

### 5.10.1 Perpetrators and victims

#### *i. Perpetrators*

Most of the perpetrators in the Upper West Region are not known and therefore their relationship with the victims cannot be identified. This is because, often, victims do not want to disclose their identities for reasons yet to be fully disclosed as quoted below by the GIS in the Upper West Region:

*"They (i.e. the victims) are simply not willing [to give out information] at all so it is very hard to come across a perpetrator, so we have not come across any perpetrator as at now." (GIS Interview, Upper West Region).*

However, the presence of foreign nationals mainly from Nigeria who have come to settle here for purposes of sex trafficking cannot be underestimated as backed by the quote below during an interview with the DSW in the Upper West Region:

*"... Yes, to some extent, if you look at the issues that we are hearing or experiencing, there are either some migrants from other countries that have come to settle here. Maybe from Nigeria and they settle here and operate a hotel or something of that sort..." (DSW Interview, Upper West Region).*

In addition, there are also several perpetrators who are usually identified as extended family members who would usually go to their villages to bring young ladies only for them to end up in sex trafficking as corroborated by the quote below during a FGD in the Upper West Region:

*"She came home (Upper West) and took a relative's daughter to Obuasi. I do not know what she told the lady's parents and brought her to Obuasi but when they came the lady was introduced straight into sleeping with men for money..." (FGD, Upper West Region).*



*“Another victim was taken by her Aunt with the promise of sending her abroad. But we later learnt that the Aunt herself had never been to abroad. She was rather based at Tamale (the regional capital of Northern Region) and all she does is to take other people’s daughters in the name of sending them abroad but end up sending them to Tamale where they are forced to sleep with men...” (FGD, Upper West Region).*

#### *ii. Victims*

In the Upper West Region, most of the reported sex trafficking cases are young from the age of 20 and have various levels of education ranging from basic to the tertiary level:

*“...all those victims that we have come across are females, let me say 100 per cent are females basically and they are usually from 20 years upwards. And if you check very well, anybody can be trafficked, it doesn’t matter your level of education.” (GIS Interview, Upper West Region)*

In terms of residential location, victims are found in rural communities where the socioeconomic status is relatively low. Residents in these communities may have less information and are more vulnerable to the schemes of perpetrators. Further, it has been widely established from the interviews that anybody can fall prey to perpetrators’ schemes regardless of education levels. There are also a few reported cases of married women who were trafficked.

#### *5.10.2 Incidence and prevalence*

It is observed that sex trafficking is not as prevalent in the Upper West Region as compared to the other regions of the country. A reason for this may be that security forces have cracked down on trafficking activities in the other regions, spurring its relocation to the Upper West Region and causing a gradual increase in the menace. That is, there is evidence of new cases, but the prevalence is quite low. With employment levels in the region being low, there is a high vulnerability to trafficking among local populations.

*“In Upper West we can say that when it comes to trafficking in persons for sex it is not alarming as compared to the other regions. I think the perpetrators have exploited the other regions and are now coming to the Upper West Region.” (GIS Interview, Upper West Region).*

It is reported that females trafficked into the region, especially Wa, are mostly Nigerians and Ivorians. In the region, these are some communities where trafficking exists: Buli in the Wa West District, Jirapa District – Yaga and Baabile, Tumu Area in the Sissala East District, Nadowli, Lawra, Zambo and Dorimond.

In addition, specific hotels such as the Misisco Gardens, Kambale and Odor Hotel around the Nakore Road have been identified as places where trafficked Ghanaian and Nigerian sex workers are found as noted by the DSW officer:

*“Yes, there are Ghanaians, there are Nigerians. There is even this Odor Hotel around the Nakore road. That place too is actually where these young girls are.” (DSW Interview, Upper West Region).*

#### *5.10.3 Domestic and transnational trends*

Domestically, because of rural–urban migration from the north to the south, most victims end up being trafficked into the sex trade. The intentions of these victims were to travel to the south

to find a better life for themselves through gainful employment. However, the difficulty of finding work makes them vulnerable to being victimized by traffickers. It is reported that some of these girls worked as housemaids in the big cities like Accra, Kumasi and Tamale and left these positions due to maltreatment from their mistresses, leaving them vulnerable to traffickers. This is confirmed below during an interaction with FGD in the Upper West Region:

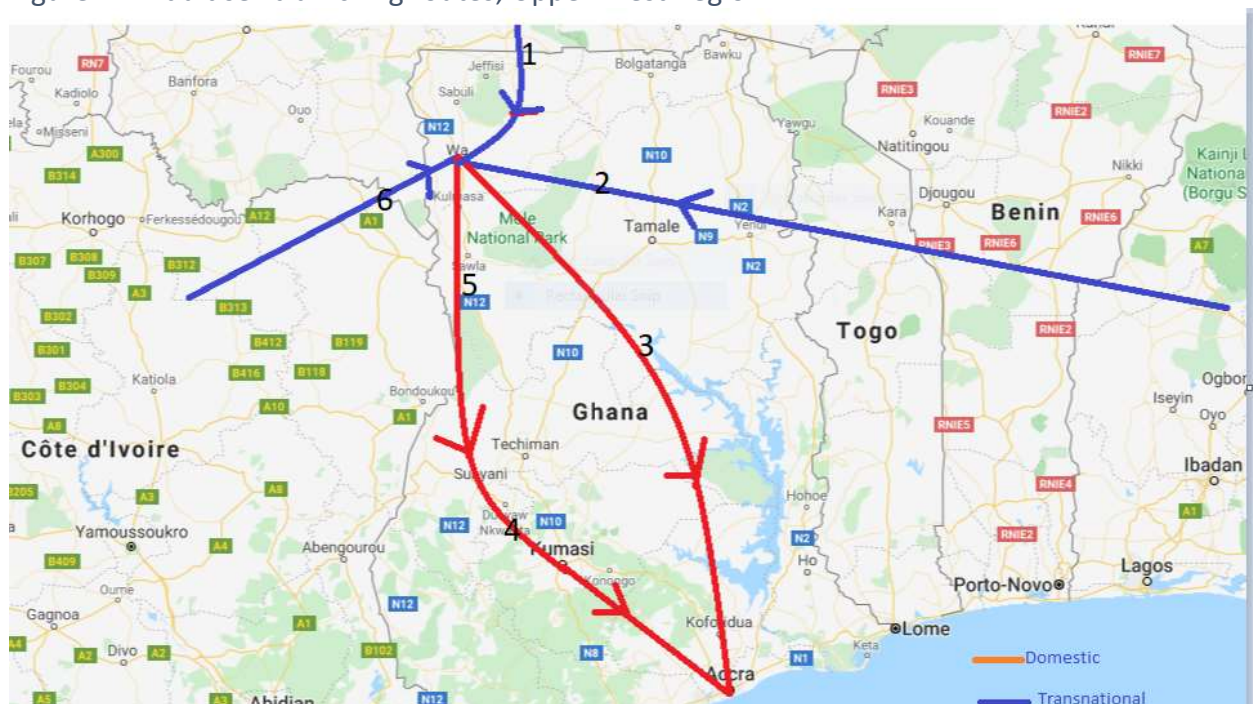
*“Most of the ladies that have been trafficked are sent to the big towns like Kumasi, Accra and Tamale. Some are also trafficked to Wa especially the Nigerians and the Ivorians. Some are located in Wa around Kambali (Mexico) where they provide sexual services to men for their money...” (FGD, Upper West Region).*

Others are also lured and brought down from the Upper West with promises of further education and job stability, and later trafficked into the sex trade, mostly in Accra and Kumasi. Other identified destinations are reported to be in Tamale and Obuasi.

At the transnational level, it is not clear from interviews whether victims are trafficked outside the country. Despite this, the presence of Nigerians and Ivorians in the Upper West Region suggests that some of the victims are transported to these countries since the region is close to the borders of these countries.

Figure 22 presents a map which demonstrates the routes through which victims are moved in and out of the Upper West Region. Red arrows are for internal trafficking and blue for cross-border trafficking. Arrow 1 shows how the Victims are trafficked from Burkina Faso to the Upper West Region and arrow 2 shows the movement from Nigeria to the Upper West Region. In arrow 3, movement from the Upper West to the Greater through the Eastern corridor. Arrow 5 on the other hand shows how victims are moved to the Ashanti Region from the Upper West Region, in transit. Arrow 4 then takes victims from Kumasi where they are in transit to Accra. Finally, in Arrow 6 victims are trafficked from Côte d'Ivoire to Wa in the Upper West Region.

Figure 22: Adult sex trafficking routes, Upper West Region



This map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: Generated from TIPS field interviews, 2019.



#### *5.10.4 Methods used by traffickers*

##### *i. Recruitment methods*

Interviews with the GPS, GIS and DSW indicate that traffickers use methods that are difficult to identify and assess. Within the country, for perpetrators who are family relatives, it is reported that their main strategy is to lure victims with the promise of further education. For foreign perpetrators, especially those from Nigeria, they often claim to operate eateries or hotels where young girls can be employed. These promises are used to traffic victims into the sex trade.

##### *ii. Transporting and transferring*

For the few known perpetrators who are family members, they usually transport victims by bus to the big cities in the south. Again, because the Upper West Region borders Burkina Faso, most of the victims from other countries use Burkina Faso as a transit point before entering Ghana. It is also reported that there are illegal border routes which are porous enough to act as transit routes into the country.

##### *iii. Harboursing and receipt of victims*

Due to poverty and high demand for employment, most of the victims are transported to the south and kept in the city suburbs. One notable place identified in the Greater Accra Region is around the Ritz Junction, Madina, where most of the trafficked girls are deceived into sex trade. Some of these girls are kept there to work as porters during the day and sex service providers during the night.

#### *5.10.5 Factors promoting adult sex trafficking in the Upper West Region*

The gradual increase in the incidence of sex trafficking in the Upper West Region is highly attributable to high unemployment, lack of education, poor engagement and inadequate capacity of law enforcement agents, as well as the porous borders. Through the interviews, the unemployment situation currently persisting in the country is considered as the major factor influencing sex trafficking. Most families are therefore unable to meet the needs of young girls and therefore are susceptible to give in to the demands of traffickers. The unemployment situation also makes youth vulnerable to sex trafficking due to the lucrative job offers that traffickers claim to provide. Lack of education and ignorance are equally important contributory factors.

Others are also of the view that the laws are not working since Ghana seems to be a relatively “free”<sup>34</sup> country. The porous illegal border crossings, for example, have been identified as easy entry points for those transiting from Burkina Faso into Ghana. However, interviews with the GIS, GPS and the DSW show that the low rate of border enforcement is due to internal challenges. Beyond this, most of the victims that are later rescued, fail to reveal the identities of perpetrators, which helps promote the illegal activity. Additionally, collaboration between the various stakeholders in the law enforcement services is ineffective.

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<sup>34</sup> Free to the extent that some West African nationals can come in and undertake whatever business they want without being questioned by any security agency.

#### 5.10.6 Consequences of adult sex trafficking in the Upper West Region

The consequences of AST in the Upper West Region are the increase in numbers of girls engaged in prostitution, resultant pregnancies with many not even knowing the real fathers of the kids, contraction of STIs and death in some instances which was alluded to in the group discussion: *“She came back when she was very ill and later died. There were rumours she died of HIV AIDS” (FGD, Upper West Region).*

#### 5.10.7 Recommendations to curb the menace of adult sex trafficking in the Upper West Region

From the information gathered from the interaction with the various stakeholders involved, to curb the menace of sex trafficking, the capacity of the various officers involved should be built for them to be able to identify and rescue victims from the source. Most officers in the security service do not have an in-depth knowledge about trafficking:

*“...the strategies that the traffickers adopt are very difficult for the ordinary person to understand. So, the same way our officers’ capacities are not built to be able to identify that this is a trafficker. So, as an institution, I think one challenge that we have is that staff capacities are not well built to deal with challenges of trafficking.” (GIS Interview, Upper West Region).*

The country’s borders are also too porous and allow all kinds of persons to move in and out of the country. A GIS official noted that:

*“our [Ghana] borders are too porous, and people easily enter, and easily exit” (GIS Interview, Upper West Region).*

Tracking and sensitizing people who move in and out therefore becomes difficult especially with the limited resources of the Ghana Immigration Service.

*“...logistically, we are not well resourced enough to be able to carry out activities to sensitize people about trafficking. Logistics to be able to carry out enough campaigns to educate people to understand how these people operate are not enough.” (GIS Interview, Upper West Region).*

GIS should therefore be well resourced and equipped to enable it to curb the menace of sex trafficking. If they are well equipped, they will be able to provide education on the dangers of sex trafficking and make the people understand the situation at hand and the strategies that the perpetrators use. The security agencies including the GPS, GIS and other agencies like DOVVSU and DSW should also be adequately staffed with well trained professionals. To this end, a DSW official explained that:

*“...At the district level, due to the staff shortages, you may have one officer there doing almost everything...” (DSW Interview, Upper West Region).*

It can be deduced from the various interviews that unemployment plays a major role in sex trafficking. Most of the victims are promised jobs by perpetrators only for them to end up sleeping with men for money. A GIS official elaborates this in the quote below based on a case they have dealt with in the past:

*“...The victim was promised a job in a supermarket with a salary range of GhS800-GhS1,000 a month only for her to arrive and be pushed into sleeping with men because the job was non existent.” (GIS Interview, Upper West).*

*“This thing is happening because so many families are unable to cater for the needs of their members and more to the point many of the ladies who complete SHS want to engage in some sort of economic activities whilst awaiting their results. Hence with the least promise of employment they quickly jump into the trap.” (FGD, Upper West Region).*

More job opportunities should therefore be created, the skills of these young girls should be enhanced and developed for them to become self-employed to be able to take care of themselves and their families.

## CHAPTER 6: INSTITUTIONAL DYNAMICS

### 6.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the roles of the various institutions involved in the management of human trafficking generally, and specifically for the trafficking of women for sexual purposes. The study interacted with two different groups of institutions - public institutions and the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Three key institutional players were identified within the state apparatus – the Ghana Police Service (GPS), the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), as well as the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) which houses the DSW. The focus of discussions in this chapter centres on how these institutions operate, collaborate with other institutions in performing their roles, how these collaborations are coordinated, and the internal and external challenges they face in collaboration. Attention is also paid to some success stories the institutions have had as they participate in the fight against sex trafficking. The chapter closes with brief recommendations on how to improve institutional performance in the management of sex trafficking in Ghana.

### 6.2 Department of Social Welfare

#### *i. Legal framework guiding the work of the Department of Social Welfare*

The Department of Social Welfare is the statutory Government agency that has been mandated to regulate the operations of children's homes in Ghana. (Vide Part VI, of Sub-Part I, Section 105-114 of the Children's Act of 1998, Act 560). With the implementation of LI 1961, the Department of Community Development and Department of Social Welfare at the local level have been merged to become the Department of Social Welfare.

#### *ii. General structure and roles*

The DSW is a specialized department which manages and protects the rights of children. The DSW regulates the activities of children's homes and orphanages in Ghana. It is headed by a director who is supported by four (4) deputy directors, each responsible for the administration of the various units.

#### *iii. Role in the Fight against Adult Sex Trafficking*

Although the DSW was created to mainly handle children's welfare issues, they also handle some adult cases especially in the area of trafficked persons. The following quotes from KILs support this overall mandate and the role of DSW:

*"The department actually concentrates on children but when it comes to adults and the opportunity is there, we talk to them. When we go out into the communities to do sensitization, it is for everybody. When we must work on cases, it is basically on children but when adults come in and they have some social issues, then we are called to come" (DSW, GAR)*

*"it's our duty to rescue the person in the first place and then the other processes will follow." (DSW, UER).*

*"as far as Social Welfare is concerned in the fight against trafficking, we are there to protect the vulnerable and you know those trafficked are vulnerable. So, if per chance, these criminals are arrested, and there is a need for social support or social protection, the police or security agencies refer those aspects to us while they deal with the criminal side." (DSW, WR).*

DSW is the only institution addressing trafficking that has the resources (shelter, social workers) to address the psychosocial challenges faced by victims of trafficking. If a sex trafficking case is identified, the DSW is involved in the rescue of the victim and ensures that victims receive shelter and basic necessities. The DSW actively works to rehabilitate victims of sex trafficking and reintegrate them into society. In the area of prevention, the DSW undertakes educational campaigns and sensitization programmes within communities on all issues relating to human trafficking (that is labour, child and sex trafficking). Furthermore, the DSW coordinates between the institutions involved in the management of trafficking at the local level.

### 6.3 Ghana Police Service

#### *i. Legal framework guiding the work of Ghana Police Service*

The GPS is a highly decentralized State apparatus with presence at all levels – national, regional and district. The GPS is responsible for combating all crimes including human trafficking. Human trafficking and all activities of trafficking were criminalized in 2005 with the passage of the Human Trafficking Act (Act 694) in Ghana. In response to this Act, the GPS created a specialized unit, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), in 2008 to specifically deal with human trafficking as an offence and bring more attention to the crime (KII, GPS, GAR).

#### *ii. General Structure and Roles*

Trafficking offences are difficult to detect and need specialized officers to uncover and manage trafficking cases. The mandate of the AHTU is to arrest, detain and investigate people who commit human trafficking offences. The GPS, therefore, through the AHTU lead in the investigation, rescue of victims, the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators and the enforcement of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act as stipulated by the Police Service Act, 1970 (Act 350). As noted by a Police Officer in a Key Informant interview in the Ashanti Region:

*“We are to rescue these victims and arrest the perpetrators. Those people who go against the law, we put them before court and prosecute them and then the victims are reintegrated with their families wherever they come from.” (KII, GPS, AR).*

#### *iii. Role in the Fight against Adult Sex Trafficking*

Through the AHTU, the GPS has various roles. First, they conduct sensitization, which involves raising awareness among the general public of the modus operandi of traffickers and of the criminal nature of human trafficking. The objective of this sensitization is to ensure that parents do not release their children to strangers or family members who could traffic them. Sensitization efforts also educate young women about traffickers’ recruitment and operations allowing them to take measures to protect themselves from traffickers.

The AHTU also relies on public information to promote their sensitization efforts, including television, radio, print material and internet media. The AHTU encourages the general public to provide any information they may have about traffickers so appropriate action can be taken. An integral part of these sensitization and educational campaigns is to make the public aware of the negative effects of trafficking, and the need to be vigilant.

The second role of the AHTU is to conduct investigations and gather intelligence, with the aim of preventing trafficking from taking place. This involves gathering intelligence from the public and taking measures to block persons from engaging in such acts. They encourage the public to volunteer information upon which they can act. The AHTU works to gather information about perpetrators and victims to inform rescue and prosecution.

Thirdly, the AHTU conducts capacity-building efforts for law enforcement agents, especially those within the GPS through the Police Academy and The Detective Training School. The objective is to ensure that all the policemen understand what trafficking is, with the goal of equipping them with the needed skills to identify and address sex trafficking cases when they encounter them in the field. The training helps officers to understand and refer sex trafficking cases to the AHTU for appropriate action.

Fourthly, the unit works to detect, investigate and prosecute Trafficking in Persons crimes, and rescue victims. To perform the arrest and prosecution function, the AHTU has officers in various border<sup>35</sup> areas to conduct surveillance and identify cases. The Unit also has officers posted along major road checkpoints in the regions,<sup>36</sup> and send officers to areas of high trafficking prevalence from time to time to monitor and conduct raids when necessary. Individuals arrested through raids are screened and taken through due process as needed. Non-Ghanaian victims are sent back to their countries of origin. Rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked persons is also a critical component of this role. After rescuing victims, the AHTU reintegrates them with their families. As a precursor to this reintegration, the rescued victim taken through counselling.

The Unit also collaborates with other agencies like the Ghana Immigration Service, Department of Social Welfare and other non-governmental organizations to identify and combat this erroneous crime. Outside the borders of Ghana, they collaborate with institutions like Interpol to fight this illegal trade from taking place. They also when there are the cases conduct joint operations with other countries like Nigeria, the Gambia and Burkina Faso.

Finally, The AHTU offers shelter to victims of sex trafficking, especially in instances where DSW shelters are unavailable. Sometimes the DSW facilities may not be available for holding rescue victims. Therefore, the GPS work hand in hand with NGOs operating shelters to accommodate these victims for a period, usually during investigations.

## 6.4 Ghana Immigration Service

### *i. Legal Framework guiding the work of the Ghana Immigration Service*

The legal Act regime that supports this criminalization of trafficking is the Human Trafficking Act, 2005, Act 694. That is the legal backing that seeks to prevent, suppress and punish traffickers and for rehabilitation and reintegration of victims to their families.

### *ii. General Structure and Roles*

The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) is a very important player when it comes to the management of trafficking in persons across the borders. The GIS monitors movement of people across the borders of Ghana. In doing so, they can identify victims of sex trafficking being brought into or out of the country. Therefore, the GIS has the Anti-Human, Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons (AHSTIP) Unit which performs that role. As of 2005, this was a desk<sup>37</sup>, but it became a Unit in 2012. The role of AHSTIP is to detect and prevent trafficking cases, rescue and protect victims, and prosecute traffickers in partnership with other Government actors and agencies, especially GPS.

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<sup>35</sup> Notable among these border areas are the Eastern border through Aflao to Togo, the Elubo Border to the West of Ghana to Côte d'Ivoire and the porous border areas in the Upper West Region to Burkina Faso.

<sup>36</sup> Along the trunk roads connecting all the regional capitals in Ghana, temporary check points are randomly erected and used as a means to check suspicious behaviour.

<sup>37</sup> A desk is usually limited in scope and resources when compared with a Unit. When a line of duty attains a Unit status, there are men assigned specifically to it and significant budgetary allocations are also made to it.

Aside these roles, the GIS facilitates the repatriation of perpetrators to their countries to face prosecution or after serving their term in Ghana. To this end, the GIS has Migration Information Centres (MIC) in some of their posts (Including Accra, Sunyani and Tamale) to help potential and actual migrants to access relevant information while planning the travel or post-arrival. The centres are becoming more popular among the potential travellers. The MIC compiles a database of some of the adverts targeting potential victims. They verify the authenticity of information carried by these adverts with the labour office and the status of the firm promoting the advert with the Registrar General Department. With this information at hand prospective travellers can walk in and make enquires about travel and tour agencies and agents and the offers they are given. Travelers can also ask about the destination countries and the risks before embarking on the journey. Thus, the MIC serves as an advisory tool where potential travellers get the needed information about their travel and destination country.

### *iii. Role in the fight against adult sex trafficking*

The work the GIS is strongly guided by national law and guidelines and ratified UN Conventions, including the Anti-Human Smuggling Act (Act 848) of 2016, and the Immigration Act (Act 573) of 2000, which deals with irregular migration and sex trafficking specifically. Most of these laws are in line with the Constitution of Ghana, which criminalizes all forms of sex trafficking and irregular migration. These laws come with appropriate penalties and sanctions which GIS seeks to uphold through their work.

Like the AHTU, the AHSTIP organizes seminars and programmes (scheduled annually in their workplans) to educate the public on the dangers of illegal migration. The seminars take the form of public engagements and discussions in places where outmigration is prevalent, since migrants are vulnerable to trafficking. For example, in regions such as the Brong Ahafo, many people illegally migrate through the Sahara Desert, a route that traffickers commonly target. The AHSTIP has therefore established an office in the regional capital of Brong Ahafo to show the public some of the dangers and negative effects of illegal migration. The AHSTIP also trains officers on identifying trafficking cases, and how to handle victims and perpetrators.

## 6.5 Non-governmental organizations and other International Governmental Organizations

### *i. Legal framework*

National Policy on NGOs draft gives legal framework which defines NGOs and their activities, including the interventions and activities in TIP prevention and protection of VoTs.

### *ii. General structures and roles*

Most NGOs in Ghana lack well-defined structures when it comes to performing their duties. The southern regions of Ghana have NGOs working to curb sex trafficking; however, NGO activity in Northern Ghana is currently very low. As a result, no interviews in these regions were conducted for the study. Institutions that were contacted include:

- the Kiku Kinda House in the Ashanti Region, which is a children's shelter that also provides services for adult victims when called upon.
- the Association of Manya Krobo Queen Mothers in the Eastern Region, which is made up of queen mothers within the Manya Krobo traditional area and aims to educate and sensitize women on trafficking issues, especially sex trafficking affecting youth of the area.
- the Don Bosco Child Protection Center in the Greater Accra Region, which provides rehabilitation and reintegration services for victims of sex trafficking and
- the Hope for All foundation in the Western Region (See Table 26).



There are many other NGOs who focus their work on migration-related issues. Since the study was concentrated on adult sex trafficking, the selection fell on NGOs who work with adult female VoTs providing either consultancy or sheltering or capacity-building activities.

Selection of the NGOs was also based on snowballing and suggestions by the other officers involved in the management of sex trafficking. Other NGOs or international organizations whose names came up in the interviews as offering various forms of support to other institutions involved in the fight against sex trafficking include the International Justice Mission, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and John Snow International. NGOs play key roles in the provision of shelters for victims especially outside the Greater Accra Region where most of the State institutions lack shelters. The NGOs are actively engaged in education and sensitization campaigns as well as provide health support services to the victims.

### *iii. Role in the fight against adult sex trafficking*

NGOs play important roles when it comes to AST in the country. Some of them provide rehabilitation and reintegration of victims into the society. They provide the medical needs of victims by sending them to hospitals for medical check-ups and treatment. They also provide the rescued victims with psychosocial support and care which involves giving them all the basic needs to make life comfortable and worth living. They provide them with clothes and toiletries and equip them with technical and vocational training like soap making, hairdressing and tailoring to enable them generate incomes to prevent them from going back to the sex trade (See Table 27). One area where NGOs may need improvement especially those who provide shelter is physical infrastructure and widening of their scope of operations. There are situations where some of the NGOs are unable to allocate shelter space to adults because they do not have enough capacity. In other instances, they are confounded by their focus. That NGOs concentrating on children are sometimes required to make adjustments which they are not prepared for to accommodate adults.

The local NGOs do not have sufficient capacity to approach the TIP problem comprehensively. They require proper TIP trainings and operational capacity, including fundraising, be included into the national referral mechanism and be aware of legal framework as well as preventive and protection measures.

There are some rescued victims who are aggressive. The human resource available in these NGOs may not have the capacity to manage them. Similarly, their feeding budgets become over stretched when additional adults are brought to them. To improve their functions, there is first the need for a coordinated effort to formalize some of the relationships they have with the GPS. For instance, in the Eastern Region the Police officer in charge of AHTU seems to have created some informal relationships with some NGOs upon whom he relies for shelter support. Suppose the officer were to be transferred today to another region, whoever comes to take over might have to start afresh.

Table 26: NGOs, services provided and their regions of operation

Organization	Activities	Regions served
Kiku Kinda House	Provision children's shelter Provision of services for adult victims	Ashanti
Association of Manya Krobo Queen Mother	Educate and sensitize women on trafficking issues	Eastern

Don Bosco Child Protection Centre	Provides rehabilitation and reintegration services for victims of sex trafficking.	Greater Accra
Hope for All Foundation	Create awareness among female sex workers (FSS) concerning sexually transmitted diseases and how FSS can protect themselves In undertaking their mandate of STI awareness creation, they alert the police about sex trafficking cases when they come across any	Western

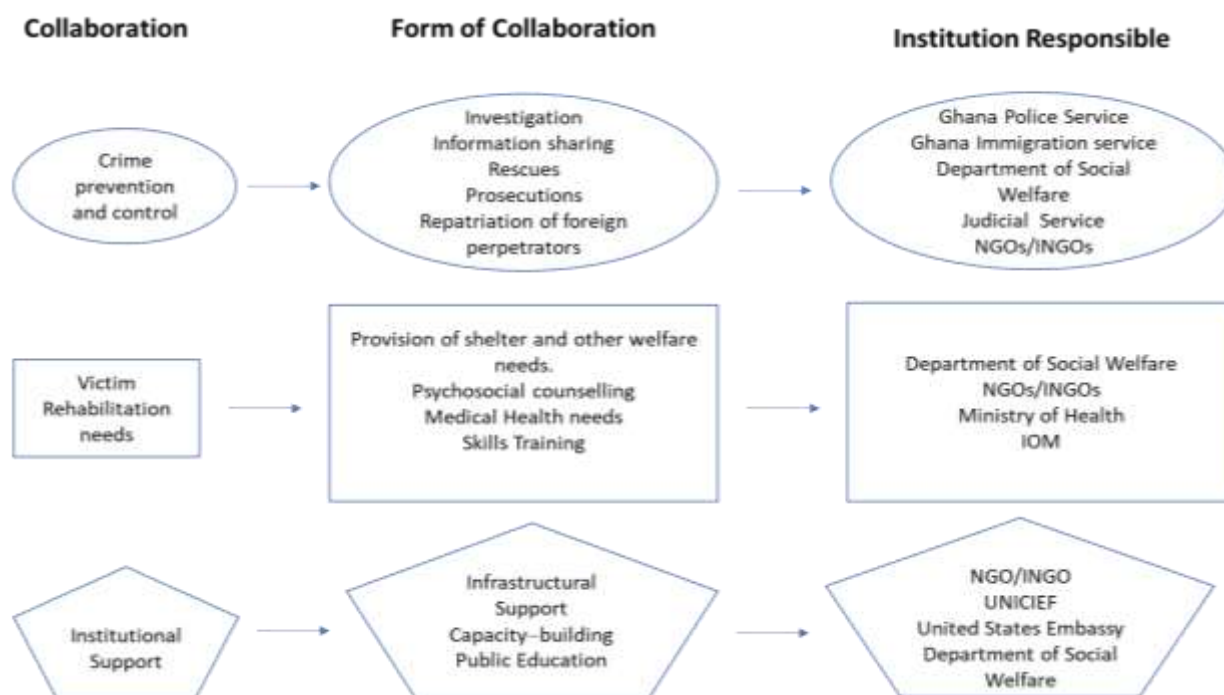
Source: TIPS Field Study, 2019.

## 6.6 Institutional collaboration and coordination

Both government based and non-governmental institutions involved in the fight against AST at different levels and in various ways have to interact to achieve the ultimate objective of TIP prevention and protection of vulnerable groups. To ensure that their partnership is beneficial, three different levels were identified. These are:

- Institutional support – occurs in the form of infrastructural provision, tools and equipment, training and capacity–building for staff, usually through more resourced local or international organizations to the local organizations which may need them.
- Victim rehabilitation needs – shelter provision and other welfare needs, usually coming from DSW and other NGOs; and
- Crime prevention and control – investigations underpinned by information sharing.
- The areas of institutional collaboration include information sharing, investigating and prosecuting of sex trafficking cases, victim referrals, infrastructural support and staff capacity–building programmes. Figure 23 depicts the institutional collaboration and the levels at which they operate.

Figure 23: Institutional collaboration and levels of operation



Source: Researchers' Construct, 2019.

To illustrate these collaborations, let us consider a case of trafficking in the Eastern Region which happened in the last couple of years. This case demonstrates some collaborative successes and the challenges being faced by institutions. Three Nigerian women report to the Eastern Regional GPS of being trafficked by two Ladies into Ghana. The intention was for the victims to come and work in Ghana. Unfortunately, when they came, they were introduced to prostitution. Since this is not what they signed up for, they reported to the GIS. The GIS then liaised with the police to begin an investigation. In the meantime, the DSW was brought in to find accommodation (shelter for the victims) as investigations continued. Here the GPS sent a formal request to the DSW. The DSW is primarily interested in the health and safety of the victims. So, prior to accommodation provision they give a note to the GPS to allow the victims to receive medical examination in a Government hospital at no cost.

It is worth noting that, in the Eastern Region, DSW does not have a shelter for adults although they have something for orphans and vulnerable children. They therefore rely on an NGO (The Ark Foundation) to secure accommodation for the victims. The main challenge here is that, before the Ark Foundation accept these victims into their facility, clearance must come from their head office in Accra. This can take days. During this period of waiting the Officer in charge of the case must devise a way to house and feed victims – the immediately available space is his office. To feed them, s/he must pay out of pocket. Finally, the Ark Foundation clearance comes through and the victims have a temporary place to stay. The GPS and GIS investigations continue. To avoid any prolonged issues, the GPS explained the situation to the Attorney General who allowed the case to be called in the shortest possible time. The case was completed within five days. This allowed the victims to be repatriated with the support of the Nigerian Embassy in Accra.

This case demonstrates that institutions in the fight against AST are willing to collaborate to achieve results but there are some logistical constraints like adult shelters and resources to feed and cater for rescued victims. The Police Officer who seemed to have played a pivotal role in this matter is a product of several trainings and workshops in sex trafficking and trafficking in general offered by an NGO called International Justice Mission (IJM). In sum, various institutions played a collaborative role in achieving the success in this case.

### *6.6.1 Information sharing*

This was cited by all the institutions interviewed as the bedrock of collaboration between the institutions. Collaborating institutions have to share information on their activities to ensure that all the necessary planning for expected activities (arrest of perpetrators, victim rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation or sheltering) are undertaken at the right time. Depending on the nature of the case, information sharing may involve not only institutions based in Ghana, but other relevant regional and international institutions, such as Interpol.

At the moment there is no sufficient information sharing between the involved agencies, nor the formal process. Further work on promotion and strengthening of the National Referral Mechanism is needed in the country.

### *6.6.2 Investigation and trial of sex trafficking cases*

Evidence from KIIs and FGDs suggest that all the three key institutions (GPS, GIS and DSW) are involved in investigations. Whereas the GPS is involved in the investigation of sex trafficking cases within the country, the GIS works on cases observed at the borders. However, when internal cases involve foreigners, the GPS collaborates with GIS to investigate and plan repatriation. Similarly, when the GIS identifies a case of sex trafficking at the border, they need to involve the GPS to prosecute traffickers. Although the DSW is not an investigative body, they assist during investigation and trial of sex trafficking cases, by providing interim shelter for victims and any information they may have to aid the process. When human trafficking cases are sent to court, the police, immigration, social welfare and other involved institutions share the findings of their investigation with the court to aid in the prosecution of the perpetrator.

### *6.6.3 Referral of victims*

It was gathered from the interviews that all the institutions make the necessary referrals to other institutions for services beyond their mandate. The most referred cases are related to shelter, health and psychosocial assessments or assistance for the victims of sex trafficking. The main challenge with referrals has to do with the availability of adult shelters, resources for medical examination and treatment, resources for food and non-food items, or accessibility to the shelter (in case the shelter is only for children). The reluctance of some orphanages in releasing shelter for AST victims may be justified by the potential “bad influence” from rescued victims on children. Second, some of the DSW facilities have no needed personnel, utilities and supplies, security system.

The following lists the assistance provided by various counter-trafficking agencies:

- Shelter: The DSW, Orphanages and NGOs provide shelter facilities for victims.
- Health: Upon rescue, victims are usually sent to the hospital for medical checks. This is done to protect the health of other residents of the shelter. In Accra, medical services are provided by the Police Hospital as well as the Immigration Clinic. Cases beyond the purview of these health centres are transferred to other hospitals, namely Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital.
- Psychosocial counselling was described to be one of the initial services rendered to victims to assist them with reintegration challenges. The DSW and NGOs with in-house social workers (Don Bosco) are usually called on for these services.

#### *6.6.4 Infrastructural support*

Infrastructural support such as vehicles for easy movement, office space for handling cases, housing to cater for rescued victims and holding facilities for suspected traffickers are needed to increase the preventive and protection services. Without these resources, the efforts of personnel engaged in combating AST are slowed down and sometimes truncated along the line since the needed resources are not available. Collaborating and partnering institutions from the international level usually provide these needs. Such as IOM, which has built a migration information centre in Sunyani in the Brong Ahafo Region (one of the hot spots of human trafficking in Ghana) where individuals can seek clarifications on travel advertisement and make enquiries on travel and work in the countries, they intend travel to.

Similarly, the anti-human trafficking units of the services, have through partnership with international agencies, received some equipment, vehicles, office desks and materials to build their counter-trafficking capacity.

#### *6.6.5 Staff capacity–building programmes*

These are organized for officials of the three key institutions involved in anti-human trafficking to increase their knowledge and information on the changing trends in human trafficking and to equip them with the necessary skills to improve their work. Staff capacity–building exercises are usually organized by international institutions and agencies of Ghana’s developing partners such as the IOM, UNICEF, the United States Embassy, other implementing partners. These training exercises are insufficient as organized irregularly and depend on the project activities of the mentioned organizations. In as far as one GPS representative in the Eastern Region of Ghana is concerned, the centralized nature of the sessions he has attended makes it inaccessible to many of his colleagues. In his opinion one of the training he attended in Accra sponsored by a development partner was particularly good, although the environment in which it was organized made it expensive. He suggested that such trainings should be organized at the regional levels as well to make them accessible for his regional and district colleagues.

### *6.7 Institutional challenges in the fight against adult sex trafficking*

Although all the institutions interviewed stated that there is some level of effective collaboration amongst them due to the legal arrangement between the key institutions involved in the management of sex trafficking and human trafficking broadly, they admit that there are some challenges. All the Ghanaian institutions involved in the management of human trafficking have numerous challenges which affect their effectiveness and capacity to address sex trafficking, and their ability to fully collaborate with one another. These issues are discussed below.

#### *6.7.1 Finance*

Funding is a major drawback to institutional activities in the management of sex trafficking in Ghana. All interviewed State institutions mentioned the lack of funds to address specific needs in the management of sex trafficking as a major issue. Funding underpins all activities undertaken, including undertaking rescues, getting logistics, shelter, feeding, maintenance, rehabilitation and dispatch of victims to their communities. Furthermore, although it was mentioned by some of the key informants that the Government has a fund set aside for

addressing human trafficking, accessing this fund is a major challenge. This Fund<sup>38</sup> (Human Trafficking Fund) is provisioned by the Human Trafficking Act (Act 694).

The access to this Fund will be further discussed beyond this study at various meetings with the involved agencies.

It is noteworthy that, the current reporting system for sex trafficking does not allow officers to indicate how much they have spent on a victim in order for them to be reimbursed. This means many officers who decide to spend money on a case from their own pockets do so out of good will, a matter which needs attention if the fight against the crime is to achieve much progress.

#### *6.7.2 Institutional specific challenges*

Individual institutions have various challenges ranging from coordination of activities, allocation of necessary logistics and political interference. In most instances, adult sex trafficking issues are not the main focus of the institution, whether GPS, GIS, DSW or even NGOs. Adult sex trafficking issues seems to have often been added to the institution's mandate as a result of the increasing prevalence rate. Consequently, within a particular organization, the other departments do not directly involve the specialized units created for the management of human trafficking and only call on officers of this specialized area when they identify and classify the cases as being a possible case of trafficking.

Within the DSW, the major cause of limited internal coordination is the transition of the institution's autonomy at the various levels of governance. At the national level, all officers are accountable to the DSW and the workers are identified as workers who fall directly under the Civil Service. However, at the local level, officers fall under the local Government, thus affecting communication between the two levels. It was explained that, although officers from the national level visit the districts from time to time to build the capacities of district level officers and to keep them abreast with new practices, this is woefully inadequate particularly against the backdrop of infrequent capacity-building training.

There are also challenges in the coordination of activities between the various institutions involved in the management of sex trafficking. From our discussions it was observed that at the district level, the management of sex trafficking ought to be spearheaded by the DSW with support from the police, immigration and other referral institutions (Figure 16). Currently, however, it was noted that the DSW at the district level has better relations with local NGOs and orphanages than with the police and immigration officials who are at the frontiers of the fight.

Furthermore, our interviews with the institutions indicated that they all lacked basic equipment and facilities to simplify their work. Some of the offices lacked comfortable chairs, private rooms for investigations, and vehicles to conduct raids. Additionally, apart from the Greater Accra Region (which has an adult shelter), the other regions depend on orphanages and NGOs to provide shelter for victims. Officers are often forced to keep victims in their offices or in cells when these facilities are not available. It is an unwelcomed measure which is used when the accommodation is unavailable, investigation is not completed and the VoT has no other place to go.

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<sup>38</sup> [ecowasmigration.ug.edu.gh/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Ghana-Human-Trafficking-Act-2005-Act-694.pdf](http://ecowasmigration.ug.edu.gh/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Ghana-Human-Trafficking-Act-2005-Act-694.pdf).

### *6.7.3 Personnel and capacity-building*

All the key institutions indicated that they lacked well trained/ skilled personnel to aid them in the fight against sex trafficking. Discussions with GPS and GIS indicated that human trafficking is not a key component of the personnel training. Human trafficking is taught as a course but is not tested thoroughly as part of officers' evaluations, which does little to encourage further studies on the issue by recruits after their training, unless they are posted to work within the anti-human trafficking units.

Furthermore, it was noted that in all the key governmental institutions (DSW, GPS and GIS) responsible for sex and human trafficking, the commitment rate of staff is low. Interviews indicated that management of human trafficking is very unattractive to most officers, leading to a high transfer rate of staff to other departments within the institution and at the same time, newly posted staff to the departments/units do not accept to take up their positions. The officers indicated that this lack of commitment stems from the fact that operation of these departments or offices are not pre-financed by the Government, forcing officers to spend a lot of their own money in handling cases, which often do not get reimbursed. Other institutions such as the courts were also cited as lacking skilled personnel to expediently handle trafficking cases within a short period, affecting the successful prosecution of perpetrators.

### *6.7.4 Information sharing and public perception about counter-trafficking institutions*

Lack of professionalism amongst some of the officers involved in the counter-trafficking was cited by some of the key informants as a problem in these institutions. While information sharing amongst the stakeholders serves a key role in addressing sex trafficking, officers, according to the informants, don't keep the information confidential and share victims' information with traffickers for reward, which affects the success of institutions in addressing this issue. The public are reluctant to sometimes share information with the police and other security agencies for fear of being identified as the whistleblower and incurring the wrath of the traffickers. This makes access to information about perpetrators difficult.



## CHAPTER 7: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1 Introduction

This baseline study sought to determine the prevalence of adult sex trafficking, its characteristics and associated push and pull factors in a bid to make available relevant data for evidence-based prevention and protection action plans in Ghana. The data analysed was from a survey of 83 victims of sex trafficking in addition to 47 individual interviews and 20 group discussions focused on the phenomenon of AST. This chapter gives a summary of the major findings, the conclusions and relevant recommendations.

### 7.2 Summary of findings

- More than half (53%) of the sample of 83 respondents were victims of sex trafficking from other countries (Non-Ghanaians). In terms of the geography, only a quarter of the sample population were trafficked internally while the rest were involved international or cross-border trafficking.
- Almost six in ten of the respondents (57.5%) had at least a secondary education about 10 per cent of the sample indicating they had been educated to the tertiary level. Additional analysis on the results showed that, all the respondents who had received tertiary/post-secondary education were foreigners.
- Against the background that economic factors (poverty, unemployment, etc.) increases one's vulnerability and thus susceptibility to sex trafficking, the study analysed the occupation status of the respondents before they were trafficked. Results indicated that, amongst both Ghanaian and other nationals, respondents who were employed in the services sector made up majority of the sample, although amongst the other nationals, the proportion of respondents who were unemployed were equal to those engaged in the services sector (41%). Ghanaian respondents who stated that, they had been employed by the manufacturing sector was higher (8%) than those from other nations (2%). Additionally, results further indicate that, 7 per cent of respondents of foreign nationalities were involved in agriculture whereas none of the Ghanaian respondents indicated they were involved in agriculture.
- Amongst the Ghanaian respondents, victims who were unemployed made up the second largest economic group (39%). Analysis further shows that, students who were trafficked from other nationalities was slightly higher (9%) than was observed amongst the Ghanaians (5%).
- A different trend was observed in the analysis of employment status and the trafficking type. Results showed that, more than half (52%) of the internally trafficked respondents, were unemployed at the time of trafficking. Results indicate that, the services sector followed with 33 per cent of the respondents with women from the manufacturing sector making the smallest proportion of respondents amongst the sample who were trafficked internally. Analysis on victims who were involved in cross-border trafficking showed that, a large proportion (48%) of respondents in this group were engaged by the services sector. This is followed by respondents who were unemployed (35%) and students (6%) at the time of trafficking.
- The results further indicated that, an equal proportion of victims of cross-border trafficking sampled for the study were engaged in agriculture (5%) and the manufacturing sector (5%).

- Results on income levels showed that, victims of sex trafficking generally earned lower levels of incomes regardless of their nationality or type of trafficking involved. However, analysis of responses on the level of household incomes indicated that, most of the victims came from the lower middle-income households than low income households. Furthermore, results showed that, most respondents were much likely to have young children between the ages of 7–9 years.
- Analysis on the activities of the perpetrators showed that some of them had more than two victims and could have as many as 5–10 victims being exploited at a time. A review on the sexual violence perpetuated against the victims indicated that being violated (being asked to do things they did not want to do), engaging in violent sex and being physically abused during sexual activities were the most cited cases of sexual violence by the respondents. Results indicate that these issues were mentioned by 71 per cent, 68 per cent of and 59 per cent of the respondents respectively.
- However, the occurrence of these violent acts were noted to be reported more amongst the Ghanaian victims than from the non-Ghanaians. Similarly, results showed that, more Ghanaian respondents had ever witnessed or heard of a victim being harmed or beaten. Conversely, more victims of external sex trafficking had observed/ heard of violence being inflicted on another victim.
- Analysis of the recruiters of victims of sex trafficking showed that more than half of the respondents (56%) were recruited by their friends/ neighbours. Further analysis by country of origin and trafficking type showed that about 64 per cent of victims from other countries were recruited in this manner whereas, 55 per cent of Ghanaian victims cited friends/ neighbours as their recruiters. Additionally, although analysis on the type of trafficking showed that recruitment by friends/ neighbours is the most popular form of recruitment of victims of both internal and cross border sex trafficking, the phenomenon is higher amongst victims of internal sex trafficking which had 80 per cent of the victim citing this method of recruitment.
- Outcomes of analysis on the transportation patterns of victims of sex trafficking showed that victims were generally transported in groups with higher numbers being observed for victims of internal trafficking and Ghanaian victims. Additionally, in terms of contractual agreement on employment and salary, more than two-thirds of the respondents (73%) had oral/verbal agreements with their perpetrators.
- The number of clients a victim had daily is not related to their country of origin as indicated by the results of the data analysis however, the type of trafficking tended to affect the number of clients a victim had to attend to within a day as victims of internal trafficking reported higher numbers of clients in a day.
- Analysis of the health seeking behaviour of the respondents showed that more than four-fifths of the total respondents had ever had an abortion or were forced to abort their pregnancies. Results showed that all respondents from Ghana as well as all victims of internal trafficking involved in the study mentioned that they had ever had an abortion. Outcomes of the study further showed that, respondents' knowledge about birth control, prevention of infections and knowledge of HIV and other STIs is very high (85% from the total sample and similar results were observed irrespective of nationalities or type of sex trafficking).
- Analysis for the countries of origin showed that, both Ghanaian and non-Ghanaian respondents had a high rate of testing – both groups had more than two thirds of respondents having ever been tested.
- In terms of referrals, results indicated that, although 52 per cent of the total respondents had access to medical examination, the proportions reduced for other social services from the hospitals (20%), police stations (17%) and the immigration

(7.23%). Knowledge about legal rights (17%) and appearance in courts (17%) were cited only amongst respondents who were involved in external sex trafficking.

- Although it is difficult to estimate the level of prevalence for the whole country, the study found that levels of prevalence within the country varied from region to region as well as the various towns depending on their use as border towns (notably Aflao, Hamile, Paga), commercial centres (Accra, Kumasi) or mining towns (Takoradi, Obuasi).
- Based on the profitability in the trafficking business and the traffickers' efforts at covering long distances and investing initially in the victims, it could be deduced that the level of prevalence for victims from outside Ghana was higher than for victims from within the country especially with Nigeria being mentioned as having the highest numbers of observed victims.
- The general characteristics of females that are trafficked can be categorized into three main areas – physical characteristics, level of economic vulnerability and personal or individual characteristics. In the case of physical characteristics, it was noted that, all respondents and key informants held the view that perpetrators of sex trafficking rings looked out for women who are physically beautiful, at least of medium height, having a nice skin and may either be fair or dark in complexion. In terms of economic vulnerability, traffickers looked out for females who come from a poor background, may not be in employment or are in a low paying establishment and are actively in search of a well-paying jobs. Other economically linked factors include the quest to travel for “greener pastures” and also, as a result of the cultural expectations (to come back with a success story) in some areas (Ashanti, Brong Ahafo). Personal or individual characteristics that were cited as promoting sex trafficking include the effects of poor parenting (as mentioned by most institutions), having many dependents (as mentioned by victims from B.A, Central and Upper East Regions), exposure to violence at home (Volta Victim) and adhering to peer pressure which most respondents attributed to greed in addition to laziness and the love for quick money (as cited by the community leaders and female FGD in Brong Ahafo Region).
- Sex traffickers in Ghana used many varied methods in attracting their victims. The most popular observed nationwide is the use of advertisement. Adverts may be posted by job placement agencies who double as recruiters of victims for sex trafficking or individual perpetrators. Adverts are sent out in the form of posters with promises of good paying jobs outside the country and posted at vantage points within major cities as was observed in Accra. In the Ashanti and B.A Regions, perpetrators tend to use radio adverts to attract their victims especially as most of the radio stations which carry such advertisements are rated as credible amongst their audiences.
- Other methods include the use of word of mouth advertisement or direct approach which is popular amongst “connection men” and “former victims turned perpetrators”. This method of recruitment is popular within the country and also within the subregion as it was mentioned by the Nigerian perpetrators.
- Another mode of recruitment which is catching up is the use of social media handles such as Facebook and WhatsApp although the popularity of this method of recruitment cannot be estimated and was mentioned by only one respondent, it cannot be ruled out considering the power of social media.
- Deception is the most used tool by sex traffickers. The forms of deception may be about the economic activities to be undertaken by the victim(s) and life at the destination areas. Traffickers who are also former victims tend to use their modes of dressing as a deceptive tool to attract victims.
- It was noted that although some perpetrators use the tool of force in the first instance by kidnapping the victim, our discussion indicated that, force was often introduced after

the victim has been lured by the tools of deception and may have now realized their mistake. In such instance, force is used as a tool to get the victim to cooperate with the demands of the perpetrator. At this stage, force may either be physical or psychological. Physical force may be in the form of physical and (or) sexual abuse. Psychological force comes in the form of insults, threats to their lives and (or) the use of the fear of something bad happening to them after disclosing their situation to a third party.

- Transporting victims by road is the most popular mode of movement into and outside the country. With internal trafficking, victims are sent across the country through the major towns and cities. With international trafficking, participants of the various interviews held the view that from Accra, there are vehicles which connect to the capitals of various West African countries- Lagos, Abidjan, Ouagadougou, Niamey and Libya.
- Victims of international sex trafficking from Nigeria are brought in by road through Aflao and sent to Accra, Takoradi, Koforidua, Kumasi, Sunyani or Tamale where they may be sent to Côte d'Ivoire through Elubo, Sampa, Osei Kojokrom; to Libya through Hamile, Paga via Ouagadougou or Niamey. Similar routes are also used by Ghanaian victims who are sent to work abroad.
- In the case of victims who are brought into Accra by bus from other parts of the country, there is a high possibility of some of them transiting in the city while their travelling documents for external travels are being prepared. It is also worthy to mention that, although there are many unapproved routes which are capitalized upon by some human traffickers, our observations indicate that a majority of the traffickers are now using the approved routes as a result of the relaxation of immigration rules due to the ECOWAS agreement on free movement of people and goods across member countries.
- The second most used route is by air. As a result of the scrutiny introduced in air travel, perpetrators of human trafficking tend to invest large sums of money to procure passports, visas and flight tickets for their victims. They use this method as it is very difficult for immigration authorities to detect the victims especially after they have been trained on what to say or how to answer questions from the immigration.
- In all sex trafficking cases, perpetrators tend to cover the costs of transport which they use as a form of loan to keep the victim indebted to them. On arrival at the destination areas, victims usually have their travelling documents seized, are kept indoor and are always reminded of their indebtedness to the perpetrator(s) thereby, keeping them at the mercy of the perpetrator.
- The effects of sex trafficking are very severe on the victims, their families and communities as well as the nation. On the personal level, the study observed that, victims of sex trafficking suffered psychological breakdowns which sometimes result in mental illness; the physical violence victims go through sometimes result in deformities which mar the victims for life. Other victims also suffer from various health and reproductive health problems such as HIV/AIDS. Additionally, as a result of the trauma victims go through, some victims tend to use drugs and in effect become addicted to such drugs.
- Again, the social relations of victims of sex trafficking get seriously affected as they tend to keep to themselves and do not involve themselves in communal activities which will call for them to discuss their travel experiences.
- Three Government institutions are directly engaged in the fight against adult sex trafficking through complementary roles: DSW, GPS and GIS. The DSW on one hand, although legally mandated by law to protect the rights of children, participates in the rescue of victims of adult sex trafficking, provide shelter and basic needs for the rescued persons, sees to their health needs where necessary and counsels them as a first step

towards reintegration. The DSW leads in the agenda of sensitization and awareness creation.

- The GPS, through the AHTU in the context of adult sex trafficking being an illegal act, arrests, detains, investigates and prosecutes perpetrators. GPS also participates in education and sensitization of the public on the menace.
- The GIS through the AHSTIP monitors the movement of people in and out of the country to identify perpetrators and victims of adult sex trafficking and facilitates the repatriation or reunification of victims with their families.
- NGOs engaged in the fight against AST are concentrated in Southern Ghana. They sensitize potential victims, provide shelter for the rescued and counsel them prior to reintegration.
- Government institutions collaborate with each other as well as with NGOs. Critical areas of collaboration include information sharing, investigation and trial of perpetrators, referral of victims, infrastructural support, staff capacity building.
- Generally, the institutional support through the provision of equipment, tools and training is supported by more resourced international NGOs. This feeds into the rehabilitation needs of victims led by the DSW and local NGOs. Ultimately this resource support from the international NGOs also feeds into crime prevention and control led by the GPS and GIS.
- Despite the important contributions being made by the institutions, they are faced with challenges which include but not limited to; finance, limitations in coordination of activities and political interference; deficit in personnel and the lack of a systematic information sharing approach which potentially derails the process of rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims.

### 7.3 Conclusions

The following conclusions are made from the major findings of the study:

- More cross-border trafficking involving non-Ghanaians prevails in Ghana than internal and involving Ghanaians. Majority of these non-Ghanaians are Nigerians in addition to Ivorians and Togolese.
- Victims are young and have above average educational level but that is not a guarantee of their safety which means that other factors come to play which require attention in the fight against AST. There is the need for more sensitization to individuals as well as communities.
- Economic factors (poverty, unemployment, etc.) play a role in increasing one's vulnerability and susceptibility to sex trafficking.
- Although it is difficult to estimate the level of prevalence for the whole country, the study found that levels of prevalence within the country varied from region to region as well as the various towns depending on their use as border towns (notably Aflao, Hamile, Paga), commercial centres (Accra, Kumasi) or mining towns (Takoradi, Obuasi).
- Perpetrators work in groups and find more innovative deceptive ways to lure unsuspecting victims as well as elude the security agencies because they are always ahead of them in their approach to recruiting, transporting and harboring victims. They also choose young girls who are physically attractive and have some level of economic vulnerability such as limited financial sources and a desire to seek greener pastures.
- Victims of sex trafficking are mostly recruited by their friends/neighbours who make up the most popular form of recruitment of victims of both internal and cross border sex trafficking, with a higher percentage amongst victims of internal sex trafficking.

- Perpetrators transport victims in groups with higher number within the country than without and in most cases take up the transportation cost among other to be later paid up by the victim. This serves as a debt that hangs over the victim until paid in full and the trafficker is satisfied.
- The terms of engagement with victims with regards to contractual agreement on employment and salary are more of verbal agreements with their perpetrators.
- The number of clients a victim had daily is not related to their country of origin (whether Ghanaian or non-Ghanaian) but to the type of trafficking (internal or external) as victims of internal trafficking reported higher numbers of clients in a day than external victims.
- Based on the profitability in the trafficking business and the traffickers' efforts at covering long distances and investing initially in the victims, it could be deduced that, the level of prevalence for victims from outside Ghana was higher than for victims from within the country especially with Nigeria being mentioned as having the highest numbers of observed victims.
- Sex traffickers in Ghana used many varied methods in attracting their victims. The most popular observed nationwide is the use of advertisement for job placement, word of mouth advertisement or direct approach which is popular amongst "connection men" and "former victims turned perpetrators". This method of recruitment is popular within the country and also within the sub-region as it was mentioned by the Nigerian perpetrators.
- Deception and force are the most popular tools used by sex traffickers with more deception at the source region and force at the destination.
- The popular modes of transporting victims are by road and by air with perpetrators covering the costs of transport which they use as a form of loan to keep the victim indebted to them. They are using more approved routes as a result of the relaxation of immigration rules following the ECOWAS agreement on free movement of people and goods across member countries.
- The effects of sex trafficking are very high to the victims, their families and communities as well as the nation and the psychological, physical, mental, health and financial implications among others.
- The three Government institutions directly engaged in the fight against adult sex trafficking need resources with are both financial and non-financial. The Human Trafficking Fund can be useful in this regard with education of officers on how to access it for the management of AST. This will call for the reconstituting of members of the HTMB.
- The institutions in Ghana supporting the fight against adult sex trafficking have well defined roles and they are interested in playing these roles well. There is a firm recognition amongst the institutions that there is great benefit in working together. However, modalities regarding these collaborations are not well laid out both at the national and regional level. This results in different institutions with well-meaning commitments struggling to undertake activities with lower efficiencies. The collaborative process is also undermined by the lack of adequate resources and compounded by the lack of capacity and availability of personnel - matter which deserves attention if the institutions are going to keep up with perpetrators whose schemes are becoming more sophisticated each day.

## 7.4 Recommendations

- In the light of the conclusions of this baseline study, the following are recommended:
- Government should put in more effort at creating more employment opportunities for the youth. This can be done in various ways including the siting of appropriate factories under her flagship program of 1D1F39 in rural areas as well as areas of net outmigration.
- Government should intensify public education on the issue of sex trafficking by creating a budget that will rope in all stakeholders including the media in public education. Every available platform such as the religious ones should be used to rally support for the education and sensitization of community members on HT in general and AST in particular.
- Institutions involved in the fight against AST, namely the Police, Immigration and the DSW should be strengthened with the needed resources be they financial or non-financial for better management of sex trafficking in Ghana – specifically for the prevention of TIPs, protection of victims, prosecution of perpetrators and the strengthening of partnerships/collaboration amongst the institutions involved in the management of TIPS at the local and national levels. Although the Department of Social Welfare is supposed to be at the helm of affairs on sex trafficking at the local level, evidence from the study indicates that the department is woefully under resourced with few trained officers, office infrastructure and shelters for victims in most of the regional capitals. Currently, only the Greater Accra Region has a State-run shelter.
- The curriculum of human trafficking should be added to the examinable subjects at the academies and training schools in order to make all officers have the rudiments of trafficking at their fingertips which will go a long way to aid in the identification and investigation of cases as well as prevent institutional apathy for officers handling sex trafficking.
- Sensitization and advocacy will be needed to boost public confidence in the Counter-Trafficking institutions to enhance increased public participation in the identification, investigation of offenders and protection of victims.
- Efforts should be made by Government for a stronger collaboration among both State and NGOs in the management of TIPs especially at the local level through the promotion and strengthening of the national and regional referral mechanisms and SOPs.
- The role of parents in ensuring their children's safety by creating the right environment at home for them to grow in is very crucial. This should be pursued despite prevailing economic challenges to prevent the young ladies especially from pursuing wrong routes to achieving the same outcome. Parents' sensitization can be done at the community levels as part of the parents' meetings during the schooling process.
- Young women will have to verify all advertisements on job opportunities before pursuing them to avoid being trafficked. The Immigration Service's Migration Information Bureau will facilitate in this regard to provide the needed resources. Adoption of other best practices e.g. when the advert is verified by the media which advertises the vacancy.

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<sup>39</sup> The 1D1F (Acronym for One District One Factory) is a Government of Ghana flagship programme which is promoting and supporting the private sector to plant at least one factory per each administrative district in Ghana. Although the ultimate objective is to provide each district with the right industrial environment including the availability of raw materials with a factory, it will be useful to pay additional attention to districts with higher levels of trafficking – that is districts which serves as a source of migrants.



- To curtail the problem of staffing faced by the GIS, GPS and DSW in terms of quality and numbers, innovative investments are required. Frequent and current training courses or refreshers courses should be organized for officers in the relevant institutions in charge of management of AST to keep them abreast with the changing trends of operation used by sex traffickers. Existing staff should be given training through short courses provided by their training schools. To improve the understanding of personnel being trained, a curriculum improvement and the importance attached to courses related to adult sex trafficking should be reviewed by the training schools and expanded to include new dimensions of the problem within the country. In the short to medium term, the shortage of personnel may be difficult to change. However, the challenge could be innovatively managed if the personnel of both the GPS and GIS have access to vehicles dedicated to the trafficking agenda which allows them to respond quickly when the need arises.

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## APPENDICES

### STRUCTURED QUESTIONNAIRE FOR QUANTITATIVE SURVEY

My name is.....I am part of a team which conducts research and analysis of the situation related to sexual exploitation and abuse in Ghana. We are interested to collect information on the occurrence of sexual exploitation and trafficking in Ghana to prevent others to trap into exploitative situation. The personal data is **confidential** and will not be presented anywhere.

You have been selected to participate in this study. Your voice is valuable for us and we will be grateful if you could answer our questions. It will not take more than 20 min. *(If the respondent agrees to participate, read to them the content of the consent form and allow them to sign or thumb print two copies. One copy of the consent form should be given to the respondent to keep and the research team will keep the other copy. As much as possible explain to them the protection the consent form gives them in terms of confidentiality).*

Name of Enumerator..... Region.....  
District..... Community.....  
Date of Interview.....

#### Section A: Personal information

	Response Options
1a. Age of respondent (years)	
1b. Sex	1. Male 2. Female
2. Languages spoken (List)	
3a. Nationality If other National >> 4	Ghanaian: ..... Other Nationals, Specify.....
3b. Region of origin (List, 10 former regions)	
4. Description of hometown	1. Urban 2. Rural
5. Highest level of education completed	1. None 2. Primary 3. Secondary 4. Tertiary/Post-secondary 5. Vocational/Technical
6a. Working experience before leaving Ghana or your home region/community (industry/sector) - (most important to respondent)	1. Agriculture 2. Industry 3. Services 4. Unemployed 5. Student
6b. Specify type of work	
6c. Working experience before leaving Ghana or your home region/community	Years..... Months.....
7. Income before leaving Ghana or your home region/community per month	1. GH¢..... 2. Other currency, specify.....
8. Household income before leaving Ghana or your home region/community per month	1. GH¢..... 2. Other currency, specify .....
9a. Do you have any dependents? If No >>10a	Yes 2. No
9b. Do you have any dependents If yes to 9a, how many (number)?	1. Before 2. During 3. After
10a. How many Children do you have (number): code 0 if None. If None >>Section B	



Do listing	Age	Where do they live (Country and Community)	With whom (Relationship Code)	Any other Comment
10bi. Child 1				
10bi. Child 2				
10bi. Child 3				
10bi. Child 4				
10bi. Child 5				

### Section B: Methods of recruitment

1a. Are you involved/ Have you ever been involved in the sex trade?	1. Yes 2. No
1b. How did you get involved?	1. Got into it on my own 2. Got into it through others
2. If you were recruited by someone else, who were they?	1. Friend/Neighbor 2. Spouse/Partner 3. Family member 4. Stranger 5. Business/Agency through Print/Media advertisement 6. Individual through Print/Media advertisement
3a. Were others recruited with you? If No >> 4a	1. Yes 2. No
3b. If yes to 3a, how many?	
4a. How much money were you promised?	1. GH¢ 2. Other currency, specify 3. Over what period: (i) Per day (ii) Per week (iii) Per month (iv) Lump sum
4b. Were there any other non-monetary promises. If No >>5a	Yes 2. No
4c. If Yes to 4b, what were they	
5a. Did you sign a contract or verbally agree to some terms? If No>> 6a	1. Yes, signed a formal contract 2. Yes, agreed verbally 3. No
5b. If yes to 5a, for how long was the contract going to last?	Years..... Months.....
6a. Did you or someone else has pay to for this recruitment? If No >> 7b	1. Yes 2. No
6b. If Yes to 6a, how much? Enter Amount....	1. GH¢ 2. Other currency, specify
6c. Did you pay the money by yourself? If Yes >>7b	1. Yes 2. No
6d. If No to 6c, who paid?	1. Friend/Neighbour 2. Spouse/Partner 3. Family member 4. Stranger 5. Business/Agency 6. Other, Specify
7a. Did you have to pay it back? If No >>7b	1. Yes 2. No
7a1. If <b>Yes to 7a</b> , how much were you supposed to pay back? Enter amount	1. GHC 2. Other currency, specify
7b. Did you have any debts? If No>>8a	1. Yes 2. No
7c. What for?	
8a. Were the work and working conditions at the destination the same as promised	1. Yes 2. No
8b. If no to 8a, please explain what changed	

9. Were you involved in sex services in your hometown/community or region, or other countries before going to your final destination? If No>>11	1. Yes 2. No
10. If <b>Yes to 9</b> , which other places were you engaged in prostitution? (List place and context)	
11. At what age did you enter/forced into the sex industry? (Years)	
12. Is there anything you wished you had known before committing to this arrangement/being recruited? If no >> Section C	1. Yes 2. No
13. If yes to Q12 please explain your answer	

### Section C: Methods of movement

1a. Did you pay for your travel to the destination country, region or community? If Yes >> 1c	1. Yes 2. No
1b. If no to 1a, who paid?	1. Friend/Neighbour 2. Spouse/Partner 3. Family member 4. Stranger 5. Business/Agency 6. Other, Specify
1c. How much was the cost of travel? Enter amount....	1. GH¢ 2. Other currency, specify 3. Don't know
1d. Did you travel alone? If Yes >> 1g	1. Yes 2. No
1e. If no to 1d, did you travel in a group? If No>>1g	1. Yes 2. No
1fi. If yes to 1e, how many were you in the group?(Specify Number)	
1fii. How many of them were	Men..... Women..... Children.....
1g. If cross-border, did you cross legally (with valid documents/visa) or illegally? If Illegally >> 1hii	1. Legally 2. Illegally
1hi. If you crossed legally, what type of Visa did you have?	1. Tourist 2. Work permit 3. Student 4. Unknown 5. Other, Specify
1hii. If you crossed illegally please explain	
1i. Were you accompanied by recruiters?	1. Yes 2. No
1jiWere you moved outside Ghana? If No>> 1jv	1. Yes 2. No
1jii. If you were moved outside Ghana, were you moved beyond West Africa? If No >> 1jiv	1. Yes 2. No
1jiii. If you were moved beyond West Africa, where were you moved to? Specify the route and how long you stayed in transit places	Origin/Source..... Transits 1.....Duration of stay Transits 2.....Duration of stay Transits 3.....Duration of stay Destination.....
1jiv. If you were not moved beyond West Africa, where were you moved within West Africa? Specify the route and how long you stayed in transit places	Origin/Source..... Transits 1.....Duration of stay Transits 2.....Duration of stay Transits 3.....Duration of stay Destination.....
1jv. If you were not moved outside Ghana, where were you moved within Ghana? Specify the route and how long you stayed in transit places.	Origin/Source..... Transits 1.....Duration of stay Transits 2.....Duration of stay Transits 3.....Duration of stay Destination.....

2. Did you know what the requirements to travel and work outside Ghana were? (Yes 1; No 2)	1. Yes 2. No
3a. Did you have access to any financial resources when you were being transported?	1. Yes 2. No
3b. Did you have access to any financial resources at the destination?	1. Yes 2. No
4. Once at the destination, were you free to move about as you pleased?	1-No, Not free at all; 2- Yes, Somehow free 3- Yes, Free 4- Yes, very free
5. If no to 4, please explain	

#### Section D: Methods of initiation

	Response Options		
1a. Did you do any other work at the destination before entering the sex trade? If No >> 2	1. Yes 2. No		
1b. If yes to 1a, what did you do?			
2. Where did you work after entering the sex trade?	1. Bar 2.Club 3. Street 4. Other, Specify		
3. How did you learn to do the sex acts?	1. Started by yourself 2. Initiated by other women 3. Other (specify)		
4. Was there any violence inflicted on you?	1-No, no violence at all  2-Yes, little violence; - Yes, some violence 4-Yes, So much violence		
5a. Were you forced to do things you were uncomfortable with?	1. Yes 2. No		
5b. If Yes to 5a, please specify			
Were you subjected to any of the following	Yes/No	How often?	
		Frequency	Reference period (Daily 1; Weekly 2; Monthly 3; Annually 4; Other(Specify) 5
6bi. Physical violence			
6bii. Sexual assault			
6biii. Verbal threats/assault			
6biv. Death threats			
6bv. Use of weapons			
6bvi. Usage of drugs/alcohol			
6bvii. Other Describe			
7. What would happen if you resisted or tried to leave?			

#### Section E: Methods of control

	Response Options
1a. In your opinion, did you have freedom of movement? If No >> 2	1. Yes 2. No
1b. Were you free to leave or return home or find employment elsewhere?	1-No, Not free at all; 2-Yes, Somehow free 3- Yes, Free

	4- Yes, very free																														
1c. Were you free to find employment elsewhere?	1-No, Not free at all; 2-Yes, Somehow free 3- Yes, Free 4- Yes, very free																														
2. If <b>No to 1a</b> , were you controlled by any of the following means? If yes, describe how you were kept from having personal freedom/rights	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>N o/ Ye s</td><td>Frequenc y</td><td>Reference Period Reference period (Daily 1; Weekly 2; Monthly 3; Annually 4; Other(Specify) 5</td></tr> <tr><td>Physical violence</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Sexual assault</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Psychological abuse</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Verbal threats/assault</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Death threats to you/family</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Use of weapons</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Usage of drugs/alcohol</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Isolation/confinement/restraints</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Other Describe</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N o/ Ye s	Frequenc y	Reference Period Reference period (Daily 1; Weekly 2; Monthly 3; Annually 4; Other(Specify) 5	Physical violence			Sexual assault			Psychological abuse			Verbal threats/assault			Death threats to you/family			Use of weapons			Usage of drugs/alcohol			Isolation/confinement/restraints			Other Describe		
N o/ Ye s	Frequenc y	Reference Period Reference period (Daily 1; Weekly 2; Monthly 3; Annually 4; Other(Specify) 5																													
Physical violence																															
Sexual assault																															
Psychological abuse																															
Verbal threats/assault																															
Death threats to you/family																															
Use of weapons																															
Usage of drugs/alcohol																															
Isolation/confinement/restraints																															
Other Describe																															
3. Were you allowed contact with family or friends?	1. Yes 2. No																														
4a. Did you witness others being beaten/harmed? If No >> 5	1. Yes 2. No																														
4b. If yes, how many women did you witness this happen to?																															
5. Did you ever see or hear of anyone being killed? If No >> Section F	1. Yes 2. No																														
6. If you heard someone been killed, who was it?																															
7. How often did this (Q6) happen?	1-not very often; 2- Not often 3- irregular 4- Often 5-very often																														

#### Section F: Methods of coping and resistance

	Response options
1. Describe your daily schedule	
2. How did you get by emotionally and physically daily?	
3. Describe how you dealt with working in the sex industry.	
4. Did you ever use drugs or alcohol or take medication?	1. Yes 2. No
5. What did you do with your time when you were not seeing the men who paid for your services?	
6a. Did you ever try to escape/leave where you worked?	1. Yes 2. No
6b. Did you ever try to escape/leave the sex industry	1. Yes 2. No

#### Section G: Experience with others involved in the industry

<i>Experience with Pimps/Recruiters/Traffickers/Buyers</i>	Response options
1. The age of the clients (if known)	
2. The nationality of clients (if known)	
3. How many clients you had daily	
4a. What kind of sex did the men who paid for you want?	1. Oral 2. Anal 3. Vaginal

	4. Other, Specify
4b. Was it group or one on one sex?	1. Group 2. One on one
5. Do you know if your recruiters/pimps operated independently?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know
6a. Do you know if they were involved in any other type of business? If No or Don't know >> 7	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know
6b. If yes to 6a, please state the type of business.	
7. Who told you what to do on a daily basis?	
8. Who did they report to?	
9. Who was the boss?	
10. Who owned the establishment?	
11. If money was paid for your services, collected the money?	
12a. Who else worked there? Code 0 if None. If 0 >> 14	
12b. What did they do?	
13. Did any of these people who worked there ever assault you or threaten your safety/life?	1. Yes 2. No
14. How many women were involved into sexual services in your place of work? If Don't know >> 16	1) Don't know 2) Specify Number
15. Of what nationality?	
16. Did the establishment screen men for diseases/cleanliness?	1. Yes 2. No
17. Were you forced to have sex with men without a condom?	1. Yes 2. No
18. Did men pay more money for that (sex without condom)?	1. Yes 2. No
19. Did the men ever hurt you? If No >> 21.	1. Yes 2. No
20. If <b>Yes to 19</b> , how?	
21a. Did they (clients) ask you to do things you did not want to during the sex act? If No >> 23a	1. Yes 2. No
21b. If <b>Yes to 21a</b> , what were those things? (list)	
22. Did you have the right to refuse or choose not to perform any of these acts?	1. Yes 2. No
23a. Did the sex ever get violent?	1. Yes 2. No
23b. If yes to 23a, how often?	
24a. Did you ever think that you would be killed by any of the men?	1. Yes 2. No
24b. If Yes, how often?	1-not very often; 2- Not often 3-irregular 4- Often 5-very often
25a. Did the establishment do anything to any man who was violent towards you?	1. Yes 2. No
25b. If Yes to 25a, what did they do	

#### Section H: Experience with outside agencies, services

<b>Medical / Health</b>	Response options
<b>A. Health effects</b>	
1a. Did you ever receive any injuries?	1. Yes 2. No
1b. If <b>Yes to 1a</b> , what type of injury?	1. Broken bones 2. Bruises 3. Head injury 4. Mouth/teeth injuries 5. Vaginal bleeding 6. Other, Specify
2a. Did you become very ill while in the sex industry? If No >> 3	1. Yes 2. No

2b. What type of illness?	1. Chronic pain 2. Loss of appetite/Nausea 3. Exhaustion 4. Other, Specify
3. Did you have to go to the emergency room/hospital?	1. Yes 2. No
4. While in the trafficking situation did you know about birth control and infection prevention?	1. Yes 2. No
5a. Did you use any form of birth control at that point? If No >> 6a	1. Yes 2. No
5b. What type of birth control did you use?	Injectables Contraceptive Pills Condoms IUD Other, specify
6a. Did you ever have any sexually transmitted infections?	1. Yes 2. No
6b. Did you have any symptoms? (e.g. bleeding during intercourse, itching, burning, sores, warts)	1. Yes 2. No
7. Were you ever told that you might get HIV or other sexually transmitted infections from prostitution?	1. Yes 2. No
8. Have you ever been tested for HIV or any other diseases?	1. Yes 2. No
9. Did you ever get pregnant while in the trafficking situation? If No >>11a	1. Yes 2. No
10. If <b>Yes to 9</b> , did you ever have to have (I) An abortion/were forced to abort? (II) The child?	(I) 1. Yes 2. No (II) 1. Yes 2. No
11a. Number of live births during trafficking situation	
11b. Number of children during the trafficking situation	
11c. Number of abortions during the trafficking situation	
12. If you had the child/children during the trafficking situation, where are they now?	
13. How would you describe your own emotional well-being?	1. Depressed 2. Unable to feel 3. Hopeless 4. Difficulty sleeping 5. Nightmares 6. Easily startled/always on guard 6. Rage 8. Self-blame/guilt 9. Other
<b>B. Health provision</b>	
1. Did you have access to medical examination while in the trafficking situation?	1. Yes 2. No
2. Were you ever referred to any social services from the hospital?	1. Yes 2. No
<b>D. Law Enforcement</b>	
1. Describe your experiences with law enforcement in the police either in Ghana or other destination country.	
2. Were you ever referred to any social services from the police station?	1. Yes 2. No
3a. Did you ever have to have sex with any police officer in exchange for assistance?	1. Yes 2. No
3b. Did you ever have to have sex with any police officer willingly/freely?	1. Yes 2. No

<b>E. Immigration</b>	
1. Have you ever had to deal with Immigration Services? If No >> F	1. Yes    2. No
2. If Yes to 1, how did you come to have contact with them?	1. Through a raid    2. At airport 3. Other, Specify
3. If you were detained, where were you held?	
4. What were the conditions of this place?	
5. Were you required to appear in court?	1. Yes    2. No
6. Were you informed of your legal rights?	1. Yes    2. No
7. Was information presented to you in a way that you could understand?	1. Yes    2. No
8. Describe the events, outcome or status of your case.	
9a. Were you ever referred to any social services from the immigration?	1. Yes    2. No
9b. If yes to 9a, what was this social service	
10a. Did you ever have to have sex with any immigration agent in exchange for assistance?	1. Yes    2. No
10b. Did you ever have to have sex with any immigration agent willingly/freely	1. Yes    2. No
<b>F. Social Service / Advocacy Agencies</b>	
1a. Have you ever dealt with any advocacy or social service agencies?	1. Yes    2. No
1b. If <b>Yes to 1a</b> , which agency did you deal with the last time?	
2. Was the agency knowledgeable about how to deal with your situation?	1. Yes    2. No
3. Was information presented to you in a way that you could understand?	1. Yes    2. No
4. What relief was sought or what services were provided to you?	1. Shelter/homeless or battered women's Legal services 2. Substance abuse treatment Religious support 3. Child Protection Services Law enforcement 4. Support Group Housing 5. Mental health services Job skills 6. Financial aid for relocation, Health care etc. 7. Other, Specify
5a. Did you ever have to have sex with any social service provider in exchange for assistance??	1. Yes    2. No
5b. Did you ever have to have sex with any social service providers willingly/freely	1. Yes    2. No

### Section I: Future goals/recommendations

	Response Options
1. Are you in or out of the sex industry at this point?	1. In    2. Out
2a. Do you feel that you are safe from your pimps/establishment? If Yes >> 3	1. Yes    2. No
2b. If No, what do you need to be safe?	
3. What do you see as the best option for yourself presently and in the future?	
4. What do you need to be able to achieve these goals?	1. Education 2. Job Skills training 3. Financial aid 4. Housing/Safe Location



	5. New Identity 6. Asylum 7. Other, Specify
5. Would you ever recommend this experience for other women? (Yes/No) Please explain.	1. Yes 2. No
6. Would you ever want your daughters or your sisters to ever be in the sex industry?	1. Yes 2. No
7. What do you think needs to change to make things better for women in your situation or women who may find themselves in this situation?	
8. Some have suggested that prostitution should be legalized and considered a job. Do you think that Governments should recognize prostitution as a form of work?	1. Yes 2. No
9. What do you feel would be necessary to stop sex trafficking in this country?	1. Education/informational campaigns 2. Service coordination/collaboration 3. Change in laws 4. Consistent/uniform enforcement 5. Stricter penalties for traffickers 6. Other, Specify
10. Do you believe that the laws and penalties for this crime adequately address the issue?	1-not at all 2- somehow 3-completely
11. Any other comment?	

## Appendix 2: Typical trafficking approaches identified in Ghana

	Typical trafficking approaches identified in the Ghanaian terrain				
	Type 1a	Type 1b	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
	Internal trafficking		Cross Border		
General description of types	<p>Victims internally trafficked.</p> <p>Recruiter same as the manager.</p> <p>Victims refer to the recruiter cum manager as “madams”.</p>	<p>Victims internally trafficked.</p> <p>Recruiter is different from the final manager.</p> <p>Victims refer to the final manager as their “madams”.</p>	<p>Victims externally trafficked from Ghana to other West African States.</p> <p>Recruiter is usually a Ghanaian, referred to as Queen.</p> <p>Queen is not the final day-to-day manager of victim.</p> <p>Managers are in other countries in WA with whom Queen collaborates to traffic the victims out.</p>	<p>Victims trafficked into Ghana from other West African States.</p> <p>Recruiters become managers of Victim.</p> <p>Recruiters are typically former sex workers from neighbouring countries who have become older.</p> <p>Victims called the recruiter “madam”.</p>	<p>Victims trafficked into Middle East Countries.</p> <p>A local agent in Ghana recruit victims</p> <p>Victims received by an associate agent in the Middle East.</p> <p>Associate agents then distribute victims to perpetrators.</p> <p>Victims call the perpetrator Boss.</p> <p>They have temporal holding points in Accra since the airport is involved.</p>

	Typical trafficking approaches identified in the Ghanaian terrain				
	Type 1a	Type 1b	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
	Internal trafficking		Cross Border		
Perpetrators	<p>Mostly women in their late 20s to mid-30s.</p> <p>They may be prostituting themselves too.</p> <p>They are mostly Ghanaians who live in the in the environs of victims.</p>	<p>May or may not have been victims.</p> <p>Usually relatively older than the trafficked women.</p> <p>Mostly Ghanaian women hoping to make money within the AST value chain.</p> <p>They are sometimes within the environs of the trafficked girls but not always.</p>	<p>Usually above 40 years and look more settled down.</p> <p>They are usually popular in the communities in which they operate.</p> <p>They are mostly well established; well-connected and seem to have more financial resources.</p> <p>They are mostly Ghanaians.</p>	<p>Usually between the ages of 30 and 40.</p> <p>Former victims of adult sex trafficking.</p> <p>Have graduated or gained their freedom from their own “madams”.</p> <p>They are now ready and willing to make their own money riding on the backs of others.</p>	<p>These are mostly agencies which are more often illegal because they do not have the legal backing to operate.</p> <p>The firms are manned mostly by men who act agents</p> <p>These agents have other agents in the destination country.</p> <p>The destination country agents are also men.</p> <p>Final recipient of victims are also men.</p>
Victims	<p>Young women between the ages of 20 and 30.</p>	<p>Age range of up to 30 but more often cluster around the early twenties.</p>	<p>Age range is also early 20s.</p> <p>Mostly reside in the Middle belt and</p>	<p>Young women between the ages of 18 and 25, typically.</p>	<p>Are also typically in their early 20s.</p> <p>They are usually in search of a lucrative</p>

	Typical trafficking approaches identified in the Ghanaian terrain				
	Type 1a	Type 1b	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
	Internal trafficking		Cross Border		
	<p>Usually in some employment of a sort but pays relatively less.</p> <p>Physically attractive, and perpetrators start on that premise by telling them their beauty can take them places Typically, resident in communities in southern Ghana.</p>	<p>Very little former education, but sometimes they might have completed JHS or in some instances SHS.</p> <p>They mostly reside in Northern Ghana or in rural communities in BA, Ashanti and Western Regions May or may not have any employment.</p>	<p>Northern parts of Ghana.</p> <p>Some have very little education and others are mostly up to JHS. There are a few who have completed SHS</p>	<p>They are mostly Nigerian Nationals but some of them come from Togo, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire.</p> <p>Have educational qualifications of up to the SHS levels Some were employed in other businesses but was less lucrative</p> <p>They usually reside in the hometowns of the trafficker and are in search of a better life.</p>	<p>jobs which are non-existent in their communities.</p> <p>And in many cases extremely innocent about the sex industry</p> <p>They get carried away by the promise of travelling to the Middle East through advertisement on Radio and Posters.</p> <p>In almost all cases they leave with the knowledge of their families.</p>
Incidence and prevalence	Although this type seems to be the most popular it attracts relatively less attention from the security and social protection agencies.	With some level of vigilance by the police within the trafficking routes the incidence of this type seems to be a bit flat.	It is also difficult to tell whether this type is also on the rise or not.  But some evidence especially around	This type in terms of incidence is on the rise.  Prevalence wise, we also observe an increase. This is because efforts by the	This type seemed to have gone up in for some time, within the period under review.

	Typical trafficking approaches identified in the Ghanaian terrain				
	Type 1a	Type 1b	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
	Internal trafficking		Cross Border		
	<p>Being dominated by Ghanaians on Ghanaian soil it is a bit difficult for policemen to establish that the girls involved have been trafficked.</p> <p>And in fact, in many instances when they are questioned by the police whilst in the company of a man, they quickly claim they are their boyfriends.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there seem to be some evidence that the incidence is rising especially in urban centres.</p>	<p>However, some stakeholders believe that the perpetrators may be adopting new methods of movement which keeps security agents in the dark.</p> <p>Instead of transporting victims in groups, they now do so person by person – which reduces the potential for alarm</p> <p>In some mining areas where perpetrators send victims there were hikes in 2015 and 2016/2017. However, since the ban on illegal mining the incidence declined and there was also a withdrawal of</p>	<p>Bawku and Page to Burkina Faso suggests that there was a surge in this type in the recent past.</p> <p>Although some security raids in those areas within Burkina Faso by their security authorities has brought some sanity, there is still evidence that some victims are moved in and out of the of Burkina Faso each night on motor bikes.</p> <p>So, in that enclave there is a short-term calm, but we cannot say for sure that it is not going to continue rising.</p>	<p>police and other stakeholders to rescue and reunite victims with families is not as high as the new numbers coming in, especially from Nigeria.</p> <p>Meanwhile, hoteliers and guest house operators refuse to co-operate, and victims are also afraid to come forward and report to the police for rescue.</p>	<p>But recent trends suggest that several families who have had experiences are speaking out – therefore people are a bit more vigilant now.</p> <p>Although the adverts on radio and TV about these agents and their agencies have not stopped altogether there is consensus among stakeholders if they were controlled the incidence would decline.</p>

	Typical trafficking approaches identified in the Ghanaian terrain				
	Type 1a	Type 1b	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
	Internal trafficking		Cross Border		
		existing victims and this has also contributed to the decline in prevalence.			

### Appendix 3: Training timetable

#### ADULT SEX TRAFFICKING SURVEY IN GHANA

#### PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE TRAINING OF ENUMERATORS

**Date:** Monday, July 29, 2019 – Friday, August 2, 2019.

**Venue:** Balme Library Conference Room, University of Ghana

Day	Time								
	8:00-8:30	8:30- 9:30	9:30-10:30	10:30-11:00	11:00-12:30		12:30 - 13:30	13:30 - 15:00	15:00 – 5:00
Monday, July 29, 2019	Arrival and Registration	Welcome, Introduction of Participants and Project Team ( <i>Dr Cynthia Addoquaye Tagoe</i> )	Background to the Project and Definition of Relevant Terms (IOM Representatives)	Snack Break	Developing Skillsets for Interviewing Sex Trafficked Persons (Prof Osafo)		Lunch Break	Training on Survey Questionnaire and Assessment of Enumerators (Ruth M. Quaye, Augustine Korang, Prof Osafo)	
Tuesday, July 30, 2019		Review of Previous Day's Activities and Distribution of Marked Scripts (Ruth M. Quaye and Augustine Korang)	Introducing Enumerators to Survey Questionnaire on CAPI (Mr Joseph Darko and Augustine Korang)		Landscape of Adult Sex Trafficking in Ghana (Social Welfare Department and IOM)			Practicing Questionnaire Administration on CAPI through Role Plays and Translation into local Language/Assessment (Augustine Korang and Andrew Agyei-Holmes)	
Wednesday, July 31, 2019		Review of Previous Day's Activities and Distribution of Marked Scripts (Ruth M. Quaye and Augustine Korang)	Respondent and Interviewer Safety (Representative From GPS)		Managing Respondents' Emotions and Referral Options (Expert from Psychology Dept, UG)	Introducing Enumerators to Interview Guides ( <i>Ruth Quaye</i> )		Practicing Interview Guide Administration through Role Plays and Translation into local Languages/Assessment ( <i>Ruth Quaye and Dr Cynthia Addoquaye Tagoe</i> )	



<b>Thursday, August 1, 2019</b>		<i>Pre-Test</i>						
<b>Friday, August 2, 2019</b>		Debriefing on the Pre-Test ( <i>Project Team</i> )	Developing Skillsets for Interviewing Sex Trafficked Persons II ( <i>Prof Osafo</i> )	<b>Snack</b>	Developing Skillsets for Interviewing Sex Trafficked Persons III ( <i>Prof Osafo and IOM</i> )	<b>Lunch</b>	Further Questions and Answers from Pre-Test (Both Quantitative and Qualitative)	Briefing on the Actual Field Work ( <i>Project Team</i> )

#### Appendix 4: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) communities

Region	Community/Town for FGD	
	Male FGD	Female FGD
Ashanti	Breman	Breman
Eastern	Koforidua	Koforidua
Greater Accra	Madina Zongo Junction	Madina Zongo Junction
Western	Takoradi	Tarkwa
Central	Budumburam	Budumburam
Brong Ahafo	Kwatri	Kwatri
Volta	Aflao	Aflao
Upper East	Bolga Zongo	Bolga Zongo
Upper West	Zangu	Buli
Northern	Tamale (Thowggu)	Tamale (Banvim)

*This publication has not been formally edited by IOM*

