

Addressing Tomorrow's Slavery Today

1. Please provide a name or affiliation to be associated with the submission

Tech Against Trafficking

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Yes

4. What can we expect from tomorrow's slavery?

The report will consider current trends and dynamics in contemporary forms of slavery. We welcome concise inputs addressing:

- current prevalence estimates and patterns,
- modelling of risks and vulnerabilities, to better understand major risk factors for modern slavery, and
- analysis of how slavery is being impacted by major socioeconomic, technological and political developments, such as:
 - conflict trends,
 - labour market changes,
 - demographic developments,
 - climate change,
 - shifting gender norms,
 - any other relevant major social trends.

Please share your views on (1) major slavery risk factors, (2) oncoming risk-multipliers and (3) how you predict these will change what slavery will look like in the future.

Please also feel free to share relevant sources you think should be considered.

The root causes of modern-day-slavery as widely covered by the literature can be looked at three different levels: individual/household, societal, and environmental. Key factors leading to risk or vulnerability at the individual/household level include poverty, unemployment, lack of education and access to resources, lack of alternatives, low socioeconomic status, problems with mental health and addictions, and gang involvement. It is worth noting that these factors are interlinked: for instance, those who are born into a poor household are more likely to skip school and have a [higher exposure to other risks such as drug addictions and gang involvement](#).

At the societal level, the most cited drivers of risk include economic and political instability: different forms of human trafficking are found present in conflict zones, as explored by the UNODC in their [2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#), lack of rule

of law, impunity, inequality, restrictive mobility, limited protection for victims and survivors, discriminating social structures and cultural practices, or, in other words, systemic marginalisation and discrimination on the basis of race, gender, caste and ethnicity: “[If certain people are considered to be lesser than others, they are more likely to face the poverty that facilitates their exploitation, and to be viewed by society and employers as more justifiably exploitable](#)”, as well as the capitalist globalization/neoliberalism which exacerbates the existing socioeconomic, political inequalities.

At the environmental/ecological level, natural disasters and climate change are becoming increasingly relevant: [environmentally/climate displaced persons are on the rise](#), proportionally with the rise in sea level, extreme weather events, drought and water scarcity. As is the case with refugees fleeing conflict, war and persecution, persons forced to move by natural disasters and climate change are highly susceptible to exploitation by traffickers. Finally, it is important to note that the risk factors in these levels are both vertically and horizontally interlinked and interdependent: for example, horizontally at the society level, war and conflict can exacerbate the lack of rule of law and impunity, or a neoliberal ideology/agenda can facilitate inequalities and systemic discrimination. Vertically, natural disasters can forcibly displace people and thus, worsen or lower their socioeconomic status and situation.

Concerning risk multipliers and how they influence future’s slavery: technology remains an important ongoing risk multiplier. Technology has been and will be shifting and transforming the criminals’ profiles, organisational structure and modus operandi. It also, at the same time, increases the survivors and potential victims’ *online vulnerabilities*: for example, ever since smartphones became widely available and affordable, teenagers, especially girls, have also been [increasingly groomed virtually](#) in chat rooms and social networking sites and [sexually exploited](#) both in the ‘real world’ and online.

Finally, the aforementioned slavery risk factors can, at the same time, play the risk-multiplier role: for example, the on-going conflicts in the Sahel have led to devastating developmental consequences: the country is at the [heart of extensive transnational trafficking of human beings, drugs, weapons - armed conflict and insecurity in the region have constantly pushed people into extreme poverty](#), triggered and worsened their socioeconomic vulnerabilities. In addition, damages to the agricultural sector caused by natural hazards and climate change (loss of crops, livestock and fisheries) further [threaten and erode the most vulnerable communities’ livelihoods](#), thus making them even more susceptible to falling victim to slavery.

Relevant sources:

- <https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/2018/methodology/prevalence/>
- https://cdn-prod.opendemocracy.net/media/documents/Confronting_Root_Causes_Forced_Labour_In_Global_Supply_Chains.pdf

5. Today's anti-slavery.

This section will take stock of the current anti-slavery movement and provide an overview of what we know about what works in tackling modern slavery at the national, regional and global level. The section will then analyze what this tells us about which aspects of tomorrow's potential slavery might be tackled and/or prevented by today's anti-slavery strategies, and which aspects may require new strategies.

Please share your views on (1) what is known about 'what works' in anti-slavery policy, programming and strategies, (2) whether contemporary anti-slavery efforts are organized in a way that reflects this understanding of effective strategies, and (3) what might need to be changed in anti-slavery efforts to better build on 'what works' and/or address gaps in our programming and strategies.

The anti-trafficking community has learnt over time that human trafficking takes various forms, involves multiple stakeholders and occurs in a wide range of sectors: there are trafficking of refugees fleeing war and conflict, trafficking for sexual exploitation of children, trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, organ removal and child combatants, etc. Consequently, [different patterns and forms of trafficking have their own sets of contributing and risk factors](#) and thus, require different responses and preventive approaches: for refugees fleeing persecution and war, promoting and advocating for safe migration passage and alternatives are viable, whereas raising consumer's awareness, boycotting brands and products made using forced labour seem more sensible in the case of sweatshops, conflict minerals and labour exploitation of children and adults. In other words, there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach. For this reason, it is worthwhile to look at what didn't work in anti-slavery policy, programming and strategies, in order for the current and future anti-slavery efforts to learn and draw on and be better equipped in addressing the issue.

Anti-trafficking responses have been traditionally classified based on the four 'P's: prevention, prosecution, protection and partnerships. As addressed by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), this classification can "[create a silo effect in intervention designs, with many programmes either focused exclusively on prevention or protection or prosecution, or treating these areas as separate and distinct, without flow or interaction among them](#)". In addition, programmes designed for a specific target group and location in isolation with the other related factors might unintentionally move the problem elsewhere or push the traffickers to target other vulnerable groups and communities. Furthermore, monitoring and evaluation of past and ongoing counter-trafficking efforts [have not been properly invested in](#), despite having been recognised as critical by the anti-trafficking community. Besides, anti-trafficking projects and programmes [don't systematically draw on the evidence-based knowledge accumulated](#) by both the counter-trafficking field and the other sectors such as social protection and criminal justice.

From a policy perspective, even though there has been a rise in trafficking legislations, especially addressing labour exploitation in global supply chains, such as the California

Transparency in Supply Chains Act, UK Modern Slavery Act 2015, and most recently, the Australia Modern Slavery Bill 2018, there is still, however, little progress in compliance. This is partly due to the [lack of official monitoring or enforcement mechanism](#). Specifically, under the UK Modern Slavery Act (MSA) 2015, [companies with a financial turnover of over £36m must make an annual statement on their efforts to combat modern slavery](#). The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre has tracked companies' reporting every year and found that "[the MSA has failed to deliver the transformational change many hoped for](#)": three years after it was introduced, "[most companies still publish generic statements committing to fight modern slavery](#)", without explaining the steps they have taken to tackle it as required by the Act. Ergon Associates also analyzed 150 companies in April 2017, only 54 per cent have produced a subsequent statement, among which 42 per cent made only minimal or no changes to their previous statements. Consequently, [governments have to take on much more responsibility](#) in creating adequate legal frameworks, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms beyond conventions and treaties. Similarly, other stakeholders such as the private sector should also step up their efforts: industry associations should hold their peer companies much more accountable and not only rely on the international instruments and domestic regulations.

Finally, anti-trafficking efforts have not been equally mobilised: most attention and policies have been drawn to the issue of sexual exploitation and more recently, labour exploitation. Other emerging trafficking types and patterns such as [organ trafficking have not been adequately addressed](#), hence making it a lucrative activity and avenue with low risks for criminals. More resources are therefore urgently needed to address such trafficking forms, especially in making it unprofitable for traffickers and cohorts to commit the crime.

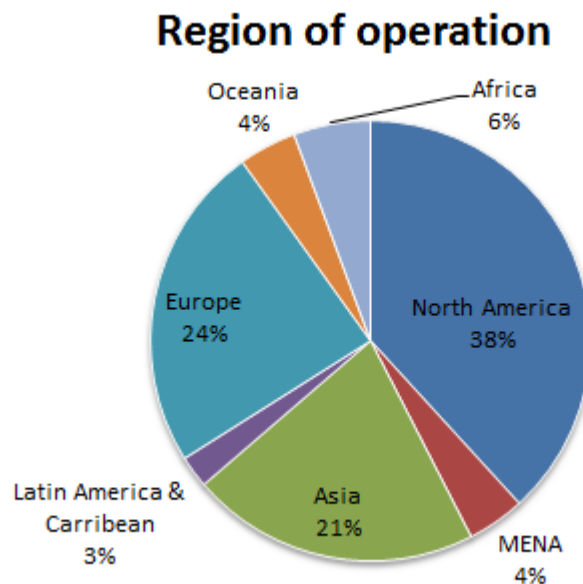
The issues outlined above are just a few snapshots of the current shortcomings of the anti-slavery efforts. The anti-trafficking community, however, has come a long way: human trafficking and modern slavery issues have been in the spotlight recently and [received a lot of international attention](#), public awareness has never been higher in the past two decades when the first discussions on it started, there is [greater regulation and transparency](#) regarding slavery in supply chains, many organisations and multi-stakeholder initiatives have been established to address the issue from different angles ([click here for the interactive landscape mapping of initiatives and organisations working with the private sector to address human trafficking](#)), to name a few.

Along with these positive developments, suggestions for moving forward effectively have also been raised - noticeably, [wider adoption of victim-centered approaches has been highlighted, based on field-based experience](#). In a victim-centered approach, [the victim's wishes, safety, and wellbeing precede other matters and procedures](#), and are the points of departure to organise and drive programme activities and processes forward. This approach would not only support the victims and survivors to better reintegrate, but also encourage them to "[seek assistance and cooperate in the identification and prosecution of traffickers](#)". Moreover, ICAT also recommends that anti-trafficking preventive and support measures

should also [be based on or include findings, experience and expertise of the behavioural science field and research](#).

In addition to the above suggestions, current developments suggest that the recent anti-slavery efforts are trying to address some of the aforementioned shortcomings. In response to the issue of programmes and projects designed to work in silo and don't systematically draw on the accumulated knowledge, a few 'knowledge hubs' and 'resource centers' targeting different stakeholder groups have been created, such as the [RESPECT Resource Centre](#), providing businesses with relevant anti-trafficking materials (guidance, good practices, standards and codes of conduct, legislation etc.) - such initiatives and work operationalize the long acknowledged strategy and importance of sharing data and good practices. It is also crucial to not 'reinvent the wheel', even more when resources are limited and scarce in the sector. Consequently, a few landscape mapping projects have been established, such as Polaris's [Global Modern Slavery Directory](#), helping stakeholders to locate organisations working on anti-trafficking, in order to create a global safety net of local referral points for victims and survivors, or the [Modern Slavery Map](#), created by NGOs and intergovernmental organisations to help businesses collaborate with anti-trafficking initiatives and organisations, as well as to support relevant stakeholders to navigate resources and responses to the most needed areas (in terms of industry, location and issue).

Furthermore, recognizing the increasingly important role of technology in the field, both as a crime-enabler and preventive and disruptive solution, [Tech Against Trafficking](#), a collaborative initiative founded by a coalition of technology companies, global experts, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs, has been conducting a landscape mapping of technology tools developed to combat human trafficking. Approximately 260 tools have been identified and compiled, among which, [200 tools have been published](#) as the result of the [first research phase](#). Of the identified tools, there is, [a strong concentration of tech tools developed and operating in the Global North](#) (about 62 per cent - see pie chart below), despite higher prevalence rates of human trafficking in the Global South. This indicates a need for a deeper understanding of the current and potential role of technological interventions in the Global South.



(Source: [Tech Against Trafficking](#))

Finally, in relation to monitoring and evaluation of past and ongoing counter-trafficking programmes, there have been initiatives such as the Minderoo Foundation's [Promising Practices database](#) which collates evaluations of anti-slavery programming's impact, categorized by country, modern slavery type and the success of the outcomes achieved. In addition, taken on the victim-centered approach suggestion, multiple stakeholders, including governments such as the [US Department of State](#), have developed various 'victim pathways', contributing to the contextualization of a victim journey, thus supporting designing solutions from a victim perspective.

In conclusion, utilizing the existing work, especially those which provide an overview/landscape of past and on-going efforts as mentioned above is crucial in moving forward. Conducting a 'market research' prior to designing and funding anti-slavery programmes and responses is thus necessary and vital - not only to avoid duplication of efforts, but also to replicate those which have been proven to work well in the field.

Relevant sources:

- http://icat.network/sites/default/files/publications/documents/16-10273_ICAT_toolkit.pdf
- <https://cdn.minderoo.com.au/content/uploads/2019/02/05180522/Promising-Practices-180213-p.pdf>
- http://icat.network/sites/default/files/publications/documents/16-10259_Ebook.pdf
- <http://www.modernslaverymap.org/>
- <http://www.globalmodernslavery.org/>
- <https://www.gaatw.org/resources/publications/908-collateral-damage-the-impact-of-anti-trafficking-measures-on-human-rights-around-the-world>

6. Tomorrow's anti-slavery.

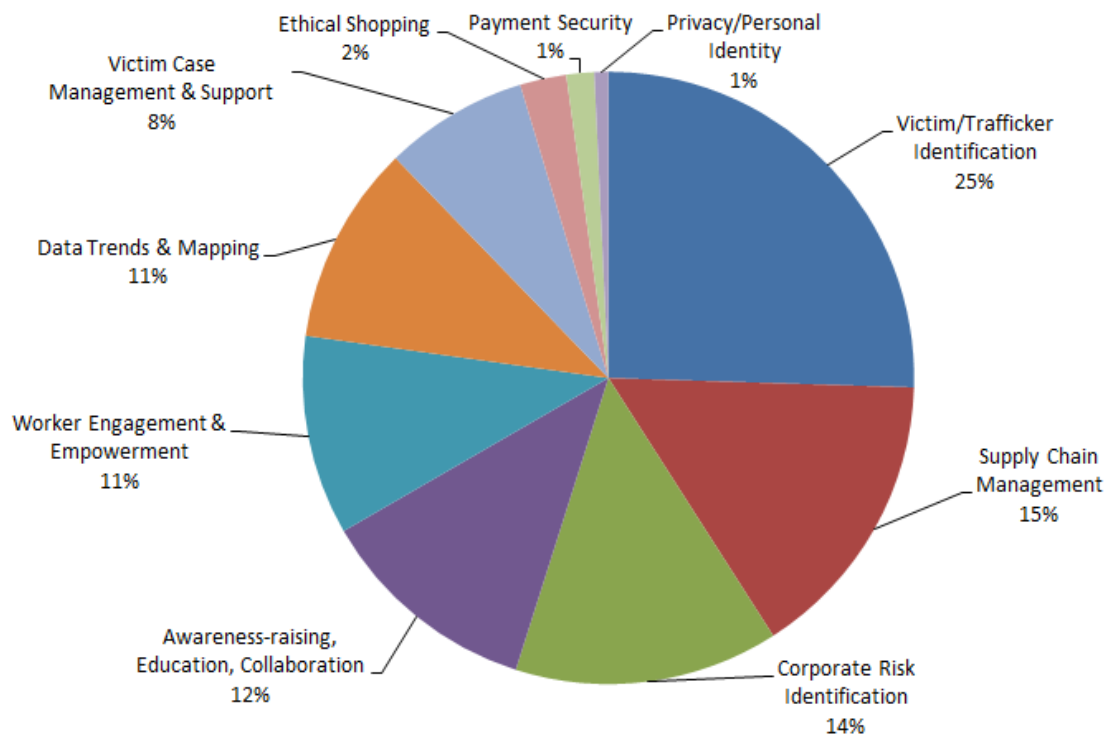
This section will explore how the anti-slavery movement can adapt to effectively tackle current and future drivers of modern slavery, including new technologies, methods, and partnerships.

Please share your views on the new methods and partnerships as well as technologies and tools, including potential risks, that are emerging that could help tackle tomorrow's slavery, today.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships have recently been on the rise. Specifically, NGOs, intergovernmental organisations are increasingly partnering with the private sector to organize anti-trafficking responses, such as the [Tech Against Trafficking](#) initiative, [Alliance 8.7](#), [Code 8.7](#), [ILO's Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking](#), and United Nations Global Compact's [Action Platform on Decent Work in Global Supply Chains](#) - which, in turn, reflects the growing acknowledgement of the important role which businesses play in the fight against trafficking (see the [Modern Slavery Map](#) for an overview of such initiatives and partnerships). In addition, as mentioned above, victim-centered approaches have been recommended and started to be applied in emerging anti-slavery policy, programming and strategies.

Technologies continue to play a transformative role in today and tomorrow's trafficking and counter-trafficking practices and responses, and in every sector. There is an [ICT component in almost every aspect of trafficking in persons](#): from the planning phase (traffickers are increasingly using information technologies for communication purposes) to the recruiting and exploiting phases of the victims (online recruitment via advertisements, online grooming of children from future exploitation, pornographic materials of trafficked persons posted on websites and chat rooms etc.), to the transaction and laundering money phase (via online banking etc.). Likewise, [technologies are also increasingly being utilized](#) as a tool to prevent (e.g. educational tools to raise awareness), to investigate and disrupt crimes (e.g. digital forensic and reporting tools), as well as to prosecute trafficking and to assist, support and empower survivors (e.g. tools which help victims access legal assistance and gain insights into the regional and national referral mechanisms). Below is an overview of the purposes for which about 260 technological tools, identified and compiled by [Tech Against Trafficking](#), have been developed in the field:

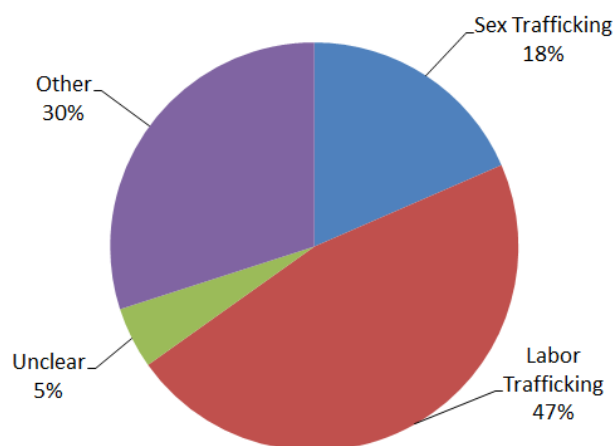
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(Source: [Tech Against Trafficking](#))

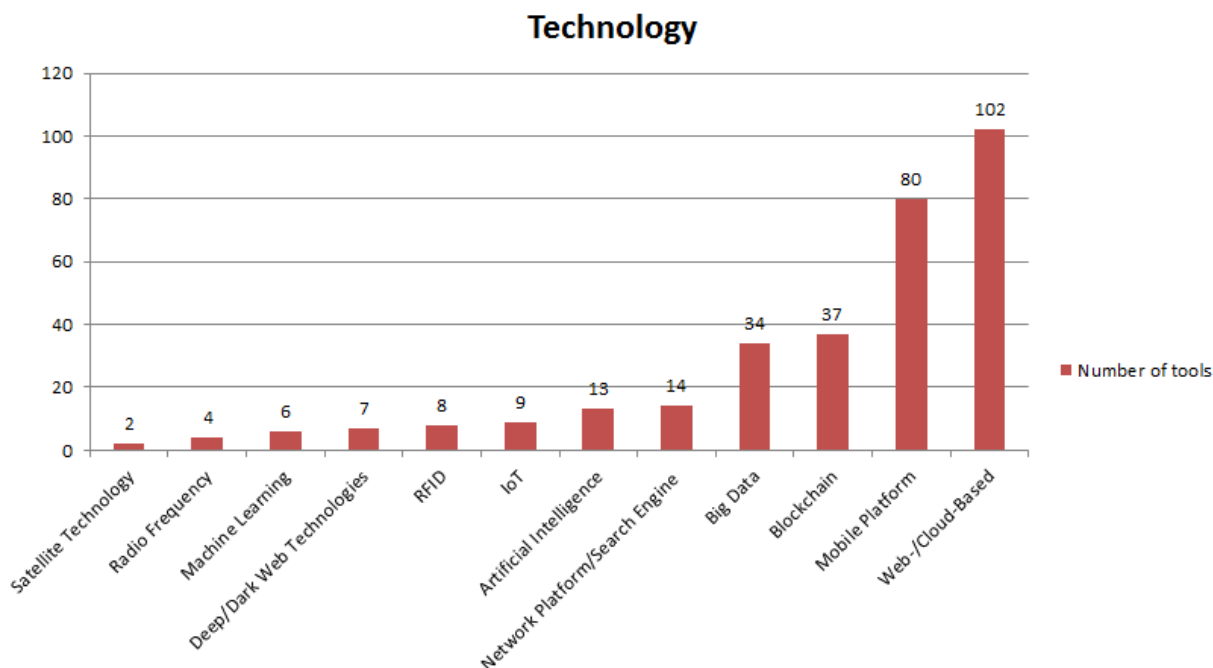
Overall, tools which are developed to identify victims and traffickers, as well as to map the trafficking trends and data, continue to form a large part of the tech responses (more than one third). There is also a trend in tools, developed by both the private and civil society sectors, aimed at helping businesses to manage their global supply chains and identify risks and red flags (about one third of the tools).

On the type of human trafficking addressed, about half of the tools identified focus on labour trafficking, and 18 per cent and 30 per cent on sex trafficking and other trafficking types (labour exploitation of children, organ trafficking etc.) respectively:



(Source: [Tech Against Trafficking](#))

Concerning the tools' complexity of technology used, it ranges from a simple mobile app informing potential trafficking victims of the risks of labour exploitation, to more advanced technologies such as geospatial information to track down fishing vessels engaged in illegal activity, dark web technologies and machine learning:



(Source: [Tech Against Trafficking](#))

Consequently, resources and efforts utilizing technology in the fight against trafficking should therefore first address these gaps and neglected areas.

To conclude, effective anti-slavery responses have to take into account not only how technology is changing the criminals' profiles, organisational structure and modus operandi, but also how it can be effectively utilized to counter the crime. For instance, since most people have a smartphone nowadays, it has become possible for criminals to recruit victims online via advertisements and chat rooms on social media and job sites, without worrying about the costs of having to physically travel to the victims' location as was the case in the past. Yet at the same time, there have been innovations and interventions using smartphones and apps to empower, educate, and protect potential victims, teenagers and workers: there are educational apps which help teenagers recognize red flags and risky situations (for example, [\(Un\)trafficked](#), [Act!](#), [BAN Human Trafficking!](#)), as well as platforms developed to bring workers together, help them mobilize and organize collectively in cyberspace - workers can now report misconduct and abuse from their employers in such platform anonymously, as well as exchange useful information, experience and feedback from working in a certain industry or foreign environment (for example, [Amader Kotha](#), [Contratados](#), [Engage](#), [Enhance](#), [Enable](#), [Golden Dreams](#), [Just Good Work](#), [My Labor Matters](#), [Pantau Pjtki](#), [Shuvaytra](#), etc.) - please see [here for the initial list of such innovations](#) identified and compiled. Such technological innovations and interventions have been and will be the driving force of the current and future anti-slavery efforts.

Tech Against Trafficking

Relevant sources:

- <http://www.modernslaverymap.org/>
- [https://www.bsr.org/files/BSR list of technology tools identified by tech against trafficking](https://www.bsr.org/files/BSR_list_of_technology_tools_identified_by_tech_against_trafficking)