



RESEARCH

ON THE PERCEPTION AND
ATTITUDES OF THE ROMA
POPULATION ON
HUMAN TRAFFICKING



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE





Impressum

Publisher:

Association of Roma Women "Bolja budućnost" Tuzla

On behalf of the Publisher:

Indira Bajramović

Author:

Mirsada Bajramović

Printed by:

„OFF-SET“ štamparija Tuzla

Print-run:

Electronic version

Association of Roma Women "Bolja budućnost" Tuzla, 2023

All rights reserved.

Contact:

Hadži Hasan age Pašića bb, 75000 Tuzla, BiH

Telephone/fax: +387 35 298 001

E-mail: info@bolja-buducnost.org

Facebook: [boljabuducnost.1](https://www.facebook.com/boljabuducnost.1)

Instagram: [bolja_buducnost](https://www.instagram.com/bolja_buducnost)

Twitter: [Boljabuducnost1](https://twitter.com/Boljabuducnost1)

GRATITUDE

The Association of Roma Women “Bolja budućnost” of Tuzla expresses its sincere gratitude to mediators in communities: Zemina Vehabović (Kakanj), Ermina Bošković (Sanski Most), Aldina Nezić (Donji Vakuf) and Emra Osmanović (Travnik), for their dedication and professionalism in conducting research in four local Roma communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Special thanks to all the Roma men and women who participated as part of the representative sample in this research, gave an invaluable contribution through the survey, and helped in understanding the views of the Roma population on their vulnerability to human trafficking. Their contribution was crucial for defining concrete recommendations and interventions to improve the situation.

We would not be able to implement this task without the confidence and support of the USAID/ INSPIRE Human Rights Protection Support Program. We are sincerely grateful for that.



This publication was published with the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The content of the publication is the sole responsibility of the Romani Women’s Association “Bolja budućnost” of the city of Tuzla and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the Government of the United States of America.

TABLE OF INDEX

1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1. Background and the Context of the Research	6
1.2. Aims of the Research	7
2. METHODOLOGY	8
2.1. Research Design	8
2.2. Characteristics of the Research Locations	8
2.3. Data Collection Process	10
2.4. Data Analysis	10
3. RESEARCH RESULTS.....	11
3.1. Sociodemographic Data	11
3.2. Awareness of Human Trafficking in the Roma Community	12
3.2.1. Perception and Recognition of Forms of Human Trafficking	14
3.2.2. Perception and Presence of Human Trafficking in the Roma Communities	17
3.3. Vulnerability Factors for Victims of Human Trafficking in the Roma Communities	18
3.3.1. Key Samples of Human Trafficking in the Roma Community	18
3.3.2. Exposure of Roma People to Risks of Human Trafficking in Comparison to Other Communities ..	19
3.3.3. Sensitive Groups Under the Risk of Human Trafficking	21
3.4. Attitudes of the Roma population on Different Forms of Human Trafficking	24
3.4.1. Perception of Child Begging Problem in Roma Communities	24
3.4.2. Perception of Forced Begging of Children and Women as a Form of Human Trafficking.....	25
3.4.3. Perception of Child Marriages in Roma Communities.....	27
3.4.4. The Presence of Collecting Secondary Raw Materials Among Children in Roma Communities ...	28
3.4.5. The Frequency of Collecting Secondary Raw Materials Among Roma Children	29
3.4.6. Causes of Children's Participation in the Collection of Secondary Raw Materials	30
3.5. Reporting Cases of Human Trafficking	31
3.5.1. Readiness of Members of the Roma Community to Report Cases of Human Trafficking.....	31
3.5.2. Reasons for Non-reporting of Cases of Human Trafficking by Community Members	32
3.5.3. Willingness of Respondents to Report Cases of human trafficking	33
3.5.4. Preferred Channels for Reporting Child Trafficking.....	33
3.5.5. Effectiveness of the Police and the Center for Social Work in Dealing with Reports of Human Trafficking	33
3.5.6. Key Activities to Combat Human Trafficking in Roma Communities.....	34
4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	35
4.1. Conclusion	35
4.2. Recommendations	36

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and the Context of the Research

Human trafficking represents one of the cruelest forms of violation of human rights with far-reaching physical, mental, and social consequences for the victims. This global phenomenon is deeply entrenched in complex social, economic, and political challenges that shape communities worldwide, including the Roma population. Bosnia and Herzegovina which faces the transition difficulties and socioeconomic challenges is also not immune to human trafficking. Although numerous initiatives and prevention strategies for the prevention of this phenomenon were undertaken, the perceptions and attitudes of the Roma community on specific forms of human trafficking, especially regarding child abuse remain insufficiently researched.

Roma are the most numerous of the 17 national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the census in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1991, only around 8,000 people declared themselves as Roma. However, according to the data from non-government organizations, between 50,000 and 70,000 Roma live in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Roma population in Bosnia and Herzegovina faces multiple forms of discrimination and social exclusion which makes it especially vulnerable to various forms of human trafficking. Economic instability, limited education, and health services access, as well as the preservation of certain social and cultural norms within the community, increase the risk of child exploitation. Employment statistics show that only 2% of Roma people are employed which additionally contributes to their vulnerability. In such context, it is of key importance to understand the internal attitudes and beliefs that form the perception of the Roma population on child exploitation and human trafficking.

Data from the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina show that 201 potential victims of human trafficking were identified in the period from 2020 until 2023, whereby 141 of them were minors. An increase in identified victims from the Roma community was recorded. However, according to the Report on Human Trafficking for Bosnia and Herzegovina published by the US Secretary of State in 2024, it is pointed out that the authorities often do not investigate cases of potential forced child begging and labor exploitation within this population, justifying them with traditional cultural customs. Children often return to their families, even when there are indications that their parents are involved in their exploitation. Such an approach indicates the need for deeper understanding and solving the complexity of these problems within the communities themselves.¹

International organizations recommend strengthening the capacities of the relevant institutions and professionals, including social workers, police officers, and prosecutors to improve the efficiency in recognizing and properly qualifying different forms of exploitation of children within the Roma population. Also, special importance is attached to the involvement of local leaders from the Roma community in processes of decision-making and the implementation of measures to combat human trafficking.

¹ U.S. Department of State, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bosnia and Herzegovina, available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/bosnia-and-herzegovina/>

Although some strategies and policies recognize Roma as one of the most vulnerable groups when it comes to human trafficking, the practical application of these measures often does not bring any significant improvements on the ground. Social perception and entrenched stereotypes of the Roma community contribute to the neglect and normalization of certain forms of exploitation, which additionally makes their combating harder. Understanding the internal attitudes and perceptions of the Roma population is key to designing more effective and sustainable solutions that will respond to the specific needs and challenges that this community faces.

This research, implemented as part of the project *Strengthening of the Roma non-governmental organizations in the prevention and fight against human trafficking* supported by the USAID/INSPIRE Human Rights Protection Program, aims to fill the existing gap in the literature by providing a detailed insight into the perceptions and attitudes of the Roma population toward different forms of human trafficking that affect children. By using qualitative research methods, including surveying the Roma men and women within four local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we intended to get a deeper understanding of the social, cultural, and economic factors that form these perceptions. Such an approach enables the development of aimed and contextually relevant interventions sensitive to the specifics and needs of the Roma community.

Conducting this research would not be possible without the active cooperation and support of the local interviewers from the Roma communities whose role was crucial in building trust and access to the communities. Their contribution was of essential importance to assure the authenticity and credibility of the collected data.

We expect that the results of this research will provide valuable insights that will inform the policy-makers, experts, and civil society organizations in their efforts to develop more efficient strategies for prevention and combating human trafficking within the Roma population. Furthermore, we hope that this research will serve as the basis for further studies and initiatives that will deepen the understanding and deal with these key issues in the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond.

1.2. Aims of the Research

This report represents the result of a field research which was aimed at:

- Systematic collection and analysis of attitudes, beliefs, and socioeconomic and cultural contexts among the members of the Roma community concerning the specific forms of child trafficking and its presence within these communities.
- Identification of specific vulnerability factors within the Roma population that directly influence the presence and perpetuation of different forms of exploitation, especially in the context of child labor, forced begging, and arranged marriages of minors.
- Proposal of targeted interventions that result from a detailed understanding of local specificities and conditions within Roma communities, while considering the broader context and general trends of human trafficking. These interventions are aimed at formulating recommendations that will efficiently address and combat the most prevalent forms of exploitation such as child labor, forced begging, and arranged marriages of minors, whereby specific challenges and needs of each of the communities examined are taken into account.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Research Design

In accordance with the basic objectives of the project, the approach to solving problems of specific forms of human trafficking within the Roma population in this report is based on principles of qualitative research methodology. This methodology was selected to enable a deeper understanding of the attitudes, opinions, and motifs of respondents. For this purpose, a structured questionnaire was developed and it is divided into four key thematic areas: (1) knowledge of the phenomenon of human trafficking, (2) risk factors associated with human trafficking, (3) attitudes towards specific forms of child exploitation, and (4) knowledge and use of existing mechanisms for reporting human trafficking. The introduction segment of the questionnaire included questions related to the socio-demographic data of the respondents.

The research was conducted in four different locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Kakanj, Travnik, Donji Vakuf, and Sanski Most, including the surrounding municipalities Bosanska Krupa, Ključ, and Bihać. When selecting communities, special attention was paid to geographic diversity, assessment of the presence of certain forms of child trafficking in every location, and assessment of the feasibility of future interventions in accordance with the existing program resources directed to the problem of child exploitation.

It needs to be emphasized that the sampled Roma communities are situated in municipalities where formal referential mechanisms for prevention and action in case of begging and other forms of child exploitation were recently established (Sanski Most, Travnik, and Donji Vakuf), or they are currently in the process of development of such mechanisms (Kakanj). Also, through project activities in some of the local communities it is planned to establish local multi-sectoral Mobile Teams for identification of potential victims of human trafficking. The results of this research need to serve newly-established referral mechanisms as a valuable basis for planning specific preventive activities and interventions within the Roma communities, based on the collected evidence.



Map 1. **Research Locations**

2.2. Characteristics of the Research Locations

Travnik is a municipality situated in the Central Bosnia Canton. According to the census from 2013, this municipality has a population of 53,482 citizens, of which 210 citizens declared themselves as Roma. Still, unofficial data from the Roma non-government organizations indicate that around 120 Roma families live in this municipality with approximately 450 members.

Most of the Roma population lives in separate parts of settlements (slums), while a small number of them live in the town center where most population lives. According to the information from respondents, a very small percentage of Roma people is employed, and their economic position mainly depends on different forms of social benefits. "Seeking asylum" in the developed countries of Western Europe is also a common practice.

Kakanj is a municipality in the central area of Bosnia and administratively it belongs to Zenica-Doboj Canton in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the last census, Kakanj has a population of 37,441 citizens, of which 851 (2.27%) citizens declared themselves as Roma. According to the local Roma organizations assessments, around 300 Roma families with approximately 2,160 members live in the Kakanj Municipality. This number varies due to the more frequent seasonal migration of the Roma population to the European Union countries. Roma families are distributed in several communities, with the largest community being Varda, while there are also smaller communities such as Bus Station, Railway Station, Prapratnica, and Malješ. In the Kakanj Municipality, Roma are the most numerous, but socially most endangered national minority.²

Donji Vakuf is a municipality situated in the Central Bosnia Canton and counts 13,985 citizens. According to the unofficial data of the Roma associations from this canton, the largest number of Roma in this canton lives in the municipality of Donji Vakuf. It is estimated that 178 families with about 500 to 550 members live in this local community, whereby the largest number live in the settlements of Potok and Kamenjača.

Sanski Most is a municipality that administratively belongs to Una-Sana Canton. According to the Roma non-government sector assessments, between 2,000 and 2,200 Roma citizens live in this canton, whereby most of them live in the Bihać Municipality, around 700 in total. Only several families declare as Roma in Sanski Most. A significant number of Roma live in Bosanska Krupa and Ključ. Based on field observations and interviews with respondents, it can be concluded that the actual number of Roma in this area is significantly higher. According to their statements, a large number of Roma resort to the strategy of the so-called "ethnic mimicry", declaring themselves mainly as members of the majority population or some other national minority. This trend is also present among integrated Roma, who, hiding their ethnicity, avoid potential discrimination to which they would be exposed because of their origin. While integrated Roma often have employment and stable incomes, economic deprivation is significantly more noticeable among respondents who live in quarters.

2.3. Data Collection Process

Before starting the field research, a detailed plan for data collection was developed. This plan included the development of a structured questionnaire and the preparation of all the necessary materials for the survey. Questionnaires were designed to include all the relevant aspects of the research, including demographic data, attitudes, and experiences in relation to specific forms of child trafficking.

Local interviewers who were familiar with and accepted in their communities were hired for every locality. This

² Local action plan for Roma integration in the Municipality of Kakanj for the period 2016-2020

practice enabled easier access for interviewers and increased confidence in the survey process. Respondents were selected based on random sampling within the communities to ensure the representativeness of the sample.

The survey was conducted through personal interviews in the period from June to August in each of the selected localities. Interviewers used structured questionnaires that included questions about demographic characteristics, perceptions, and experiences related to child trafficking, as well as socioeconomic, and cultural contexts.

To preserve the accuracy and reliability of the data, the interviewers had a two-day training on interviewing methods and research ethics, led by the principal researcher. Each stage of data collection was monitored to ensure consistency and accuracy. The collected data were entered into digital databases for further processing and analysis.

All respondents were informed about the purpose of the research and had the possibility to withdraw at any time. The collected data is treated with a high level of confidentiality and anonymized to protect the identities of the respondents.

2.4. Data Analysis

After the interview, the data was organized and entered into a digital database. Each survey was reviewed to identify and correct possible data entry errors.

Quantitative data, which include answers to structured questions, were analyzed using statistical methods. These methods were used for the identification of patterns and trends in the data:

- **Descriptive statistics:** Basic statistical indicators such as average responses, frequencies, and percentages for each question were calculated. These indicators help in understanding the range and distribution of responses.
- **Cross-tables:** They were used for analysis of relations between various variables. For example, it will be analyzed how the perception of human trafficking differs depending on the age or level of education of the respondents.
- **Graphic representations:** The results are presented through graphs and diagrams to visualize key information and trends, such as the frequency of reporting cases or attitudes about the marriage of minors.

Based on the analysis, key conclusions related to the perception and presence of human trafficking in Roma communities were drawn. Vulnerability factors and recommended activities for improvement of awareness and prevention were identified.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS

3.1. Sociodemographic Data

The field survey covered a total of 400 respondents, evenly distributed 100 respondents from each selected Roma community. An overview of the gender and age structure of respondents by location is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Age and gender structure of respondents, by location

Location											The total number of respondents		
	18-25		26-35		36-45		46-55		56 +		Male	Female	Total
	M	Ž	M	Ž	M	Ž	M	Ž	M	Ž			
TRAVNIK	14		23		40		14		9		47	53	100
	8	6	10	13	21	20	5	9	3	6			
DONJI VAKUF	10		25		22		15		28		44	56	100
	3	7	12	13	11	11	2	13	16	12			
KAKANJ	22		22		21		19		16		39	61	100
	3	19	8	13	10	11	9	9	9	9			
SANSKI MOST	20		21		11		26		22		43	57	100
	9	11	10	11	2	9	10	16	12	10			
UKUPNO:	66		91		94		74		77		173	227	400

Source: **Data processed from the questionnaire**

The sample consists of 173 men (43.25%) and 227 women (56.75%), through which a relative balance of gender representation in accordance with the initial research plan was achieved. This distribution is of particular importance, taking into consideration the difficulties in establishing contact with male respondents, who are often less willing to discuss topics such as child labor exploitation and child marriage. In contrast, women are more open to such conversations, which enabled a deeper exploration of gender differences in perceptions related to child trafficking.

The sample is geographically divided into four locations: Travnik, Donji Vakuf, Kakanj, and Sanski Most, whereby Roma communities in Bihać, Ključ, and Bosanska Krupa are also included. Such sample structure provides insight into the demographic characteristics of respondents, such as sex and age.

The greatest difference in gender representation is evident in Kakanj, where women make up 61% of respondents, while men make up 39%. This predominance of women provides an opportunity to explore specific gender differences in the experiences of child trafficking, especially in the context of patriarchal communities. In many cases, women are more directly affected by forms of exploitation, such as forced marriage, while men may have different perspectives and attitudes.

Analysis of the age structure of the sample reveals that the largest number of respondents belongs to the age group of 36 to 45 years (23.5%), while the youngest age group, from 18 to 25 years, makes up only 16.5%. This age diversity

is crucial for analyzing perceptions of child trafficking, as different age groups may have different experiences and attitudes on the subject. Younger people (18-25 years old) often have a more immediate insight into the cases of children at risk, while older people (56+ years old) may be more attached to traditional or cultural values. Understanding these intergenerational differences provides researchers with the opportunity to analyze how the perception of child trafficking changes with age and to identify which age groups are particularly vulnerable to certain forms of exploitation.

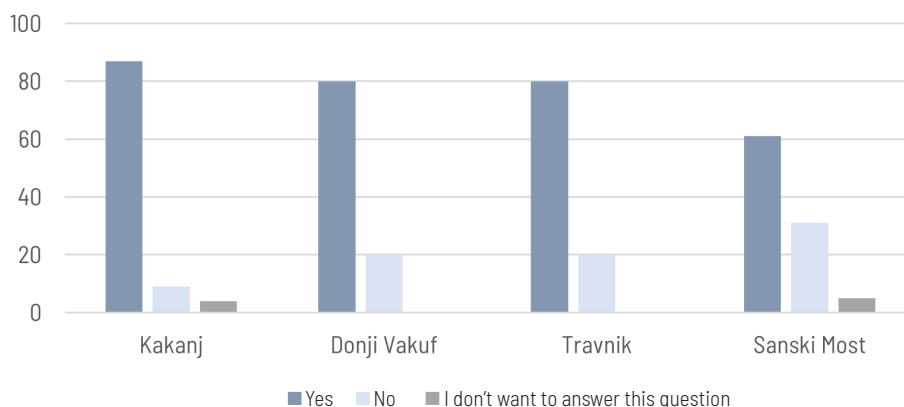
One of the key objectives of the research was to understand the demographic data related to the employment and parental status of the respondents, as these factors are related to the risk of child trafficking. Namely, 73.25% of respondents are unemployed, while 18.25% are employed, indicating a high social vulnerability rate in the communities covered by the research. Apart from that, as many as 77.5% of respondents have children, with 29.75% of them having children under 14 years of age. These data are crucial for understanding the risk of child exploitation, as poverty and unemployment often lead to situations where children are exposed to forced labor, begging, or forced marriage. The combination of the age and gender structure of the sample enables a more precise identification of vulnerable groups within communities, which is essential for the development of targeted interventions aimed at preventing and combating child trafficking.

3.2. Awareness of Human Trafficking in the Roma Community

To get a clearer picture of the level of awareness of human trafficking within the Roma community, the question was asked: ***“Are you familiar with human trafficking?”***-

The result analysis indicates a high level of awareness of this problem, with variations between different locations. On the level of the entire sample, 77% of respondents stated that they were familiar with human trafficking, while 20% stated that they were not familiar with the phenomenon, and 3% refused to answer this question. These data suggest that the majority of respondents, despite the socioeconomic challenges faced by Roma communities, are aware of the presence of human trafficking. This information is crucial for future educational and preventive activities, as it indicates the existence of a basic awareness of the problem, which facilitates further work on raising information awareness and developing preventive measures within the community.

Chart 1 Awareness level of human trafficking among the Roma communities, by locations



However, when the results are analyzed by location, certain differences that might be related to local specificities and the degree of exposure to this phenomenon appear. In Sanski Most, 61% of respondents confirmed that they were familiar with human trafficking, which is a significantly lower percentage compared to other locations. Also, 31% of respondents stated that they were not familiar with the phenomenon, while 8% did not want to answer. These results suggest that there is a need for additional information campaigns in this community, where the lack of awareness about human trafficking is more evident than in other locations.

In Donji Vakuf and Travnik the results are identical, 80% of respondents stated that they were familiar with human trafficking, while 20% stated that they were not familiar with it. These data indicate that there is a relatively high level of awareness in these communities, although there is a significant number of respondents who were not familiar with this problem.

The highest level of awareness was recorded in Kakanj where even 87% of respondents stated that they were familiar with human trafficking, while 9% stated that they were not familiar, and 4% did not want to answer. These results suggest that informative campaigns and initiatives were more successful in this community, or that the human trafficking problem is more present and visible, which can also contribute to a higher level of awareness.

Overall, results suggest that respondents from most Roma communities have a certain level of awareness of human trafficking, but the existence of local differences emphasizes the need for a targeted approach to education and raising awareness. These variations may be caused by different factors, including social and economic conditions, education level, as well as the presence of relevant informative campaigns in local communities.

To get a clearer picture of the level of awareness of human trafficking within the Roma community, the question was asked: **“How would you evaluate your knowledge about human trafficking?”**

Summarizing the results from four municipalities (Sanski Most, Donji Vakuf, Travnik, and Kakanj), a significant variation in the perception of the knowledge about human trafficking among respondents, taking into consideration subjective knowledge evaluations depending on the community and demographic structure of respondents.

On a level of the whole sample, only 6% of respondents evaluate their knowledge about human trafficking as “very good”, while 36% think that they have “good” knowledge. Most of the respondents, 35% of them evaluate their knowledge as “poor”, while 22% evaluate their knowledge as “insufficient”. These results suggest a significant need for improvement of awareness levels and information about human trafficking, especially in communities where a lower percentage of positive answers was recorded.

Analysis by municipalities:

- **Sanski Most:** Only 3% of respondents evaluate their knowledge about human trafficking as “very good”, while 43% think that they have “good” knowledge. The greatest percentage, 35% evaluates their knowledge as “poor”, and 12% of respondents think that they have “insufficient” knowledge on this topic, while 7% refused to answer this question. These data suggest a relatively low level of being informed in Sanski Most, especially when the age structure is taken into consideration whereby older respondents can be less informed or less interested in the problem of human trafficking.
- **Donji Vakuf:** In this municipality, 2% of respondents evaluate their knowledge as “very good”, while 29% think that they have “good” knowledge. Most of them, 36% consider their knowledge “poor”, while 32% be-

lieve that they have “insufficient” knowledge about human trafficking. These results suggest a lower level of being informed in Donji Vakuf in comparison with other communities, which may be related to demographic characteristics, including the age structure, whereby younger groups (18-25 years old) often show a lower level of knowledge about specific topics.

- **Travnik:** In Travnik, 9% of respondents evaluate their knowledge as “very good”, which is the highest percentage among municipalities. An additional 46% think that they have “good” knowledge, while 34% think that they have “good” knowledge. Although 11% of respondents evaluate their knowledge as “insufficient”, Travnik shows a larger percentage of positive answers. This result may be the consequence of a relatively unbalanced age structure and the larger involvement of the younger population in informing programs.
- **Kakanj:** In Kakanj, the greatest percentage of respondents who think that they have “good” knowledge is recorded (12%), while 41% think that they have “good” knowledge. Still, 37% of them evaluate their knowledge as “poor”, and 7% evaluate their knowledge as “insufficient”. Still, there is a higher percentage of those with better knowledge, and a significant number of respondents still think that they are insufficiently informed. This municipality also shows slightly higher awareness among older respondents (36-45 years old), who may have more exposure to information about human trafficking.

Connection with the demographic structure of the respondents:

The age structure has a key influence on the results of this analysis. Respondents in the age groups between 18-25 and 26-35 years often show lower knowledge ratings, while older age groups (36-45 and 46-55 years) in some municipalities show a higher level of self-assessment of knowledge. These data suggest that older respondents, who may have had more opportunities to engage in informational activities or have directly or indirectly witnessed the problem of human trafficking, show a higher level of awareness.

Also, the significant gender difference in this study shows that women are often better informed or more open to discussing the topic of human trafficking, which can be connected to their specific role in the community, especially concerning caring for children and other vulnerable groups.

3.2.1. Perception and Recognition of Forms of Human Trafficking

After analyzing the self-assessment of the level of knowledge about human trafficking, the perception of different forms of human trafficking within Roma communities was investigated. The results of the analysis of the collected data indicate significant variations in the recognition of specific forms of human trafficking.

General overview of indicators

- **Forced child begging:** Highly recognized in most of the Roma communities.
- **Forced adult begging:** Also highly recognized, especially in the Roma communities of Donji Vakuf and Sanski Most.

- **Arranged child marriage:** Recognizability varies, with significant differences among the Roma communities.
- **Street child labor:** Variable recognizability, depending on the Roma community.
- **Secondary raw material (SRM) collection:** Recognized in certain municipalities, but it doesn't represent a dominant answer.
- **Labor exploitation:** Low recognizability with several exceptions.
- **Prostitution:** Highly recognized in several Roma communities.
- **Organ trafficking:** Relatively low recognizability in comparison to other forms.
- **None of the above-mentioned and other:** A low percentage of answers suggests that respondents generally recognized some form of human trafficking.

Analyzing the data by Roma communities, these are the indicators:

Sanski Most:

- **Most recognized:** Forced child begging (88%) and prostitution (84%).
- **Least recognized:** Organ trafficking (41%) and none (4%).

In Sanski Most, the high recognition of **forced child begging and prostitution** suggests a high level of awareness about these forms of human trafficking. Low recognition of **organ trafficking** and a small percentage of answers "none" suggest that respondents recognized key forms of human trafficking.

Donji Vakuf:

- **Most recognized:** Forced child begging (97%) and prostitution (96%).
- **Least recognized:** None (0%) and Other (0%).

In Donji Vakuf, the extremely high recognition of **forced child begging and prostitution** suggests a high level of awareness and attention to these forms of human trafficking. A low percentage of answers "none" shows that respondents generally agree on forms of human trafficking.

Travnik:

- **Most recognized:** Street child labor (48%).
- **Least recognized:** Labor exploitation (0%) and prostitution (14%).

In Travnik, **street child labor** was the most recognized form of human trafficking, while **labor exploitation** was less recognized. These results may suggest specific local challenges or lower awareness levels of other forms of human trafficking.

Kakanj:

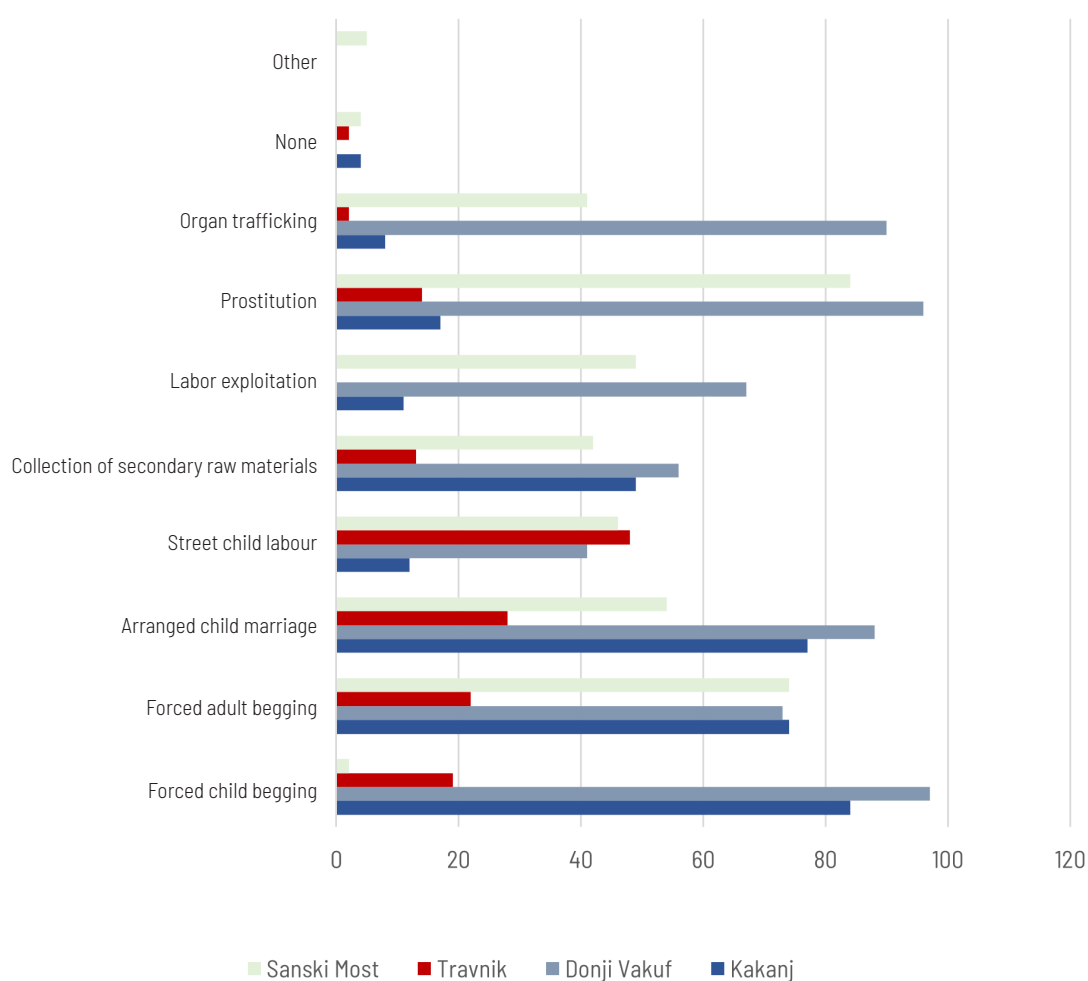
- **Most recognized:** Forced child begging (84%) and prostitution (17%).
- **Least recognized:** Labor exploitation (11%) and prostitution (8%).

In Kakanj, **forced child begging** is the most recognizable form of human trafficking, while **prostitution** has a rela-

tively lower level of recognizability in comparison to other Roma communities. Low recognition of **labor exploitation** and **organ trafficking** may indicate that these forms of human trafficking are not that present or recognized in this community.

Generally, the high recognition of **forced child begging** and prostitution indicates a high level of awareness about these forms of human trafficking. Variations in the recognition of **arranged child marriage** and other forms of human trafficking reflect specific local characteristics and awareness levels. These insights may serve as the basics for directing targeted educational and intervention activities within the Roma communities.

Chart 2 Recognizing forms of human trafficking among the Roma communities, by locations



Gender differences in recognition of forms of human trafficking

There are significant differences in the perception of human trafficking between men and women which are manifested in different levels of recognition of specific forms of exploitation. In Sanski Most, women respondents in general identified better forms of human trafficking related to gender-specific forms of exploitation such as prostitution and arranged marriages of minors. These differences may be a result of a bigger exposure of women to these problems or their increased awareness, which suggests a greater interest and level of information of women in a local community.

Similar tendencies were noticed in Donji Vakuf, where women recognize more forms of human trafficking, including forced child begging (56%), prostitution (56%), and arranged marriages of minors (51%). Also, women are more aware of the organ trafficking problem (52%) and labor exploitation (37%). Opposite to that, men recognized these forms less, with 42% in relation to forced child begging and 41% in relation to prostitution.

In Kakanj, women were extremely aware of the forced child begging (55%) and arranged marriages of minors (48%), while organ trafficking was also highly recognized (52%). Still, recognition of labor exploitation (7%) and prostitution (11%) remains at a low level. Men show even less awareness, especially about organ trafficking (3%), prostitution (5%), and arranged marriages (29%). Forced child begging (33%) was mostly recognized among men, while labor exploitation and street child labor were recognized in a minimum percentage (5 and 6%).

In Travnik, the results of the analysis confirm gender differences in the perception of human trafficking. Women recognized better street child labor (29%) in comparison to men (19%), which indicates a larger sensitivity to this problem. On the other hand, only 5% of women recognize forced child begging, while among men that percentage amounts to 12%. In terms of prostitution, recognition among women amounts to only 1%, while among men 12%. Forced adult begging and arranged marriages of minors are also better recognized among men (17 and 19%) than among women (6 and 10%). In the end, organ trafficking and prostitution were rarely recognized among women (1% for both), which suggests a low awareness of these forms of human trafficking.

3.2.2. Perception and Presence of Human Trafficking in the Roma Communities

Based on the results of the research on the perception of the presence of human trafficking in different municipalities, the answers of respondents to the question were analyzed: *“Do you think that there is human trafficking in the place where you live?”* This analysis also includes respondents' statements that indicate specific forms of human trafficking that they recognized or heard about.

In Sanski Most, 52% of respondents think that human trafficking does not happen in their place, while 28% believe that it does. Approximately 20% of respondents were unsure about the presence of human trafficking. These results indicate considerable unreliability regarding the real occurrence of human trafficking in Sanski Most. The most frequently mentioned forms of trafficking include street child labor, forced begging, and prostitution. Also, it was pointed out that parents use children for begging, and in some cases, it is stated that children are forced by their parents into forced marriages of minors or begging.

On the other hand, in Donji Vakuf, 83% of respondents believe that human trafficking happens in their place, which indicates a high level of awareness and concern about this problem. Only 10% of respondents think that human trafficking does not happen, while 7% are unsure. Respondents suggest that children are in some cases forced to beg, and cases of selling children for marriage were also mentioned. Respondent's statements include:

“I know a woman who is forced by her husband to beg with three children and she has to give all the money to him for gambling and drinks.”

“Some parents in our settlement force their children to beg and they beat them if they don't bring enough money, and they drive expensive cars.”

“An underage girl is forced every day by her brothers to beg, and they maltreat her if she doesn’t bring enough money which they spend on alcohol.”

“My underage neighbor A. disappeared nine years ago and she was never found.”

“I know a guy from our settlement who married a girl from Italy, he left there with her and they forced him to beg there.”

“In Kamenjača and Potok, parents sell their girls at the age of 13, 14, and 15 years for marriages.”

In Travnik, 75% of respondents think that human trafficking happens in their place, while 23% believe the opposite. Only 2% of respondents were unsure about the presence of human trafficking. These results indicate a high level of perception of the presence of human trafficking, whereby child marriages are among the most frequent forms. Respondents especially emphasized the frequency of minor marriages in the community.

In Kakanj, 87% believe that human trafficking happens, which represents the highest percentage among the surveyed municipalities. Only 9% of respondents think that human trafficking does not happen, while 4% are unsure. These results suggest a very high perception of the presence of human trafficking. The most frequently mentioned forms of human trafficking include the forced begging of children and the sale of girls, and domestic violence is also mentioned. Cases of forcing children to beg and collect secondary raw materials were also mentioned, as well as sexual services that girls provide for the money.

The analyzed results indicate different levels of perception and awareness of human trafficking among municipalities. In most cases, forced child begging and child marriage are recognized as the most common forms of human trafficking. Respondents in municipalities such as Donji Vakuf, Travnik, and Kakanj express a high level of awareness of the presence of human trafficking, while in Sanski Most, there is significant uncertainty regarding the real extent of the problem. These findings suggest the need for additional research and interventions that will be tailored to the specific needs and challenges in each community.

3.3. Vulnerability Factors for Victims of Human Trafficking in the Roma Communities

3.3.1. Key Samples of Human Trafficking in the Roma Community

Based on the results of the research on the perception of the presence of human trafficking in different municipalities, answers of respondents to the question were analyzed: ***“In your opinion, what are the main reasons for human trafficking in the place where you live?”***

The research results point to several key causes of human trafficking that differ between municipalities, but at the same time show certain common patterns.

Poverty is recognized as the most important cause of human trafficking in all municipalities, with particularly high percentages in Donji Vakuf (92%) and Kakanj (91%). This high rate reflects the serious socioeconomic challenges these communities face.

Lack of formal education is also identified as a significant cause in almost all municipalities, although the intensity of this factor varies significantly. The highest percentage was recorded in Kakanj (59%), whereas the lowest was in Donji Vakuf (31%). These results suggest that education can have a key role in the prevention of human trafficking.

Unemployment is considered an important factor in Donji Vakuf (40%) and Kakanj (87%), but it is less pronounced in other municipalities. A high unemployment rate can further contribute to increased vulnerability and exploitation, which is particularly evident in Kakanj.

Discrimination is also shown to be a significant factor, but not with the same intensity as poverty or lack of education. The highest percentage was recorded in Sanski Most (54%), while the lowest was in Donji Vakuf (8%).

Migration is less recognized as a cause of human trafficking, with the lowest percentage recorded in Travnik (1%) and relatively low percentages in other municipalities.

Answers indicating indecision vary, with the highest percentage in Sanski Most (9%) and the lowest in Donji Vakuf (2%).

Gender perspective in human trafficking samples

In the sample analysis of human trafficking in Roma communities in municipalities of Travnik, Kakanj, Donji Vakuf, and Sanski Most, differences in perceptions of women and men are clearly visible. In Travnik, both women and men identify poverty as a key cause, with men emphasizing lack of education more. In Kakanj, women highlight poverty (56%) and lack of employment (50%) as the dominant causes, while men mention poverty (35%) and emphasize lack of education (13%) to a lesser extent. In Donji Vakuf, women see poverty (59%) as the most emphasized cause, while men state this in a lower percentage (36%). In Sanski Most, women and men have similar attitudes about poverty and lack of education, but women express greater concern about discrimination (28% vs. 24%). These results indicate that women in Roma communities are often faced with higher levels of poverty and different perceptions of the causes of human trafficking, highlighting the need for differentiated support strategies that take into account gender differences and the specific challenges they face.

3.3.2. Exposure of Roma People to Risks of Human Trafficking in Comparison to Other Communities

After the respondents identified vulnerability factors within the Roma population, we were interested in their evaluation of the exposure of Roma people to a higher risk of human trafficking in comparison to other communities.

The results of the research indicate a general belief that Roma people are exposed to an increased risk of human trafficking in all analyzed Roma communities, with very high percentages of positive responses being recorded.

High perception of vulnerability:

Kakanj shows the highest percentage of answers "Yes" (95%), which suggests a strong belief among the respondents that the Roma in this municipality are particularly vulnerable. This result may reflect severe socioeconomic challeng-

es and potentially high rates of exploitation within the community. Similar tendencies are observed in Sanski Most and Donji Vakuf, where the percentages of answers are “Yes” (88% and 82% respectively). These findings indicate the recognition of Roma as a particularly vulnerable group in these communities as well, which may be related to socioeconomic conditions or specific cases of exploitation.

Lower perception levels:

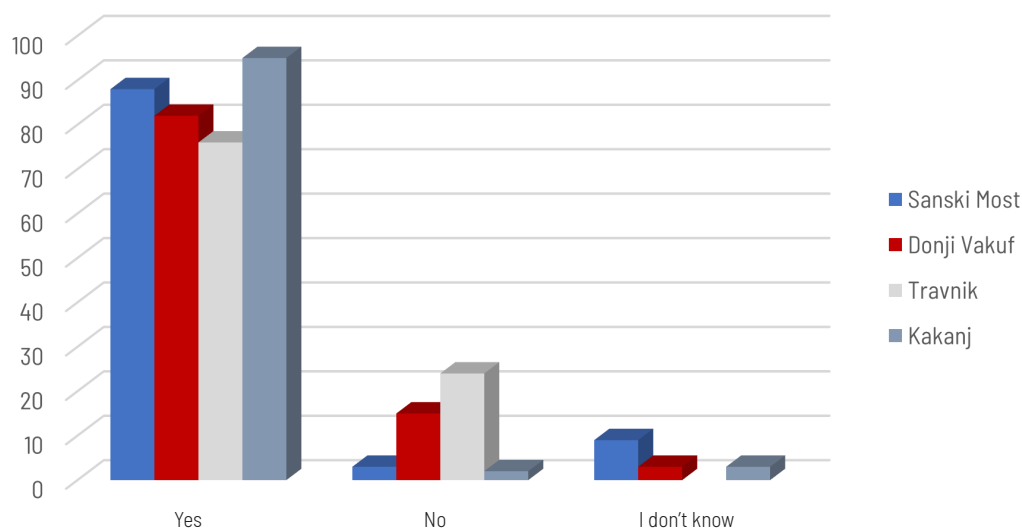
Travnik records the lowest percentage of answers “Yes” (76%), which suggests that a small part of respondents believe that Roma people are not exposed to a greater risk. This variation can be attributed to the different socioeconomic characteristics observed in Travnik compared to other municipalities.

Answers “No” and “I don’t know”:

In all municipalities, the percentage of answers “No” remains low, which suggests that a small part of respondents believe that Roma people are not exposed to a greater risk.

The answer “I don’t know” has different values, but in most cases, it remains relatively small, which indicates a fairly high level of information or perception about this topic among respondents.

Chart 3 Exposure of Roma to the risk of human trafficking

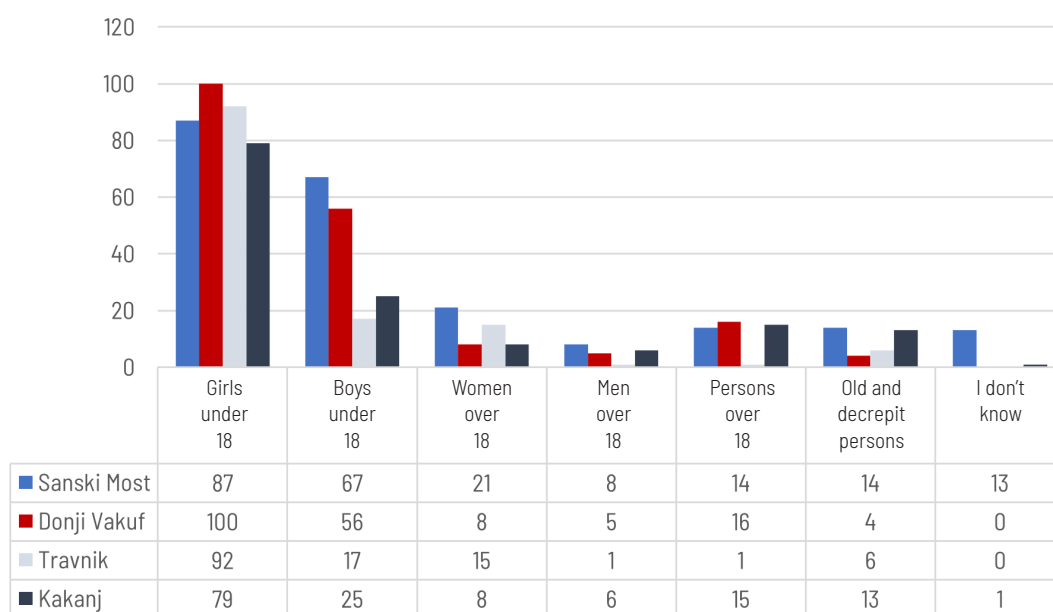


The results of the research indicate a widespread perception that Roma people are exposed to a greater risk of human trafficking compared to other communities. Respondents in all Roma communities, except in Travnik where the percentage is somewhat lower, generally believe that the Roma population is particularly endangered.

3.3.3. Sensitive Groups Under the Risk of Human Trafficking

The research results indicate a high perception of the risk of human trafficking among different demographic groups, with a special emphasis on girls under the age of 18 in all analyzed Roma communities. This perception reflects the potential seriousness of the problem and emphasizes the need for focused interventions.

Chart 4 The group vulnerability to human trafficking in the Roma communities



In all communities, **girls under the age of 18** are recognized as the most vulnerable group. The highest percentage of risk recognition comes from Donji Vakuf, where all respondents (100%) believe that girls under the age of 18 are at high risk. Similar high percentages were recorded in Travnik (92%) and Sanski Most (87%). These results clearly indicate a high level of awareness of the vulnerability of young girls and the need for specialized protection measures.

Boys under the age of 18 are recognized as a risk group, but to a lesser extent compared to girls. The highest percentage of risk recognition was recorded in Sanski Most (68%), while the lowest was in Donji Vakuf (56%). In Travnik and Kakanj, the percentage of risk recognition for boys is even lower, which may indicate a lower awareness of their vulnerability compared to girls.

Risk recognition for **women over 18** varies significantly. In Donji Vakuf and Travnik, only 8% of respondents think that women over 18 are at high risk, while in Sanski Most and Kakanj, the percentage is slightly higher (21% and 8%, respectively). These results suggest that the risk for this group is less recognized compared to younger groups.

Men over 18 are generally recognized as the least vulnerable group, with very low percentages in all communities. The lowest percentage was recorded in Travnik (1%), while Donji Vakuf had the highest percentage (5%). This perception indicates the attitude that men over 18 years of age are less exposed to the risk of human trafficking among the Roma population.

Persons with disabilities are recognized as a risk group in some communities but with variations in percentages. The highest percentage of risk recognition was recorded in Kakanj (15%), while the lowest was in Travnik (1%). These results suggest that the perception of risk for this group may differ depending on local circumstances and the level of awareness of their specific needs.

Old and decrepit persons are also recognized as a risk group, with percentages varying between 4% and 14%. The highest percentage was recorded in Sanski Most and Kakanj (14%), while the lowest was in Donji Vakuf (4%). These results indicate moderate risk perception for this group, which may be related to local socioeconomic factors.

The analysis of the research results clearly shows that girls under the age of 18 are recognized as the most vulnerable group in the context of human trafficking in all analyzed Roma communities. This high-risk perception indicates the seriousness of the problem and the need for specific preventive measures. Other groups, including boys under 18, women over 18, men over 18, persons with disabilities, and the elderly and frail, have varying levels of perceived vulnerability, which may indicate specific local challenges and needs for targeted protection.

Gender perception of vulnerable groups within the Roma community

The analysis of the gender perception of the risk of human trafficking shows significant differences in the recognition of vulnerable groups between women and men in all analyzed Roma communities. Girls under the age of 18 are most often recognized as the most vulnerable group, in all four communities, regardless of the gender of the respondents. Men are generally more likely to recognize boys under 18 as a risk group in greater numbers than women. This difference is most noticeable in Travnik, where 11 men recognize boys as vulnerable, compared to only 3 women. It is similar in Sanski Most and Donji Vakuf, where more men recognize the risk for boys. As for adults, women are less likely to identify adult men and women over 18 as vulnerable compared to men. In Sanski Most and Kakanj, men more often recognized women over the age of 18 as a risk group, while the recognition of adult men as risky is negligibly low in all Roma communities, with no significant gender differences. Persons with disabilities and the old and decrepit are recognized as risk groups in smaller percentages, with men generally having a higher perception of risk for these groups, especially in Sanski Most and Kakanj.

3.3.4. Prevalent Forms of Human Trafficking in the Roma Community

When asked about the forms of human trafficking that are considered the most dangerous in their communities, respondents' answers among Roma communities vary, pointing to specific patterns that reflect local challenges and perceptions.

Sanski Most: In this community, forced child begging is recognized as the most dangerous form of human trafficking,

with a high percentage of 69%. Also, forced begging of adults, especially women, represents a significant risk, with 38% of responses. Other forms, such as arranged child marriages (15%) and child labor on the street (6%), were recorded with lower percentages, indicating a lower risk perception. Organ trafficking was the least recognized (2%), while the option “none of the above” received a significant 17%, which may indicate uncertainty or lack of awareness of the problem in the local community.

Donji Vakuf: Forced child begging dominates as the most important problem, with a high percentage of 96%, indicating a very high awareness of this form of human trafficking. Arranged child marriages (72%) and the collection of secondary raw materials (65%) were also perceived as serious problems. It is interesting that the options “none of the above” and “other” were not recorded, which indicates a high awareness of different forms of human trafficking.

Travnik: In Travnik, the most prominent form of human trafficking is child labor on the street, with 53%. Arranged child marriages were also recognized as a significant risk, with 36%. Forced begging of children and adults was recorded at a lower level (18% and 20%) compared to other municipalities. Travnik is the only municipality that did not have answers in the “none of the above” category, which indicates a high awareness and recognition of the problem.

Kakanj: In Kakanj, forced child begging is recognized as the most dangerous form of human trafficking, with 91%. Arranged child marriages (85%) and forced begging of adults (79%) were also recognized as serious problems. The collection of secondary raw materials is the second dominant form of exploitation, with 52%. Prostitution is considered a relatively significant problem with 20%, which is more than in other Roma communities.

Forced begging, especially for children, is recognized as the most dangerous form of human trafficking in all four Roma communities, with the highest percentages in Donji Vakuf (96%) and Kakanj (91%). Forced begging of adults (mostly women) also ranks high, especially in Kakanj (79%) and Donji Vakuf (49%). Arranged child marriages are recognized as a serious problem, especially in Kakanj (85%) and Donji Vakuf (72%), while lower percentages were recorded in Sanski Most (15%), which may indicate specific social norms in different communities. Street child labor was especially recognized as the risk in Travnik (53%), while secondary raw material collection is ranked at the highest position in Donji Vakuf (65%). These activities are often associated with poverty and lack of access to education. Prostitution is recognized to a lesser extent, with a relatively higher percentage in Kakanj (20%), while organ trafficking remains a marginal topic with minimal percentages in all four Roma communities.

Gender analysis of the perception of the most risky forms of human trafficking in Roma communities

Gender perceptions of human trafficking in Roma communities vary between women and men, reflecting specific patterns and vulnerabilities. In Travnik, women recognize street child labor as the most significant form of human trafficking (33%), while men highlight arranged marriages (22%) as a serious risk. In Kakanj, forced child begging dominates the perception of women (54%) and men (35%), while arranged marriages are significantly recognized

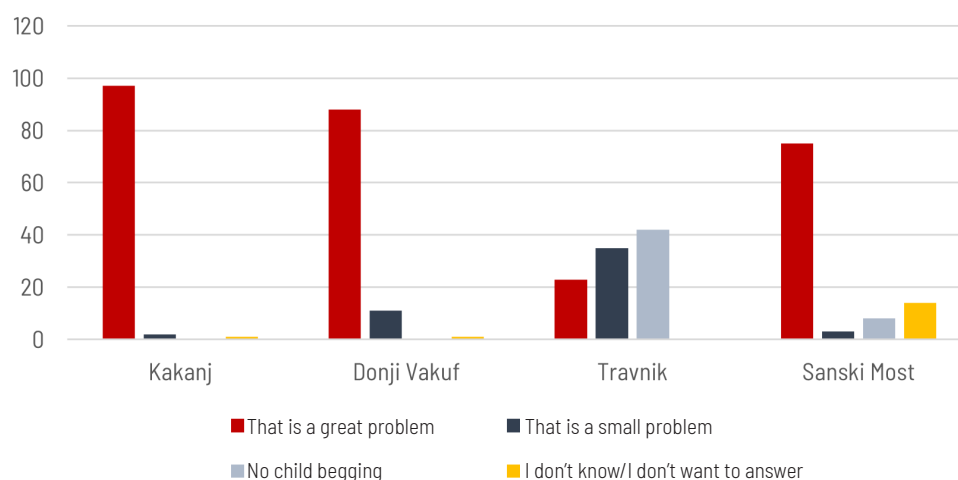
among women (48%) and men (32%). Donji Vakuf shows high concern among women about the forced begging of children (56%), while men highlight this form with a lower percentage (43%). In Sanski Most, women and men recognize forced child begging (38% and 29%, respectively) as a problem, but there is still less concern for other forms, such as prostitution and labor exploitation. These patterns indicate that women and men have different priorities and perceptions when it comes to forms of human trafficking, and forced child begging is consistently recognized as the riskiest form, with special emphasis on different dynamics of gender sensitivity within communities.

3.4. Attitudes of the Roma population on Different Forms of Human Trafficking

3.4.1. Perception of Child Begging Problem in Roma Communities

Based on the collected data, the perception of the problem of child begging within the four investigated Roma communities varies, but in all communities a significant number of respondents consider this problem to be serious.

Chart 5 Differences in the perception of child begging problem in Roma communities



In Kakanj, the vast majority of respondents (97%) consider child begging a serious problem, while only 2% of respondents consider it a minor problem. None of the respondents stated that there is no begging, and one respondent chose the option "I don't know/don't want to answer".

The perception in Travnik differs considerably, with 23% of respondents considering begging as a big problem, while 35% see it as a minor problem. A significant part of respondents (42%) believe that child begging does not exist at all. In Gornji Vakuf, a high level of concern is manifested in 88% of respondents who consider begging a big problem, while 11% of them see it as a minor problem. Only one respondent chose the option "I don't know/don't want to answer". In Sanski Most, 75% of respondents also recognize child begging as a major problem, while 3% rate the situation as a minor concern. Eight respondents stated that they did not see begging, and 14 respondents did not want to answer the question.

The gender dimension on the presence of child begging in the Roma community

Analysis of the gender perception of the problem of the presence of child begging in the investigated Roma communities reveals significant differences between male and female respondents, as well as variations in attitudes among different communities. In Sanski Most, 43% of women believe that child begging is a big problem, while only 35% of men share this perception, with the presence of 5% of men who do not recognize begging, as well as a significant number of respondents who do not want to express their opinion. In Travnik, perceptions are less clear, with 12% of women and 11% of men considering begging a big problem, while 18% of women and 23% of men claim that there is no begging, which may suggest a lack of information or different social norms. In Kakanj, perceptions are pronounced, with 58% of women considering child begging a big problem, while 37% of men share this concern, indicating recognition of the problem regardless of gender. Donji Vakuf shows similar trends, with 50% of women and 38% of men believing that begging is a big problem, but also with a higher percentage of men (8%) who consider it a minor problem, which may indicate different risk perceptions between the sexes. These differences in perceptions suggest the need for targeted education and raising awareness of the problem, as well as the importance of involving all community members in finding solutions.

3.4.2. Perception of Forced Begging of Children and Women as a Form of Human Trafficking

Research on the perception of forced begging of children and women as a form of human trafficking among respondents from four Roma communities shows significant variability. Most respondents recognize begging as a serious problem, but there is a significant difference in the degree of agreement among local communities, which may be related to different levels of awareness, information, as well as socioeconomic and cultural factors specific to each community.

In **Kakanj**, 93% of respondents believe that begging children and women is a form of human trafficking, while only 3% disagree with that view. This high rate of agreement may be the result of long-term exposure to the issue, which likely contributed to increased awareness of the issue. Five respondents chose the option “I don’t know/don’t want to answer”, which may indicate a certain level of uncertainty or reluctance to express an opinion on this sensitive topic.

Chart 6 Understanding child and women begging as a form of human trafficking in Kakanj

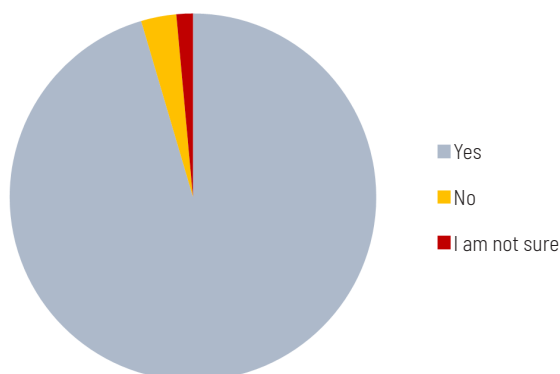
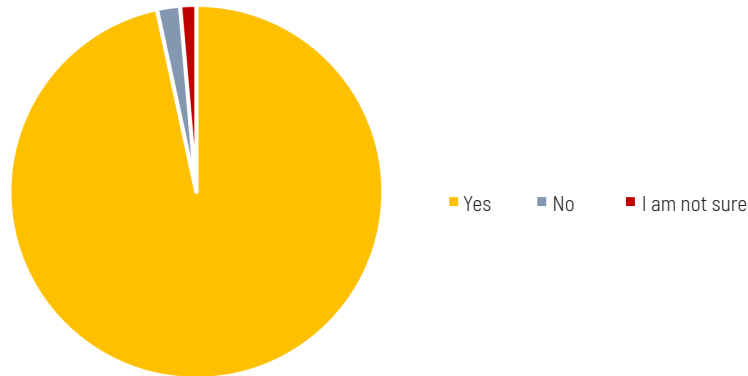


Chart 7 Understanding child and women begging as a form of human trafficking in Donji Vakuf



A similar pattern is observed in **Donji Vakuf**, where 97% of respondents recognize begging as a form of human trafficking. Only two respondents declared that they did not agree with this position, while one respondent was undecided. These data indicate an almost universal recognition of begging as a form of exploitation in this community, which may be related to local specificities and greater exposure to public discourses on human trafficking.

In contrast, **Travnik** shows a significant division of opinion. Here, 52% of respondents recognize begging as a form of human trafficking, while as many as 46% of respondents believe that this is not the case. This relatively large division of opinion may indicate a lack of information or different interpretations of the term human trafficking in this Roma community, as well as possible cultural factors that influence the perception of exploitation.

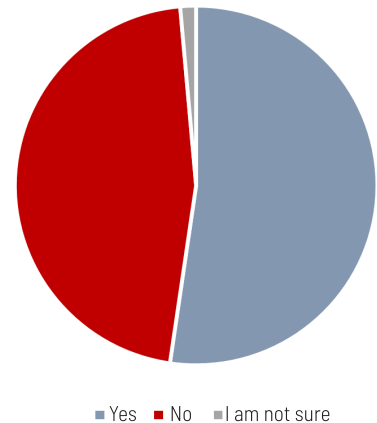


Chart 8 Understanding child and women begging as a form of human trafficking in Travnik

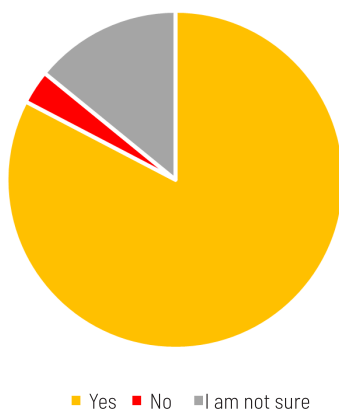


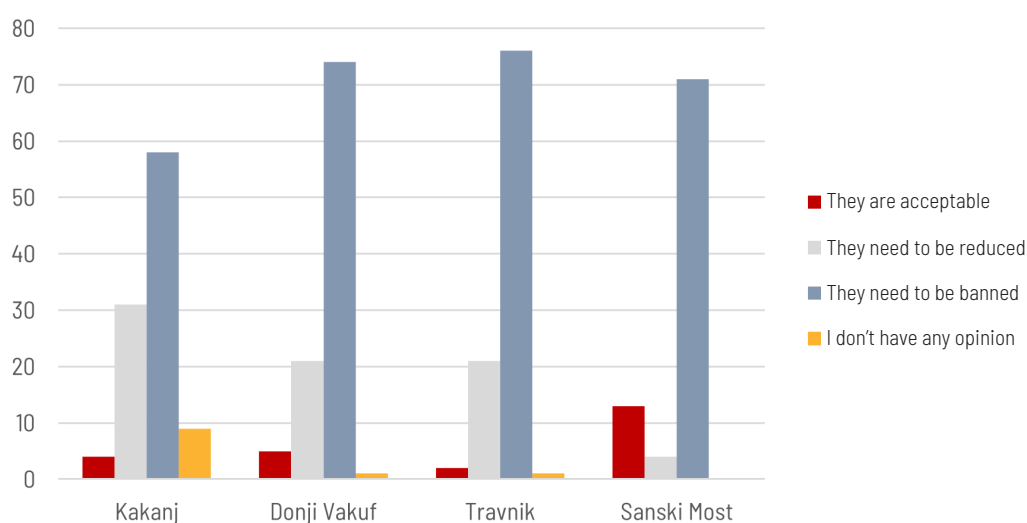
Chart 9 Understanding child and women begging as a form of human trafficking in Sanski Most

In **Sanski Most**, the majority of respondents (82%) also recognize the begging of children and women as a form of human trafficking, while a small number (4 respondents) chose a negative answer. However, a significant percentage of respondents (14%) did not want to answer this question, which may indicate a certain reserve or fear of expressing an opinion on this sensitive topic, which could be a consequence of the specific local context or lack of information.

3.4.3. Perception of Child Marriages in Roma Communities

Research on the perception of child marriage in Roma communities shows that the majority of respondents consider this practice harmful and express support for its ban. However, there is also a minority group that is either indifferent to this problem or considers it acceptable, which indicates the need for more intensive work on raising awareness of the consequences of child marriage, especially within communities where such a practice is rooted.

Chart 10 Attitudes to the so-called “child” marriages, by location



In the municipality of Kakanj, 58% of respondents expressly support the prohibition of child marriages, while 31% believe that their frequency should be reduced. However, there is also a smaller number of respondents (4) who consider child marriage acceptable, while 9 respondents did not take a clear position on this issue. These data indicate a significant level of awareness about the harmfulness of child marriage, but also the presence of a part of the community that either supports or is undecided about this problem.

A similar situation is evident in Gornji Vakuf, where 74% of respondents support the prohibition of child marriages, and 21% believe that they should be reduced. Five respondents marked child marriage as acceptable, while one respondent had no opinion. These results confirm a significant consensus on the need to regulate this practice but also indicate the existence of a minority that sees such marriages as socially acceptable, which emphasizes the need for further work on education about the consequences of child marriage.

In Travnik, the results are similar, with 76% of respondents believing that child marriage should be banned, while 21% advocate reducing the practice. A smaller number of respondents (2) consider child marriage acceptable, and one respondent does not have a clearly defined position. This high level of support for the ban on child marriage in Travnik reflects an increased awareness of its harmfulness, while the smaller number of respondents who consider it acceptable suggests that there are still traditional thought patterns within the community. In Sanski Most, 71% of respondents support the prohibition of child marriages, while 4% believe that their frequency should be reduced.

However, it is a concerning fact that 13 respondents consider child marriage acceptable, which is significantly more

compared to other communities. Additionally, 12 respondents did not take a position on this issue. These results suggest the existence of deeper cultural and social factors that support the practice of child marriage in this community and indicate the need for targeted education and preventive activities to change entrenched perceptions and practices.

Gender analysis of the perception of child marriage among the Roma population

A gender analysis of the perception of child marriage in Roma communities reveals differences in attitudes between women and men, with the majority of respondents recognizing the harmfulness of this practice. In Sanski Most, the majority of women (49) believe that child marriages should be prohibited, while 5 of them believe that they should be reduced, which implies support for the regulation of this practice, while only 1 woman believes that child marriages are acceptable. Men also expressed similar views, with 22 saying child marriage should be banned, 18 saying it should be reduced, and 4 saying it's acceptable. In Kakanj, 30 women advocate the ban, 27 think they should be reduced, while 1 woman thinks they are acceptable. Among men, 22 are for a ban, 13 for a reduction, and 1 thinks they are acceptable, while 6 respondents have no clear opinion. In Travnik, women and men have similar views, where 37 women and 36 men believe that child marriages should be prohibited, while 14 women and 8 men believe that they should be reduced, and only 1 woman and 1 man consider them acceptable.

Nevertheless, 110 respondents from the sample, 57 of whom are women, believe that child marriages should be reduced or are acceptable. This result shows that almost one-third of respondents maintain attitudes that can be considered acceptable towards this harmful form, which indicates the need for further work on raising awareness of this issue and promoting attitudes that support the ban and reduction of child marriage. This analysis highlights the urgency of integrating educational programs and joint initiatives aimed at preventing child marriage, to ensure the protection of children and encourage changes in social norms within Roma communities.

3.4.4. The presence of Collecting Secondary Raw Materials Among Children in Roma Communities

The research showed that the collection of secondary raw materials, such as metal, paper, and plastic, is a frequent occurrence among children in Roma communities. This practice can have serious consequences for their physical and emotional development.

In Kakanj, as many as 97% of respondents stated that they had noticed children collecting secondary raw materials. Only two respondents did not notice this practice, while one respondent refused to answer. These results clearly suggest that the collection of secondary raw materials is very widespread in this Roma community, which requires urgent attention to prevent further harmful consequences for children involved in this form of labor exploitation.

A similar situation was recorded in Donji Vakuf, where 83% of respondents stated that they witnessed the collection of secondary raw materials by children. While 9% of respondents claim that there are no such cases, 8% of respondents had no opinion. This situation clearly shows the presence of labor exploitation of children, which can have long-term consequences on their education and health.

In Travnik, the collection of secondary raw materials is less widespread compared to other municipalities, but it is still present, with 66% of respondents noticing children in these activities. On the other hand, 34% of respondents stated that they did not notice this phenomenon, which may indicate variations within different parts of the municipality or the possible concealment of this practice.

In Sanski Most, 79% of respondents confirmed the existence of children's collection of secondary raw materials, while 9% stated that such a practice does not exist, and 12% had no opinion. These data indicate a significant presence of this form of child labor, which, although it may seem like a harmless activity, actually represents a form of labor exploitation.

3.4.5. The Frequency of Collecting Secondary Raw Materials Among Roma Children

Analyzing the frequency of collecting secondary raw materials by children, we observe significant differences between communities, but also common patterns that show that this activity has become an almost daily obligation for many children. This situation undoubtedly represents a form of labor exploitation, with the neglect of children's rights to education and safe childhood.

In Kakanj, 59% of children collect secondary raw materials daily, while 31% do so several times a week. These data indicate that almost 90% of children in Kakanj regularly participate in this activity, which emphasizes the high level of labor exploitation.

In Donji Vakuf, 37% of children collect secondary raw materials daily, while 28% do so several times a week. Although the percentage of children who collect raw materials every day is lower compared to Kakanj, labor exploitation still remains present.

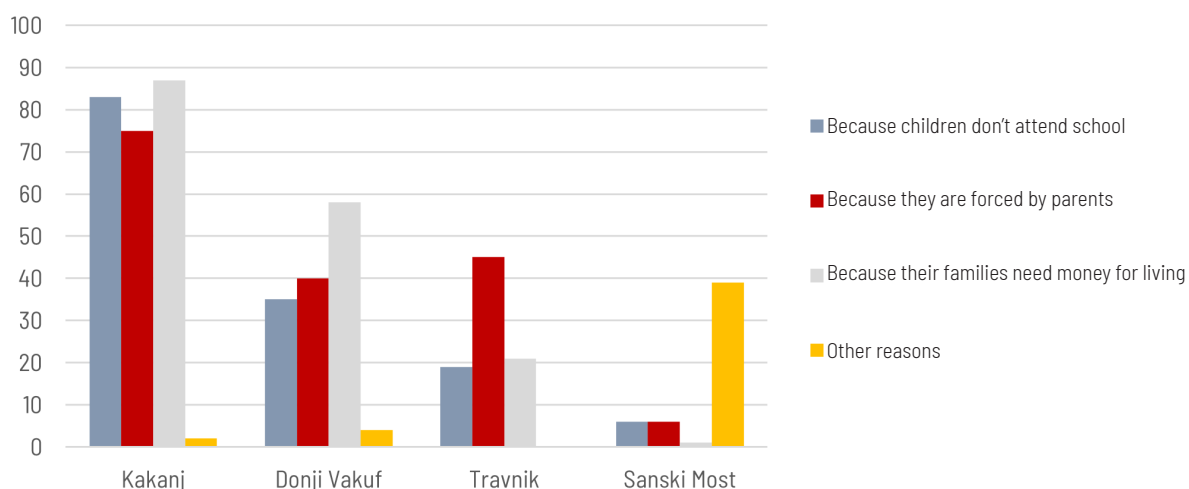
In Travnik, 32% of children do this activity every day, while 22% do it several times a week, which also confirms the significant frequency of children's work in this municipality.

On the other hand, in Sanski Most, collecting secondary raw materials is less frequent, with only 5% of children doing it daily. The majority of respondents (40%) state that children in their environment do not participate in these activities. This result may indicate local socioeconomic specificities that contributed to the reduction of this phenomenon.

3.4.6. Causes of Children's Participation in the Collection of Secondary Raw Materials

The reasons given by the respondents for the participation of children in the collection of secondary raw materials indicate deep-rooted socioeconomic problems within Roma communities, where the problems of poverty, parental coercion, and lack of education are particularly pronounced.

Chart 11 Causes of children's participation in the collection of secondary raw materials



In Kakanj, 87 respondents point out that children work because the family needs money to survive, while 83 respondents state that children do not go to school. Also, 73 respondents state that parents force their children to work. These results show that the collection of raw materials often stems from poverty and the non-involvement of children in the education system, which makes it even more difficult to solve this problem.

In the municipality of Donji Vakuf, 58 respondents emphasize that children work because of the family's economic needs, while 40 of them state parental coercion, and 35 respondents believe that children do not go to school. These figures confirm that economic necessity is the main factor driving children to work.

In Travnik, the largest number of respondents, 45 of them, point out that parents force their children to work, which suggests that in this community, parental coercion is a more dominant factor than economic reasons or children's non-involvement in school.

In Sanski Most, 6 respondents state that children do not go to school, and many respondents believe that parents force children to work. Interestingly, only one respondent believes that work is the result of economic necessity, which indicates a potentially different socioeconomic context in this municipality compared to others.

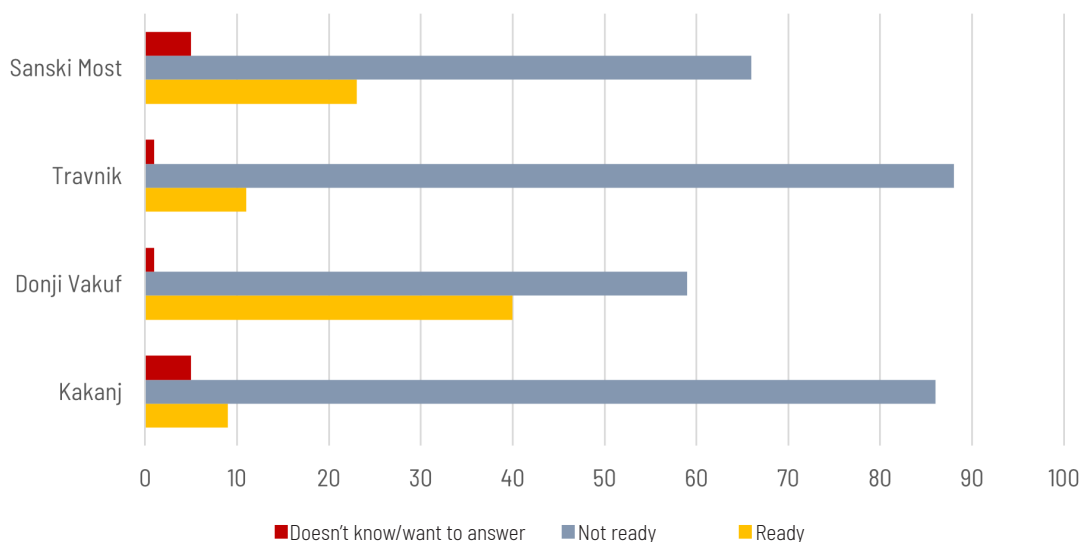
Analysis of the perception of the collection of secondary raw materials among children in Roma communities reveals alarming trends that require urgent attention. A high percentage of respondents in all investigated communities indicates the prevalence of this practice, which can seriously endanger the physical and emotional development of children. These results emphasize the need for urgent measures to ensure the protection of children from labor exploitation. It is necessary to implement strategies to raise awareness of the harmfulness of these practices and promote access to education as a key right of every child. Also, it is important to work on improving socioeconomic conditions in these communities to reduce the need for child labor and ensure a safe and supportive environment for their development.

3.5. Reporting Cases of Human Trafficking

3.5.1. Readiness of Members of the Roma Community to Report Cases of Human Trafficking

Prema mišljenju ispitanika, postoji zabrinjavajuća nespremnost članova romskih zajednica u analiziranim općinama da prijave slučajeve trgovine ljudima. Najveći otpor prijavljivanju, prema ispitanicima, primijećen je u Travniku i Kaknju, gdje 88% i 86% ispitanika smatra da njihovi sugrađani nisu spremni prijaviti takve slučajeve. Slični trendovi zabilježeni su u Sanskom Mostu (66%) i Donjem Vakufu (59%). Ovi podaci ukazuju na raširen strah i pasivnost unutar zajednica, što ozbiljno otežava borbu protiv trgovine ljudima.

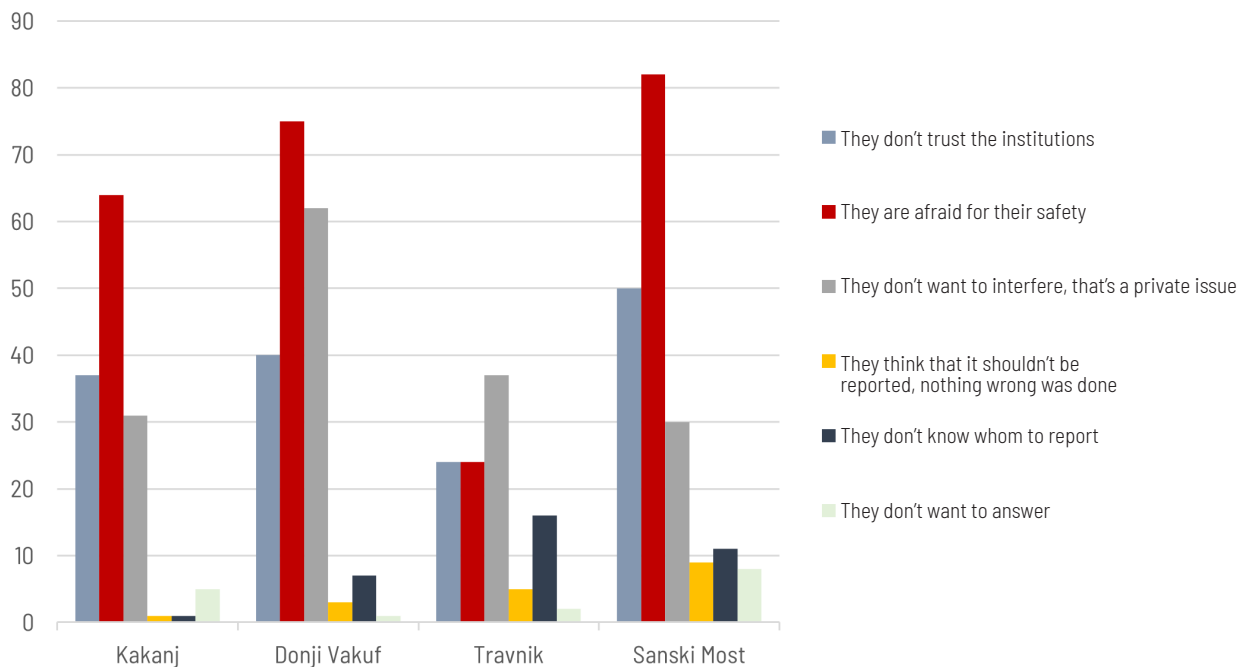
Chart 12 Readiness of members of the Roma community to report cases of human trafficking



3.5.2. Reasons for Non-reporting of Cases of Human Trafficking by Community Members

The reasons for residents' reluctance to report cases of forced child begging, underage marriages, or other forms of human trafficking, according to respondents, are largely related to deep-rooted fear for personal safety and mistrust of institutions. These problems are particularly pronounced in communities like Kakanj, where 64 respondents point out fear for their own safety, and in Sanski Most, where as many as 82 respondents state the same reason. Distrust in the efficiency of institutions is also a significant obstacle, with 50 respondents in Sanski Most and 40 in Donji Vakuf believing that competent institutions would not act adequately on their applications.

Chart 13 Respondents' perception of the reasons for not reporting cases of human trafficking in the Roma community, by location



Apart from that, there is a significant number of respondents who believe that members of the Roma community do not want to interfere in cases of human trafficking, which is expressed in Donji Vakuf (62 respondents) and Travnik (37 respondents), where such problems are often perceived as private matters. This attitude indicates a low level of awareness of the seriousness of human trafficking and the need for social responsibility in its suppression.

There is a concerning fact that a certain number of respondents believe that their fellow citizens see nothing wrong with human trafficking. Such an opinion was recorded among 5 respondents in Travnik and 9 in Sanski Most, which indicates a serious lack of education and understanding of the problem of human trafficking.

These data clearly indicate the existence of key obstacles in the fight against human trafficking, including fear, mistrust of institutions, lack of awareness, and inadequate education. In order to overcome these obstacles, it is necessary to introduce integrated strategies that will strengthen trust in the system, increase safety for those who report such cases, and continuously raise awareness of the seriousness of human trafficking.

3.5.3. Willingness of Respondents to Report Cases of human trafficking

The majority of respondents from four communities - Kakanj, Donji Vakuf, Travnik, and Sanski Most - state that they would report a case of human trafficking if they witnessed such a situation. The highest percentage of willingness to report the case was recorded among respondents in Travnik (96%), while in Sanski Most, 59% of respondents stated that they would do so, which is the lowest result among the analyzed municipalities. On the other hand, in all municipalities there is a smaller number of respondents who are not sure or would not report human trafficking - most in Sanski Most (25% don't know).

"I reported a case, a woman with two small children, the police and social services went to the field, but after a few days, she is back on the street."

"I reported the case of child begging to the Center for Social Work and Sale of Children, but nothing was done. They told me that you are reporting for nothing, we can't do anything."

3.5.4. Preferred Channels for Reporting Child Trafficking

The majority of respondents in all communities point out that they would report the exploitation of children to the police by calling number 122. In Sanski Most, 60% of the respondents state that they would use this method of registration, while in Travnik that percentage is a bit lower (40%). Also, a significant number of respondents from Sanski Most (58%) would choose to report directly to the police station.

It is interesting to note that in Travnik a significant number of respondents (55%) prefer reporting it to the Center for Social Work (CSW), while this option is less common in Kakanj and Donji Vakuf. Associations operating in the settlements were also mentioned as a possible channel for reporting, especially in Kakanj (38%) and Travnik (19%), while in Donji Vakuf and Sanski Most this channel of reporting is almost absent.

The results indicate a relatively high level of awareness of the importance of reporting human trafficking, but also variations in preferred reporting channels between different municipalities. The police and the center for social work stand out as the most reliable institutions for reporting, which emphasizes the need to further strengthen trust in these institutions and spread information about where and how to report such cases.

3.5.5. Effectiveness of the Police and the Center for Social Work in Dealing with Reports of Human Trafficking

Respondents' views on the actions of the police and the Center for Social Work (CSW) in relation to reports of human trafficking vary significantly among Roma communities, which indicates different levels of trust in these institutions and their capacities in solving such cases. In Kakanj, the majority of respondents (77%) believe that the police and CSW do not act adequately, while only 18% believe that they meet expectations. This high level of dissatisfaction suggests a serious lack of trust in local institutions, which may be the result of bad experiences, lack of resources or ineffective procedures. In Donji Vakuf, the situation is more positive, where 67% of respondents believe that the institutions act adequately, although 30% express doubts about their effectiveness. In Travnik, trust in the police

and CSW is relatively high, with 83% of respondents believing that the institutions adequately deal with reports of human trafficking. In contrast, in Sanski Most, 45% of the respondents believe that the procedures are not adequate, while 50% are not sure, and only 5% show confidence in the work of these institutions. These results indicate serious challenges in the perception of the work of institutions, especially in terms of transparency and communication with the public.

3.5.6. Key Activities to Combat Human Trafficking in Roma Communities

Research findings point to different attitudes and approaches within certain communities regarding the suppression of human trafficking, which is reflected in the following aspects:

- **School education:** In Donji Vakuf, 76% of respondents believe that it is necessary to intensify work with children in schools to prevent human trafficking. Although there is support for this idea in Kakanj (36%) and Sanski Most (56%), the results indicate variations in the recognition of the importance of education in the fight against human trafficking among different communities.
- **Penal policy:** In Donji Vakuf (95%) and Sanski Most (72%), the vast majority of respondents support stricter punishments for perpetrators of human trafficking, while this support is less pronounced in Kakanj (53%) and Travnik (14%). These results reflect different attitudes towards judicial measures in solving this problem.
- **Raising awareness:** A significant number of respondents in Sanski Most (60%), Kakanj (55%), and Donji Vakuf (47%) indicate the need for greater media engagement and public discourse on human trafficking. These data emphasize the need for a stronger media presence in order to educate and raise awareness about this serious issue.
- **Institutional cooperation:** In Travnik (63%) and Donji Vakuf (61%), a significant number of respondents emphasized the importance of improved cooperation between the police, schools, and the Center for Social Work. This finding indicates the need for coordinated action of relevant institutions to enable a more efficient response to cases of human trafficking.

In conclusion, the research results highlight different priorities among communities, from education and stricter punitive measures to the need for greater awareness and institutional coordination, reflecting the specific challenges each community faces in the fight against human trafficking.

The perception of the reluctance of community members to report cases of human trafficking, especially in Travnik and Kakanj, which stems from fear for personal safety and mistrust of institutions, is worrying. Although most respondents express a willingness to report such situations, there is variation in preferred reporting channels; the police and the Center for Social Work are mentioned most often, but they are not trusted in all communities. These findings highlight the need for education in schools, stricter penalties, raising awareness through the media, and strengthening cooperation between institutions.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Conclusion

Research on human trafficking in the analyzed municipalities provides a comprehensive overview of existing attitudes, behavior, and challenges related to this problem, as well as recommendations for improving the current situation. The research results were analyzed through four key segments: (1) knowledge of the phenomenon of human trafficking, (2) attitudes about reporting and institutional responses, (3) willingness to report, and (4) recommended activities to combat human trafficking.

The research showed that there is a lack of comprehensive understanding and awareness of human trafficking in the analyzed communities. A significant difference in the levels of information among municipalities was observed, whereby municipalities with a higher level of education and access to information showed a better awareness of this issue. These findings point to the need for continued education about the nature and consequences of human trafficking, in order to increase general awareness and understanding of this serious problem.

Respondents' views on the reporting of cases of human trafficking and the efficiency of local institutions are different among the analyzed municipalities. It was observed that a significant number of respondents do not believe that the institutions will adequately deal with reports, and there is also a fear for personal safety. These findings point to the need to strengthen the capacity and transparency of institutions and to improve their attitude towards applications and the protection of applicants.

The majority of respondents show a willingness to report cases of human trafficking, but there is significant variation between municipalities. The highest readiness was recorded in Travnik, while it was relatively low in Sanski Most. This variation indicates the need to improve the information and resources available to citizens, to increase the willingness to report and active participation in the prevention of human trafficking.

Recommendations for combating human trafficking include strengthening education in schools, tougher punishments for perpetrators, increasing media exposure and public discussions, and improving coordination between key institutions such as the police and the Center for Social Work. These activities are crucial for improving the prevention and response to cases of human trafficking, and for building a more efficient and informed society.

The combination of these findings points to the need for a comprehensive approach that includes education, improving the work of institutions, and actively involving communities in the fight against human trafficking. Implementation of the recommendations can significantly improve responses to human trafficking and contribute to greater protection of potential victims.

4.2. Recommendations

Increasing education and raising awareness in Roma communities are key steps in the fight against human trafficking. The implementation of specific educational programs in schools, that focus on the recognition and prevention of human trafficking, should be a priority. Ensuring that children from Roma communities regularly attend school from primary to secondary education can significantly reduce the risk of human trafficking. Support programs that include mentoring and tuition assistance can help prevent dropouts and integrate children into the education system.

Ensuring increased security for reporting persons is also essential. Introducing security measures to protect the identity of Roma reporters, including anonymous reporting and support channels, can significantly improve the number of reported cases and confidence in the system. The development of support programs for Roma applicants, which include legal advice, psychological assistance and safe accommodation if necessary, will provide additional security and encouragement to report cases of human trafficking.

Improving institutional coordination and cooperation within Roma communities can improve efficiency in identifying and assisting victims. Establishing partnerships and regular meetings between local authorities, the police, the Center for Social Work and Roma non-governmental organizations will help in better coordination and faster response to reports. Also, strengthening coordination between field workers and institutions will ensure more efficient provision of assistance and resources to Roma communities.

Awareness raising and prevention through media specific to Roma communities can have a significant impact. The development of media campaigns that are adapted to Roma communities, using language and cultural references that are understandable and relevant, will help inform and educate the population about human trafficking. Distribution of educational materials in the language of Roma communities, including posters, brochures, and information through radio or local communities, will further contribute to raising awareness of this problem.

Implementing tougher penalties for trafficking offenders, while clearly communicating these penalties to Roma communities, can create a deterrent effect and provide justice for victims. Monitoring and evaluation of the application of criminal sanctions ensure their effectiveness and contribution to the fight against human trafficking.

Increasing access to education and preventing early marriage: A key element in human trafficking prevention within the Roma communities is increasing access to education and prevention of early marriages. Introducing programs that support enrollment and regular school attendance by children from Roma communities can reduce the risk of human trafficking. Also, it is recommended to adopt and enforce a family law that would prohibit the conclusion of formal marriages before the age of 18, which would help protect minor girls and reduce the possibility of their exploitation. Such laws should be accompanied by educational campaigns and support for Roma families in order to change traditional attitudes that support early marriage.

Education of parents and members of Roma communities about the dangers of human trafficking and ways to protect their children is a key aspect of prevention. Organizing educational sessions for these groups can increase their awareness and preparedness. Also, building the capacity of local Roma organizations through training and resources can improve their ability to fight human trafficking and provide assistance to victims.

The application of these recommendations can significantly improve the prevention and fight against human trafficking within Roma communities, improve the protection of potential victims and strengthen the support network specific to their needs.





RESEARCH

ON THE PERCEPTION AND
ATTITUDES OF THE ROMA POPULATION
ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING