

Relevant Background

The STOP THE TRAFFIK Group has a strong history of delivering activity with vulnerable communities that reduces their risk of being trafficked into exploitation. In the current crisis, we are working with a range of ground partners to produce this analysis.

We know from observing timelines with large unpredictable groups of people on the move (Rohingya and Syria) that initially they are subject to high levels of short term assistance. Then as they settle, the trafficking operations begin to create structures to encourage higher value individuals to go on a journey by promising them hope of a good opportunity that is exploitation. Timelines are difficult to predict, but at this point, it is not clear whether trafficking groups are organised in those refugee communities yet.

Key Judgements

Please also see previous editions here: [Key Judgements 1](#) and [Key Judgements 2](#)

1) Between 15,000 and 20,000 Ukrainian refugees have made their way to Greece, where there is already active recruitment for both sex work (where there is already a sizeable Ukrainian representation in exploitative sex work) and some exploited labour roles. The epicentres are Athens and Thessaloniki.

2) Traffickers seem confident to use the official registration system to register 'homes for refugees' in Greece.

3) Romania is seeing a steady stream of refugees from Ukraine at their Northwest and Northeast border crossings. A good number are transiting to Italy, Hungary and Austria where the risk of trafficking into commercial sexual exploitation and labour exploitation (hospitality, construction) is heightened. There is a profile of planned trafficking to the UK.

4) There is a pre-existing link to trafficked Ukrainians entering into exploited labour roles within the UK's agriculture sector and this could be replicated across Europe.

5) Now that the dispersal of refugee groups is occurring at scale, traffickers will seek to groom recruiters amongst refugee groups to undertake selection and recruitment work for both sexual exploitation and exploited labour.

Key Judgements Continued

6) There is information to suggest that companies based in the UK are being contacted by Ukrainians saying they are looking to coordinate jobs in the UK for refugees. This may be genuine activity but is also indicative of trafficker preparation for fake jobs ads that lead to trafficking and exploitation.

7) There are still large numbers of unaccompanied minors crossing the border with Poland, so far in excess of 90,000. This demographic is now moving to older refugees and those with health and mental health issues. Both groups are likely to be targeted by traffickers.

8) The multitude of new websites offering assistance to refugees is highly likely to be infiltrated by trafficker groups, is insecure and will enhance vulnerability.

Intelligence Requirements

1) Any cases of fake job ads or recruitment attempts for sex work or other labour are needed as they occur.

2) Any cases of companies being contacted by individuals looking to facilitate/ coordinate jobs for refugees.

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