



WHERE DOES CHILD TRAFFICKING OCCUR?

Lesson Plan 3

'Child trafficking exists in all countries.'

Source: UNICEF report on child trafficking in East and South-East Asia

The United Nations estimates that about 1.2 million children are trafficked every year. However, it is likely that the actual number is much higher as this estimate does not count those children that are trafficked within a country. Because child trafficking is illegal it is also very secretive so researchers find it almost impossible to accurately count the number of children who are trafficked. Based on the data that has been collected, however, it is possible to identify several patterns:

- Research has shown that child trafficking in some form exists in every region of the world.
- Trafficking tends to be greatest from poor countries to wealthier countries nearby. Examples include trafficking from Mexico to the United States, from Nepal to India and from Myanmar to Thailand.
- Child trafficking trends tend to be similar to the broader issue of human trafficking, also known as modern slavery.

MODERN SLAVERY IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

In 2016, the Global Slavery Index estimated that 45.8 million people are in some form of modern slavery (Global Slavery Index, 2016). This is the greatest number at any one time in history. The following table shows the estimated population of each South-East Asian country living in modern slavery. As you can see, Thailand and Myanmar are home to more trafficked persons than any other country in the region, a pattern repeated when examining trafficking in children.

DATA ON MODERN SLAVERY FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Country	Total Population (a)	Estimated Population in Modern Slavery (b)
Brunei	423,000	3,400
Cambodia	15,578,000	256,800
Indonesia	257,564,000	736,100
Laos	6,802,000	20,000
Malaysia	30,331,000	128,800
Myanmar	53,897,000	515,100
Philippines	100,699,000	401,000
Singapore	5,563,000	9,200
Thailand	67,959,000	425,500
Timor-Leste	1,235,000	3,500
Vietnam	91,519,000	139,300

Sources:

(a) CIA Factbook, (b) 2016 Global Slavery Index

An Australian Government report in 2011 (see 'Resources' section) identified the following pathways for the trafficking of children in South-East Asia:

- children from Cambodia to Thailand for begging;
- girls from Vietnam/Myanmar to Cambodia/Thailand for sexual exploitation;
- girls from rural areas of Cambodia to urban centres for sexual exploitation;
- girls from Laos to Thailand for domestic or factory work;
- girls from Vietnam, Myanmar and North Korea for forced marriage in China;
- boys from Myanmar to Thailand to work in the fishing industry; and
- boys from Vietnam to China for illegal adoption

CHILD TRAFFICKING AND AUSTRALIANS

Child trafficking is rare in Australia although several cases of children trafficked from Thailand to work in Australian brothels have been prosecuted in Australian courts. This does not mean, however, that Australians are not involved in child trafficking in other places. A Sydney Morning Herald report in 2008 (see 'Resources' section) reported that almost 100,000 Australian men travel to Thailand each year for the purpose of sex. It also reported that the average age for a girl entering the Thai sex industry to be 14 and that most girls are aged between 12 and 16. The article states that 'this results in children being either kidnapped or sold into the trade, either knowingly or unwittingly, by their families.'

OVER TO YOU

1. Why is it difficult to accurately count the number of trafficked children? Discuss this with a partner and then as a class.
2. a. On the following outline map of South-East Asia construct a choropleth map showing the number of people living in modern slavery in each country. You will need an atlas to help you identify and label each country. A choropleth map uses shades of colour to show data. Darker shades are used for higher numbers and lighter shades for lower numbers.
b. On your map use arrows to show the pathways for the trafficking of children in South-East Asia.
c. Finish your map with BOLTSS (Border, Orientation, Legend, Title, Scale and Source).
d. Describe the pattern shown on your completed map using the PQE method (Pattern, Quantify, and Exception).
3. How is Australia involved in child trafficking? What do you think could be done in Australia to help end child trafficking in South-East Asia?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Use the data in the table to estimate which countries have the greatest percentage of their citizens living in slavery.
2. Research the HDI (Human Development Index) of each country of South-East Asia (see 'Resources' section). The HDI measures living conditions by using data for life expectancy, education and income. Construct a scatter graph of these 11 countries to test the theory that slavery is greatest in countries with a low HDI.

1. UNICEF report on child trafficking in East and South-East Asia:
http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Unicef_EA_SEA_Trafficking_Report_Aug_2009_low_res.pdf
2. Global Slavery Index:
<http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/>
3. CIA Factbook:
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>
4. Australian Government Report on the trafficking of children in the Asia-Pacific region:
http://www.aic.gov.au/media_library/publications/tandi_pdf/tandi415.pdf
5. Sydney Morning Herald article: Love Thy Neighbour, Australia's Shameful Fetish:
<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/11/18/1226770444567.html?page=2>
6. The latest United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) report is available for download at:
<http://hdr.undp.org/en>
7. Outline maps:
http://er.jsc.nasa.gov/seh/mission_geography/map_index.pdf

RESOURCES

MAP of SOUTH-EAST ASIA

