



# WHY DOES CHILD TRAFFICKING OCCUR?

## Lesson Plan 4

Child trafficking is similar to other economic enterprises such as a clothes shop or fast-food chain. It exists because there is both supply and demand. There is a supply of children who are vulnerable to being trafficked and there is a demand for the services that children are forced to provide such as cheap or free labour and sexual services.

There is no one reason why children are trafficked but there are many factors that make some children more vulnerable to this type of exploitation than other children. A UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) report into child trafficking in East and South-East Asia found that a combination of the following factors increased a child's vulnerability:



- Demand factors
- Social and economic factors
- Family factors
- Individual factors

1. Select one of the risk factors that interest you. Access the UNICEF report (see 'Resources' section) and read the description of this risk factor on pages 24-28 of the report. Describe this risk factor in your own words and share this with your class.
2. Once you have heard or read about each of these risk factors, explain this statement from the UNICEF report: 'Child victims of trafficking are rarely affected by only one factor; rather, it is the compounding of several factors that renders them susceptible to being exploited.'
3. Read again the case study of the trafficked child in lesson plan 1. What risk factors can you identify in this child's story?
4. The risk factors listed in the diagram have been classified using these criteria: individual, family, social and economic, and demand factors. There are several other ways of classifying these factors (classifying means sorting them into groups).

One of these is to use the **SHEEPT** model. These six letters stand for:

- **S**ocial (the way of life of people, this includes their beliefs and culture)
- **H**istoric (past events that are still important today)
- **E**conomic (concerned with income and money)
- **E**nvironmental (concerned with the natural world such as the climate and shape of the land)
- **P**olitical (the way society is organised and the decisions made by society's leaders)
- **T**echnological (features such as transport and communications that people have developed)

Another method of classifying the risk factors is to use the 'push and pull' system. Those factors that push the child away from their home environment are called 'push factors' and those that pull them towards their destination are known as 'pull factors.' This method is commonly used when examining why people migrate.

- a. Select one of these two methods (SHEEPT or push-pull) and use it to classify the risk factors shown in the circular diagram.
- b. What were the strengths and weaknesses of classifying the risk factors in this way?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. There are several fictional case studies of child trafficking in the UNICEF training manual on pages 12 and 13. Read these case studies and respond to the activities.

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](http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Unicef_EA_SEA_Trafficking_Report_Aug_2009_low_res.pdf)
2. UNICEF training manual to fight trafficking in children:  
[http://www.unicef.org/protection/Exercise\\_book.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/protection/Exercise_book.pdf)