



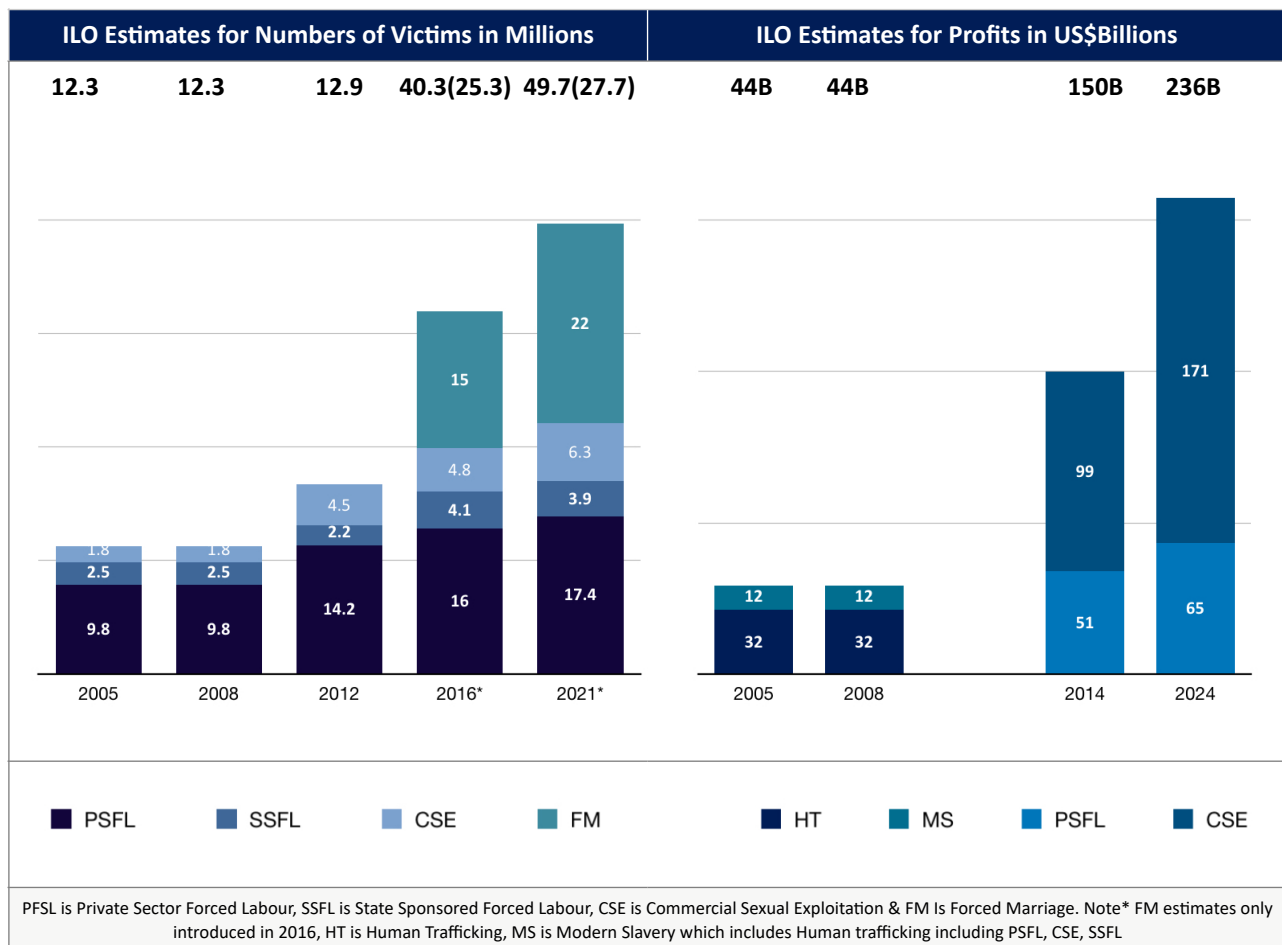
## Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking

**Comment on new ILO estimates of global profits of US\$236 Billion  
(Published on 19 March 2024)**

**GCFFC estimate global proceeds could be much higher at US\$498 Billion  
(Published on 19 April 2024)**

On the 19th March 2024, the UN’s International Labour Organisation<sup>1</sup> (ILO) provided updated estimates for “illicit profits” from modern slavery/human trafficking (MS/HT) from 2014 from **US\$150 billion** to **US\$236 billion**. The ILO states that US\$236 billion<sup>2</sup>, “*is the obscene level of annual profit generated from forced labour in the world today*”<sup>3</sup>.

The US\$86 billion increase over the last decade from reports represents a **37%** rise (30% in real terms) with profits of US\$171 billion from commercial sexual exploitation, up from US\$99 billion, and US\$65 billion from other forms of forced labour in the private sector, up from US\$51 billion. The increases are due to i) inflation at US\$22 billion; ii) an increase in the estimate for average profits per victims<sup>4</sup>; and an increase in the total number of estimated MS/HT victims at US\$64 billion.



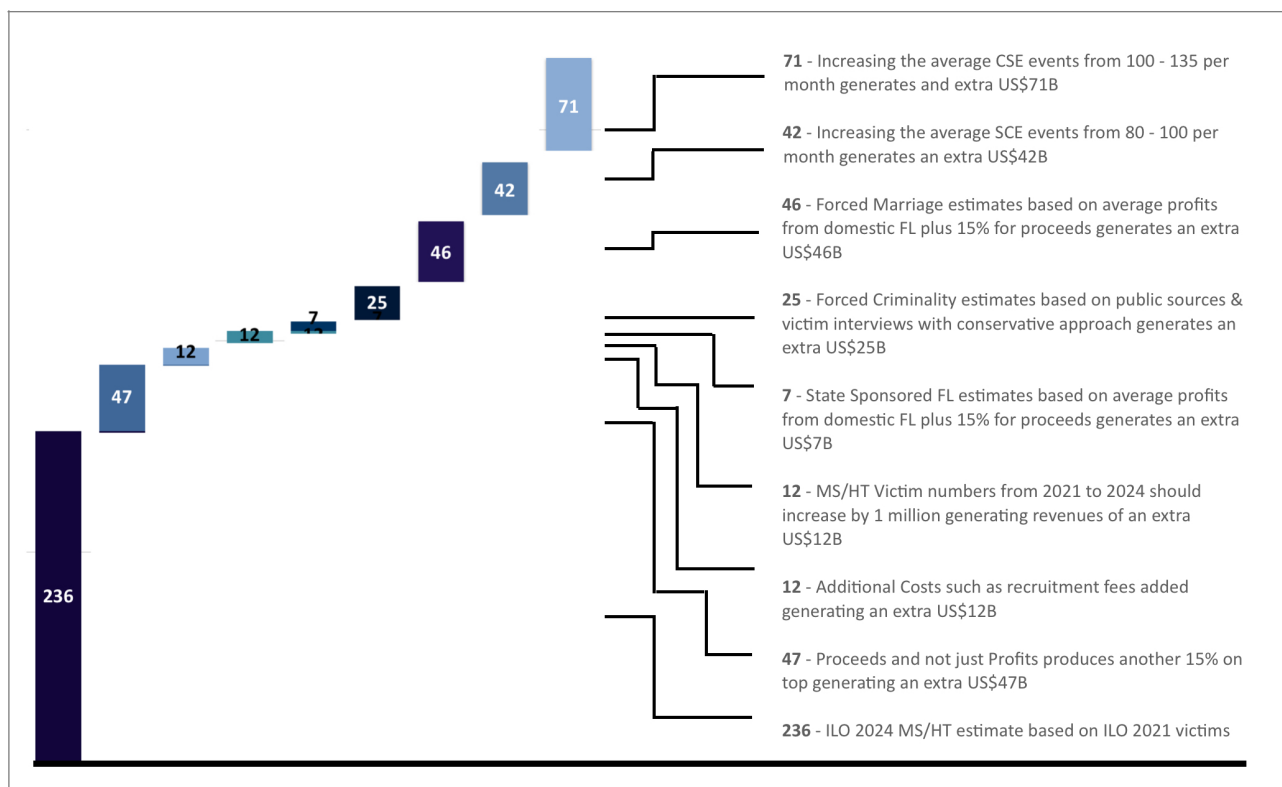


These estimates have grown considerably from earliest estimates reported at **US\$32 billion** In 2005<sup>5</sup>, though this earliest figure related just to 2.4 million “trafficked” victims and not to the entire **12.3 million** forced labour victims (including human trafficking estimates) at this time, which was estimated at being at least **US\$44 billion**. The ILO has since raised the figure for victims to **24.9 million** in 2016, plus 15 million in forced marriages, and to **27.6 million** in 2021 plus 22 million in forced marriages, but until the 19th March 2024, had not raised the important profits figure.

**The Global Coalition To Fight financial Crime Comment and Estimates**

The Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (GCFFC) had commissioned a review of the available information, prior to the recent ILO publication, in order to update and establish new estimates for global profits and proceeds, and was to call on the ILO to update its figures as profit estimates were outdated and many independent experts considered the estimate of **US\$150 billion** as a significant under estimate. By the ILO’s own admission, the figure was based on a number of conservative assumptions. Now that the ILO has updated estimates to US\$236 billion, the GCFFC have reviewed the most recent reporting alongside earlier reporting, where their is no conflict, and sought to estimate what has not been estimated and reported by the ILO, in order to provide a fuller picture around the estimates, from not only profits, but also proceeds from not just some, but from all the main elements of MS/HT globally.

This paper and these estimates come with an important caveat. Here it’s important to paraphrase an economics truth that *“all models are wrong but some are useful”*. That said, all estimates produced here, and by the ILO, are likely wrong, because they are based on surveys and/or cannot accurately sum up what is hidden and not officially reported. However, they can also be useful, and estimates, including those included in this paper, should be viewed in that context.



## 1. GCFFC Global Estimates for MS/HT

Despite the most recent ILO update which shows the increasing illicit profits by **US\$86 billion** over a decade to **US\$236 billion**, the GCFFC believes the most recent estimate still requires further attention. In particular, and for the reasons set out below, new estimates for proceeds from MS/HT for 2024 could be much higher at **US\$295 billion**, if the focus is more on proceeds and not just profits; or **US\$314 billion** if all additional expected victims from 2021-2024 from FL and state sponsored forced labour victims are included; or **US\$339 billion**, if forced criminality estimates (for example for pig butchering) are included; or **US\$385 billion** if forced marriage victims are included; and between **US\$427 billion - US\$498 billion** if a less conservative approach was taken to estimating profits from sexual exploitation victims. For more details see the chart above.

These increases in estimates are based on the following:

- 1) The headline figure should be for the proceeds of MS/HT crime, and not for the profits. If the headline was revenues and not profits, GCFFC estimate an additional 20% increase<sup>6</sup> overall, based on ILO data, which would increase the estimate by **US\$47 billion**.
- 2) The estimate could also be increased if additional profits accruing to criminals and intermediaries through illegal recruitment fees and other related costs that forced labour victims have to shoulder were taken into account. Similarly, the additional profits to perpetrators from unpaid taxes and social security contributions are also not included in the ILO estimates. As most of the former costs apply in the case of internationally trafficked victims, this may only apply to a subset of the victim population. The GCFFC estimates an additional 5% increase overall. This would increase the estimate by **US\$12 billion**<sup>7</sup>.
- 3) The ILO profit per victim figure is based on 2024 estimates, but is applied to estimates of victims estimated in 2021. The 2021 victim estimate could be adjusted based on projected victims numbers from 2014 - 2021 to predict the growth in victims to 2024. If the 23.7 million victims used in the ILO's calculations (which are 2021 estimates) are instead increased by a further 1 million. based on previous rates of increases from 2016 - 2021, this would generate US\$10 billion, and revenues would generate an additional 15% of US\$1.5 billion more. This would, in total, increase the estimate by **US\$12 billion**:
- 4) The ILO estimate excludes state sponsored forced labour. If included, that would add another 3.9 million victims in 2021, but 3.8 million in 2024. If the 3.8 million victims of state sponsored forced labour were included, instead of excluded by the ILO, and if applying the lowest level of profit for victims determined by the ILO being in domestic work (US\$1,570 profits for domestic work per victim per year), would generate US\$6 billion, and revenues would generate an additional 15% or US\$1 billion more<sup>8</sup>, the estimate would increase by **US\$7 billion**.
- 5) An area which the ILO has also not included is forced criminality. This includes, for example, children forced to work for drug or other organised crime gangs to avoid police detection and/or effective enforcement. Another area is forced criminality, which involves fraud and scams and, in particular, the trafficking of victims falling foul of job scams who are ultimately kidnapped and forced to work as scammers for organised crime gangs carrying out romance and investment

scams, also known as “pig butchering”, in particular from secure compounds in South East Asia. Multiple countries in the Mekong region have established special economic zones with favourable economic policies to attract trade and foreign investment both at home and abroad. But they are loosely regulated and often situated in border regions with a long history of transnational crime. *“Special economic zones, particularly in the Mekong, have become magnets for organised crime syndicates, at first for casinos, trafficking and related money laundering, and recently for online fraud,”* said Jeremy Douglas, Regional representative for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Southeast Asia. *“They’re almost like free zones for criminals where the rule of law doesn’t apply”*<sup>9</sup>. According to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in a recent report, *“up to 120,000 people could be held in compounds across Myanmar with another 100,000 people held in Cambodia and elsewhere in conditions that amount to modern slavery”*<sup>10</sup>. Criminal enterprises also exist in Laos, Thailand, the Philippines and beyond. According to available information, first hand interviews, NGO case records, and input from NGOs:

- Victims forced into criminality are known to be given monthly scamming proceeds targets in the range of US\$10 - US\$25,000 and
- The average time in captivity is estimated to be approximately 6 months, whereafter victims will try to ransom their release for a fee of between US\$6,000 - US\$12,000, though there are also reports of victims that have been held in captive for multiple years and released on significantly higher ransom amounts<sup>11</sup>.

This would, on average, generate proceeds for criminals of **US\$114,000** per victim. Based on victim numbers of at least 220,000, estimated proceeds from this kind of forced criminality would amount to **US\$25 billion**. This estimate does not take into account examples of resale of forced scamming victims, sexual exploitation, alleged organ trafficking, and forced criminality out of South East Asia.

- 6) The ILO estimate excludes those in forced marriages, who can be considered equivalent to those in forced labour as domestic servants. If the 22 million victims of forced marriage were included, instead of excluded by the ILO, and the numbers adjusted based on changes from 2016 to 2021, there would likely be an estimated 24.4 million victims in forced marriages, and by applying the lowest level of profit for victims determined by the ILO being in domestic work (US\$1,570 profits for domestic work per victim per year) would generate US\$38 billion, and revenues would generate an additional 15% or US\$8 billion more. The estimate would increase by **US\$46 billion**.
- 7) The ILO estimates on profit per victim, now at an average of US\$9,995 for 2024, with averages of US\$27,252 for sexually exploited victims, and US\$3,687 for forced labor victims.
  - The figures for sexual exploitation used by the ILO in 2014<sup>12</sup> were US\$21,120, generating US\$97 billion based on 80 transactions a month, and an average profit of US\$22 per transaction. The new value of US\$27,252 appears to be a figure which takes into account inflation from 2014 to 2024, raising the fee of US\$22 to US\$29 per transaction. Based on victim numbers for 2021 of 6.3 million, US\$171 billion was generated in profits, which has been included in the US\$236 billion overall ILO estimate. The ILO has always based its estimates on conservative assumptions, but there is now some evidence of less conservative

assumptions, particularly about the numbers of transactions. For example, taking an average of 100 transactions a month<sup>13</sup> per victim (3-4 a day) and US\$29 per transaction, would raise the average profits of US\$34,800 and increase the overall amount by **US\$42 billion to US\$219 billion** and if taking an average of 135 transactions a month<sup>14</sup> per victim (4-5 a day) and US\$29 per transaction, this would raise the average profits to US\$47,000 and add **US\$71 billion** to increase the overall amount by **US\$119 billion to US\$296 billion**.

- The figures for forced labour used by the ILO in 2016<sup>15</sup> for and average annual profit per victim for labor exploitation was approximately US\$3,600, which was applied to 14.2 million victims<sup>16</sup> to generate profits of approximately US\$50 billion. This estimate was considered by the ILO itself (at the time) as likely a conservative assumption, but their average for 2024 of US\$3,687 for forced labor victims, suggests that they retain a conservative position. As a result, GCFFC does not suggest considering a higher figure for forced labour at this time.

Using the above information and previous ILO data and estimates included SSFL and FM victim numbers, and applying the lowest level of profits per victim to both categories of US\$1,570, a bigger picture emerges raising the US\$236 billion estimate for PSFL and CSE by US\$40 billion (with US\$5.5 billion from SSFL and US\$34.5 billion from FM) to US\$276 billion for PSFL, CSE, SSFL and FM. See also sections 4 and 6 below for more on these estimates.

The ILO has reported that whilst APAC has the largest numbers of MS/HT victims, the Arab region has the most by proportion to population. The GCFFC intends to carry out further research in order to provide regional estimates on the GCFFC estimate of up to **US\$510 billion** at a later date.

## **2. The Regional Picture:**

The GCFFC also explored the most recent ILO estimates for profits and previous reports to provide additional insight into profits from MS/HT, not just globally, but also to provide regional estimates which have not been provided by the ILO in its recent update. Based on the information provided by the ILO, but not presented in its reporting this time, it is possible to estimate the regional breakdown of the US\$236 billion in MS/HT illicit profits (as shown below) for private sector forced labour (excluding commercial sexual exploitation “CSE”) and CSE, and then to add in the missing elements of MS/HT victims not included in the recent estimates including SSFL and FM.

Most profits are generated from CSE in Europe and Central Europe (US\$74 billion), followed by non-CSE forced labour in APAC (US\$35 billion). Whilst average profits are reported at US\$9,995, CSE profits per victim are reported at US\$27,252 globally, with average profits for PSFL at US\$3,687. Based on prior ILO estimates using the US\$3,687 as a constant for PSFL none CSE, whereas CSE varies greatly based on the incomes of the regions, such that these are higher in advanced richer economies. For example, in Europe at approximately US\$82,000, and in the Arab states of US\$80,000, US\$55,000 in the Americas, US\$12,000 in Africa and US\$7,900 in APAC. These estimates provide a reasonable basis to distinguish regions, but because of the PSFL constant, which should also reflect regional income levels, these estimates are likely to somewhat undervalue the CSE estimate in advanced economies, and overstate the CSE estimate somewhat in lower income countries. This will as such overvalue the estimate for CSE in advanced higher income countries, and undervalue the estimate in developing lower income countries, BUT, not materially.



<b>Global Estimates for MS/HT Victims, Profits and Proceeds</b>		
<b>ILO Estimates for Illicit MS/HT "Profits" MS/HT 2005 - 2024 in US\$</b>	<b>Estimated Amounts in US\$</b>	
<b>ILO Estimates 2005 &amp; 2008</b>	<b>32 Billion</b>	<b>32 Billion</b>
2.3 million "trafficked" victims with 27.8 for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and 3.8 for Forced Labour (FL)	32 Billion	
12.3 million FL victims (CSE at 1.8 million, Other FL at 9.8 million & State Sponsored FL (SSFL) at 2.5 million)	"At least 44 Billion"	
<b>ILO Estimates 2009</b>	<b>21 Billion</b>	
FL excluding CSE	21 Billion	
<b>ILO Estimates 2012</b>	<b>No figures given</b>	
FL at 20.9 million, CSE at 4.5 million, Other FL at 14.2 million & SSFL at 2.2 million	No figures given	
<b>ILO Estimates 2014</b>	<b>150 Billion</b>	<b>150 Billion</b>
- CSE at 4.8 million victims	99 Billion	
- Private Other FL at 14.2 million victims	51 Billion	
- SSFL & Forced Marriages (FM)	No figures given	
<b>ILO Estimates 2016</b>		
40.3 million victims, FL at 24.9 million, CSE at 4.8 million, Private Sector FL at 16 million in FL & SSFL at 4.1 million & FM at 15 million	No figures given	
<b>ILO Estimates 2021</b>		
49.6 million victims, FL at 27.6 million, CSE at 6.3, Private Sector FL at 17.4 million, SSFL at 3.9 million & FM 22 million.	No figures given	
<b>ILO Estimates 2024</b>	<b>236 Billion</b>	<b>236 Billion</b>
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation (6.3 million victims)	171 Billion	
- Private Other Forced Labour (16.7 million victims)	65 Billion	
- State Sponsored FL & Forced Marriages (3.6 & 22 million victims)	No figures given	
<b>GCCFC Estimates for Illicit MS/HT "Proceeds" from 2024 in US\$</b>	<b>Running Total on 236 Billion</b>	
<b>Increase for Proceeds not just Profits</b>	<b>47 Billion</b>	<b>283 Billion</b>
<b>Increase for Additional Revenues</b>	<b>12 Billion</b>	<b>295 Billion</b>
<b>Increase for Additional Victims 2021-2024 (+1M)</b>	<b>12 Billion</b>	<b>307 Billion</b>
<b>State Sponsored Forced Labour (3.8 million victims)</b>	<b>7 Billion</b>	<b>314 Billion</b>
<b>Forced Criminality (220,000 victims of MS/HT pig butchering scams)</b>	<b>25 Billion</b>	<b>339 Billion</b>
<b>Forced Marriage (24.4 million victims)</b>	<b>46 Billion</b>	<b>385 Billion</b>
<b>Increase from 80-100 Trnx a month for Sexual Exploitation</b>	<b>42 Billion</b>	<b>427 Billion</b>
<b>Increase from 100-135 Trnx a month for Sexual Exploitation</b>	<b>71 Billion</b>	<b>498 Billion</b>
<b>US\$510 billion represents approx 0.5% of Global GDP</b>	<b>0.5% Global GDP</b>	<b>0.5% Global GDP</b>

### **3. Additional Comments/Observations:**

Victim numbers which come from the ILO data suggest the average time a victim is subject to conditions of MS/HT is 15 months. This has an important impact on the numbers of MS/HT victims and how to understand them. If, as stated, there are approximately 50 million MS/HT victims today, then all things being equal, if turnover is after 15 months on average, in 5 years then 200 million different victims will have experienced this crime. A further observation is that most of the forced labor estimates are likely to be generated domestically, whilst a significant element of commercial sexual exploitation involves the trafficking of victims, particularly from low value countries to higher paying countries. For other types of forced labour, it's more likely the goods that are produced from forced labour in low income countries are trafficked to higher income countries and where excess profits are generated.

### **4. Final Remarks/Conclusions:**

Estimating and communicating MS/HT amounts is important as countries need to prioritise financial crimes, in-part based on the size of the proceeds of crime, and their increase, and particularly when it comes to money laundering, as do those regulated for AML/CTF obliged entities when carrying out their annual risk assessments, which translates into levels of resources and control programme intensity applied as a result. This is not to criticise the ILO, as it is the most respected and valued agency for assessing forced labour in the world, and it's recent update to its illicit profits estimates for ML/TF is most welcome, and the GCFFC was about to call on the ILO to update these very estimates. Nevertheless, the GCFFC believes that further improvements can still be made to the ILO model and also to what is included and presented as its headline number, as this number is often quoted and relied upon. For example, the previous **US\$150 billion** figure has often been quoted and relied upon as the most credible source for MS/HT proceeds of crime, with even FATF<sup>17</sup>, as well as many leading governments, quoting the figure as the best available estimate.

These new figures offered in this paper would elevate MS/HT estimates close to the top of "trafficking" crimes globally, a little behind drugs, a little ahead of wildlife, far ahead of arms trafficking, 6th in terms of profits and proceeds of all financial crimes, and behind fraud, tax, corruption, goods piracy and drugs. Of course MS/HT is about much more than a financial crime, as it dehumanises victims and stains all societies. That it is still so prevalent and still growing, despite UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)<sup>18</sup> seeking to eliminate child exploitation by 2025 and MS/HT by 2030 is very concerning.

The GCFFC welcomes the updated figures from the ILO, but believes that the headline amounts should be focused on proceeds and include additional factors to reflect a fuller picture for 2024. Countries should also reflect on these updated estimates, and take these findings into consideration when relying on the new ILO estimates, in particular, when considering national AML/CTF priorities. Private sector obliged entities may also consider the importance of including or reviewing MS/HT in their AML/CTF risk assessments and AML/CTF programmes based on these new estimates.

**19th April, 2024**

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Supported by Ursula M'Crystal and John Cusack

**Statement from the CEO STOP THE TRAFFIK: Ruth Dearnley**

*“STOP THE TRAFFIK welcomes this report by GCCFC which assesses the huge revenues generated by human trafficking across the globe. STOP THE TRAFFIK have long questioned the estimates of monetary gain from the criminal activity of human trafficking. Our intelligence - which includes input from survivors - consistently challenges the existing wisdom; even the most recent uplift in revenues indicated by the ILO. The GCCFC report is an important milestone in recognising the economic fundamentals of this devastating human rights abuse. Every cent generated by human traffickers and moved through financial systems is money laundering. STOP THE TRAFFIK partners with businesses of all types to help them find (and crucially stop) the criminal money flows. We believe that no money = no human trafficking”.*

**Statement from the CEO, The Mekong Club: Matthew Friedman**

*“Considering updated statistics concerning the estimated prevalence of modern slavery, it becomes imperative to reassess the consequential financial implications of this illicit activity. Such a reevaluation is crucial for refining and customising our response to effectively combat the escalating menace of modern slavery. By aligning our strategies with the latest data on the number of individuals ensnared in this heinous crime, we can ensure a more targeted and impactful approach to dismantle the networks that profit from human exploitation.”*

### **Statement from Rani's Voice & CEO the Freedom Seal: Rani Hong**

*"As a social entrepreneur and survivor of forced child labor, I am profoundly disturbed by the recent financial estimates concerning the profits and proceeds from modern slavery and human trafficking. The leap from the ILO's 2014 figure of US\$150 billion to US\$236 billion in profits for 2021, and now estimates from the GCFFC that proceeds may be as high as US\$498 billion, paints a grim picture of this global issue's escalation. This is not just about numbers - these figures represent the suffering of millions. This data fuels my dedication as an advocate and social entrepreneur to intensify our collective efforts to eradicate these heinous crimes. My work at Rani's Voice and Freedom Seal Global is more vital than ever, as we strive to dismantle the systems that enable modern slavery and offer hope and support to survivors".*

### **Statement from the Chair GCFFC: John Cusack**

*"The UN's ILO is a hugely respected institution and reliance is placed on its work and estimates by many in the fighting financial crime ecosystem. Whilst the ILO has recently updated estimates for of profits, research from the GCFFC still undervalues the benefits to criminals, which may lead countries and those determining priorities to underplay the importance of including modern slavery human trafficking in National AML Priorities and or the scale of Modern Slavery Human Trafficking and it's importance in terms of money laundering. The importance of combatting modern slavery human trafficking is a task for all of us, both public and private sectors, including NGO's but keeping current on estimates for profits and proceeds as well as of victims, provides intelligence on the modern slavery human trafficking threat and how the fight to combat modern slavery and human trafficking is trending".*

## Appendix A - Chronology & Summary on Estimates

- In 2001<sup>19</sup> the International Labor Organisation published its *“First Global Report on Forced Labor”*, but published no estimates, stating that, *“it is not possible at this stage to give an accurate estimate of the numbers affected on a global scale”*.
- In 2005<sup>20</sup> the International Labor Organisation published its *“Second Global Report on Forced Labor”*, reporting first estimates of forced labour at 12.3 million, based on a range of 9.8 to 14.8 million. Of these 12.3 million, 2.5 million (20%) were exploited by the state and 9.8 million (80%) by private actors. Of these private actors 7.8 million (63%) were economically exploited and & 1.4 M (11%) commercially sexually exploited. The numbers of people exploited in forced labour by trafficking was estimated at 2.45 M. As far as gender is concerned, 56% were women and girls and 44% men and boys, though it’s 98% for women and girls in terms of just commercial sexual exploitation. Regionally, the incidence of FL is highest in APAC at 3 per 1,000 people, followed by LATAM and the Caribbean at 2.5 & 1 in SSA, MENA at 0.75, and Industrialised Countries at 0.3. The total illicit profits produced in one year by trafficked forced labourers were estimated to be about US\$32 billion, out of a total of US\$44 billion for all forced labour. Half of this profit is made in industrialised countries (US\$15.5 billion) and close to one-third in Asia (US\$9.7 billion). Globally, this represents an average of approximately US\$13,000 per year for each forced labourer, or US\$1,100 per month.
- In 2008<sup>21</sup> the International Labor Organisation published *“ILO Action against Trafficking in Human Beings”*, reiterating its 2005 figures, and of 12.3 million forced labour victims worldwide, around 2.4 million were trafficked. The ILO stated that these *“figures present a conservative estimate of actual victims at any given point in time, estimated over a period of ten years”*. Also that ILO *“estimates on child labour indicate that as many as 1.2 million victims of trafficking are minors (under 18). It is often assumed that people are mainly trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. ILO estimates indicate, however, that 32% of all victims were trafficked into labour exploitation, while 43% were trafficked for sexual exploitation and 25% for a mixture of both. Women and girls make up the overwhelming majority of those trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation (98%). International migrant workers represent a large number of identified trafficking victims for labour exploitation and for forced labour purposes”*. The ILO also reiterates the US\$32 billion figure generated from profits from the 2.4 million trafficking victims. The ILO states that, *“Despite growing awareness and more effective law enforcement responses trafficking remains a low-risk criminal enterprise with high returns. The ILO estimates that annual profits generated from trafficking in human beings are as high as 32 billion USD”*, and that, *“based on the 2005 global estimate of human trafficking, the ILO has calculated that traffickers and unscrupulous employers earn at least 32 billion US\$ annually from the illicit movement and exploitation of migrant workers”*.
- In 2009<sup>22</sup> the UNODC published a *“Global Report on Trafficking in Persons”*. According to the Report, *“the most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation. The victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls. Surprisingly, in 30% of the countries which provided information on the gender of traffickers, women make up the largest proportion of traffickers. In some parts of the world, women trafficking women is the norm. The second most common form of human trafficking is forced labour (18%), although this may be a misrepresentation*

*because forced labour is less frequently detected and reported than trafficking for sexual exploitation. Worldwide, almost 20% of all trafficking victims are children. However, in some parts of Africa and the Mekong region, children are the majority (up to 100% in parts of West Africa)."*

- In 2012<sup>23</sup>, the International Labor Organisation published "Global Estimates of Forced Labor" which stated, "that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally, trapped in jobs into which they were coerced or deceived and which they cannot leave. This figure, like the previous one in 2005, represents a conservative estimate, given the strict methodology employed to measure this largely hidden crime. Human trafficking can also be regarded as forced labour, and so this estimate captures the full realm of human trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation or what some call "modern-day slavery". The figure means that around three out of every 1,000 persons worldwide are in forced labour at any given point in time. Women and girls represent the greater share of the total – 11.4 million (55%), as compared to 9.5 million (45%) men and boys. Adults are more affected than children - 74% (15.4 million) of victims fall in the age group of 18 years and above, whereas children aged 17 years and below represent 26% of the total (or 5.5 million child victims). Of the total number of 20.9 million forced labourers, 18.7 million (90%) are exploited in the private economy, by individuals or enterprises. Out of these, 4.5 million (22%) are victims of forced sexual exploitation, and 14.2 million (68%) are victims of forced labour exploitation in economic activities, such as agriculture, construction, domestic work or manufacturing. The remaining 2.2 million (10%) are in state-imposed forms of forced labour, for example in prisons, or in work imposed by the state military or by rebel armed forces". Also that, "the estimates also provide a picture of the impact of migration on forced labour. Of the total, an estimated 9.1 million people (44%) moved either internally or internationally, while the majority, 11.8 million (56%), were subjected to forced labour within their place of origin or residence. The study also showed that cross-border movement is strongly associated with forced sexual exploitation, while a majority of victims of forced labour exploitation, and almost all those in state-imposed forced labour, have not left their home areas. Another interesting result to emerge from the estimates is that victims spend an average of 18 months in forced labour, although this varied with different forms of forced labour". A footnote to this 2012 Report states that, "the figures do not include trafficking for the removal of organs or for forced marriage/adoption".
- In 2012<sup>24</sup> the UNODC published another "Global Report on Trafficking in Persons". It had collected actual victim data which found that, "Women account for 55-60% of all trafficking victims detected globally; women and girls together account for about 75%, 27% of all victims detected globally are children. Of every three child victims, two are girls and one is a boy. In general, traffickers tend to be adult males and nationals of the country in which they operate, but more women and foreign nationals are involved in trafficking in persons than in most other crimes. Women traffickers are often involved in the trafficking of girls and tend to be used for low-ranking activities that have a higher risk of detection. Trafficking for sexual exploitation is more common in Europe, Central Asia and the Americas. Trafficking for forced labour is more frequently detected in Africa and the Middle East, as well as in South and East Asia and the Pacific. Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation accounts for 58% of all trafficking cases detected globally, while trafficking for forced labour accounts for 36%. The number of convictions for trafficking in persons is in general very low. Notably, of the 132 countries covered, 16 per cent did not record a single conviction between 2007 and 2010". The report also referred to ILO estimates stating that, "the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally. This

*estimate includes victims of trafficking in persons; however, the number of victims of forced labour as a result of trafficking in persons remains unknown”.*

- In 2014<sup>25</sup> the International Labor Organisation published *“Profits and Poverty, the Economics of Forced Labour”* Report which estimated the illegal profits made from the use of forced labor in the private economy worldwide which amounted to \$150.2 billion per year, based on the ILO estimates of numbers reported on in 2012. According to the ILO, *“two thirds of the profits, amounting to an estimated \$99 billion per year, are generated by commercial sexual exploitation exacted by fraud or force. More than one third of the profits – \$51.2 billion – are made from forced labor exploitation, including: Nearly \$8 billion generated in domestic work; \$9 billion generated in agriculture, forestry, and fishing; and \$34 billion generated in other industries such as construction, manufacturing, mining, and utilities. Perpetrators make roughly \$21,800 per year per victim of commercial sexual exploitation exacted by fraud or force, and an average of \$4,000 per victim of forced labor exploitation outside of domestic work. Overall, the profits are estimated to be highest in Asia (\$51.8 billion), due mainly to the high number of victims in that region, and in developed economies and the European Union (\$46.9 billion), owing to the high profit generated per victim in developed economies”.* This report also referred back to the ILO’s 2005 estimates, stating *“in 2005, the ILO published its first estimate of the profits resulting from human trafficking, which was considered as a process involving the movement of a person by a third party. The total illicit profits produced in 1 year by trafficked forced labourers were estimated at US\$32 billion. It also stated that, “the global profits made using forced labour were at least US\$44 billion per year, including the US\$32 billion from trafficking”.*
- In 2017<sup>26</sup> the International Labor Organisation published *“Global Estimates of Modern Slavery”* for 2016, together with the Walk Free Foundation, in partnership with the international Organisation for Migration, which estimated how many people are held in forms of forced labour on any given day in 2016. The ILO estimated there were 40.3 million victims, with 24.9 million victims of forced labour, which includes commercial sexual exploitation, and forced labor exploitation, both in the private sector and state-imposed. Of the 24.9 million victims of forced labour, 16 million were in the private economy, another 4.8 million were in forced sexual exploitation, and 4.1 million were in forced labour imposed by state authorities, with 9.2 million victims men, and 10.9 million women & 3.3 million children. Of the estimated 16 million people in forced labour in the private economy in 2016, 9.2 million (57.6%) female and 6.8 million (42.4%) male. Among cases where the type of work was known, the largest share of adults who were in forced labour were domestic workers (24%). This was followed by the construction (18%), manufacturing (15%), and agriculture and fishing (11%) sectors, accommodation & food services (10%), wholesale & trade (9%) personal services (7%), mining & quarrying (4%) & begging (1%). An estimated 3.8 million adults were victims of forced sexual exploitation and 1.0 million children were victims of commercial sexual exploitation in 2016. The vast majority of victims (99%) were women and girls. There were an estimated 4.1 million people in state-imposed forced labour on average in 2016. In 2016, an estimated 15.4 million people were living in a forced marriage. While men and boys can also be victims of forced marriage, most victims (88%) were women and girls, with more than a third (37%) of victims under 18 years of age at the time of the marriage.
- In 2022<sup>27</sup> the International Labor Organisation published *“Global Estimates of Modern Slavery”* for 2021, together with the Walk Free Foundation, in partnership with the international Organisation

for Migration, which estimated that 49.6 million people are in modern slavery on any given day in 2021, either forced to work against their will or in a marriage that they were forced into. Forced labour accounts for 27.6 million and forced marriage for 22 million. Forced labour in the private sector is estimated at 17.3 million for labour exploitation and 6.3 million for sexual exploitation, with more than 3.3 million of all those in forced labour are children. The 2021 Global estimates indicate that 3.9 million people are in state-imposed forced labour at any point in time. This 49.6 million figure *“translates into a prevalence of 6.4 people in modern slavery for every thousand people in the world. More than 12 million of the total in modern slavery are children. Women and girls comprise over half (54%) of those in modern slavery. The Asia and the Pacific region has the highest number of people in modern slavery and the Arab States the highest prevalence. But no region, rich or poor, is spared”*. Also according to the Walk Free Foundation<sup>28</sup>, *“with nearly one of every 150 people in the world a Vic time of MS/HT the problem is getting worse. The 2021 figures show about 10 million more men, women, and children who have been forced to work or marry in the period since the previous estimates were released in 2017. The estimates also indicate that situations of modern slavery are by no means transient – entrapment in forced labour can last years, while in most cases forced marriage is a life sentence”*.

- In March 2024, the ILO published updated estimates for “illicit profits” from modern slavery/human trafficking (MS/HT) from US\$150 billion, and published in 2014, generated from 20.8 million victims reported by the ILO in 2016<sup>29</sup>, to US\$236 billion, generated from 23.6 million victims (of private sector forced labour) reported by the ILO in 2021. The ILO states that US\$236 billion, *“is the obscene level of annual profit generated from forced labour in the world today”*. The ILO estimates profit per victim at an average of US\$9,995 for 2024, with averages of US\$27,252 for sexually exploited victims and US\$3,687 for forced labor victims. The ILO did not report on victims to 2024 and used only 2021 victim estimates. It focussed on profits and not proceeds. It only used private sectors forced labour, excluding state sponsored forced labour and forced marriage. It also didn’t consider forced criminality.
- In April 2024, the GCFC published this paper, welcoming the updated ILO estimates, but suggesting these are still likely an underestimate and that the headline of illicit profits should be replaced with proceeds. The GCFFC estimated that proceeds could be up to US\$498 billion and even that this was a conservative estimate.

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> See: <https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang--en/index.htm>

<sup>2</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_920143/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_920143/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>3</sup> See: Funding of US\$24 million for the 2024 illicit profits from MS/HT study was provided to the ILO from the governments of the United States and France

<sup>4</sup> Increases in average profits from victims rising from US\$8,269 in 2014 to US\$9,995 in 2024, and

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc93/pdf/rep-i-b.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> ILO reported that forced labour workers receive on average only around 20% of their added value. See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf). Other studies have suggested profit at 64% of revenue. See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Note in 2009 the ILO considered levels of recruitment fees and their respective amounts compared to underpaid wages suggesting these were approx over 6%. See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Note: The next level of profits per victim for those involved in agriculture may be a better comparison at US\$2,113 per victim per year, for state sponsored forced labour generating US\$8 billion for proceeds and **US\$9.2 billion** for revenues (and less than US\$3,407 for services and US\$4,944 for industry).

<sup>9</sup> See: <https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2023/12/asia/chinese-scam-operations-american-victims-intl-hnk-dst/#:~:text=The UN estimates that up,that amount to modern slavery.>

<sup>10</sup> See: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1140187>

<sup>11</sup> Note: Based on interviews with released victims from a compound in Myawaddy, Myanmar and corroborated with additional research from UNODC and Global Anti-Scam Organisation (GASO) reports. See: [https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/documents/Publications/2023/TIP\\_for\\_FC\\_Policy\\_Report.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/documents/Publications/2023/TIP_for_FC_Policy_Report.pdf) and <https://www.globalantiscam.org/post/rescuing-trapped-scammers-in-cambodia>

<sup>12</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> The written evidence of the Fawcett Society stated that, "in 2014, there were at least 58,000 women in prostitution in the UK who had an average of 25 clients per week - each paying on average £77.69 per visit". See: <http://data.parliament.uk/WrittenEvidence/CommitteeEvidence.svc/EvidenceDocument/HomeAffairs/Prostitution/written/29293.html>

<sup>14</sup> In the book, Disposable people by Kevin Bales released in 2012, from the earlier publication in 1999, it included a detailed case study, and included in the ILO 2005 Report stating "a girl in a Thai brothel has 14 clients a day for 30 days, at a charge of US\$5 per client. This means a turnover of US\$2,100 per month or US\$25,200 per year. Even if as much as half covers expenses, profits are still US\$12,600 per year". See: [https://www.unodc.org/e4j/data/\\_university\\_uni/\\_disposable\\_people\\_new\\_slavery\\_in\\_the\\_global\\_economy.html?lng=en](https://www.unodc.org/e4j/data/_university_uni/_disposable_people_new_slavery_in_the_global_economy.html?lng=en)

<sup>15</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> See: <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/reports/Human-Trafficking-2018.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> See: <https://www.unodc.org/roseap/en/sustainable-development-goals.html#:~:text=Target 8.7 - Take immediate and,labour in all its forms.>

<sup>19</sup> See: <https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/meetingdocument/kd00014.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> See: <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc93/pdf/rep-i-b.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed\\_norm/@declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_090356.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@declaration/documents/publication/wcms_090356.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> See: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Global\\_Report\\_on\\_TIP.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Global_Report_on_TIP.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_181953.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_181953.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> See: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons\\_2012\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575479.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575479.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---ipecc/documents/publication/wcms\\_854733.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipecc/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> See: <https://www.walkfree.org/reports/global-estimates-of-modern-slavery-2022/>

<sup>29</sup> See: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons\\_2012\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf)