



2022



Freedom Report

REACH

Educating and equipping everyone to understand, identify, and reduce the risk of human trafficking

RESCUE

Partnering with authorities to secure the freedom of victims and the conviction of traffickers

RESTORE

Empowering survivors of human trafficking on their journey toward restoration and independence

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Learn about our work in Ukraine on pg. 46–53.



2022 was our best year yet, thanks to our global community of supporters and ever-growing network of partners.

You showed up to local walks worldwide. You took action in your homes, communities, and online. You dedicated birthdays, anniversaries, and business events to fight for freedom. We're deeply grateful for your commitment to reaching vulnerable people with awareness, identifying and assisting victims out of exploitation, and restoring survivors to independence.

When we started this journey 14 years ago, millions of people were oblivious to the reality of human trafficking. Today, with your help, we've reached more people in 2022 with prevention and awareness than ever before in A21 history. And it doesn't stop there.

More victims are being identified and assisted than ever before. More traffickers are being convicted. And more survivors are being

supported through A21 Aftercare programs. Against all odds, we continue to generate momentum across the globe. Starting on page 46, you can read about our ongoing response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis and what makes refugees some of the most vulnerable to human trafficking.

Thank you to every person who made this year of unbelievable progress possible. Your everyday actions are the solution. The cycle is broken every time you educate others, report suspicious activity, raise awareness, show up at events, speak out on social media, and donate to advance freedom. Momentum builds, and change is happening—one person, one story, and one decision at a time. Together, we will abolish slavery everywhere, forever. We're grateful to be on this journey with you.

Nick + Christine Caine

Nick & Christine Caine, A21 Co-Founders





Vulnerability

An individual becomes vulnerable to trafficking when exposed to risk factors like instability, violence, poor education, substance misuse, poverty, homelessness, unemployment, displacement, or isolation. These factors make a person more susceptible to victimization.

Exploitation

Exploitation occurs when a vulnerable individual is coerced, deceived, forced, or otherwise subject to an abuse of power. This can look like false job opportunities, fake romantic relationships, or being sold by a family member or friend into labor or sex trafficking.

Re-Victimization

When a survivor exits a trafficking situation, the resulting trauma combined with the original unresolved risk factors perpetuates the likelihood of being re-victimized, and the cycle of human trafficking continues.



Reach

Equipping people everywhere to identify exploitation and reduce the risk of human trafficking through education programs, prevention resources, and awareness campaigns. People become empowered to make safe decisions when they know how to safeguard themselves and others and have the tools to report suspicions.

Rescue

Partnering with governments and local authorities to secure the freedom of victims and the conviction of traffickers through hotlines, Child Advocacy Centers, professional training, and legal assistance. When frontline professionals are trained to identify trafficking, more victims can be assisted. Facilitating survivors' access to justice is key to putting traffickers behind bars and preventing them from exploiting others.

Restore

Empowering survivors through holistic aftercare, safe accommodation, and relocation services. When survivors receive personalized care, they can rebuild their lives and reclaim their independence. When survivors have access to services like psychological support and job training, they can pursue new opportunities, equipping them to live the life they've always wanted.

Take a closer look at our proven solutions around the world.



Victim Identification Operations

Proactive efforts to identify and assist victims safely out of a trafficking situation, often in partnership with local law enforcement.



Legal Assistance

Providing legal representation and support for survivors in the criminal prosecution of their traffickers, and in any other criminal or civil proceedings.



Hotlines

24/7 confidential call service used by the general public, victims, and frontline professionals to seek assistance or make reports related to human trafficking.



Child Advocacy Centers

Safe place for children exiting exploitation to be interviewed forensically in a child-friendly, victim-centered manner which minimizes trauma and can be used to support prosecutions.



Professional Training

Training for frontline professionals, most likely to encounter victims, to recognize possible human trafficking and respond appropriately.



Walk For Freedom

Annual global awareness and mobilization event to equip people worldwide to take action throughout their cities.



Can You See Me?

Public awareness campaign that shows common scenarios of human trafficking that may be encountered and provides tools to report suspicions.



Awareness Presentations

Communicating to diverse audiences about the problem of human trafficking and how everyone can be a part of the solution.



K-12 Education Curriculum

Targeted content aligned with education standards that engages students in the classroom to recognize and respond to the threat of human trafficking.



Prevention Programs

Child-centered, play-based program to empower children to protect themselves and others from exploitation.

RESCUE



Accommodation

Independent, long-term housing that provides survivors with safe and stable accommodation.



Aftercare Services

Trauma-informed holistic support services provided to survivors of human trafficking.



Foster Care Program

Safe family-based foster care placement for child survivors of human trafficking.



Life Programs

Group and individual programs designed to equip and empower survivors with the skills and strategies to overcome trauma and step into a life of independence.



Freedom Centers

Drop-in day centers designed to empower survivors to restore wellness, reintegrate into society, and live independently.



Relocation Services

Domestic and international relocation and repatriation services, including a worldwide referral of aftercare services.

RESTORE

2022 Global Highlights

Reached **246,854 minors** with prevention resources

Walk For Freedom reached over **819 million people** across more than 50 countries

Can You See Me? Bulgaria reached approximately **5.5 million people**

Launched **Ukraine Response Strategy**, including a prevention book for child refugees

224 identified victims now have access to freedom

Received **6,135 calls** to our hotlines, resulting in 88 victims identified

157 survivors assisted by A21's Legal Assistance Program

28 perpetrators collectively sentenced to **232 years in prison**

Launched our second US-based **Freedom Center** in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, and our sixth Freedom Center in Siem Reap, Cambodia

Welcomed **227 new survivors** into A21 Aftercare, including 55 minors

Provided care for a total of **435 survivors** in 2022

Recognized by **Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister** for our commitment to combating human trafficking during the pandemic

Celebrated 1 year of A21 in **Latin America**

Can You See Me? Latin America resulted in the identification and recovery of 26 victims, reaching an estimated **120 million people** with awareness



REACH

997K
PEOPLE
reached with
awareness

252,437
Refugees reached
with prevention

511K · 511K · 511K
vulnerable
people reached with
prevention

246K
minors
reached with
prevention

3.2B
people
potentially reached
through Can You See
Me? Campaigns
since 2019

3,149
FACILITATORS TRAINED · FACILITATORS TRAINED

Breaking the cycle of human trafficking before it begins.

We REACH vulnerable people with critical information through awareness campaigns, educational curriculum, and prevention resources to prevent exploitation before it occurs. Our team targeted displaced Ukrainians throughout Poland and Europe via printed prevention materials, billboards, and digital ad campaigns. In 2022, A21's estimated reach grew to 2.2 billion people, raising awareness among 1/4 of the world's population.

Unconventional Awareness



1

Simona* was a young Bulgarian girl looking for an opportunity to work and live near the sea. While at a local coffeehouse, she met a new friend who told her about a well-paying opportunity in a seaside town.

2

Simona left for her new adventure full of hope. But when she arrived, the woman she met at the coffeehouse took Simona's phone and forced her into sexual exploitation at a nearby brothel.

3

One morning, Simona tried to escape by jumping off the pier, but the traffickers caught her before she jumped. A bystander witnessed the attempted escape and later visited Simona at the brothel. He could see the fear in her eyes as he inquired about her situation.



4

The bystander was riding in a taxi later that day and noticed a Can You See Me? campaign ad with our local hotline number. He realized that Simona might be a victim of human trafficking and called the A21 Hotline to report it.



5

Because of this man's report, the police conducted a raid, and the woman who recruited Simona was arrested. Simona, alongside many others at the brothel, was assisted to safety.

6

This is the power of awareness. Without strategically executed campaigns, the general public might be oblivious to the signs of exploitation and how to respond if they encounter a situation of trafficking.





← Children in Cambodia learn how to protect themselves.

Learn more at A21.org/ECPP

Early Childhood & Primary Prevention Programs and Storybooks



Children are inherently vulnerable, which increases their risk of being tricked into an unsafe situation. We believe in equipping all generations with the tools to protect themselves from trafficking by implementing prevention education beginning at a young age.

In May of 2022, we launched our Early Childhood Prevention Program (ECPP). The ECPP is an interactive, child-centered, activity-based program that empowers children ages 3-6 to protect themselves against human trafficking. The program provides age-appropriate activities, including new children's books for kids to learn, retain, and apply safeguarding strategies as they navigate potentially unsafe situations or tricky people in their young lives. This program is designed to be taught by preschool teachers, elementary educators, guidance counselors, parents/guardians, and community leaders. It's currently available in English.

The Primary Prevention Program (PPP) is currently available in eleven versions and is designed for children ages 6-12.

Prevention Around the World

In March, 6th graders in Thailand participated in the PPP program, ending the week with a school parade to raise awareness of human trafficking. While in Cambodia, students from rural communities worked through the program, learning to champion their young voices and make informed decisions to protect themselves.

Another 221 elementary and middle school students in northern Thailand participated in PPP in May. On the last day of the program, students created posters to raise awareness during a school parade.

In July, A21 South Africa ran two educational sessions during a World Day Against Trafficking event, including an ECPP facilitator training. All educators received an ECPP storybook, and 52 individuals signed up to receive the facilitator guide.

In August, 180 students and staff attended the PPP program at a school in Mexico. The program concluded with an invitation for students and their families to join an upcoming Walk For Freedom and for educators to volunteer with A21 Latin America.

New Children's Books Launched

Steps to Staying Safe Storybook

This colorful book tells the story of an adventurous young five-year-old who encounters a tricky person while playing at the park. It introduces the concepts of tricky people and trusted adults to encourage children to think about the different types of people (not just strangers) they may encounter. Designed to teach human trafficking prevention through visual storytelling, parents, caregivers, educators, or anyone who interacts with children can use this storybook to teach trafficking prevention in an age-appropriate way.

Staying Safe Online Comic Book

This new comic book is designed to help children ages 6-12 learn about digital safety and equip them with tools to prevent online exploitation. It tells the story of two young friends encountering a tricky person and a false opportunity online. This story encourages readers to consider the types of people they may meet online and what information is safe to share with strangers. Through this illustrated story, we help children recognize an unsafe situation and respond by sharing their concerns with a trusted adult.

Download PDF versions for free or purchase a hard copy at A21.org/Storybook



↑ Children's storybook teaches young readers how to stay safe.





Find out more at
[A21.org/Walk](https://a21.org/Walk)



Walk For Freedom

Our annual awareness event, Walk For Freedom, happens every October in cities around the globe. In 2022, hundreds of local walks took place in more than 50 countries on October 16. Tens of thousands of participants showed up in their communities to raise awareness of modern-day slavery—creating momentum in the fight for freedom globally. Over 89,000 flyers were distributed throughout the day, and over 824 million people were reached via media coverage and social media promotion.

This event continues to generate more momentum yearly, and 2022 was no exception. Together, we're expanding awareness faster and farther among suburban neighborhoods, rural communities, and the largest cities worldwide. It wouldn't be possible without our incredible Walk Hosts and your commitment to abolishing human trafficking locally and globally.

Highlights from WFF 2022

Cambodia: For the first time, Walk For Freedom was held in Cambodia in partnership with the National Committee for Counter Trafficking. Over 600 people rallied together for this significant milestone, taking a stand against human trafficking in Cambodia and educating locals about how to report it.

Denmark: One participant from Copenhagen shared, "I wasn't sure what impact a walk could have on the fight against slavery. But when I heard the story of how knowing the signs of exploitation led to a police report, I understood why we do this and the difference it makes."

Poland: A highly visible Walk For Freedom in Warsaw reached an estimated 70,000 people throughout the event. Participants passed through the most crowded streets with a police escort, leaving a lasting impact on local bystanders.

Texas: In Austin, a survivor of human trafficking shared her story with over 300 participants and led the walk route throughout the city. This survivor runs a local nonprofit and shared with our team that her involvement in the event was a vital part of her restoration process.

Colorado: For the first time in Lone Tree, Walk For Freedom participants hit the streets, and here's what the Walk Host had to say about it: "We had an incredible turnout for our first time hosting the event. It was powerful, and we'll be hearing about the impact of the 2022 Walk for Freedom for years to come!"

**824
MILLION**
people reached
worldwide



Can You See Me?
raises awareness
↓ of forced labor.



↑ Can You See Me? film previewed
at New Bulgarian University.



Use the QR code above
to watch the film.

Can You See Me? Launches Across Bulgaria

In October 2022, our award-winning awareness campaign, Can You See Me? (CYSM), was rolled out for the first time in Bulgaria. CYSM displays region-specific trafficking scenarios to raise awareness among the general public, encouraging onlookers to report suspicions to a human trafficking hotline. From mid-October to December, the national radio aired the campaign, reaching an estimated 500,000 people.

The campaign was previewed in four refugee centers and at New Bulgarian University, where 100 students were in attendance. Campaign video ads were shown in 47 metro stations in Sofia, reaching an estimated 350,000 people daily, and at the Sofia airport, reaching approximately 30,000 people daily.

Our team in Bulgaria continues to hear positive feedback regarding the campaign and partnered with several stakeholders who presented the CYSM film in schools and among social workers. The Roma TV station is also running the campaign film in communities nationwide.

CAN YOU SEE ME? Bulgaria

The momentum behind CYSM continues to usher in overwhelming results—reaching more people with awareness and the tools to report suspicions.

Trafficking Victim Self-Identifies

As a direct result of A21's Can You See Me? awareness campaign in Bulgaria, a family of four was discovered and recovered from exploitation. The parents had been victims of labor trafficking for seven years. Although the children were not victims of trafficking themselves, they spent five years living without electricity or heating. The father heard the CYSM campaign promoting the national

hotline on a small radio he had access to with limited stations. He hesitated to reach out for help as his previous attempt to escape was unsuccessful. But he summoned the courage and made the call.

Our Hotline team worked closely with the police, coordinating a safe exit plan for the entire family. The parents and children entered A21's Aftercare, where our caseworkers assisted them in obtaining new identification documents, rebuilding their lives, and enrolling the kids in school. "I will always be grateful for what you have done for me and my family," the father shared.

Learn more about the
campaign here:
A21.org/CanYouSeeMe

↑ Region-specific CYSM film
produced in Bulgaria.

Reach Around the World

Can You See Me? Reaches 31 Million People Across Latin America

In January, Can You See Me? reached an estimated 31 million people in Mexico and Guatemala. The campaign runs throughout the region, including metros, subway, train stations, bus stations, hospital screens, migration centers, customs screens on the borders, roadside billboards, digital screens, and mobile billboard advertising. This campaign continues to result in more hotline calls and victim identifications.



Awareness Grows Across South Africa

In March, A21 South Africa kicked off their school tour across Cape Town, reaching 2,059 students through 12 prevention presentations and 1,280 students through an awareness presentation. 238 parents, teachers, and community leaders were educated, and new partnerships were spurred to distribute targeted resources in at-risk communities across the Western Cape.

Can You See Me? Pilot Program Launches in Spain
In Q1 of 2022, the Can You See Me? Online Child Sexual Exploitation pilot launched on Spanish railways in collaboration with the National Police and the most famous railway company in the country. It reached a potential of 6 million people via 23,346 digital screens in the first month—a significant milestone for A21 Spain.

Students Made Aware in the United Kingdom
A21 U.K. delivered 23 school sessions, reaching 1,238 students with awareness and prevention. We have a great partnership with schools nationwide, and we're seeing the impact of our collaborative efforts multiply. The success of this partnership is demonstrated through our Reach programs and our connection with other schools.



Awareness Expands Amidst Crisis in Ukraine

Our work in Ukraine didn't stop when the war began. A21 Ukraine worked relentlessly to spread awareness among refugees in partnership with the Ukrainian Migration Police—printing and distributing posters along the western border. New prevention materials were also developed with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Lviv University of Internal Affairs and distributed on railways and buses in Ukraine.

Tuk Tuk Drivers Trained in Cambodia

A21 Cambodia organized prevention and victim identification training for Tuk Tuk drivers at our Child Advocacy Center. Participants were equipped with the knowledge to prevent, identify, and report human trafficking in the community. In addition, drivers were given cards with anti-human trafficking hotline numbers to be distributed to community members and tourists.



6,000 College Students Reached in Australia

A21 Australia reached nearly 6,000 students at two universities during their orientation weeks. University students, especially international students, can be vulnerable to human trafficking. Orientation weeks provide an excellent opportunity for our team to connect with students, educating them to recognize the signs of recruitment and report suspicions to the number on A21 Hotline Cards.



Identifying, assisting, and safeguarding victims out of exploitation.

The momentum behind our Rescue efforts in 2022 resulted in more victims referred to aftercare than ever before and increased human trafficking-related calls to our hotlines. The number of frontline professionals trained grew significantly, along-side the number of survivors engaged in the Legal Assistance Program and the value of fines given to perpetrators convicted in court—breaking the cycle of exploitation more each day.

A Flyer Leads to Freedom

THANK YOU for supporting the work of A21 Hotlines, assisting people 24/7 in Bulgaria, Greece, and South Africa.



Watch the film based on real events.



1

Two men in their 20s from different countries accept the same job in Greece. They say goodbye to their families, eager to embark on a new adventure and travel across borders. The young men meet when they arrive, both cautious about the opportunity they just signed up for.

2

The men quickly become friends and question the situation when their ID documents are taken. They're forced to sleep in a room crammed with other men and work long hours in the hot sun. The young men have no phones or money and receive little food.

3

After one man learns about a crisis in his home country, he becomes determined to escape. He grabs an A21 flyer at a local convenience shop, realizes they may be in a forced labor situation, and insists on calling for help. His friend warns him of the danger and refuses to help.

4

The young man with the flyer courageously enters his trafficker's office to access a phone and call the human trafficking hotline number listed on the flyer. But he is caught in action and severely beaten.

5

His friend soon finds out and frantically returns to the convenience store. He grabs the same flyer and begs the clerk for a phone to call the hotline to report the situation. The clerk is hesitant, but he agrees.

6

A21 call specialists dispatch local law enforcement and coordinate a safe exit plan for the victims at the work camp, including these two brave young men. The two friends' eyes meet, and they feel a sense of relief as the police escort the traffickers away.



← Counter Trafficking Toolkit launched in the U.K.

Professional Training, Counter-Trafficking Toolkit & Hotlines

Frontline professionals in Greece trained to identify and assist victims.



Professional Training Expands Globally

In 2022, over 5,000 frontline professionals in the transportation, hospitality, medical, and law enforcement sectors received expert training on how to identify and report situations of human trafficking. Through training and awareness efforts, our hotline teams experienced a record number of human trafficking-related calls. More victims were identified through hotlines in 2022 than in the last five years.

And the momentum didn't stop there. Our Intervention and Identification Coordinators expanded professional training globally, building world-class partnerships and recognition as global experts on counter-trafficking. In Thailand, the U.S., and Greece, we saw exponential growth in equipping people in key roles with the tools needed to stop the cycle of human trafficking. The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) invited A21 to present and train on the Can You See Me? campaign to the DOT Internal Counter-Trafficking Steering Committee to highlight the impact of awareness in detecting and combating human trafficking.

The A21 Counter-Trafficking Toolkit

Our new resource, the A21 Counter-Trafficking Toolkit, was developed to support partners and frontline professionals on best practices to stop

human trafficking, including how to engage with potential victims of trafficking. The Toolkit helps frontline workers increase their understanding of this crime and apply strategies to employ a victim-centered approach to intervention and safeguarding efforts.

A21 U.K. Counter-Trafficking Toolkit

In 2022, A21 U.K. co-branded its Counter-Trafficking Toolkit with the U.K. Border Force and provided these resources as a "Train the Trainer" resource to all Border Force. Various staff from the U.K. Border Force downloaded the Toolkit over 300 times. A21 U.K. also trained over 100 Border Force officers, with several individuals reporting that labor exploitation and recruitment through false job opportunities were new topics to them.

Our Ukraine Country Manager, Julia Sachenko, joined the training virtually to share about A21's work to combat increased exploitation in Poland since the war in Ukraine broke out. After the event, participants expressed that the Toolkit would play a vital role in their day-to-day efforts to stop human trafficking.

Hotline Reports Lead to Freedom

A frontline professional trained by A21 in 2021 contacted our Greece Hotline about a poten-

tial victim of trafficking on a Greek island. The Athens Anti-Human Trafficking Division also contacted the Hotline regarding the same potential victim, requesting assistance identifying this person. An A21 call specialist responded immediately, and a staff member traveled to the island to assist the female victim of sexual exploitation, providing crisis care and repatriation back to her home country.

Cross Border Collaboration Supports Victim

A young girl from Thailand escaped exploitation in South Africa after falling victim to a false job opportunity. Upon arriving at the airport in South Africa, she asked a woman waiting to board a flight if she could use her phone to call her family. She called her father for help, and he was able to purchase a ticket allowing her to return home. After talking with this young victim, the same woman reported the incident to the South Africa National Human Trafficking Hotline, which connected the victim to the police and the A21 team in Thailand.

Victim in Bulgaria Escapes Domestic Servitude

The Bulgarian National Human Trafficking Hotline received a call from a man providing shelter to a woman who had escaped domestic servitude. The woman traveled to Bulgaria

with her 'employer,' assuming she would work as a paid housekeeper. Instead, she was forced to work up to 20 hours each day. The trafficker withheld her identification documents and left her without food. She escaped to the nearest police station and called our hotline for help. Our team worked with the survivor to find permanent housing and retrieve her ID documents. She is also receiving ongoing services from the A21 Aftercare team.

Job Vetting Service Skyrockets in South Africa

The A21 South African National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) successfully launched its new job vetting program in 2022. The program's promotion on social media led to increased job vetting requests via the hotline. In 2022, the NHTH vetted many job opportunities, of which over 70% were determined to be fraudulent.

Can You See Me? Campaign Leads to Rescue

The A21-operated Bulgarian National Human Trafficking Hotline received a call shortly after the launch of our new Can You See Me? (CYSM) campaign in Bulgaria. The callers had been victims of labor trafficking for several years. The hotline specialists worked with the victims and assisted law enforcement in coordinating the family's safe recovery.



↑ Hotline call specialists in South Africa.

In 2022, 157 human trafficking survivors were engaged in A21's Legal Assistance Program.



In Greece, the court found a defendant guilty of labor trafficking. This was a monumental win in Greece, as human trafficking prosecutions typically focus on sexual exploitation, not labor trafficking. Labor trafficking prosecutions and successful convictions are rarely accomplished due to the difficulty in investigation and evidence collection.



In North Carolina, two survivors of sex trafficking testified against their perpetrator, leading to a guilty conviction of all five charges and a minimum mandatory sentence of 20 years to a maximum of life imprisonment.

Legal Assistance

From repatriations to testifying in court, survivors don't have to navigate the legal process alone. Our team of specialists walks alongside each survivor as they reclaim their identification documents or pursue justice against their traffickers.

Labor trafficking cases historically have been underreported, underinvestigated, and underprosecuted within the United States. But in 2022, our team in North Carolina played an active role in supporting key victim-witnesses subpoenaed to testify at a federal labor traf-

ficking case trial. This case was especially complicated as the victim-witnesses were foreign nationals requiring language assistance, amongst other specialized needs.

Survivors' testimonies are the most crucial evidence against a trafficker, so we work relentlessly to employ and promote a victim-centered approach to pursue justice. When one brave survivor testifies and traffickers are convicted, not only does the survivor get justice, but countless others are spared from future exploitation.



In 2021, A21 Cambodia participated in an operation with the anti-human trafficking police, leading to the successful recovery of a group of child victims of sexual exploitation. A21 coordinated the legal and aftercare services to the child survivors, ensuring they received proper legal representation and necessary support throughout the prosecution. With support from A21, the child survivors remained resilient as they bravely testified against the trafficker in court, and in 2022 the trafficker was convicted and sentenced to 12 years in jail and required to pay each survivor 10-12 million riel (\$2,500-3,000 USD).



In Thailand, two survivors of sex trafficking bravely testified against their trafficker despite apparent intimidation attempts in the courtroom. The judge subsequently found the trafficker guilty and sentenced him to 9.5 years imprisonment and an additional order of 974,680 THB (approx. 28,000 USD) for the victim's compensation.

As a result, 28 perpetrators were collectively sentenced to hundreds of years in prison.

Breaking News

Latest news from A21's operations around the world.

A21 Freedom Report

From Victimization to Freedom

Section: Rescue

SOUTH AFRICA

Hotline Connects Survivor in South Africa to A21 Aftercare



After being tricked by a false job offer, a man found himself working on a farm in South Africa for years without pay and in deplorable conditions. He managed to escape, only to end up living on the streets. A bystander called the A21 Hotline in South Africa to connect the male survivor with our team. We provided safe housing and support as he worked to regain his independence.

CAMBODIA

Safe Recovery of 5 Child Victims

In September, A21 Cambodia welcomed five male child survivors into our aftercare program. The parents were tricked with an offer for the children to receive free education and a better life. After receiving a report of potential human trafficking, A21 worked with local authorities to intervene and ensure the children were properly identified and assisted to safety. The trafficker was arrested, and the children were referred to A21's Aftercare program for support.



For more stories,
check out
[A21.org/Newsroom](https://a21.org/Newsroom)
or follow us at
[@a21](https://twitter.com/a21)



GREECE

Survivors Receive Support During Multi Agency Operation

A21 Greece participated in a multi-agency law enforcement-led operation with the Athens anti-trafficking police, Europol, the Moldova police, and another NGO. Authorities raided six brothels, resulting in the identification of two victims of sex trafficking and the arrest of nine members of a transnational human trafficking

ring. A21 staff members traveled to Athens before the operation to wait on standby at the police headquarters, ready to support the victims. The team remained at the police station to support survivors as they testified and assist with practical needs before coordinating crisis intervention, including medical care and accommodation.

BULGARIA



Survivor Supported to Testify Abroad

A Western European law enforcement agency contacted the A21 Bulgaria Hotline to request assistance in locating a victim of sex trafficking who was a key witness in a pending prosecution against their trafficker. Although they provided minimal information about the victim, the hotline call specialist successfully located the individual. A21 supported the

survivor's decision to testify and arranged their safe travel by coordinating with official government escorts, transportation police, national police, and A21 staff at various points of the journey from their hometown to the Western European country. The survivor successfully provided testimony in court, and the trafficker was sentenced to six years imprisonment.

GREECE

Persistent Reporting Leads to the Rescue of a Minor

After receiving reports about a little girl begging on the streets, A21 Greece contacted the police several times to request intervention. Our team of call specialists worked with local officers to ensure the child victim was identified and assisted to safety, promoting a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach to all operations.



TEXAS

21 Trafficking Victims Identified in Texas

Since launching survivor services last year in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, a primary focus for A21 has been to provide dedicated support to law enforcement. Through 24/7 on-call support, assisting with law enforcement-led operations, and basic needs assistance to identify victims of trafficking, A21 supported nine victim identification operations. This resulted in the discovery of 21 victims of trafficking. A21 worked with the survivors to provide direct services, thereby releasing law enforcement to focus on investigating the criminal case.



SOUTH AFRICA



Call Specialists Assist in Screening 32 Foreign Nationals

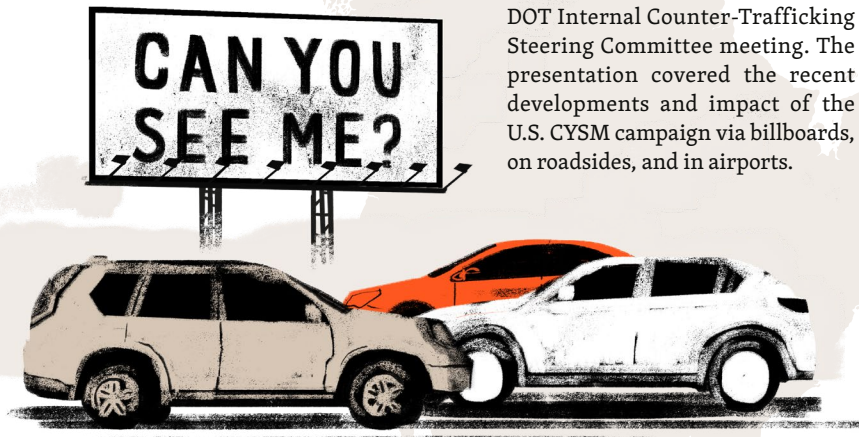
South African law enforcement requested the support of A21's National Human Trafficking Hotline for an in-person victim identification operation based on a report of potential labor trafficking at a steel factory. The hotline team conducted

in-person screenings with 32 potential victims for eight hours using a tele-interpreting service, resulting in the identification of ten victims of human trafficking. Collaboration with law enforcement is essential to identifying more victims.

Rescue Around the World

A21 Presents the Can You See Me? Campaign to the U.S. Dept. of Transportation (DOT)

The USDOT invited A21 to the DOT Internal Counter-Trafficking Steering Committee meeting. The presentation covered the recent developments and impact of the U.S. CYSM campaign via billboards, on roadsides, and in airports.



A21 LATAM Development Manager Invited to Attend UNODC Civil Society Conference

A21's LATAM Development Manager was invited to attend the Civil Society Unit (CSU) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in October 2022. During this conference, A21's LATAM Development Manager had the opportunity to engage with UNODC on A21's collaborative work on counter-human trafficking efforts in Latin America, focusing on A21's work with the Mexican government.



241 Frontline Professionals Trained in Spain

A21 Spain trained 241 professionals to detect and report human trafficking, including students in their final year of school for nursing, tourism and social work, employees at the Hotel Aloft in Madrid, entrepreneurs of the Ethical Trade Forum, and professionals working at Open Arms (non-profit devoted to search and rescue at sea).



Hotline Identifications in South Africa Lead to More Trainings

The South African Human Trafficking Hotline saw tremendous breakthroughs, including four identifications in March 2022. A month prior, a case was reported by a community member regarding a possible victim of labor trafficking. The hotline conducted a telephone screening with the victim and identified several elements of trafficking. As a result of this operation, additional training were conducted in the region.



Training for Frontline Professionals in Poland

At the end of 2022, our team conducted trainings on recognizing human trafficking for multiple organizations, including the UN Refugee Agency stationed at Blue Dot hubs (safe zones constructed for Ukrainian refugees). Equipping frontline workers to identify and report human trafficking raises the likelihood of successfully identifying potential victims of trafficking amongst the influx of people entering Poland.



A21 Bulgaria Partners With Local Government

For the first time in A21 Bulgaria's history, our team joined forces with Border Police and the National Commission for Combating Human Trafficking in an intervention operation at Sofia Airport. This new partnership is a monumental step forward as relationships with government agencies and police can increase preventative efforts, identifications, and victim support.



A21 Thailand Collaborates With FBI To Provide Training on Child Exploitation Investigations

A21 Thailand collaborated with the FBI Bangkok Legal Attaché Office to train law enforcement, prosecutors, child protection officers, and NGOs from over 12 countries on the role of NGOs in child exploitation investigations. Through this training, we advocate for a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach to supporting child victims throughout their legal process.



A21 Cambodia Provides Training in Conjunction With the Cambodian Government

A21 Cambodia initiated and planned frontline professional training in collaboration with the Provincial Committee for Counter Human Trafficking, which focused on improving the criminal justice system in Cambodia. As a result, over 200 participants from the government, law enforcement, and other stakeholders received training on the criminal justice system and prosecution of human trafficking offenses in September 2022.



YOU
GOT
THIS.



dream.

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

435

total survivors were
assisted in A21's Aftercare
program in 2022

• 107 •

survivors found
employment

More survivors
graduating from our
Aftercare program
than ever before

80
SURVIVORS

started education
classes and 5 graduated
high school

Assisted up to
254*
survivors per month
*the highest number of survivors in our care monthly

1/4
OF NEW SURVIVORS COMING
INTO OUR CARE WERE MINORS

Empowering independence and preventing re-victimization.

Through holistic aftercare, a network of professional services, and a community of people who come alongside survivors, we end the cycle of human trafficking. Your support equips survivors with safe accommodation, personalized care, and life skills to reduce vulnerability, restore dignity, and sustain their freedom. In 2022, more survivors attended our Freedom Centers, completed Life Programs, received long-term accommodation assistance, and started new jobs than ever before.

From Deceived to Dignified



1

A local woman approached Olivia* to commend her hard-working character and share a well-paying opportunity in Europe. After several conversations, the woman offered to pay for the initial transportation costs, and Olivia agreed to pay her back upon return.



2

The woman took Olivia to a ceremony, where she was required to pledge her loyalty. Olivia traveled to Turkey, where she was coerced to sleep with men to pay for living expenses. Multiple men were forced on her daily, and the money went directly to her traffickers.



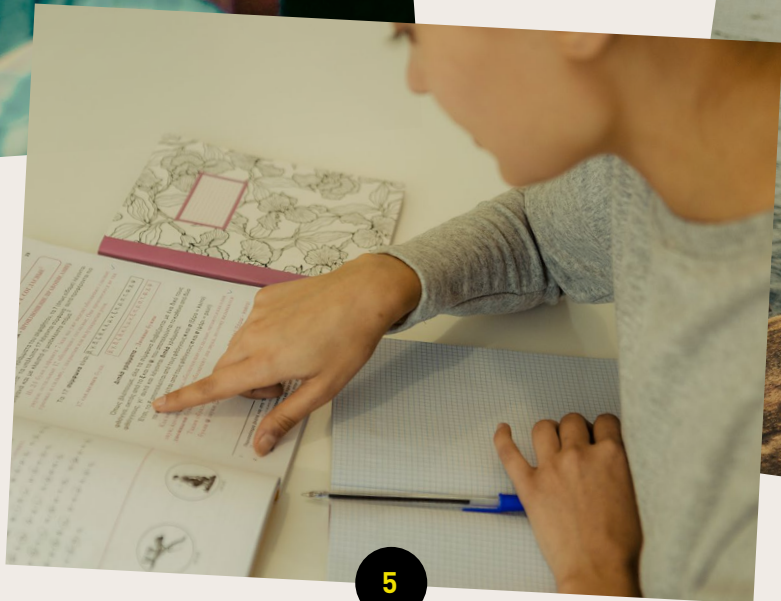
3

A month later, she was moved to a new location in Greece. When Olivia arrived in Greece, the trafficker told her to travel to Athens without speaking with anyone. Her traffickers reminded her of the pledge she took to remain loyal.



4

Olivia found the courage to escape while traveling to meet her trafficker. She hid in a large crowd when she saw him and left the city. She found refuge at a Catholic church and called the A21 Hotline for assistance.



5

A21 coordinated an identification operation and welcomed Olivia into the safety of the A21 Home. She was able to rest and receive care. Later Olivia began participating in Life Programs, Greek lessons, and job readiness training at the Freedom Center.



6

Three years later, Olivia is fully independent with her own apartment, a steady job, and a network of community services ready to assist.

“Thank you so much for all your help throughout the years. Thanks for all the times you said ‘yes’ to my requests, but mostly I thank you for the times you said ‘no,’ because I learned to do things by myself and be more independent.”

—Olivia



← Co-Founders Nick and Christine Caine at the Siem Reap Freedom Center opening celebration.

Cambodia Freedom Center and Foster Care Program

Child-Focused Freedom Center Launched

The launch of our newest Freedom Center in Siem Reap, Cambodia, is the first of its kind to support child victims of human trafficking. Through our community-based model, young survivors receive age-appropriate care to build emotional resilience, navigate trauma, restore their childhood, and transition into the care of their family or a foster family.

In 2022, we served 34 survivors at the Freedom Center in Cambodia, where our team of specialists comprises some of the best psychologists in the area. Although this Freedom Center replicates our other locations in many ways, it focuses on providing child-friendly aftercare services, emphasizing play-based therapies, group programs, hands-on activities, and educational support. While we've been providing aftercare to young people for years at the Child Advocacy Center in Cambodia, we now have a space specifically designed to support the restoration and reintegration process for child survivors of human trafficking.

We were honored to celebrate the launch with Her Excellency Sophear You, the Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province and Permanent Vice President of the Provincial Committee for Counter Trafficking, Bong Thavry, Deputy Commissioner of Siem Reap Police responsible for Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection, as well as leaders from The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Commune Council for Women and Children, Department of Women Affairs and other Government and Non-Government organization partners.

Foster Care Program for Child Survivors

Alongside our newest Freedom Center in Siem Reap, we launched a Foster Care Program for child survivors in Cambodia. A21 is excited to partner with Hagar International—the leader in foster care across Cambodia for over 20 years. Most of our caseload in this region are minor survivors, and 50% are trafficked by a family member.

This partnership will welcome Hagar foster care specialists to operate out of our new child-focused Freedom Center in Cambodia. In collaboration with our team, Hagar specialists are focused on helping A21 find suitable families, assess, train, and integrate them into our foster care program. This partnership allows A21 to place more young survivors in family-based care instead of institutionalized care. Our team works closely with each foster family and child survivor to ensure minors receive the care they need to reach their full potential.



↑ Freedom Center in Cambodia is designed specifically for young survivors.

← Private space for foster family integration.



↑ Essential items available to survivors at our Grab 'n Go Shop.



↓ Lounge area at a U.S.-based Freedom Center.

U.S. Aftercare Expansion

Aftercare Expands Throughout the U.S.

It's a common misconception that all victims assisted out of exploitation directly join an aftercare program. Entering A21's Restore program or any other long-term support service is a survivor's choice. In 2022, the majority of survivors we came in contact with in the U.S. entered our Aftercare program or one of our trusted partner programs, depending on the geographical location of each survivor.

A21 North Carolina

A21 North Carolina provided care packages for 94 survivors in 2022 with essential items like clothing, toiletries, gift cards, and more to sustain short-term care until survivors connect with long-term services. The essential care package, along with emergency case management services, post-identification, and refer-

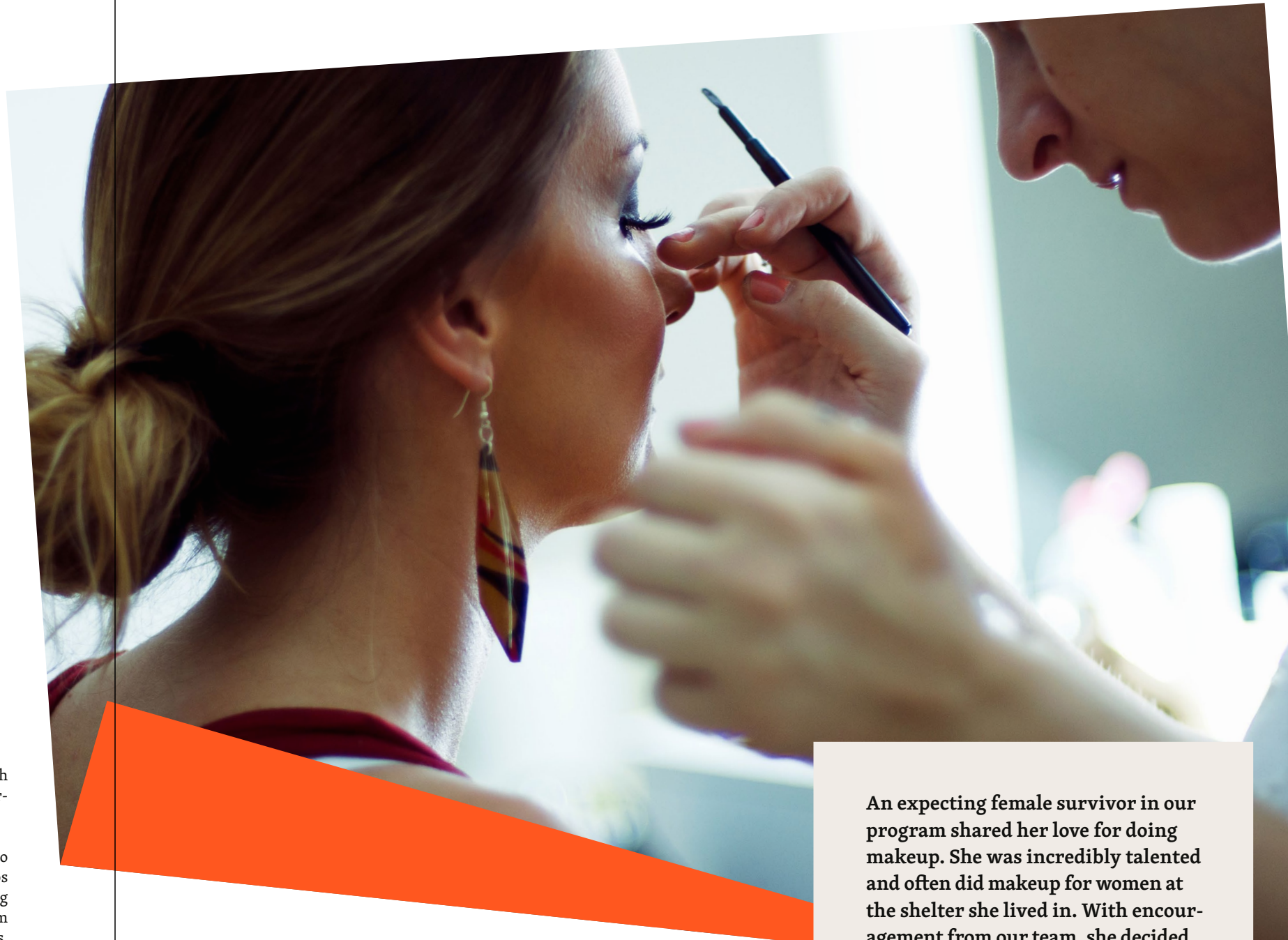
rals, aid in the rapport-building process with survivors and result in more survivors entering our long-term aftercare program.

In 2022, we welcomed 31 new survivors into our Aftercare in North Carolina, which helps survivors create stability through job training programs at the Freedom Center, long-term case management, and other support services. Eight survivors graduated from our program, and we assisted several others with our Rapid Rehousing program throughout the year.

A21 Dallas-Fort Worth

In the DFW region, we assisted 140 survivors of human trafficking, providing various support based on the needs and interests of each survivor. Our team also participated in nine rescue operations alongside local law enforcement to identify victims and provide immediate care.

40 new survivors entered our Aftercare program over the course of 2022. We assisted three survivors with domestic relocations, helping these individuals get back to their homes or into housing programs where they can continue to receive support as they journey to healing and restoration.



An expecting female survivor in our program shared her love for doing makeup. She was incredibly talented and often did makeup for women at the shelter she lived in. With encouragement from our team, she decided to apply to cosmetology school.

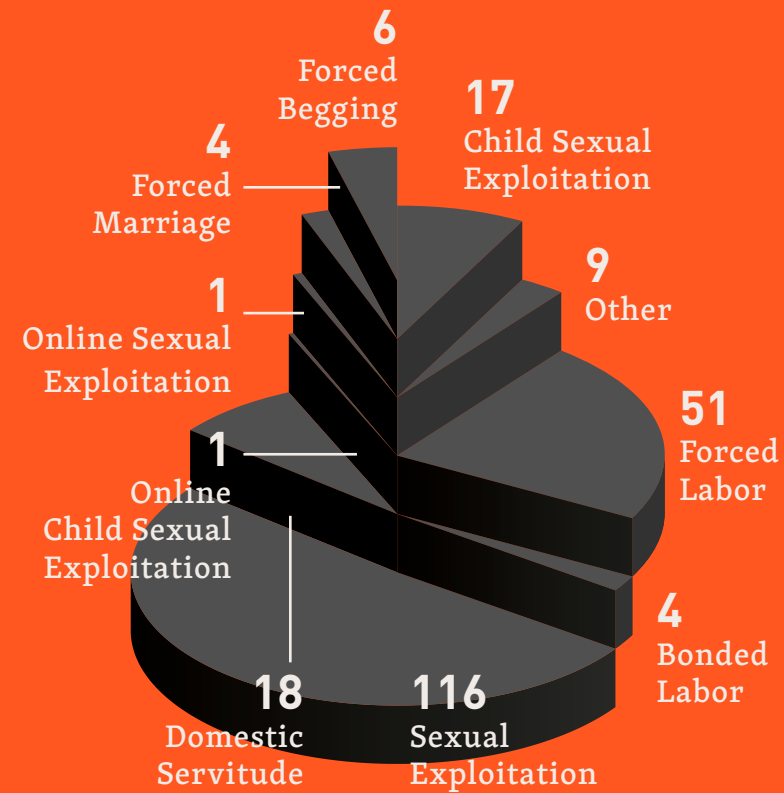
Within days, the young woman was accepted into a program and acquired financial aid independently. Our team helped her move into an apartment, preparing a safe and stable place to focus on school and welcome her new baby. The survivor celebrated perfect attendance and straight As in her program.



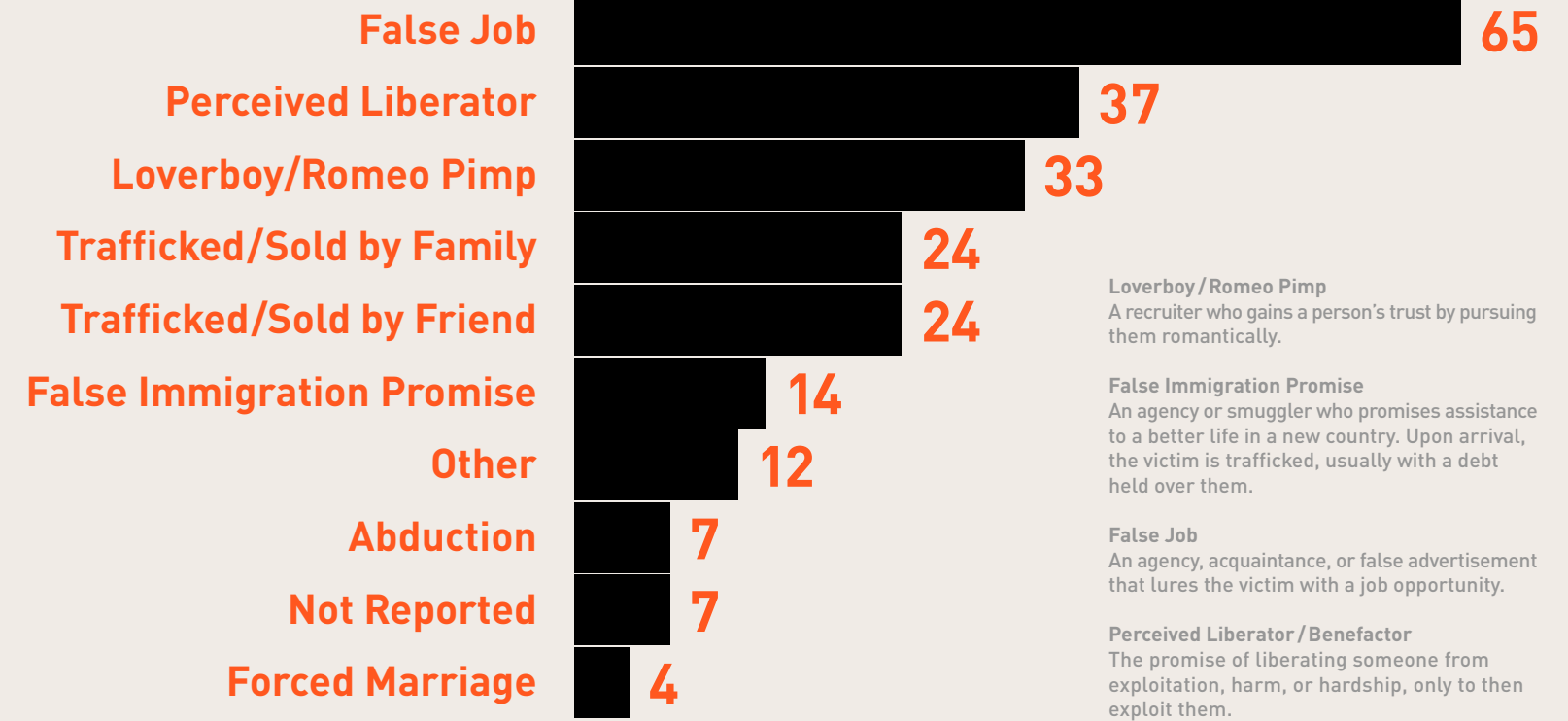
227

New Survivors in Our Care in 2022

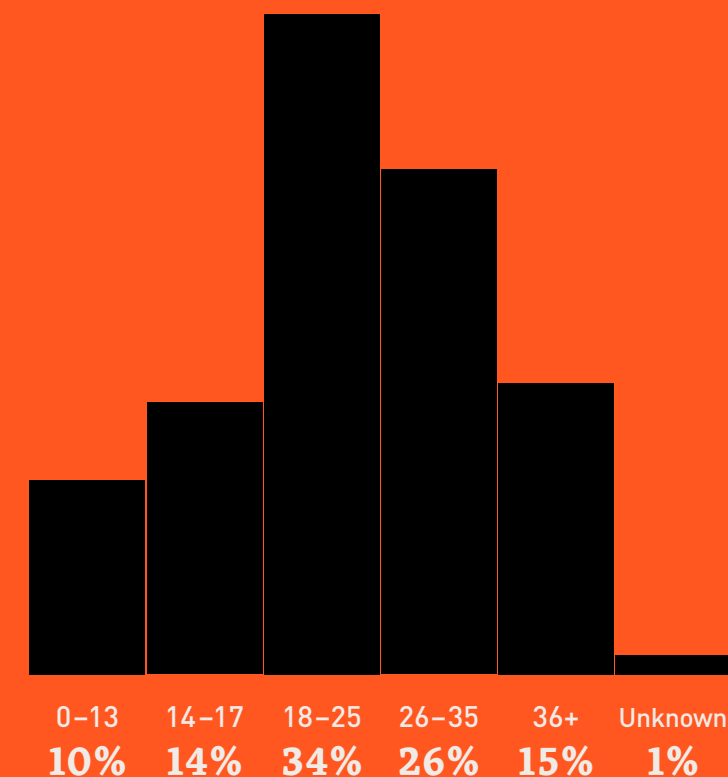
Forms of Trafficking



Recruitment Methods



Age of Survivors



New Beginnings

45
Domestic relocations

41
International repatriations

107
Survivors secured employment

Restore Around the World

Survivors Celebrated at Christmas Across the U.K.

A21 U.K. partnered with local shelters across London to make Christmas special for 40 survivors of human trafficking, including 21 children. Thanks to businesses, churches, and individuals donating essential items through our Amazon Wish List, we distributed gifts to each survivor, some of whom received presents for the first time.



Survivor Gets New Eye Glasses and a Job Promotion

Upon exiting a trafficking situation, a survivor shared her need for new eye contacts. She had one lens when she needed two. Our team coordinated the appointment and accompanied her to get an eye exam and new glasses. Soon after, the survivor got a job at a local restaurant, and within a few weeks, she was promoted to team leader.



Aftercare Extends Beyond City Limits in North Carolina

Our Aftercare team in North Carolina is dedicated to providing survivors with the highest quality care, even outside the city limits. Staff members traveled two hours to meet survivors who cannot attend the Freedom Center in Charlotte to assist with various needs, including finding adequate housing, providing emergency services, meeting with potential victims of trafficking, and more.



5 Survivors Graduate From the Flourish Program in South Africa

Five survivors graduated from Flourish, a peer support program that assists female survivors in connecting and supporting each other. During the graduation celebration, survivors shared how the program impacted them individually and received a rose and a certificate. One graduate said, "It's the first time someone ever gave me a flower. I've always wished someone to buy me one."



From Physical Healing to Skills Development for Survivors in Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, several survivors started a cooking class, and another survivor underwent a medical operation, which our team helped coordinate. We delivered several baby care packs to survivors and their families throughout the year. We also hosted educational classes, counseling sessions, art therapy sessions, a Valentine's Day party, and distributed "grab-n-go" supplies at the Freedom Center.



Survivors in South Africa Attend Job Training Workshop

Survivors in South Africa attended a workshop facilitated by a partner organization at our Freedom Center in Cape Town. Participants learned how to make clay earrings and other accessories to generate income through a program called "Not I, But We." These programs teach survivors unique trade skills to earn money while taking steps towards restoration—helping survivors reduce vulnerabilities and become more independent.

A21 Ukraine Supports Survivors Amidst Chaos

Despite the unraveling situation in Ukraine, A21 empowered survivors of human trafficking throughout the country (and beyond). Some survivors stayed in Ukraine—one individual volunteered with a paramilitary organization to protect his home country. Others relocated to safer locations throughout Europe. No matter where survivors landed, A21 Ukraine remained in close contact with each individual in our care.



11 Survivors Graduate From the Empower Life Program in Cambodia

Eleven female survivors graduated from the Empower program, a group-based program designed to help build emotional resilience among people impacted by traumatic and stressful life events. Thanks to your support, these survivors are rebuilding their lives and experiencing a more profound sense of restoration.



War, Vulnerability, & Human Trafficking

Amid one of the world's most devastating humanitarian crises, the risk of human trafficking among Ukrainian refugees grew exponentially. A21 remained committed to those impacted through awareness and prevention, relocation assistance, and survivor aftercare support. No matter what our generation faces, we work relentlessly to protect the most vulnerable from exploitation.

DEAR READER,

My name is Julia, and I'm a part of the A21 team in Ukraine. Since 2009, A21 has been working in Ukraine to prevent human trafficking, assist victims out of exploitation, and restore survivors to a life of freedom. Until February 24, a day that changed everything. When Russia invaded Ukraine, it was no longer safe for our team to stay in Kyiv. I packed my car, said goodbye to my husband (who was not permitted to leave the country), and started driving. We drove for days before arriving in Poland, and with it came a set of new challenges—looking for a new home, helping my kids adjust to a new place, and navigating the uncertainty of the future.

As millions of refugees fled the country, desperate and willing to accept help, the risk of human trafficking skyrocketed. Our team quickly recognized the potential danger facing millions of Ukrainians in search of safety, work, and their most basic needs. Because war and conflict often increase vulnerability, refugees encounter unique challenges that make them more susceptible to the schemes of traffickers. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, "For traffickers, the war in Ukraine is not a tragedy—it's an opportunity. And women and children are the targets."

And I agree.

Traffickers often lure vulnerable people into dangerous situations through deception, false job opportunities, threats, or violence. The crisis in Ukraine presented a critical need for human trafficking awareness and prevention. And A21 was uniquely positioned to fill it. Thanks to your support, our team raised awareness among refugees while providing survivors the highest level of care throughout the region. On the following pages, see a glimpse of what your generosity made possible in response to the Ukraine Crisis in 2022.

Thank you for your partnership,

Julia Sachenko



Reach Response

Targeted awareness and prevention campaigns to reach refugees.

A21 Ukraine **raised awareness and distributed prevention material** among refugees via printed flyers, billboards, and digital advertising campaigns. Thanks to a network of partners in the region, we **promoted these potentially life-saving resources in locations with high visibility** where refugees were most likely to encounter them.

i

Our Work Continues

The A21 Ukraine team is working remotely in Warsaw, Poland. They are part of a refugee group headed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to respond to the refugee crisis. A21 Ukraine is the only NGO with Ukrainian staff who are refugees themselves.



Through our partnership with Clear Channel, we created digital posters that reached a potential 4.6 million people across 88 billboards in Poland.

We launched a social media ad campaign targeting predominantly women and teens in the top 8 countries where refugees fled, including Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, Germany, France, Spain, and the Czech Republic.



A21 awareness posters were also placed throughout the East Train Station in Warsaw as Ukrainian refugees entered Poland.

Partnerships

Partnering with the Norwegian Refugee Council and the City of Warsaw, A21 Ukraine assisted at Poland's Eastern Refugee Reception Center. Our team educated refugees about the dangers of human trafficking and how to protect themselves. We also trained frontline workers, including employees, medical staff, psychologists, and volunteers, to identify victims and report trafficking suspicions.

Joining forces with the Ukrainian Migration Police, we multiplied our prevention efforts by distributing awareness materials along the entire western border of Ukraine. New prevention resources were developed with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Lviv University of Internal Affairs and distributed throughout transport channels in Ukraine, namely on railways and buses.

At a Volunteer Summit, Julia Sachenko, A21 Ukraine Country Manager, shared about the increase in human trafficking since the war began. She educated participants on critical identifiers of exploitation and provided safety

recommendations for refugees. The summit reached thousands and attracted press coverage of A21's work in Ukraine and Poland, raising awareness worldwide.

Refugee Resources

In collaboration with various partners, A21 distributed 30,147 hotline leaflets, safe employment cards, and awareness flyers, 9,000 map brochures, and 4,220 refugee comic books.

Our team quickly responded to the growing need for prevention by developing a child-friendly comic and coloring book for refugee children. This popular resource was distributed widely among children throughout Ukraine and Poland. It tells a story of a family coming to Poland and passing through refugee centers while teaching the difference between trusted people and tricky adults.

A21 Ukraine recorded an interactive "Safe Employment in the EU" seminar to educate refugees about labor trafficking and how to vet job opportunities. It includes speakers from our local and global team and Migration Police

and features a new "Can You See Me?" campaign video.

Safe employment cards were distributed to refugees throughout Poland to help them identify unsafe working conditions. The cards contain important info on employment in Poland, including minimum wage, safety advice, labor code information, and a QR code for the online Safe Employment seminar.

We partnered with the Global Empowerment Mission, a disaster relief nonprofit, to include A21 human trafficking prevention materials in every parcel with humanitarian aid distributed among Ukrainians.

The team also created a refugee prevention map pamphlet with essential information, including general safety tips, human trafficking indicators, and emergency numbers from around the region. The pamphlet opens into a map of Europe, spotlighting resources for refugees traveling around the region, including Ukrainian Embassy locations, major airports, major train stations, places to seek medical attention, shelter, and A21 offices.

Rescue Response

Professional trainings increase identifications, reporting, and hotline calls.

Frontline professionals most likely to encounter potential trafficking victims and refugees were trained on recognizing and reporting human trafficking.



Professionals Trainings in Poland

At the end of 2022, our team led trainings for multiple organizations, including the UN Refugee Agency stationed at Blue Dots Camps (safe zones constructed for Ukrainian refugees). Equipping frontline workers to report human trafficking raises the likelihood of victim identification among the influx of people entering Poland. In partnership with the UN, we also set up resource distribution in refugee centers across the country to protect those at risk of exploitation.

A21 Supports Refugees in Spain

A21 Spain and A21 Ukraine hosted three training sessions for nonprofit “Open Arms” staff in Spain and Poland to prepare them to receive Ukrainian refugees. One training featured A21’s Ukraine Country Manager, Julia Sachenko, who shared her refugee experience and expertise in caring for refugees.



Frontline workers trained to care for refugees and minimize the risk of human trafficking.



Military professionals stationed along the Ukrainian border were trained to identify and assist victims.

The A21 Ukraine team supported almost 1,500 refugees as part of a transnational project for Ukrainians led by Open Arms. During these victim identification operations, A21 spoke with Ukrainian refugees fleeing to Spain and Canada about the details of their travel and destination and conducted short screenings to identify potential victims of human trafficking. In addition, the Ukrainian passengers received prevention resources that contained QR codes for European hotlines.

Military Professional Training

A21 Ukraine trained 213 professionals and volunteers in 2022, including social workers, members of the armed forces, and volunteers at CORE Reception Center for Refugees. Following a unique request from the UNHCR, A21 provided a frontline professional training session for 25 Polish, U.S., and Canadian military personnel stationed along the Polish-Ukrainian border. At the end of the training session, par-

ticipants role-played an interaction between a potential victim and authorities to practice a victim-centered approach to communication.

Job Vetting Training in Greece

To minimize the risk of refugees recruited for false jobs on Greek islands, A21 Greece developed a Job Vetting Training program for frontline professionals. The first training session occurred online in October 2022, with 134 participants trained overall. A21 Greece has also created a job safety resource in Ukrainian, Russian, English, and Greek to distribute amongst refugees and Greek nationals to support job seekers in identifying potential false jobs.

“We are so thankful for the training... The topic is definitely for ‘here and now,’ but also so demanding in terms of increasing civic awareness that trafficking in human beings is not an ‘exotic’ topic in Europe and Poland.”
—City Hall, Opole, Poland

Restore Response

Committed to providing the highest level of support to survivors in our care.

In the face of unraveling conflict, **A21 Ukraine continued aftercare services to survivors** throughout the country and those who sought refuge elsewhere. Because each survivor's circumstance is different, **we personalized our care plans** to meet the evolving needs of each individual.

Survivor Support

The A21 team provided financial assistance, humanitarian aid, psychological support, and transportation to safer regions. Those who relocated continued to receive care remotely from our team. One Ukrainian survivor completed three Life Programs via the phone.

Several survivors received assistance with housing or rent costs, including four individuals who received emergency accommodation. We also connected with several former survivors, offering emotional support and care packages if necessary.

Emergency Supplies & Care Packs

Before Russia invaded Ukraine, our team sent Emergency Care Packs to survivors in our care as they prepared to face the unknown. The care packs included flashlights, food, batteries, a radio, wet wipes, water, personal hygiene products, and laundry supplies.

Additional packages were sent later in the year, including necessary equipment to help survive the cold weather and no electricity, such as power banks for telephones, gas burners, battery bulbs, and portable lights. Thanks to the help of volunteers, we distributed 162 care packages throughout the year and 15 Christmas gifts.

Your partnership throughout 2022 enabled our team to quickly meet the growing needs of refugees, victims, and survivors throughout Ukraine and the surrounding region.

Emergency care packages were distributed to survivors of human trafficking in Ukraine and throughout the region.



Displaced survivors had access to A21 Life Programs and other aftercare services via online video conferencing.





Together, we made unbelievable progress in 2022.



Perpetrators were convicted and sent to prison.



New resources and initiatives were launched.



More frontline professionals were trained than ever before.



New local and international partnerships were established.



More survivors graduated from A21 Aftercare programs.



In a time when our world is facing constant adversity and turmoil, A21 reached more vulnerable people with awareness and prevention, identified and assisted new victims of human trafficking, and supported more survivors through our Aftercare programs than ever before in A21 history.

It's all because of your commitment, generosity, and partnership in the fight to end human trafficking. When you continue to take action, we can stop trafficking before it starts, increase the likelihood of victims being identified, and make it harder for traffickers to operate.

Each year, we create more momentum, reaching significant milestones in the lives of survivors and within the regions we work. But the fight is not over.

We're in this for the long haul. And we won't stop until every person is free. Will you join us in 2023?



A21.org/Give

Abolish
SLaVery
everywhere,
for ever.



A21.org

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