

“Not a Crisis, but an Opportunity”

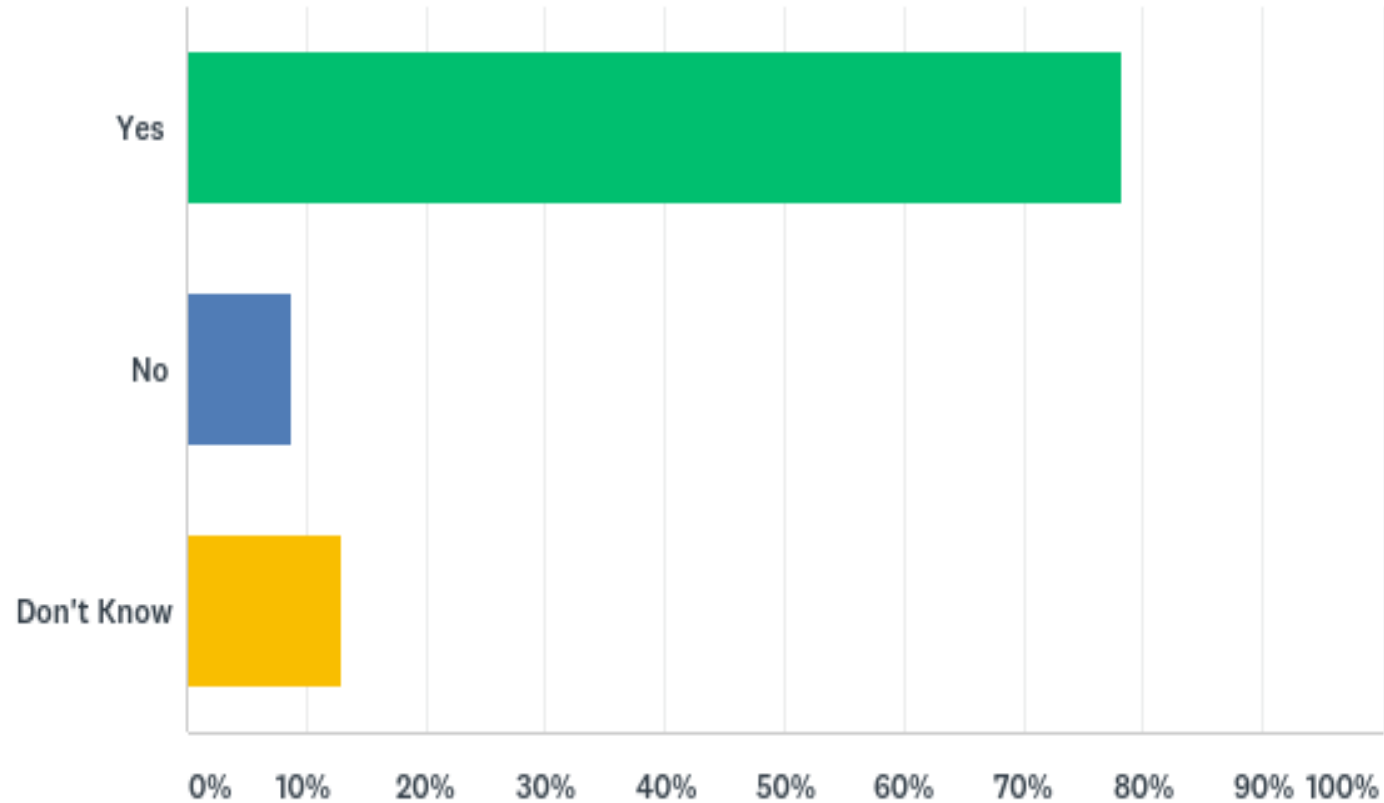
Gabriel Marcus, OM Greece

Glenn Miles PhD and Lauren Kolenda, EFN Best Practices & Challenges Survey 2017 Part 1.

Part 1: Survey: Key Stakeholders working with refugee/asylum seekers at risk of trafficking

- Survey Monkey voluntary online survey sent through EFN to people working in sexual exploitation and trafficking some with refugee/asylum seekers. Also asking stakeholders to pass on to others.
- Survey: 23 respondees
- Interview :10 respondees
- Representing work with refugees /asylum seekers from twenty countries and a wide range of projects

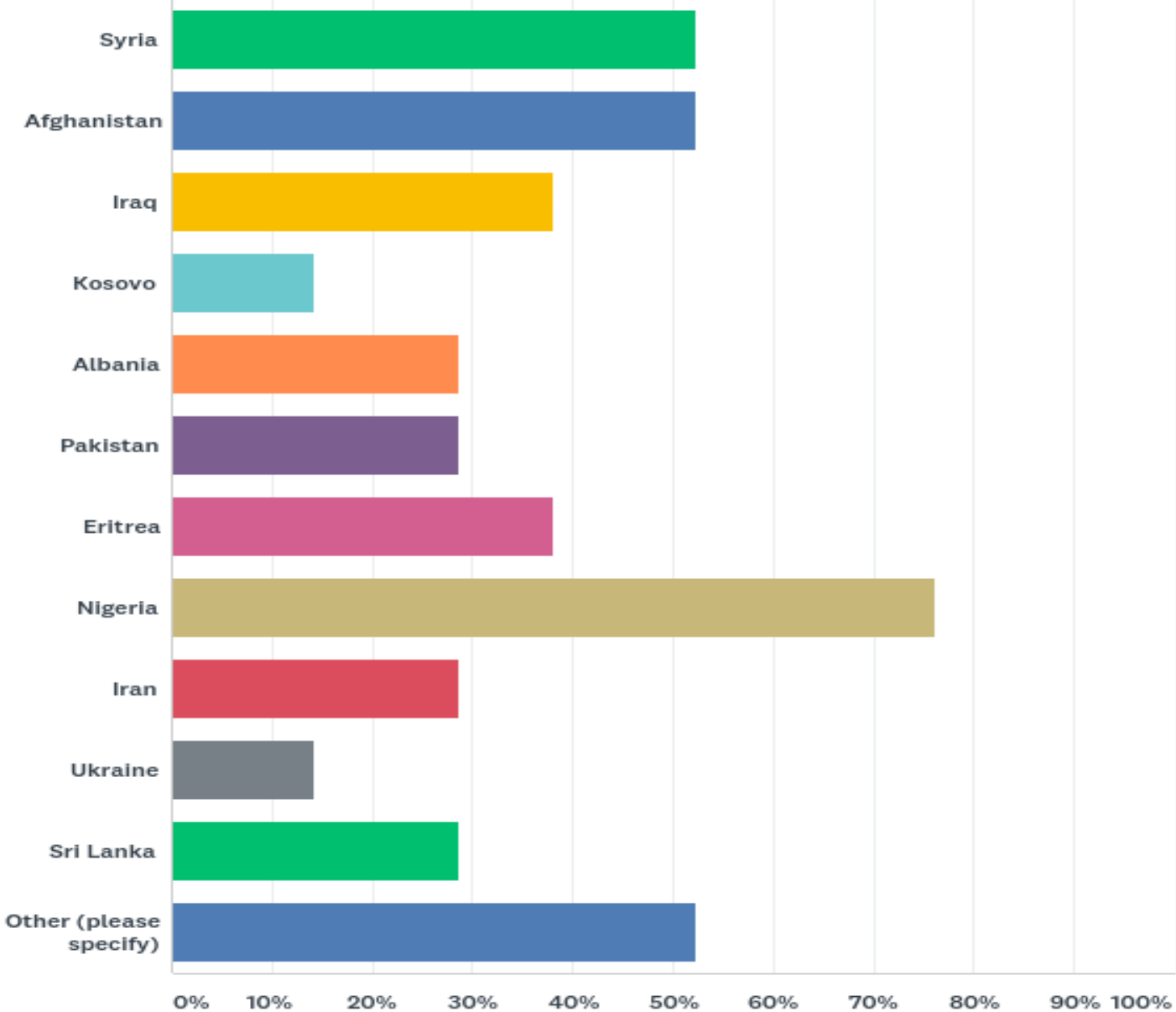
Q2 Do you encounter refugees in danger of / are caught up in human trafficking?



Refugees at risk

- 78% said that they did encounter refugees who were in danger/are caught up in human trafficking
- 9% said they did not
- 13% said they didn't know.

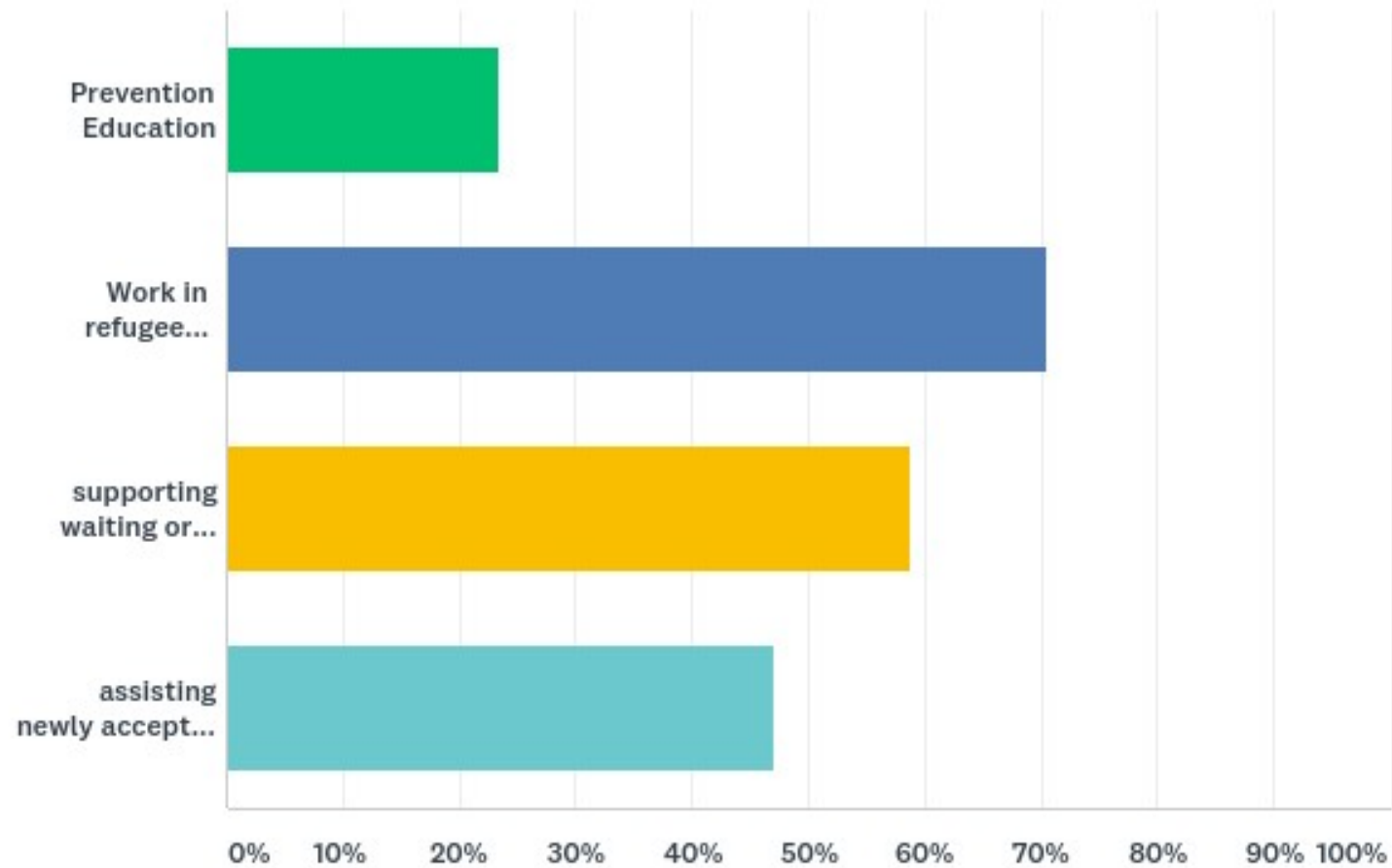
Q3 Where are the refugees coming from?



Other Countries

- Romania
- Poland
- Russia
- Armenia
- Cameroon
- Somalia
- Dominican Republic
- Ethiopia
- Other Western African countries

Q4 What type of work does your ministry do?



Challenges

Physical Needs/Challenges

- Lack of even basic needs
- Food banks
- Sanitation packs
- Shelter/accommodation
- Healthcare
- Education
- Too many people in need, not enough resources or people to help

It isn't just about physical needs

Emotional Needs/ Challenges

- Refugees experience Low self dignity and trauma
- Feel hopeless in their situation and turn to unhealthy means of dealing with it and can turn to addiction
- Fear of retribution from the pimps
- Sometimes struggle to find things to do when they have so much time on their hands.
- Need for child care and care for teenagers.

Spiritual Needs/Challenges

- It's not just about evangelism – we need to consider other needs as well.
- Some Nigerian women have been juju cursed and need exorcism – even secular authorities agree to receive help for this.

Legal needs/Challenges

- Sexual trafficking so hidden, it is hard to procure witnesses
- It is hard for trafficking victims to testify in court against their abusers because they are afraid of retribution

Financial needs

- Lack of funding

Recommendations

Before you start...

- Figure out how the system works
- Have a clear purpose before you start – focus on something specific and do it well

Dignity

- Approach your work with refugees and anti-trafficking with care and dignity for the person(s) you are seeking to serve. This work is more than just task-doing, it's also very relational.

Look in front of your face

- Make the use of opportunities e.g. refugees hanging in the area of the church.

Church as Family

- A caring community is Key
- The church can provide a role as a family by opening doors
- People can get wise counsel from the church

Counselling

- Counseling/ Art therapy for trauma
- People need confidential counseling and to be heard.

Integration and Training

- Need for better assistance with people to integrate into their new communities.
- Training is important, do not only fill in empty spots with only passionate volunteers who have no prior experience or training

Networking

- Invite local churches into supporting the ministry financially, prayerfully, and with anything else you might need
- Seek healthy connections with government & secular workers that can help with things that you are not equipped to handle e.g. the police, lawyers, politicians, doctors etc.

Working together

- Europeans work well together but need to open to getting help from the American church – put aside political and religious prejudice for the sake of victims.

In it for the long term

- Patience is key when building relationships and having conversations about Christ
- Long term not short term mentality

Advocate

- Need to advocate with government to resolve conflict that creates refugees

Be culturally aware

- Cultural difference awareness vital
- Try to not be patronising
- Check ideas before you do them because there are cultural differences e.g. cooking pasta seems like a good idea but then no-one eats it.

“Don’t think for the People”

- Need to Listen to people better
- You should not “Do and think for people” but let them make decisions for themselves

Self Care

- Don't take it personally when the people you are serving don't seem to care or want to take advantage of the resources you are providing.
- Have a safe place to talk and seek out self-care for yourself too so you do not burn out.
- It's important to really know and understand why you have committed to doing this work.

Where do we go from here?

- Now that we have heard from the practitioners, we now want to hear from refugees and asylum seekers.
- The next phase of this research is to better understand the needs and challenges of those who are receiving assistance.
- As we have interviewed the practitioners, we now ask that practitioners take the time to interview the people that they are serving.

Part 2: Listening to Children and Adults on the Move