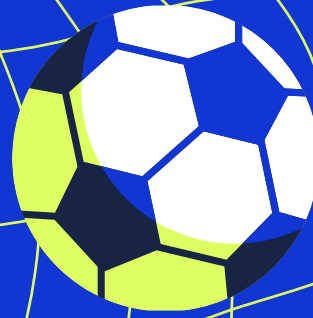


2026 FIFA World Cup and Human Trafficking Risk



What to Know

The 2026 FIFA World Cup, hosted across the United States, Mexico and Canada, will drive large-scale cross-border travel and economic activity.

Human trafficking uses force, fraud or coercion to exploit people for labor, services or commercial sex; commercial sex involving a minor is trafficking even without those elements.

Increased activity across travel, logistics, construction and hospitality sectors can create opportunities for traffickers to exploit vulnerable populations.

Information sharing among financial institutions (FIs), law enforcement (LE) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) — through lawful channels and focused on shareable typologies, indicators and escalation contacts — is essential to preventing, detecting and disrupting activity tied to large-scale global events.

Detecting Human Trafficking Risk

Prepare for the 2026 FIFA World Cup



High-risk industries:

Hospitality, construction, illicit massage businesses and adult services websites.

Vulnerable populations:

Risk factors may include recent migration or relocation, temporary work status, substance use, mental health concerns, involvement with the child welfare system or status as a runaway or homeless youth.



Cross-domain exploitation:

Trafficking often spans multiple domains — for example, illicit massage businesses frequently advertise on adult services websites.

Common financial signals include:

- ✓ Online advertisements linked to payment activity.
- ✓ Small-dollar, round-dollar or repetitive transactions paired with suspicious behavior (e.g., unusually large local travel expenses, low- or no-payroll anomalies, late-night ATM activity, etc.)
- ✓ Digital asset activity, especially when paired with other trafficking indicators.

Understanding the Trafficking Business Model

Human trafficking can function like an illicit business: Traffickers recruit vulnerable people, advertise and collect payments for exploitation, and integrate proceeds into seemingly legitimate businesses through small transactions and cryptocurrency.



Stay current on red flags.

Payment descriptions, typologies and platforms evolve quickly, requiring ongoing signal exchange among FIs, LE, vendors and NGOs.



Strengthen information sharing.

Traffickers often conduct a high volume of small transactions across banks, sectors and peer-to-peer platforms. Sharing intelligence increases visibility into fragmented activity.



Enhance transaction monitoring.

Without external intelligence, suspicious activity can be difficult to spot among routine. Integrate shared indicators and insights into monitoring systems to improve detection.

What Can FIs Do?



Plan.

Proactively connect with authorities, prosecutors and nonprofits to identify the right contacts before urgent action is needed.



Build relationships with law enforcement agencies.

Establish upstream and downstream information-sharing protocols with local, state and federal LE partners.





Note: Canadian and Mexican institutions should follow applicable local reporting requirements, including FINTRAC suspicious transaction reporting in Canada and Mexico’s AML reporting framework.

Sources

In Focus: Tackling Labor and Sexual Trafficking at the 2026 World Cup | ACAMS
FinCEN Notice on the Threat of Human Trafficking During the 2026 FIFA World Cup
Cornerstone January 2026 Issue #69
Federal Law | National Human Trafficking Hotline
Human Trafficking | National Human Trafficking Hotline

Additional Resources

DHS Blue Campaign: [DHS Blue Campaign](#)
U.S. Department of State: [Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center](#)