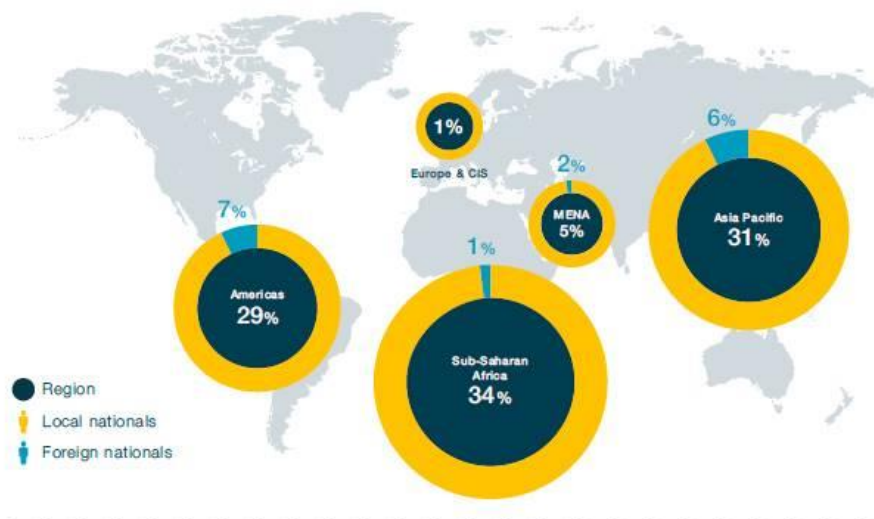


## THE ECONOMY AND KIDNAPPING

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on economies around the world, and organised crime groups have been feeling the pinch. These groups will rely more than ever on kidnapping as a revenue stream, and will need to ramp up their efforts if they are to compensate for and protect against lost revenue from other quarters. **Drug trades have fallen** with the closure of entertainment venues and many small businesses are closing their doors for the last time, **reducing the pool of targets for extortion**. Increasing revenue from kidnapping is not a simple matter of holding out for higher payments. Families can only pay what they have. Kidnappers must choose between targeting more of their typical victims (usually local national business owners), targeting new demographics (**leaning more towards the middle-to-higher income groups and foreigners**), or targeting larger groups of victims, putting pressure on **employers to pay ransoms on behalf of multiple families**.

Economic pressures on previously law-abiding individuals are also creating **novice kidnappers**. There has been an increase in media reporting of cases involving perpetrators who have lost their jobs and been forced to engage in kidnapping to pay off loans or subsist. **Inexperienced kidnappers will pose a far greater threat to the safety of their victims**. These kidnappers are prone to panic and dispose of victims if they sense the police closing in.

### Incidents involving local and foreign nationals



**48%**  
of abductions  
happened in  
transit

**87%**  
of abductions  
resolved in less  
than 8 days

**98%**  
of global victims  
were local  
nationals

**21**  
sectors  
affected