

The cotton harvest in Uzbekistan

59.3 per cent of pickers were women and 40.7 per cent were men. 75.5 per cent of pickers were from rural areas; 24.5 per cent were from urban areas. 44.7 per cent came to pick cotton with other adult family members.



On average, each picker **participated for 23 days** and received on average 2.2 million UZS in wages. Thirty-eight per cent of pickers said the wages represented 100 per cent of their annual cash income.

Chart 1: Cotton production, workforce and forced pickers (2015-2019)

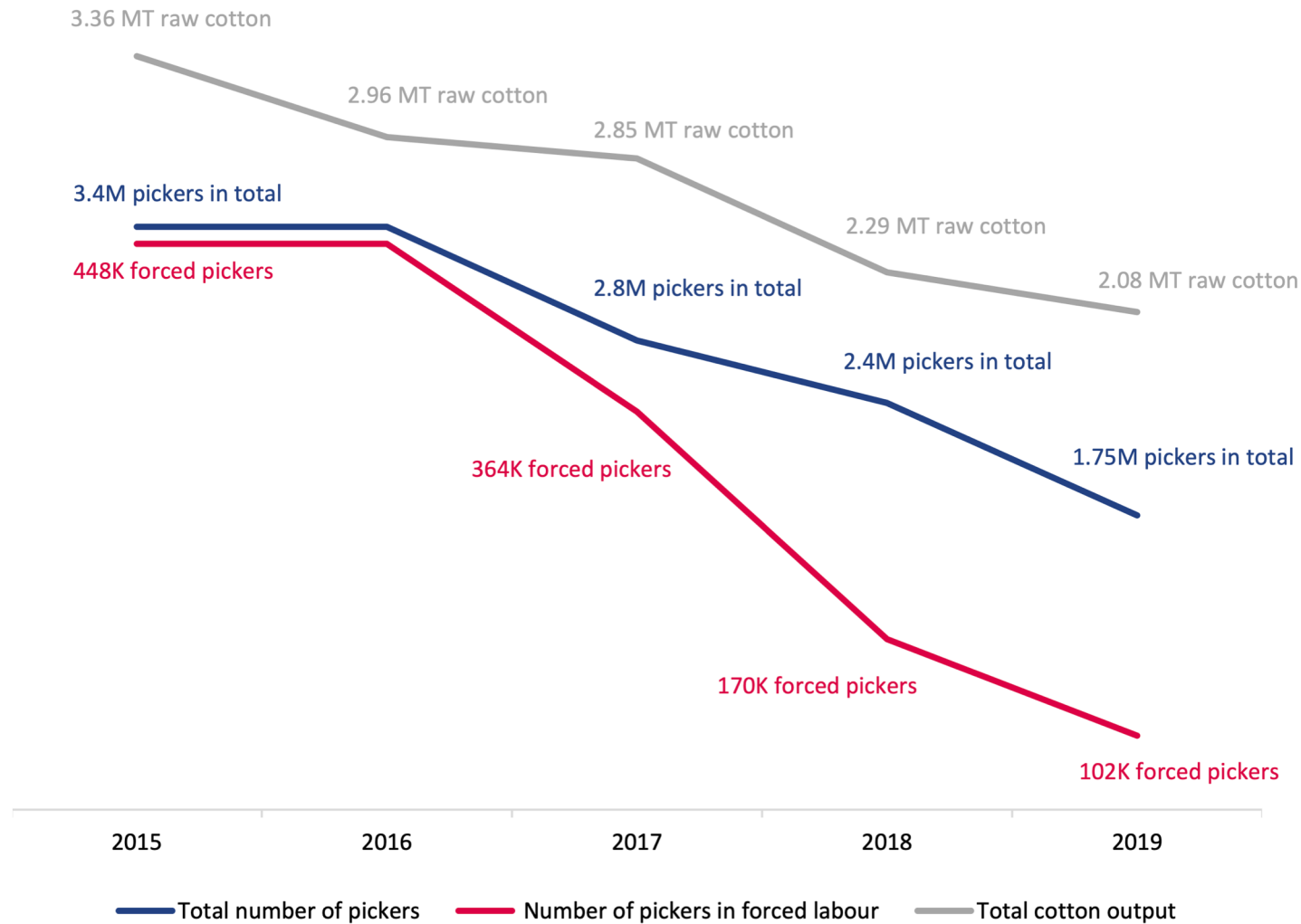
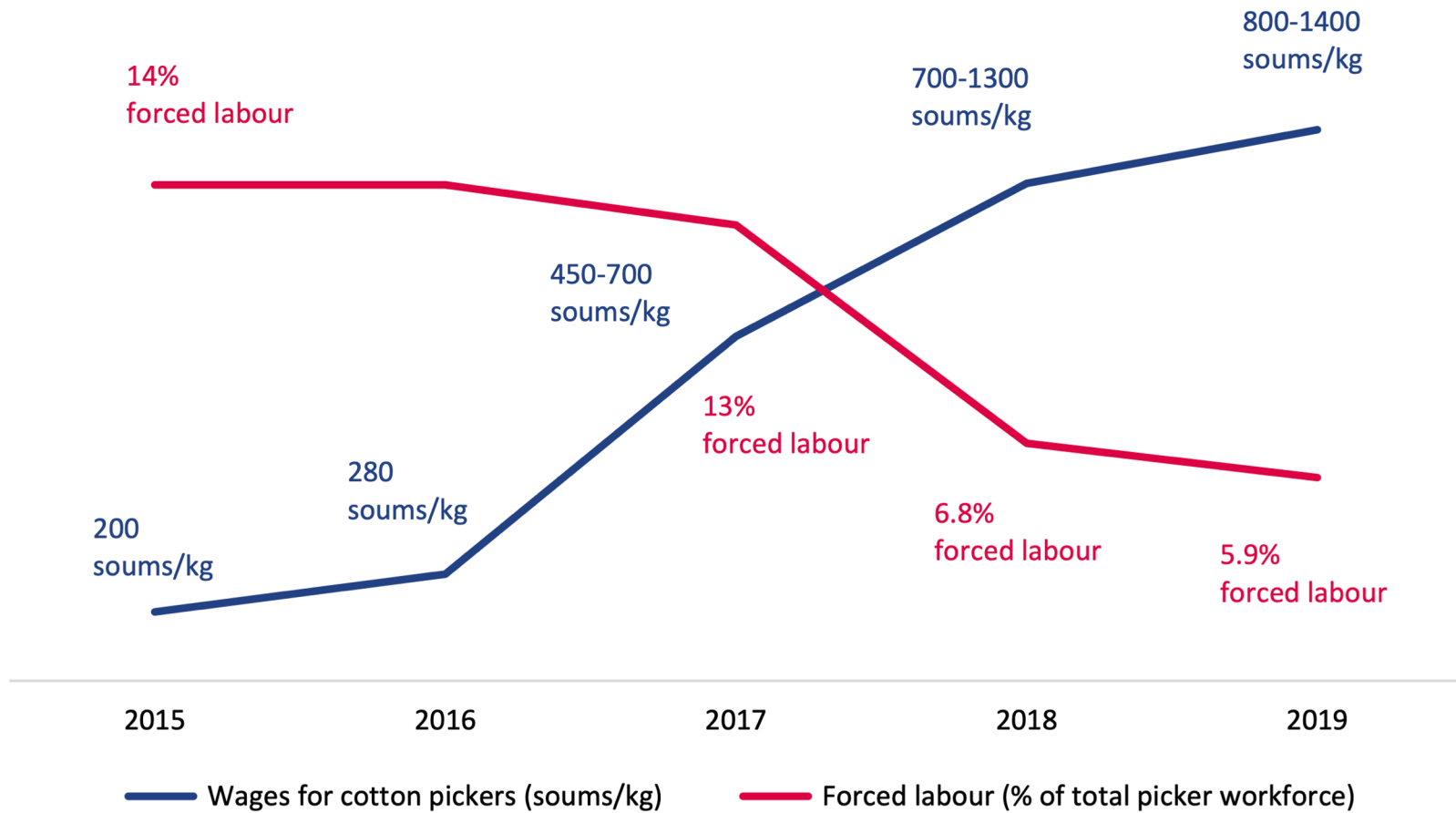


Chart 2: Wages and forced labour percentages (2015-2019)



KEY DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE 2020 HARVEST

- Abolishment of state order system for cotton production
- Criminalization of forced labour
- Registration of independent civil society organizations
- Doubling of labour inspector capacity
- Ongoing privatization of cotton sector
- COVID-19 Impact
- **ILO recommends and supports trade and investment by responsible international investors in Uzbekistan**