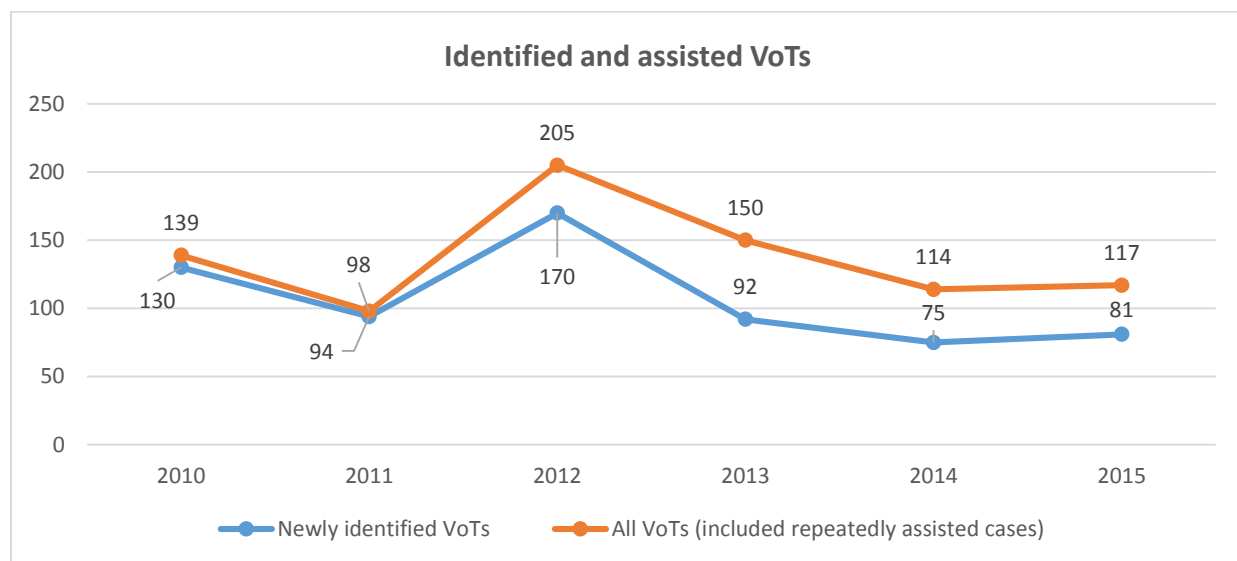




VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING: STATISTICAL PROFILE 2015 IOM MOLDOVA

Overview:

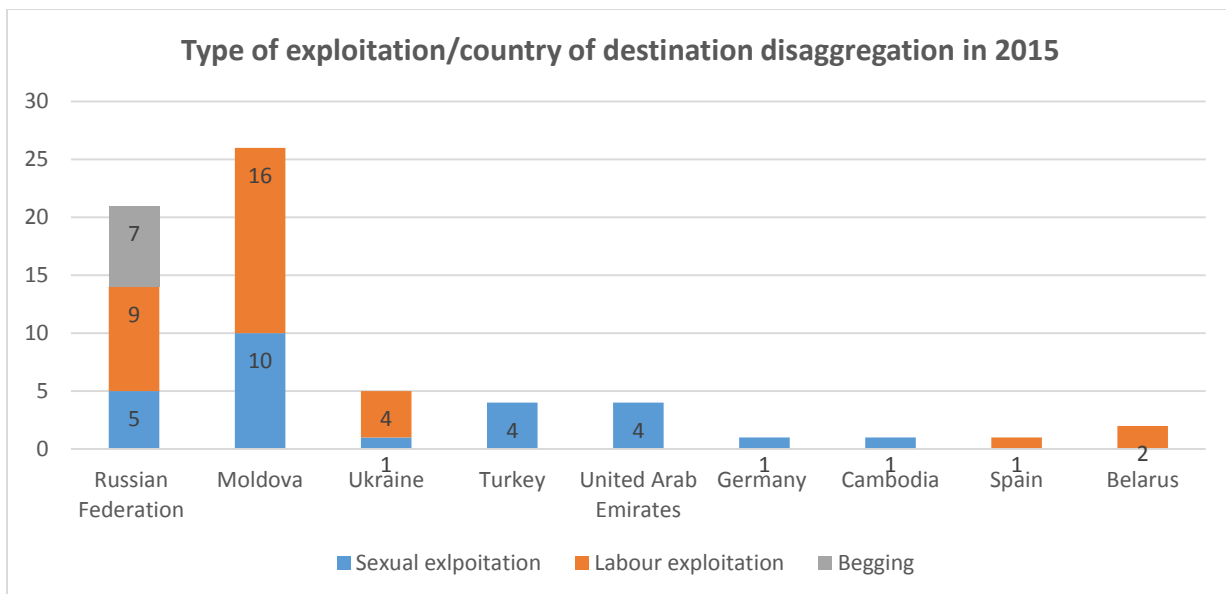
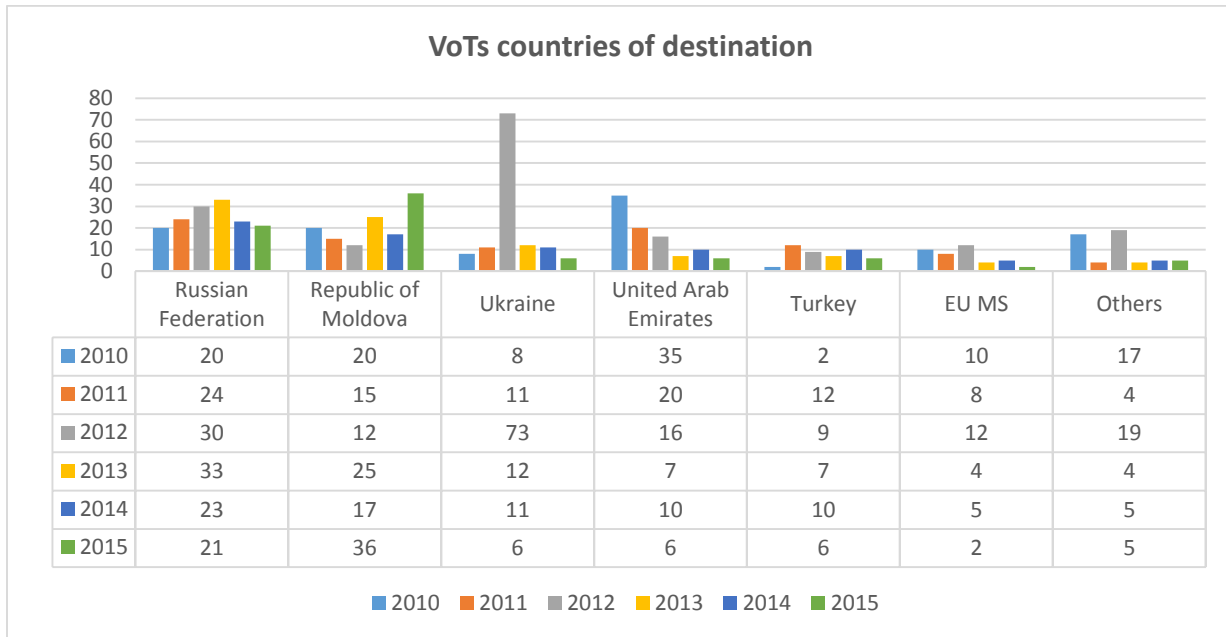
The IOM Mission to Moldova has been providing assistance and protection to victims of trafficking (VoTs) since 2000, helping more than 3,000 people overcoming the negative effects generated from the trafficking experience. In 2015, the IOM Mission to Moldova provided assistance to 117 VoTs, out of whom 81 were identified in the same year, while 36 victims identified in previous years continued to benefit from qualified and tailored assistance.



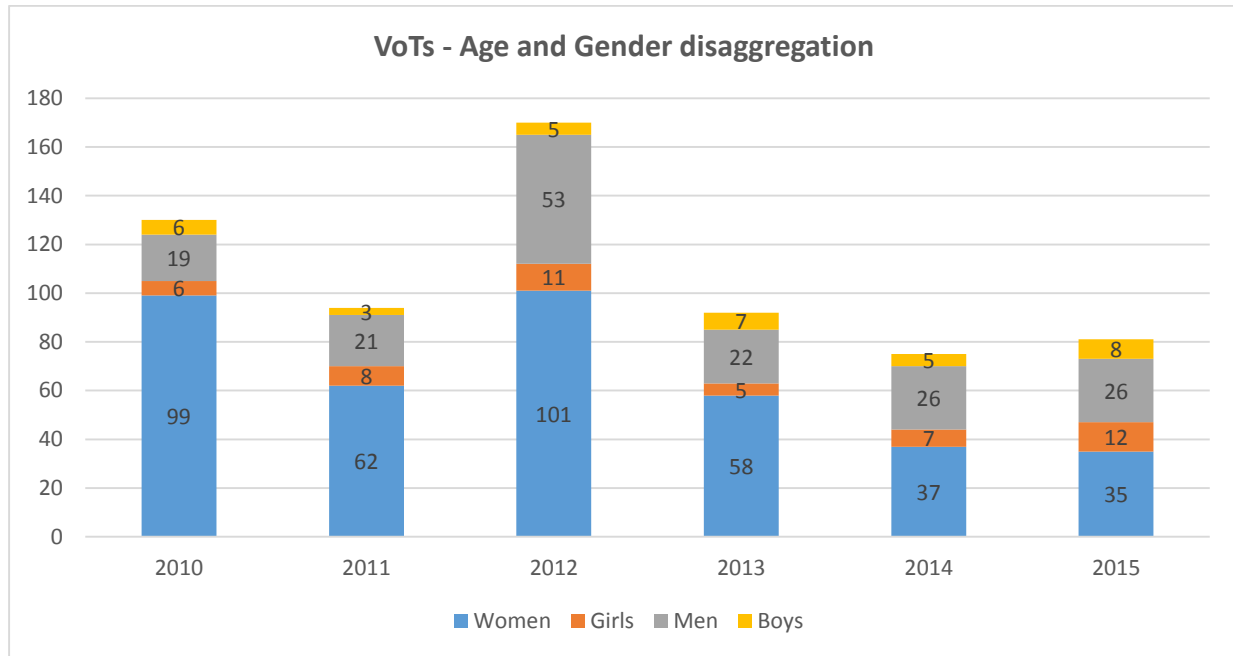
The Republic of Moldova is mainly a **country of origin** of victims of trafficking, who are exploited within the Moldovan borders or abroad. The large majority of the victims identified in 2015 are Moldovan citizens (82.7%). The remaining 17.3% is represented by stateless people (3 cases) and victims possessing only Transnistrian¹ passport (2 cases). Moreover, 9 German minors were rescued from trafficking by Moldovan police.

The Russian Federation remains the main **country of destination** of VoTs (26%), followed by Ukraine (7.4%), Turkey (7.4%), United Arab Emirates (6.2%), Israel and Belarus (2.5% each). In 2015, internal trafficking reached its peak with 44.4% of identified VoTs being exploited within the Moldovan borders.

¹ The Transnistrian Region is a narrow strip of land between the river Dniester and the Ukrainian border. In 1990, the Region proclaimed its independence from the Republic of Moldova and a conflict broke out the same year. The authorities of the break-away region release Transnistrian passports to the citizens living in the region, thus the international community does not recognize neither Transnistrian independence, nor any document released by the authorities of the self-proclaimed state.



Adults represent the large majority of VoTs identified in 2015 (75%) – most of them being aged between 18 and 30 (68%) – even though the share of underage victims has been increasing significantly in the last three years, reaching 25% in 2015. Among both adults and children, women and girls are the most affected by the trafficking phenomenon, even though in the last years it has been registered a sharp increase in the share of male VoTs, from 23% in 2010 to 43% in 2015.



Social and economic vulnerabilities are among the key factors that can expose different segments of the population to the risk of being trafficked. 80% of the adult VoTs were unemployed when they entered the trafficking chain, while 67% of the identified VoTs lived in rural areas.

The majority of VoTs assisted by IOM Moldova have been exploited in the sex industry, even though it is worth mentioning that in 2015, for the first time since 2000, this trend has not been confirmed, thus the highest share of victims were exposed to labour exploitation.

Table 1 - Types of exploitation

Type of exploitation	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
Sexual	81	49	57	48	34	26	295
Labor	38	32	94	33	22	33	252
Begging	3	3	5	5	14	7	37
Organ removal	1			1	1		3
Medication tests						9	9
Combined	4	2	4	2	2	2	16
n/a	3	8	10	3	2	4	30
TOTAL	130	94	170	92	75	81	642

Even in 2015, trafficking for sexual exploitation has mostly affected women and girls, while male VoTs have been mostly exploited in the labour market. As previously mentioned, in 2015 a group of 9 German children were identified as VoTs and rescued by the Moldovan police. A criminal case has been filed against their exploiters who are charged of trafficking in human beings with the scope of testing medications on their victims. No other cases presenting the same peculiarities (i.e. involving minors from EU countries and having as a scope drugs tests) have been registered in Moldova before.



Table 2- 2015 Types of exploitation - gender and age stratification

Type of exploitation	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	TOTAL
Sexual	20	0	6	0	26
Labour	7	22	1	3	33
Begging	3	4	0	0	7
Medication tests	0	0	4	5	9
Combined	1	1	0	0	2
n/a	3	0	1	0	4
TOTAL	34	27	12	8	81

In 2015, 66 VoTs were recruited through personal contact, while 5 through the internet. In the large majority of cases (52), the victims were contacted by people they knew before (being them colleagues, friends, partners). The duration of exploitation has progressively decreased in the last years and for the half of VoTs newly identified in 2015 it lasted less than 1 year. An increasing number of VoTs with mental and/or physical disabilities were identified and assisted. Very often they were exploited internally especially in agriculture and farms and/or abroad for begging purposes. Coming from poor/vulnerable families or having being institutionalized, they lack emotional and/or material support and frequently do not have any kind of identity document or invalidity certification, being precluded from receiving any kind of economic support from the state.

Out of 45 VoTs exploited abroad, 16 returned home with the support of IOM Mission to Moldova.

Upon identification, all VoTs are offered access to rehabilitation and reintegration services, including social, legal, medical and psychological support and shelter upon necessity. The services are provided directly by IOM Mission to Moldova, or through a wide range of partners including public institutions/authorities, social protection system at national and local level and non-governmental organizations.

Assistance is provided to victims of human trafficking thanks to the generous support of:



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

