



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație

VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A STATISTICAL PROFILE –2010
IOM MOLDOVA

In 2010, IOM Moldova provided assistance to 139 victims of trafficking (VoT), 78 children of VoTs, 341 prevention cases (cases at-risk of trafficking), 36 stranded migrants, 219 victims of domestic violence (VDV) and 54 unaccompanied minors (UAMs).

OVERVIEW:

In 2010, IOM Moldova in cooperation with national and international partners identified and provided assistance to 139 VoTs: 127 adults (103 women and 24 men) and 12 children (6 girls and 6 boys). The number of cases of children VoTs increased, specifically boys sexually abused in Moldova. Most victims were identified at the local level - after they returned home from the country of destination - by the Multidisciplinary Teams of the National Referral System. Many cases were referred from Cahul, Cimislia,, Comrat, Causeni, Falesti, Orhei and municipality Otaci. The main destination countries were: UAE (27%), Russia (24%), Turkey (14%), Egypt (8%) and Ukraine (6.5%). The number of cases identified in Moldova has grown from 6.9% in 2009 to 15% in 2010. These were mostly cases of internal trafficking, but include foreign citizens trafficked to Moldova.

The operations and intelligence of law enforcement agencies resulted in the identification of 4 persons before they were taken out of Moldova, thus preventing their exploitation in the destination countries, mainly to Turkey. The majority of the victims (62.6%) were trafficked for sexual exploitation purposes, 28.7% - for labor exploitation, 2.2% - for begging, and 2.9% - combined exploitation.

Through out the last several years IOM Moldova has seen an increase in the number of identified men who were trafficked for labor exploitation purposes (almost twice comparing with 2009). Most victims of labor exploitation were identified at the local level - after they returned home from the country of destination - by the Multidisciplinary Teams of the National Referral System or through operations and intelligence of law enforcement agencies. However, they treat the trafficking experience as failed migration and rush to find a new job tin order to provide for their families. Hence they do not identify themselves as victims and thus refused the psychological and additional types of assistance available to them through the Centre for Assistance and Protection (CAP).

The Centre for Assistance and Protection, based in Chisinau, is a highly specialized short-term rehabilitation assistance centre, jointly run by the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF) and IOM, providing shelter and crisis assistance to victims and potential victims both repatriated from abroad and identified on the local level and referred for urgent intervention at CAP. During 2010, 355 beneficiaries received crisis intervention assistance at the CAP, including 104 VoTs, 63 children of VoTs, 15 UAMs, 56 VDV, 7 children left behind, 23 stranded migrants and 87 at risk cases.

Compared to recent years, IOM Moldova saw an (important) increase in the number of identified beneficiaries who ask for continuous assistance due to social and health problems. Most of them live in extreme poverty as there are no employment opportunities at the local level. We can also note that the number of beneficiaries with diagnosed with schizophrenia increased. These beneficiaries require long term treatment and the rehabilitation process is very challenging. They are not able to successfully acquire new professional skill-sets, can not be employed and thus need continuous assistance.

Additionally, it is important to note that there continues to be good cooperation between the CAP, the centers for long term placement and the maternity centers “Casa Sperantei”, “Inceputul Vietii” and “Materna” in Chisinau and “Pro Familia” in Causeni.

RECENT TRENDS:

The trends in trafficking are constantly changing. In comparison to previous years, the duration of exploitation for sexual services decreased from 1-2 years to 4 months maximum. The conditions of exploitation are “better,” the victims are paid small amounts of money; they are allowed to contact their parents/children and are allowed partial freedom of movement. These manipulative techniques have caused many victims to fall under an illusion of well-being where they consider their traffickers as friends: causing some to return to their traffickers/pimps after being rescued or arrested by police and deported.

The geography of destination countries has expanded in 2010, having several VoTs identified and repatriated from Indonesia, Malaysia and Egypt. In the latter case, 11 VoTs have been rescued while transiting Egypt on their way to Israel.

Fewer victims are identified abroad. Most of them are mistaken for prostitutes and deported – it was found that many beneficiaries came into trafficking from prostitution and vice-versa. The level of self-identification is also low. Many victims do not know their basic human rights and do not realize they were actually sold and exploited. They do not know they can ask for assistance and have the right to be protected. Others do not ask for assistance, and do not have similar acute medical and psychological needs as victims in previous years. In regards to recruitment, most of the victims knew or suspected what would happen to them abroad; however, the promises they were given upon recruitment were immediately broken upon entry into the countries of destination.

If in 2010 a new trend in internal trafficking was identified as sexual exploitation of minors, especially boys, then in 2011, the majority of minors sexually exploited, were girls. Majority of minors VoTs are coming from rural area, poor socio-economical and educational environment and without any occupation. Most of them were recruited by unknown persons for different activities (ex. a boy sexually exploited in MD was promised to have a place in a junior football team). If girls were recruited by both men and women, then boys have been recruited only by men.

Generally, the victims are aware about the type of services they are to provide. They originate from extremely poor environment, study in general or boarding schools and are often neglected by their parents.
