



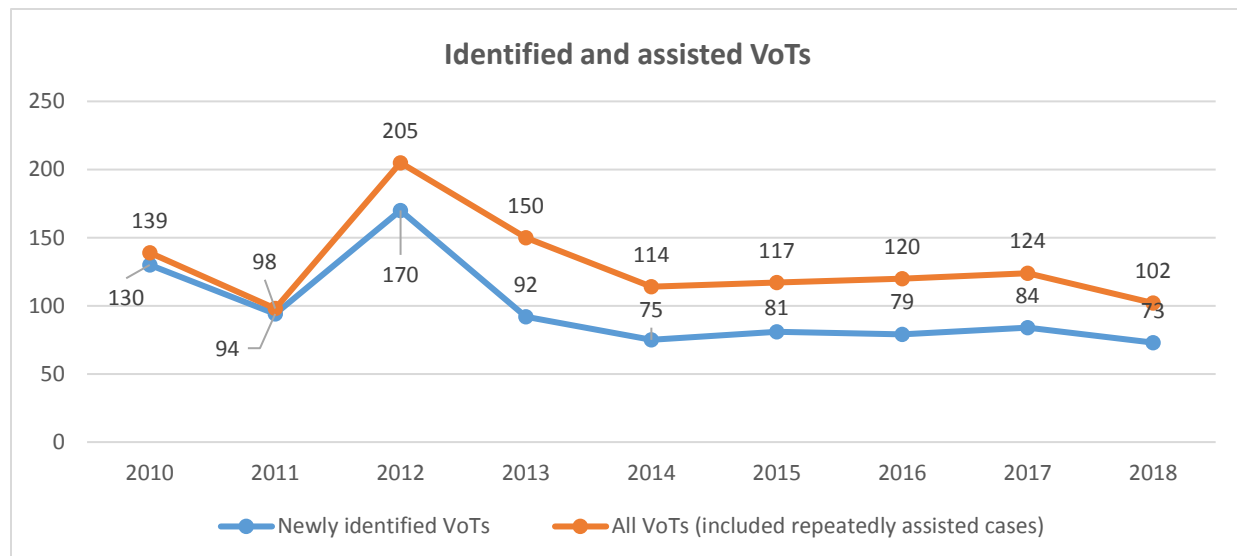
VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING: STATISTICAL PROFILE 2018 IOM MOLDOVA

Overview:

The IOM Mission to Moldova has been providing assistance and protection to victims of trafficking (VoTs) since 2000, helping more than 3,770 people overcoming the negative effects generated from the trafficking experience. In 2018, the IOM Mission to Moldova provided assistance to 102 VoTs, out of whom 84 were identified in the same year, while 40 victims identified in previous years continued to benefit from qualified and tailored rehabilitation/reintegration assistance provided by IOM in partnership with NGOs.

Stateless population represents an issue in the Republic of Moldova to the extent that certain social and ethnical groups refuse to register (document) themselves and their children within the governmental systems, which hinders their access to benefits from the state welfare system and access to various services available within social protection schemes. A certain number of children also are believed to remain undocumented and, due to the lack of contact with state authorities, they are at risk of being internally exploited within farms.

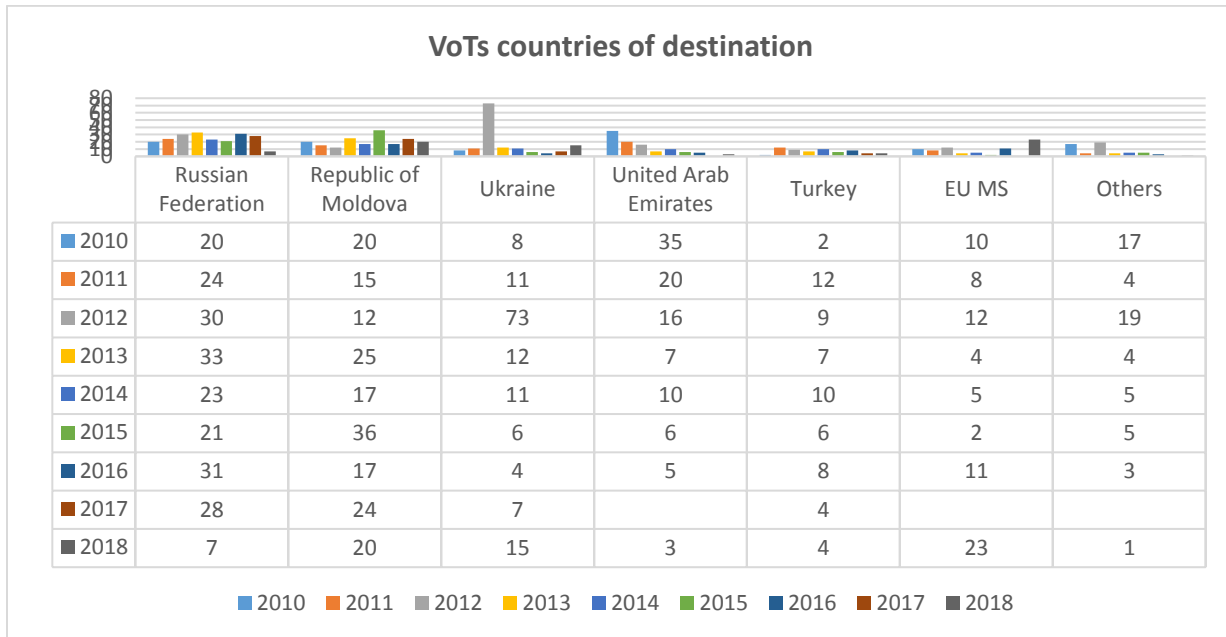
Among the 73 VoTs newly identified and assisted by IOM, four VoTs were stateless and two belonged to the Roma ethnical group. Also, one VoT female adult holds Ukrainian citizenship, but was exploited for begging in Moldova. Three VoTs had a mental disorder at the moment of their identification.

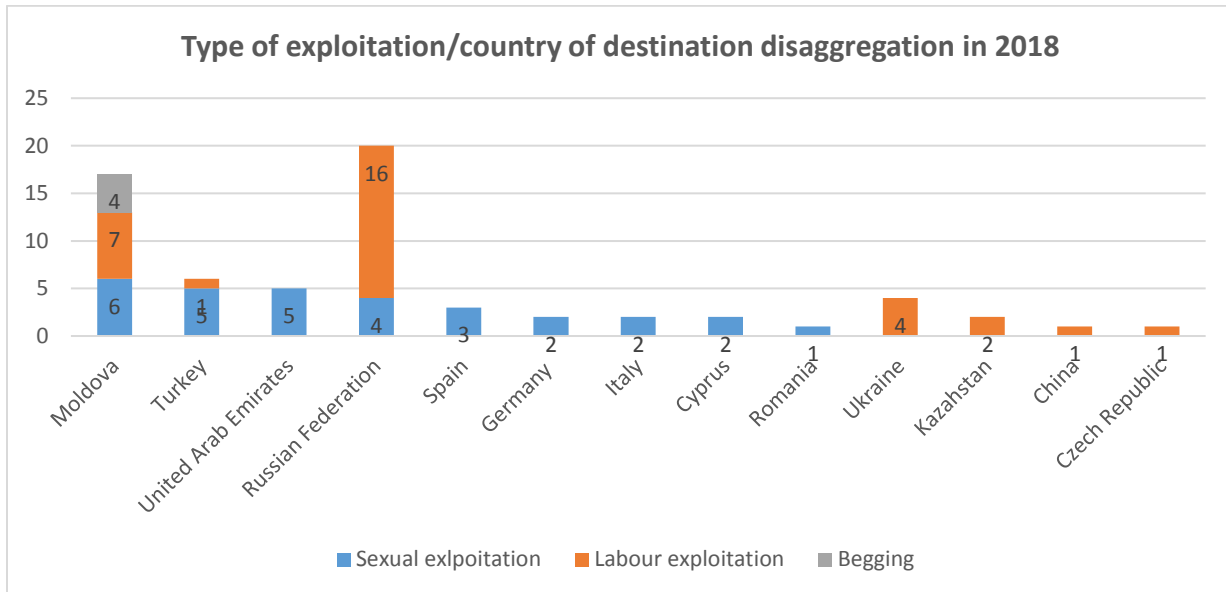


The Republic of Moldova remains primarily a country of origin, as the majority of the victims of trafficking (VoTs) assisted by IOM Mission to Moldova possessed either the Moldovan citizenship or “Transnistrian identification documents”. VoTs originating from the Transnistrian Region are more likely to be trafficked through Odessa (Ukraine), whereas those originating from Gagauziya are more likely to be



trafficked in Turkey (sexual exploitation in particular), a trend depicted several years ago but was not apparent in 2018. Based on available data, it is encountered a significant change in the countries of destination for Moldovan nationals that fall in the hands of traffickers. If in the past three years, Russian Federation was the main country of destination, in 2018 Ukraine is the primary the country of destination, so that 21% of the VoTs were trafficked to Ukraine in comparison with 9% in 2017. A slight decrease in the ratio of internally trafficked nationals, from 30% in 2017 to 27% in 2018, thus this is not reflective of a trend yet, as over the years the number of internally trafficked VoTs had been oscillating from lower to higher figures Also, the number of identified victims in 2018 being trafficked in Russian Federation has significantly decreased from 30% in 2017 to 10% out of 80 victims in 2018. Also, due to the identification of the large group of Moldovan nationals, exploited in Spain for a period of one month, makes Spain one of the main countries of destination, the ratio represents 23% out of the total of the identified and assisted victims in 2018.





There were no major changes regarding either the factors that determine VoTs to migrate or regarding the high-risk groups. Thus, the population that lives below or near the poverty line, the low level of education, as well as the lack of job prospects within the country or within the local communities, continue to be the main contributing push factors.

At the same time, the vulnerability of some groups continues to prevail as a risk factor: a history of domestic violence; in particular – women sexually abused within families are more likely to be further sexually exploited; children without parental care, including those left behind by parents migrating abroad, who cannot avail themselves of a decent public system of children’s care; single parents who cannot provide their children with the basics within the domestic economies; or, likewise – adults who are willing to provide healthcare goods for their relatives.

In 2018 IOM Mission to Moldova, together with its partners, has provided assistance to 102 VoTs, out of which 73 were newly identified victims.

Out of the total number of newly identified and assisted VoTs, the ratio of male VoTs has significantly decreased – 27 in 2018 as compared to 41 out of 80 in 2017 (who represent 37 % of the total number of VoTs, as compared to 51.25 % in 2017). Out of 73 newly identified VoTs, 23 were exploited for sex, while 10 VoTs were minors constituting 43.48%, 2 out of 10 were boys. As in previous years, male are more exposed to labor exploitation, in 2018 the ratio of male VoTs represented 60% out of 73 VoTs, at the same time, out of 17 females exploited for labor, 4 were minors exploited internally and identified by law enforcement partners.



Table 1 - Types of exploitation

Type of exploitation	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
Sexual	81	49	57	48	34	26	30	20	21	366
Labor	38	32	94	33	22	33	32	49	43	376
Begging	3	3	5	5	14	7	13	9	6	65
Organ removal	1			1	1					3
Medication tests						9				9
Combined	4	2	4	2	2	2		2	2	20
Child pornography							1			1
Videochat									1	1
n/a	3	8	10	3	2	4	3			33
TOTAL	130	94	170	92	75	81	79	80	73	874

Even in 2018, trafficking for sexual exploitation has mostly affected women and girls, while male VoTs have been mostly exploited in the labour market.

The ratio of identified under-age VoTs has remained similar since 2017, with a slight increase 19% or 14 cases of the total number being minors (as compared to 14 cases or 17.50% in 2017), out of which 12 girls and 2 boys. Twelve of them, girls were exploited within Moldova and 2 boys in Romania. Eight girls were exploited sexually, including video chat, two through forced labor and 4 through labor. Two boys (brothers) were sexually exploited (both of them abroad in Romania), Likewise, the ratio of VoTs aged from 18 to 30 remained steady as compared to 2017, representing the largest age category of VoTs.

In most of the cases, traffickers recruit people thorough personal contact (52 cases out of 73), whereas in 46 cases the trafficker was previously unknown to the victim, in 22 a person whom the VoT knew at the recruitment stage and in 5 cases VoTs were recruited by family members, relatives or very close friends. In 20 cases the VoTs were recruited via internet portal that advertised the job offers, but one particular cases comprises 17 VoTs out of a large group of 26 nationals that have been recruited by an agency that has advertised the job offer in agricultural field in Spain. During 2018, there is depicted a slight change in the gender of recruiters, if in the previous years the VoTs were recruited mostly by males, in the reporting period 47.95% of the recruiters were females, 42.47% were males and 9.58 % of the VoTs were recruited by a couple. In comparison with previous years, the duration of exploitation of VoTs has decreased, so that 48% of the VoTs have been exploited for a period of up to 12 months, while 38% of VoTs have been in exploitation for up to one month, nevertheless 13% of the VoTs have been exploited for several years. Out of 9 victims, 3 adults were exploited in Russian Federation, 2 for labor and one for sex, exploitation period ranging from 3 to 6 years, being afterwards identified and referred to assistance by law enforcement agencies. Also, one adult female was exploited internally for labor for a period of 3 years. One of the adult female victims was identified at border crossing point (Airport) that was recruited for rendering sexual commercial services to Turkey. Recruiters target mostly unemployed people who are willing to work abroad and often accept risky offers due to various vulnerability criteria being incapable to estimate related risks towards to leaving abroad.



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație

As for the type of exploitation, out of the total number of 73 VoTs, most of them were exploited through labor - 43 cases or 59%, as compared to 49 cases or 61.25% in 2017. It is followed by sexual exploitation, which represents 30.14% or 22 cases, as compared to 20 cases or 25.0% in 2017. Thirdly, in 6 cases or 8.22% VoTs were exploited for the purpose of forced beggary, an insignificant decrease compared to 9 cases or 11.25% in 2017.

There were no major changes in the groups identified by IOM as being at-risk of trafficking, as poverty and violence remain the main push factors, determining victims to accept even high-risk jobs. The at-risk group includes victims of domestic violence, single parents (particularly unemployed women or persons with low education and/or from poor rural areas with minimal employment opportunities, seeking well-paid jobs abroad. A particular at-risk group is formed by orphans and graduates of boarding schools. Sexually abused women (particularly those abused within the family) are more likely to fall into sexual exploitation both in the country and abroad. Many of the victims fall prey to traffickers in an attempt to obtain money to provide for the health-related needs of their family members.

As in the last years, many victims do not know their basic human rights and do not realize they have been actually recruited and exploited, mainly due to the changed conditions in which VoTs find themselves. Others do not ask for assistance and do not have similar acute medical and psychological needs as victims in previous years. They do not know they can ask for assistance and have the right to be protected.

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

