

Trafficking in Persons in Moldova

TRENDS RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMENTS



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International Center
for Women's Rights Protection
and Promotion "La Strada"

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For the cover page of this edition was used the drawing of Victoria Tsaranu – 11th grade pupil of the Chisinau National Technical Lyceum to have been awarded 2nd place in the drawing contest "Trafficking in women - I do care about" organized by the International Center "La Strada" in 2005.

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I

Introduction



This edition is prepared by specialists from the International Center for Women's Rights Protection and Promotion "La Strada" (Moldova) based on results of a statistical inquiry, carried out within the framework of "La Strada" international program for prevention of trafficking in persons, which had been realized in Central and Eastern Europe in 2001-2004 under financial support of the Dutch Foundation Against Trafficking in Women – STV. This inquiry is carried out permanently and is designed to identify particularities of trafficking in persons in Moldova, to determine the factors that influence evolvement of this issue, to keep a close watch on the trends in the changes of this process, as well as to work out recommendations intended to improve counteracting trafficking in human beings.

Since September 2001, specialists from the International Center "La Strada" (Moldova) identify cases of trafficking in persons, assist to release of victims from exploitation and to repatriation thereof, provide material, legal, and other assistance, as well as refer victims to specialized partner-organizations for any other necessary assistance.

Identification of cases of trafficking in persons is done by employees of the **Drop-in center** – a subdivision of the International Center "La Strada" – which ensures victims of trafficking in persons with a round-the-clock access the necessary assistance (first contact with presumed victims of trafficking or their relatives; identification of cases of trafficking in persons; determination of individual package of necessary assistance; and other). Our Drop-in center is equipped with the round-the-clock Hot Line. On the territory of Moldova, calls to the Hot Line are free of charge.

When identifying cases of trafficking in persons, we use the notion of *trafficking in persons* from the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations

Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, approved in Palermo on December 14, 2000. Altogether in 2001-2004, we have identified about 400 cases of trafficking in persons.

The scope of services, rendered to victims, is different, as a rule. Despite the fact that specialists from “La Strada” offer each victim a standard package of services, the beneficiary has the right to accept those types of assistance and to that extent, to which s/he deems necessary. As a result, the standard package of services transforms into the individual one, with requests of each particular beneficiary taken into account. We hold interviews – polls using standardized questionnaires¹ – with those beneficiaries who, after having been repatriated, agree to accept further assistance and support of our Center, and then we perform statistical monitoring over their further fate. As a result, we have compiled a database of 150 cases of trafficking in persons. It allowed us to create a typical profile of trafficking victim. The whole problem of trafficking in persons in Moldova is reflected in the fates of these our compatriots, who became victims of present-day slavery, like in a mirror.

As it has already been mentioned, since 2001 we started to render assistance to victims and to accumulate data on the issue of trafficking in persons. But it has to be kept in mind that our first beneficiaries were the people who had been recruited before 2001 and had been subject to slavery one or even more years before they were released and met employees of Center “La Strada”. Since we study the mechanism of trafficking in “La Strada” starting from recruitment, the statistical data in this edition are given for the period of 1998-2004. Unfortunately, even now, when we are preparing this edition for publication, victims of trafficking in “La Strada” still arrive, supplementing our statistics over the previous years.

The information we received by polling the victims of trafficking in “La Strada” is supplemented by statistical data, obtained by the Hot Line operators from the risk group. The duty of the

¹ Standardized questionnaire of victims. International Center “La Strada”, 2001-2005.

Hot Line consultant is not only to answer those seeking help, who already suffered from trafficking in persons (in this case the Hot Line operates as the SOS telephone line), but also to daily provide consultation to the risk group, i.e. to people who want to go abroad for different purposes (work, study, marry a foreigner etc.). In this case the Hot Line is a tool to prevent human trafficking. Often, the Hot Line consultants contact with people, who already got a job offer abroad and would like to learn more about their legal status. Oftentimes, these offers are false. By talking to these people and trying to help them take in the current situation, we in the meantime obtain additional information about the types of recruitment of presumed victims of trafficking in persons, about the countries of destination, the transportation routes etc.

Besides the information we receive from the beneficiaries of our organization, we also use our partners' data to get a picture about the trafficking in persons in Moldova. Thus, for instance, in 2003-2005 the International Center “La Strada” conducted a research of the infrastructure of provision of services to socially vulnerable strata of population². The research was done stage-wise. The key objective was to find organizations that already provide or can provide assistance to victims of trafficking in persons. This allowed us accumulate additional data not only on the organizations that render assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, but also about the cases of trafficking in persons, discovered by other organizations from our country.

Annually generalizing information about cases of trafficking in persons in Moldova, performing comparative analysis of such information per years, and correlating it with the information about the same issue in other countries, we tried to make certain comments and conclusions about the state of trafficking in persons in Moldova and the trends of its evolvement, as well as to work out our proposals and recommendations with regard to organization of counteraction to trafficking in persons in Moldova. It

² The research was carried out in the framework of the Program “Developing of National Referral Mechanism for Identification, Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons” was carried out with financial support of OSCE Mission to Moldova.

has to do with the social base (sources) of the problem; the risk group (categories of population, which most commonly become victims of human trafficking); the factors that push the people out of their habitual life and make them an easy meat for the greedy fishers of “flesh”; the methods used by traffickers; the transportation routes and countries of destination, to which victims of trafficking in persons are supplied; manners and types of exploitation of the aggrieved; and other factors, which contribute to maintenance of demand and supply at the international market of “humans as goods”, to which our Moldova, unfortunately, became participant, too.

The International Center “La Strada” uses the results of analysis of this information first of all to plan and organize its activity, and namely to:

- carry out awareness rising and education campaigns to prevent trafficking in human beings;
- organize the work of the Drop-in center – a special subdivision of our organization designed to ensure victims of trafficking in persons with a round-the-clock access to the necessary assistance;
- capacity building – training activities for all professional groups – specialists from other organizations, who contact with victims of trafficking in persons and the risk group by the nature of their activity (employees of foreign diplomatic missions of the Republic of Moldova, police, border troops, employment agencies, social services, teaching staff, specialized NGOs, representatives of traditional confessions etc.);
- work out information materials related to the issue for professional groups, the risk group, and for the victims of trafficking in persons;
- organize the work of the **Resource center** – a subdivision of our organization, whose duty is to provide information about the issue to other subdivisions of our organization and to the interested external consumers of information (creation and maintenance of website, the Hot Line Informational Base, a library and film archives of the International Center “La Strada”).

This information can also be useful for other participants to counteracting trafficking in persons – governmental structures of the Republic of Moldova, Moldovan non-governmental organizations, and international inter-governmental organizations. This edition is meant, first of all, for you, dear colleagues. Before, we also used to provide this information at request of different organization. But now we have the possibility to share our results on pages of this edition. We hope that we will manage to make it yearly periodical, and that this information will be a useful resource for planning and organization of your activity. We also hope that this edition will be of interest to a wide range of people – to all those, who are not indifferent to existence of trafficking in persons in our country.

Given the complexity and the latency of the issue, as well as the limited volume of information we have and use for the analysis, we admit, that not all of our conclusions and recommendations will coincide with the opinions of other experts in this field. We will appreciate any comments on this text, as well as any additional information about the issue of trafficking in persons in Moldova. Please, submit your comments to the **Analytical center** of the International Center “La Strada” at the address on the cover of this edition.

II

1. Typical Profile of Trafficking Victim as a Reflection of Phenomenon of Trafficking in Persons in the Republic of Moldova
2. Age of Trafficking Victims
3. Marital Status and Family Relations
4. Place of Residence
5. Level of Education
6. Employment and Income Level
7. Awareness about Future Job

Victims of Trafficking: Who is She?



1. Typical Profile of Trafficking Victim as a Reflection of Phenomenon of Trafficking in Persons in the Republic of Moldova

We obtained the typical profile of victim of trafficking in persons by generalizing information about each victim at the moment of accepting the trafficker's proposal to go abroad: sex, age, marital status, place of residence, educational level, income level, and other information.

The typical profile of victim of trafficking in persons allows to not only better imagine how the typical victim of trafficking in persons looks and to what social group s/he is referred, but also to make conclusions about what external circumstances contributed to acceptance of traffickers' proposal ("push" factors), as well as about what social group is the most vulnerable to slave trade (is the risk group) and why.

Comparison of data on victims of trafficking in persons per years allows discover the trends in evolvement of the trafficking in persons issue.³ This information is needed to organize identification of trafficking in persons cases, as well as to prepare and carry out counter-trafficking measures.

First of all, it is necessary to point out that a typical victim of trafficking in persons is female. The overwhelming majority (99%) of victims of trafficking in persons, accepted the assistance, on behalf of specialists from the International Center "La Strada", are women. At the same time, we are confident that males also pertain to the risk group and become victims of trafficking in persons. There are already grounds, which allow speak about the tendency of expansion of the trafficking in persons issue over the sterner sex, too. It is proved by the statistics of calls to the

³ This chapter down, we outline the statistical view of data per years only in case there are annual tangible changes. Otherwise, the edition provides only general statistics for the period of 1998-2004.

Hot Line of “La Strada”, as well as by the statistics of other non-governmental organizations, which render assistance to victims of trafficking in persons. Thus, in 2004, the Hot Line operators registered telephone calls from relatives of several men, who left for Russian and Czech Republic after being enrolled to work at the construction sites, and then disappeared. The calling relatives asked to be helped in search of those lost. They said that the men, who went abroad, called home and asked for help. The men said they did not know in what locality and even in what part of the country they were situated, and that they were not paid and were forced to toil 12-14 hours per day.

The results of our researches of organizations that that render assistance to victims of trafficking in Moldova, also demonstrate there has already been registered cases of trafficking in men for the purpose of forced labor exploitation and withdrawal of organs.

The small number of identified cases of trafficking in men is explained, to our opinion, by the fact that a mechanism of identification of such cases has not yet been worked out. Generally, identification of cases of trafficking in is a complicated process. First of all it is owed to the fact that the notion of *trafficking in persons*, as of crime, has a very complicated composition. For instance, deception of victim may be just a part of the elements of crime of trafficking in human beings, which includes transportation, exploitation, and other elements. But the victim itself, and even the specialists who come across such cases of trafficking, may have the opinion that such person became victim of deception, and not victim of trafficking in persons. It is necessary to adopt public measures targeted to study and describe such cases, to train specialists, and to extensively inform the general public. Only after that it will be possible to identify a larger number of cases of trafficking in men, and to adopt the necessary measures. At the international and national levels, the mechanism of identification of victims of trafficking in persons, who are exploited in the sex-industry, is more developed, because namely this shameful phenomenon of our days excites the international public opinion most of all.

It is known, that most commonly women become victims of sexual exploitation. Cases of sexual slavery have been widely described in the textbooks dedicated to this issue. This allowed to develop practical identification of female victims of trafficking and to render the necessary assistance thereof. Nowadays, cases of trafficking in women are revealed during special police raids in the countries of destination. Besides that, often women-victims themselves call the hot lines of nongovernmental organizations, i.e. self-identification of women-victims of trafficking has evolved. But previously, when this phenomenon of sexual exploitation was not sufficiently studied, such cases, when encountered in practice, would be referred to prostitution or illegal migration.

Whereas men are more often exploited as a cheap or gratuitous labor force. Identification of cases of human trafficking in this sphere has not been developed. Victims do not turn to either police, or nongovernmental organizations. This is why cases of trafficking in men remain unrevealed, with some minor exceptions. It is necessary to more deeply study the cases of trafficking in men, to include such cases in the textbooks and in the topical editions dedicated to this range of problems.

Andrei⁴, DOB - 1948, city of Chisinau

In 1993, aged 45, he remained alone, with no family, and decided to leave for Russia to his distant relatives and long-time friends, and to work there during one year.

He subleased his apartment, went to Perm (Russia), and got a job as loader in one of the military units. Andrei got to be friends with drivers of commercial vehicles, who transported agricultural goods from Tajikistan.

In 1995, he was proposed to go to Cherdara, Tajikistan, instead of a diseased driver, and he agreed. Andrei came to this town and met with his Tajik acquaintances, who invited him for dinner. During the dinner he was treated to a dish, which, allegedly, contained some somnifacient, because he came to himself in about two days in an unknown and unpopulated place.

Andrei realized that he had no vehicle, no money, and no papers (passport, driver's license, commodity-transport documents). He

⁴ Hereinafter the victims' names are changed.

reached the nearest small aul (village), where he met a Tajik man. The man heard him out, and proposed him to work at his cattle farm (with about one hundred animals) and to do the work about the house. The man also promised to help with getting the car and the papers back. Andrei conscientiously did all hard work at the farm and in the house, hoping that the man would keep his promise. Yet, after a little while, the man started to ignore Andrei's requests to look for the car and to pay the money to buy the way-back ticket.

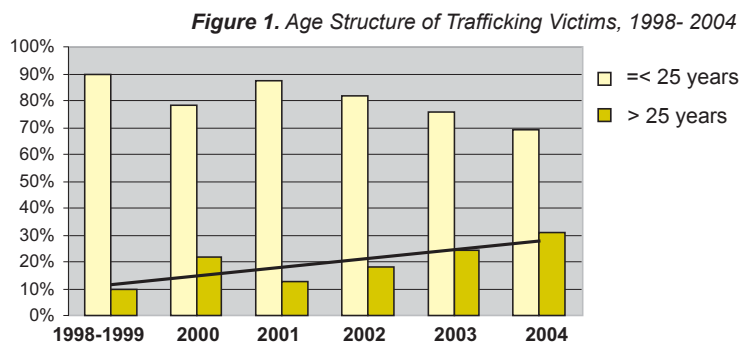
Moreover, the man started to make him smoke anasha (drugs) together with his friends, who, to cap the misery, very frequently would beat Andrei. His face and his body bear the traces of numerous wounds.

Then the man sold Andrei to another farm. Afterwards, Andrei would be time and again re-sold to other owners. When setting the price for Andrei, owners would often make jokes. Thus, for example, one owner said he had paid a small amount of money for Andrei because Andrei resembled an old pack-horse.

Andrei had worked about three years in Tajikistan before he managed by miracle to return to Russia, and then to Moldova.

2. Age of Trafficking Victims

According to our data, the majority of victims of trafficking in human beings are young people under 25. Over the entire period of survey, this age group has maintained a stable majority of the total number of victims.



At the same time, as Figure 1 proves that the number of cases of trafficking in human beings above 25 year-old has gradually

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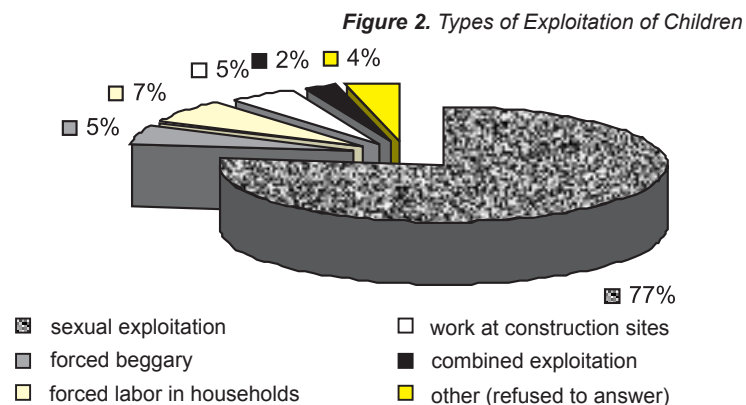
VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING: WHO IS SHE?

increased starting from the year 2002. If in 1998-1999 people above 25 made up only 10% of the total number of victims of trafficking in human beings, in 2000-2001 they made up as much as 17%, and in 2002-2003 – 22%.

The analysis also demonstrates that the issue of trafficking in human beings extends more and more to the underage. Thus, according to our data, **14% of the total number of victims of trafficking in persons are underage** (young people under 18), i.e., each seventh victim of trafficking is a child. At that, if in 1998-2000 the number of children who suffered from trafficking was 10% on average, in 2001-2004 the number of children made up as much as 15% of the total number of victims.

According to our data, the issue of trafficking in persons touched the people of very different age: the youngest victim was 4-year old at the moment of involvement in trafficking in persons, and the eldest was 45 year-old. While the age group of 18-25 dominates among victims of trafficking in persons, there is a stable tendency of increase of trafficking, both the underage and people above 25.

Certainly, the most painful is that trafficking in persons cripples our children. Most often children are subject to sexual exploitation (77%). Besides that, they are made into begging (5%), performing auxiliary work at construction sites (5%), working at households (7 %) etc.



Lack of experience and information about the issue of trafficking in persons makes the children-victims particularly vulnerable and contributes to their involvement in the traffickers' networks. The increased number of the underage is also explained by the excess demand for such at consumers of sexual services, who prefer to use children for their sexual pleasures, because in this case there is less risk to get sexual diseases and AIDS. Children are forced into begging, because they more often excite pity at strangers in the streets. Sometimes young mothers with children of tender years become victims of traffickers.

Elena, DOB – 1976, Chisinau

In late 1999, Elena met got acquainted with a gypsy family, who promised to help her get a job of florist in Poland. They helped her perform a one-month tourist visa and she and her child left for Poland in February 2000. In several months, she called her relative in Moldova and said that her child and she are forced to beg in the town of Katowic (Poland).

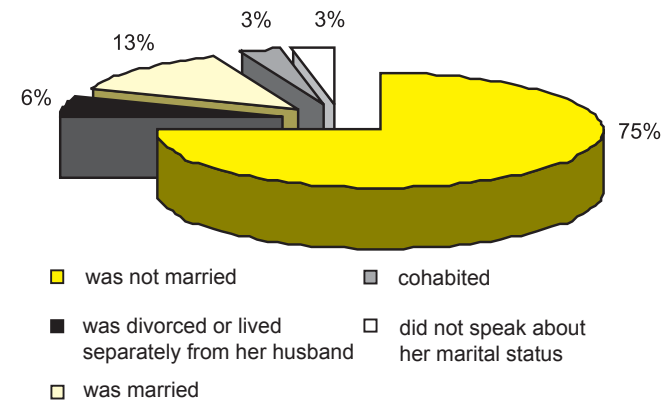
During two years phony visas would be stamped in Elena's passport. She and her child were made into begging 14 hours per day. If they did not collect a certain sum during the day, they would not be given food. They lived in a dormitory uptown. One day Elena made up her mind to run away together with her child, but other gypsies found her in the town and returned her to "owners". Elena was forced to beg with another child, too. She could not call Moldova, because she was constantly watched. During the day she had her passport on her, but in the evening the document would be taken away. The bribed policy would constantly make them change the places under the threat of arrest.

Only after two years Elena with her child and one more woman, Moldovan by origin, managed to escape from the gypsies at night, when the latter were drunken. They ran away without documents and footwear. They addressed to a police officer, who organized their trip to Warsaw. Elena came to Chisinau by bus. The driver let her in out of pity.

3. Marital Status and Family Relations

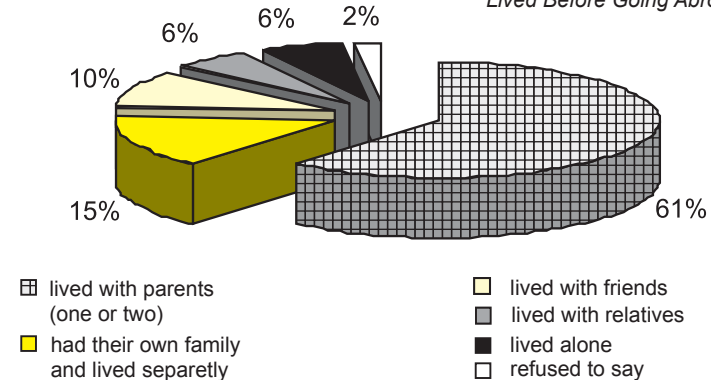
Marital status analysis of the women-victims of trafficking demonstrates that at the moment of accepting the trafficker's proposal to go abroad the majority of them were not bound by family ties.

Figure 3. Trafficking Victims' Marital Status



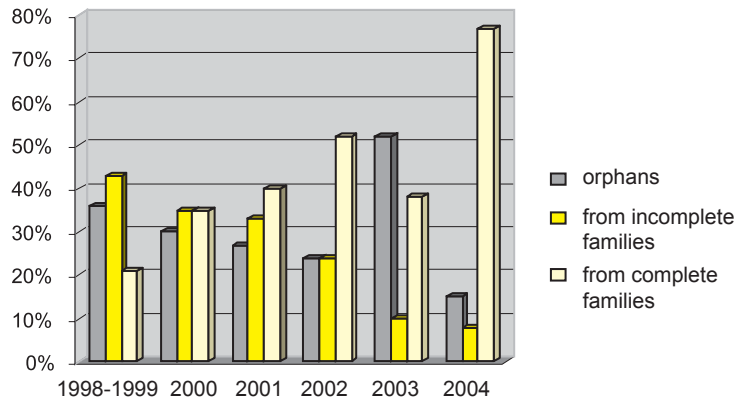
It is obvious that in terms of involvement into trafficking in persons the unmarried women are more vulnerable, than the married ones. At the same time, the victims were not lone people, because the majority of them lived at that moment with their parents.

Figure 4. With Whom Trafficking Victims Lived Before Going Abroad



Survey of victims' life demonstrates that 30% of the total number of victims of trafficking in persons were orphans (lost one or both parents in their childhood or adolescence) and 27% were raised in incomplete families (with only one parent).

Figure 5. Orphans and Children from Incomplete Families among Trafficking Victims



The represented data demonstrate that orphan children and children from incomplete families, i.e. children who did not enjoy education in a full family, are also more vulnerable to trafficking in persons, than children from full families.

Although the majority of women were not in conjugal relations, according to our data 34% of them have children, thereof:

- 23% had children before going abroad;
- 5% gave birth to children during exploitation;
- 4% came back pregnant and gave birth in Moldova.

The research revealed that 25% of women raise their children without husbands (single mothers). Their answers demonstrate that the decision to leave was influenced by the desire to ensure material support not only for them, but also for their children. Children, who are raised in such incomplete families, make up the second generation of the risk group.

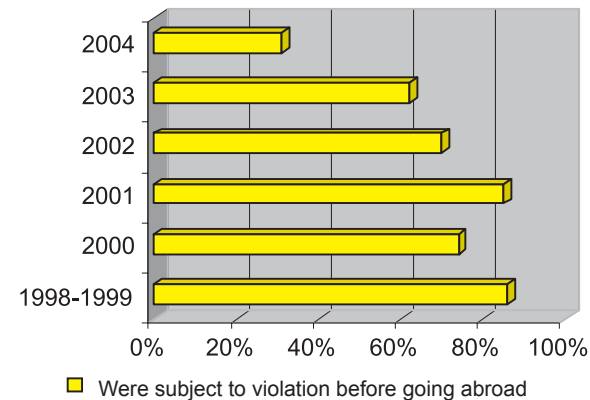
Thus, the statistics gives evidence that orphan children and children from incomplete families are referred to the high risk group.

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If children are left without parental care, they become even more attractive to traffickers, because after graduation from boarding schools such children find themselves in social isolation. Graduates of special children's institutions do not have, as a rule, vital skills and they badly orientate themselves in the realities of life outside the walls of institutions, where they were educated. They have nobody who could give them a piece of advice when adopting a decision to go abroad. If such a person disappears, nobody will be looking for him/her. The increasing involvement of orphan children, particularly those with psychic problems, into trafficking in human beings, is also confirmed by our colleagues from the International Organization for Migration Mission to Moldova, as well as by our colleagues from nongovernmental organization – Center for Prevention of Trafficking in Women.⁵

But at the same time, Figure 5 shows that more and more children from full families also become victims of trafficking in human beings. So, what is pushing them out of their families?

Figure 6. Violence as a "Push" Factor



Interrelation with parents and husbands is one of the most important factors, which influence women's decision to accept a

⁵ Data from interview with representatives of IOM Mission to Moldova and the Center for Prevention of Trafficking in Women, held in March 2005.

dubious job offer abroad. Lack of mutual understanding, occurrence of psychological and physical violence in families is a strong “push” factor for victims of trafficking in persons. Out of the total number of surveyed women, trafficked in 1998-2004, 71% confirmed that they had been previously subject to violation; in their families, mostly. These figures prove that very often women accept the proposals to go abroad from despair. They leave the country in view of favorable changes, and what they get is modern slavery.

Also, lack of normal family relations negatively affects the process of rehabilitation and reintegration of victims. If a victim comes back to the family in which nobody is waiting for her, or if she is totally lonesome, and nobody takes care about her, it is much more difficult to carry out rehabilitation and reintegration, and it is more time-consuming.

Doina, DOB - 1982, town of Durlesti

When 18 year-old, Doina faced serious family problems. Her parents divorced, and her father went away to live with another woman. Her mother started to excessively use spirits, and even wanted to sell out their house. Doina had to independently support her younger sister. She started to look for a job. Doina's neighbor said his relatives in Israel could help her get a job as a dancer. He bought her ticket to Bucharest, explaining that this is a transit country and that in Bucharest, in a certain place, she would be met by a taxi-driver, who would take her to the person, authorized to act in her interests.

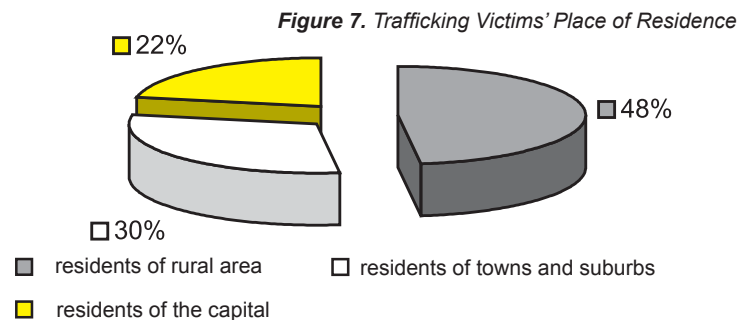
In Bucharest, Doina indeed was met by a taxi-driver, who took her to an apartment, where there were about 20 girls. She-pimp L. said that Doina had to prostitute until she returns the money, that L. paid for her. It was impossible to escape, because the girls were constantly guarded by a man. She would be taken to clients in a special car, and meanwhile she was watched by the driver. In a few weeks Doina was re-sold to another she-pimp (M.), who treated her severely, and gave her food only once per day. Doina's clients would also beat her sometimes. She was raped after refusing to have sex because of her pregnancy. As a result, she lost the child.

Then Doina was sold to Sebes (Romania). The new proprietress said she would be finding her clients, so that she could pay for the room, the food, the bed-linen etc. She would let Doina talk to her mother on the phone, but warned her from telling the truth under the threat of reporting her to police. If the police find out she is a prostitute, she will never get back her passport.

One day, on the Easter eve, when the proprietress went shopping, Doina managed to run away. Doina herself went to the police. She received the necessary assistance.

4. Place of Residence

The majority of victims of trafficking in human beings, beneficiaries of the International Center “La Strada”, were born and raised in the rural area.

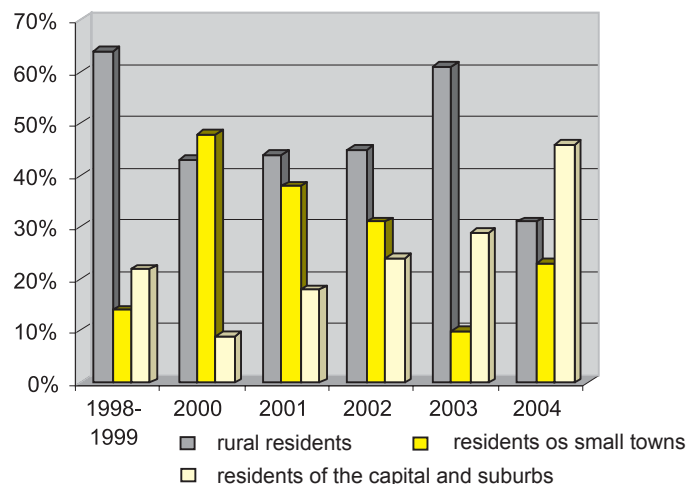


At the same time, in 2002-2004, the number of cases of trafficking in human beings in Chisinau suburbs increased, attaining 46% of the total number of victims.

From the very beginning of our activity, we have been maintaining a thorough statistics of communities, in which the victims lived before going abroad. Annually, we analyze this statistics so that to identify geographical zones of higher risk and to work out preventive measures proposals namely for these regions. Unfortunately, it can be state nowadays, that the “trafficking in persons’ geography” is extending in our country

and seizing more and more communities. It is obvious, that preventive measures should encompass the entire territory of Moldova.

Figure 8. Dynamics of Trafficking Victims' Place of Residence

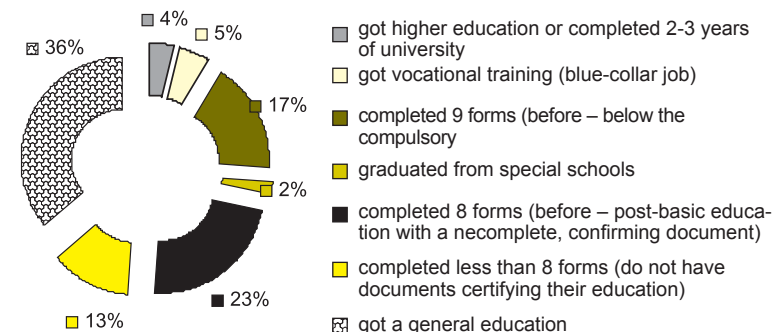


We can point out a certain connection of geographical zones of the Republic of Moldova with certain countries of destination. Thus, residents of the Northern Moldova more often become victims of trafficking in human beings in the post-socialist countries, such as Russia, Ukraine, Poland and other. Residents of Central and Southern Moldovan get into slavery in Central Europe, Balkan countries, and the United Arab Emirates. Residents of Transnistria more often become victims of trafficking in human beings in Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. We can not precisely explain, what is reflected by these geographical connections: the division of influence spheres between traffickers in persons, or just personal relations of criminal elements from our country in other countries? Only a special investigation can answer this question.

5. Level of Education

Preliminary conclusions about relation between the level of education and level of risks to become victim of trafficking we could obtain from the data analysis of Figure 9.

Figure 9. Trafficking Victims' Level of Education



As the above Figure shows, mainly girls and women with a low level of education become victims of trafficking. Most commonly, they manage to get only a general compulsory gratuitous education. They, as a rule, have no profession, and this makes them completely noncompetitive in the labor market. Those who have a profession find it difficult to get a job because of a high level of unemployment. A low level of employees' salaries is also a big problem. Nowadays, the only vacant work positions are those with the salary level of about 200 Moldavian Leis, which is approximately 3 times less than the minimum of subsistence, and 4.5 times less than the level of average wage in the economic sphere⁶.

But the Figure also demonstrates that girls with a higher level of education – students or graduates of higher institutions – sometimes also become victims of trafficking in persons. It just takes more complicated methods to recruit them: advertisement in In-

⁶ According the data of Department of Statistics and Sociology in 2003 in Moldova the minimum of subsistence basket was 657 Moldavian Leis and the average wage - 892 Moldavian Leis.

ternet (announcements about dating and marriage with foreign citizens), au-pair system (nanny-student) etc. But sometimes the polled people said that they had been raped and brought out by force.

Ludmila, DOB - 1982, city of Chisinau

Ludmila was a second-year student at the university, when a friend of hers promised her to get a job as a secretary in a commercial firm in Turkey. During this discussion, Ludmila decided that the proposed variant of employment is not correct; she did not want to go abroad with a tourist visa, as well as because of some other reasons. When walking out of the bar, where the meeting took place, she was met by two men, who forcedly got her into a car. The next day she was taken to Turkey by car. She was threatened to be killed, should she say anything to the police. When they arrived to Istanbul, she was sold to a pimp, who exploited girls in one of the hotels. There were five girls from Moldova. If they refused to serve their clients, they would be beaten. After Ludmila's parents addressed to Interpol, the pimp set her at liberty.

6. Employment and Income Level

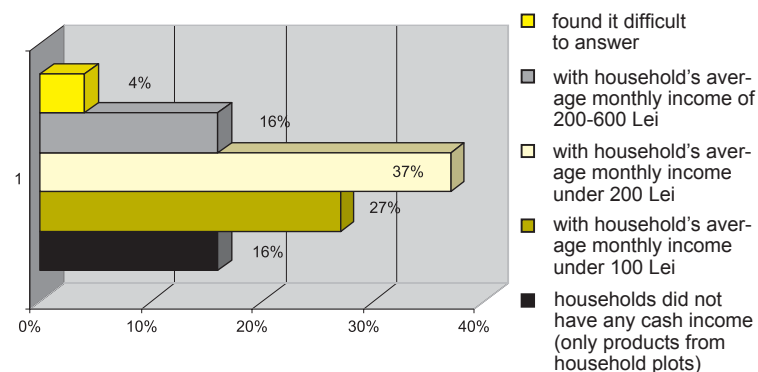
According to data of the International Center "La Strada", the majority of families, whose members became victims of trafficking in persons, are referred to the category of extremely poor. The basic mass of victims was not employed and lived by means of incomes from the household plots. This would allow them feed themselves and, sometimes, gain a humble money income from sale of farm products at the market.

So then, average monthly income of 200-600 Moldavian Leis per family was reported only by 16% of the polled (see figure 10). Such income could allow residents of the rural area to buy only the cheapest hygienic items and clothes.

Whereas the basic mass – 80% of the polled – simply lived in misery without any perspectives for improvement of their financial situation, given the level of their professional education. The main reason that made them go abroad was the desire to break

the chains of poverty and, often, to escape from domestic violence.

Figure 10. Financial Condition of Family



7. Knowledge about Future Work

Analysis of the results of the poll among the trafficked women demonstrates that a part of them used to practice prostitution before going abroad and were aware they would prostitute in another country. Thus, 9% of the polled women said they knew they would prostitute, 86% did not know about the future work, 5% found it difficult to answer. The answer to the question about victims' awareness of the future work is necessary for organization of work with this risk group.

III

1. Recruitment
2. Transportation.
Routes of Trafficking
in Persons
3. Destination Countries
4. Types of Exploitation
5. Means of Control
of Trafficking Victims
and Conditions of
Exploitation

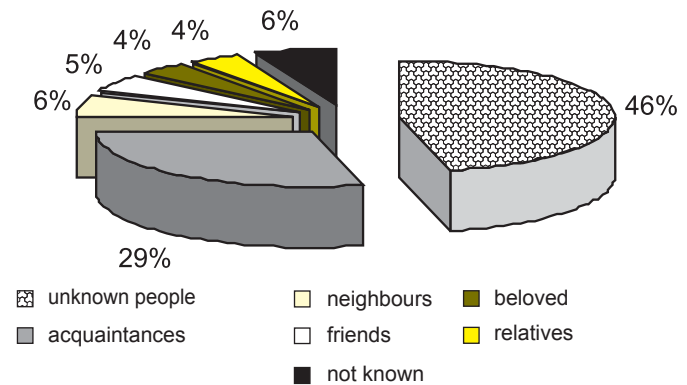
Mechanism of Trafficking in Persons



1. Recruitment

According to evidence of the polled victims of trafficking in persons, mostly often they would be recruited by individuals (98% of all cases). Unfortunately, recruiters are sometimes kin or friends.

Figure 11. Relation Between Trafficking Victim and Trafficker



Very often the recruiter is female. If during previous years recruitment was equally done by females and males (50/50), according to evidence of victims, in 2003-2004 recruitment by women – in 55% of cases, and by pairs – in 35% of cases, started to prevail. Men recruited in only 10% of cases. Obviously, women-recruiters arouse more belief in victims. Besides that, a psychological approach is used as a bait: a well-dressed and well-groomed woman says: “You see how good I live?” or “Can you see how good this or that lady lives?”. It excites envy in young poor girls and desire to have success in life at any cost. They forget about precaution and throw themselves into the set “trap”.

In the majority of cases (85%), recruiters were citizens of the Republic of Moldova, and only in 10% cases they were foreign citizens. Legal persons – business entities, which offer assistance

in job placement abroad, recruited 2% of the polled victims. Recruitment by legal persons was registered mainly in 1999-2000.

In the majority of cases recruitment took place in Chisinau municipality (48%), where the victims would come in search of work. It is still a popular thing to recruit people in the home village/town (37%).

A phony offer of job placement abroad is the most often used method of recruitment. The majority of those polled (79% of cases) said that they went abroad after receiving phony offers to work abroad (as dancers, waitresses, photo models, and so on and so forth). Some people were recruited by means of phony offers of marriage; at that, the recruiter was a foreigner and acted as affianced.

In 1998-2002, recruiters would often lie to girls about the country of destination in which they would be supposed to work. For instance, they would be promised to get a job in Italy, Greece, Spain, or any other European country, but in reality they would finally find themselves in the Balkan region countries or Turkey. In 2003-2004, traffickers did not conceal the country of destination, i.e. they would offer work in Turkey, Greece, Israel, the United Arab Emirates in the sphere of tourism, as dancer, barman, hotel maid. To lure young girls, traffickers show them pictures from exotic countries, provide them with fake labor contracts with ostensibly innkeepers, in which they would be working.

Within the last three years, there has been noted a geographical specification of offers used by traffickers to bait would-be victims of trafficking. Such baits can be as follows: care of the aged – Italy; childcare – Germany and Sweden; seller at market place – Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Turkey; agricultural works – Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Poland and Czech Republic.

Sometimes the migrants are aware of the fact that they will work illegally in the country of destination. But the lack of possibility of legal job placement abroad pushes them to accept assistance of shady persons.

Generally, victims go abroad voluntarily. But 8% of the polled people said that they had been raped and brought out by force. These are mainly cases with underage victims of trafficking in human beings.

Out of the total number of victims to have requested assistance of the International Center “La Strada”, 11% have claimed to have been recruited repeatedly. In 90% of cases of repeated recruitment women came back to Moldova independently after being deported from the country of destination, without receiving any assistance in terms of rehabilitation or reintegration. Being rejected by the family, or having no family at all (in 80% of cases), these persons would repeatedly come to hands of traffickers very easily. In 40% of all cases of repeated recruitment, women had mental problems. The majority of cases of repeated recruitment and trafficking were registered in 1999–2001, when there was only created the organizations what can make proper identification and offer assistance to victims of trafficking in persons.

2. Transportation. Routes of Trafficking in Persons

In the examined by us cases of slave trade, the borders were crossed:

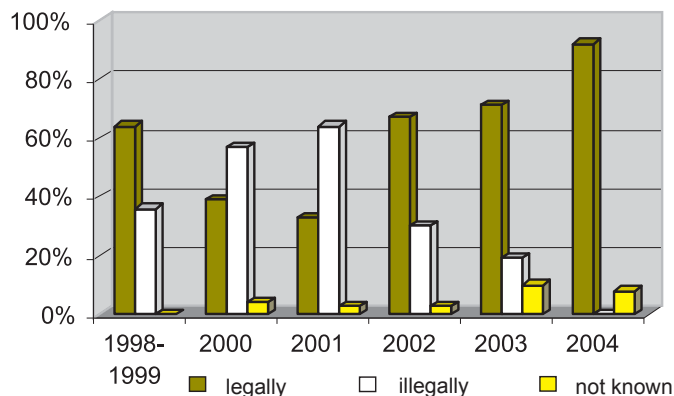
- legally, i.e. through border and customs check-points. At that, migrants had passports with the processed visa, most commonly with the tourist one⁷;
- illegally, i.e. using faked passports and/or visas, or avoiding border check-points, or bribing the Frontier Service representatives.

Statistics of the International Center “La Strada” demonstrates that up to 2002 the majority of victims would cross the border illegally. But from the year 2002, illegal crossing of borders started to gradually decrease. Nowadays, we can state that the majority

⁷ Although the majority of the polled went abroad as workers, and not as tourists, one can not maintain that the foreign travel was illegal. Foreign travel was done legally, but then Moldovan citizens, who came to the country of destination, would violate the established regime of stay in the country.

victims of trafficking in human beings cross the border legally, having passports and tourist or visitor visas.

Figure 12: Border Crossing Procedure, 2000-2004



Thus, in 2000-2001, borders were most commonly crossed illegally. For this purpose, traffickers would use parts of the border in the arduous natural objects, like mountains and rivers, which were difficult for border control. From Moldova girls would be firstly taken by cars and micro-buses. Then, illegal migrants would walk, go by pack animals and boats. Such routes were not simply difficult for physically untrained girls – they were of real danger for their lives. This type of dispatch across border was particularly characteristic to the Balkan countries, Greece, and Bulgaria.

In 2002-2004, traffickers started to prefer to legally take the girls abroad (with passports and visas), using such a modern transport facility, as airplane. During that period of time, the frequency of use of airlines to transfer the humans as goods increased by 50% as compared to 2000-2001. Why do traffickers in human beings assume heavy expenses related to pass over the goods? Obviously, such method of humans as goods supply to the place of destination has become the most reliable for traffickers. Besides that, traffickers use legal border crossing to

convince potential victims in the legality of the offered job that they received.

Trains, as transport facility, are mostly often used to take people to some countries, such as, for instance, Russia and Ukraine, using the services of trainmen.

Method of organization of transportation of humans as goods has also changed. In 2000-2002, transportation was done in small groups of 2 – 5 people, who were usually watched by the attendant. In 2003-2004, it was more usual to organize individual trips without any attendant, or with accompaniment only at certain stage. For example, when transferring humans as goods to the United Arab Emirates or Israel, accompaniment is ensured only from Chisinau to the Moscow airport.

3. Destination Countries

The analysis shows, that the geography of countries of destination, to which victims of trafficking in human beings are supplied, is not stable.

Table 1.

| Country/Year | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Macedonia | 22% | 26% | 6% | 5% | - |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 4% | 13% | 3% | 5% | - |
| Yugoslavia (currently Serbia and Montenegro) | 22% | 5% | 9% | - | - |
| Turkey | 13% | 13% | 18% | 33% | 46% |
| Russia | 9% | 13% | 9% | 5% | 31% |
| United Arab Emirates | - | 3% | 24% | 19% | - |
| Cyprus | - | 3% | 3% | 5% | 23% |
| Other countries (16 countries) | 30% | 24% | 28% | 28% | - |

In 2000-2001, the majority of victims of trafficking in human beings would be supplied to the Balkan region countries. Development of modern forms of slavery in Europe in the beginning

of the third millennium attracted careful attention of the international community. Urgent measures were adopted as to counteract trafficking in persons in this region: creation of legal framework; capacity building of representatives of state structures and NGOs; creation of coordinating mechanism; development of cooperation between law-enforcement authorities and NGOs; carry out concrete measures as to identify, assist, and protect victims of trafficking, as well as to prevent trafficking in persons. As consequence of the adopted measures, in 2002-2004 the flow of humans as goods to the Balkan countries started to gradually run dry. But at the same time, supplies of humans as goods to Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Cyprus and Russia, increased.

These countries' attractiveness to traffickers can be explained by the following:

- high demand for sexual services in these countries;
- visa not needed when traveling to these countries (Russia), or visa is issued without any problems at the place of border when entering a country crossing or through a tourist agency (Turkey, United Arab Emirates and other);
- in the above-mentioned countries, except Russia and Turkey, there is no legislation, which would define trafficking in persons as a crime and establish responsibility for commitment of such crime; also, there is no efficient system of identification of cases of trafficking in persons, assistance, and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings;
- law-enforcement authorities does not adopt necessary measures to combat trafficking in persons (high level of corruption);
- legislation, which establishes criminal responsibility for prostitution. For example, according to legislation of the United Arab Emirates, prostitution is a crime (even forced prostitution) and is punished by deprivation of freedom. As a result, victims of trafficking do not give evidence against criminals;
- legislation, which establishes strict liability for violation of the set regime of stay in the country. For example, people who violated the visa regime in the United Arab Emirates must pay a fine to the Immigration Department so that to get a permission to leave the country;

Trafficking in Persons in Moldova

- there are no non-governmental or international organizations, or governmental structures, which help victims of trafficking in persons escape the place of exploitation.

Natalia, DOB - 1979, town of Taraclia

In April 2003, she came to Dubai (United Arab Emirates) to work as waitress in a cafe. But she did not get this job in the café, as she was promised in Moldova. Instead, she was made into prostitution together with other women.

Proprietor would beat Natalia and other women, would not give them food, and demand that they should earn more money. He was saying it was not his business where they would take the money, even if they go stealing.

One day, when Natalia came home without any money, the proprietor gave back her passport and kicked her into the street. He said she should not be coming back without the money. Natalia aimlessly roamed the streets, not knowing where to go, until she was sheltered by a family.

In 1998-2004, Turkey had been one of the key countries of destination in the sphere of sexual exploitation of women. The majority of women (70%), who were subject to sexual exploitation in Turkey, knew or surmised from the very beginning that they would render sexual services, but they were deceived about the work conditions and payment.

Russia is one of the main countries of destination for the underage, subject to sexual exploitation or involved in beggary. This is a country, which an underage can enter having a birth certificate accompanied by parents or by other persons, who have the corresponding power of attorney. To transport kids to Russia, they use false passports, birth certificates, and/or parents' power of attorney, or bribe the representatives of border troops. According to evidence of the underage, who were subject to sexual exploitation in Russia in 2000-2003, policemen, to whom they addressed, supported the pimps and the traffickers and it is hindered release of girls.

Victims of trafficking in persons also told us about the routes of transportation of people abroad. These routes change in con-

nection with changing of countries of destination. Thus, in 2000-2001, traffickers used the following routes:

Moldova – Romania – Yugoslavia (nowadays – the territory of Serbia and Montenegro) – Macedonia

Moldova – Romania – Yugoslavia – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Moldova – Romania – Bulgaria – Macedonia

Moldova – Ukraine – Russia

Moldova – Russia – Egypt – Israel

In 2002–2004, the following routes were used more often to transport victims of trafficking in persons:

Moldova – Russia – United Arab Emirates

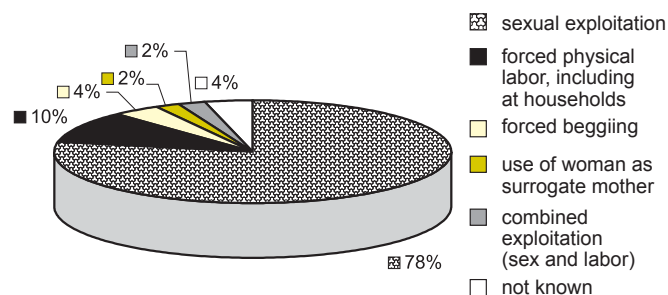
Moldova – Russia – Israel

Moldova – Turkey

4. Types of Exploitation

According to statistics of the International Center “La Strada”, the majority of victims of trafficking in persons, were subject to sexual exploitation.

Figure 13. Exploitation of Trafficking Victims



Although over the recent several years sexual exploitation is still the main form of exploitation of women, cases of combined exploitation tend to increase. Thus, some of the polled women, who were subject to sexual exploitation in the Balkan region

Trafficking in Persons in Moldova

countries, pointed out that besides sexual services, their duties also included consuming and cooking. Underage girls, subject to exploitation in Russia and Ukraine in 2001-2003, pointed out that in the day time they would work as sellers in the market or would be forced to beg, whereas in the nighttime they would be subject to sexual exploitation by the so-called proprietors and, sometimes, their clients, brought by the proprietors.

Some cases of trafficking persons in Turkey come under particular notice. Several women were initially sold for sexual exploitation. Then they were forced into getting pregnant and giving birth, whereas after childbirth they were forced to carry out household or agricultural work. In the described cases, women gave birth domiciliary; the fact of birth of each child was not registered, and children did not have any identifying documents. Child search and restitution to his mother are very difficult in this case.

As it has already been mentioned, we receive more and more signals about exploitation of men at construction sites in Russia, as well as about other cases of exploitation of illegal migrant workers. But the public opinion more often refers such cases to deception, rather than trafficking in persons. This negatively affects the fight against such crimes. It is not often that the aggrieved men address the state or nongovernmental organizations for help. It is necessary to break the stereotypes in this sphere, to adopt measures targeted to self-identification of cases of trafficking in persons.

It is also necessary to point out the increasing number cases of forcing the disabled, both children, and adults, into begging. According to our data, this type of “business” is mainly controlled by the gypsies, who buy orphan children and children left without parental care, or “lease” the disabled from their relatives for some time. Then they make fake documents for such people or bribe the representatives of border service, and bring them to Poland (the biggest number of cases was registered in 2000-2002) or to Russia (more characteristic for the years 2003-2004) to practice begging.

5. Means of Control of Trafficking Victims and Conditions of Exploitation

As is known, one of the means of exercising control over victims of trafficking in persons is to deprive them of their passports. This means of control has been used over previous years, embedded in the literature on this problem, and become one of the indicators based on which victims of trafficking in persons are identified at places of exploitation.

At the same time, during the latest two years, victims are more rarely deprived of their passports, as compared to previous times, when they would be deprived of their passports almost immediately after accepting recruiters' proposals. The recruited persons cross the border independently, having their passports on them. Then they may be deprived of their passports, but would receive them back so that to move in the city, when going to render services, or in other cases, whenever there is a probability of a contact between the victim of trafficking and representatives of law-enforcement authorities. Thus, one can make a conclusion that the issue of trafficking in persons has become more latent, and lack of passport has been ceasing to be an indicator for identification of cases of trafficking in persons.

Irina, DOB - 1974, Saharna village (Rezina rayon)

Irina has a husband and a daughter, aged six and half. She dreamt to go make some money abroad as to improve the financial situation of her family. In 2002, one female acquaintance of hers, who was much elder than Irina, offered her a job in Turkey. This woman put Irina in touch with another young girl, named Olga, who conducted the process of her transportation to Turkey and paid the cost of travel.

Upon arrival to Turkey, Irina was placed to one of the rooms of an abandoned casino. By that time, there already were three girls in that room. They were not deprived of their passports, but they were constantly watched. Periodically, the guard would enter the room and take a girl to the next client. The girls were not paid any money; the guard and the clients would severely beat and insult them.

One day Irina and her friend Olga managed to run away. Olga had a Turk boy-friend. They came to his house. Irina wanted to go back home. The Turk bought her a ticket, and Irina came back home.

It can be also pointed out that the average term of exploitation of victims has decreased. In 1998-2000, this term was averagely 2 years, as compared to 2003-2004 – 5 months (except for the United Arab Emirates, where the average term of exploitation is still 2 years). This indicates the improved counteraction of trafficking in persons in many countries, the earlier identification of cases of trafficking by the trained police specialists, other governmental structures, as well as representatives of specialized local and international nongovernmental organizations.

There is a tendency in change of conditions of exploitation. Above all, there is a gradual refusal from cruel methods of treatment of the exploited people, such as were registered in 2000-2002 (beating, maiming, and so on and so forth). Besides that, in the past, the majority of the exploited would not receive any money rewards, whereas over the recent two years 30% of the polled women-victims of sexual exploitation said, that after compensation of all expenses entailed by the trafficker (in several months of exploitation), the proprietor would start to pay 5 USD for each additionally attracted client. Underage victims of trafficking in human beings said, that if they served 20 per day, they would receive the money, obtained from 2 clients. But at the same time, getting a token payment, women had to compensate the expenses connected with their lodging and food, which very often would be more, than the money they earned. In 2003-2004, 80% of victims of human trafficking could buy themselves food for the earned money. But usually it was the cheapest food and, besides that, if the girls did not serve clients during several days (even if it was done for reasons of proprietor's security), they would not receive money and starve.

Traffickers started to use this psychological trick of token payment as to:

- manipulate the consciousness of girls, who, anyway, hoped to earn some money in such a manner to buy a return ticket and come back to their native country;
- avoid sanctions on behalf of the law-enforcement authorities, by showing that women work for a fee and voluntarily;

- get a bigger income from exploitation of the victim, who agreed to serve more clients, hoping to earn more money for a shorter period of time.

Victims of sexual exploitation are allowed to use contraceptives, which speaks for mitigation of exploitation conditions:

Table 2.

| Use of condom: | 1998 - 1999 | 2000 – 2001 | 2002 - 2003 | 2004 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| Was allowed | 43% | 38% | 51% | 71% |
| Was not allowed ⁹ | 38% | 62% | 49% | 29% |

Proprietors' requirement with regard to use of drugs and alcohol has not changed. 90% of those polled pointed out, that proprietors forced them into consuming alcohol and into smoking drugs, so that to make them more cheerful. As a result, they acquired dependency on these means. In some countries, girls would be booted (former Yugoslavia).

⁹ If the client insists upon.

IV

Conclusions & Recommendations



In the end of this research, we would like to share our opinion about the typical profile of victim of trafficking in persons and traffickers. We believe this information can be used to prevent trafficking in persons and, above all, within the informational campaigns on this issue:

Typical profile of victim of trafficking in persons at the moment of accepting the offer to go abroad:

Typical profile of victim of trafficking in human beings is a young, poor woman, aged up to 25, resident of rural area.

Most commonly, she is orphan or comes from an incomplete family.

Her relations with relatives are bad, as a rule, and she would often be subject to violation since her childhood.

She has a low educational level, because she comes from a poor family and has access only to the general free of charge education.

She does not have a blue-collar occupation; she does not have a permanent place of work and salary. She mainly lives by means of her own household plot, and her parents help her to subsist.

She is not married, or divorced. Every third woman like this has a small child.

Some women are compelled to supplement their salaries by prostitution.

Typical profile of trafficker (recruiter):

Recruitment, as a rule, is done during a personal conversation by a woman or a pair (a man and a woman), in which the leading part is taken by woman.

Female recruiter is a well-dressed, well-groomed woman, self-confident, and her outward demonstrates a successful life. According to her, she works abroad and earns well off, and can easily help young girls legally get a job abroad as a maid, a dancer, a bartender etc.

If necessary, she can also help get a passport, visa and organize the travel. She describes all advantages of getting a job abroad (high salary and lack of any problems), shows beautiful pictures of the country of origin and fake labor contracts with owner of the foreign company.

Most commonly it is an unknown woman, but she can also be known, a neighbor, and even a relative of the recruited person.

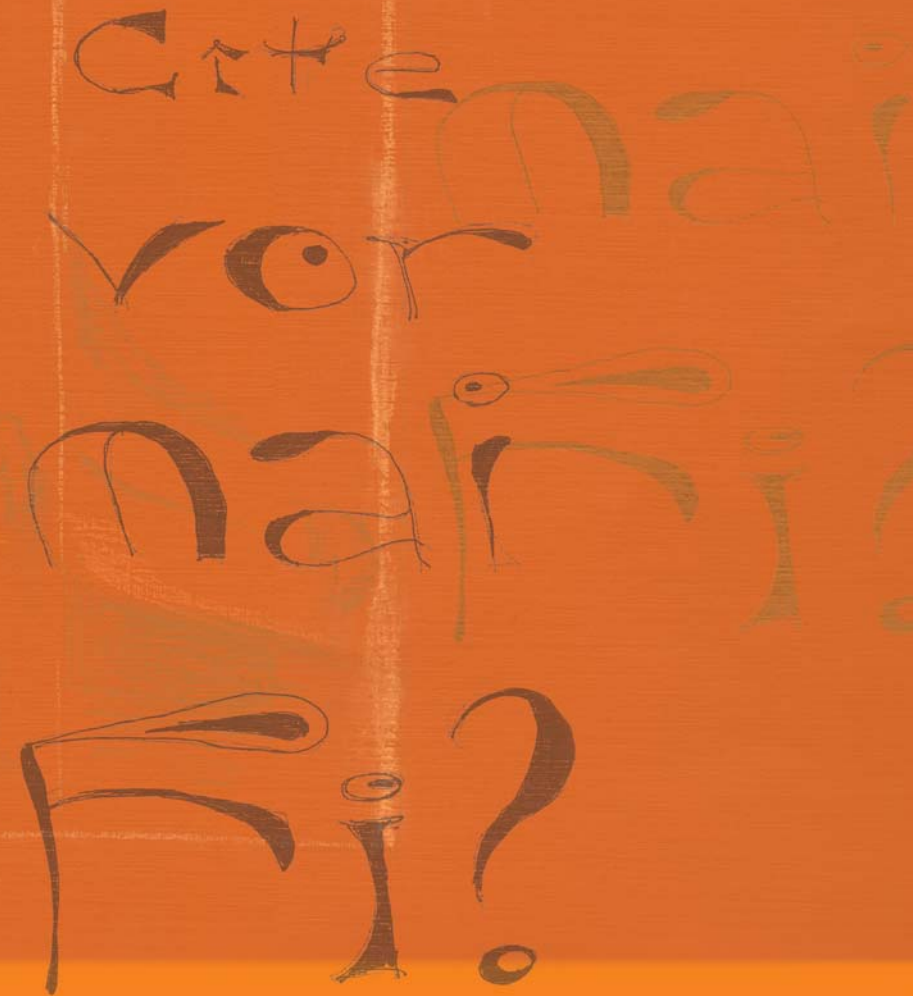
Further on, we would also like to make some short conclusions about the sources of the problem of trafficking in persons in Moldova, about the key influencing factors and the trends in the issue evolution. We would also like to suggest some recommendations regarding ways out of the created situation.

| Main influences and trends in extension of trafficking in persons in Moldova | Recommendations |
|--|---|
| 1. Poor girls from rural area, without profession and without a place of work, are the social basis of trafficking in persons. Sometimes they prostitute to make their living. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When carrying out informational campaigns on problems of trafficking in human beings, particular attention should be paid to the following risk groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pupils from rural areas; b) the unemployed; c) prostitutes. |
| 2. Poverty and joblessness, as well as lack of profession, are key factors that push the youth out of the country and make them accept the offers of traffickers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Draft a state program for ensuring access to vocational training; ➤ Measures are needed to combat poverty, increase the employment level of the rural population, particularly women. |
| 3. Domestic violence and bad relations with parents is an important "push" factor. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adopt government measures to combat domestic violence. |
| 4. Orphan children and children from incomplete families are higher risk group of trafficking in persons. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is necessary to study the reasons of family disruption, to develop programs for support and protection of family institution. |

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|---|---|
| <p>5. Offers of traffickers are in demand, because with the surplus of labor force in Moldova, there is almost no chance to legally get a job abroad and, therefore, the basic mass of Moldovan migrants work abroad illegally.</p> | <p>➤ Develop the system of assisting Moldovan citizens in job placement abroad.</p> |
| <p>6. There emerged cases of trafficking in men with intent of labor exploitation and withdrawal of organs.</p> | <p>➤ It is necessary to study cases of trafficking in men and to develop a system of identification of such cases; ➤ Include the aspect of trafficking in men into informational campaigns targeted both to the risk groups, and to the general public.</p> |
| <p>7. Although sexual exploitation remains the main form of exploitation of women, the number of cases of labor exploitation and forced begging is increasing.</p> | <p>➤ It is necessary to study cases of trafficking in persons for purpose of forced labour and forced begging exploitation and to develop a system of identification of such cases; ➤ Include the aspect of trafficking in persons for purpose of forced labour and forced begging exploitation into informational campaigns.</p> |
| <p>8. The issue of trafficking in persons is more and more extending to people above 25.</p> | <p>➤ Information about this issue has to be accessible not only for the youth, but for the entire population; ➤ Informational campaigns have to be carried out not only at schools, but also at higher institutions and specialized secondary schools.</p> |

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>9. More and more children become victims of trafficking lately.</p> | <p>➤ It is necessary to improve the work with children from the risk group and their parents. ➤ It is necessary to study cases of trafficking in children, methods and means of their transportation abroad. To elaborate the suggestions for strengthening the administrative control over children's travel abroad.</p> |
| <p>10. Number of people, recruited in Chisinau suburbs, has increased.</p> | <p>➤ Strengthen the informational campaign for prevention of trafficking in persons in Chisinau suburbs.</p> |
| <p>11. Number of recruitment case, using fake marriage proposals, has increased.</p> | <p>➤ Include this aspect in informational campaigns for prevention of trafficking in persons; notify the population about probable dangers.</p> |
| <p>12. The number of cases of recruitment via Internet is increasing.</p> | <p>➤ It is necessary to study and analyze announcements in Internet, as well as introduce governmental control over placement of announcements in Internet.</p> |
| <p>13. Lately, victims of trafficking have been transported abroad mainly legally.</p> | <p>➤ This information can be used in informational campaigns for prevention of trafficking in persons.</p> |
| <p>14. Transport means and methods of transportation of humans as goods have changed (there are mainly individual travels by airplane without accompaniment).</p> | <p>➤ This information can be used in informational campaigns for prevention of trafficking in persons.</p> |

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>15. Number of cases of trafficking in persons in the countries to have created efficient mechanisms of counteracting trafficking in persons (Balkan region), decreased.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is necessary to study good practice of counteracting trafficking in persons and disseminate this information. |
| <p>16. Turkey holds the leading position in the market of humans as goods from Moldova. There is sharp increase in the flow of humans as goods to Russia and the United Arab Emirates.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is necessary to inform the international community about this fact to achieve the elaboration of international policy of counteraction trafficking in persons in these countries; ➤ It is necessary to develop the system of identification, assistance, and protection of victims of trafficking in persons ➤ It is necessary to open the diplomatic representative office of Republic of Moldova in United Arab Emirates. |
| <p>17. Conditions of exploitation of victims of trafficking have changed. They are now treated more humanely; there are more and more cases when victims start to receive some wages; victims are not deprived of their passports. Nowadays traffickers prefer to use the methods of psychological control and manipulation of the victim's consciousness. Trafficking in persons is acquiring a more latent character, and this can entail difficulties in identification of cases of trafficking in persons in practical work.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Researches in this sphere are needed. It is necessary to work out recommendations with regard to definition of trafficking in persons and identification of victims, taking into account the changes in the mechanism of exploitation of victims of trafficking. |



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