

IOM UKRAINE MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE (MPA) PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE



The IOM MPA programme provides protection and assistance to migrants in need, including trafficked persons, smuggled migrants with protection needs, rejected asylum seekers, stranded migrants, unaccompanied and left behind migrant children, and migrants subjected to violence, exploitation or abuse.

IOM Ukraine currently implements comprehensive [Counter-Trafficking \(CT\) Programme](#) to support government and civil society efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and to ensure victims' access to assistance and justice. IOM also assists in voluntary return and reintegration of Ukrainian nationals in the framework of IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme.

IOM Ukraine MPA Programme works with a robust partnership network of over 30 local civil society organizations in all regions of Ukraine with experience in advocacy and capacity building, awareness raising, identification of victims of trafficking (VoTs), rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as monitoring and evaluation.



IOM has supported the Government of Ukraine in developing **national counter-trafficking legislation and anti-trafficking action plans**, establishing and building capacity of the National Referral Mechanism for VoTs, including training of over **12,000** state and non-state service providers.



IOM cooperates with **law enforcement** in, inter alia, prosecution of trafficking-related crimes, networking with countries of transit and destination, development of witness protection systems, and other areas.



Since 2000, IOM has provided **reintegration assistance to over 18,200 VoTs**, which included legal aid, medical care, psychological counselling, family support, vocational training, and other types of assistance based on individual needs.



Since 2003, IOM has assisted up to **4,500 Ukrainian nationals** under AVRR projects implemented in partnership with European and other host countries' governments.

IOM operates a **Medical Rehabilitation Centre** which to date has provided free-of-charge comprehensive medical care to over **3,900 VoTs** and vulnerable migrants.

Over 1,200 former victims of trafficking have benefited from IOM, creating hundreds of new jobs and contributing to local budgets with tens of thousands of UAH in taxes.

IOM runs the **National Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice Hotline 527**, which assists over 20,000 persons annually.

IOM implements a variety of **human trafficking prevention** activities targeting vulnerable and at-risk populations, including youth, IDPs, unemployed, potential labour migrants as well as state and civil society professionals, who might be in contact with potential victims.



CURRENT AND FORMER SUPPORTERS OF IOM UKRAINE MPA PROGRAMME:

Canada



From the People of Japan



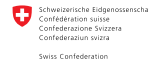
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



SWEDEN



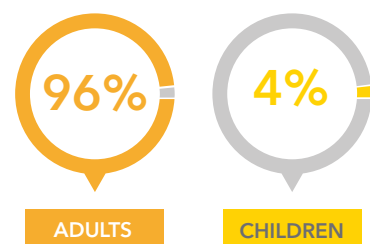
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation



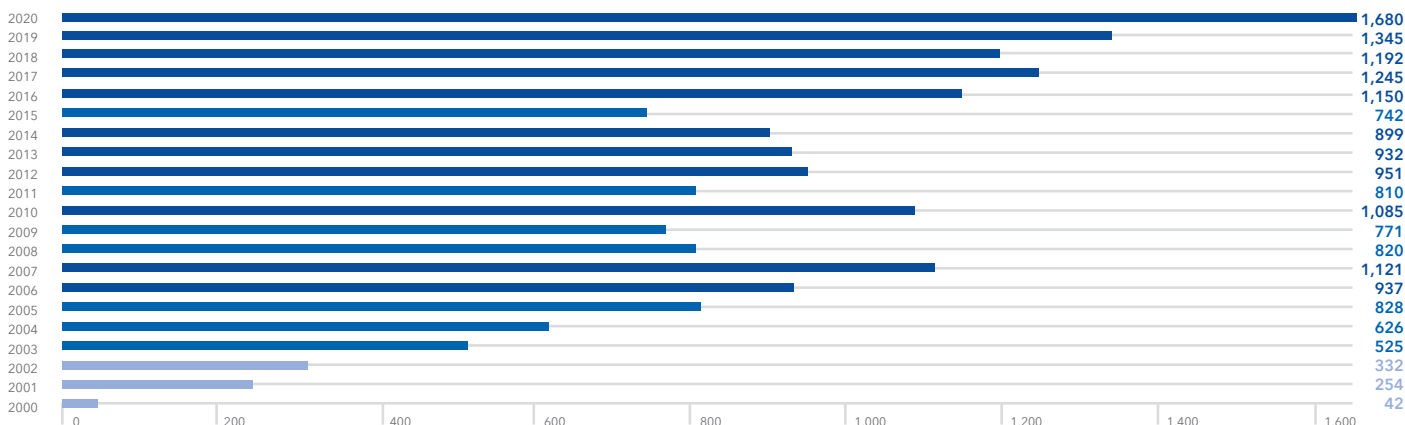
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

According to IOM estimates, **over 260,000 Ukrainians** were trafficked since 1991.

VICTIMS IDENTIFIED AND ASSISTED



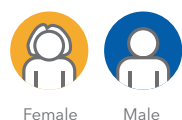
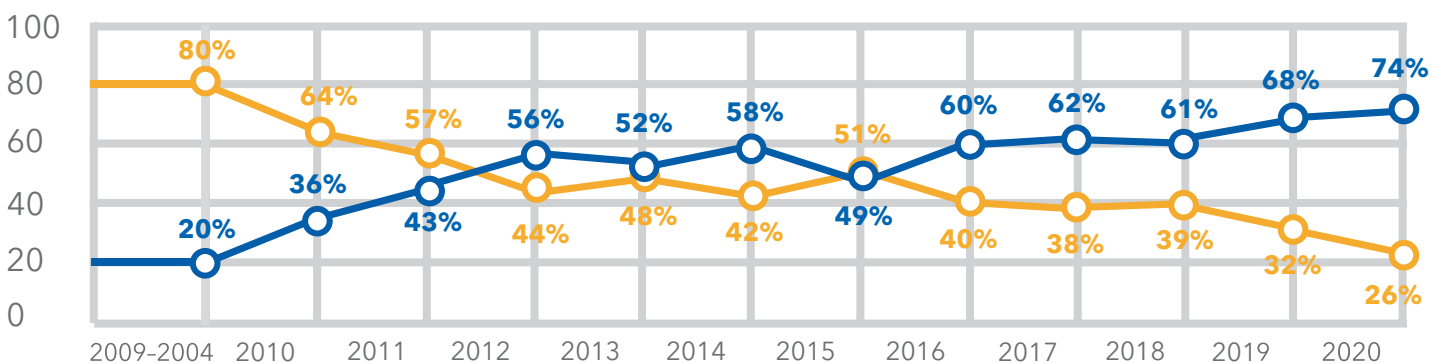
Number of identified VoTs (2000–2020): 18,287 persons



Types of exploitation (Jan 2004 – Dec 2020)

Type of exploitation	2004-2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sexual ¹	57%	34%	25%	13%	8.5%	5.8%	7.1%	4%	7%	7%	5.6%	2%
Forced labour ¹	39%	56%	71.1%	81%	89.4%	92.1%	91%	94%	91%	91.2%	93.3%	97%
Mixed	3%	3%	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0%	0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0%	0%
Begging	1%	6%	2%	5.6%	1.5%	2.1%	1.8%	0.9%	1.3%	0.8%	0.7%	0%
Other ²	0.1%	1%	0.9%	0.3%	0.5%	0%	0.1%	1%	0.6%	0.9%	0.4%	1%

Gender of VoTs (Jan 2004 – Dec 2020)



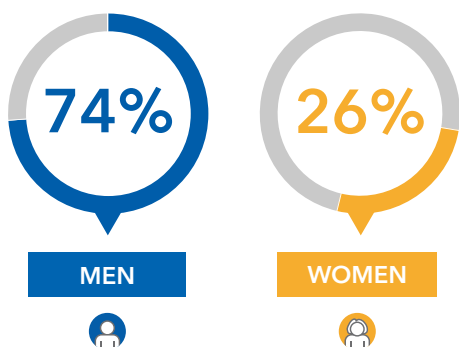
¹ Includes attempts of trafficking for sexual exploitation (2020 - 8; 2019 - 37; 2018 - 44; 2017 - 58; 2016 - 33; 2015 - 39; 2014 - 21; 2013 - 31; 2012 - 11; 2011 - 21; 2010 - 27; 2009 - 32; 2008 - 20; 2007 - 41; 2006 - 31; 2005 - 58; 2004 - 21) and attempts of trafficking for labour exploitation (2019 - 1; 2018 - 2; 2017 - 2; 2016 - 4; 2013 - 3; 2010 - 11; 2009 - 2; 2007 - 2).

² 47 cases of involvement into criminal activity (includes 9 attempts), 24 cases of organ trafficking and one attempt of organ trafficking.

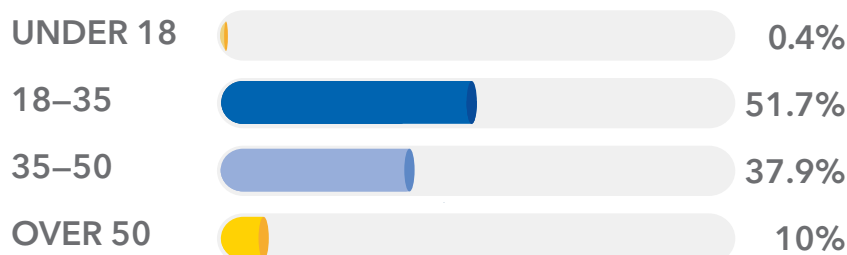
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: IOM UKRAINE 2020 CASELOAD

In 2020, IOM identified and assisted upon return 1,680 VoTs who suffered mainly from forced labour. A 25 per cent increase in the number of VoTs was observed compared to the previous year (1,345 VoTs in 2019), marking the highest number of VoTs ever assisted by IOM Ukraine since the start of its Counter-Trafficking Programme in 1998. The VoTs were exploited in 25 different countries as well as in Ukraine.

Gender of VoTs



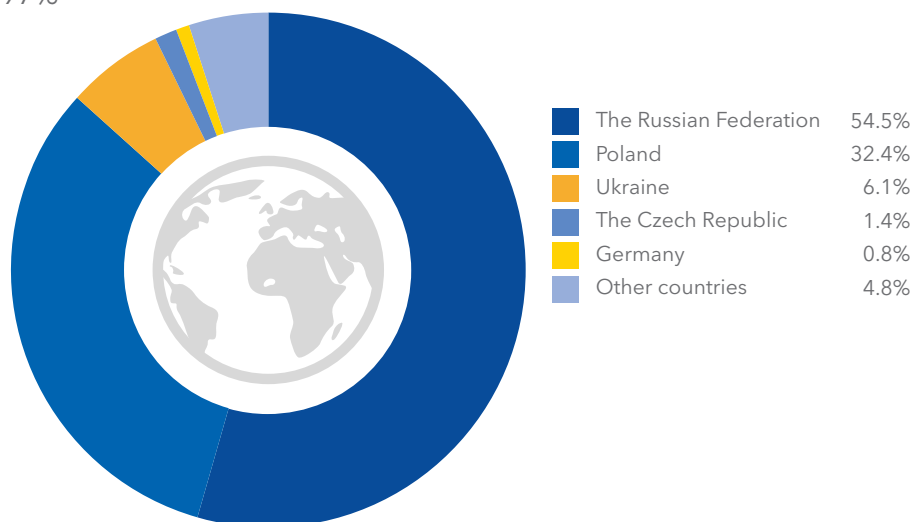
Age of VoTs



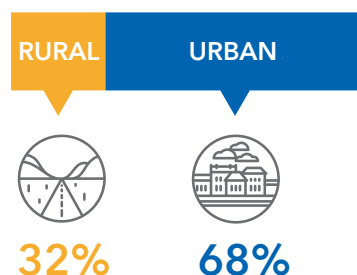
Types of exploitation



Key destination countries in 2020



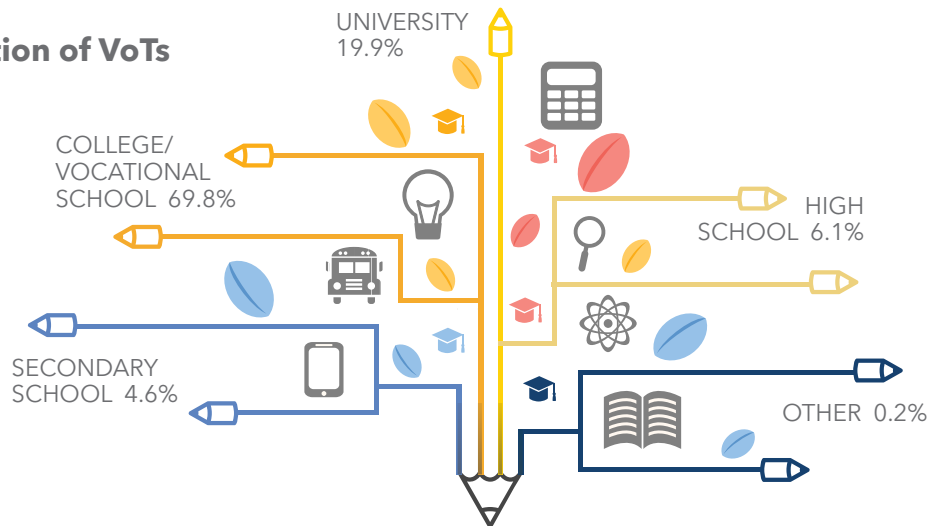
Origin of VoTs



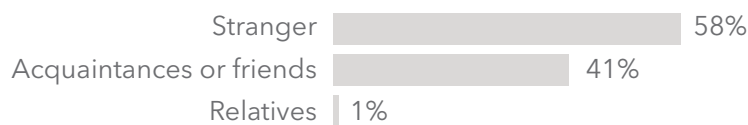
IOM has continued observing a trend of the EU Member States increasingly becoming countries of destination for VoTs from Ukraine, representing 38 per cent of the caseload in 2020 as compared to 27 per cent in 2019, and 19 per cent in 2018.



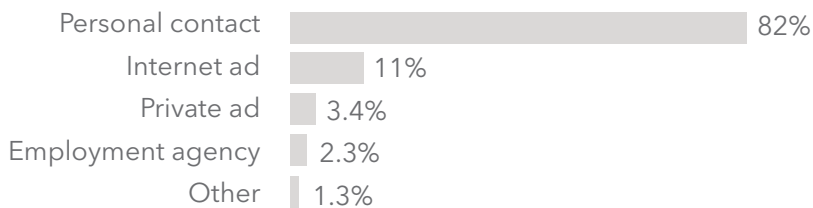
Education of VoTs



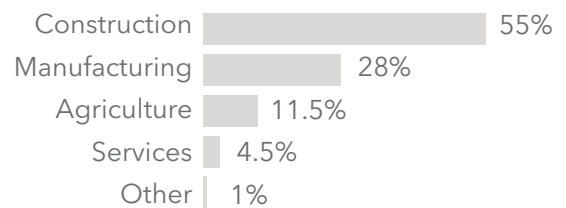
VoT – recruiter relations



Recruitment forms



Labour exploitation



Andrii
Trafficked for labour exploitation, Poland

Andrii* lives together with his wife and two children. He used to work as a taxi driver, but in 2019 his wife fell sick and the family spent a lot of money on medicines. They had debts and Andrii saw no other way out but to look for work abroad. Not long after Christmas, he teamed up with his friend who was in a similar situation and went to Poland. Upon their arrival, they were approached by the recruiter who offered them a job at the warehouse. They had to sort the fruits and were promised a good salary with all other expenses covered by the employer. The men agreed without hesitation to such a good offer. On that very day, they were driven to the working site and they never saw the recruiter again. The next morning, the employer took their passports for so-called registration and gave them the contracts in Polish for signing. They worked for 12-16 hours a day with some short breaks barely enough to have a meal. When the month passed and their wages were due, Andrii and other workers received nothing, but threats and complaints about the quality of their work. It was getting colder and many workers began to fall sick but received no medical attention from their employer. When some workers tried to protest, they were beaten and threatened. After another month, the employer decided to let some of the workers go because he heard rumours about COVID-19 spreading around. Andrii and his friend continued to work for two more weeks until they were released by the employer.

Andrii returned home as poor as when he left. He did not know what to do and was desperate because he needed a job to provide for his family. The situation got even worse with the restrictive measures imposed by the Government. His friend gave Andrii the contacts of the IOM partner NGO from their region. Having nowhere else to apply for help, Andrii decided to take that chance. He received psychological counselling and some medical assistance to mitigate the health problems caused by the trafficking situation. He also received some food and hygiene items for the period of the lockdown. Andrii had experience in construction and wanted to work in that sphere to earn a living irrespective of the quarantine restrictions. IOM provided Andrii with some professional equipment and the local NGO introduced him to other beneficiaries working in construction so Andrii joined their team. The NGO also helped to get Andrii's younger son enrolled in a kindergarten for children who have speech disorders. Now Andrii's wife can work from home, while their children are in kindergarten. Andrii feels much more confident about his situation as he has a stable income and can provide for his family.

* Name has been changed for confidentiality reasons

TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN: SITUATION AND CHALLENGES



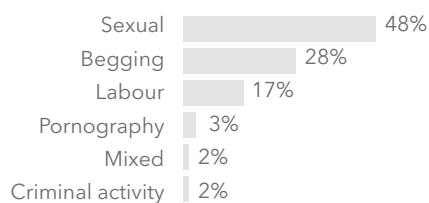
A survey commissioned by IOM in 2019 indicated that 66% of vulnerable children aged 13–17 years would accept a risky proposal that could lead to human trafficking. The survey revealed that children in detention and in probation, students of vocational schools and street children are the least informed about the risks of human trafficking.

From January 2000 to December 2020, IOM Ukraine identified and provided assistance to **696 child VoTs¹ (under the age of 18)**. Of them, 666 are citizens of Ukraine, 23 are citizens of Moldova; 3 of the Russian Federation, 1 of Kyrgyzstan, 1 of Nigeria, 1 of Afghanistan, and 1 child whose citizenship could not be established.

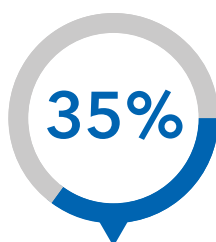
Another 112 children were identified as a high-risk group and additionally assisted.

Child VoTs assisted by IOM Ukraine:

Types of exploitation of child VoTs:



GIRLS

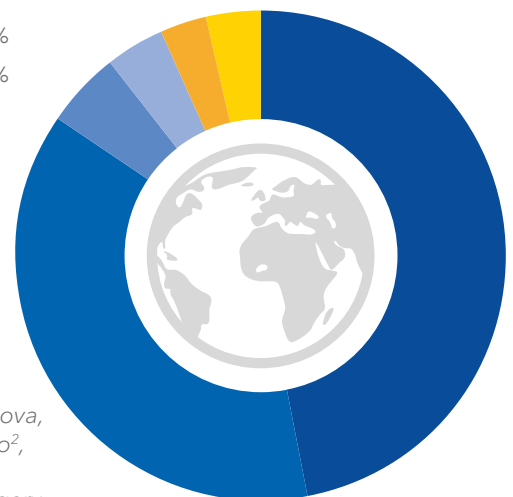


BOYS

Top 5 countries of destination for child VoTs



Other destinations include: Moldova, Israel, the Czech Republic, Kosovo², Cyprus, Belarus, Italy, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Guinea, China, Hungary and Germany.



Identification of child victims remains a challenge, and the available statistics presents only the tip of iceberg. Children have limited capacity to protect themselves and report the crime, thus often remaining invisible to social services and criminal justice.

¹ Includes 12 attempts in 2006, 11 in 2007, 7 in 2008; 18 in 2009, 16 in 2010, 8 in 2011, 1 in 2012, 2 in 2013, 1 in 2015, 2 in 2016, 5 in 2017 and 1 in 2018.

² References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS



Since 2003, IOM Ukraine has provided return and reintegration assistance up to 4,500 Ukrainian nationals who were voluntarily returning from abroad due to the lack of legal grounds for further stay or similar reasons.

IOM services include pre-departure counselling, airport and onward transportation assistance, short term accommodation upon request, assistance with medical needs, vocational training and assistance in setting up a small business.

Profile of returnees:



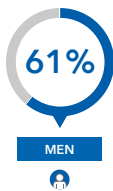
Vulnerable migrants (returnees with health issues, single parents, pregnant women, unaccompanied minors, elderly people, etc)



IDPs from Donetsk and Luhansk regions / AR of Crimea



Labour migrants



In 2020, **131 people** voluntarily returned from abroad and received reintegration assistance



Top-3 sending countries in 2020:



Poland - **35%**



Germany - **12%**



Slovakia - **12%**

Types of reintegration assistance:

Housing needs
(temporary accommodation)



Material assistance
(apartment renovation, household goods)



Education support
(vocational training/ apprenticeship)



Medical assistance
(treatment, medicines, diagnostics, lab tests)



Small business set-up



Yuliia

Yuliia left Ukraine at the age of 20 to earn some money abroad. She spent many years away from home in different European countries, the majority of which was in Slovakia where she managed to work as an occasional helper. She broke up with her partner at a time when she had no job, no living and no residence permit in Slovakia.

Therefore, she decided to return home to Ukraine and start her life from scratch in Kyiv. She approached IOM Office in Bratislava, as she did not have enough money to return home by herself.

Straight after returning to Ukraine, Yuliia contacted IOM Kyiv and in cooperation with its staff started actively looking for accommodation, work and arranging new identity documents. Within the planned reintegration assistance, IOM covered the costs for a hairdressing course. IOM also arranged her temporary accommodation, purchased study materials and reimbursed transport costs, so that she could fully focus on her job search.

Thanks to reintegration assistance, Yuliia works now as a hairdresser in Kyiv, she has a regular income and loyal customers.