



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Regional Overview 2015: IOM Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in the EU, Norway and Switzerland

IOM's ACTION

In 2015, IOM provided assistance to 417 victims of trafficking (VoTs) across 17 EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland. This is a steep increase from the 252 victims assisted across 16 EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland in 2014.

All 417 victims were assisted in a European country where they were exploited / identified as VoTs. Besides, 159 of them who were EU citizens returned to their country of origin (Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary and Lithuania) and received assistance from IOM offices upon their return. It is important to note that in 2015 IOM offices located in countries of origin of European Victims of Trafficking assisted an additional 25 cases which were referred to them directly by partners in the countries of exploitation (NGOs, Consular services...).

In several countries, IOM has been actively identifying and referring victims and potential victims to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). IOM staff in Europe is also active in carrying out individual assessments and risk assessments in view of potential voluntary return. Victims and their dependents who wish to return and for whom return is deemed safe subsequently benefit from IOM return assistance prior to departure and at destination (when possible and relevant). All returns are guided by IOM procedures and safeguards including prior comprehensive assessment of vulnerability and security concerns (within the risk assessments carried out by IOM or its partners), evaluation of needs at individual and family level, individualized counselling and reintegration assistance.

Each year, a majority of victims receive some level of assistance upon arrival (which may include reception upon arrival, transportation to final destination as well as immediate support cash grants). IOM also facilitates reintegration assistance for victims who return. Reintegration packages may include: housing and shelter placement, provision of legal support, medical and psychosocial support. IOM facilitates this on account of its excellent links with national or local state, and non-state actors and victim shelters. It is worth noting that IOM also cooperates with police where appropriate and may on occasion act as an intermediary with local authorities.

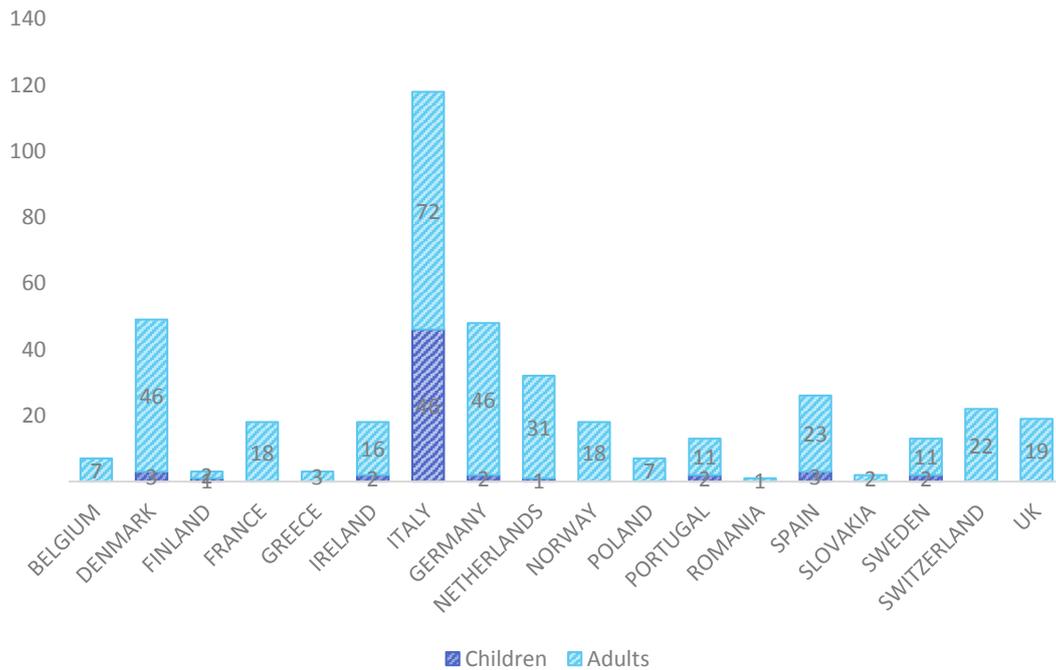
Long-term reintegration support measures within IOM programs typically include: access to employment through job placement or business set up, access to education or training, housing support, and / or medical support. In some cases of highly vulnerable households, the reintegration assistance can be allocated to strengthen the family unit as a whole, particularly in the case of young or child victims. In this instance, assistance is provided if it is deemed suitable for the individual's condition, can be delivered in a sustainable manner, and is in the best interest of the victim.

VICTIM PROFILES

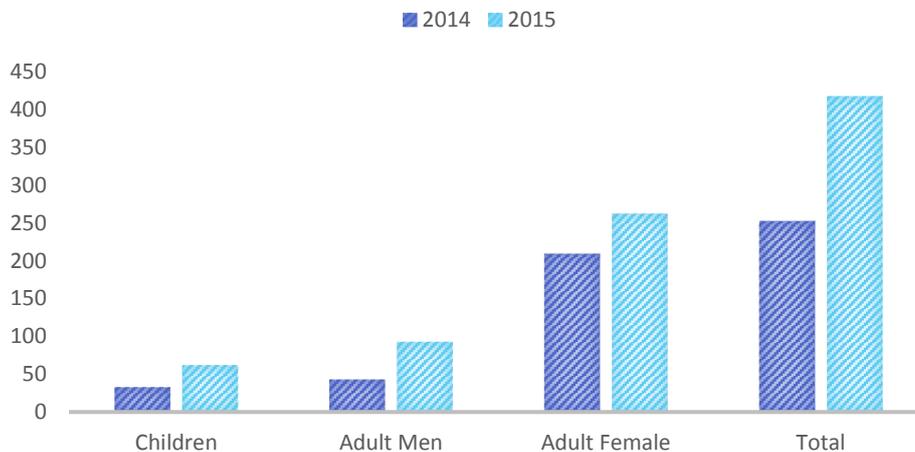
Gender and Age:

Females represented the vast majority of the victims assisted by IOM missions in countries of exploitation in 2015 (75 %), but the portion of man remained significant (25 %). In 2014, the ratio male to female was 20% / 80%. In 2015, children made up almost 15 % of IOM's assistance caseload with 62 children assisted (of which at least 8 as dependents of a VoT), this is a significant increase from 2014 where only 33 children were assisted; including 11 children as dependants.

VICTIMS PER COUNTRY OF IDENTIFICATION AND AGE, 2015



VICTIM PROFILES, 2014-2015

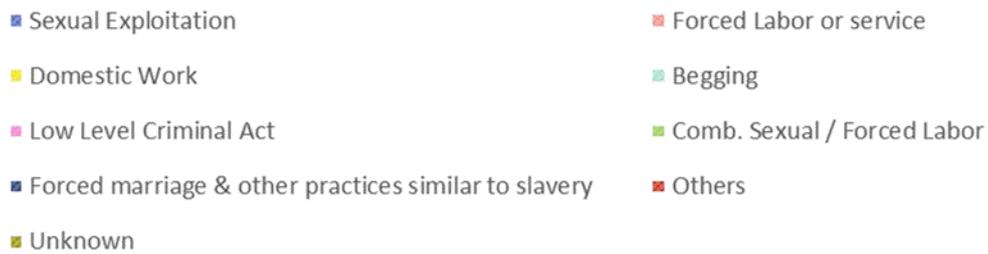


Types of Exploitation:

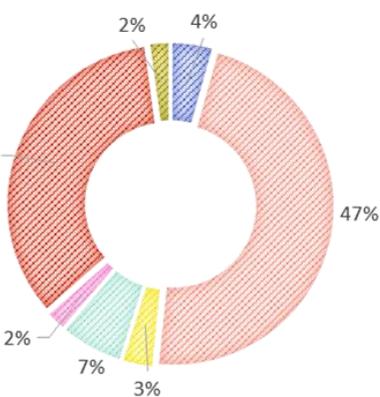
65% of the victims assisted in the countries of exploitation in 2015 were trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, while 14% had been trafficked for exploitation in forced labour. Exploitation was mostly found in the agriculture sector (6% of total exploitation cases) and the construction sector (2% of total exploitation cases), an additional 4% were exploited in domestic work. A small proportion of VoTs (2%) were exploited in forced begging, combined exploitation (2%), such as labour and sexual exploitation, or lower criminal acts (1%). Finally, 9% of the victims assisted in 2015 had been trafficked for the purpose of other types of exploitation; this is largely due to an important case of trafficking for the purpose of identity theft and fraud between Romania and Denmark.

Exploitation patterns varied based on gender and age profile of victims: sexual exploitation was heavily prevalent among adult females and children (respectively 82% and 85% of cases) whereas adult men mainly experience trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation (47%) or other types of exploitation (35%) such as the above mentioned trafficking for the purpose of identity theft and fraud. It is important to note that 18% of all adult men victims were exploited for the purpose of forced labour in the agriculture sector, and 10% for forced labour in the construction sector.

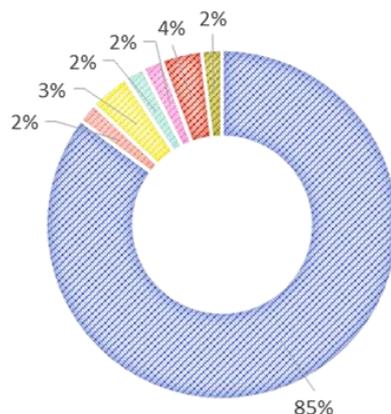
VICTIMS PER TYPES OF EXPLOITATION, 2015



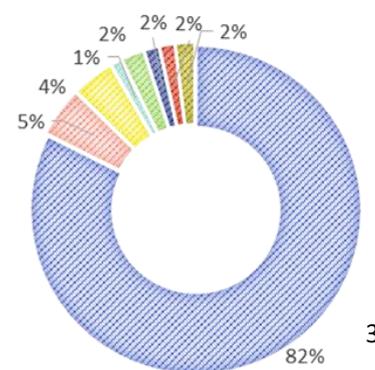
MEN VICTIMS, PER TYPES OF EXPLOITATION, 2015



CHILDREN VICTIMS, PER TYPES OF EXPLOITATION, 2015



FEMALE VICTIMS, PER TYPES OF EXPLOITATION, 2015



Countries of Origin:

There were no cases of internal trafficking during the reporting period. 45% of victims assisted in their country of exploitation were EU nationals (52% in 2014), with Romania and Bulgaria the second and third source country in 2015. It is interesting to note that the number of EU victims was particularly important among adult men (81% of victims assisted, compared to 38% for adult females). Important to note that an additional 16 Slovak victims of trafficking were assisted by IOM upon return to their home country, which makes Slovakia a significant source country within Europe (3.5%). These victims were predominantly males exploited in forced labour in the United Kingdom.

With respect to children, the vast majority of cases assisted were Nigerian girls identified in Italy, for the other cases nationalities varied too greatly to draw conclusions as to trends.

Overall, the 5 main countries of origin this year have been:



Victims from Africa made up for 36% of the victims assisted, which represents the largest group of third country nationals (TCNs).

Recruitment Methods:

Most victims encountered by IOM were recruited through individual or personal contacts (64%). 45% of the victims assisted this year had been recruited via a close personal contact (relative, acquaintance, friends etc). Other means of recruitment such as newspapers, companies and online recruitment remained quite low (4%). From the information available to IOM, men are more likely to be recruited through unknown persons (non-relatives / acquaintances) whereas females and children are highly likely to have been trafficked through the intermediary of acquaintances, including relatives or friends.

VICTIMS PER RECRUITMENT METHODS, 2015

