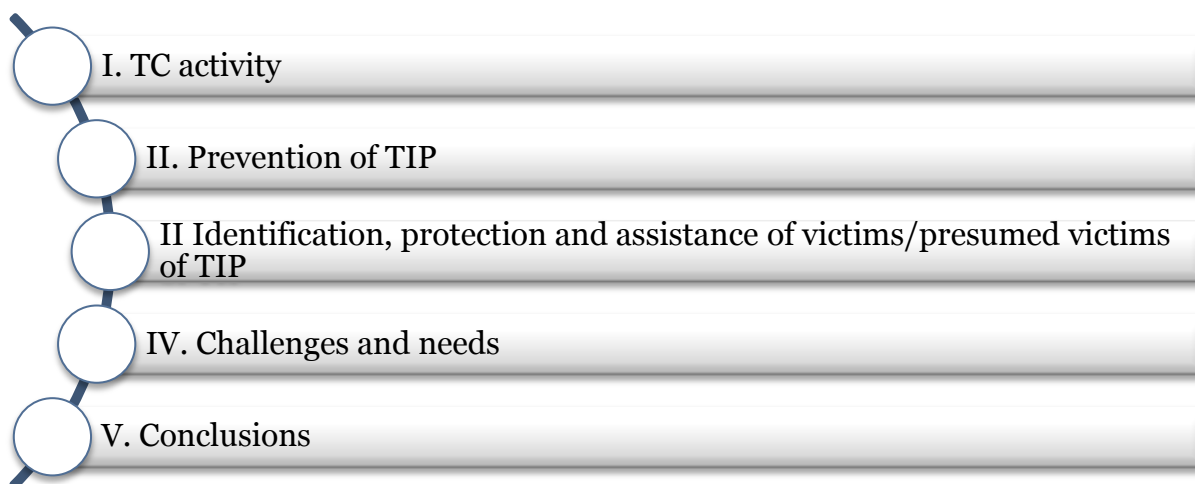


## INFORMATIVE NOTE

### regarding the activities carried out by the Territorial Commissions for combating human trafficking during 2022

#### INTRODUCTION

This informative note was developed in order to evaluate the degree of implementation by the local public authorities (LPA) of policies in the field of preventing and combating human trafficking (TIP) during 2022. The document includes the results obtained by the Territorial Commissions for combating TIP (TC) from 28 territorial administrative units (TAU) in the country, collected and generalized by the Directorate of human rights and cooperation with civil society of the State Chancellery based on the Action Plan for the years 2021-2022 regarding the implementation of the National Prevention and Combating Strategy of human trafficking for the years 2018-2023 and a set of indicators. 7 TAUs did not provide relevant information. Structurally, the information is reflected as follows:



#### I. The activity of the territorial commissions

TC meetings have an essential role in the coordination mechanism of actions in the field prevention of TIP at the local level. According to the information presented, during the period of reference, TC met in working sessions, as follows:

| Number of sessions | Territorial commission   |
|--------------------|--|
| 1 session          | Cantemir, Criuleni, Rîscani, Calarasi                                    |
| 2 sessions         | Basarabasca, Chisinau, Dubasari, Orhei, Stefan Voda, Straseni, Telenesti |
| 3 sessions         | Drochia  |
| 4 sessions         | Cimislia, Soldanesti   |

The territorial commissions from Balti, Cahul, Căușeni, Dondușeni, Edineț, Fălești, Florești, Glodeni, Leova, Rezina, Sîngerei, Soroca, Taraclia, Ungheni did not have any meetings.

**Topics of discussions** of these meetings:

- ❖ Approval of the Commission's annual activity plan;
- ❖ Evaluation of the activity of multidisciplinary teams;
- ❖ Organization of the "Week against human trafficking";
- ❖ The implementation during 2022 of the policies in the field of prevention and combating of TIP;
- ❖ Intersectoral cooperation between authorities and specialists;
- ❖ Legal and procedural aspects regarding the employment of refugees, migrants and foreign citizens in the Republic of Moldova;
- ❖ Orientation, professional training, employment of graduates, young people up to 25 years old, people from vulnerable groups, potential victims and victims of TIP.

## II. Prevention of TIP

Most of the Territorial Commissions were focused especially with information and/or educational activities, as well as strengthening the capacities of specialists.

***Around 500 activities for informing the general public were carried out***

Most of the information and awareness-raising activities were organized for students, young people and teachers. Most of the information and awareness events took place during the "Fighting TIP Week, October 17-23, 2022".

### Organized training for TC

Between July and October 2022, 5 workshops were held on the topic of *"Identifying human trafficking cases in the context of mixed migration flows. Risks and vulnerabilities of refugees and displaced persons in the context of the war in Ukraine"*, for 125 TC representatives, organized by the State Chancellery, CI "La Strada", and War Child Holland.

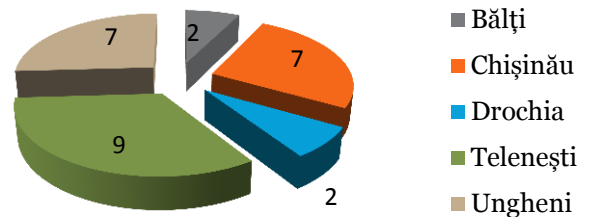
During October-December, 4 workshops were held on how to implement the *National Referral Mechanism for the protection and assistance of crime victims*, in which representatives of the TC participated, organized by The National Social Assistance Agency, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection with the support of the International Organization for Migration, Mission in Moldova.

### III. Identification, protection and assistance of victims/presumed victims of TIP

The territorial commissions reported the identification of 27 victims or presumed victims of TIP, who were referred to the competent institutions and assisted as needed.

Victims or presumed victims were provided with legal, medical, psychological and housing assistance.

**The number of victims/presumed victims of TTP identified**



**Working with NGOs at the local level**, including by offering assistance and reintegration services:

AO "Women and Child Protection and Support", AO "Artemida", AO "Honor and Rights of Contemporary Women", Youth Friendly Health Center "Ana", AO " Lădița cu lemne", AO "Concordia - Social Projects", JSC "DIACONIA", CCF - Moldova.

### IV. Challenges and needs

The territorial commissions reported the following challenges they face and the needs in their daily work:

- ✚ The lack of interaction between all the factors with the role of involvement, communication, capable of solving citizens' problems from an intersectoral aspect;
- ✚ The need to support children whose parents are abroad, including the prohibition of their departure without the consent of the guardianship authorities;
- ✚ Development of social services;
- ✚ Informing, especially of children, regarding the possibility of reporting detected cases and situations;
- ✚ Cooperation with the media;
- ✚ Revision of the normative framework in order to penalize traffickers more harshly, as well as organizations who illegally hire citizens;
- ✚ The spectrum of potential actors active in the anti-trafficking segment could be supplemented by the following: the church/religious communities, informal community leaders, organizations, community mediators, paralegals, labor inspectors. These categories of actors are rarely met as members of TCs, or seen as their partners in the implementation of policies to prevent and combat TIP;
- ✚ The lack/insufficiency of social, psychological and medical assistance services for victims cause major difficulties;
- ✚ Revising the TC structure in the context of taking into account the existence of several coordination institutions in the social field at the level of administrative-territorial units of level II;
- ✚ Revising the activity mechanism of the TC, expanding the scope of activity and the principles of cooperation of its members;

- ✚ Creation of a new unit that will activate/monitor the anti-trafficking field or the creation of a new local structure-social service within the Social Assistance and Family Protection Directorate with 4 employees: coordinator, social worker, jurist, psychologist;
- ✚ Analysis and establishment of a wider spectrum of actors in the TC membership;
- ✚ Examining the possibility of establishing a TC secretariat, remunerated within the limits of the financial resources available at the level of administrative-territorial units in order to ensure the continuity of activities, as well as the realization of TC decisions;
- ✚ Ensuring the methodological guidance of TC in order to ensure the sustainability of the implementation of national anti-trafficking policies at the local level;
- ✚ Development and distribution of informative materials;
- ✚ At the meetings of the local Councils in the territory, to examine the problems related to the TIP and its consequences;
- ✚ Organization of raids in order to identify people who provide services through work in agricultural sectors in the territory;
- ✚ Organization of trainings, especially in the context of the turnover of specialists, with the following topics: international legal framework in the field of TIP, methods of prevention of TIP, procedural aspects in detecting TIP, protection and assistance of victims and witnesses in TIP cases, procedural aspects of international cooperation in the field of combating TIP.

## V. Conclusions

- ✚ A comprehensive analysis of the situation at the local level and the activity of the territorial Commissions is complicated to achieve, given the fact that not all Commissions present the requested information, or the information is incomplete;
- ✚ Most of the Territorial Commissions reported they have had meetings. However, there are also Commissions that had no meetings, which indicates less activity based on a collaboration between specialists;
- ✚ Most of the Territorial Commissions organize information campaigns and strengthen the capacities of specialists, which proves that the prevention of the TIP phenomenon at the local level is a priority. However, some Commissions report a lack of informative materials and financial resources in this regard, as well as the need to organize more information campaigns, especially for schools;
- ✚ Training needs are mainly generated by the turnover of specialists;
- ✚ Some of the Territorial Commissions report the lack of interaction and communication between all the relevant actors, a fact that generates difficulties in conducting the required work.