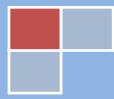




NATIONAL REPORT on the implementation of the 2019 policy for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings



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ABBREVIATIONS

ANOFM - National Agency for Employment
ANAS - National Social Assistance Agency
ANTA - National Road Transport Agency

CPA - Central Public Authority
LPA - Local Public Authority
ASP - Public Services Agency
CAP - Centre for assistance and protection of victims and potential victims of THB
CCTP - Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons
IC "La Strada" - International Centre "La Strada"
CN CTFU - National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
CNPAC - National Centre for Prevention of Child Abuse
CC - Criminal Code
EMT - Territorial multidisciplinary team within SNR
GRETA - Council of Europe Group of Independent Experts on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
GD - Government Decision
NIJ - National Institute of Justice
MAEIE - Foreign Affairs and European Integration Ministry
MECC - Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
MJ – Ministry of Justice
MSMPS - Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection
IO – International Organisation
IOM - International Organization for Migration
NGO - Non-profit organization
OSCE - Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
GP - General Prosecution Office
SNR - National referral system for the protection and assistance of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings
PS - Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings within the State Chancellery
STOFM - Territorial subdivisions for employment
TC - Trafficking in children
THB – Trafficking in Human Beings

METHODOLOGY

following the intervention of the anti-trafficking community of the Republic of Moldova in 2019.

For the development of this Report certain collected information and statistical data were used, including the following: information supplied by the central public authorities (CPAs), local public authorities (LPAs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations (IOs) referring to the implementation of the 2018-2020 Action Plan for the implementation of the 2018-2023 National Strategy for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings; recommendations contained in the decisions of the meetings of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (CN CTFU) and of the meetings of the coordinating technical group of the Permanent Secretariat (SP) of the CN CTFU; recommendations of international evaluation reports (GRETA, the US State Department Report on trafficking in human beings, etc.).

This report is structured in chapters in line with the 4Ps paradigm policy, recommended by international standards in this field (Prevention, Protection, Punishment, Partnership), and addresses the amendments of the legal and institutional framework in this field. The report contains 2 annexes illustrating the progress obtained following the implementation of the 2018-2020 Action Plan for the implementation of the 2018-2023 National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the operation of the Territorial Commissions for combating THB in 2019.

This report contains an analysis of data and trends characterising the field of trafficking in human beings (THB) as well as the implemented actions and obtained results

I. GENERAL MEASURES

1. Legal and regulatory framework

- ❖ Amendments of Law no.198/2007 on the state guaranteed legal assistance (approved by GD no. 566/2019, adopted by the Parliament in first reading on 20.12.2019)
- ❖ Government Decision no. 234/2008 “On the approval of the Framework Regulation of the territorial commissions for combating trafficking in human beings,” amended and supplemented (based on GD no.179/2019)
- ❖ Instructions on the certification of civil status effects, issued and recorded by localities situated on the left bank of the Dniester River and in the Bender municipality, were approved via the GD no. 286/2019
- ❖ Government Decision no.708 of 27.12.2019 on the approval of the Framework Regulation on the organization and operation of the Regional Centre for Integrated Assistance of Child Victims/Witnesses of Crimes and on the approval of the Minimum Quality Standards.

Objective: inclusion of THB victims into the category of persons entitled to qualified legal aid, irrespective of their income level

Objective: capacity building of TC aimed at strengthening their cooperation, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation skills in the implementation of national policies to prevent and combat THB at local level.

Objective: development of a useful and effective tool guaranteeing the right to respect the private and family life and the right to marriage persons residing on the left bank of the Dniester River and the ones from the Bender municipality.

Objective: prevention of the child re-victimization and re-traumatization during the evidence collection in criminal cases, by way of providing legal, medical, psychological and social assistance to the child and his family within one and the same institution.

1.2. Changes of the institutional framework

- ❖ The anti-trafficking unit of the General Prosecution office (GP) was empowered with analysis tasks, as well as with monitoring of the court trial results in case of criminal cases related to trafficking offenses and to assimilated crimes (Order of the General Prosecutor no.13/15 of 01.03.2019);
- ❖ A formation of 12 specialized judges was created within the Chisinau Court designated to carry out the trial of cases involving THB and related crimes (Order of the Chisinau Court no.22 of 18.06.2019).

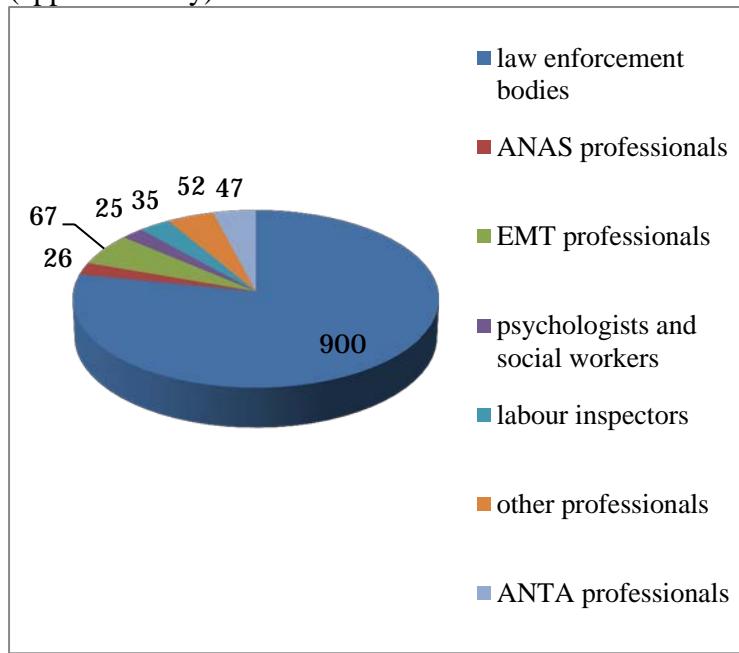
1.3. Significant achievements

- ❖ Development, with the support of the US Embassy and IOM, of the “*Guide on conducting parallel financial investigations*”, approved by order of the General Prosecutor no.18/11 of 09.04.2019;
- ❖ Development of a draft Concept of the 2020–2030 National Referral Mechanism for the protection and assistance of victims of crime and of the 2020–2022 Action Plan for this purpose;
- ❖ Adoption of the Government Decision no.708/2019 on the approval of the Framework Regulation on the organization and operation of the Regional Centre for Integrated Assistance to Child Victims/Witnesses of Crime and on the approval of the Minimum Quality Standards.

1.4. Development of professional skills of specialists

A number of **1152 specialists were trained** (out of which 900 persons were representatives of law enforcement agencies, 252 specialists were from the assistance and protection area and the rest were from other categories of specialists)

Diagram No.1 Number of trained specialists (approximately)



- ❖ The Workshop “Planning, monitoring and results-based reporting of anti-trafficking policies”, (26-29.11.2019), organized by PS of CN CTFU and IOM with the financial support of the US Embassy;
- ❖ Seminar “Measures to combat the phenomenon of THB for the purpose of labour exploitation and other purposes. Identification of THB victims and potential THB victims”, organized by the OSCE in collaboration with ISM;
- ❖ 2 workshops for the benefit of control inspectors and specialists of the National Agency for Auto Transport (ANTA), (25 - 27.09.2019), organized by the PS of CNCTFU with the support of IOM;
- ❖ 2 workshops for the benefit of representatives of the International Airport and of the Air Moldova, and FlyOne airlines companies (09.07.2019) and for the MGH Ground Handling company (11.10.2019), organized by the PS of CNCTFU with the support of IOM.

- ❖ 2 training courses “Peculiarities of investigation and trial of crimes of trafficking in human beings and items of property” (18.02.2019 and 17.12.2019), organized by NIJ with the support of IOM and MFA of Norway;
- ❖ 2 Training courses “Peculiarities of investigation and trial of crimes of trafficking in persons, organs, tissues and cells” (14-15.03.2019, 19-20.09.2019), organized by NIJ with the support of IOM, MFA of Norway and the US Embassy;
- ❖ Autumn School “Rights of victims under the Law no.137 on the rehabilitation and compensation of victims of crime” (9-11.10.2019), organized by NIJ with the support of the OSCE;
- ❖ Workshop “Assistance of the THB victims” (08.11.2019), organized by the US Embassy, in partnership with the PS of CNCTFU and MSMPS;
- ❖ 2 workshops “Cybercrime and prevention of child abuse in the online space” (04-07.06.05-08.11.2019), organized by OSCE and NIJ for prosecutors and judges. Additionally, CNPAC conducted training activities in 19 districts for: 514 specialists operating in the field of prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of children; 302 teachers of vocational schools in 6 districts of the republic; 108 specialists providing alternative care services and for the sectoral directorates empowered to protect the children’ rights in the Chisinau municipality.

1.5. Collection and analysis of statistical data, research activities

Development and/or further improvement of policies aimed at ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens, based on the assessment of needs, is always having as a starting point the analysis of statistical data. Thus, a number of researches, evaluations and analyses of the situation in the THB prevention and control area were carried out during the reference period, among them the following:

- ❖ The International Centre “LA STRADA” in partnership with the Investigation Centre and Consulting Centre “Sociopolis” (NGO) developed the Report “Vulnerability of migrants to trafficking in human beings and exploitation on the territory of the Republic of Moldova” - http://lastrada.md/pic/uploaded/Raport_migratie ro 2019.pdf
- ❖ The national report on the implementation of the THB prevention and control policy for 2018, developed by the PS of the CN CTFU based on information supplied by the CPAs, LPAs, NGOs, IOs, was published on www.antitrafic.gov.md
- ❖ Information notes describing the basic activities, carried out by the anti-trafficking actors, the additional activities to the ones included in the 2018-2020 Action Plan, as well as the activities carried out during the first semester of 2019 by the Territorial Commissions responsible with combating the THB, were developed by PS of CN CTFU based on the information supplied by CPAs, LPAs, NGOs, IOs, and were published on www.antitrafic.gov.md
- ❖ An Information note regarding the realization of the National Campaign “Week of fighting against THB”, 18-25.10.2019, was developed by the PS of CN CTFU and published on www.antitrafic.gov.md
- ❖ A Joint Report on Risk Assessment in the Field of Combating the Cross-Border Crime, Trafficking and Illegal Migration was developed on an annual basis by members of the Joint Group and Risk Analysis
- ❖ A Report of the General Prosecutor was developed on compliance with the legislation on the THB preventing and combating in the entire country
- ❖ CCTP developed its Activity Report for 2018, which reflects the obtained results during the year, as well as data indicating the total number of investigated criminal cases and the cooperation with foreign law enforcement agencies
- ❖ A Draft version of the “Guidelines on facilitating the involvement of local public actors in preventing and combating THB” was developed with the support of the OSCE Mission to Moldova
- ❖ The survey “Social attitudes with respect to the commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people”, was conducted by the Marketing and Surveys Institute (IMAS) at the request of CNPAC - www.cnpac.org.md
- ❖ A survey aiming at evaluating the knowledge and attitudes of young people studying in vocational schools regarding the sexual-commercial exploitation and the THB phenomenon was carried out by SOCIOPOLIS, at the request of CNPAC, within the project *“Developing resilience of teenagers studying in vocational schools to sexual-commercial exploitation.”*

II. PREVENTION

2.1. Informing the general public



On July 30, 2019 an information event dedicated to the THB risks and consequences was carried out in the context of the “World Day against Trafficking in Human Beings”, and was organized by the US Embassy, Government of the Republic of Moldova, OSCE, IOM and the IC “La Strada”.



CNPAC implemented the project “Developing resilience of teenagers studying in vocational schools to sexual and commercial exploitation”, in partnership with the PS of CNCTFU and MECC, with the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands (beneficiaries - 920 students and 302 teachers of vocational schools from 6 districts of the republic)



Realisation on October 18-25, 2019 of the National information campaign “Week of fighting against THB”



The OSCE Mission to Moldova in partnership with the NGO “Jenskie Initiatives”, operating on the left bank of the Dniester River, carried out 12 training and awareness-raising events dedicated to THB.

Additionally, the public authorities and partners organized a number of other activities aimed at raising awareness of the general public, such as: public lessons, information reunions, workshops, etc.



In 2019, a number of approximately 113561 people from the entire republic benefited of the dissemination of information and approximately 10980 specialists benefited of capacity building events.



2.2. Reducing vulnerability

Activities aimed at prevention of trafficking in human beings are also supposed to focus on reducing vulnerability of groups at risk. To this end, in 2019 the following measures were undertaken:

National Employment Agency (ANOFM):

- ❖ provided consultations and information regarding legal employment, based on individual employment contracts. This is carried out via responses to the online forms submitted by citizens to this agency, by telephone conversations and discussions with visitors within its headquarters. Thus, in 2019, a number of 5577 calls were received at the free of charge Call Centre - Labour Market telephone service, out of which 39% of calls referred to the emigration process issue;
- ❖ offered consultations to economic entities, interested in obtaining a license for an activity related to facilitating employment of Moldovan citizens out of the country; and, depending on the competence area, ANOFM coordinates the collaboration agreements and the draft individual employment contracts to ensure their compliance with Law 105/2018 on the promotion of employment and unemployment insurance;
- ❖ registered the citizens' individual employment contracts of persons seeking an employment abroad. A number of 177 collaboration agreements and draft individual employment contracts were examined in 2019;
- ❖ A number of 5686 individual employment contracts of citizens employed abroad were registered via the intermediation of 35 private agencies, which honour in their operation their rights/obligations.

The number of registered individual employment contracts of citizens employed abroad shows a continuous increase, this indicating a positive trend of the employment abroad under legal conditions

General Prosecution Office:

- ❖ A number of 15 calls were registered at the "Anti-Trafficking Hot Line", established by the Prosecution Office at the mobile phone number (+373) 69999021 (e-mail: antitrafic@procuratura.md). In 12 cases, the competent bodies were notified about the registered information in view of a possible initiation of investigations.

Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons:

- ❖ A number of 27 calls were received at the CCTP Hotline resulting in recording of 27 notifications of crimes. In case of 17 registered calls, the veracity of facts was not confirmed. 3 cases were referred to relevant bodies for consideration, while the information contained in 4 telephone calls constituted the basis for initiation of 2 criminal cases on THB, 1 criminal case on forced labour and 1 criminal case on sexual harassment.

Two criminal cases on THB, 1 criminal case on forced labour and 1 criminal case on sexual harassment were initiated based on the calls received by the CCTP.

“LA STRADA” International Centre:

- ❖ Offered consultations in case of 19283 calls at the Hotline 080077777, out of which 18436 calls fall under the THB prevention category (17185 calls constituted requests to facilitate a temporary employment of Moldovan workers in the State of Israel under the Bilateral Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the State of Israel);
- ❖ continued managing the www.migratiesigura.md information portal, with a number of 23493 accessions during the reporting period (out of which 19111 were one time-visitors), via which a number of 158 online consultations were offered.

❖ 95% of calls were received at the Hotline 080077777 aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings

III. PROTECTION

3.1. Identification and referral of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings

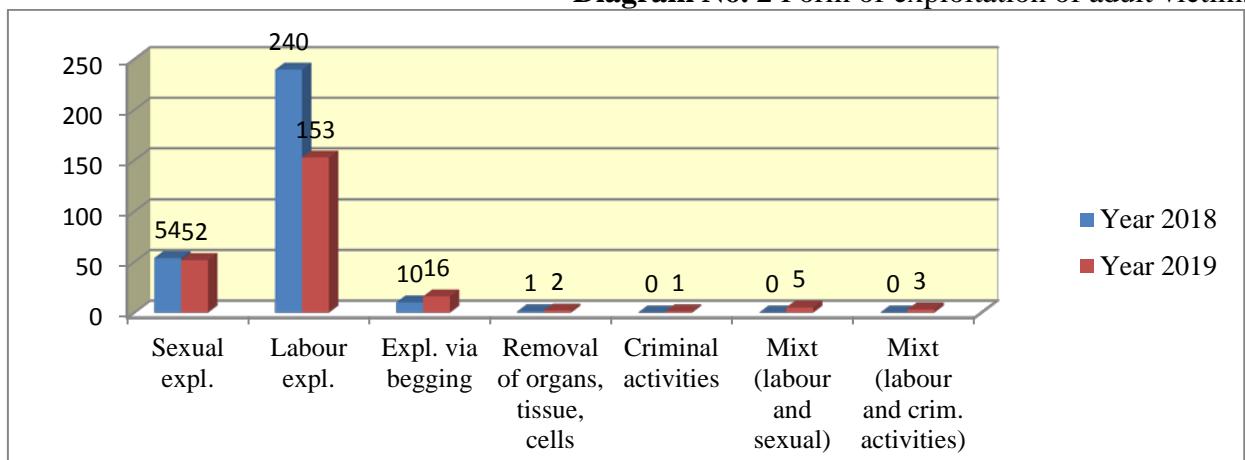
In 2019, **341 victims** were identified at the national level (compared to 365 victims identified in 2018), including:

- **232 adult victims** (in 2018 - 305 identified victims).
- **109 minor victims** (in 2018 - 60 identified victims).

❖ Referring to adult victims

The situation referring to the **form of exploitation** is described as follows:

Diagram No. 2 Form of exploitation of adult victims



A 24% decrease of the number of identified adult victims and a 45% increase of the number of identified minor victims is seen in comparison to 2018.

- ❖ Similar to the previous year exploitation of the THB victims for labour purposes prevails over other forms of exploitation, the number of identified victims making 153 (20 women and 133 men);
- ❖ The exploitation of the THB victims for sexual purposes remains approximately constant, the number of identified female victims making 52;

- ❖ An increase is seen in case of exploitation via begging, especially of the number of men-victims. A number of 16 victims were identified in 2019 (8 men and 8 women), which constitutes 6.9% of the total number of identified victims (compared to 3.3 % in the previous year, when 10 victims were identified - 2 men and 8 women);
- ❖ Compared to the previous year, 1 victim was exploited via involvement in criminal activities. Exploitation via other forms was as follows:
- ❖ Mixed: 5 victims via labour- and sexual exploitation and 3 victims via labour and involvement in criminal activities;
- ❖ Removal of human organs, tissues or cells: 2 victims (1 male and 1 female).

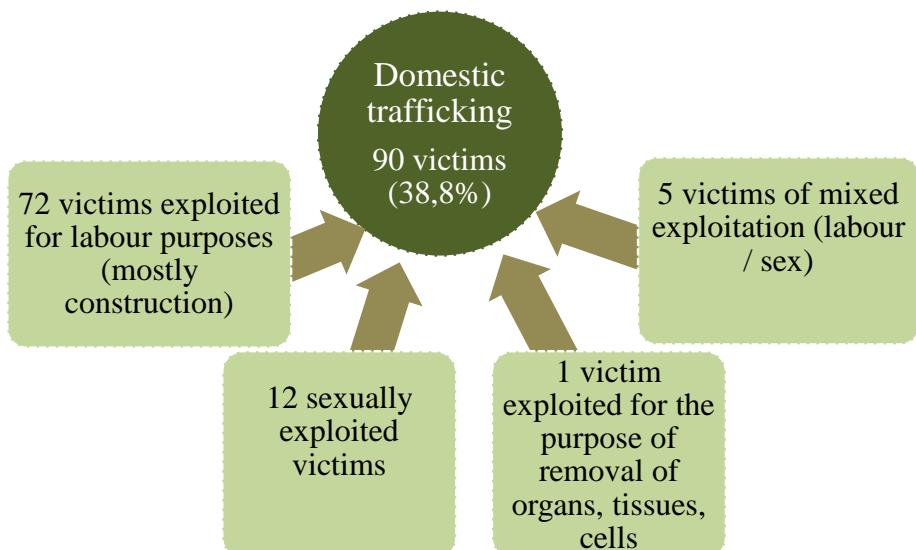
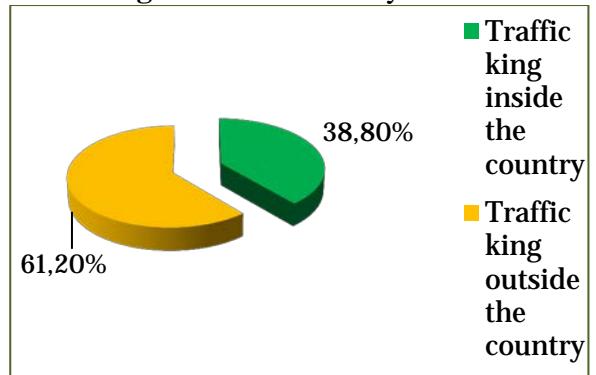
- ❖ the number of THB victims exploited via labour makes 66.4% of the total number of the THB victims
- ❖ the number of sexually exploited victims makes 22% of the total number of identified victims
- ❖ the number of victims exploited via begging makes 6.9% of the total number of identified victims
- ❖ the number of victims exploited via criminal activities, removal of human organs, tissues or cells and via mixed methods makes 4.7%.

With reference to the country of destination:

In 2019, similar to the previous year, trafficking outside the country prevails, the number of identified victims being 142, compared to 90 victims exploited inside the country.

Also, similar to the previous year, the Republic of Moldova has also become a country of destination for trafficking in human beings. A number of 45 victims of foreign origin (citizens of the Republic of Turkey) were identified on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, exploited via labour in the construction area.

Diagram No. 3 Country of destination



- ❖ The EU area continues being a constant country of destination. A number of 108 THB victims were identified here, mostly exploited for labour purposes;
- ❖ A significant decrease of the number of THB victims identified in the Russian Federation is seen in comparison to previous years;
- ❖ Germany is the main country of destination in terms of the number of victims, with 21 identified victims exploited via labour here (2 women and 19 men);
- ❖ The USA is a new country of destination, where 1 female victim was identified, trafficked for the purpose of cell collection.

Diagram No.4 Trafficking outside the country

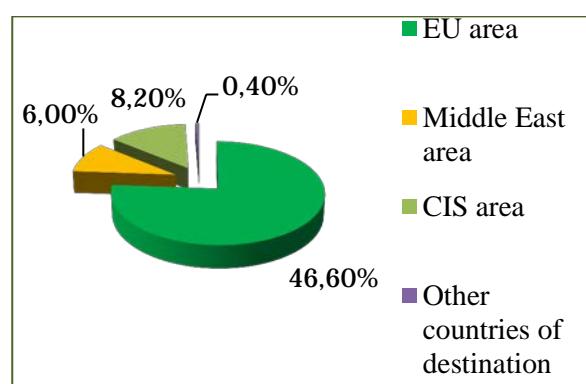
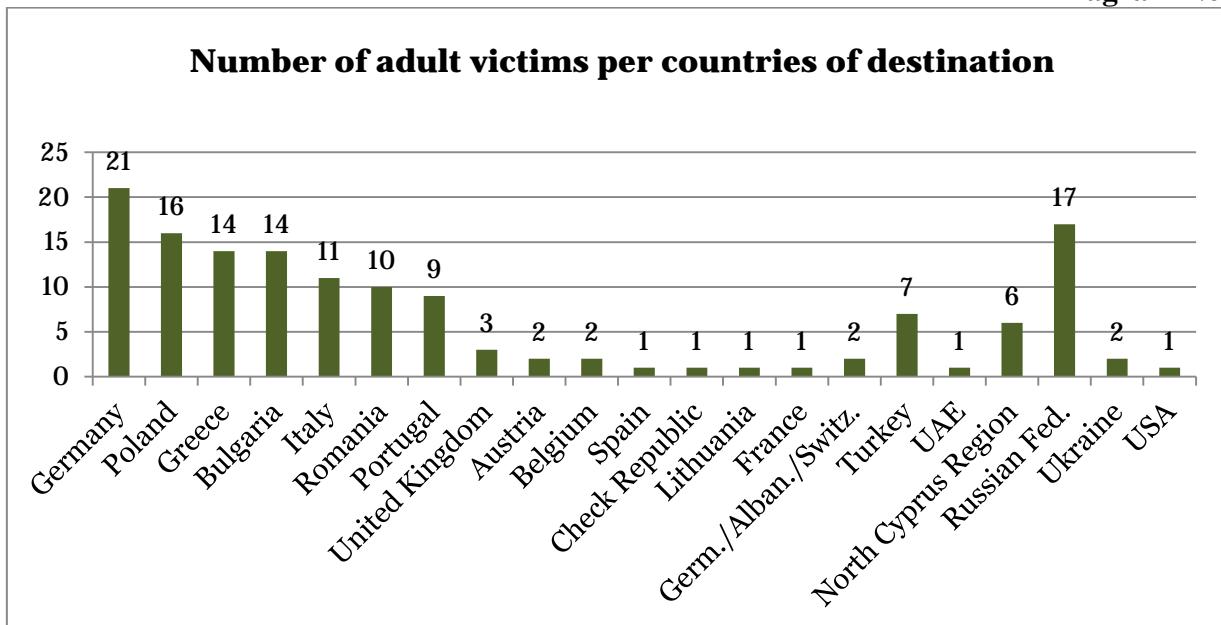


Diagram No. 5



- ❖ With reference to minor victims

The following situation is seen with respect to the **form of exploitation** of children:

In comparison with 2018, labour exploitation has become the main form of child exploitation, similar to the situation of adult victims (mainly in the cultural-artistic area). Most victims were identified in connection with a criminal case.

Diagram No. 6 Form of exploitation of minor victims

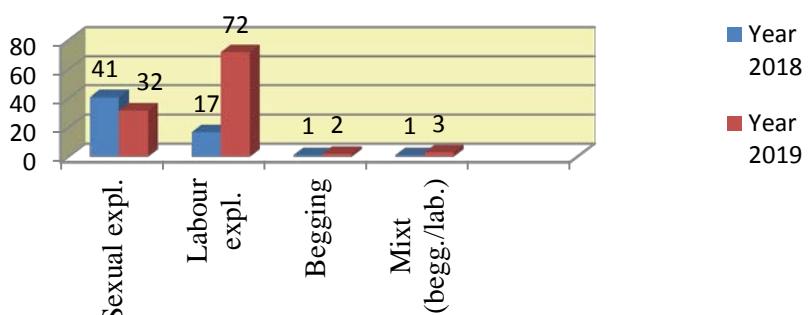
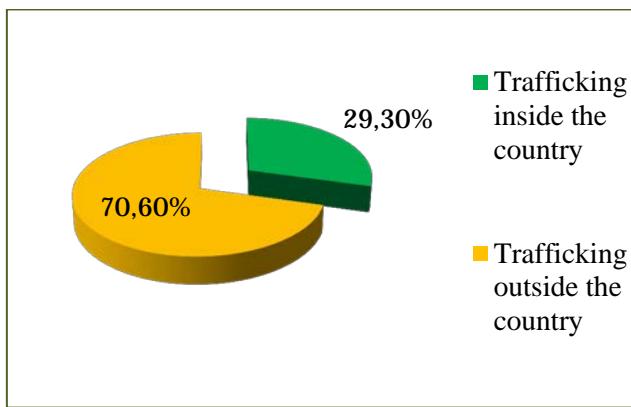


Diagram No. 7 Country of destination



⊕ In comparison with 2018, in 2019 a reverse trend of child exploitation is seen, namely trafficking outside the country;

⊕ In 2019, **Greece** has become the main country of destination of the outside the country child trafficking. The number of child victims identified here made 73 out of which 70 victims were exploited for labour purpose in the cultural-artistic area and 3 minor victims were girls exploited for sexual purposes;

⊕ The **Russian Federation** and **Ukraine** fall under the “other countries” category, each with 2 identified victims.

3.2. Statistics referring to assisted victims of trafficking in human beings and assisted child victims. Profile of the assisted victim¹.

A number of 71 victims of trafficking in human beings (53 adults and 18 minors) benefitted of assistance within the platform of the Centres providing specialized services, financed from the state budget.

Profile of the assisted THB victim (adult)

- ❖ 42 THB victims are women and 11 are men out of a total number of 53 victims.
- ❖ Analysis of the victims' age shows that most of the female victims (21 women) are 18-25 years old, and most of the male victims (10 men) are 26-50 years old.
- ❖ The education level of victims is the following: the majority of victims - 45% have secondary education, 19% of victims have completed secondary and specialized education, 9.4% of victims have no specialised education, followed by 11.4% of victims with primary education, 13.2% of victims with special education and 2% (1 victim) with higher education.
- ❖ Most victims, about 64%, come from rural areas.
- ❖ Analysis of the marital status of victims showed that 56.7% of victims are single, 7.5% of victims are married, 11.4% of victims are divorced, 20.7% of victims are in cohabitation and 3.7% of victims are widows.
- ❖ Analysis of the type of exploitation of victims showed that 39.6% of victims were sexually exploited, 26.4% of victims were exploited via labour, 17% of victims were exploited via begging, 2% (1 victim) were exploited via procurement of organs, tissues or cells, and 15% of victims were exploited in some other form.
- ❖ Out of the total number of victims, 35.8% of victims were exploited on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, while 64.2% of victims were exploited outside the country.
- ❖ Referring to the type of services, the victims benefitted of, we mention that 100% of victims benefitted of social assistance, 49% of victims benefitted of medical assistance, 26.4% of victims benefitted of legal assistance, 64.1% of victims benefitted of psychological assistance and only 5.6% of victims were supported in acquiring a profession.

¹ Data on the profile of the assisted victim differ from the data of the identified victims, described in Chapter 3.1. The profile of the assisted victim was developed based on data collected from the Centres providing aid and protection to THB victims and refers only to the victims who benefited of aid within the Centres.

Profile of the assisted victim of child trafficking

- ❖ Out of the total number of child trafficking victims, 88.9% of victims are female, and 11.1% of victims are male.
- ❖ 77.7% of child victims come from the rural areas.
- ❖ Most of the victims, about 72%, were exploited on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.
- ❖ The following is stated with reference to the type of exploitation: 50% of the child victims were sexually exploited, 11% (2 children) of child victims were exploited via labour and 33.3% of child victims were exploited via begging.

The District Multidisciplinary Teams contributed to the identification and support of:

- 34 THB victims (27 adults and 7 minors)
- 61 potential victims of (33 adults and 28 minors)

3.3. Repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings

The provision of social specialized services, within the Centres providing social services, which additionally support the THB victims, is carried out under the Government Decision no.898 of 30.12.2015 on the approval of the Framework Regulation on the organization and operation of the Agency for assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings and for safeguarding the minimum quality standards.

Out of the total number of assisted victims within Service Provider Centres, 7 adult victims benefitted of assistance in obtaining identity documents, 1 child benefitted of education, 3 victims (2 adults and 1 child) were enrolled in vocational training courses and 5 adult victims were supported in finding employment.

Maintenance of the assistance and protection Centres for THB victims and of the psychosocial rehabilitation Centres for the domestic violence victims was also supported with state budget financial resources. In 2019, financial resources in a total amount of 10818.8 thousand lei were earmarked for this purpose, out of which 1081.9 thousand lei were executed as follows:

- ❖ 3216.3 thousand lei were allocated from the MSMPS budget for financing the Chisinau municipality CAP
- ❖ 6865.6 thousand lei were allocated from the state budget special destination transfers to the second level local budgets for the maintenance of the Centre for assistance and protection of THB victims of the Cahul district and of the psychosocial Centres for rehabilitation of the domestic violence victims from districts Anenii Noi, Causeni, Drochia, Hincesti and Bălți municipality.

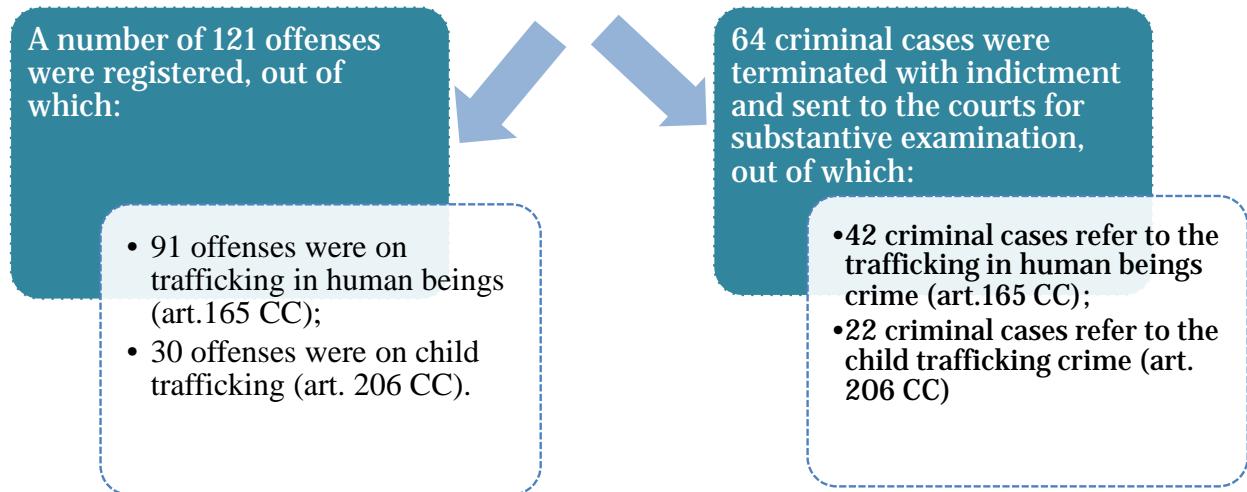
MSMPS organized the repatriation of 21 people (19 unaccompanied children and 2 adults in difficulty) from the following countries: Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Poland and the Italian Republic. At the same time, one THB victim was repatriated from the UAE with the IOM financial support.

An amount of 300.0 thousand lei was appropriated in the MSMPS budget for the repatriation activities, out of which 280.2 thousand lei were executed.

I.V. PUNISHMENT

4.1. Criminal prosecution and trial of cases

With respect to punishment of human traffickers in 2019, especially as far as the criminal prosecution is concerned, the following is stated:



The analysis of the 2019 *judicial practice* with reference to crimes of trafficking in human beings and trafficking in children indicated that the courts ruled on a total of **57 sentences** on cases falling under the THB category, with reference to 93 defendants, out of which:

- 42 sentences were ruled on human trafficking, with reference to 67 defendants (in 2018 - 40 sentences referring to 56 defendants);
- 15 sentences were ruled on child trafficking with reference to 26 defendants (in 2018 - 19 sentences referring to 30 defendants).

Out of the total number of pronounced sentences, 44 ended up with the conviction of 72 people, out of which:

- 32 sentences on trafficking in human beings with reference to 50 defendants;
- 12 sentences on child trafficking with reference to 22 defendants.

At the same time, in addition to the conviction sentences, also suspension sentences and acquittal sentences were pronounced.

The number of sentences pronounced by courts was approximately similar to the 2018 one. In 2019 there was a slight increase of the number of sentences referring to trafficking in human beings and a slight decrease of the ones referring to trafficking in children.

- ❖ All THB victims have been informed in an accessible language about their rights in criminal proceedings
- ❖ 33 victims benefitted of legal assistance
- ❖ The victims filed civil actions amounting to 23,154,738 lei

Referring to the **punishment** categories applied by the courts, the imprisonment sentence was applied to 70 people, namely:

- ❖ for committing trafficking in human beings - 48 people;
- ❖ for child trafficking - 22 people.

At the same time, in case of 1 person the imprisonment sentence for committing trafficking in human beings was applied with the conditional suspension of the penalty execution.

The penalty in the form of a fine was applied to 1 person for committing THB.

As a result of the analysis of the judicial practice, it was found that in 15 cases judges of the first instance courts reclassified the actions of the defendants from art.165 of the Criminal Code (Trafficking in human beings) to art.220 of the Criminal Code (Pimping). All these sentences were challenged by prosecutors on grounds of being illegal.

Table No. 1
Statistics for the application of the provisions of the Criminal Code,
Trafficking in human beings / Trafficking in children (art.165/art.206 CC).

Year	Registered criminal cases	Criminal cases sent to court	Defendants (traffickers) with respect to whom a sentence was pronounced	Persons sentenced to imprisonment	People sentenced to imprisonment with conditional suspension of the penalty	Number of victims according to CCTP
2010	142/23	45/10	48/5	27/4	11/1	-
2011	111/24	45/14	35/2	7/1	11/1	131
2012	151/20	60/5	21/10	13/9	8/1	266/24
2013	135/20	43/8	27/12	20/4	1/0	233/29
2014	151/24	42/7	34/9	28/9	6/0	238/26
2015	151/38	52/24	29/10	27/9	0/0	242/68
2016	123/28	22/11	48/8	39/8	1/0	197/35
2017	122/41	65/20	31/28	25/21	1/0	201/48
2018	154/37	60/23	56/30	32/24	2/1	305/60
2019	91/30	42/22	67/26	48/22	1/0	232/109

4.2. Protection of victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings

In 2019, following the aim of protecting the victims against being intimidated by traffickers or by their relatives, as well as in order to avoid re-victimization caused by multiple hearings, prosecutors submitted 11 applications requesting to carry out hearings of this kind under special conditions (art.109 CPC and 1101 CPP). Out of these applications, 9 requests were accepted.

Following the approval by the General Prosecutor of the General Instruction no.15-10d/18-600/601/602/603 of 16.07.2018 regarding the investigation of offenses under art.311 and art.312 of the Criminal Code the law enforcement bodies started to show a better response to all declarations made by victims/witnesses of trafficking in human beings, alleging accusation of intimidation with the purpose of changing their statements. In this sense, during the reporting period, criminal investigations were started in 14 cases under art.314 of the Criminal Code - “determination to filing false statements” (in cases of THB and trafficking in minors). In a case, in which the THB victim was threatened with death and was requested to refuse collaborating with the law enforcement bodies, the criminal investigation was initiated under art.155 of the Criminal Code “the threat with death or with serious personal injury or health injury” and the suspects were detained, then placed under preventive arrest.

V. PARTNERSHIP

Establishment of the national partnership with the development partners and consolidation of the interaction between different institutions responsible for the THB prevention and combating remains a priority. In 2019, the development partners (OSCE, IOM Mission to Moldova, the US Embassy to Moldova, IC "La Strada", CNPAC, ICMPD, etc.) continued providing support in capacity building for the benefit of professionals in this area. Actions such as informing the general public about the THB risks and consequences, development, publication/editing and subsequent dissemination of information materials were carried out for this purpose.

In 2019 a number of actions falling under the **international legal cooperation** category were carried out, among them the international operation "Theseus" organized by Interpol. Several criminal prosecution actions took place under the Agreement on the establishment of a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) between PCCOCS and Romania (DIICOT Iași) (12.11.2018). These actions were initiated in connection with a case dealing with facilitation of illegal migration and ended up with a number of arrests in both states.

On 28.06.2019, a JIT Agreement was also concluded between PCCOCS and France with reference to a fraud case in the immigration process of Moldovan citizens to France. Creation of JIT follows the objective to collect and exchange information and evidence, identify the perpetrators and stop their activities, coordinate the arrest of suspects, use the obtained evidence in order to initiate criminal prosecution activities and to initiate financial

investigations and freeze the proceeds of criminal offenses both on the territory of France and of the Republic of Moldova.

The General Prosecution Office submitted to other states, during the reference period, 39 requests for letters rogatory (art.165 CC - 32 requests, art.206 CC - 7 requests).

At the same time, the General Prosecution Office, received for execution 4 requests for letters rogatory submitted by other countries (art.165 CC); a total number of 5 persons were extradited to the Republic of Moldova (4 persons under art.165 and 1 person under art.165 CC and art.206 CC). The Ministry of Justice received no requests for a rogatory commission and no requests for extradition or transfer of criminal proceedings.

The OSCE Mission to Moldova organized 5 technical coordination meetings, co-chaired by the PS of the CNCTFU within the State Chancellery and by the MSMPS, attended by about 100 CPA representatives as well as by representatives of diplomatic missions, international organizations and civil society representatives from both banks of the Dniester River, including the ATU Gagauzia.

CCTP signed on 18.06.2019 a Collaboration Agreement with the Association of Recruitment Agencies of the Republic of Moldova, on the organisation and implementation of activities related to the legalization and facilitation of employment activities abroad. In particular, the Agreement refers to activities aiming at information dissemination and promotion of truthful job opportunities as well as at raising awareness of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova about the legal possibilities of employment.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION FOR 2020

- ❖ *Raising awareness of the general public remained a priority in 2019. The number of informed persons constituted approximately 113561 people in the entire republic and the number of informed specialists constituted 10980;*
- ❖ *A number of approximately 1152 specialists were trained within capacity building courses, this being an important segment of the performed activities;*
- ❖ *The number of registered individual employment contracts of citizens employed abroad shows an on-going increase, which indicates a positive trend as far as the employment abroad under legal conditions is concerned;*
- ❖ *In comparison to 2018, there is a 24% decrease of the number of identified adult victims and a 45% increase of the number of identified minor victims;*
- ❖ *In comparison to 2018, similar to the situation of adult victims, exploitation via labour constitutes the main form of exploitation of children, the exploitation of the latter taking place mainly in the cultural-artistic field. Exploitation abroad is also one of characteristics of the children's exploitation;*
- ❖ *The following objectives have been established for the next period of activity:*
 - ❖ *broader investigations aimed at countering the activity of transnational criminal groups specializing in trafficking in human beings and children's trafficking;*
 - ❖ *robust investigation, prosecution and conviction of traffickers, including the involvement of officials in such cases;*
 - ❖ *consolidation of the international cooperation with representatives of the law enforcement bodies of the transit countries and countries of destination, in particular following the aim of setting up and operation of the Joint Investigation Teams;*
 - ❖ *contribution to the reparation of the victim's rights in the criminal proceedings, by ensuring that the procedural actions are carried out in an environment favourable to the victim, including by excluding re-victimization;*
 - ❖ *more frequent application of the legal provisions and of the methodology referring to the parallel financial investigations, with the purpose of tracking and confiscating the goods generated by trafficking in human beings and child trafficking;*
 - ❖ *further development of the cooperation with the development partners;*
 - ❖ *monitoring, analysis and development of the necessary methodological tools for the prosecution of cases of sexual exploitation of children by use of the online technologies;*
 - ❖ *development and adoption of a legal regulatory mechanism regarding the control and operation of private agencies in facilitating employment outside the country;*
 - ❖ *amendments to the relevant legal framework aimed at ensuring compliance with new trends.*