

# Trafficking in Human Beings: A Global Issue

## Swiss Counter-Trafficking Weeks 2019

Adriana Weissova, Emilie Ballestraz

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

16th October 2019



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency



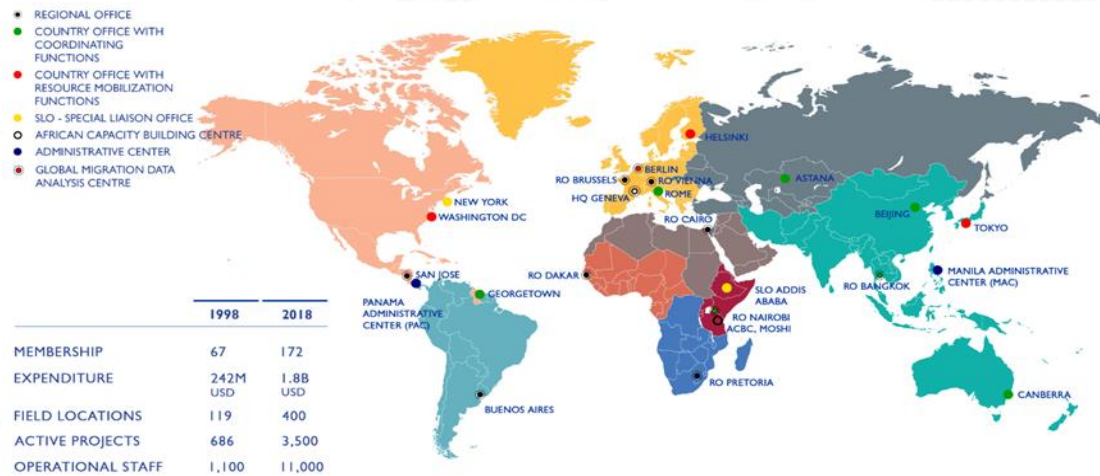
Die Schweiz gegen Menschenhandel  
La Suisse contre la traite des êtres humains  
La Svizzera contro la tratta di esseri umani

# Agenda

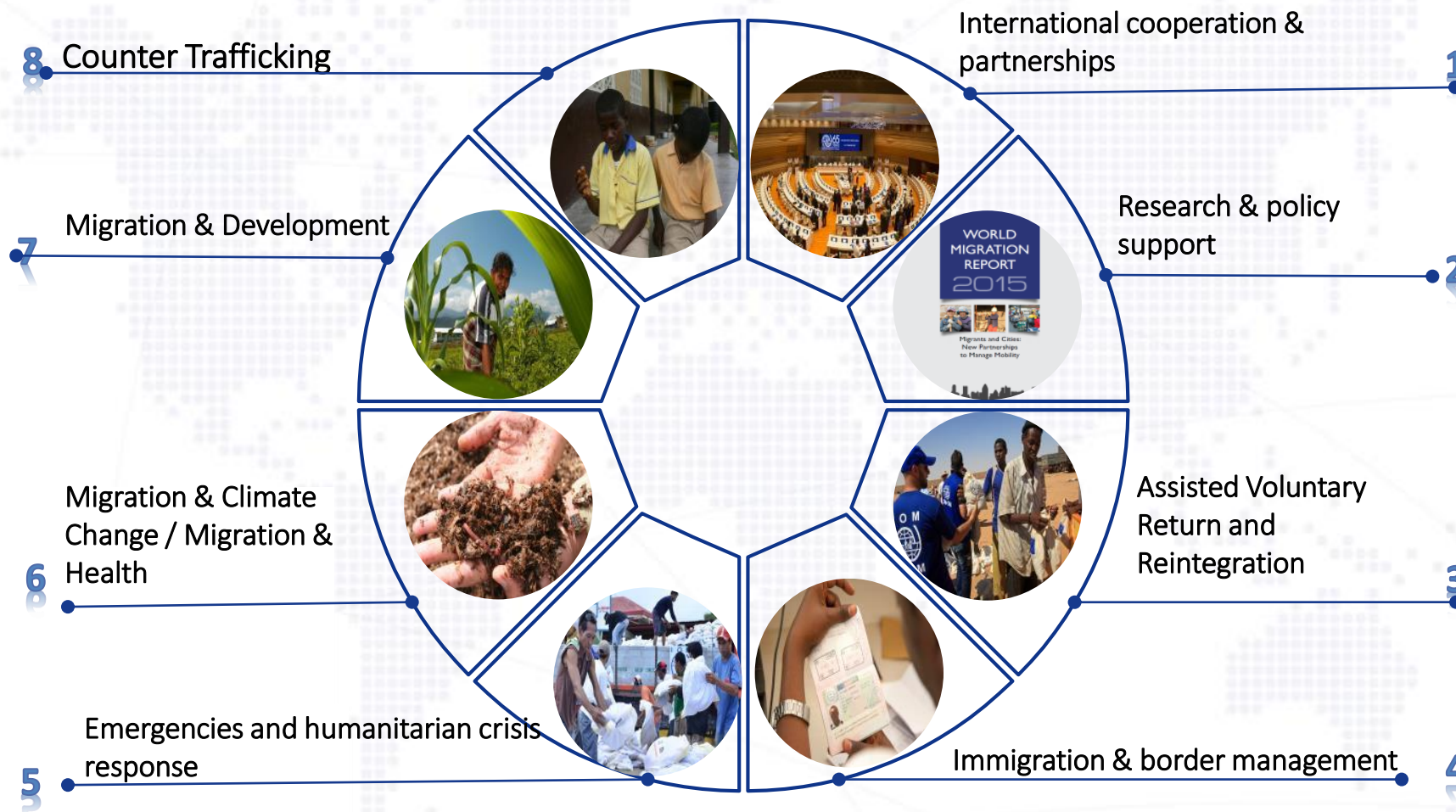
- Introduction of IOM
- What is human trafficking?
- How does it work?
- Causes of human trafficking.
- Why victims don't escape or report their exploitation?
- The difference between human trafficking and human smuggling.
- Global situation in human trafficking/UNODC report 2018.
- IOM Global trafficking trends.
- Challenges in the Fight Against Human Trafficking.
- Human trafficking in Switzerland.

# IOM – Who Are We?

- Globally active, intergovernmental organization in the field of migration
- Aim: humane and orderly migration
- Established in 1951
- Since September 2016: part of the UN System (the UN Migration agency)
- 173 member states, 480 offices, more than 11'000 employees
- Headquarters in Geneva, decentralized structure with 9 regional offices



# IOM in the World



# Global Situation in Human Trafficking

## In the world :

- Estimated: 40 million victims (including 25 million forced labour and 15 million forced marriage)
  - The exploitation of the workforce surpasses sexual exploitation.
  - More and more male victims

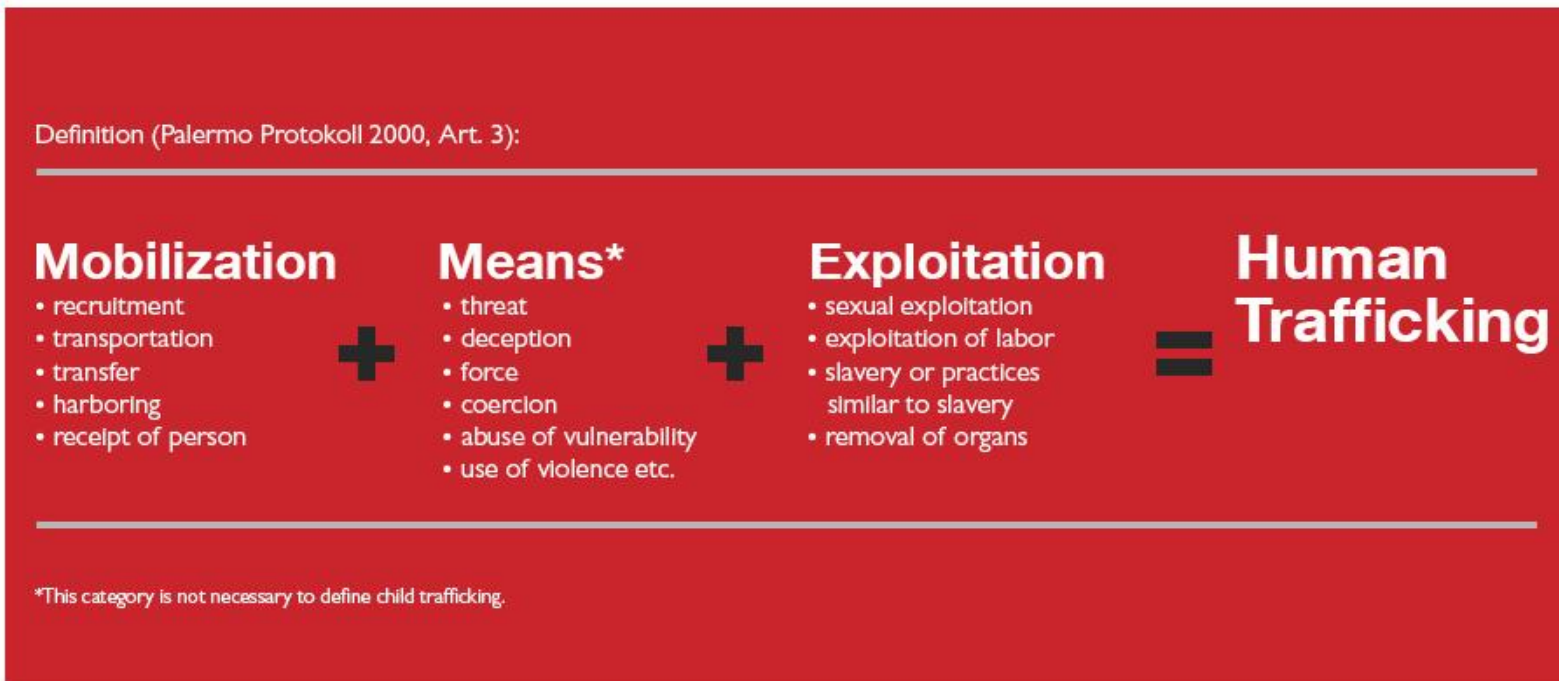
## In Europe:

- The majority of the identified victims are women (68% according to a study of the European Commission)
- Nearly 1/4 of the victims are minors

→ Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation remains the most visible form despite an increase in the identification of labor exploitation situations

# What is Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)?

- Human trafficking, according to the internationally agreed definition (Palermo Protocol 2000, Art 3; Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Art 4) means:



- Switzerland has incorporated this definition into national legislation (Swiss Criminal Code, Art. 182).

# What is Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)?

## Definition of Human Trafficking - The Palermo Protocol 2000

“Trafficking in Persons”... mean[s] the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (Article 3, paragraph (a)).

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>

# How does it work?

## Recruitment

- Partial deception: those affected know about the nature of the work, but not about the conditions
- Total deception: false promises
- Use of force (in some cases)

## Transport

- Entry: regular / irregular
- The victims are accompanied or instructed
- The victims are taken to the countries where there is a demand and the profits are greatest for the traders



# How does it work?

## Means of control

- Pretended love feelings, promise of small payments or benefits
- False promises and deceiving
- Debts
- Isolation
- Violence and fear (no longer able to make a decisions)
- Threats against the victim and his family
- Targeted humiliation, loss of human dignity

# Why victims don't escape or report their exploitation?

- Victims are often taught to distrust others.
- Victims are very rarely left alone and are threatened with violence.
- Victims often have psychological trauma from their abuse.
- In all forms of human trafficking, there are likely elements of grooming a victim.
- Lack of awareness of what human trafficking is. Most victims of human trafficking will not self-identify as such because they're unaware of what it means.

# How does it work?

## Exploitation

- Sexual exploitation, e.g bars, massage parlors, saunas, etc.
- Exploitation of labor force in construction, gastronomy, agriculture, domestic servitude, begging and petty-criminal activities
- Removal of body organs

# Causes of Trafficking in Human Beings

The causes of THB are complex and interlinked, and include:

economic  
social  
and political factors.

→ Poverty alone does not necessarily create vulnerability to trafficking, but when combined with other factors, these can lead to a higher risk for being trafficked.

# My life as a modern slave 2min 50 sec (BBC)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59KGc6UyjAw&feature=youtu.be>

# Human Trafficking vs. Smuggling of Migrants

According to the [UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air](#), migrant smuggling is defined as “the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or permanent resident” ([UNODC, 2000](#)).

An element of exploitation is required in trafficking but not in smuggling. Smuggling must be consensual and it must be transnational, whereas human trafficking may also occur within a country's territory.



# Global Initiatives to Fight Human Trafficking

# 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Target 8.7** of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) calls for the “end to all forms of forced labour, human trafficking, modern day slavery, and child labour by 2025.

”**Target 5.2** of the **SDGs** calls for “elimination all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”.

**Target 16.2** of the **SDGs** calls for “end of abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”.

# The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

The NY Declaration contains commitments to (art. 34 -36):

- respect states' obligations under international law;
- vigorously combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling with a view to their elimination, including through targeted measures to identify victims of human trafficking or those at risk of trafficking;
- provide support for the victims of human trafficking;
- work to prevent human trafficking among those affected by displacement;
- implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (Resolution [64/293](#));
- establish or upgrade, as necessary, national and regional anti-human trafficking policies.

# Global Compact For Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration

*“We commit to reduce legal and practical barriers to preventing and combating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration by strengthening international cooperation and ending impunity of trafficking networks. We further commit to enhance the identification and protection of, and assistance to migrants who have become victims of trafficking.”(art. 24)*

# Global UNODC Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018

It covers 142 countries and provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional and national levels

- Increasing numbers of recorded and detected VOTs in all regions
- Although increasing numbers of detected VoTs, large areas of impunity remaining in some regions;
- Increasing numbers of domestic and sub regional trafficking, over 50% of victims are detected within their own borders

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP\\_2018\\_BOOK\\_web\\_small.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf)

# Global UNODC Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018

- **Most detected VoT are female** as in previous years. Adult women and girls represent more than 70% of detected trafficking victims
- **Armed conflicts drive vulnerabilities** to human trafficking worldwide, victims are exploited in conflict areas as well as when fleeing conflict areas
- **The vast majority of offenders worldwide continue to be male** and local nationals of the country of conviction(69% of persons investigated or arrested for trafficking in persons)

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP\\_2018\\_BOOK\\_web\\_small.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf)

# IOM Global Trafficking Trends 2006 - 2016

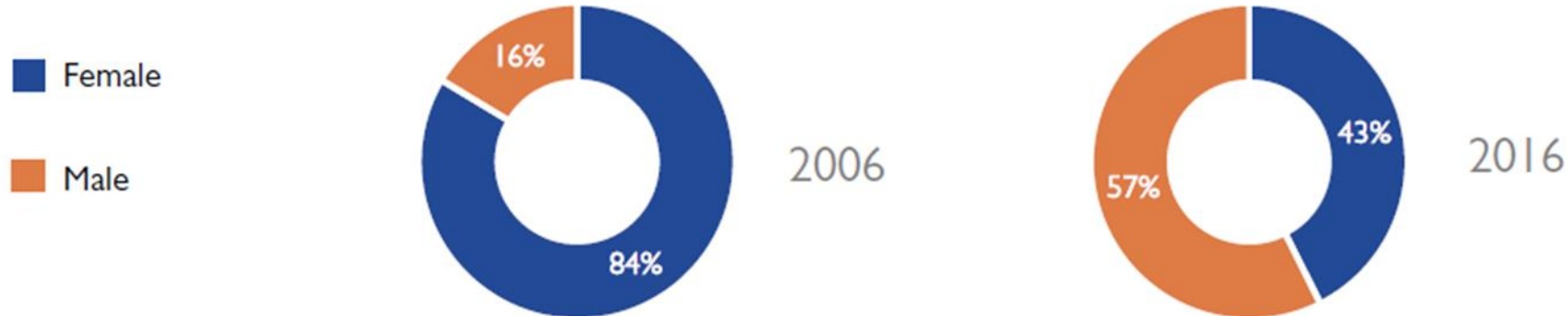
Nearly 40 000 recorded in IOM's CMS within 2006 - 2016

IOM's assistance can include:

- accommodation in safe places;
- medical and psychosocial support;
- skills development and vocational training;
- reintegration assistance;
- the options of voluntary, safe and dignified return to CoO;
- integration in the country of destination;
- resettlement to third countries

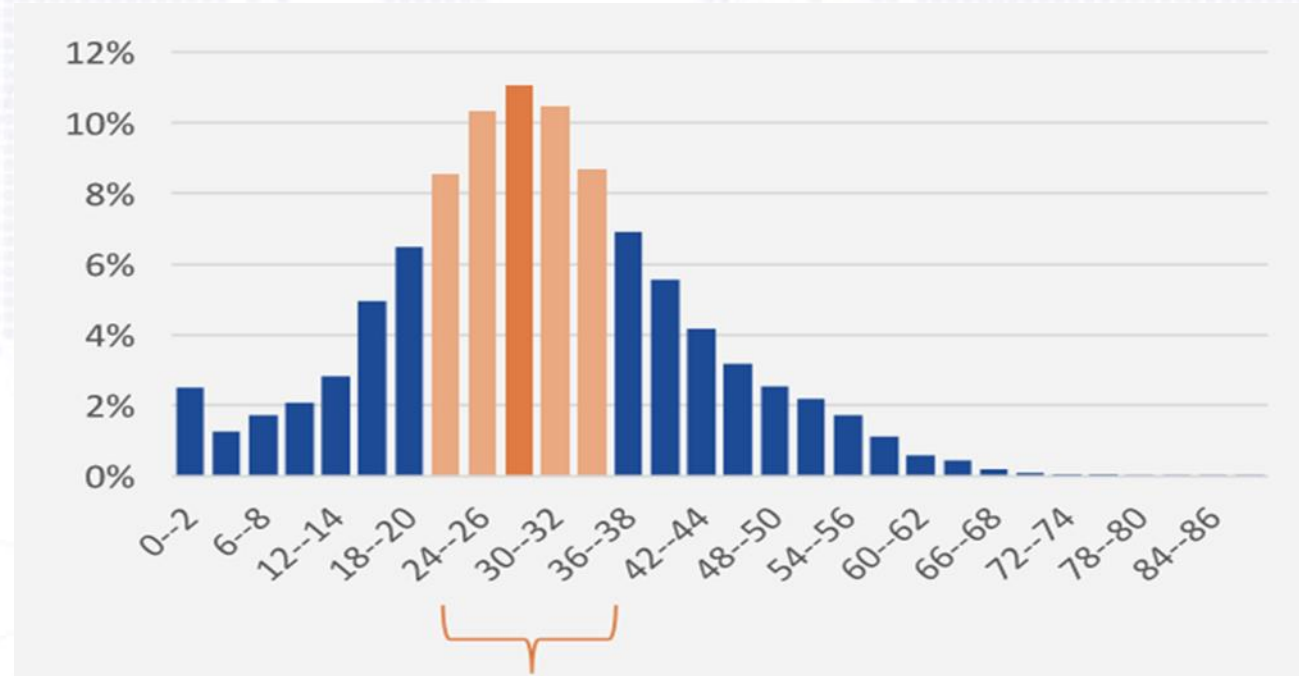
# Demographics of Victims (2014 – 2016)

A large proportion of victims identified are **female**. Over time, acknowledgement that **men and boys** are also vulnerable to human trafficking led gradually to a **higher percentage of males** identified.



# Demographics of Victims

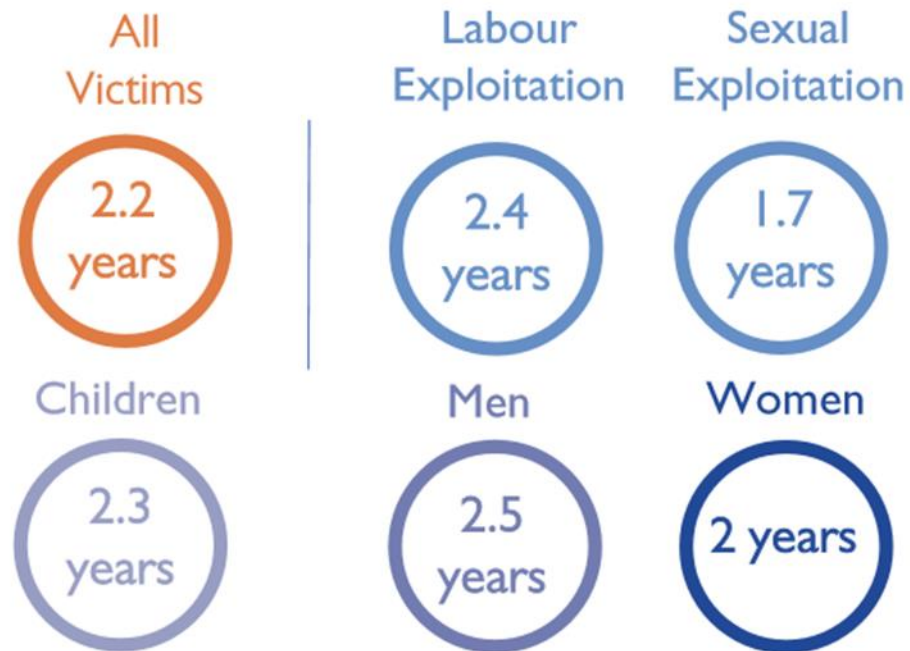
Overall, the average age of victims is 30 years.



50% of victims are between the age of 22 and 37

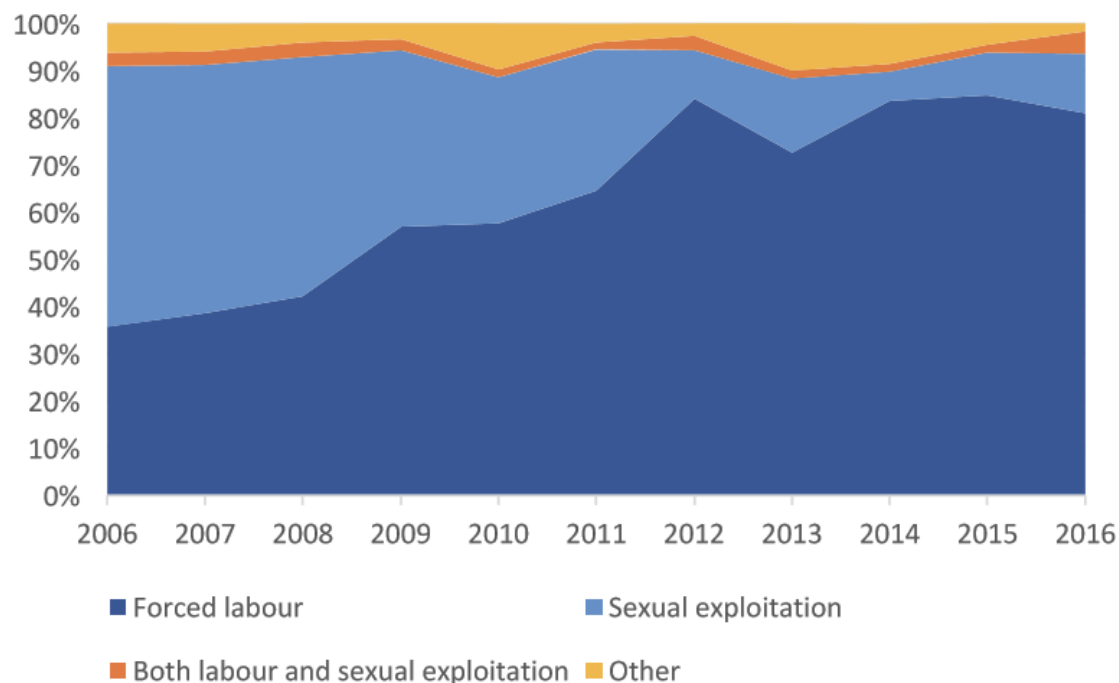
# Demographics of Victims

On average, victims of trafficking are trafficked for 2.2. years.



# Type of exploitation

- In 2006, IOM mainly assisted victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, but this trend has steadily reversed to place forced labour as the most significant category of victims assisted (81% in 2016).





# Challenges in the Fight Against Human Trafficking

# Gaps in Data

- Lack of data and information (e.g. UNODC TiP report missing data for 22 countries in Africa and the Middle East)
- Data not collected systematically, or available for some years or some parts of the country only
- In some cases, details regarding the profiles of victims or offenders are missing

# Gaps in Prosecution

- Missing anti-trafficking legislation or gaps in anti-trafficking legislation
- Weak implementation and failure to enforce the law
- Low level of prosecution of traffickers
- Corruption leading to impunity
- Lack of co-ordination between different gov. agencies to enforce victims' rights
- Conditional protection of victims

# Gaps in Identification of Victims

- Legal definitions of trafficking may fail to include different forms of trafficking which leads to failure **to identify victims** and **prosecuting of other forms of exploitation** such as labour exploitation
- Concern over “illegal immigration” fosters a view of irregular migrants as law-breakers rather than victims
- Victims do not identify themselves as trafficking victims, rather, often they see themselves as migrants whose journeys have just gone wrong or even as offenders as they passed a border irregularly and have no residence permit. Most of them fear the police because of their local circumstances
- Insufficient protection and assistance schemes or lack of reflexion period also leads to failure of identification.
- Lack of assistance framework in asylum procedures.

# Gaps in Protection of Victims

- Inability to enforce statutory workplace protections – lack of inspections of working conditions
- Lack of social service providers
- Lack of support services to victims
- Lack of financial investments into the prevention and assistance to victims

# Misusing of technologies

- Perpetrators communicate through encrypted applications or use the Dark Web to connect
- Cryptocurrency allows traffickers to conduct financial transactions and move criminal proceeds anonymously
- Online interaction facilitates targeting of potential victims, access to personal data, arrangement of logistics and transportation, and recruitment through social media
- Technology make it easier for traffickers to engage in transactions with users, enter new marketplaces and expand criminal operations
- It also help traffickers control and coerce victims

# MIRROR – Exploitation in Textiles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7s1rCSxhyYY>

# IOM counter-trafficking activities

- **Direct support of victims**  
Accommodation, counselling, medical and psychological help, practical help, etc
- **Assisted voluntary return and Reintegration**
- **Prevention**  
Information and awareness raising
- **Technical cooperation**  
Cooperation with governments and civil society
- **Data collection**  
Research, Databanks, Trend analysis



# Human trafficking in Switzerland

- Switzerland is a country of **destination and transit** for human trafficking.
- THB crime punishable in Switzerland under **the Swiss Criminal Code to Art. 182**
- Victim protection organizations identify and provide assistance to **more than 250 victims every year**.  
→ The vast majority of those affected remains unidentified.
- **Mainly sexually exploited women between 17 and 30 years old** (frequent countries of origin: Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Thailand, Nigeria).
- Labour exploitation does exist but few cases are identified

## Exploitation takes place, among others, in:

- Prostitution
- Construction
- Restaurants and the hotel industry
- Agriculture
- Home care
- Begging and petty crimes



# How does Switzerland fight against human trafficking?

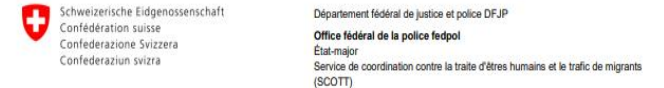
**Multitude of actors** (federal agencies, cantonal authorities, police, prosecutors, specialized NGOs, LAVI centers, labour inspectors, etc.)

## At the national level:

- Section against Trafficking in Human Beings and Migrant Smuggling (FSMM)
- Swiss Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings: the **National Action Plan (2017-2020)** contains 28 actions based on the 4 "P": Protection of victims, Prosecution of perpetrators, Prevention, Partnerships

## At the cantonal level:

- **Cantonal round tables:** cooperation mechanisms (police, victim support, cantonal authorities, prosecutors, labor inspectors, etc.)



## Plan d'action national contre la traite des êtres humains 2017-2020

approuvé par le DFJP le 8 septembre 2016

approuvé par l'organe de pilotage du SCOTT le 30 novembre 2016

# IOM Bern's return and reintegration assistance for victims of human trafficking

**Aim:** reducing risks of re-trafficking

**Partners:** State Secretariat for Migration (SEM), Return counsellors in the cantons, FIZ

**Target groups:** Victims or witnesses of human trafficking, including victims identified in the asylum procedure (also if the exploitation took place outside Switzerland)

## Services:

- Return Counselling and organization of the travel
  - Financial cash assistance
  - In-kind reintegration assistance to implement a reintegration project after return (follow-up by IOM in the country of return and/or partner organization)
  - Medical assistance after return (max. duration of six months)
  - Monitoring
- Since 2008: 220 persons assisted (mostly victims of sexual exploitation)



# Swiss Counter-Trafficking Weeks 2019

## IOM Bern role:

- The coordination and Secretariat of the CT Weeks

## Target groups:

- Universities, colleges and high schools
- Embassies, consulates and migrant communities in Switzerland
- Cantons and cantonal round tables
- Further interested partners

This year 19 events in 8 cantons are organized by a variety of state and non-state partner organisations.

Competition - Art against human trafficking



### DIE SCHWEIZ GEGEN MENSCHENHANDEL

Wochen gegen Menschenhandel  
vom 10. bis 31. Oktober 2019

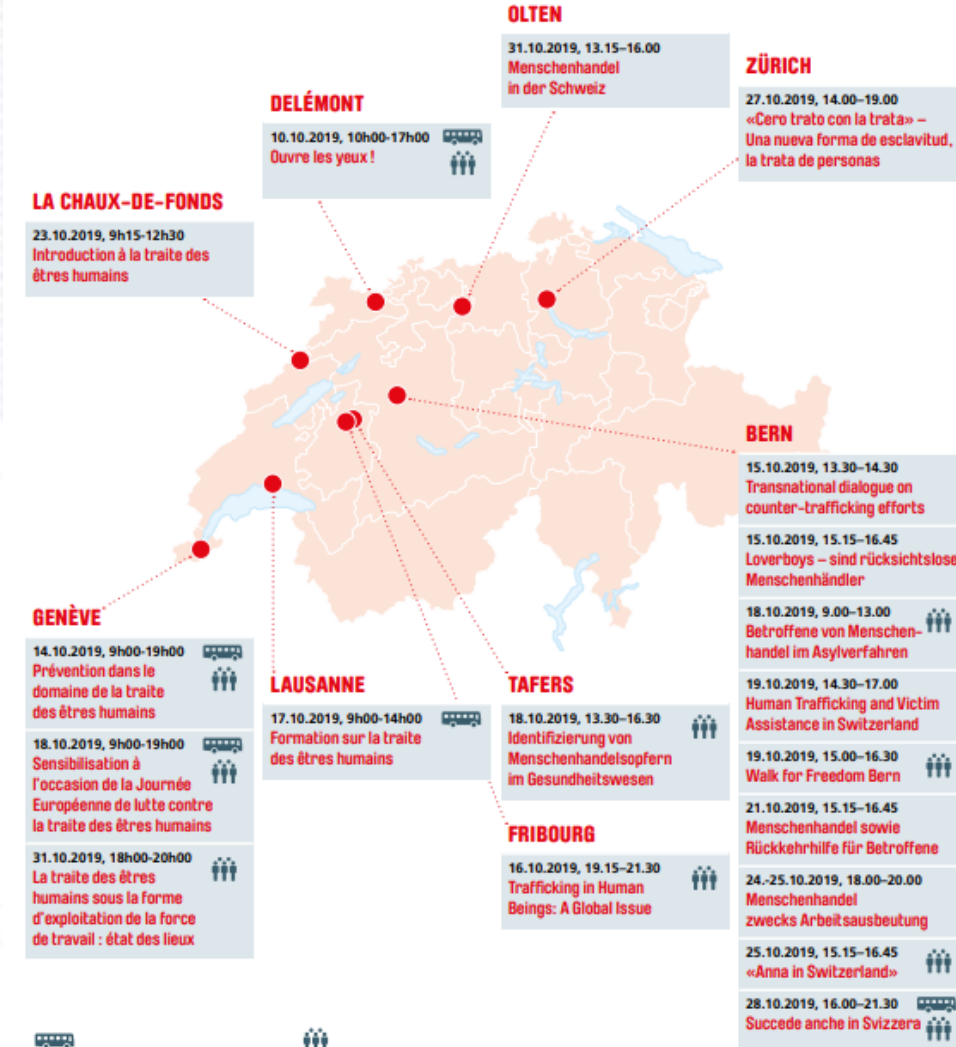
### LA SUISSE CONTRE LA TRAITE DES ÊTRES HUMAINS

Semaines contre la traite des êtres  
humains du 10 au 31 octobre 2019

### LA SVIZZERA CONTRO LA TRATTA DI ESSERI UMANI

Settimane di iniziative contro  
la tratta di esseri umani,  
dal 10 al 31 ottobre 2019

[www.18oktober.ch](http://www.18oktober.ch)



# IOM Counter-Trafficking activities in Switzerland

## Prevention and cooperation

- Swiss Counter-Trafficking weeks
- Information bus
- International round tables

## Active in various working groups

Working groups on Asylum / Human Trafficking, Education,  
List of indicators,

## Trainings for authorities and professionals



# The Information Bus to increase the chances of identification

Informationsbus 2017-2018:

- 29 Stops
- In cooperation with many partners and cantonal round tables

2019: 15 Bus stops with a focus on the schools



**OPEN  
YOUR EYES**

DON'T BE BLINDED – SWITZERLAND IS ALSO AFFECTED

**INFORMATION BOOKLET ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING IN SWITZERLAND**



Switzerland against Human Trafficking  
Die Schweiz gegen Menschenhandel  
La Suisse contre la traite des êtres humains

# Follow us !



## Die Schweiz gegen Menschenhandel

La Suisse contre la traite des êtres humains | La Svizzera contro la tratta di esseri umani

HOME | WOCHEN GEGEN MENSCHENHANDEL | BUS | MENSCHENHANDEL- WAS IST DAS? | MEDIEN | KONTAKTE

Deutsch Français Italiano English

### 18. Oktober - Die Schweiz gegen Menschenhandel

Die Schweiz ist sowohl Ziel- als auch Transitland für Menschenhandel. Da Menschenhandel ein Verbrechen und eine Menschenrechtsverletzung ist, die meist im Verborgenen stattfindet, verfügt die Schweizer Bevölkerung nur über sehr limitierte Informationen zur Existenz und den verschiedenen Formen von Menschenhandel.

Der 18. Oktober ist der Europäische Tag gegen Menschenhandel. Rund um diesen Tag werden schweizweit Veranstaltungen organisiert, um auf Menschenhandel aufmerksam zu machen. Wir brauchen die Hilfe der ganzen Bevölkerung um die Opfer zu identifizieren und ihnen die nötige Hilfe zukommen zu lassen.

Zusammen können wir dieses Verbrechen bekämpfen und die Opfer schützen. Ein Mensch ist keine Ware, die verkauft werden kann. Machen wir aus dem 18. Oktober das Symbol gegen Menschenhandel auch in der Schweiz!

[Erfahre hier mehr über Menschenhandel.](#)

### Bus



### Schau hin! - Aktionswochen und Informationsbus

Nach dem grossen Erfolg mit dem Informationsbus und den Aktionswochen 2017 werden weitere Veranstaltungen und Busstopps geplant. Im Jahr 2019 soll ein spezieller Fokus der Sensibilisierung auf Berufsschulen und Gymnasien sowie Universitäten und (Fach-)Hochschulen gelegt werden. Rund um den 18. Oktober 2019 finden wieder **Aktionswochen** statt. In der ganzen Schweiz werden Veranstaltungen organisiert, um zum Thema Menschenhandel zu informieren. Der Informationsbus ist weiterhin unterwegs und besucht möglichst auch jene Regionen und Kantone, die bisher noch nicht auf seiner Reiseroute waren. Für weitere



Die Schweiz gegen Menschenhandel  
La Suisse contre la traite des êtres humains  
La Svizzera contro la tratta di esseri umani

[www.18oktober.ch](http://www.18oktober.ch)

Social media: #iombbern



# Links to Documents

## Palermo Protocol

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>

## Global UNODC Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP\\_2018\\_BOOK\\_web\\_small.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf)

## 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

## The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

<https://www.unhcr.org/new-york-declaration-for-refugees-and-migrants.html>

## Global Compact for Migration

<https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>

## IOM Migration Data Portal

[https://migrationdataportal.org/data?i=stock\\_abs\\_&t=2019](https://migrationdataportal.org/data?i=stock_abs_&t=2019)

## Global Data Hub on Human Trafficking

<https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>

## Tip report US

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

## GRETA – the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/greta>

# THANK YOU

Adriana Weissova, aweissova@iom.int

Emilie Ballestraz, eballestraz@iom.int

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Case postale 216

Thunstrasse 11

3000 Bern