



IOM Activities in Transnistria region

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INFO SHEET

Geographical coverage:

Transnistria region, Republic of Moldova

Beneficiaries:

- Actual and potential migrants and victims of trafficking
- Vulnerable families
- Youth
- Volunteers
- Local NGOs active in the social sector

Implementing partners:

- NGO Interaction
- Local NGOs



INTERACTION

Who we are: Interaction is a non-commercial organization implementing a range of programs aimed at preventing violations of human rights, with a particular emphasis on the rights of women and children.

Our mission: Assistance for self-development, self-determination, and self-realization in harmony with nature and society.

How we work: Informing by means of publications, counseling, and other informational measures; promoting informal education; supporting social and youth associations; holding charity events.

Key activities:

1) Toll Free Hotline in Transnistria

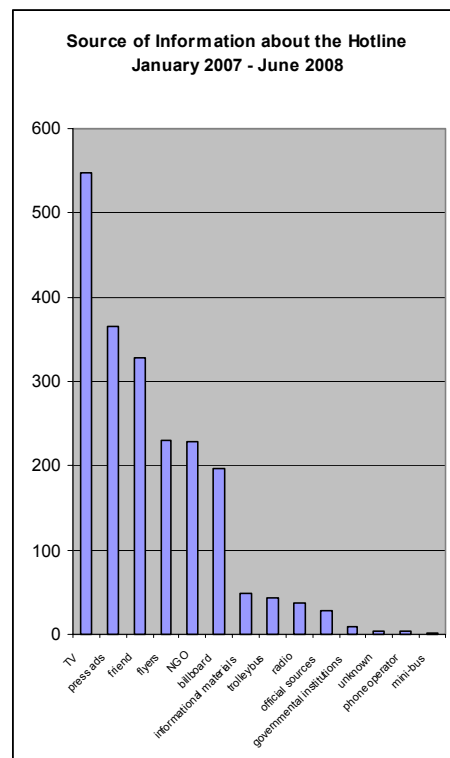
Operation: IOM Moldova has provided support to the Tiraspol-based toll-free Hotline 0 800 88888 operated by the NGO Interaction since the service was launched in February 2006. The Hotline operators have been trained by IOM with assistance from La Strada Moldova, who provided a Counsellor's Guide and a Referral Guide in addition to practical training in how to handle calls. The Hotline provides easily accessible, free, and confidential information about migration and trafficking (prevention calls). In addition, it is used to identify victims of trafficking in need of immediate assistance and assist in their rescue and return (SOS calls). From February 2006 through June 2008 the Hotline received 2,886 calls.



Hotline promotion: An information campaign has been built around the Hotline, not only to promote the service, but also to raise awareness about trafficking in the region. The campaign includes advertisements in the local media (television, radio, newspaper), advertisements on billboards and on a trolleybus, production and distribution of informational brochures ("Going Abroad: Yes/No – It Is Worth Knowing All the Answers", "Trafficking in Human Beings", "Hotline: 0 800 88888"), and the

maintenance of a website (www.ngointeraction.org) which also provides consultations in an online forum.

Analysis: The statistical processing and analysis of the received calls provides basic knowledge on migration (prevention calls) and human trafficking (SOS calls) in the Transnistria region. The analysis of job announcements in newspapers offering employment abroad shows the kind of information that will be solicited by callers and prioritizes the areas in which the team should concentrate their efforts to update/collect necessary knowledge, including organizations and other agencies who offer assistance to victims of trafficking and socially vulnerable people.



2) Information campaign

Training of Trainers: Since 2006, five Trainings of Trainers have been organized for more than 120 volunteers and representatives of local NGOs with whom Memoranda of Understanding have been signed. The purpose of the training is to instruct and organize volunteer teams to implement peer-to-peer sessions aimed at informing young people about migration and the dangers of trafficking. A Volunteers Guide has been prepared for the trainees by La Strada, CPTW, and IOM.



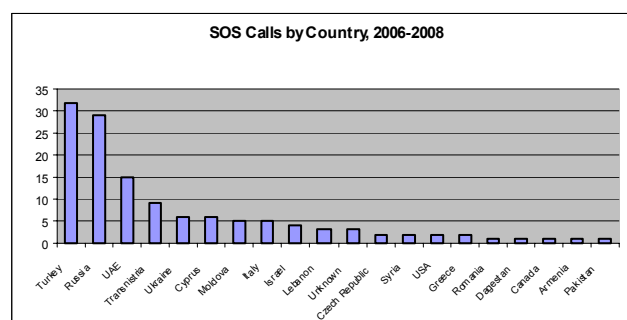
Peer-to-peer seminars: Since March 2006, young volunteers have held 458 information seminars for 8,501 beneficiaries, providing information on migration and the risks of being caught in the trafficking trap. Peer-to-peer education has been a particularly effective way of getting the message across as participants are open to listening to other young people with the same cultural background and the same difficulties. Those who attend the seminars are encouraged to think about their own plans for the future carefully and to make sure they are fully informed before they make any decisions about going abroad. In order to increase the impact of this part of the program, the volunteer networks reach out through as many institutions as possible to those considered to be most at risk of being trafficked. These include trade unions, and university student councils.



Contest and movie week: Other awareness-raising activities have been organized to complement the seminars, including a region-wide essay and drawings contest; “Modern-day Slavery with the Eyes of Free People”, and a week of film screenings on human trafficking and illegal migration, held in Tiraspol in late 2006. The screenings were also a good opportunity to distribute informational brochures and to collect opinions and impressions from the participants.

3) Direct Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking

Profile: Through interviews conducted with trafficking victims originating from Transnistria, IOM has learned that half are young women between the ages of 19 and 24. The countries to which most of them are trafficked include Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Russia. Many Transnistrian victims are also trafficked internally within the Republic of Moldova. In 87% of cases, victims were exploited sexually, although less than half had accepted ‘high-risk’ jobs such as dancer or hostess.



Rehabilitation and reintegration: Supported by IOM, Interaction provides assistance to women, men and children who have been trafficked. The team offers multidisciplinary support, including psychological and legal assistance, vocational guidance, help with job placement, and start-up grants for small businesses. Medicine, food, and clothing are also provided in some cases. Since 2004, Interaction has provided assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, with support from IOM. Since 2004, IOM and NGO Interaction have facilitated the return and assistance of 236 victims of trafficking—along with their children—originally from Transnistria, including assistance with documents and short-term help in the Chisinau Rehabilitation Centre.

4) Social Partnership Roundtables

NGO collaboration: Starting in 2007, NGO Interaction, in partnership with informational agency “Social Aspect,” began hosting social roundtables to bring together the NGOs of Transnistria. The goal of this roundtable program is to create unity within the social sector, to pool resources among Transnistria’s social organizations, and to create a system for regional referrals of victims of trafficking. This system focuses on providing social support and legal assistance to victims of human trafficking throughout the region through the collaborative efforts of multiple organizations. The roundtable meetings give NGOs the opportunity to present their projects, progress, and plans to their colleagues in the social sector as well as to donors. Representatives from international organizations and donors attend these meetings and are given the opportunity to present their programs and choose to support social projects from among the represented Transnistrian NGOs. These roundtable meetings have been held monthly since September 2007.

