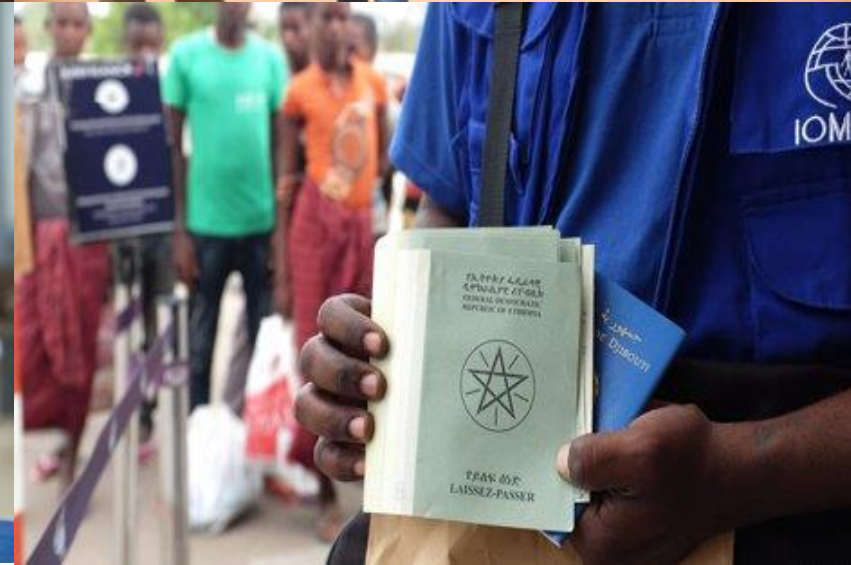


Navigating trafficking risks:

IOM's holistic approach and key insights from Ukraine emergency response

Warsaw, 8th of October 2025

What is IOM role?



IOM and combatting trafficking in persons

- Actively works to combat and prevent human trafficking
- Over the past 18 years, IOM implemented more than **1,100 counter trafficking projects** in **132 countries**
- Provided **direct assistance** to more than **100,000 people**
- Builds capacity of relevant stakeholders by delivering counter trafficking trainings to law enforcement, judiciary, social services, educators, airline and airport staff, and many more...

IOM in Poland

- IOM has been operating in Poland since 2002 under an agreement with the Polish government; through cooperation with state institutions, local governments and partner organizations, it conducts information activities, trainings and provides direct support to people with migration experience
- IOM implements voluntary return and reintegration assistance (AVRR), counter-trafficking, migrants' integration, and health and research projects



IOM POLAND - ACTIVITIES

- Provision of essential assistance (NFIs, temporary shelter)
- Vulnerability screenings
- Monitoring trafficking dynamics & trends
- Reporting to law enforcement
- Capacity building
- Mapping support services for VoTs
- Awareness-raising activities

Holistic approaches to counter-trafficking

Field Protection Activities

Information provision & awareness-raising

Cooperation & coordination

Trainings

- Cover elements of CT, anti-discrimination, inter-cultural communication, vulnerable cases identification SGBV, CP.
- Targeting BG, police, local authorities, implementing partners, collective shelters personnel.

Operational in: Warsaw, Podkarpackie, Małopolska, Lubelskie

Support to:

- Persons with disabilities
- Unaccompanied children
- GBV and trafficking survivors
- Elderly persons
- People requiring urgent medical care
- MHPSS – psychological support

- Leaflets/posters at borders, shelters, transit points
- One-on-one consultations on trafficking risks
- Referrals to relevant services (e.g. NCIC)
- Awareness rising activities - information campaigns, Escape Truck
- Dedicated info line (+48 22 490 20 44)
- Promoting fair and ethical recruitment

- IOM Poland chairs Counter-Trafficking Working Group (under RRP)
- Member of Interministerial Countertrafficking Working Group
- Financial/in-kind support to implementing partners: La Strada Poland, Towards Dialogue Foundation, Lambda Warszawa

Humanitarian crisis & increased trafficking risk

The war in Ukraine and protection needs

Scale of the crisis

- 8 million displaced within Ukraine
- 7 million refugees, 250,000+ third-country nationals (TCNs)
- 4 million fled to Poland
- Massive mobility increases vulnerability

Heightened trafficking risk

- War conditions → protection systems overstretched
- Women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, and the Roma face elevated risk
- Unaccompanied and separated children particularly vulnerable
- Risk exists at all stages of migration: origin, transit, destination

Why this matters

- Trafficking prevention must be integrated in emergency response
- Requires early identification, targeted safeguards, and institutional coordination
- CT guidelines aim to complement existing protection frameworks—not replace them

Vulnerability to Trafficking in Persons in the Context of the War in Ukraine: Findings from Poland and Romania

IOM, UNHCR New Research Publications, Aug 2024

Main findings

- 83% of surveyed refugees were women, many traveling with children
- Health and financial problems most frequently reported
- Key vulnerability factors: gender, disability, age, and ethnicity
- Rise in discrimination and social exclusion reported by key informants

Structural risks identified

- Diminishing coping mechanisms over time
- Language and labour market barriers
- Delayed vulnerability due to prolonged displacement

Recommendations

- Focus on human-rights based and targeted protection
- Strengthen national systems and referral mechanisms
- Address risks specific to children, women, unregistered refugees and other at-risk groups

Strengthening protection for children at risk of trafficking

Gaps identified

- Lack of specialized shelters for child victims
- Missing standardized data & coordination

Action taken

- IOM Poland **supports children leaving foster care** and stepping into adulthood
- IOM Poland **supports vulnerable child refugees from Ukraine** with individually tailored assistance ensuring child beneficiaries have access to essential services and support.
- **Project GuardianXchange** - strengthening guardianship in the EU through capacity building, knowledge exchange and peer learning.
- Study visit to Germany for the Polish Police HQ , the Ombudsman for Children's Office and Ministry of Justice reps. to learn about good practices in foster care and child trafficking prevention

Exploring refugee vulnerabilities evidence from IOM's research

Building knowledge to enhance protection responses

- Webinars, conferences, and technical briefings
- Engagement with civil society, law enforcement, academia, and local authorities
- Field-level data collection via tools such as DTM and thematic studies

Risk of exploitation of Latin America : IOM's response

- Common issues: deceptive recruitment, debts, document retention, forced labor.
- IOM promotes victim-centered support, incl. return & reintegration.
- Focus on cross-border cooperation and institutional capacity-building.

Experiences of Ukrainian Roma in accessing government and humanitarian assistance in Poland

(IOM Poland, DRU – June 2024)

- Research conducted with Roma refugees through FGDs, interviews, and surveys.
- Indicated systemic discrimination and barriers to accessing services, inc. health education systems.
- Provided targeted recommendations for protection, inclusion, and service accessibility.

Capacity building

- Since 2021, 534 cabin crew members trained to recognize and report signs of trafficking
- In December 2024 - Training of Trainers

LOT Polish Airlines

NGO workers

Local authorities

Diplomats

Law enforcement

Trained on early identification and referral mechanisms to recognize risks related to human trafficking and where and how to report suspected cases.

Trained to recognize trafficking indicators during consular work

Trained on early detection, safe referral, and victim-centered assistance

More than 4,000 law enforcement officers (Police, Border Guards, Municipal Police) have been trained on the early identification of human trafficking cases and on providing victim-centered assistance. The training has been delivered through both in-person sessions and e-learning formats.

IMPACT

- Improved victim recognition and timely intervention
- Almost 6500 individuals trained
- Building a first line of protection for people on the move

E-learning for Police and Border Guards

E-learning training on preventing and detecting trafficking in human beings

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Wprowadzenie

Kurs e-learningowy "Handel ludźmi: ochrona i wsparcie ofiar" został opracowany przez Międzynarodową Organizację ds. Migracji (IOM) w ramach projektu „Współpraca i kompetencja kluczem do skutecznej walki z handlem ludźmi. Faza II”, realizowanego we współpracy ze Strażą Graniczną i finansowanego ze środków Norweskiego Mechanizmu Finansowego.

Głównym celem kursu jest podniesienie skuteczności działań Straży Granicznej w zakresie wykrywania przypadków handlu ludźmi. Użytkownicy zamają się z m.in. definicją handlu ludźmi, instrumentami prawnymi, formami wykorzystania ofiar, czynnikami ryzyka oraz sposobami postępowania z domniemanymi ofiarami handlu ludźmi.

Posłuchaj, aby dowiedzieć się więcej:



2/78


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Czym jest handel ludźmi?

Handel ludźmi (Trafficking in Human Beings)

jest zbrodnią, godzącą w godność i wolność człowieka. Handel ludźmi jest definiowany jako forma współczesnego niewolnictwa, którego istotą jest wykorzystanie człowieka, nawet za jego zgodą, przy użyciu określonych metod i środków.

Wykorzystanie to może przybierać różne formy, m.in. pracy przymusowej, zmuszania do prostytucji lub zebraństwa.



USTAWA z dnia 6 czerwca 1997 r. Kodeks karny (Dz. U. 1997 Nr 88, poz. 553 ze zm.)

5/78

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Quiz podsumowujący Moduł 2

Które z poniższych stwierdzeń może świadczyć o tym, że osoba, z którą mamy do czynienia może być ofiarą handlu ludźmi?

- ☐ A Osoba poddawana jest ograniczeniu wolności osobistej i przemocy fizycznej.
- ☐ B Osoba jest obywatelem kraju trzeciego (spoza UE).
- ☐ C Osoba nie posiada ważnego dokumentu tożsamości.

SPRAWDŹ

31/78

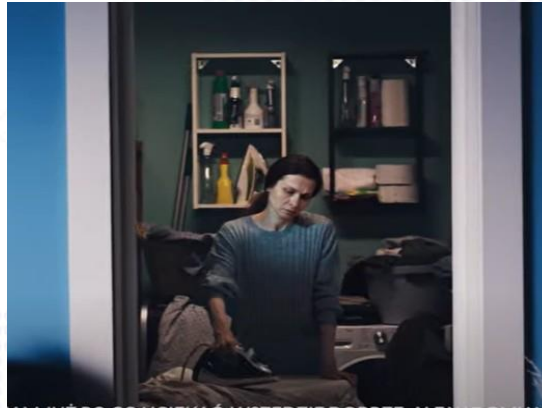
Raising Awareness: *Think Twice* Campaign

Dec 2023 – May 2024

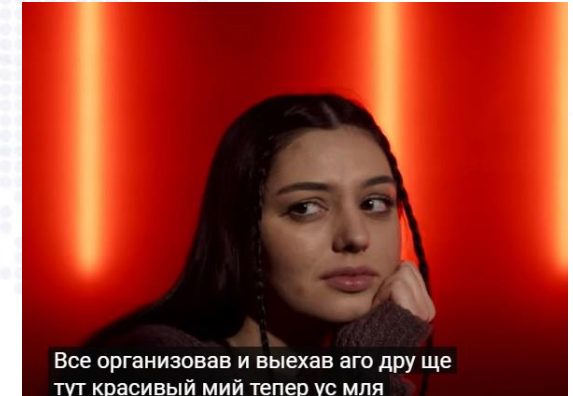
Displayed across public transport (PKP, POLREGIO, city buses): over 1,350,000 spots



Social media views: over 150,000



Onet Rano – interview with IOM expert





Thank you!

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