



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

Ministry of Migration & Asylum

General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons &  
Institutional Protection

**THE ROLE OF GSVPIP IN THE PROTECTION  
OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONAL - VICTIMS OF  
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS:  
COMPETENCE, ONGOING EFFORTS &  
CHALLENGES**

**General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons  
and Institutional Protection**

**Ministry of Migration and Asylum**

**Greece**

# The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection

- Established within the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in 2023
- Took over the competencies of the former Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors

Competent national authority for the protection of vulnerable third country nationals and stateless persons (including UACs)

Design and development of integrated protection systems

Coordination and monitoring of service-provision by agencies ensuring a targeted response to the needs of vulnerable individuals

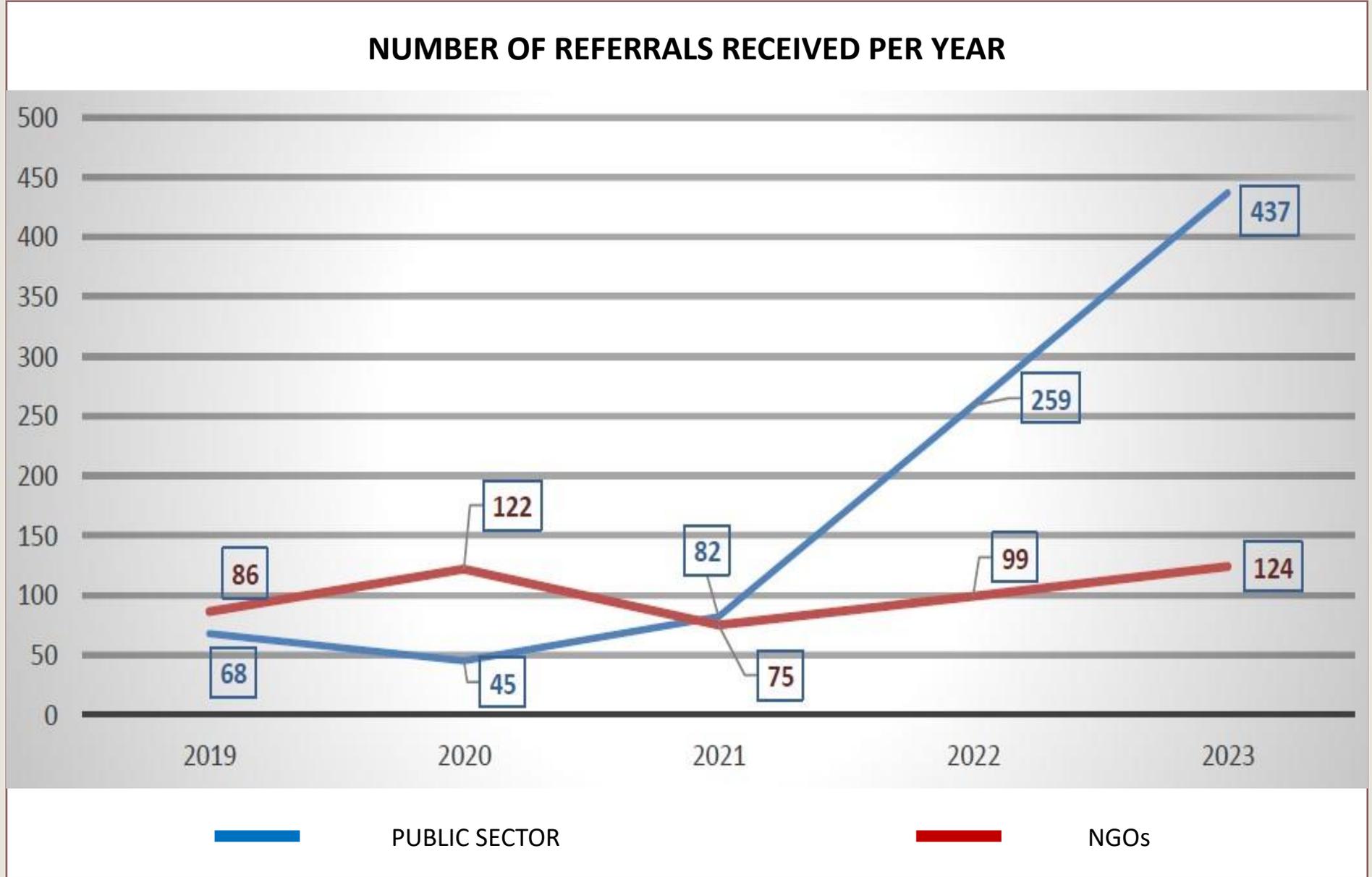
Engagement in partnerships promoting joint National and European initiatives in tackling human trafficking

Participation in the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking (NRM)

## THE NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM (NRM)

- Established under Greek Law 4198/2013 - transposition of “*Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims*” - and JMD 30840/20-9-2016
- Supervised & coordinated by the **Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- Managed by the **National Centre for Social Solidarity – NCSS** (Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs)
- Acts as a coordinating mechanism among front line professionals, monitoring all stages of a victim’s integration into the country's protection system.

REFERRALS  
RECEIVED BY  
THE  
NATIONAL  
REFERRAL  
MECHANISM  
(NRM)



\*Source: National Referral Mechanism Yearly Report 2023

# NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM (NRM): ANNUAL REPORT 2023

- **533 newly reported cases** of potential victims of trafficking in human beings:
  - **433 adults** (most under 25 years old)
  - **100 children: 62 UACs (25 boys, 37 girls)**
  - in 160 cases the respective exploitation took place within the Greek territory.
- The majority of **victims are women and girls (449)**, where **sexual exploitation** is the most common form.
- **Labour exploitation** is the second most common form of exploitation, affecting mostly men and boys.
- **Exploitation of begging** is also prevalent among **children**
- The vast majority of adult victims are of African origin and South American origin.
  - The vast majority of UACs come from Somalia and Sierra Leone (mostly girls) and Pakistan (boys)
- The majority of trafficking victims are **refugees and migrants**
- Notable increase in the **use of social media** for recruitment and control purposes

# SAFEGUARDS FOR UACS – VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

- ❑ Available protection scheme for UACs:
  - ❑ **National Guardianship System for UACs** (operational since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024) introducing Guardianship Appointees
  - ❑ **Safe Housing for all UACs** (Accommodation Centres and Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living for children over 16 years of age)
  - ❑ **Standard Operating Procedures - Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism**
- ❑ Guardianship Appointees address each child's particular needs and represent the child before the Authorities
- ❑ Particular focus on the prevention and response to child exploitation and trafficking through the provision of targeted training and guidance to all personnel involved

## Main pillars

### ❖ **Prevention:**

- Review of the existing national legal framework – focus on enhancing victims' rights
- Awareness raising activities
- Capacity building for frontline professionals (in partnership with IOM & NRM)

### ❖ **Protection:**

- Provision of support services to victims through implementing partners
- Integration projects targeting UACs and vulnerable females
- **National Emergency Response Mechanism's (NERM):** immediate response and access to services for UACs, to be extended to vulnerable adults

### ❖ **Prosecution:**

- Promotion of victim-centered approach - punishment of perpetrators through confidential procedures avoiding secondary victimisation and encouraging disclosure
- Establishment of a protective framework by empowering victims and guaranteeing their full recovery

### ❖ **National coordination/ cooperation:**

- Cooperation among the competent public agencies and relevant organizations
- Establishment of inter-ministerial working group for the identification of systemic deficiencies, the consolidation of good practices and the overall improvement of the state's response in victims' protection and perpetrators' prosecution

### V **International cooperation:**

- priority in tackling trafficking on a global scale
- close co-operation with OSCE
- exchange of expertise & good practices with the Egyptian Authorities

GSVPIP TEAM FOR  
THE PROTECTION OF  
VICTIMS OF  
TRAFFICKING AND  
OTHER FORMS OF  
VIOLENCE

## THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE MECHANISM (NERM)

### MISSION

- ❑ Act as a preventive mechanism and a safety net against all forms of exploitation, prioritizing the most vulnerable: UACs homeless and/or living in precarious conditions and adults at risk.
- ❑ Facilitate access to the Reception and Identification Service and develop referral pathways for accommodation, healthcare facilities etc.
- ❑ Coordinate promptly and effectively the provision of protection services by partnering agencies.

# NERM'S KEY COMPONENTS



**HOTLINE /  
WHATSAPP /  
VIBER**



**MOBILE UNITS  
&  
INFO DESKS**



**EMERGENCY  
ACCOMMODATION  
FACILITIES**

## CASE STUDY 1: RESCUE OF 11 VICTIMS OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION IN BOEOTIA

Απελευθερώθηκαν 11 αλλοδαποί  
πρόσφυγες εργασιακής εκμετάλλευσης - Ανήλικοι οι  
2

Παρασκευή, 4 Οκτωβρίου 2024 12:17

επίστηκαν σε αποθήκη - παλαιό ποιμνιστάσιο το οποίο οι  
άνθρωποι χρησιμοποίησαν ως κατάλυμα όπου διέμεναν μαζί



- ❖ Coordinated response of the GSVPIP, the Greek Police and the local NGO Network for Children's Rights
- ❖ Victims (including 2 UACs) identified in October 2024 during a police operation inside a warehouse together with the three accused traffickers
- ❖ Victims detained in squalid living conditions and were assigned to harsh agricultural tasks
- ❖ The 9 adult victims received support provision by the NGO A21 (specialized in THB victim support).
- ❖ The 2 UACs were placed by NERM in an Emergency Accommodation Facility.

## CASE STUDY 2:

### RESCUE OF NEPALESE ADULT VICTIM OF FORCED LABOUR



Forced to work;  
restricted  
mobility;  
undocumented



Protection services by A21;  
Support through IOM AVRR  
programme

## BEST PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES

- ✓ Coordination between the competent authorities and civil society actors is essential for the prompt identification and protection of trafficking victims and for bringing perpetrators to justice.
- ✓ NERM holds a critical role in coordinating protection agencies promptly and effectively.
- The two cases bring out the existing deficiencies, such as the absence of safe shelters for adult male trafficking victims.

## PROMOTING COORDINATED RESPONSE

- ❖ Establishment of an inter-ministerial working group, focusing on deficiencies in the justice system regarding human trafficking related crimes
- ❖ Participation in a new anti-trafficking Project: SAFE BORDERS – *Strengthening judicial expertise and frontline support to combat Child Trafficking*
- ❖ Cooperation with the Police Sub-directorate for minors' protection for the delivery of info sessions with UACs in safe shelters, focusing on human trafficking risks
- ❖ Collaboration with NRM for the delivery of webinars on forced labour/domestic servitude, targeting front-line professionals

## AWARENESS- RAISING ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Pilot workshops for the empowerment of unaccompanied girls focusing on the risks of exploitation, particularly through social media (e.g. *loverboy* tactics and *grooming* phenomena).
- ❖ Cooperation with academic institutions and CSOs in delivering joint events on tackling human trafficking, targeting school students and university students
- ❖ Planned publication of the multilingual **“Guide for the rights of victims of Trafficking in Human Beings”**

Thank you for your attention!

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