

Zusammenfassung des Vortrags von Charlotta Santarossa, IOM Menschenhandelsexpertin (csantarossa@iom.int) vom 20.03.2017

The identification and protection of unaccompanied minors victims of trafficking

[see also UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in person 2016. Check also the IOM Rome website, their report of 2016 will shortly be published]

In 2016 25`000 unaccompanied minors arrived with boats in Italy. Many of them have been exploited on the way to Europe (to go on). So they are not victims of trafficking in persons. These children can get child protection but not trafficking protection in Italy.

Out of the 768 victims of trafficking in persons the IOM helped in 2016 85% were female. 34% were under age. Most of them (73%) were subject to sexual exploitation; 76% of adult females, 4% of adult males and **98% of the children**).

The children were **mostly from Nigeria (96%)**. 59% of the victims of trafficking in persons were from Nigeria, the smaller percentages from Bulgaria, Rumania and Thailand.

In 2015 IOM identified 75 victims of trafficking in persons upon arrival in Italy. In **2016 they identified 425 victims** of trafficking in persons. There has been a massive increase of women and children from Nigeria victims of trafficking in persons coming to Italy. The significant increase of victims of trafficking in persons identified already upon arrival is also due to a better identification system. The IOM has set up **indicators, to make up victims of trafficking in persons**. These are:

- female
- 15-25 years of age
- only basic level of education
- region in Nigeria (Edo State, Delta State, Lagos State, Ogun State, Anambra State)
- orphan or eldest child
- not paid for travel -> "good Samaritan" paid for the journey
- most of them say they are adults, although they are minors
- gone through a voodoo ritual – juju (promised to repay their debt)
- different accompaniers (resold)
- forges documents
- violence during the trip and/or in connection houses in Libya (Increasing number of pregnant women and girls arriving in Italy)
- physical evidences (scars)
- psychological problems (aggressiveness, nervousness)

Further indicators when in reception facilities:

- psychological issues
- leave and come often during the day
- are controlled by others within the centers
- All must “call someone in Europe”, have a EU phone number to call
- Soon become prostitutes or beggars

Difficulties:

- fear from consequences of voodoo spell
- retaliation fear
- sense of gratitude for traffickers. Often don't recognise themselves as victims. Especially when families are involved in trafficking. Don't understand level of exploitation and violence awaiting them (naïve, very young, hasn't happened)
- Trust in co-nationals, distrust towards others
- sense of betrayal if they seek help
- Misunderstanding regarding real amount of “debt”
- High expectations of earning in EU
- Do not expect the level of violence

Do`s:

- Rely on cultural mediators
- separate interviews from accompaniers
- avoid transferring all Nigerian girls to the same facility
- avoid giving telephone calls (call home only in front of staff)
- Second in depth interview
- **Important:** victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are considered as such, even if the exploitation has not occurred yet!
- If age cannot be detected: analysis of hand bones, not because IOM thinks the result will give them the real age, but because after the girls have been informed of their rights as UAMs, and the test has been ordered, they usually begin to tell the truth.