



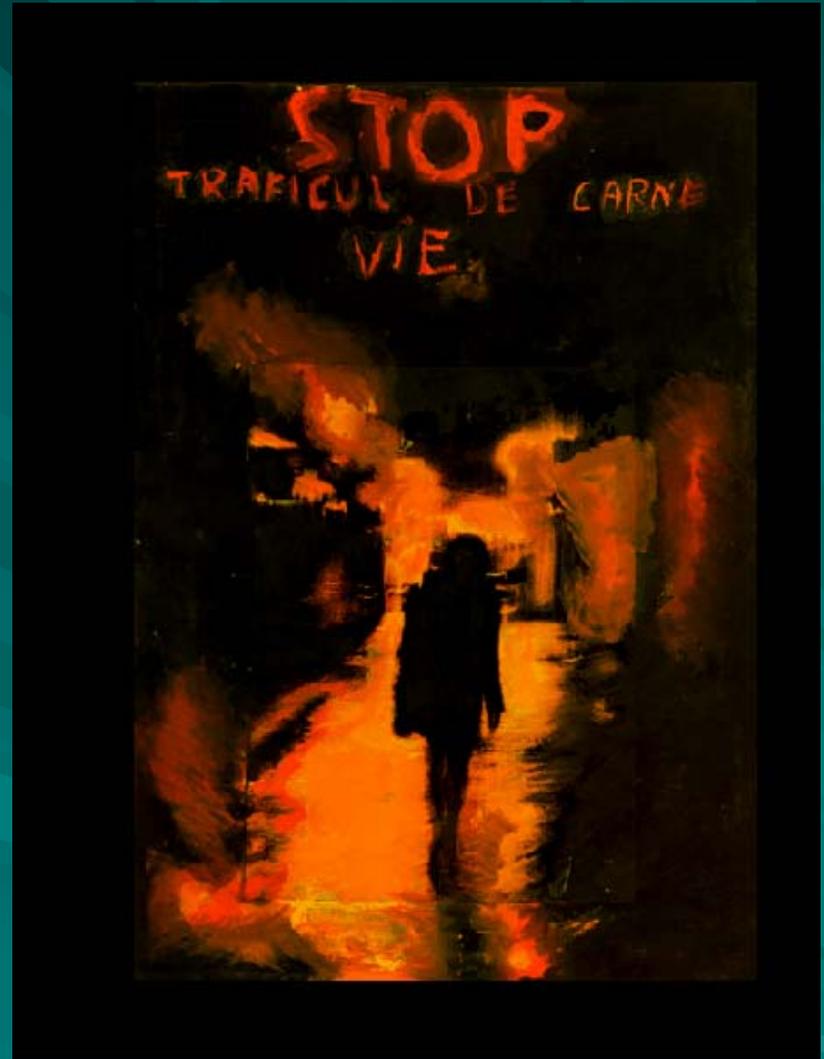
# Health Consequences for Victims of Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation: HIV and AIDS

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 International Organization for Migration  
 Sexual Trafficking: Breaking the Silence  
 UNC – April 2006

IOM South Africa



**Ask yourself what it  
might be like  
to be a victim of  
trafficking for  
sexual  
exploitation**



**IOM Romania**



# AIDS and Victims of Trafficking

**Irregular Migration**

**Trafficking in Persons**

**Health Concerns of Trafficked Persons**

**HIV and AIDS**

**Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation**

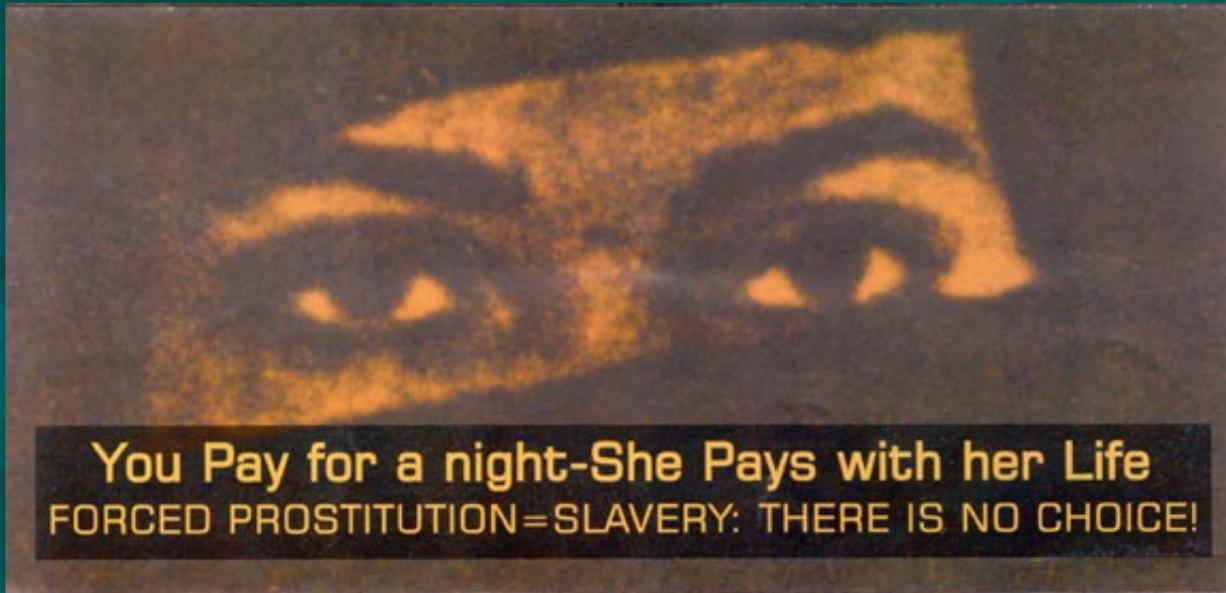


# Overview

- **The context**
- **Health and the process of trafficking**
- **HIV/AIDS – IOM field experience**
- **Responses and Recommendations**



# The context – women and mobility



IOM Kosovo

- Increasing migration
- Women migrants
- Irregular migration



# The context – irregular migration

## Irregular Migration

### Trafficking in Persons

A violation of human rights and coercion for exploitation  
(crime against a person)

### Smuggling of Migrants

An organized illegal border crossing  
(crime against the state)



**Steady jobs available abroad  
No qualifications necessary**



**You only pay with your dignity,  
your health, and your freedom.**

Entertainer, dancer, model, waitress, au pair; so many interesting, well-paid jobs abroad these days. Why would anybody want to give you a job abroad? Because the real job is prostitution. There's a lot of money to be made in prostitution. But not for you. Your part will be sickness, violence, isolation and humiliation. And who will protect you? No one. You will be a stranger in a strange land.  
Your life is in your hands. Don't trade it for a cage.

This is a message from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) a humanitarian, non-governmental organization that works for the benefit of migrants world-wide.

# The health of trafficked persons

- Health and mobility
- Health and the process of trafficking in persons
- Criminalization of the victim



# Health and mobility

## Health:

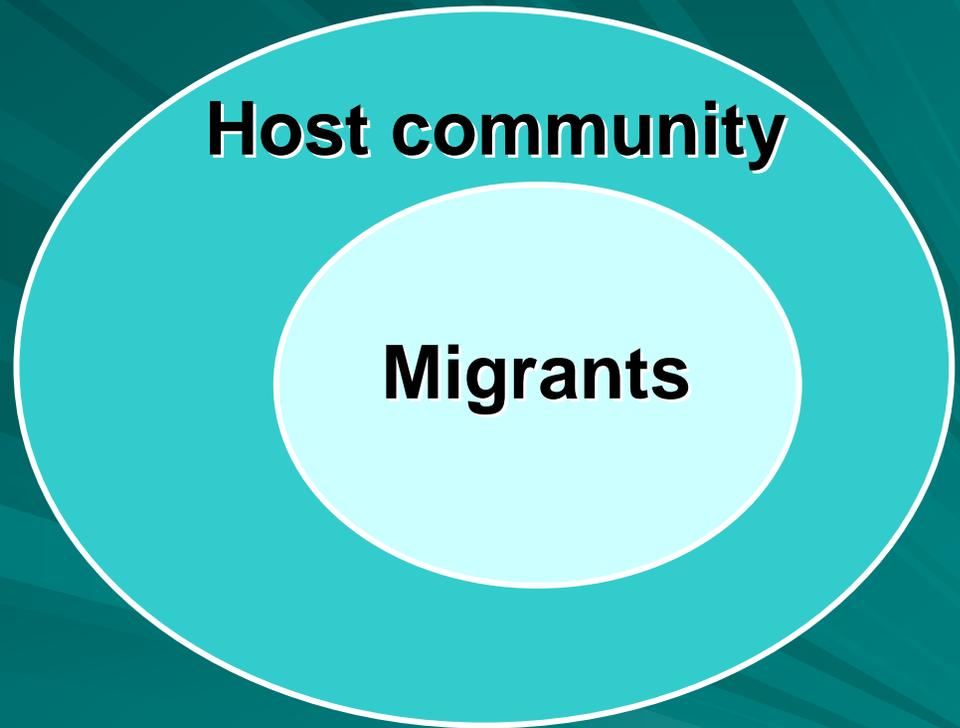
“a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”

- World Health Organization



# Health and mobility

*Many of the inequalities that drive the spread of disease also drive migration and are amplified during the migration process*



# Health and mobility

## ***Vulnerabilities of migrants:***

- Disparities in **health** and **access** to health services
- The **policy** and the **reality** of access
- Lack of support systems (family, community, etc.)
- Sense of anonymity, separation from regular partners
- Isolation and stigma / discrimination
- Sexual and gender-based violence during mobility
- **Irregular** and **undocumented** migrants

**Result:** More deaths and preventable diseases



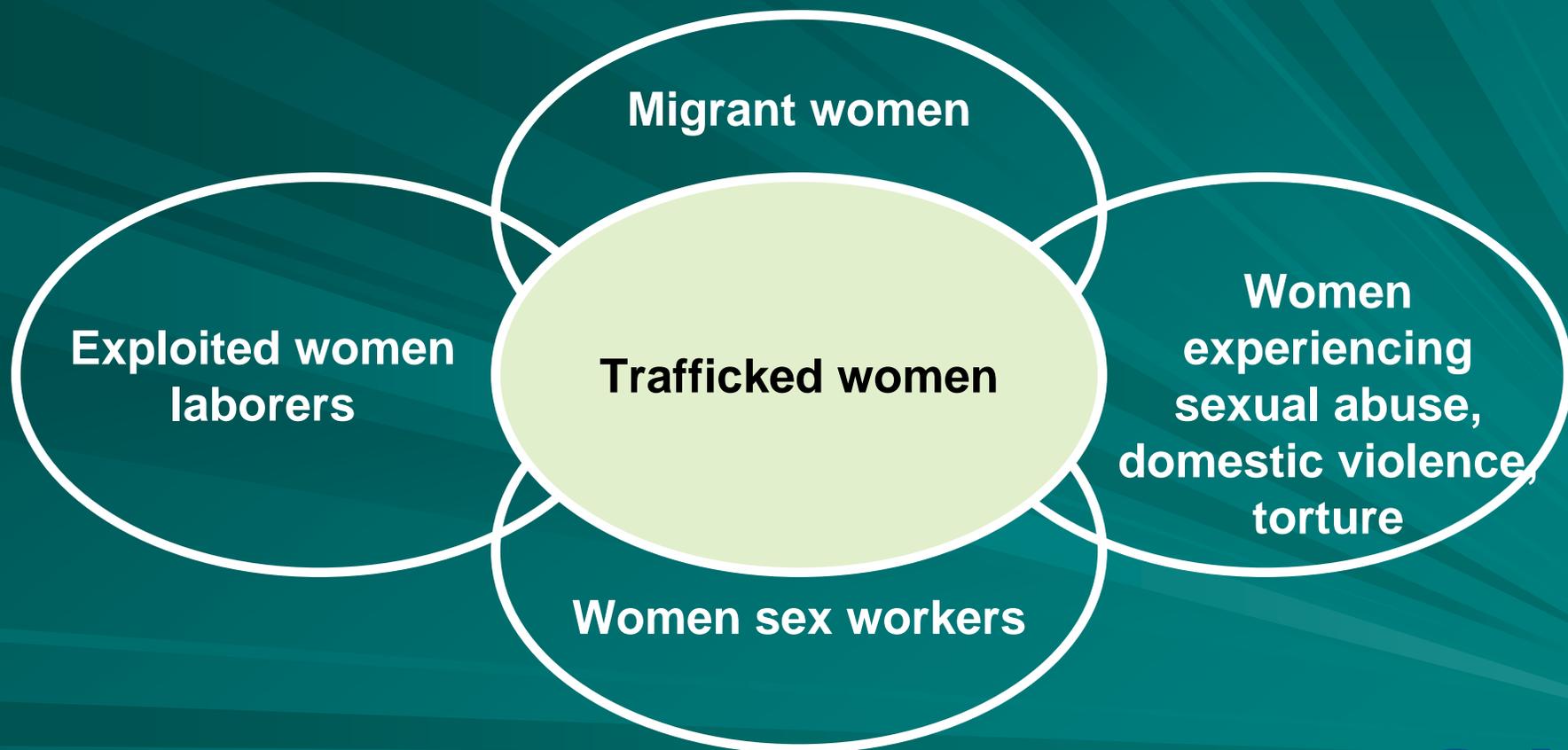
# Health and mobility

## Trafficked persons *particularly* vulnerable to health risks:

- Initially disempowered background
- Coercive and stressful nature of their mobility (violence, deception, coercion, abuse, etc.)
- Nature of the activities for which they are exploited (forced prostitution )
- Stigma and isolation upon return



# Spheres of marginalization and vulnerability



Source: LSHTM 2003



# Health Implications at Each Stage in the Trafficking Process



# Health and the process of trafficking

- **Physical, psychological and sexual violence**
- **Abusive living and working conditions**
- **Limited / no access to health services**
- **Exposure to diseases**
- **Similar to victims of torture and domestic / inter-familial violence – trauma, terror, memory, etc.**



# Health and the process of trafficking

## Pre-departure / Recruitment

- Family based violence, child abuse
- Poverty, malnourishment
- Lack of preventative health care, lack of health information
- Level of disease prevalence and health status in origin community
  - **HIV prevalence**
  - **already in sex work**
  - **already suffered sexual violence**
  - **access to information, services**
  - **culture and sexuality**



# Health and the process of trafficking



**Travel and transit**



# Health and the process of trafficking

## Destination / Exploitation

### Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation:

- Limited or no ability to negotiate safe sex
- High numbers of partners – 10-25, 40-50 per night (LSHTM study)
- Horrific conditions
- No or minimal health care
- Ongoing violence / control of all types
- The special vulnerabilities of adolescents and children



# Criminalization of the victim



IOM Romania

- Migration status - irregular, undocumented
- Type of exploitation – sex work
- First step: identifying victims of trafficking



# Sphere of Protection:

## *Victim Safety and Security*

**Victim  
Identification**

**Direct  
Assistance**

**Return**

**(Re)integration**



# HIV and AIDS and Trafficking: Experience from the field



- IOM programs
- Data on HIV from programs:
  - S. Africa
  - Indonesia
  - Ukraine
- Overall feedback



# Experience from the field

## IOM programs

- origin / transit / destination – 3 Ps (prevention, protection, and prosecution)
- Diverse programs (case-by-base to massive organized response, HIV/AIDS, CT, other)
- Comprehensive assistance (medical, psychosocial, shelter, economic, documents, etc.) – including HIV and AIDS service
- Partners - NGOs, IOs, governments, etc. depending on the context



# Experience from the field

## Examples of IOM programs

- **Information campaigns:**
  - Safe migration: Safe Journey Road show - Zimbabwe
- **Facilitating policy development:** *Budapest Declaration on Public Health and Trafficking in Human Beings*
- **Research:** new PHAMSA study, new Ukraine study
- **Capacity building and training:**
  - Health providers – S. Africa
  - Life skills for VoT and at-risk groups - Vietnam
- **Direct medical assistance:** Indonesia, Ukraine
- **Prevention:** life skills with girls in school - HIV and CT – Ethiopia



# Experience from the field

## Southern African Region (SACTAP)

- Provides HIV and AIDS services via NGOs – VCT
- Experience is that VoT don't want to be tested in the destination country – rather upon return - (re)integration
- ARVs available through local gov't clinics
- HIV/AIDS programme in VoT center / shelter in Gauteng Province – includes hospice care



# Experience from the field

## Indonesia:

- 3 recovery centers (Jakarta, Surabaya and Pontianak) - IOM staff, NGO, social worker / nurse
- Provide reproductive health education, complete STI exam and VCT (recovery period, sometimes reintegration period)
- Free ARV Tx through national treatment centers (29 hospitals) – including the police hospital
- Stigma related to CSW (possible HIV status)
- Approximately 30% of VoT were sexually exploited



# Experience from the field

## Indonesia con't:

- Not all VoT tested, 90% receive reproductive care and an HIV/AIDS education session – many partner NGOs have trained HIV/AIDS counselors
- IOM Jakarta has identified HIV+ VoT, including one with stage 3 AIDS
- June 2005 – Jan 2006, 201 HIV tests, only 5+ results, (all in sexual exploitation, between 16-29 but mostly under 23)
- Still a challenge to convince VoT to get tested



# Experience from the field

## Ukraine:

### Rehabilitation Center (2002 – 2005)

Data gathered from VoT during their stay at the RC – all with signed, written consent

- Total number VoT: 789
- 99% female, 77% urban, mixed levels of education
- 30% posttraumatic stress disorder
- Problems related to drug and alcohol use
- Neurological problems related to head trauma



# Experience from the field

## Ukraine con't:

### STIs:

- 43.6% Chlamydia
- 60.8% Bacterial Vaginosis
- 66.4% Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
- Patients tested for HIV: 98.2%
- HIV+ : 19 (2.4%)



# Experience from the field

## Overall feedback from the field:

### ■ Not enough is known:

- % sexual exploitation vs. other forms of trafficking
- In Asia and E. Europe, % HIV+ VoT is low, but not enough data from other regions AND some studies show high levels in sex workers in general...
- Stigma (as VoT, as HIV+)



# Experience from the field

## Overall feedback con't:

- Many other needs - many other health concerns - TIMING
- Need for consistent Tx – better to initiate after returned / (re)integrated – unless already being treated
- Need to be realistic
  - Time with VoT
  - Her (or his) immediate needs and priorities

**Good practice: VoT decides**



# Responses and Recommendations



Former victim of trafficking now working in a clinic in the Dominican Republic



# AIDS and Victims of Trafficking

“By 2005, develop and begin to implement national, regional and international strategies that facilitate access to HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for migrants and mobile workers, including the provision of information on health and social services”

\* By 2005, ensure development and accelerated implementation of national strategies for women's empowerment, promotion and protection of women's full enjoyment of all human rights ...through the elimination of all forms of discrimination...including trafficking in women and girls (Paragraph 61).”

2001 UN GA Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS



# Responses and Recommendations

- Budapest Declaration
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime – Trafficking and AIDS working group
- Increased interest – ongoing studies and more mainstreaming in programs



# Responses and Recommendations

- Comprehensive response to human trafficking – 3 Ps
- Build capacity to identify victims of trafficking (health workers)
- Move beyond immediate, emergency care into reintegration and recovery programs
- Involve people who were victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in policy and program design and implementation



# Responses and Recommendations

- Promote regular migration flows
- Protect the human rights of all migrants
- Improve access to health information and services for migrants regardless of status
- Promote the human rights of HIV+ migrants regardless of their migration status (regular / irregular)



# Responses and Recommendations

- Integrate HIV and AIDS services into other health activities for trafficked persons (e.g. reproductive health, violence against women)
- International cooperation – innovative strategies to ensure continuous access to treatment and other services





EN COLOMBIA MILES DE PERSONAS SON COMERCIALIZADAS  
CON FINES DE PROSTITUCIÓN, TRABAJO FORZADO, ESCLAVITUD...



Embajada Real  
De Los Paises Bajos



Unidad y Orden  
Presidencia de la República  
de Colombia



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# Thank you

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## IOM Colombia

