BACKGROUND

The International Organization for Migration assists 1 in 7 victims of trafficking identified worldwide through its counter-trafficking programmes and projects.

IOM has been working to counter the trafficking in human beings since 1994. IOM aims to protect and empower victims of trafficking; to enhance awareness and understanding of trafficking in human beings; and to bring justice to victims.

Trafficking in human beings is driven by a demand for cheap labour, products and services. Poverty, lack of opportunities, discrimination and other difficulties in life make people vulnerable to exploitation, and to fall victim to human trafficking.

Traffickers use different methods to lure victims and to keep them working for them, including deception, debt-bondage, psychological manipulation, and even threats and violence.

THE WORK IN FINLAND

IOM Finland has been engaged in counter-trafficking activities since the early 2000s. The main areas of IOM Finland’s counter-trafficking work for 2015-2020 are:

- Empowering and assisting victims of trafficking
- Enhancing counter-trafficking awareness, knowledge and skills for improved impact
- Prevention of trafficking through cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination

To meet these goals, IOM Finland works together with partners from public, private, and third sectors in Finland and in Nordic and Baltic countries.

IOM Finland participates in the National coordination network on counter-trafficking of the Finnish Ministry of the Interior.
COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

The IOM Finland counter-trafficking campaign “What is the price of a human being” in 2016 attracted a lot of attention.

ACTIVITIES

• “Caring for Trafficked Persons in Finland (HOIKU)” project 2017-2018 (funded by STEA)
• “Nordic Health Care Network on Counter-Trafficking” project 2016 (funded by Nordic Council of Ministers)
• “Nordic-Baltic Partnership with Passenger Ferry Companies to Counter Trafficking in Human Beings” project 2015-2017 (co-funded by Nordic Council of Ministers):
• The research report published under the ferry project: “Addressing Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea” by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI).
• Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme for victims of trafficking in Sweden since 2012 (funded by County Administrative Board of Stockholm until 2017, from 2018 Swedish Gender Equality Agency)
• Training foreign embassies, students and professionals of health care and social services, and youth at schools and in the scouting movement.
• Awareness raising campaigns in Finland:
  - What is the price of a human being? (2016)
  - Human Trafficking is not a fairy tale (2012)
  - Work that nobody wants to do (2011)

ACHIEVEMENTS

• Over 110 victims of trafficking assisted since 2011
• 415 persons trained in counter-trafficking since 2014
• 242 health professionals engaged in an online survey assessing counter-trafficking knowledge and needs in the Finnish health sector in 2015
• 72,742 reactions in social media to IOM Helsinki’s 2012 counter-trafficking campaign
• 1,220,496 audience contacts reached through IOM Helsinki’s counter-trafficking campaign in 2016

IOM AND FINLAND

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading global organization for migration management and since 2016 the UN’s Migration Agency. Finland has been a Member State of IOM since 1991. The office in Helsinki was opened in 1993.

The IOM Country Office in Finland is in charge of activities and operations in Finland, Sweden and Iceland, and provides administrative and management support to the IOM offices in Denmark and Estonia.