

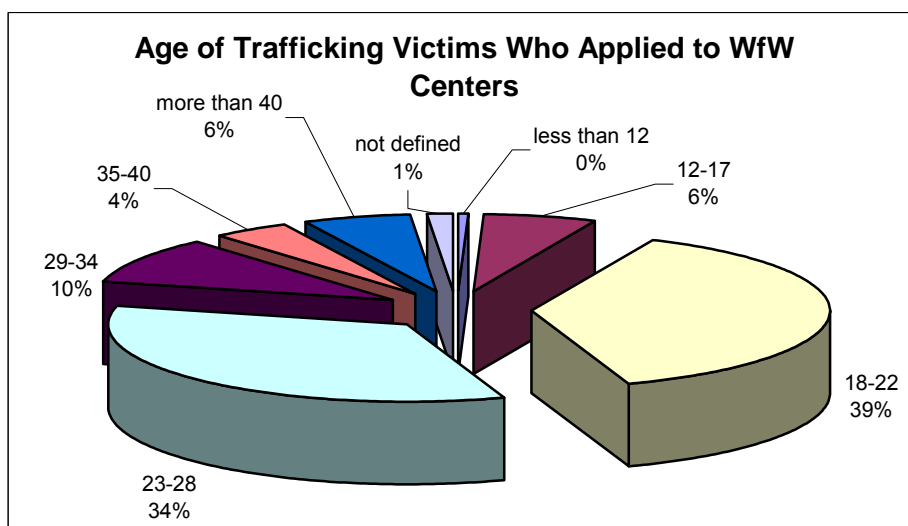
Statistical analysis of surveys of human trafficking victims who sought assistance at the seven regional Women for Women Centers of the Trafficking Prevention Project *December 2003*

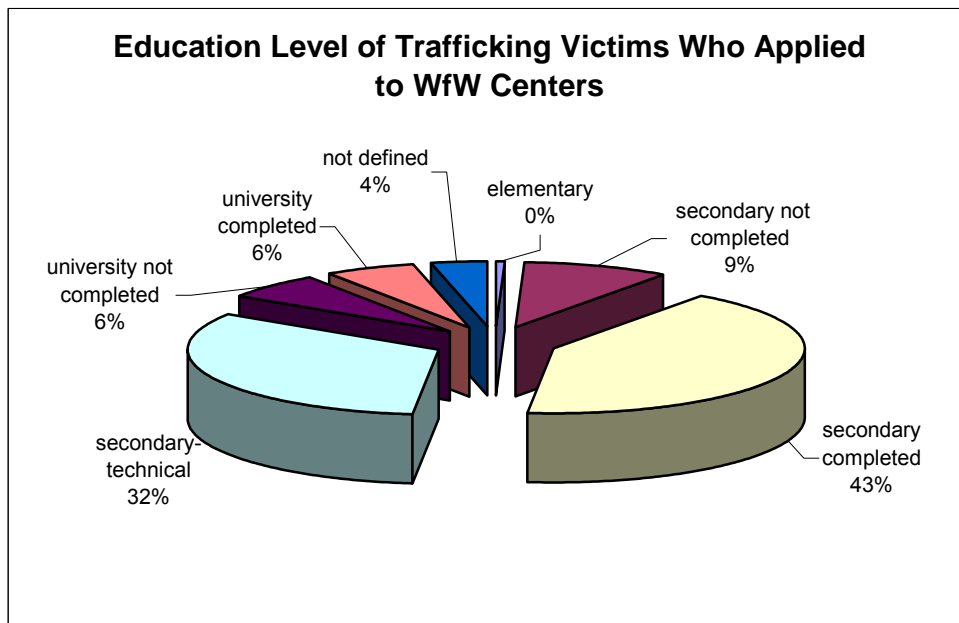
From the beginning of the Trafficking Prevention Project in Ukraine (implemented by Winrock International, funded by USAID) there have been 222 requests for assistance from victims of trafficking or their relatives (cases when the victims have not returned home yet). This analysis is based on information collected from surveys of these 222 cases. The surveys were conducted by the staff at the seven Women for Women Centers (WfW Centers) using a common questionnaire developed by Winrock International.

Factors and circumstances that lead to human trafficking

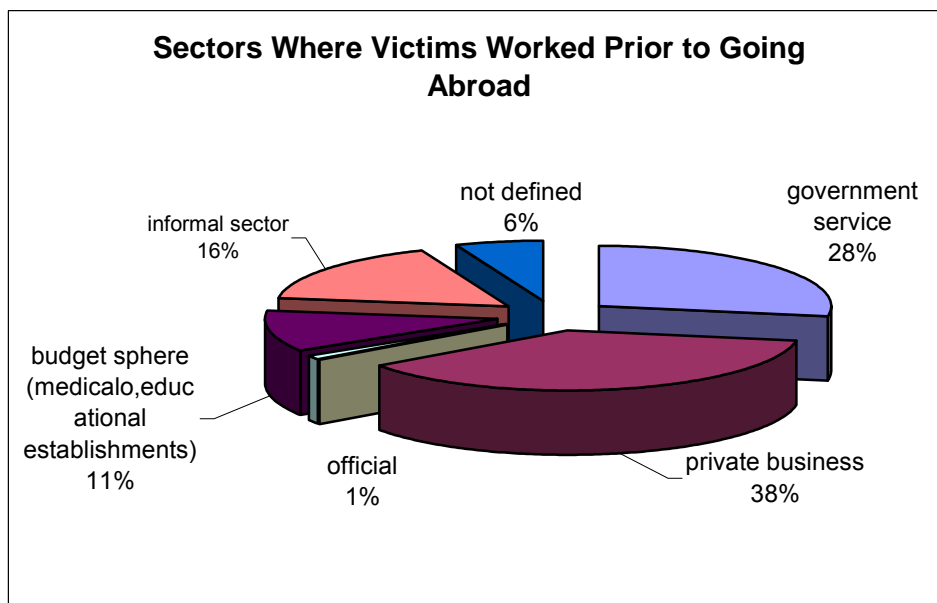
The main reasons Ukrainian citizens seek jobs abroad are unemployment, low salaries in Ukraine, convenient geographical location of Ukraine, and freedom to travel abroad. For the criminals, the recruiters and traffickers, the reasons for engaging in the human trafficking trade are the high profits and low risks associated with being caught.

Analysis of the collected data shows that 98,65% of victims are women, citizens of Ukraine between the ages of 18 and 28 (72,07%). The majority came from cities (50%) and regional centers (31%). Fifty-three percent were single, 22 % were divorced, and the remaining were married. Over 63% of those surveyed had a higher education (63,2%). The other third did not possess a professional qualification (28,8%). Thirty-six percent of those surveyed had worked in the private sector prior to going abroad, another 28% in the government sector receiving an average monthly salary of 200 Ukrainian Hryvnia (78,4%).





In fact, 36% of victims were not employed at all before going abroad. Forty-eight percent of those surveyed who were employed said that they didn't earn enough money to even buy food and this was one of the primary factors why they went abroad.

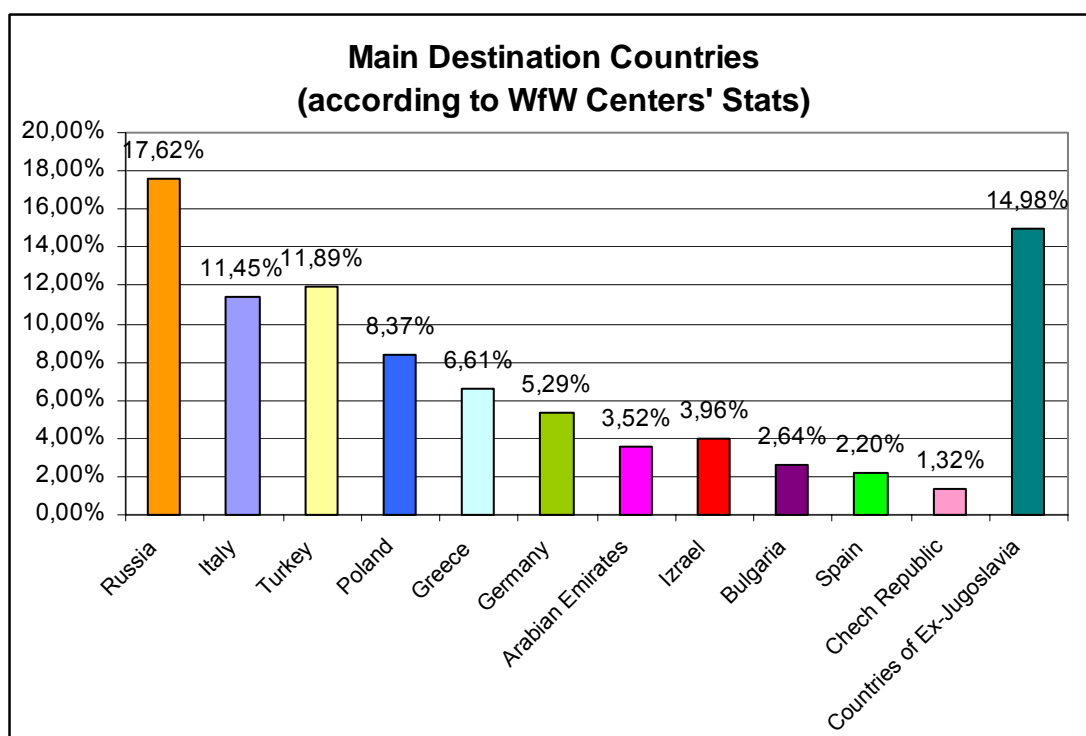


The main reasons that force Ukrainian citizens to go abroad in search of a job are unemployment and low pay, which do not allow them to meet even basic needs or to achieve even a minimum standard of living in Ukraine. It is likely that this tendency will remain in the near future as according to research done in Ukraine in May 2003 by Razumkov Center, over 60% of secondary school graduates don't see their future in Ukraine because of the economic hardships.

The reason that human trafficking is so widespread is because it is transnational, has high profits and low risks for criminals, vulnerability of victims to exploitation, corruption and complexities of mechanisms of international cooperation and cooperation of law enforcement.

Main directions for migration of Ukrainian women in search of employment

Because of various objective and subjective circumstances, the main countries of destination for Ukrainian citizens looking for jobs abroad changes from time to time. Some time ago these countries were Germany, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, and countries of former Yugoslavia. During the last few years these tendencies have changed slightly. For example, according to data from this survey, the majority of women were offered jobs in the Russian Federation – 17,5%, to Turkey – 12,6%, Italy – 11,7%, former Yugoslavia – 11,7% and Poland – 10,3%, but ended up working in Russia – 17,6%, countries of the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo and Slovenia) – 15%, Turkey – 12% and Italy – 11,4% or Greece, Germany, Israel, Spain, Bulgaria, UAE and others.



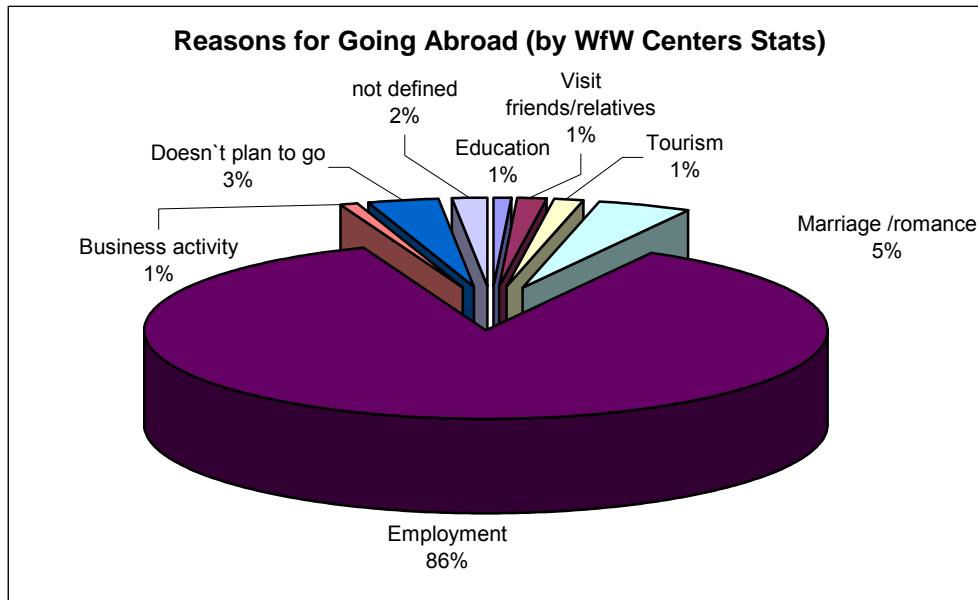
Eight-two percent of victims entered countries with visa regimes with legal tourist visas and identification documents using sea transport (27,3%), train (23,2%), plane (22,4%) and automobile (16,4%).

The fact that the Russian Federation is now not only a transit country but also a destination country is of particular interest. It is believed that because of EU border expansion and introduction of visa requirements between Ukraine and neighboring countries (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia) the number of Ukrainian citizens who will travel to Russia for work and to third countries through Russia will increase significantly.

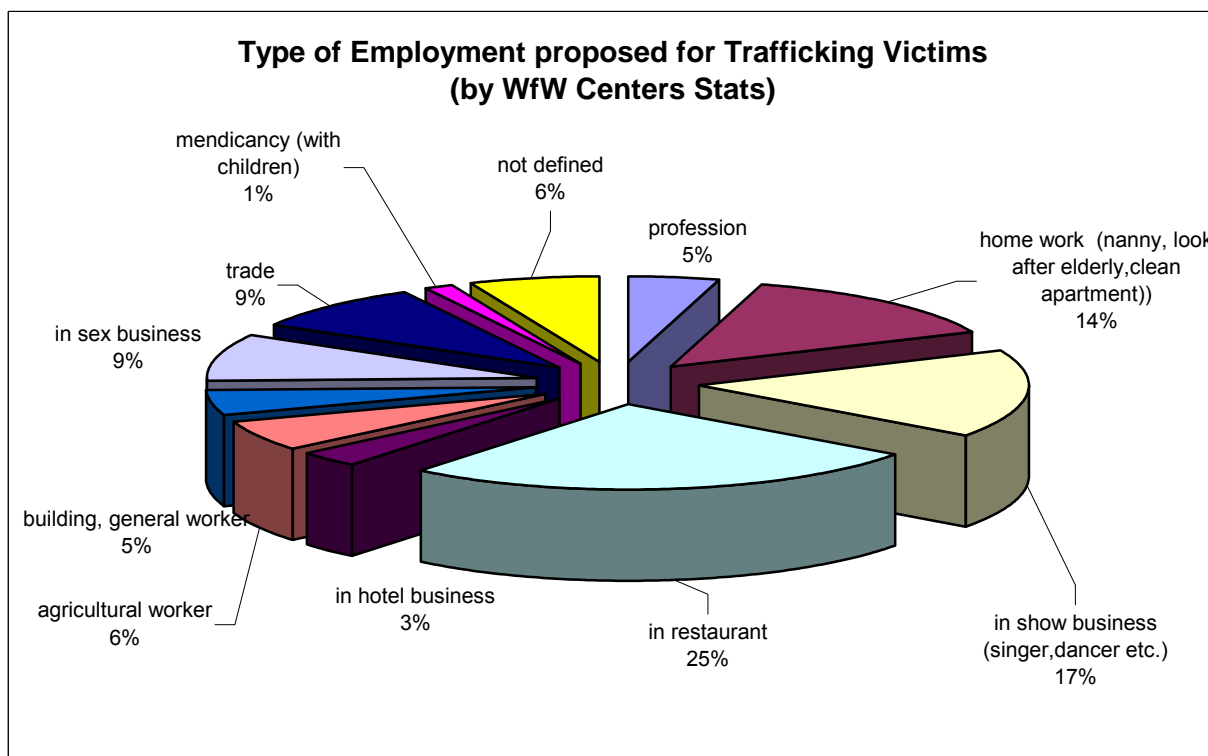
Work abroad. Expectations and Reality

From those surveyed, it appears that those over the age of 40 are less likely to be victims of human trafficking (only 6% of those surveyed were over 40 years). There are several possible reasons for this – older labor migrants may be better able to protect themselves from illegitimate, exploitative

situations, older women are not in-demand in the sex industry, or older labor migrants aren't coming forward with stories of exploitation while working abroad. It is worth noting that gender plays an important role. The majority of people under 30 years of age who go abroad to look for a job with low-qualification requirements are mostly women – the main risk group for trafficking. Their illegal status in the country of employment, debts, agreement to do almost any work, language barriers and general vulnerability makes them easy prey for traffickers.



The majority of victims were offered low-skilled jobs abroad: in restaurants (25%), in the entertainment business (17%), cleaning (14%), in the sex industry (9%), in the building, trade, hotel sector (3-6%), in agriculture (6%).



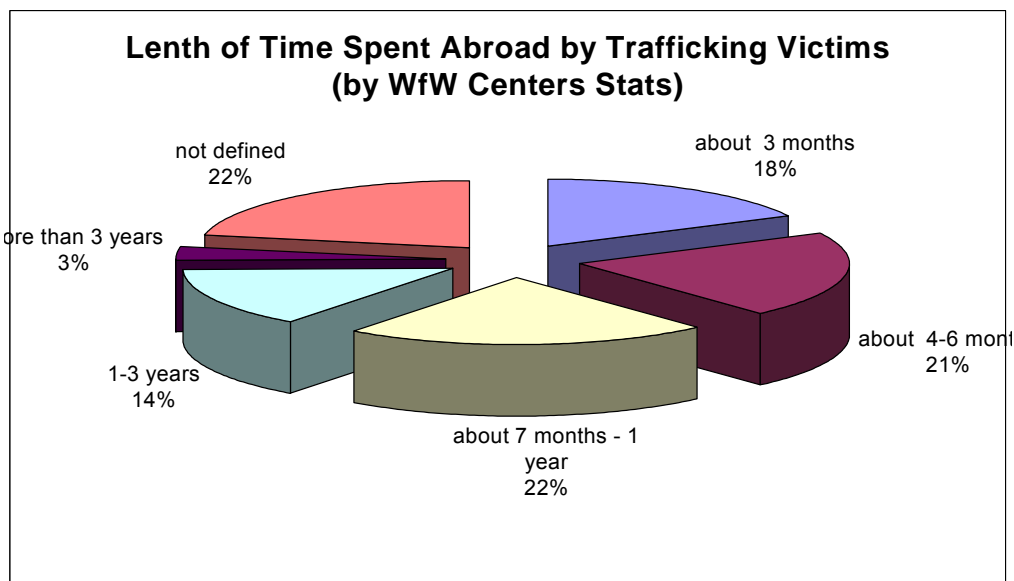
The conclusion can be drawn that demand for low-skilled female workers is quite high and this circumstance is actively used by traffickers and recruiters who easily persuade girls and young women that for work in the agriculture sector, or as a dishwasher in a restaurant, or a dancer, one doesn't need to have professional qualifications or knowledge of a foreign language

The surveyed women reported that they were recruited by both men and women – 49% of recruiters were men and 42% were women. Of these, 58% of recruiters were citizens of Ukraine, while the remaining were citizens of other countries, such as Russia, Greece, Israel, Albania, Georgia. Over 60% of women were recruited by someone they knew and left the country with their help; 18,4% were recruited by strangers; and 15,3% used tourist agencies. Main method of recruitment was a promise of employment abroad (80,4%), and in 63,7% of cases recruiters took responsibility for the visa and other travel documents.

These statistics show that the majority of women received offers of employment abroad from someone they knew (70,2%) and only 11,2%, responded to announcements in the mass media. This shows that people who have experience working abroad, including negative experience, do not truthfully tell about their experiences to friends and family (for reasons of fear or shame), and sometimes intentionally or unintentionally create increased interest in employment abroad.

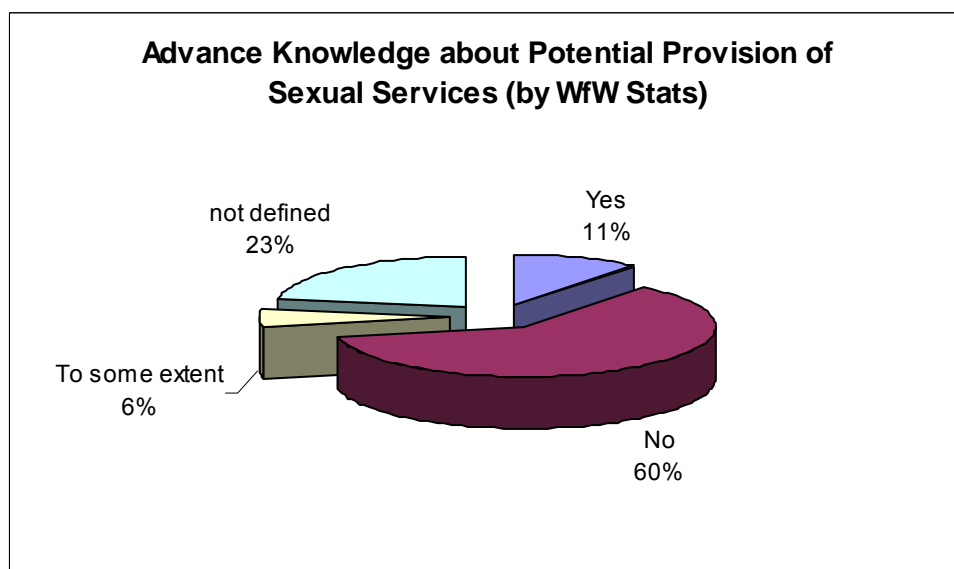
What was the main motivation for Ukrainian women who went to work abroad? Almost half of those surveyed (48,3%) said that they wanted to earn money for basic needs, 12% said they wanted to earn money for buying or renovating a flat, 10,1% said paying off debts, and 6,6% wanted to earn money for their children's education.

Before departure, 25% of women were offered work in restaurants, 17% jobs as singers or dancers, 14% as housekeepers, 9% in the sex industry. Some also mentioned receiving offers for work in the agriculture, construction, or hotel/tourism sectors, and even begging for money with children. In 88% of cases there were no written agreements or contracts signed. According to those surveyed, in reality over 60% were forced to work in the sex industry, others were exploited in households (8,3%), as dancers or singers (7,1%), odd jobs (5%) in restaurants, agriculture and construction. Forty-eight percent of victims were never got paid for their work, 61,3% had to work long periods of time before getting paid, 54% were able to earn the equivalent of \$150 during all their employment, and only 8% were able to send small sums of money home.



On average, victims worked abroad from 3 months to a year, 89,1% had never been abroad before. Over ninety percent consider themselves victims of human trafficking. Only 2 women out of all surveyed intend to work abroad again. Seventy-two percent of victims learned that they had been sold only once they were outside of Ukraine, and only a few of them were present when the money changed hands or they heard a conversation between the traffickers about the terms of the deal.

The majority of those surveyed (87%) said that their movement once in the destination country was limited or allowed only with a chaperone, 61% of women were prohibited from contacting their families, 22,5% could call home only in the presence of their traffickers. In terms of access to medical care, only 3,1% were able to receive medical care regularly, 30,1% couldn't receive any medical assistance, 20,7% received it only in cases of emergency. Eight-two percent of victims were constantly subjected to violence and harassment at work, including psychological (30%), sexual (23%), economic (24%), and physical (22%) abuse. Most often they were harassed by pimps (27,4%), clients (24,6%), employers (23,5%) and traffickers (18,4%). Thirty-two percent owed money to their employer. Thirty percent were force to take alcohol and 6% to take drugs.

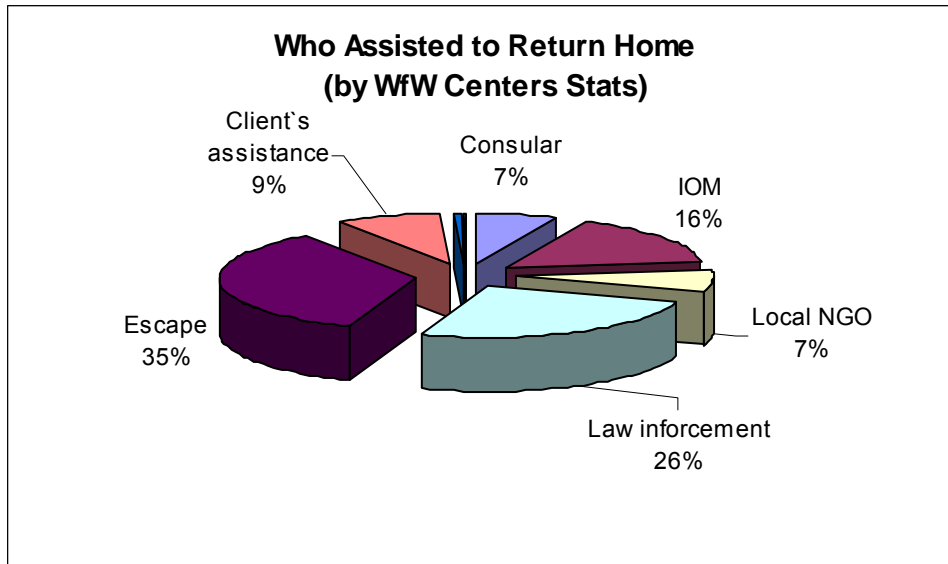


Almost every migrant encountered violation of their rights while working abroad illegally. These can be divided into three categories. First, the group of migrants that did the agreed work and was cheated out of their payment and paid less than originally agreed. Second, those who were exploited without pay. The third group is those who were forced into sexual slavery. They couldn't leave this work because they didn't have identification papers, money to return home, freedom of movement was limited, they were threatened by physical violence against themselves or their families, had debts, or were afraid of being arrested by police and being deported.

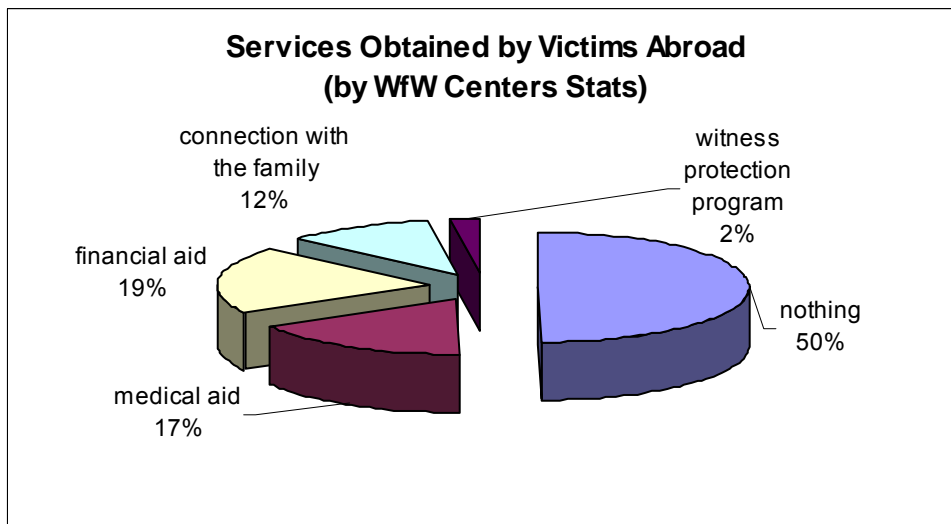
Ways of returning home, assistance to victims

The search for and repatriation of victims of trafficking is a very complex, lengthy and costly procedure. It is made more difficult by a number of factors. First, there is often a lack of information about the victim and her location. Secondly, the urgency of intervention is complicated by potential risks for the victim resulting from an intervention as well as the need for cooperation law enforcement, consulates, international and local NGOs in the country of employment and country of citizenship.

Most often the search for and repatriation of victims was initiated by their families (34%), law enforcement (30%), destination country NGOs (22%). Return was a result of escape by the victim (35%), with help of law enforcement (26%), IOM (16%), and also with help of consulates, local NGOs and sometimes even clients. Of the 222 cases in this study, 21 women still haven't returned to Ukraine, 6 of them are considered to have disappeared, 1 woman committed suicide.

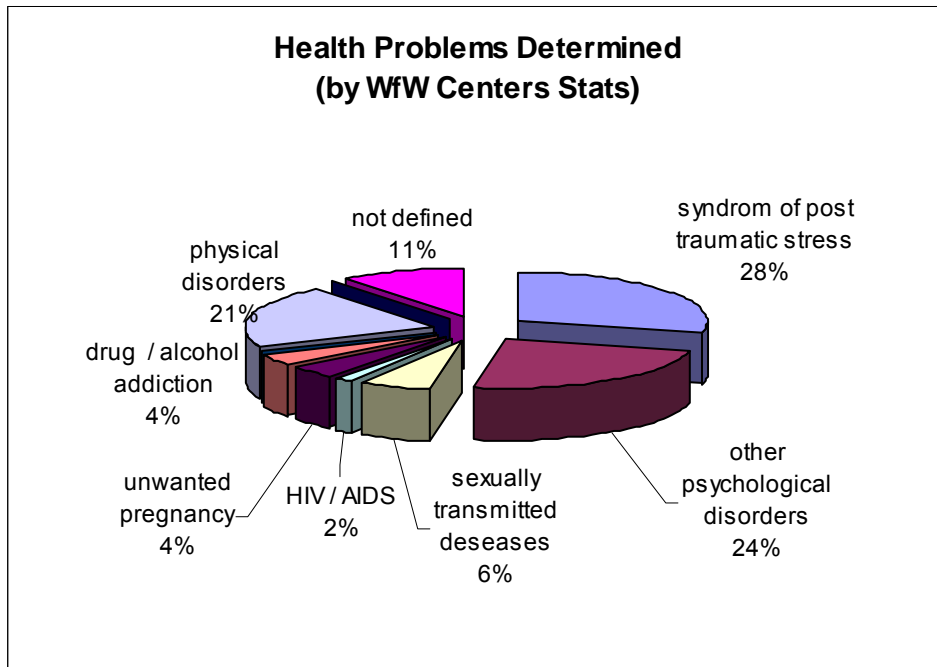


In 22,5% of cases, victims were deported, in 10% of these irregardless of the fact that the women informed police that they had bee trafficked. According to this research, 31% were interrogated by police in countries of destination, 59,1% of them in connection with their illegal presence in the country, 9 % because they lacked of identification papers or because of their possible involvement in a crime. Seventy-five percent of interrogated women were not charged with any crime.

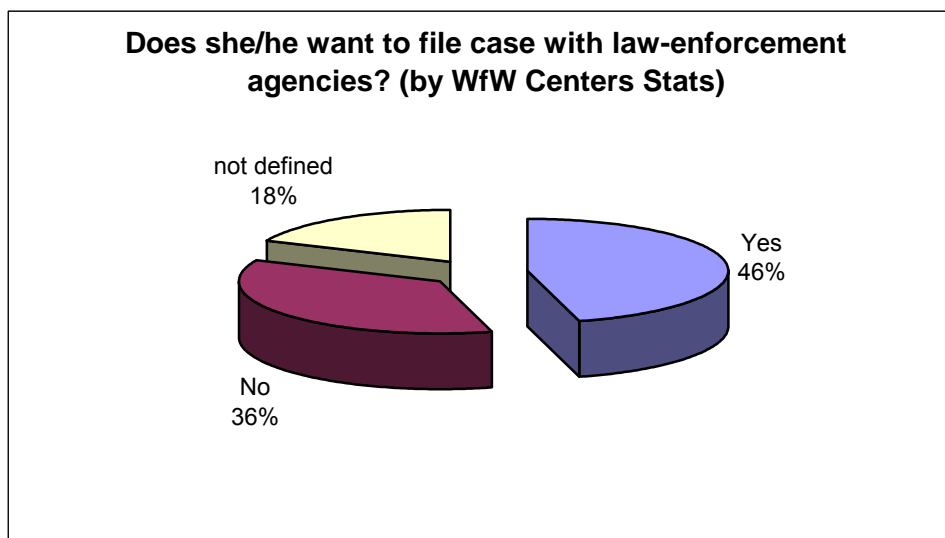


Usually, the most timely help is given to victims of trafficking by NGOs in the destination country, especially when they are extremely vulnerable. Among those surveyed, approximately half of the victims received such assistance, including medical (19%), financial (17%), re-establishing contact with relatives (12%). Only two percent of victims participated as witnesses in criminal cases and were under a witness protection program.

After returning to Ukraine, 22% of women applied for help to WfW Centers, 12% applied to IOM's shelter in Kyiv, and 59% sought help in their place of legal residence. After medical examination of those who sought such assistance, 28% were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome, 24% with other psychological problems, 21% with physical ailments, 6 % with sexually transmitted infections, 4% with unintended pregnancy, 4 % with alcohol and drug dependence, and 2 % with HIV/AIDS.



Victims who turned to the WfW Centers for help needed various types of assistance, specifically: social-psychological (25%), financial and job skills training (19%), medical (18%), legal (12%), as well as help in employment and housing. The primary wishes of these survivors for their future was to find work in Ukraine (36,2%), to get an education (26%), and to get recover from their physical and mental problems (17,7%).



Approximately 80% of those victims who were willing to go to law enforcement agencies for help want to do this to punish the perpetrators and provide information about people involved in the human trafficking trade. At the same time 28% of victims do not want to testify because they are afraid of being persecuted by their traffickers, and 44,7% of victims don't want to disclose any information about what happened to them

Unfortunately real possibilities for implementing all activities as required by the 1994 law of Ukraine "On ensuring safety of persons who participate in criminal justice" (witness protection) are limited due to financial constraints. Also, there are no state shelters for victims, the creation of which is required by Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking Program for 2002-2005. Actual activities on providing help to victims are mainly provided by international organizations and local NGOs.

It is also worth noting that in Ukraine during the last three years thanks to active cooperation between law enforcement and NGOs, in terms of work with victims and providing them with necessary re-integration assistance, there has been a marked increase in victims' confidence level toward law enforcement agencies. This is demonstrated by a yearly increase in the number of victims filing requests for assistance with police agencies and the number of criminal cases against traffickers: 2000 – 42 discovered crimes, 2001 – 90, 2002 – 169, 10 months of 2003 – 259.

