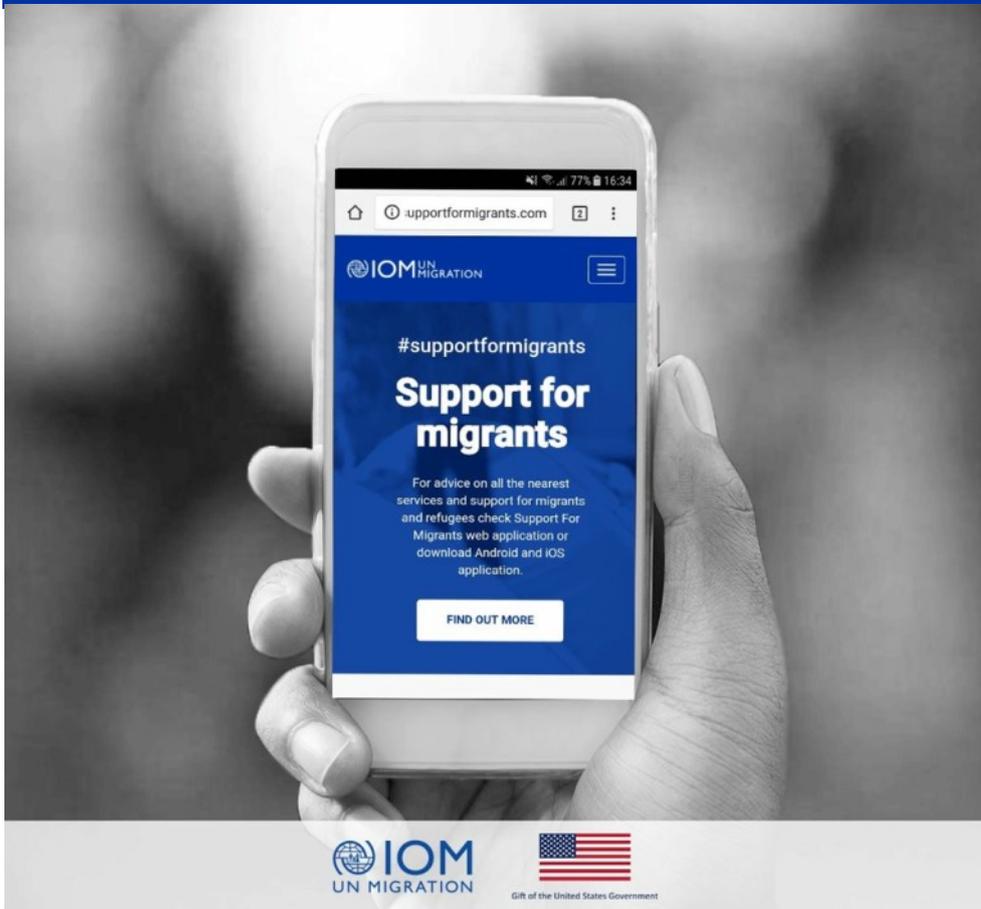


ENHANCING COUNTER TRAFFICKING IN CRISIS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



This project will increase capacity for proactive screening, victim identification, and services among vulnerable populations. IOM will conduct trainings for civil society and front-line officials to enhance trafficking in persons (TIP) victim screening and identification.

The project will conduct public awareness campaigns among refugee and migrant populations to reduce vulnerability to TIP, including long-term vulnerability beyond initial arrival.

This regional project also will include regional coordination meetings to improve cross-border coordination and referrals.

Main activities:

- Building upon existing information tools in the region to capture the data on the profiles of migrants at risk, as well as on the potential cases of TIP
- Enhancing capacities and the coordination among governmental and non-governmental Counter Trafficking (CT) stakeholders to better identify and assist potential victims and victims of trafficking among irregular migrants, stranded migrants and migrants awaiting to return to their countries of origin
- Informing potential victims of trafficking of the risks associated with attempting to transit the region, while providing information regarding access to service

The recent official closing of the Western Balkan Route will render transiting migrants increasingly vulnerable to trafficking since, having been denied legal transit along the route, they are likely to turn to the services of illicit groups and individual smugglers, increasing the risk of their falling prey to traffickers. It is anticipated that migrants might also turn to alternative routes and try to reach European Union countries by transiting, besides the established countries along the route (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia), through other Western Balkan countries (Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo* and Bosnia and Herzegovina). Preliminary findings from a sample of 1,042 migrants and refugees of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevalence Indication Survey introduced in December 2015, as part of IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix’s (DTM) Flow Monitoring Surveys, indicate that 7.2% of respondents answered ‘yes’ to experiencing one of the trafficking and exploitation indicators.

KEY PROJECT DATA

Period: 2017-2018

Donors: U.S. Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (I/TIP)

Executing Agency: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Partners: Ministries of Interior/Ministry of Security (BiH); specialized national agencies, such as national commissions on counter trafficking and Offices of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator; Shelter Coalitions, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);

Beneficiaries: Persons on the move, and particularly vulnerable groups, as well as potential victims (PVOT) and victims of trafficking (VOT)