



International Organization for Migration

the migration agency

IOM RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

**Christine Aghazarm
Research and Publications Unit
IOM, Geneva
July 9, 2009**

IOM's approach towards trafficking in persons

- **Wide range of activities implemented in partnership with:**
 - Governmental institutions;
 - NGOs;
 - International organizations.
- **Policy – Research – Practice Interface**
- **Through implementation and management of the IOM victim-centred Global Human Trafficking Database, the Organization has gained extensive experience collecting information on human trafficking.**

Complex interplay between research, policy and programming

Anti-trafficking actors cannot know what is working and what is failing if they do not have access to accurate data and research to help understand the phenomenon and substantiate claims.

- To understand the complexities of the issue and combat human trafficking effectively reliable research and data is needed
 - To feed into anti-trafficking policy and programme development
 - Learn about other **experiences and practices**
 - **Assess** the effectiveness and impact of their current policies
 - Promote an **informed** debate
 - With the ultimate goal to protect trafficked persons, to prosecute traffickers and to prevent and combat trafficking in persons
- 

« Human Trafficking: New Directions for Research » (IOM, 2009)

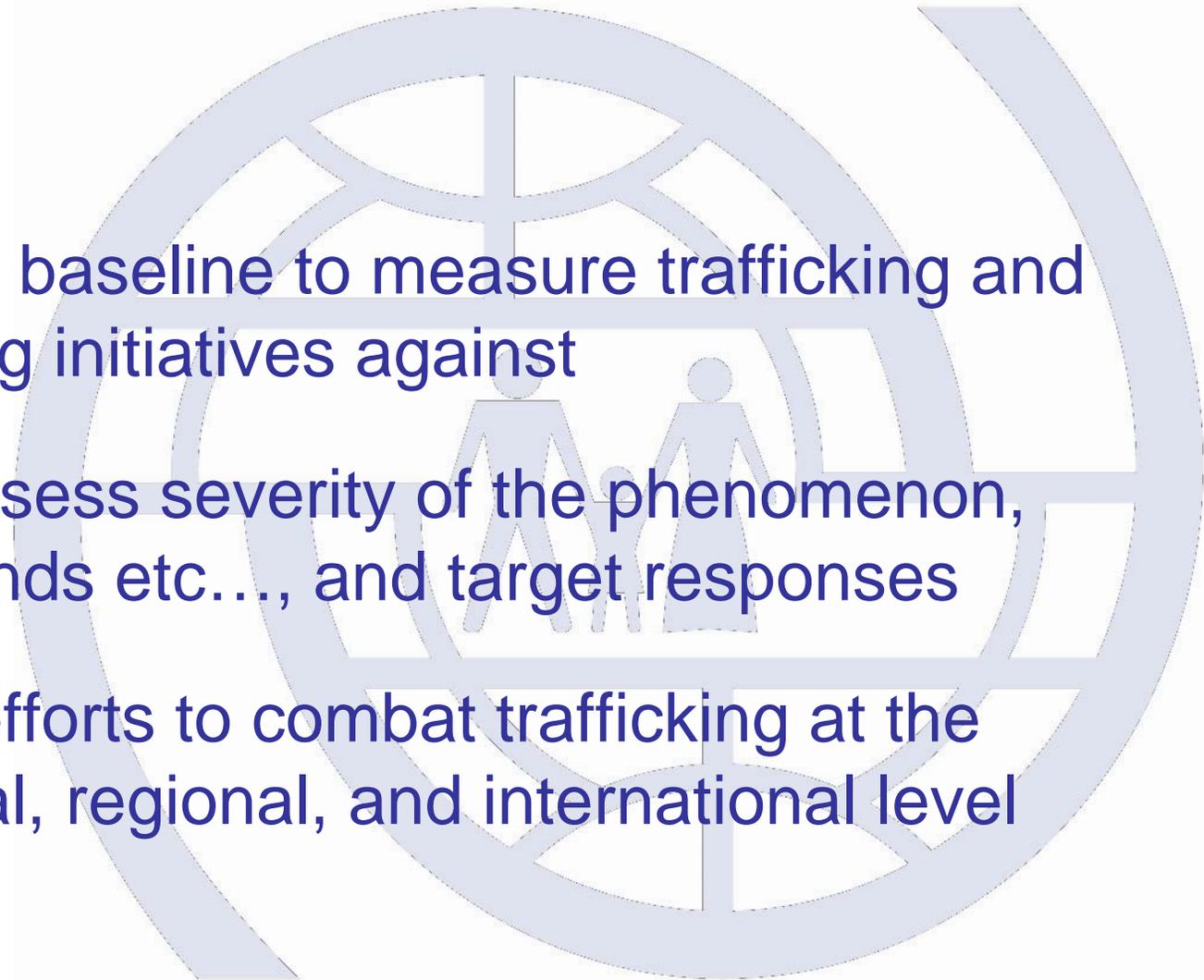
Limitations with current approaches and knowledge gaps:

- Conceptual clarity; definitions
- Too few data collection methods stand to employ standardized methods and measures
- Data gathered is not comparable and the potential for use is limited
- Figures are often based on estimates
- Focus on women and children for sexual exploitation
- Internal trafficking, links with development under-researched
- Little evaluation and impact assessment



The impact...

- No adequate baseline to measure trafficking and anti-trafficking initiatives against
- Difficult to assess severity of the phenomenon, changing trends etc..., and target responses
- Holds back efforts to combat trafficking at the local, national, regional, and international level



Recent IOM initiatives to address knowledge gaps

- UN.GIFT Expert Group Meeting on Trafficking Research, Cairo 2008
- New publications on male trafficking and male smuggling

Trafficking of men –
a trend less considered
The case of Belarus
and Ukraine



« Trafficking of men- a
trend less considered:
The case of Ukraine and
Belarus »



« In pursuit of the
Southern dream:
Victims of
Necessity »

Recent IOM initiatives to address knowledge gaps: IOM Global Human Trafficking Database

- Thematic Research Series:
 - Trafficking of males
 - Re-trafficking;
 - Trafficking and traffickers;
 - Trafficking and development
- Methods and approaches in trafficking research: taking stock and exploring ways forward
 - Cooperation IOM (Geneva) and NEXUS Institute (Vienna)





International Organization for Migration

IOM-CTM

Counter-Trafficking (CTM)

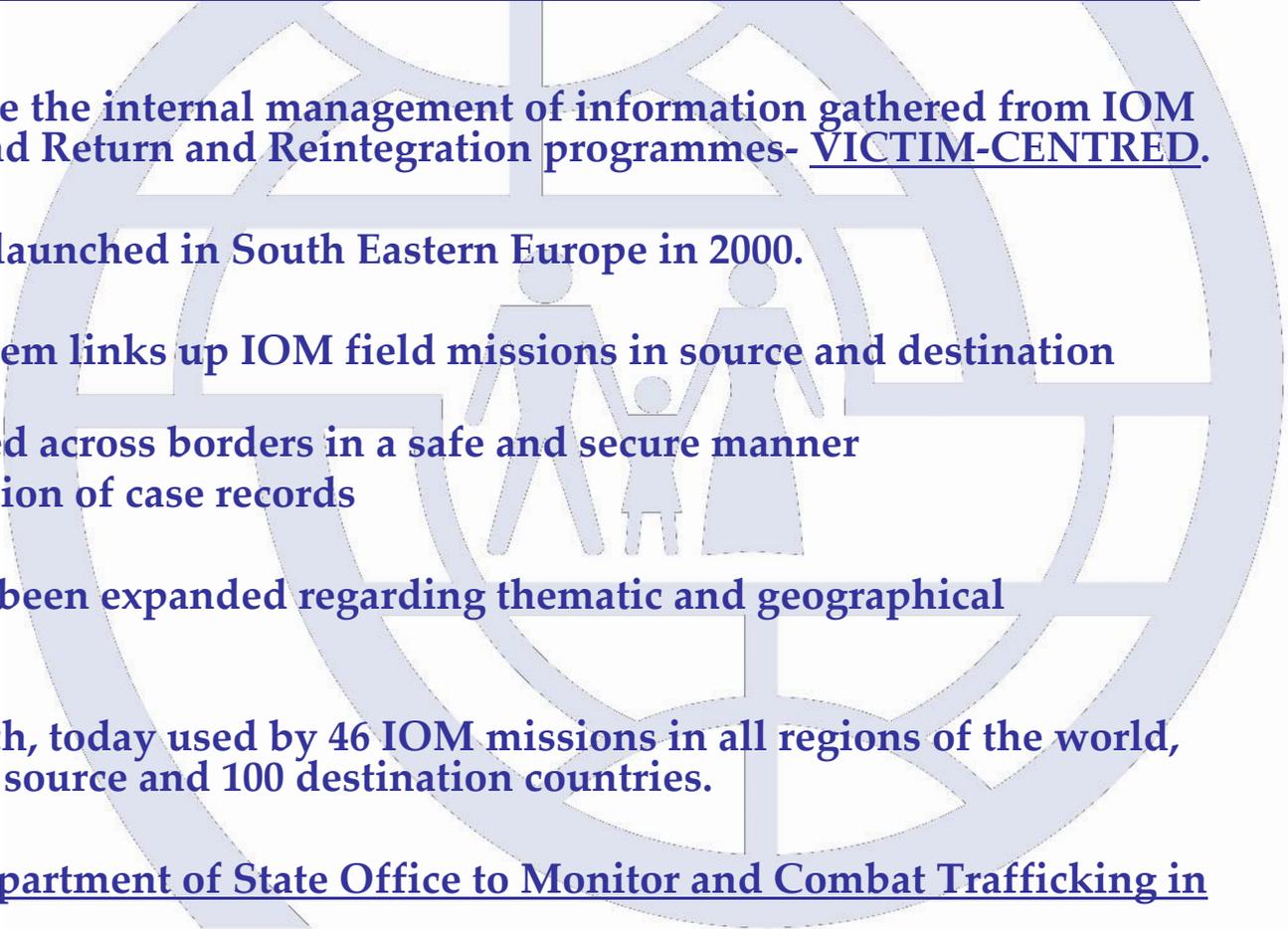
- Return and Reintegration Assistance -



-00-

Version 7.6.4

The IOM Global Human Trafficking Database as a tool to assist efforts to collect better data.

- Developed to facilitate the internal management of information gathered from IOM counter-trafficking and Return and Reintegration programmes- VICTIM-CENTRED.
 - A pilot database was launched in South Eastern Europe in 2000.
 - For each case, the system links up IOM field missions in source and destination countries
 - Data can be shared across borders in a safe and secure manner
 - Prevents duplication of case records
 - The system has since been expanded regarding thematic and geographical applicability.
 - Standardized approach, today used by 46 IOM missions in all regions of the world, with data covering 80 source and 100 destination countries.
 - Funded by the US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP).
- 

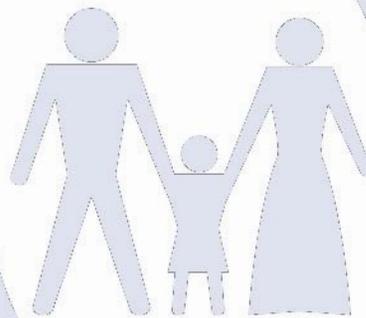
“The extent of the information on victims and traffickers in the database improves the overall understanding of the broader dimensions of trafficking”. (GAO, 2006)

- Primary qualitative and quantitative data on:
 - Trafficked persons
 - Trafficking process
 - Patterns of exploitation and re-trafficking.
 - Assistance



Overview of total caseload

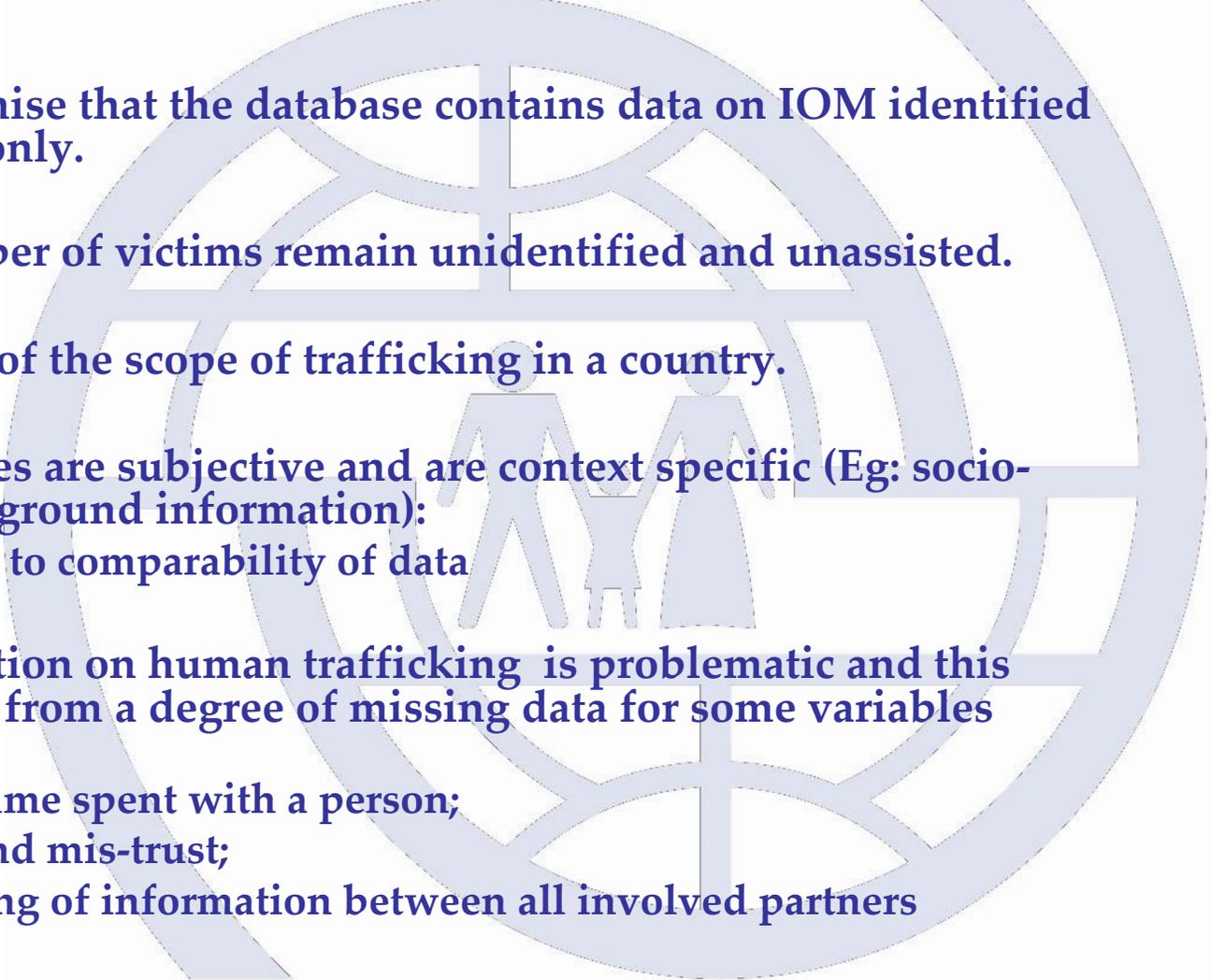
- As of end December 2008, the system contains data on 13,359 registered cases of victims of trafficking
- Gender breakdown:
 - Female: 10,999 (82%)
 - Male: 2,358 (18%)



Strengths of the Database

- A rich source of primary information.
- That links up source and destination countries
- That through analysis of the dataset, is feeding into programming and policy development

Limitations of Database...

- Important to recognise that the database contains data on IOM identified and assisted cases only.
 - An unknown number of victims remain unidentified and unassisted.
 - Not representative of the scope of trafficking in a country.
 - Some data categories are subjective and are context specific (Eg: socio-economic and background information):
 - Potential barrier to comparability of data
 - Collecting information on human trafficking is problematic and this system also suffers from a degree of missing data for some variables
 - Due to limited time spent with a person;
 - Issues of trust and mis-trust;
 - Barriers to sharing of information between all involved partners
- 

The way forward

- To continue to promote and ensure best practices for the collection, storage and processing of standardized data on human trafficking.
- Through the adaptation and development of the IOM global database to an external data collection tool to be used by civil society organizations and governments
- Continue to conduct research and publish in new areas
- Raise awareness and promote more work on evaluation and impact assessment

“Tools” and further reading...

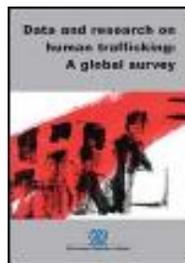
- **World Migration Report**



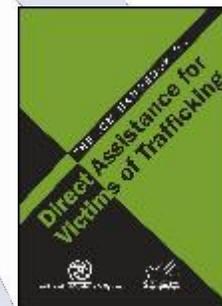
Trafficking of men – a trend less considered
The case of Belarus and Ukraine



IOM International Organization for Migration



- **IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking**



- **Migration Research Series MRS**
 - International Migration
 - Thematic publications
 - Conference reports
 - Migration Magazine



IOM Publications are available to download

IOM online book store

www.iom.int

Thank You!

caghazarm@iom.int

