



WEB OF HEARTS FOUNDATION

TRENDS IN VOLUNTARY RETURN: THE EVOLVING DYNAMICS OF VOLUNTARY RETURN



We are all equal before God! Stop Discrimination. All lives matter stop human abuse. Mistakes are Human rise above rejection. No human is illegal... Better to return home than be a slave.

CEO - BOSE AGRREY

OUR FOUNDER



Bose Agreey

Founder & CEO

An English graduate with 8 years experience in people management, guidance, counselling, entrepreneurship and skills development. Highly invested in Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Resettlement of migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria through talent identification entrepreneurship trainings, personal development, skills acquisition workshop and other initiatives

Voluntary return or voluntary repatriation

Definition:

This usually the return of an Irregular Migrant or over-stayed, a rejected Asylum Seeker, a Refugee or Displaced, an Unaccompanied minor, Victims of trafficking, Other vulnerable groups and sometimes a second-generation immigrant, who is unable or unwilling to remain in the host country and who volunteers to return to their country of origin, or that of their ancestors.

Voluntary return is a more dignified and humane option for the migrant, more cost-effective for the member states, more sustainable than forced return and it does not require the same cooperation between states that forced return demands.

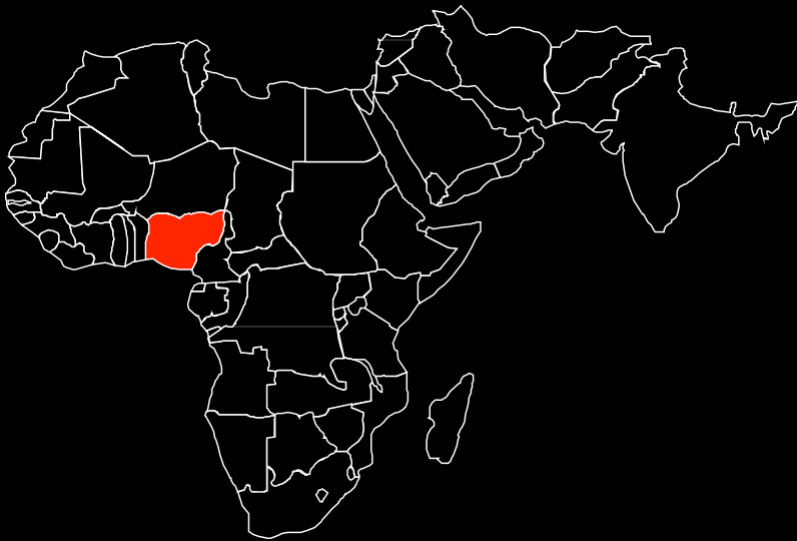


It is important to note that voluntary return is now being presented as a part of the policy response to irregular migration in some advanced Countries. To encourage stranded individuals to return home, government of many countries have developed programs on assisted voluntary return, where the individuals are assisted by some International Organizations and government of country of origin to return home. This will enable them have access to reintegration and empowerment programs that will help them find their footing and establish a means of livelihood.



Even with the government assistance, Returnees sometimes migrate back to other countries as the economic conditions in their home Countries makes it difficult for them to thrive.

IN NIGERIA,



some returns are assisted and others are self-sponsored. While the assisted will get funds and aids to get back into the country of origin others are faced with the dilemma of sorting themselves out all the way from the Airport. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) which is the UN arm involved in migration takes the lead in voluntary return programs in Nigeria as in other Countries.

But the government agency coordinating all migration activities in Nigeria, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), adopted the Standard Operating Procedure for the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR). *Between 2006 when the presidential directive was issued for the elaboration of the National Migration Policy and May 13th, 2015 when the Policy document was approved by the Federal Executive Council. Nigeria realizes the potential benefit of migration to national development.*



The assistance are divided into three major parts:

- .. **Return assistance:**
- .. **Re-admission**
- .. **Reintegration**



Return Assistance

- Pre-departure assistance from the destination Country's Airport;
- Reception assistance at Nigeria's International Airports; which is an inter-agency activity that involves state actors and Non-governmental organizations.
- If needed, overnight accommodation and onward transportation to the final destination in Nigeria;.

The final destination can be a shelter, home or hotel depending on needs and available resources. IOM assist in their pre-departure arrangements (Profiling, Counselling, travel documentation, airport pickup, medical and mental health assistance in some cases), they also collaborate with relevant government agencies and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) involved in Migration management and emergency response.

Web of Hearts Foundation (WHF) is one of the CSO's involved in airport reception, Rehabilitation and Reintegration program of the Returnees..

Re-admission

Upon arrival at the airport the Migrants undergo the following processes;

- .. Meet and greet between Returnees and relevant Actors.
- .. Documents check by Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)
- .. Profiling continues to identify Victims of Trafficking and those with Health challenges.
- .. Refreshment (Food & Water)
- .. Communication devices and onward transportation allowance are distributed to all Returnees
- .. Movement to an overnight accommodation (Hotel)

Departure to different destinations commences after breakfast except for those who have no family to return to, who are moved to various readily available shelters i.e. (WHF Shelter)..

Reintegration

In the shelters, there are existing Rehabilitation and Reintegration support programs which are developed to;

- .. Promote the positive aspects of migration and fight its negative sides
- .. Migration management and protection of Returnees
- .. Capacity Building
- .. Mental health and Psychosocial Support
- .. Personal Development and Livelihood support
- .. Dialogue, Advocacy and Partnership
- .. Monitoring and Evaluation
- .. Entrepreneurial training
- .. Family Tracing
- .. Reintegration and Post Training Empowerment.

National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons and all other stake holders in Migration in Nigeria work hand in hand with IOM to coordinate the Returns, Readmission and Reintegration of Returnee Migrants. The recent IOM report states that they have assisted about fourteen thousand (14,000) Voluntary Returnees from different Countries and WHF have reintegrated about 192 Returnees.



Voluntary Return is a process which should be encouraged and supported by every Government in their Policy and Advocacy programs. In Nigeria, the journey has been amazing and we are looking forward to more involvement of more CSOs and other well-meaning individuals as it will increase the value of life of our Citizens wherever they find themselves.

THANK YOU!

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

REINTEGRATION OF GIRLS AND WOMEN VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Nigerian Women Association Verona - Lagos Chapter

PRESIDENT: SW/DR AJIBOLA OLUWAKEMI VICTORIA



ABOUT US



NWAV was founded in 2004 by 21 dynamic Nigerian women resident in Italy, in Veneto Region (Verona and Province)

NWAV Executives

- NWA Verona Founder/President – SW/DR Ajibola O. Victoria
- NWA Verona Vice President – Mrs Erhabor Sandra Faith
- NWA Verona Secretary – Mrs Iyere Bose
- NWA Verona Public Relation Officer – Mrs Omoroghe Mabel
- NWA Verona / Lagos Chapter Coordinator – SW Blessing Uwadineke

Registered in Italy: Veneto Region - art.7.L.R.9/90 n. 172

Registered in Nigeria: CAC /IT/NO/105408

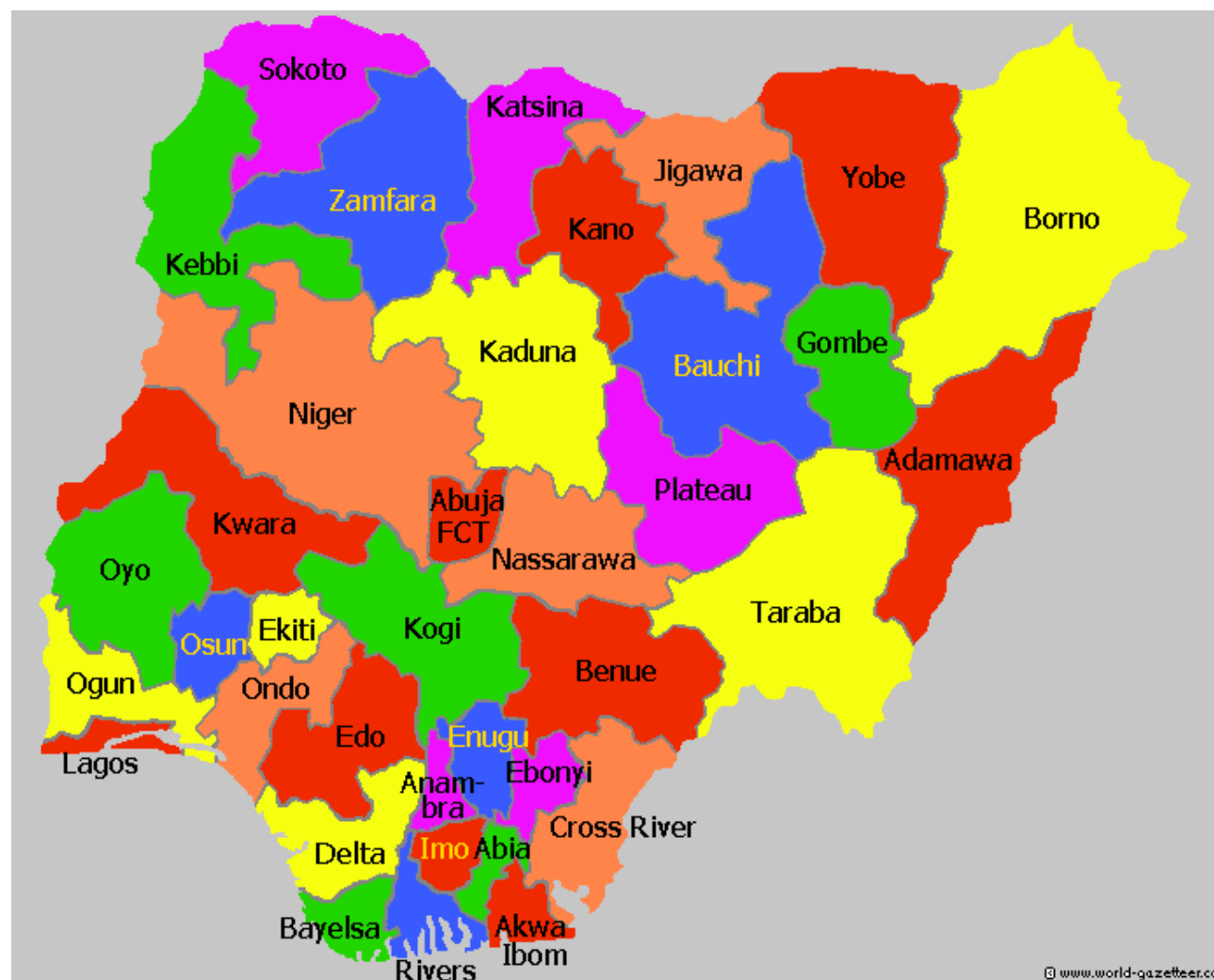
MISSION



The mission of NWA Verona is to:

- serve our local community as well as our country Nigeria, through empowerment, cultural enrichment, and education of women, youth and children
- foster togetherness and excellence in our collective pursuits
- serve as a resource group to the Veneto Municipalities, schools and community, assist Nigeria citizens and represent Nigerian culture

NIGERIA: THE GIANT OF AFRICA



Nigerian Women Association Verona - Lagos Chapter

OUR HELP DESK OFFICE FOR AWARENESS RAISING AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING
4 Ojelowo street, off Salvation road Opebi Ikeja, Lagos

Coordinator: SW Blessing Uwadineke



*Project funded by ICMPD through
Action **INSigHT***

www.insightproject.net



Action funded by the European Union, contracted by ICMPD through the Mobility Partnership Facility



INSigHT
Building Capacity to
Deal with
Human Trafficking and
Transit Routes in
Nigeria, Italy, Sweden



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
UNESCO Chair on Social and Spatial Inclusion
of International Migrants: Urban Policies and Practice
University Iuav of Venice



OUR SHELTER FOR WOMEN REINTEGRATION



WE BELIEVE IN



- **The Empowerment of Women, Youth and Children**
- **Service, Strong Commitment and Teamwork**
- **Mutual Respect, Integrity and Excellence in our Pursuits**
- **Honest and Open Communication**
- **Promoting Nigerian Culture**



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Web <http://nwaverona.org/>



INSigHT - Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

INSigHT

Scope and objectives & the role of Nigerian Women Association Verona

Dr. Michele Bertani (PhD) / NWAV Coordinator for Action INSigHT

November 28, 2020

Institute of Social Work of Nigeria (ISOWN) – Virtual Conference

Action funded by the European Union, contracted by ICMPD through the Mobility Partnership Facility



INSigHT
Building Capacity to
Deal with
Human Trafficking and
Transit Routes in
Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

LEAD PARTNER AND FUNDING

Lead partner: SSIIM Unesco Chair. University Iuav of Venice (Italy)

The SSIIM UNESCO Chair on the “*Social and Spatial Inclusion of International Migrants – Urban policies and practices*” is a research center established in 2008 at the University IUAV of Venice, with the aim of investigating local policies and practices promoting or preventing the urban inclusion of foreign residents, in both the Global North and South.

Website: www.unescochair-iuav.it

INSigHT has been funded by the [European Union](#), contracted by [ICMPD](#) through the [Mobility Partnership Facility](#).

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development ([ICMPD](#)) is an international organisation with 18 Member States. Active in more than 90 countries worldwide, it takes a regional approach in its work to create efficient cooperation and partnerships along migration routes. Priority regions include Africa, Central and South Asia, Europe and the Middle East. ICMPD receives funding from its Member States, the European Commission, the UN and other multilateral institutions, as well as bilateral donors. Founded in 1993, ICMPD holds UN observer status and cooperates with more than 700 partners including EU institutions and UN agencies.

Website: <http://www.icmpd.org/>

ACTION'S OBJECTIVES

General objective

To increase the capacity of key local stakeholders in the Veneto Region (Italy), Edo State and Lagos (Nigeria) and Sweden to tackle HT and to deal with evolving dynamics, trends, modus operandi, with specific attention to female children, while reinforcing transnational cooperation.

Specific objectives

- a) To produce new gender-disaggregated knowledge on emerging trends, mechanisms and dynamics on: recruitment of victims, transit and secondary routes, rehabilitation;
- b) to strengthen the prevention and protection systems for children;
- c) to improve local stakeholders' capacity to deal with HT and to promote knowledge-based and gender-aware policy-making;
- d) to raise awareness, particularly of victim returnees and law enforcement officers on evolving dynamics.

ACTION'S TIMING: 24 MONTHS (APRIL 2019 - MARCH 2021)

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

SWEDEN

(Stockholm / Malmo)



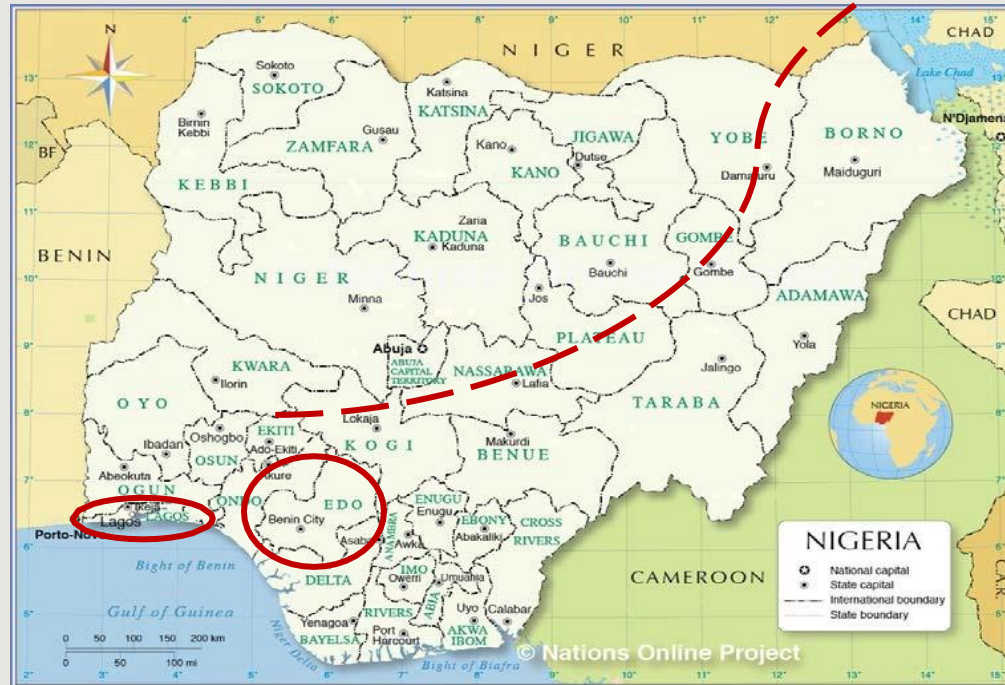
ITALY

(Veneto region and Brenner route)

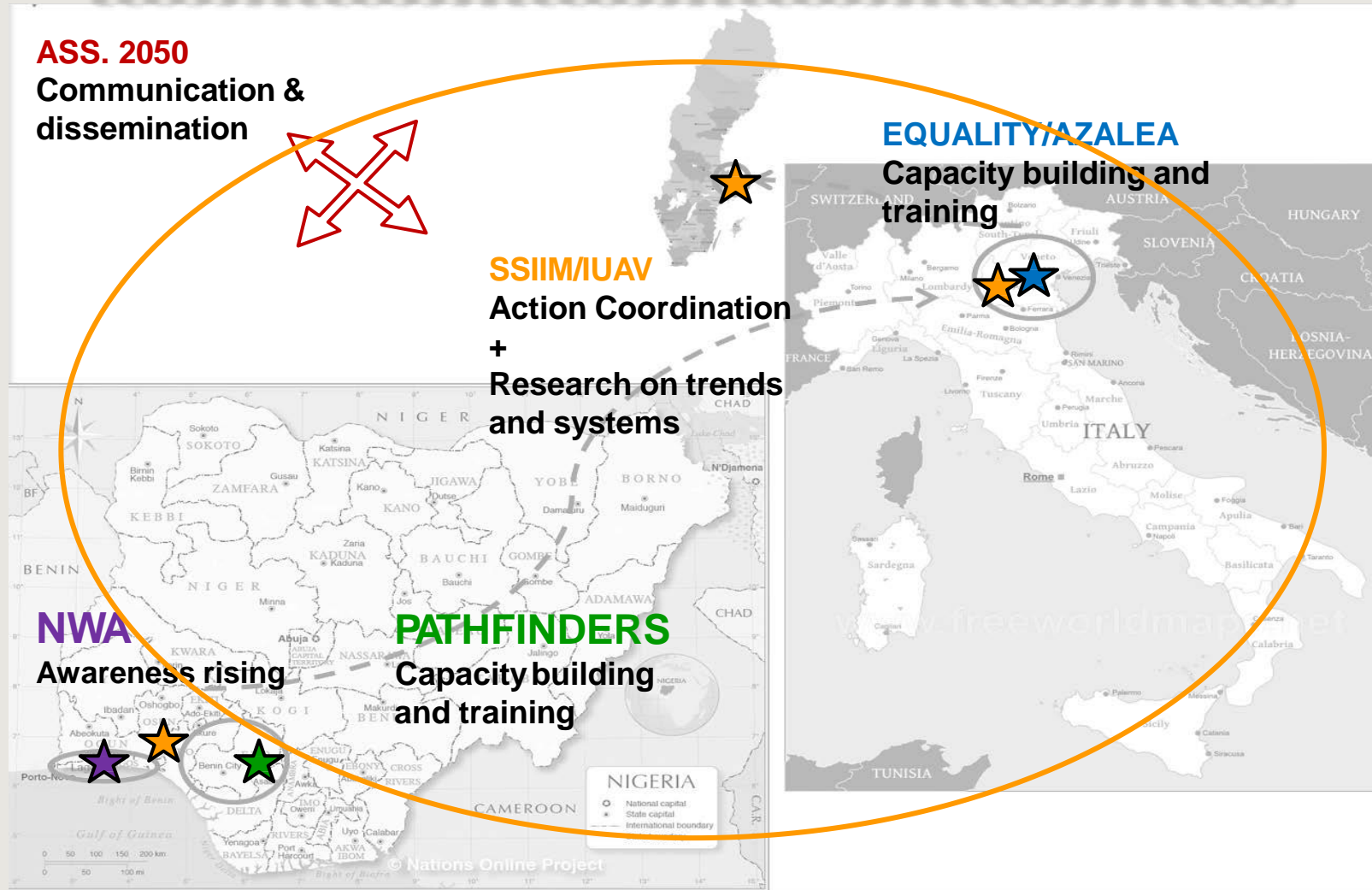


NIGERIA



(Lagos and Edo States)



PROJECT PARTNERS



THE ROLE OF NIGERIAN WOMEN ASSOCIATION VERONA / 1



More than 30
victims of HT
supported since
Sept. 2019

- **Open and run a Helpdesk in Lagos**

Open since September 1, 2019, with the objective to reach out to victim returnees/ their families and alert them of re-trafficking dangers. It operates twice a week.

Coordination: SW Blessing Uwadineke

- **Organise a participative workshop**

involving social workers and post-graduate students engaging on anti-trafficking issues (here we are.....)

THE ROLE OF NIGERIAN WOMEN ASSOCIATION VERONA / 2

- **Organise and deliver 2 two-day Trainings for teachers**

in selected colleges/ secondary schools in Lagos to raise awareness on voluntary return and re-trafficking dangers and to support them to prepare awareness raising modules. Realized on November 7-8, 2019.

More than 20
teachers
participated

- **Organise 2 Awareness Raising Events (ARE). following the Trainings**

- 1) 26 November 2019, Army Children Senior High School, Army Cantonment Ikeja, Lagos.
- 2) 18 December 2019, Ladoje Primary School Football Pitch, Agric Farm Estate, Oko Oba, Lagos.

More than
400 students
involved

1,000
facemasks
and flyers
delivered

- **Organise an itinerant awareness raising campaign “on the streets”**

to reach out to victim returnees and potential victims of re-trafficking in 5 locations: realized in July/August 2020. 1) IKEJA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA; 2) ALIMOSHO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA; 3) IBA LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA; 4) OJO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA; 5) AMUWO-ODOFIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

ROAD CAMPAIGN, July-August 2020



ROAD CAMPAIGN, July-August 2020



AWARENESS RAISING EVENT, November 2019

TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, November 2019



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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Taking the lead as an Expert on how Social workers can deal with Voluntary Return

Morenike Omaiboje

Introduction

- The return of migrants from host countries back to their countries of origin has become a high priority in Migration policies and different measures have been developed to encourage or enforce this return
- Today, return migration policy distinguishes between other forms of return such and voluntary return

Components of Voluntary return

- In voluntary return, the KEY word is voluntary or voluntariness...
- It is return of persons of different categories of persons who are unable or unwilling to remain in a host country and so, volunteer to return home
- Voluntary return refers to return out of 'free' will or the unforced compliance with an obligation to return to the country of origin

Categories of voluntary returnees

Various categories of voluntary returnees could include:

- *irregular migrant*
- *overstayer*
- *rejected asylum seeker*
- *refugee or displaced person*
- *unaccompanied minors*

Issues to address

- return-related migration issues
- return of migrants to their countries of origin
- role of actors working in the field of migrant return
- Return counseling and the part Social workers play

IOM's AVRR Programme

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has for decades and decades have assisted millions of migrants worldwide under its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme

IOM's AVRR Programme

- The successful implementation of IOM's AVRR programmes requires the cooperation and participation of:
 - ☐ Migrants
 - ☐ Civil society
 - ☐ Governments in both host and transit countries and countries of origin.

These partnerships established by IOM are essential to the effective implementation of AVRR –

First steps for Social Workers in assisting voluntary returnees

- PREPARATION - Be ready to ask QUESTIONS
 - What happened?
 - Where?
 - When?
 - How many people are or were affected
 - What kind of help can I render
 - Is it within my capability, i.e., am I the best person to handle this or am I referring this to an expert?

Issues of concern social workers should note

- Anxiety and such concerns of returnees about returning
- Stigmatization they worry about back home
- Returnees' envisaged resentment from the community
- Shame
- Lack of funds (out of cash)
- The fact that they have lost everything, job, homes and sometimes families
- They experience a lot of stress

Issues of concern social workers should note

- Feeling of uncertainty
- The mental and physical states of returnees
- It is vital that Social workers earn the trust of voluntary returnees
- Different people have different reactions to different events
- Mental health should be taken into consideration
- All returnees should be taken through psychosocial programming to support their wellbeing through recreational, counseling, cultural and social activities
- Current health condition and history of mental health condition

Return Counseling - a major role of Social Workers

- Well-trained and qualified social workers trained as counselors should naturally have extensive and up-to-date knowledge of migration procedures
- Return counseling helps to clarify the actual return procedure, as well as give returning migrants the chance to share worries with the counselor

Return counseling

- During counselling, the following questions should be addressed
 - What might happen if you stayed
 - What are your chances if you cooperated with authorities and returned home or volunteered to leave?

Return counseling

- Return counseling should be unbiased.
- Counselors should not judge migrants' thoughts or decisions
- Migrants should be allowed to make choices about their future.

Social workers must ensure Return is *dignified and inclusive*

- Social workers are to ensure the return process is "dignified and inclusive"
- Returnees need to know what choices and possibilities they have, to enable them make the best decisions about their future
- Returnees may apply for counseling and assistance in case they are not able to cover their expenses.

Dealing with voluntary returnees

- Individual support after voluntary return is facilitated through a network of local service providers and partners such as Social Workers
- Development and implementation of innovative solutions in the field of return and reintegration is vital

Your role in dealing with returnees includes

- Pre-departure assistance from country of departure
- Reception assistance at home country
- Overnight accommodation and transportation to final destination in host country e.g. Nigeria
- Post-arrival counselling
- Help with finding a job
- Advice and support
- Medical assistance
- Facilitating and providing financial assistance in different areas of life
- Vocational training programs

Reintegration support in home countries

- Reintegration support is designed to get returnees back on their feet and get their lives back in their home countries.

Dealing with returnees

- Measures to support the returnee's efforts to reintegrate in should always take into account the individual needs and skills of the participants

Reintegration assistance

- Vocational orientation session may be held for returnees in destination countries
- As experts and with the help of IOM, returnees enjoy :
 - Vocational training: e.g. mechanic, computer engineer, hairdresser, plumber, electrician, farmer, etc.;
 - Business training and support for starting small businesses like agriculture, welding, tailoring, beauty salons, car services, Internet-cafes, etc.;
 - Purchase of relevant tools and equipment.

Reintegration assistance for vulnerable groups

- Special support is also provided to returnees with special needs such as single parent families, unaccompanied minors, persons with medical needs, etc.

Other support to be provided by social workers

- Listening but not pressuring returnees to talk
- Comforting people and helping them to feel calm
- Helping people connect to information, services and social supports
- Protecting returnees from further harm

Ask open ended questions !

- What have you learnt so far?
- What confuses you?
- Do you disagree with anything?

Improving the mechanics of humanitarian return

- providing conditions that enable migrants to make informed decisions
- assessing migrants before departure to identify vulnerabilities
- ensuring that assistance is provided to them upon return home
- supporting them through their reintegration process within the home community.

Note of caution

- We must be careful to ensure that the policies guiding voluntary returnees are built on frameworks that understand return and reintegration and one which does not exclude returnees' experiences, realities and needs

THE EVOLVING DYNAMICS OF VOLUNTARY RETURN: Law and Human rights for voluntary return

Professor Olaide A. Gbadamosi,
College of Law, Osun State University,
Nigeria

Introduction

- Around the world, the human rights of millions of migrants are insufficiently protected or at risk of abuse. This is especially true for migrants without the legal right to remain in the countries in which they reside, and who may be subject to forced returns or otherwise incentivised or coerced to return voluntarily. Human rights of all persons – including migrants in the context of return – must be respected. Migrants are at heightened risk of being returned to places where they may face torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment ('ill-treatment') in violation of the principle of non-refoulement.
- Others face arbitrary or collective expulsion or may be returned back to situations of internal displacement.
- According to OHCHR, a migrant refers to "any person who is outside a State of which he or she is a citizen or national, or, in the case of a stateless person, his or her State of birth or habitual residence".

See OHCHR/UNSMIL, "Detained and Dehumanised" Report on Human Rights Abuses Against Migrants in Libya, 13 December 2016.

CEDAW, General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, CEDAW/C/GC/30, paras. 39-40, 18 October 2013.

Expert Meeting on Protecting the human rights of migrants in the context of return. 6

Migration

- **M**igration is often perceived as a journey, starting from one's homeland to a new country of destination.
- For some, the need to go back home is felt at a certain point, triggered by the desire to reunite with family, changed conditions in either host countries or countries of origin, or the lack of legal status and work opportunities.

*Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration IOM
2017 Geneva.40*

Migration cycle

- Migration cycle encompasses 3 stages, namely the initial impetus for migration; the migration experience; the return experience; and post-return conditions – all of which influence the sustainability of return. As a result, he proposes a threefold typology of the migration cycle:
- (1) The migration cycle is **complete** if migrants return, among other reasons: to run a business concern in the country of origin; after the termination of a job contract; to complete training/studies at home; having achieved their migration objective (e.g. successful completion of studies); after the situation in the country of origin has improved.
- (2) The migration cycle is **incomplete** if migrants return, among other reasons, because of: job precariousness in the destination country; family and personal problems; adverse social and cultural environment/racism/discrimination abroad;
- the failure of migration objectives (e.g. studies not completed).
- (3) The migration cycle is **interrupted** in the case of: non-renewal of residence permit in the destination country; expulsion/readmission; administrative/financial hurdles; loss of job; serious health problems; family pressures; forced marriage; war/conflict.

See Cassarino, J.-P. (ed.) (2014). **Reintegration and Development**. San Domenico di Fiesolo: European University Institute (EUI).

Types of Returns

- **Return** is “in a general sense, the act or process of going back or being taken back to the point of departure. This could be within the territorial boundaries of a country, as in the case of returning internally displaced persons (IDPs) and demobilized combatants; or between a country of destination or transit and a country of origin, as in the case of migrant workers, refugees or asylum seekers.” ([IOM Glossary on Migration, 2019](#)).
- Two main types of return migration are defined as follows:
- 1. **Voluntary return** - is “the assisted or independent return to the country of origin, transit or another country based on the voluntary decision of the returnee.” ([IOM Glossary on Migration, 2019](#)).
- Voluntary returns can be either spontaneous or assisted:
- **Spontaneous return** is “the voluntary, independent return of a migrant or a group of migrants to their country of origin, usually without the support of States or other international or national assistance.” ([IOM Glossary on Migration, 2019](#)).
- **Assisted voluntary return** is the “administrative, logistical, financial and reintegration support to rejected asylum seekers, victims of trafficking in human beings, stranded migrants, qualified nationals and other migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country who volunteer to return to their countries of origin” (IOM Glossary on Migration, 2011).
- When return programmes involve additional reintegration support for returnees, these programmes are referred to as **assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR)**. IOM defines **AVRR** as “Administrative, logistical or financial support,

Return Migration

- Return migration pertains to at least three groups of persons whose experiences should be analytically distinguished:
- (1) migrants who return voluntarily on their own initiative and by their own means;
- (2) migrants who return voluntarily by incentive or under coercion, such as those receiving financial or other assistance to return, or those who return from places of detention; and
- (3) migrants who are forcibly returned by migration, law enforcement, or other State authorities.

Wrongful returns

- According to some researchers, wrongful returns and returns lacking basic procedural safeguards are now taking place with “alarming frequency”.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called upon States to “ensure that all returns are only carried out in full respect for the human rights of migrants and in accordance with international law.” Additionally, the Global Migration Group’s (GMG) **Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations**, recommend specific protection interventions for migrants in vulnerable situations, including that returns are sustainable, and that States “put long-term, independent reporting mechanisms in place to monitor the risk and occurrence of human rights violations” when migrants are returned.
- See Kanstroom D., *Deportation as a Global Phenomenon: Reflections on the ILC Draft Articles on the Expulsion of Aliens*, 30
- *Harv. Hum. Rts. J.* 49 (Spring 2017), at 61.
- 23 A/HRC/36/42, Principle 6: Returns.
- 25A/HRC/37/34/Add. 1, Principle 6, Guideline 8.

Essential elements of a standard AVR

- For migrants who seek, or need, to return home but lack the means to do so, AVRs are often the only solution to their immediate plight. The consequences of not returning such migrants in a safe and speedy way can be grave for the migrants, and place heavy socio-economic burdens on destination and transit countries' asylum and social welfare systems.
- Essential elements of a standard AVR are three-fold:
- **Pre-departure stage** - information dissemination and counselling, provision of return-related, origin country information, medical assistance (e.g. medical examinations and documentation), and transport assistance arrangement including travel documentation.
- **Transportation stage** – departure assistance (incl. travel and reinstallation allowances), transport (movement coordination, transit assistance, escort assistance, unaccompanied baggage, documents and formalities) and medical assistance (pre-embarkation medical checks and medical escorts).
- **Post-arrival stage** – reception, inland transport, health-related support, disbursement of return or reinstallation grants, reintegration assistance (often in cooperation with local entities, and non-governmental organizations)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS AND THE RIGHT TO RETURN

- The **right of return** is a principle in [international law](#) which guarantees everyone's right of [voluntary return](#) to, or re-entry to, their country of origin or of [citizenship](#).
- Refugees should be assured “the widest possible exercise of these fundamental rights and freedoms”.
- Article 13.2
- Article 13.2 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) gives everyone the right “to return to his country”, which was then incorporated in Article 12.4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: “No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country”.
- 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees - Article 33 prohibits a state from expelling or returning ("refouler") a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where he or she would be exposed to persecution. (Non-refoulement)

International Human Rights Instruments (Cont'd)

- [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#) contains this right in **Articles 8 and 39**:

- *Article 8*

(1). Migrant workers and members of their families shall be free to leave any State, including their State of origin. This right shall not be subject to any restrictions except those that are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present part of the Convention.

Article 39

(1). Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to liberty of movement in the territory of the State of employment and freedom to choose their residence there.

Regional Human Rights Instruments

The Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, adopted in 1969 by the Organization of African Unity is the regional complement to the 1951 Refugee Convention. (Article V) is reproduced:

1. The essentially voluntary character of repatriation shall be respected in all cases and no refugee shall be repatriated against his will. Refugees must be able to make a free and informed choice about returning to their country of origin, and must not be subjected to physical, material or psychological pressure to leave country of asylum.
2. The country of asylum, in collaboration with the country of origin, shall make adequate arrangements for the safe return of refugees who request repatriation.
3. The country of origin, on receiving back refugees, shall facilitate their resettlement & and grant them the full rights and privileges as nationals.
4. Refugees who voluntarily return to their country shall in no way be penalized for having left it for any of the reasons giving rise to refugee situations & giving assurance that the new circumstances prevailing in their country of origin will enable them to return without risk & to take up a normal and peaceful life without fear of being disturbed or punished.
5. Refugees who freely decide to return to their homeland, as a result of such assurances or on their own initiative, shall be given every possible assistance by the country of asylum, the country of origin, voluntary agencies and intergovernmental organizations, to facilitate their return."

UNHCR handbook on Repatriation

Repatriation must take place in a safe and dignified manner. Refugees must not be coerced, physically forced to move or have their security threatened. They must be able to return at their own pace, without being separated from family members and, as the UNHCR handbook states, should be “treated with respect and full acceptance by their national authorities”.

A third repatriation principle concerns the need for repatriation movements to be effectively coordinated, usually through the establishment of Tripartite Commissions involving the host State, country of origin and UNHCR. In this context, UNHCR is charged with representing the interests and concerns of the refugees and with ensuring that the process of return is conducted with full respect for their human rights.

Returnees should be able to exercise their full range of economic, social, civil & political rights, including that of establishing secure livelihoods.

Finally, States and UNHCR have agreed on the need to pursue a comprehensive approach to 3 durable solutions, involving a combination of voluntary repatriation, local integration and third-country resettlement.

See UNHCR (1996) Handbook – Voluntary Repatriation: International

Protection <http://www.unhcr.org/refugees/handbook/handbook.html> (UNHCR's handbook on the

Rights of Returnees

- International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (Art. 5 (d) (ii))
- Related to the right of return is the right to a nationality and a number of other fundamental rights, such as the right to life, liberty and security of person, the right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention or exile and the right to freedom of movement. Returnees are furthermore entitled to basic rights, including the right to work, to education, health care, social security and other social benefits.
- Persons compelled to flee their country of origin principally to escape threats to their life, liberty, freedom or physical integrity must be able to call upon, and to receive, the protection and assistance of the international community
- Returnees have the right - just like any other asylum-seekers - to seek and to enjoy asylum and protection.
- IOM noted that “reintegration is closely linked to the protection of migrants’ rights and the development of opportunities in the country of origin, particularly those that address the root causes of irregular migration.” Therefore, sustainability should be based upon the returnee’s ability “to enjoy the same safety and rights as the wider population in the country of origin”

OBLIGATIONS OWED TO RETUNEES

- Creation of conditions that are conducive to voluntary return in safety and with dignity.
- Promotion of voluntary repatriation of refugees once conditions are conducive to return.
- Transportation and reception of returnees
- Funds and support for repatriation and reintegration programmes.
- **Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations** recommend that States should:
- Ensure that return is sustainable by mitigating the risks returnees face in their countries of origin. Implement all possible measures that could enable returning migrants to enjoy their human rights, including their entitlements to social protection, health care, an adequate standard of living, decent work, education, and justice. Returning and receiving States should as relevant provide effective and tailored reintegration programmes that address the different needs of returnees, on the basis of age, gender and other factors

Ensuring Return in Safety and with Dignity

- Returns must take place in conditions of safety, dignity, security, integrity, non-discrimination.
- freedom from fear of persecution or punishment upon return)
- Return with dignity - Refugees must not be manhandled; they can return unconditionally and at their own pace; that they are not arbitrarily separated from family members; and that they are treated with respect including the full restoration of their rights.
- Among the elements of "safety and dignity" to be considered are:
 - – the refugees' physical safety at all stages during and after their return
 - – permission for refugees to bring their movable possessions when returning

Responsibilities of the Host Country

- To maintain the principle of non-refoulement - not to return refugees in any manner whatsoever to territories where their life or freedom would be threatened.
- Treat refugees according to internationally accepted standards as long as they are on its territory.
- Contribute to the promotion of voluntary repatriation as a durable solution.
- Must not deprive refugees of any freedom of choice through outright coercion or measures such as, for example, reducing essential services, relocating refugees to hostile areas, encouraging anti-refugee sentiment on the part of the local population.
- Provide accurate information on the return process to aid the informed and voluntary decision of migrants. This includes information on the labour market, housing conditions, educational possibilities, legal aspects, etc. The information should be provided prior to departure, and after return, through referral systems and information centres that facilitate return management
- All available options in the host and origin countries should be presented objectively to the migrants.
- Contribute to the promotion of voluntary repatriation as a durable solution.

Responsibilities of the Country of Origin

- Allow its nationals to return in safety and with dignity without any fear of harassment, discrimination, arbitrary detention, physical threat or prosecution on account of having left or remained outside the country, and should ensure the restoration of full national protection.
- The country of origin should respect the leading role of UNHCR in promoting, facilitating and coordinating voluntary repatriation.
- Facilitate the necessary travel documents, entry permits, and any other documentation required for return.
- The country of origin should seek lasting solutions to refugee problems by the elimination of root causes of refugee flows and the creation of conditions conducive to voluntary return and reintegration.
- Provide full support to them and take interest in their well being.

Right of Return in case law

- In 1996, the [European Court of Human Rights](#) (ECHR) ruled in a landmark case known as [Loizidou v Turkey](#). Mrs [Titina Loizidou](#) was a [Greek-Cypriot](#) refugee displaced from [Northern Cyprus](#) and prevented from returning by [Turkey](#). The court ruled that Turkey had violated Mrs Loizidou's human rights, that she should be allowed to return to her home and that Turkey should pay damages to her.¹
 - Enrico Milano, *Unlawful territorial situations in international law*, p.143
- In a similar case, petitioners for the [Chagossians](#) asked the ECHR in 2005 to rule about their removal from [Diego Garcia](#) by [Great Britain](#) in the 1960s. The court ruled in 2012 that their case was inadmissible and that by accepting compensation, the islanders had forfeited their claim:
- The Court notably found that the heart of the applicants' claims under the European Convention on Human Rights was the callous and shameful treatment which they or their antecedents had suffered during their removal from the Chagos islands. These claims had, however, been raised in the domestic courts and settled, definitively. In accepting and receiving compensation, the applicants had effectively renounced bringing any further claims to determine whether the expulsion and exclusion from their homes had been unlawful and breached their rights and they therefore could no longer claim to be victims of a violation of the Convention. [Chagos islanders' case inadmissible because they accepted compensation and waived the right to bring any further claims before the UK national courts](#)

Types of reintegration assistance

- Voluntary Return assistance can include financial support, ‘in-kind’ assistance, a variety of social, educational and economic assistance measures, provided directly to the migrants, free advice and information, or standardised (legal) counselling and assistance procedures related to IOM return programmes.
- Return advice is provided as early as possible and includes, besides the travel arrangements, information on the situation in the country of return. An important part of return counselling is the potential prospects for the returnees in their countries of return.
- When migrants make difficult and complex decisions to return home after a long period in exile, they should be supported to ensure that they are ‘legally prepared’ for return. This means being aware of their rights, obligations and entitlements in both host country and country of origin and having the necessary support and documentation to be able to claim their rights and navigate the challenging road home.

Addressing Legal challenges faced by Migrants and Refugees (1)

- **Legal identity and civil documentation,** status, nationality and family lineage.
- Lack of legal and civil documentation may directly hamper the possibility of crossing the border and will affect returnees' enjoyment of a number of human rights. This increases their exposure to protection threats upon return, including restrictions on freedom of movement, risk of arrest, detention, trafficking, sexual exploitation, child marriage, family separation and statelessness.

Addressing Legal challenges faced by Migrants and Refugees (2)

- Undocumented refugees face significant hurdles to accessing education, health services and humanitarian and development assistance.
- Authorities in host countries should demonstrate some flexibility in simplifying these civil documentation issues, ease obtaining valid passport, travel document or accepted form of identification.
- **Housing, land and property (HLP) rights:**
- lack of adequate housing, and other housing- related concerns such as disputed property ownership
- Some refugees will require assistance to access humanitarian assistance and government services, schools, health care and other rights and entitlements. And, as returnee legal issues will often straddle borders, cooperation agreements between

Addressing Legal challenges faced by Migrants and Refugees (3)

- **Providing legal support to returnees**
- Home countries must facilitate access to documentation and to provide the necessary information they require. Host countries and countries of origin should prioritise the issuance of documents, ensure the existence of effective and accessible procedures & make available legal support. Legal aid providers can play a complementary role by advising refugees of their options, helping them access documentation, and advising them on laws, procedures and requirements on both sides of the border.
- In order to ensure that refugees are in a position to make the best-informed decision about their options, they must have access to a complete package of information and assistance, including about their legal rights and responsibilities when returning. Such an approach can prevent premature returns

Addressing Legal challenges faced by Migrants and Refugees (4)

- **Settling legal and administrative matters in host countries**
- Following an extended period in a host country, refugees must resolve a range of associated legal and administrative issues before they can return home. They must finalise housing arrangements, terminate leases, retrieve bonds and deal with any disputes. Employment relationships must be terminated and outstanding wages and entitlements (such as social security payments) recovered. Parents must obtain educational certificates for their children to facilitate school enrolment back home.
- **Access to rights and entitlements in the country of origin:** Refugees' knowledge of procedures in their country of origin may be limited, particularly in a rapidly changing context and given their often long absence. Host nations must come in to

Conclusion

- Government policy responses, especially the provision of access to health care, housing, and education, should be inclusive of migrants in host countries and their families in origin countries. Stranded migrants need help from governments and the development community in both host and transit countries. Origin countries must find ways of supporting returning migrants in resettling, finding jobs, or opening businesses. Many host countries and origin countries would require grants or concessional financing from third parties to provide support to migrants from other countries.

https://blogs.worldbank.org/peoplemove/its-going-be-long-painful-ride-inthistogether?cid=ECR_E_NewsletterWeekly

Appreciation

- Thanks for listening

The situation in Italy of people (Nigerian woman and girls) trafficked from Nigeria

27/11/2020

Vittorio Zanon
social worker

Comune di Verona - Ufficio
Accoglienza



La tratta degli esseri umani

 La «tratta di esseri umani» è definita come segue all'articolo 2 della direttiva 2011/36/UE:

«1. (...) il reclutamento, il trasporto, il trasferimento, l'alloggio o l'accoglienza di persone, compreso il passaggio o il trasferimento dell'autorità su queste persone, con la minaccia dell'uso o con l'uso stesso della forza o di altre forme di coercizione, con il rapimento, la frode, l'inganno, l'abuso di potere o della posizione di vulnerabilità o con l'offerta o l'accettazione di somme di denaro o di vantaggi per ottenere il consenso di una persona che ha autorità su un'altra, a fini di sfruttamento.

2. Per posizione di vulnerabilità si intende una situazione in cui la persona in questione non ha altra scelta effettiva ed accettabile se non cedere all'abuso di cui è vittima.

3. Lo sfruttamento comprende, come minimo, lo sfruttamento della prostituzione altrui o altre forme di sfruttamento sessuale, il lavoro o i servizi forzati, compreso l'accattonaggio, la schiavitù o pratiche simili alla schiavitù, la servitù, lo sfruttamento di attività illecite o il prelievo di organi.

4. Il consenso della vittima della tratta di esseri umani allo sfruttamento, programmato o effettivo, è irrilevante in presenza di uno dei mezzi indicati al paragrafo 1.

5. La condotta di cui al paragrafo 1, qualora coinvolga minori, è punita come reato di tratta di esseri umani anche in assenza di uno dei mezzi indicati al paragrafo 1».

- https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_rights_of_victims_of_trafficking_it_1.pdf

Trafficking in human beings

(for UN & EU)



The EU rights of victims of trafficking in human beings 'Trafficking in human beings' as defined in Directive 2011/36/EU, Article 2:

- **1. The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.**
- **2. A position of vulnerability means a situation in which the person concerned has no real or acceptable alternative but to submit to the abuse involved.**
- **3. Exploitation shall include, as a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, including begging, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the exploitation of criminal activities, or the removal of organs.**
- **4 The consent of a victim of trafficking in human beings to the exploitation, whether intended or actual, shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in paragraph 1 has been used.**
- **5. When the conduct referred to in paragraph 1 involves a child, it shall be a punishable offence of trafficking in human beings even if none of the means set forth in paragraph 1 has been used.**

- https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_rights_of_victims_of_trafficking_fr_1.pdf

Human trafficking: very big complexity



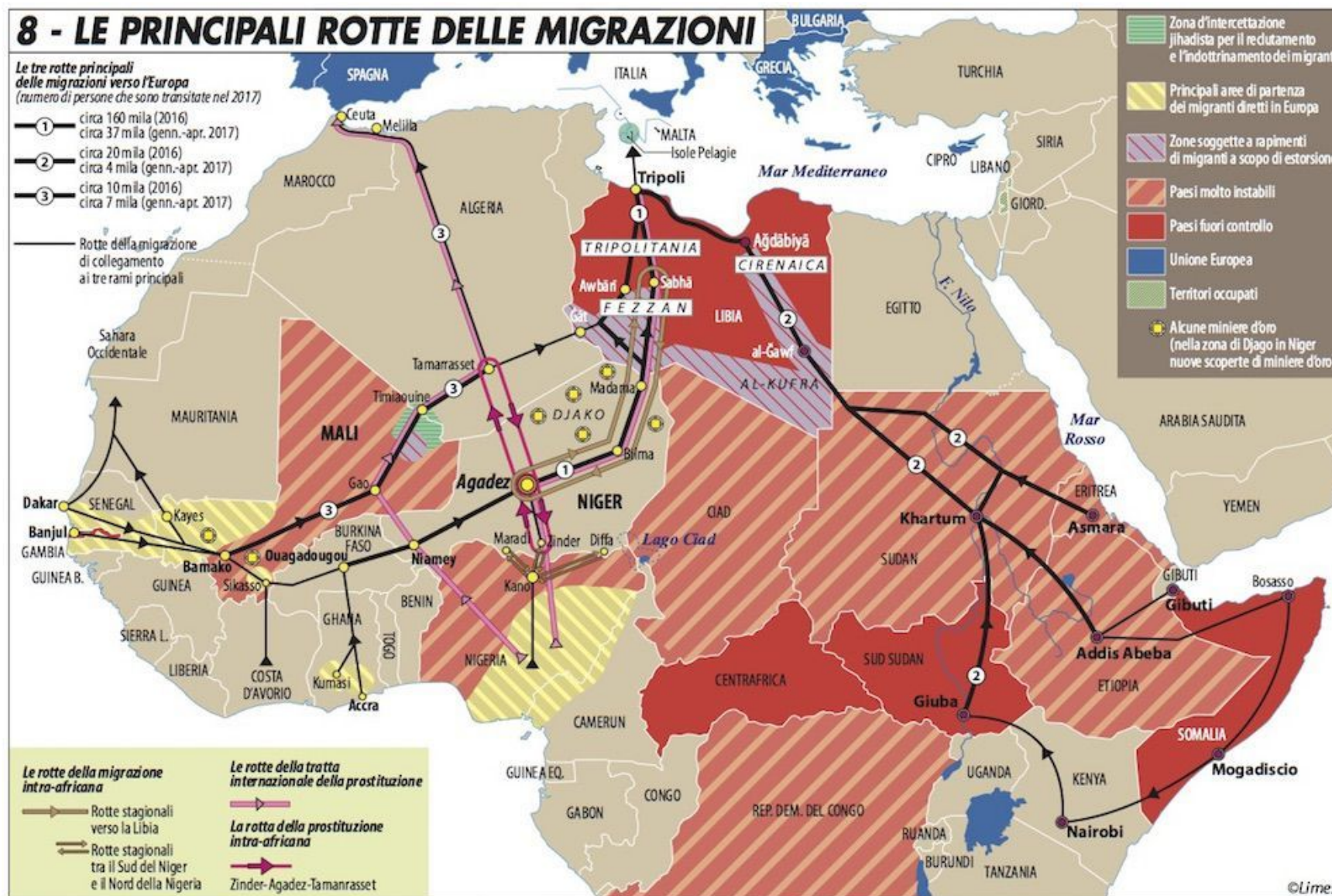
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di Verona



Migration routes



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di Verona

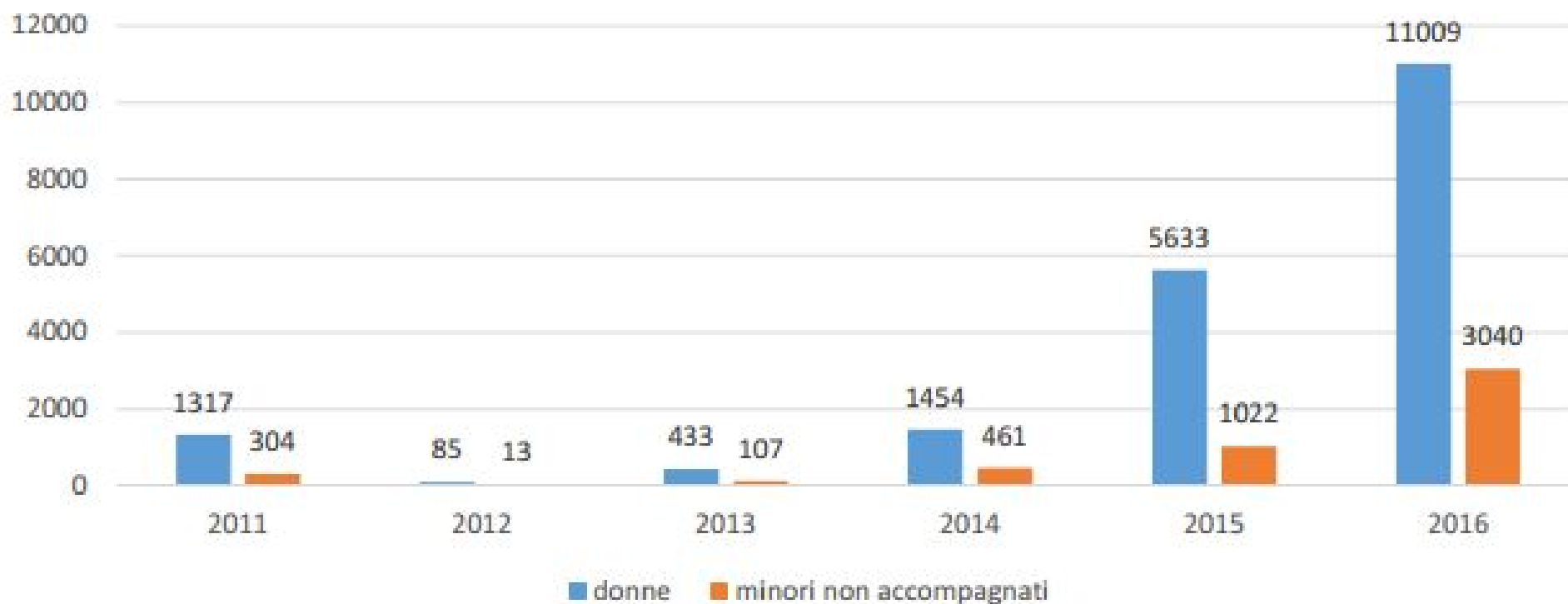


<https://www.limesonline.com/le-principali-rotte-delle-migrazioni-2/100436>

Women and minors arrived in Italy from the sea

Donne e minori non accompagnati nigeriani arrivati in Italia via mare

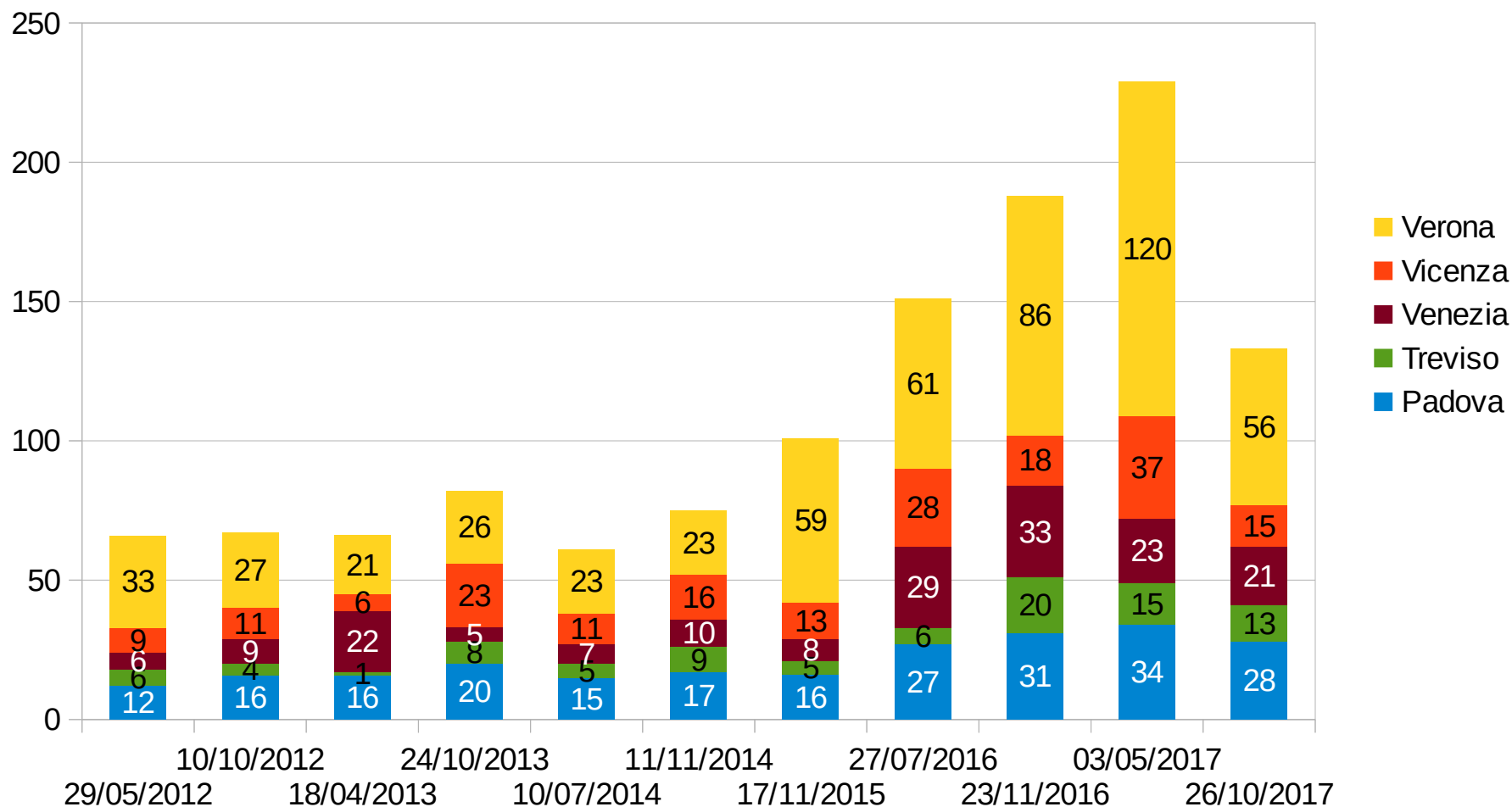
(fonte: Ministero dell'Interno)



African street prostitution in the Veneto region

Monitoraggio della prostituzione africana in strada in Veneto

confronto andamento presenze a livello regionale - anni 2012-17





it's a global problem



Comune
di Verona



LOCAL NEWS

2019

<https://www.legit.ng/1217458-naptip-finds-20000-kidnapped-nigerian-girls-mali.html>

NAPTIP finds more than 20,000 kidnapped Nigerian girls in Mali

🕒 9 months ago • 44 views by Jerrywright Ukwu

- NAPTIP has revealed that there are between 20,000 and 45,000 kidnapped Nigerian women in Mali
- The anti-trafficking agency said many of the women were sold as sex slaves
- Some of the women were said to have been tricked into going to Mali by giving them the impression they were going to get jobs while others were abducted while going to school
- The Nigerian government has been criticised for failing to tackle human trafficking

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has revealed that it has found thousands of missing girls and women in southern Mali, many of whom were sold as sex slaves.

According to NAPTIP, there are between 20,000 and 45,000 kidnapped Nigerian women in Mali it intends to return to Nigeria.

The desert ?

frequent shipwrecks and deaths

26 young nigerian girls died in a ship. 2 were pregnant



05/11/2017



in Italy
**sex work is
not a crime**

**the crime is exploitation
&
child prostitution is a crime**

Piano Nazionale Antitratta

Dipartimento Pari Opportunità



Comune
di Verona



Mobile da Lycamobile
342 7754946



Piano Nazionale Antitratta

Dipartimento Pari Opportunità



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monitoring of
the phenomenon

health prevention

contrast to criminal
organizations

identification and
emersion

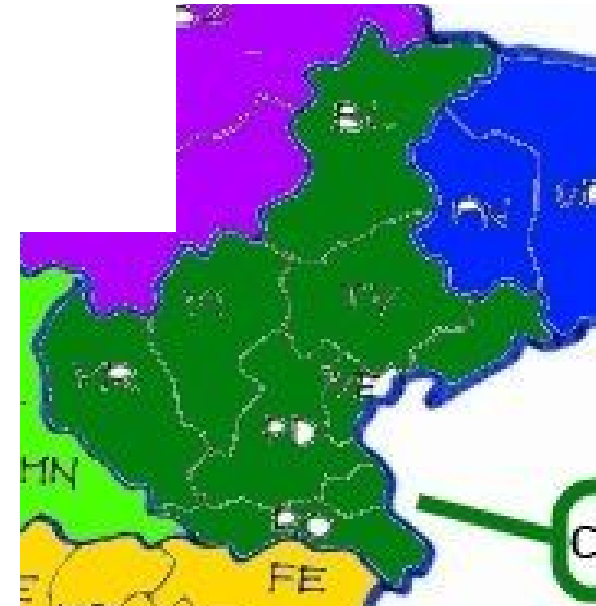
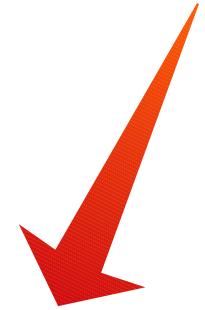
social inclusion

assisted
voluntary return



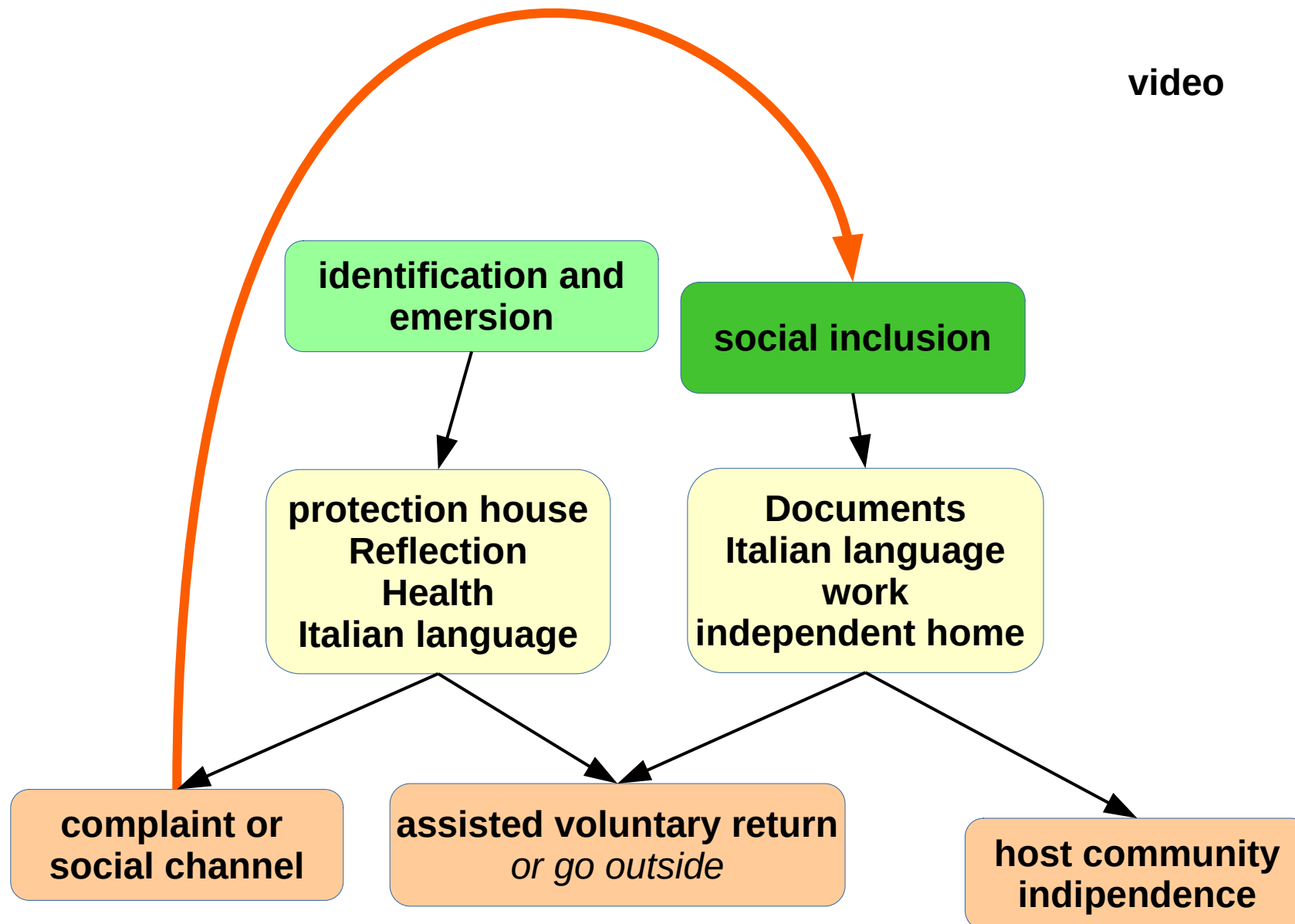
N.A.Ve

Network Antitratta per il Veneto



Step by step...

video



How work with the visctims (underage or adult)?



We try to building:

Dignità - Dignity

Fiducia - Trust

Benessere – Health

(health from World Health Organization, WHO)

Volontà - Will

Impegno - Engage

Protagonism “You are the star about your life”

What models of "success"?



In their bags...



Some questions...

- What traumas do they face while traveling?
- How many girls survive from Libya and the desert?
- What difficulties still have to overcome?
- How many girls are saved in the anti ttrafficking projects?
- How many stay with the criminal network?

Critical issues

- underage (even of 13 years)
- difficulty identifying girls as minors
- Health, social and educational issues:
 - sexually transmitted diseases
 - legal and clandestine abortions
 - Self-harm
 - mental health
 - suicide attempts
 - substance use
 - deviant behaviors
 - early pregnancies
 - analphabetism
 - parental problems
 - ...



immagine tratta dal video "Incontrarsi in strada" prodotto dalla Cooperativa Azalea - <https://youtu.be/raevCZf8cyU>

Team up: assisted voluntary return

- Our experience say: yes, we can! Is possible!
- But we need work together



During the covid pandemic

- the lockdown leads to a reduction in street prostitution
many girls had survival problems
- How does prostitution change?
- Interruption of work activities leads to greater poverty and psychological distress
- An experience, we live the world as one: from Italy start an help to young Nigerians in an African state

THANK YOU! GRAZIE!

