INSIDE THE ISSUE:

- Combatting human trafficking in the Russian Federation
- Labour migration
- Migration Health
- Moscow Programme on cultural orientation
- Moscow migrants’ processing and movements

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Direct assistance to the victims of trafficking (VoT)

From January to August 2014, IOM Moscow assisted 120 victims of human trafficking. Of these 120 victims, 21 victims were referred to IOM Moscow by other IOM missions; 19 persons were referred by foreign diplomatic missions, 19 victims were referred by NGOs; 17 victims were referred by Orthodox care service "Miloserdie", 13 victims – by Federal Migration Service in St. Petersburg, 11 victims – by Social Centers of the Department of Social Protection of the Population of Moscow, 4 victims – by law enforcement authorities; 5 victims were referred through the IOM Moscow hot line.

The standard package of services provided by IOM within this project includes provision of temporary accommodation, medical services and psychological counseling; provision of counseling on social and legal issues; assistance in obtaining documents in cooperation with FMS of Russia and foreign diplomatic missions; transportation of Russian nationals to their final destination in Russia; transportation of foreign nationals to their
countries of origin; assistance to and at the airport; provision of medical escort for victims with medical conditions requiring professional assistance during transportation; informing IOM missions in countries of origin about return of VoTs for further possible assistance upon return; referrals to local NGOs for follow-up counseling and medical/psychological assistance, as applicable.

Practical seminar: Problems of Adaptation and Integration of Foreign Nationals: Use of the International Experience by the Social Services of St. Petersburg

On 25-26 March 2014 IOM Moscow jointly with St. Petersburg Regional office of Russian Red Cross and St. Petersburg State Budget Institution “Regional Center “Family” organized and conducted a two-days practical seminar in St. Petersburg for the specialists of municipal social institutions on organization of work with the vulnerable categories of foreign nationals including victims of human trafficking on the topic: “Problems of Adaptation and Integration of Foreign Nationals: Use of the International Experience by the Social Services of St. Petersburg”.

The seminar was attended by 46 participants and 12 invited experts. The main aim of the seminar was to raise awareness of the specialists of municipal social institutions in provision of sustainable and professional assistance to foreign nationals, including representatives of groups at-risk and victims of human trafficking in integration and adaptation in St. Petersburg, in accordance with international experience and methodology of International Organization for Migration.

The programme included such topics as:
- Professional standards of social work with migrants and other vulnerable population groups, including victims of trafficking;
- International experience in provision of direct assistance to foreign nationals and examples of cooperation between governmental structure sand NGOs;
- Rights and responsibilities of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation;
- Information services for migrants and vulnerable groups of population;
- Specifics of psychological assistance in course of migration cycle;
- Financial education for migrants.

Representatives of the state structures, such as the “Center of Labour Resources” of the Committee on Labour and Employment of St. Petersburg, Department for Integration of Foreign Nationals of UFMS of St. Petersburg and Leningrad region and the city Committee on International Relations and Implementation of Migration Policy in their presentations spoke about the implementation of policy in the sphere of integration in the territory of St. Petersburg; discussed the scheme of cooperation with the municipal social structures on the issues of assistance to foreign nationals and their families; answered numerous questions of the audience.

Representatives of the Integration Center “Prague” and Municipal District Prague 14 shared their practical international experience in organization of a system of a social adaptation of foreign nationals in the city of Prague though the use of Skype sessions.

The representatives of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) participated in the Skype call and spoke about the experience of the British Red Cross in development of an education guide on spreading a positive image of migrants among young people, about good practices to provide social and humanitarian assistance to migrants and other at-risk groups through mobile brigades of social workers.

Participants took part in practical exercises, group discussions, questions and answers sessions. Seminar sessions were supported by audio and video presentations, original ethnic music clips and photos. Special attention was paid to psychological exercises on development of harmony, cooperation and tolerance among the participants.

Meeting of IOM Moscow Chief of Mission with the Ombudsman in St. Petersburg

On 09 April 2014 the delegation of IOM Moscow headed by Chief of Mission Zlatko Zigic had a meeting with Aleksandr Shishlov, the Ombudsman in St. Petersburg. Aleksandr Shishlov spoke about the migration situation in St. Petersburg and confirmed readiness for constructive cooperation with IOM in the sphere of protection of migrants’ rights. The Ombudsman has repeatedly stated that in managing the situation in the field of migration and protecting the rights of foreign nationals who often live and work in sub-humane conditions and receive low wages, the government helps to reduce the uncontrolled growth in number of labour migrants and the escalation of social tensions, thereby protecting the rights of Russian citizens.

IOM Moscow Chief of Mission spoke about the current IOM activities and in particular about the joint IOM - Russian Red Cross activities to assist vulnerable groups of foreign nationals and victims of violence and exploitation, building on the established St. Petersburg Red Cross shelter for the temporary accommodation and reintegration support for the above categories of population.

Zlatko Zigic has supported Alexander Shishlov’s idea to establish a special prize by IOM Moscow for the annual Ombudsman contest of creative students’ works in the field of human rights. From 2013 the students’ contest “Human Rights” was supported by Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Russian Federation.

At the end of the meeting Aleksandr Shishlov handed IOM delegation a new Annual Report on Human Rights in St. Petersburg.
On May 28th, 2014 IOM, in cooperation with colleagues from the St. Petersburg IOM Center for International Cooperation of the Red Cross, organized in St. Petersburg a seminar “Human Trafficking: Characteristics of Investigation of Criminal Cases and Interviewing of Witnesses and Victims.”

Representatives of the Academy of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation (Moscow) and Heads of the Chairs of Criminalistics and Criminal Law of the St. Petersburg Institute for Advanced Studies of the Investigative Committee of the RF, representatives of the Public Prosecutor Office of Leningrad region and the Head Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of the RF in Leningrad region as well as the representatives of the Academy of the General Prosecutor Office of the Russian Federation, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Secretariat, and Red Cross colleagues took an active part in the seminar. A methodological specialist of St. Petersburg’s City Information-Methdology Center “Family” delivered a study session on the psychological aspects of work with victims of human trafficking.

The following issues were discussed during the seminar:

- expert evaluation of the statistical figures of registered crimes in the sphere of human trafficking;
- investigation of criminal cases in the sphere of human trafficking and identification of such crimes;
- procedure of interviewing of witnesses and victims: objectives and methodology;
- psychological issues with respect to victims/witnesses interviewing and assistance;
- issue of administrative expulsion of migrants – victims/witnesses in criminal cases (in terms of the current migration legislation); existing possibilities for their accommodation in the shelters and rehabilitation centers for victims of human trafficking.

The participants were presented with commemorative certificates. Information about the seminar was published on a website of the Academy of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation.

**World Day against Human Trafficking**

On July 30, 2014 the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus held a briefing on the World Day against Human Trafficking. This year this date is celebrated for the first time.

The briefing was attended by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentary of the Republic of Belarus in the Russian Federation, representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus to the Russian Federation, IOM Moscow Chief of Mission and colleagues, Head of the International Training Center on migration and combating human trafficking of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior of Belarus, by the Diplomatic Corps officials and the representatives of the federal government of the Russian Federation.

The briefing was opened by a welcome speech of Mr. Igor Petrishenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentary of the Republic of Belarus in the Russian Federation, who expressed his gratitude to the participants of the briefing and to the management of IOM Moscow for help and support in organizing the event. The Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus in the Russian Federation emphasized the importance of the UN General Assembly resolution on “improving the coordination of efforts against human trafficking”, adopted on December 18th, 2013, and also noted that the Republic of Belarus was the first who initiated developing of a Global Partnership against Slavery and Human Trafficking in the XXI century at the 60th session of the UN General Assembly in 2005.

The Chief of Mission of IOM Moscow Mr. Zlatko Zigic welcomed the participants and thanked the Ambassador for organizing the event. Mr. Zigic spoke about the global activity of the International Organization for Migration in different countries of the world, including the Russian Federation, in the field of counteracting trafficking in persons: "...Since the 90s IOM has built considerable counter-trafficking expertise, having accumulated this experience through implementing over 1000 counter-trafficking projects in over 100 countries since the early 90’s, contributing to the comprehensive efforts of national government and non-governmental actors to eradicate modern slavery. The main activity of IOM in this area aims at prevention of trafficking, protection of victims, and provision of assistance for voluntary return and reintegration. Overall, IOM has assisted over 65,000 women, men, girls and boys victims of trafficking mainly for sexual and labour purposes".

The Head of the International Training Center on migration and combating trafficking in persons of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior of Belarus – Mr. Alexander Kravchenko told about the active work of the Center and invited all interested parties to cooperate in the provision of expert support and participation in the study courses in the following areas:

- Combating human trafficking: systematic analysis, international cooperation and ways to improve law enforcement practice;
- Social and psychological assistance for victims of human trafficking;
- Population migration: structural characteristics and models of organizational-legal regulation;
- External labour migration;
- Modern expert technologies of examining identity documents in order to establish their authenticity;
- Modern technologies of crime scene investigation and the use of the results of their application in the activities of a criminal prosecution.

The Coordinator of IOM Moscow activities on counter-trafficking in persons made a presentation on IOM Moscow activities in this field. An IOM colleague spoke about 120 victims of trafficking who received IOM Moscow’s direct assistance during the period of January 2013 through June
2014. They were provided with various services, including safe accommodation, medical, social, psychological assistance and consultation, legal support, voluntary return and reintegration. Also she talked about two shelters for victims of trafficking run by the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow region) and the Russian Red Cross (St. Petersburg) under the support of IOM Moscow.

**ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF LABOUR MIGRATION**

*Roundtable «Development of the national legislation in the area of labour migration and the prospects of its approximation to the international standards in the area of labour migration»*

A seminar on the issue of the enhancement of national legislation and the prospects adopting the international obligations in the area of labour migration took place on April 24, 2014, in Moscow. This seminar was conducted in the framework of the larger International Conference «Enhancement and development of the national legislation on the basis of the international labour standards», which was organized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation on April 22-24, 2014. Representatives of the relevant Ministries and state agencies, international organizations, higher educational establishments as well as the expert community took part in the Conference.

As part of the preparatory work for the Conference, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection conducted the analysis of international agreements in the social & labour areas which are not yet adopted by the Russian Federation. The goal of the study was to assess the conformity of Russian national legislation to the international standards of the major international agreements and evaluate the prospects of their ratification. IOM representatives were invited to moderate the roundtable and make a presentation on the contemporary trends in the area of international regulation of labour migration.

The roundtable agenda included the main issues related to regulation of labour migration and the protection of the migrant workers human and labor rights. Reports of the key speakers were the following topics: contemporary trends in international legal regulation of labour migration; legislative regulation of the external labour migration and use of foreign labour in the Russian Federation; legal regulation of the private employment agencies and development of infrastructure in the area of labour migration; international and regional practice of regulation of social and pension security as well as protection of social & labour rights of migrant workers.

On the basis of the discussion, participants of the roundtable formulated a number of proposals on the enhancement and development of national legislation that meet international labour standards, which were included in the final recommendations of the International Conference.

Changes in the migration legislation were on the top of agenda as usual. During the period of 2013-2014, several significant changes have been introduced to the migration legislation of the Russian Federation which concerns the status, conditions of stay and employment of foreign nationals. Realizing the importance of the timely and large-scale communication of these changes to the migrants currently in Russia, IOM Moscow and the Embassy of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan have decided to conduct a joint information campaign among Kyrgyz migrants, which would aim at increasing the awareness and legal protection of migrant workers form the Kyrgyz Republic on the issues of migration legislation of the Russian Federation.

During the spring of 2014, with expert support from FMS Russia, an information leaflet for the citizens of Kyrgyz Republic staying in Russia was developed. Apart from the traditional section about the migration card, migration registration and obtaining work permits or patents, the leaflet contained important information on the recent introductions to the migration legislation of the Russian Federation in 2013-2014, legal grounds for imposing an entry ban on foreign nationals, as well as the possibility of checking the entry status via FMS Russia online service. Total volume of the publication was 10,000 items. The leaflet was distributed among migrants from Kyrgyzia on a free-of-charge basis. An electronic version of the leaflet has been posted on IOM Moscow official website.

**Activities in St. Petersburg for assisting migrant families with children in adaptation and integration, provided by social assistance centers and a community organization.**

Beginning January 2014, in the framework of the Regional Migration Programme, with the support of IOM Moscow, St. Petersburg community organization “Doctors for Children” is conducting a number of activities in the area of providing consultative and social support of the families of migrant workers residing in St. Petersburg. The main goal of the activities is to improve the processes of social adaptation and integration of families and children of foreign nationals who are staying in St. Petersburg for a long period of time, for possible further assimilation in the country.
All activities are implemented with the support of the Committee of the Social Policy of St. Petersburg Administration on the basis of the Cooperation Agreements signed between the social assistance centers for families in two pilot districts of the city and community organization “Doctors for Children” of St. Petersburg. The following is an example of support provided to one family from Central Asia.

Manizha, a citizen Uzbekistan, has a son Arslan. Mother and son are officially registered in St. Petersburg. Specialists of the community organization “Doctors for Children”, together with the social workers of the Center of Social Assistance of Kalinin district met with Arslan and his mother in the beginning of 2014.

While working with this family it was revealed that Arslan previously lived with his father in Uzbekistan but was taken away from his father by his mother due to frequent physical violence by the father toward his son. Since Manizha had very busy working schedule, she sent Arslan to live with her relatives in the countryside. The boy lived for one year in the village and did not attend the school at all. Thus, returning the son to St. Petersburg and enrolling him to school became one of the main tasks of the work with this family. Another issue was to organize the boy’s afterschool activities due to the busy working schedule of his mother.

Before and after arrival of the boy, Manizha received all necessary consultations on how to enroll Arslan in school. Alongside, the Center provided the possibility for the child to attend daytime stay groups, where the schoolchildren could spend their afterschool time interacting, playing, and doing homework.

After consultations, Manizha was redirected to the Department of Education of Kalininsky district, where she learned the procedures of school enrollment. Further, being accompanied by social worker, Manizha visited the Department of Education, where she obtained information on the places available in the district schools and received help in filling out the application form. Starting from September 19, 2013, Arslan attended classes in one of the district schools.

Since mother and son lived separately for some period of time, the next task of the social assistance was improving child-parent relations in the family. Manizha and her son visited a psychologist for family consultations. To raise parental competencies and to optimize internal family relations, the mother was recommended to attend “Strong Family”, which are conducted by psychologists of the Center. From April 2014, mother and her son started to attend these classes regularly. The classes helped the family to improve relationships. Arslan started to express himself more freely and better communicate with peers who attend the classes. As Manizha told after one of the class, “he started to treat me as his mother...with more care”.

In addition, Manizha received legal consultations regarding legal stay in the Russian Federation. She is always on time with filling up all documents for herself and her son. At present, Manizha holds temporary stay permit, she is employed on a labour contract and works in mini-bakery.

Finally, social assistance specialists supported Manizha and her son with the organization of their leisure time. During the weekends, the family visits an ice skating ring in the Sport Palace “Spartak”. Such activity raised a lot of positive emotions from the boy. By the end of the 2013-2014 school year, Arslan successfully passed all subjects and was transferred to the 6th grade.

So ended one of the applications to IOM Moscow from a citizen of Tajikistan, Ms. Shakhnoza, age 26, who arrived to Russia with her husband in 2010. After the birth of their third child, Ms. Shakhnoza’s husband’s attitude toward her worsened significantly. He started to beat his family regularly, forcing them to beg on the street and seizing all monies raised, leaving the woman and her children without any food. Apart from the physical violence, the woman constantly experienced a psychological threat. The husband continuously insulted and humiliated his wife. If she asked to let her go away, he beat her on the head, threatening to kill her and the children in case of escape.

After such beatings, the woman was taken to the hospital several times. However, she could not openly discuss her condition with her doctors because she was afraid of retribution from her husband. Her children were staying home, and the husband was threatening Ms. Shakhnoza with revenge if she tells the truth. Twice the woman tried to file a police report about domestic violence. However, local police officers did not accept the report, sending the woman away.

Thus, Ms. Shakhnoza and her children continued to live half-starving, in an unheated tent, without any hope, until one day Ms. Shakhnoza was admitted to a maternity hospital in Yekaterinburg. During her stay in the hospital, she could not survive psychological stress any longer and told her story to her neighbor at the hospital ward, and then to the doctor as well. The doctor invited a lawyer and the psychotherapist to help the woman to find a way out of the situation. The psychotherapist assisted the woman to find the strength to resist her husband’s violence. The lawyer helped submit an application for assistance to the regional public organization “Aistenok” (“The Stork”), which works to prevent social orphanage. Additional applications

The IOM Moscow Times, Issue 31
were sent to the Ombudsman of Sverdlovsk region and the International Organization for Migration.

The Head of the Center “Aistenok” assisted with temporary accommodations for the woman and her children in a government accommodation shelter, while the staff of the Information Resource Center of IOM Moscow assisted with organizing voluntary return to Tajikistan. Thus, thanks to the joint efforts of local community organizations, Ombudsman office, representatives of the Embassy of Republic Tajikistan and IOM, Ms. Shakhnoza and her children were able to finally return to her parents, finding her way out of the seemingly hopeless situation of constant violence and humiliation.

Legal counseling of migrant workers

Providing free information support and legal counseling for migrant workers and their family members is one of the key activities of IOM Moscow within the Regional Migration Programme. The support is provided through the Resource Center of IOM Moscow, as well as legal counseling points organized at the consular sections of the Kyrgyz and Tajik Embassies, the Ministry of Labour, Migration & Employment of Republic Tajikistan in Russia, Public Reception of Saint Petersburg Unified Migration Center (organized by Saint Petersburg Center of International Cooperation of Red Cross), as well as at the legal counseling point at the House of Peoples Friendship in Samara. Information support and legal counseling is organized in the form of individual consultations as well as outreach information sessions conducted at the places of work and living of migrants.

Food unites everyone

On the first Sunday of September, Zarechny city of Sverdlovsk region hosted the festival “National cuisine”. The event was dedicated to the celebration of the Day of the Nationalities of Middle Ural and became the first event in the programme on migrants’ adaptation & integration “From hand to hand - Planet Tolerance” which was developed by the local city library in partnership with Sverdlovsk regional public organization “Urals House”. The event was conducted in the framework of the Regional Migration Programme.

As the main partner of the festival, city library recruited volunteers from the number of their active readers and collected humanitarian aid and books for migrants. For the festival, volunteers and librarians prepared games, funny tricks and tasty food for migrants.

High demand for such type of support to migrants is confirmed by the number of migrants applying for legal consultations. From January, 01 till August, 31, 2014 more than 20,000 migrants applied for consultations in three regions of Russia - Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Samara. Socio-demographic profile of the applicants confirms that migration has labour and family character. The absolute number of the applicants were in the active labour age, 58% of them were men and 42% - women, the majority (66%) had families (were married).

The main issues requiring consultations concerned migration regulation (37% of the applicants), labour legislation & regulation issues - job search, labour contracts, relations with the employer (27%). Twelve per cent of the migrants were seeking consultations on the issues of social character - access to education, health services, social support issues. Other topics of consultations included issues related to the minors (migrants children), administrative regulations and administrative responsibilities of migrants as well forced labour, exploitation, voluntary return.
The IOM Moscow Times, Issue 31

participants. Everyone who took the ball introduced him/herself and repeated the names of those who said their names earlier.

After that, all participants started to cook their national dishes, talking about the traditions of national cuisine and foods. Everyone could try any dish and find the favorite.

The joyful festival of tasty food became a perfect place for informal communication between the local community and migrants. Participants had a chance to better understand each other: resettlers and refugees shared their experiences, youngsters played games, talked about schools and leisure time. All migrants were invited to visit the library and use its resources - computer classes, books, journals, lectures and communication possibilities. Fifteen of the migrants left the festival carrying the books which were donated by the readers.

MIGRATION HEALTH

The Migration Health Department (MHD) continued professional support and technical assistance of partner Healthcare institutes assisting migrants and mobile populations in Russian Federation. Total number of medically assisted persons under IOM Migration Health initiatives during the period under report is 8821, of which 6 persons were medically escorted, 158 persons were referred to a specialized State TB facility for further evaluation.

Examining potentials for future assistance of migrant beneficiaries and building partnership in Health sector the IOM medical team performed two scheduled visits for a meeting with representatives of Federal Migration Services and the Department of Health in St. Petersburg.

IOM medical specialists engaged from various thematic areas participated in the following Public Health actions and events:

- Together with partners from Finnish Lung Health Association (FILHA) and the Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Science conducted survey measuring migrants’ awareness of communicable diseases. The study was held between April 14-25 in St Petersburg in cooperation with local branch of Red Cross and the FMS. Funding was provided by the Finnish Consulate in St Petersburg.

- On July 23 – 25 the Head of MHD Moscow has visited Emergency Transit Center in Humene, Slovakia for monitoring IOM programme aimed at health assistance of refugees in Europe.

- Sixteen one-day CO sessions were conducted for 292 Lautenberg refugees in Ukraine in May-June of 2014. During the seminars the trainer was able to discuss participants’ various concerns and encouraged the refugees to notify the Resettlement Support Center Eurasia of any developments in their situations.

- One family was very anxious about traveling with elderly parents with serious medical conditions. Since this family has not gone through the medical exam yet, the trainer suggested that the refugees should address these problems while being examined by IOM doctor and assured that the best solution regarding their transportation to the U.S. would be found.

- On July 24, 2014 IOM made a presentation of the survey results on UN Interagency Health Partners’ Meeting organized by WHO-Russia.


Taken into account the feedback from migrant beneficiaries MHD made necessary updates to health information modules for migrants undergoing health, medical assistance.

IOM Moscow invited a medical expert from IOM Nepal MHD for joint collaboration and development of materials for migrants requiring monitoring possible TB conditions.

- On June 11 – 12 MHD Moscow took part in the 3rd meeting of Strategy Working Group of NDPHS in Riga (Latvia), the group was tasked with the objective of developing Health project strategy within North Dimension Partnership for the current 4 years period.

- On August 28, 2014 IOM Moscow took part in the 9th Meeting of Expert Group on HIV and Associated Infections of NDPHS.

IOM MOSCOW U.S. CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Sixteen one-day CO sessions were conducted for 292 Lautenberg refugees in Ukraine in May-June of 2014. During the seminars the trainer was able to discuss participants’ various concerns and encouraged the refugees to notify the Resettlement Support Center Eurasia of any developments in their situations.

One family was very anxious about traveling with elderly parents with serious medical conditions. Since this family has not gone through the medical exam yet, the trainer suggested that the refugees should address these problems while being examined by IOM doctor and assured that the best solution regarding their transportation to the U.S. would be found.

The Community Services topic was of great interest to all the participants. Refugees with large families wondered what kind of government assistance would be available for them while they were still looking for work. Seniors were immensely concerned about medical care and possibilities to enroll in some federal programs that would support them in case they were unable to work.

The education and employment topics also raised a lot of questions among the participants. The majority of the refugees were certain that when they arrive in the U.S. their first priority would be to get an American diploma, or take ESL classes before they would start looking for a job. However, through case studies and discussions during the
sessions the trainer was able to make a change in the participant's attitude and through the feedback from the participants it became clear that they realized that fast employment, while learning the language, is the key to their success.

The refugees from the former Soviet Union are mostly well educated and have a lot of professional skills in various fields such as healthcare, engineering and education. Many have traveled abroad, including the U.S. The greatest challenge in working with this category of refugees is that most of these participants believe that they have the knowledge about what to expect upon arrival. There are a lot of myths voiced at such sessions such as:

- We heard that education for adults is free;
- Bringing food and plants to the U.S. is okay;
- Employment is guaranteed by the resettlement agency;
- If a refugee buys a car the government cuts off all the financial support.

Many of these misconceptions are based on what the refugees hear from their relatives and friends in U.S. or the mass media. Thus, it is very important for a trainer to dispel these myths and replace them with a realistic picture of life in the US.

**MOSCOW MIGRANTS’ PROCESSING AND MOVEMENT**

IOM Moscow works with the Russian government, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and various UNHCR offices and U.S. Embassies across Europe and the ex-USSR to implement a program of voluntary resettlement to the United States for migrants and refugees. The biggest beneficiary groups are religious minorities from the ex-USSR who are joining immediate relatives already in the United States; third-country refugees referred for resettlement by the United Nations (Afghan refugees in Central Asia, Afghan and African refugees in Russia and Ukraine) and African boat people stranded in Malta.

Comprehensive statistics for 01 January through 31 August 2014 are as follows:

Applications received and processed: 680 cases / 1387 individuals
Presented to DHS for status determination: 1550 cases / 3407 individuals
Departures to the U.S.: 751 cases / 1467 individuals

In total, IOM staff traveled to process cases, interview applicants, prepare files for interviews, assist U.S. government officials and provide Cultural Orientation in: Chisinau (Moldova), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Malta, Tbilisi (Georgia), Timisoara (Romania), Humenne (Slovakia), Kyiv (Ukraine), Minsk (Belarus), and Baku (Azerbaijan).