

# Transition of Unaccompanied Migrant Children to Adulthood (TUMCA) in Cyprus

IOM Cyprus



# Outline

- IOM brief introduction
- IOM's approach to Transition to Adulthood
- Transition to Adulthood in Cyprus

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# IOM in Cyprus

- Established in November 2015
- Main areas of activity:
  - Assisted voluntary return and reintegration
  - Transition of unaccompanied migrant children into adulthood
  - Migrant integration, access to services and public awareness to counter the rise in xenophobia and discrimination.

# IOM's work underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, including its four general principles

- Non-discrimination (**Article 2**),
- Best interests of the child (**Article 3**),
- Right to life, survival and development (**Article 6**),
- The right to be heard (**Article 12**).



# Core protection principles to support unaccompanied or separated migrant children

4 general principles plus:

- Non - refoulement
- Evolving capacities
- Participation
- Confidentiality
- Family Unity



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# IOM's APPROACH TO TRANSITION OF UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN TO ADULTHOOD

- Universal support for unaccompanied migrant children and then young adults through the provision of basic services in a multidisciplinary approach
- **Housing, financial support**, including integration assistance, to Unaccompanied migrant youth over 16 and under 18 years of age who have applied for asylum and to whom a legal guardian has been assigned.

# Transition to Adulthood Contribution to policy frameworks

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

Objective 7: address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

Objective 15: provide access to basic services for migrants

Objective 16: empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

Objective 18: invest in skills development

# Semi-independent living units for unaccompanied children in Cyprus

- The new program under the title "Operation of semi-independent living structures for unaccompanied children over 16" was launched on April 10, 2020.
- The program aims to facilitate the transition to adulthood for unaccompanied children in Cyprus through the creation of semi-independent living structures.
- The program's ambition is also to promote the inclusion of children in the local community and to protect their rights.
- IOM is responsible for the management and implementation of the program in collaboration with the Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Insurance of the Republic of Cyprus.
- IOM seeks to meet the individual needs of unaccompanied minors by ensuring their access to education and vocational training, health services and psychosocial support.

## Highlighting the role of local communities

- Program placement in rural areas with a scope of extending the initiative across the country
- Meetings with community council members & schools to disseminate information and raise awareness on migration.
- Organization of local activities to foster social cohesion between migrants and local communities.
- Creation of a network with employers from local businesses.
- Creation of a network on local housing.

# TUMCA Program

The Program in  
Cyprus follows  
IOM's overall  
approach for  
unaccompanied  
migrant children

1

## Selection & Transfer

### Selection

- Information provision
- Program referral

### Transfer to SIL

- IOM arrangements for safe transfer
- IOM staff presence during transfer

2

## Induction to SIL

### Basic Needs Hygiene Kit and financial assistance

### Counseling

- SIL code of conduct
- Social, Psychological & Legal support

### Access to Basic Services

- Suitable accommodation, Electricity, Water, Heating, Healthcare, Education & Sports, Language learning, Skills training

3

## Exit from SIL & Integration

### Access to Job Market

- Access to jobs & on the job training

### Integration

- Facilitation to independent living and social inclusion

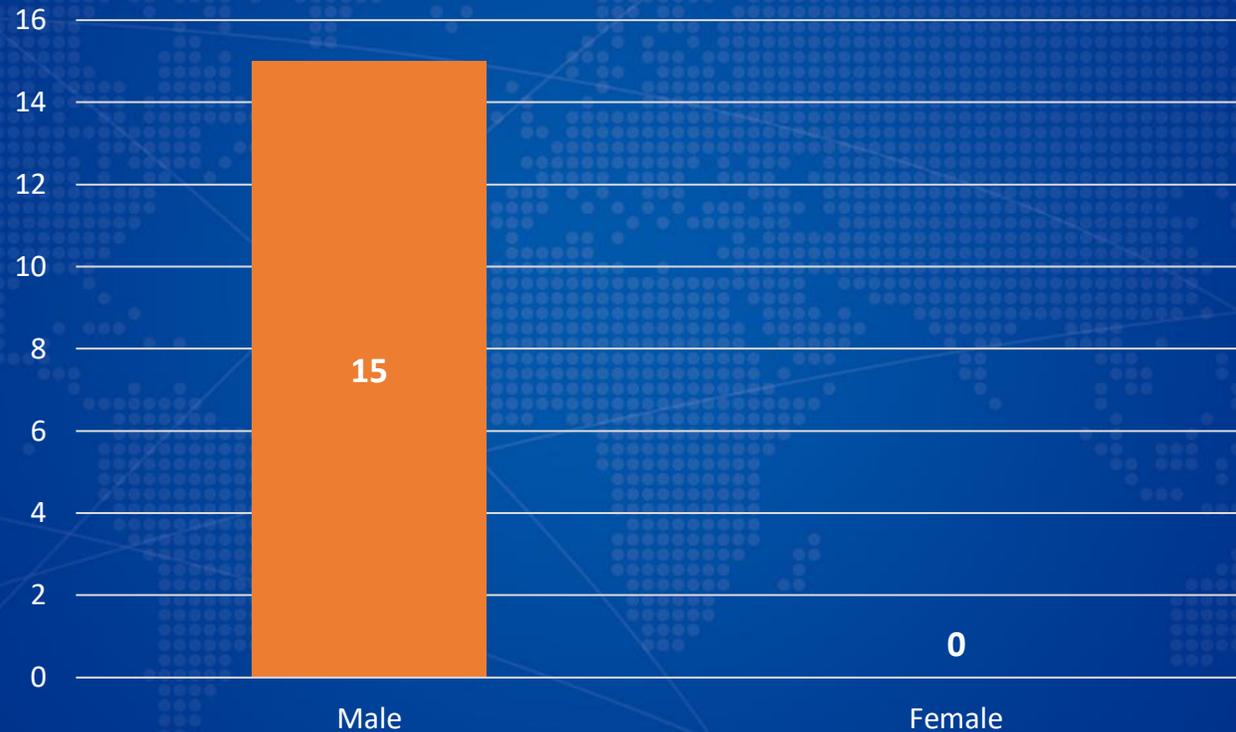
# TMUC in Cyprus

NUMBER OF INCOMING BENEFICIARIES 10 APRIL 2020 - 28 JANUARY 2021



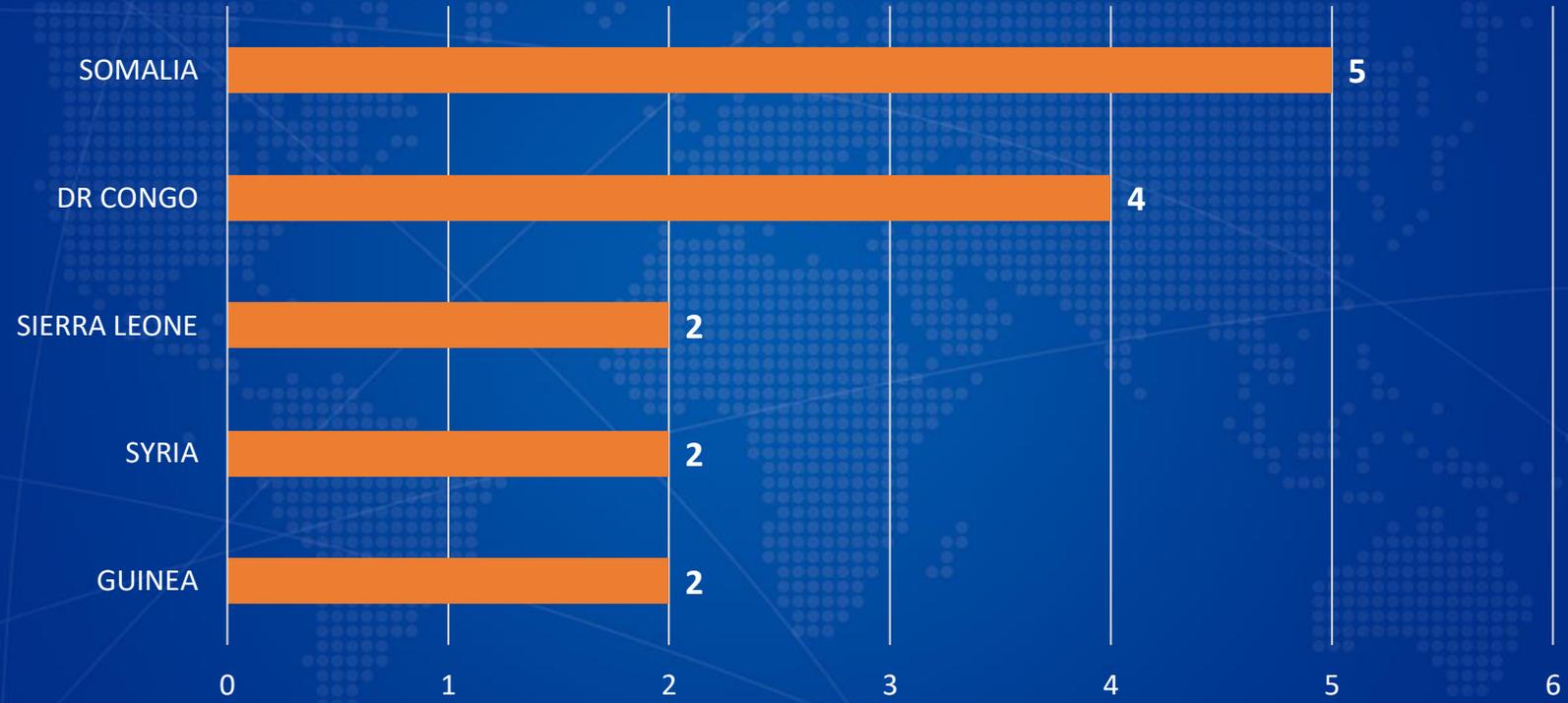
# TMUC in Cyprus

GENDER STATISTICS 10 APRIL 2020 - 28 JANUARY 2021



# TMUC in Cyprus

TOP COUNTRIES IN SIL 10 APRIL 2020 - 28 JANUARY 2021



# TMUC in Cyprus

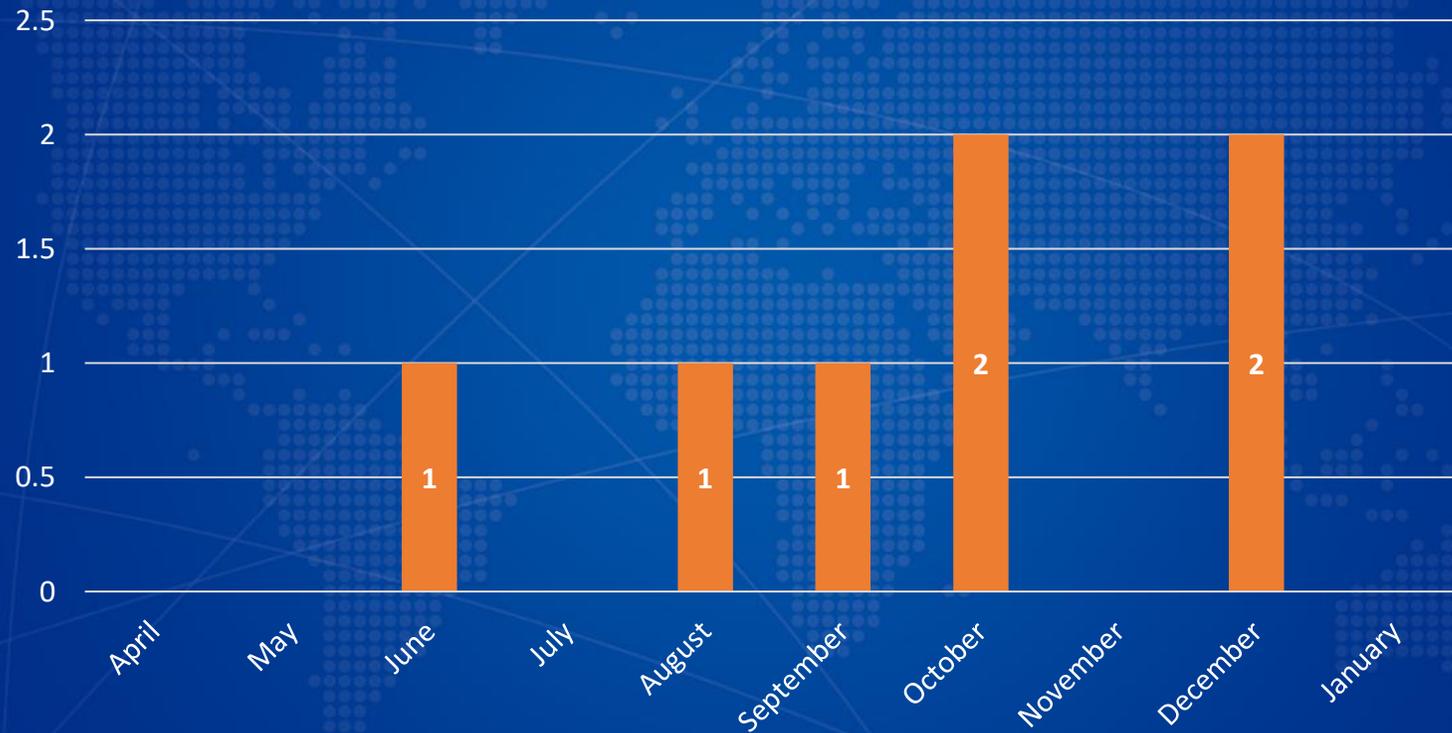
AGE GROUPS 10 APRIL 2020 - 28 JANUARY 2021



16-18 18-21 21+

# TMUC in Cyprus

NUMBER OF OUTGOING BENEFICIARIES 10 APRIL 2020 - 28 JANUARY 2021



# TMUC in Cyprus

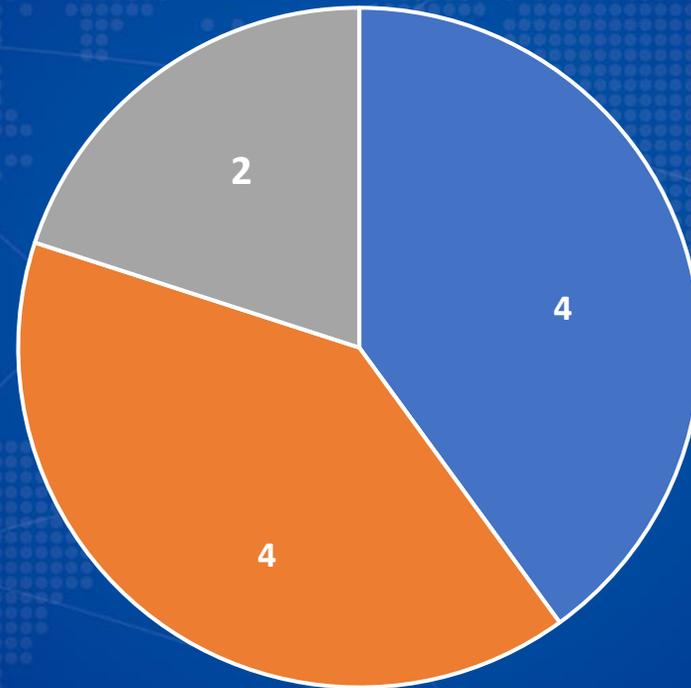
## Integration stories



- Two beneficiaries, one from the DR of Congo and the other from Sierra Leone, succeeded in finding employment at the local hospitality sector immediately after ageing out of the UMC program. With the help of IOM's staff and the local community, they also secured individual housing arrangements, leading thereafter independent lives in the hosting community.
- Two beneficiaries from Somalia that aged out of the program were employed by a local charcuterie producer. Having received proper training and support at the beginning of their appointment, they have now become indispensable staff members. In addition, they have made further steps towards a fully independent living as they share an apartment very close to their place of employment.

# TMUC in Cyprus

INTEGRATION STATISTICS 10 APRIL 2020 - 28 JANUARY 2021



■ Employment ■ Education ■ Relocation/Family reunification

## Transfer of the first group of beneficiaries

The first group of beneficiaries was transferred to the semi-independent living units on April 10, 2020



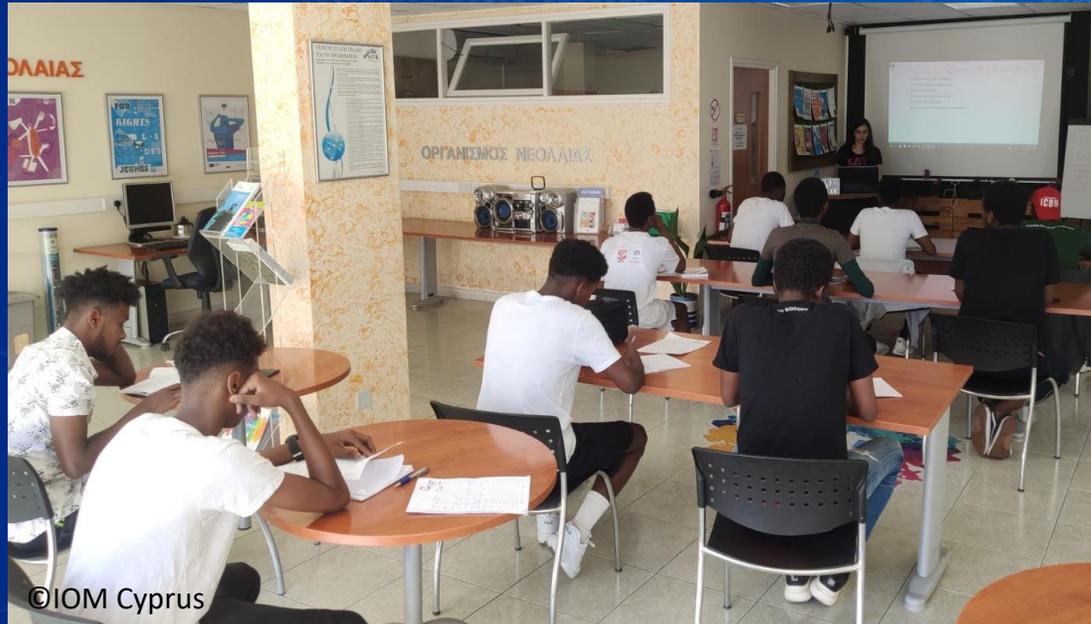
## Program implementation

Hygiene equipment, including masks, gloves and antiseptic fluids, has been provided to the beneficiaries in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

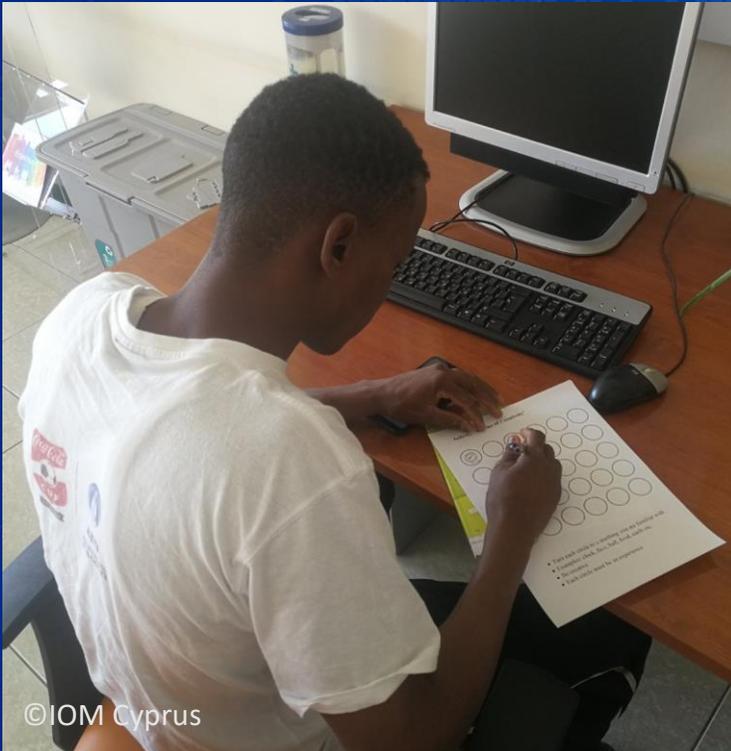


# Program implementation

IOM seeks to meet the individual needs of unaccompanied minors, ensuring access to education and vocational training, health services and psychosocial support



# Program implementation



## Achievements so far - Next steps

- **Launch of a new program amidst the COVID crisis**
- **Transferred 15 unaccompanied migrant children out of first reception centers and crowded conditions**
- **Established a multi-stakeholder coordination network (government departments, local authorities and partners)**
- **Created a dedicated public education program in rural areas**
- **4 beneficiaries already in employment in the restaurants and processing sectors**
- **4 aged out beneficiaries facilitated for secure & independent accommodation**
- **8 beneficiaries currently staying in the Semi-Independent Living**

***Thank you for your participation!***