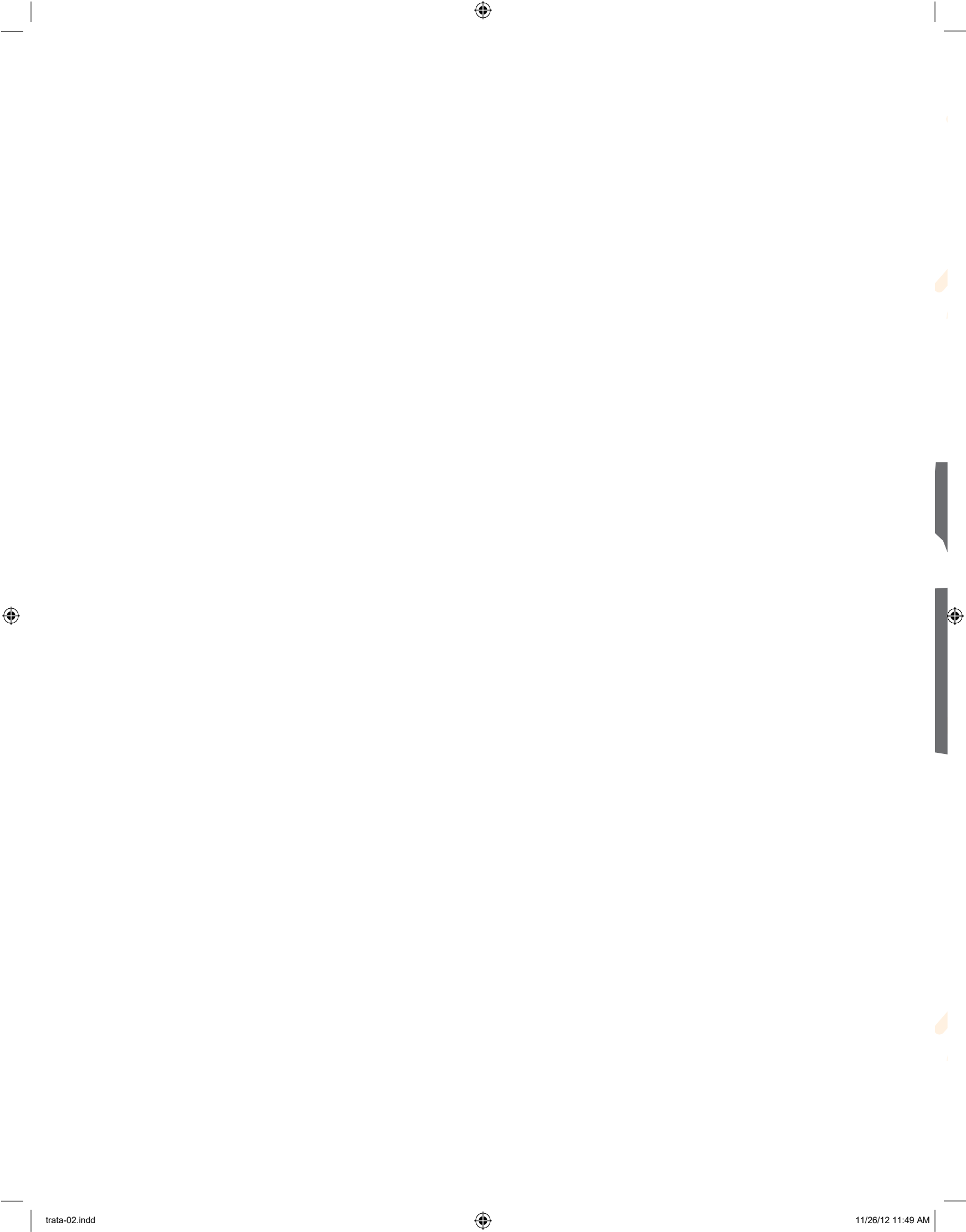


Violencia y trata de personas en Centroamérica

**Oportunidades
de intervención regional**





Violence and human trafficking in Central America

Oportunidades

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5. RECOMMENDATIONS

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- ① Ana María Martínez, Regional Coordinator
- ① Gloria Amado Prieto, Acting Regional Coordinator
- ① Rosamaría Sánchez Lang, Regional technical assistance

IEEPP

- ① Claudia Pineda Gadea, Executive Director
- ① Claudia García Rocha, Research Coordinator

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- ① Elvira Cuadra Lira, Regional Study Coordinator,
Nicaragua and Guatemala
- ① Nancy Leiva, Belize
- ① Ana Yancy Espinoza, Costa Rica
- ① Martín Segovia, El Salvador
- ① Tomás Andino, Honduras
- ① Mónica Benson Niño, Panama

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- ① Ludin de Chávez, Rosa María Hernández, Beatriz Arias and
Verónica Ardón, Save the Children El Salvador
- ① Lesly Martínez, Save the Children Guatemala
- ① Francis Rivas, Save the Children Honduras
- ① Juana Mercedes Delgado and Luz María Sequeira, Save
the Children Nicaragua

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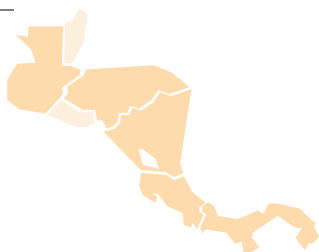


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Figure 2: Ecological model for understanding violence

Figure 3: Explanatory factors of human trafficking and
commercial sexual exploitation,
according to the ecological model

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Map 1: Characteristics of the countries and victims of trafficking
in persons in the region
Central America

Map 2: Main locations and risk areas in Central America



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Human trafficking has become a matter of concern for various institutions and cooperation agencies in the Central American region because it is one of the most cruel and inhumane forms of organized crime and a permanent threat to the exercise of the right to life and integrity of children, adolescents and young women.

Human trafficking takes advantage of the situations of poverty, exclusion, violence and psychological and emotional vulnerability in which its victims generally find themselves. They are forced to live in slavery and exploitation (commercial sexual, labor or other). Another case is that of irregular adoptions suffered by many children and their families, which is also a crime.

This crime is linked to other modalities #&2 %)SA& " ,)(/"%#, %,A, &2 "/"%,3)*+%,F&2 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& /)A/- #& L. & (, ? &2 3)*+%, #& migrants. It is perpetrated by organized criminal structures with transnational resources and capacity for action. According to reports from different international agencies, it is the third most profitable illicit activity in the world.

In the Central American region, initiatives to address the crime of trafficking in persons are numerous and are focused on four areas: legal-institutional strengthening, attention to the victims of trafficking in persons, and the development of a legal and institutional framework.

victims and survivors, prevention -especially for groups or individuals at risk- and the punishment of perpetrators.

The actions of governments, international and cooperation agencies and some social organizations have focused their efforts on strengthening institutional capacities and understanding the magnitude of the crime as the first step toward effective and sustainable intervention efforts.

The evaluation of the Cooperation Agreement between AECID and Save the Children "Strengthening the capacities of governmental and civil society bodies for the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents with special emphasis on child trafficking (for the period 2008- 2012¹)" raises the need for further studies in the region and in each of the countries of the region. -&-F / +" #& /"/2\$K/) &-3& #& 2\$3, & \$#& ""3\$+%/) ! strategies most appropriate for their approach.

This recommendation coincides with the results of other studies carried out in the region, which show that the production of knowledge on the subject has concentrated on analyzing legal and regulatory aspects and institutional capacities, while another group of studies addresses the issue of commercial sexual exploitation.

¹ Hereinafter referred to as the "Convention on Violence and Trafficking in Persons in Central America".

cial, the experience of victims and survivors, as well as the experiences in the elaboration of the study. The study is based on the experiences of victims and survivors, as well as the experiences in the elaboration of the study.

trafficking in persons. However, due to the scope and complexity of the crime, there are many other aspects that have yet to be addressed, such as the issue of demand: the clients/ exploiters who take advantage of the victims.

As already mentioned, intervention actions have focused mainly on strengthening institutional capacities, prevention and immediate attention to victims of human trafficking. Some international and cooperation agencies, as well as state institutions and social organizations in each of the countries have developed sustained intervention efforts in recent years to combat human trafficking.

Save the Children has facilitated processes of strengthening state institutions and organizations that serve victims through various initiatives such as training and sensitization of human resources, provision of equipment, facilitation of spaces for coordination, etc. The study is based on the experiences of victims and survivors, as well as the experiences in the elaboration of the study.

After several years of systematic work, we have been able to identify outstanding issues in the treatment of crime, such as the issue of demand: the clients/ exploiters who take advantage of the victims. The study is based on the experiences of victims and survivors, as well as the experiences in the elaboration of the study.

The purpose of this study was to systematize the progress made by analyzing the context of violence in which human trafficking occurs and its characteristics in each country and in the region. It also set out to learn about the main actions taken in each country and in the region.

The following table provides information on the progress and good practices developed for future interventions from a regional perspective and thus have a tool for analysis and advocacy that facilitates the work to reduce the crime of human trafficking.

The scope of the research is regional and for this purpose case studies were carried out in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The institutions responsible for preparing the study were Save the Children and AECID within the framework of the Agreement "Violence and Trafficking in Central America". Save the Children collaborated with the technical team of the Institute for Strategic Studies and Public Policy (IEEPP) of Nicaragua, and with a recognized group of researchers in the region.

The methodology used is fundamentally qualitative in nature, although it includes the collection of statistical data, in addition to a broad participation of actors among public institutions, non-governmental organizations and international cooperation agencies. The methodological procedure was developed in several phases that included: the for- A. The study is based on the experiences of victims and survivors, as well as the experiences in the elaboration of the study.

In each of the countries and for the preparation of the regional synthesis, interviews and focus groups were conducted with key actors such as: institutions, governmental agencies, NGOs, and the private sector.

The study is based on the experiences of victims and survivors, as well as the experiences in the elaboration of the study.

violence and trafficking, specialists in the field, international agencies and regional bodies.²

The different versions of the document were reviewed by a committee in which participated the Convention "Violence and Trafficking in Persons in Central America"; specialists in the subject of the "Violence and Trafficking in Persons in Central America"; specialists in the subject of the ,+%" /- " /%\$, " /2& - #& R/> & 3M& IM\$2#)& " 1/) / the Convention "Violence and Trafficking in Persons in Central America"; specialists in the subject of the ,+%" /- " /%\$, " /2& - #& R/> & 3M& IM\$2#)& " & " S2 Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; IEEPP management and the country study researchers. In addition, presentations of the preliminary findings were made in different public forums such as the Central American Parliament and the Regional Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons. The contributions offered by each of the members of the review committee and by participants in the activities have been incorporated into the regional report.

This document contains a regional synthesis of the country studies, as well as regional research. It does not intend to exhaust the subject or the content of the national reports that constitute its fundamental basis, but it does attempt to highlight some of the most important aspects related to the situation of human trafficking in Central America, the actions developed by the different actors, the achievements, good practices, challenges and opportunities for future actions from a regional perspective.

The report is divided into six chapters, the first of which presents the theoretical background for the case studies in each of the countries and the regional synthesis, without prejudice to the fact that each researcher could expand and/or adjust the conceptual framework to the specific conditions of each country. The second chapter describes the most relevant elements of the socioeconomic context.

%&"3), /A&)\$%", T. & \$"= .? & " 3"" , & " 2- \$3. /- sessions of violence such as trafficking in persons, also includes some relevant data on crime and violence in the region.

The third chapter presents a diagnosis of the main characteristics of human trafficking in each of the countries and in the region. To this end, it compiled the most relevant statistical information on the

/ %3. /2\$K /#/ ? %, "+/82& & ")& 2/%\$4" %, " 2, - %/- , - and victims, the most relevant characteristics of the crime, the methods used by traffickers and the risk areas in each of the countries analyzed.

The fourth chapter analyzes institutional capacities to combat violence and human trafficking. It focuses on two key aspects: the legal and regulatory frameworks in force in the region and the institutional capacities developed by public institutions and social organizations in the different areas of intervention.

The fifth chapter summarizes some of the progress and good practices achieved in the fight against human trafficking in the region in recent years in relation to the four lines of action already mentioned: legal and institutional strengthening, attention to victims and survivors, prevention, especially among groups or individuals at risk, and punishment of perpetrators.

The sixth and final chapter presents a series of conclusions arising from the analysis from both the regional perspective and from the perspective of the countries where the study was carried out. It also presents the most important challenges in the fight against human trafficking and proposes a series of recommendations to guide the future intervention actions of the various institutions, agencies and organizations involved in the issue.

2 See list of participating institutions and organizations in the acknowledgments.

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We are grateful to the researchers who conducted the country studies: Nancy Leiva in Belize; Ana Yancy Espinoza in Costa Rica; Martín Segovia in El Salvador, Tomás Andino in Honduras, and Mónica Benson in Panama. We would also like to thank Rosamaría Sánchez U/"(#&-#& 2/ P+%\$/ Q&(\$,"/2 #& R/>& 3M& Children for the Agreement "Violence and Trafficking in Persons in Central America", as well as the co 2/8,)/%\$4" #&& 2/- ,+%\$"/- #& 1/@- #& R/>& 3M& Children in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, who offered their full support so that the researchers could collect quality information and conduct the interviews and focus groups.

We are also grateful for the collaboration of the regional institutions of the Central American Integration System, international and cooperation agencies present in the region, public institutions related to the issue in each of the countries, and social organizations that accompany and care for victims of violence and human trafficking. Special thanks are due to the members of the Regional Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons. All of them provided us with their contributions and the information necessary for the preparation of the case studies and the regional study.

Special thanks are due to the institutions and organizations that participated in the study.

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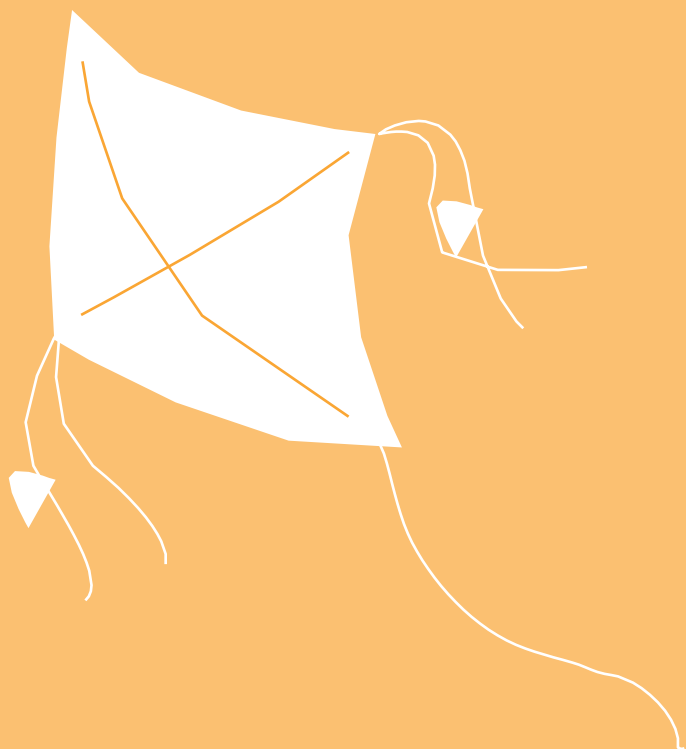
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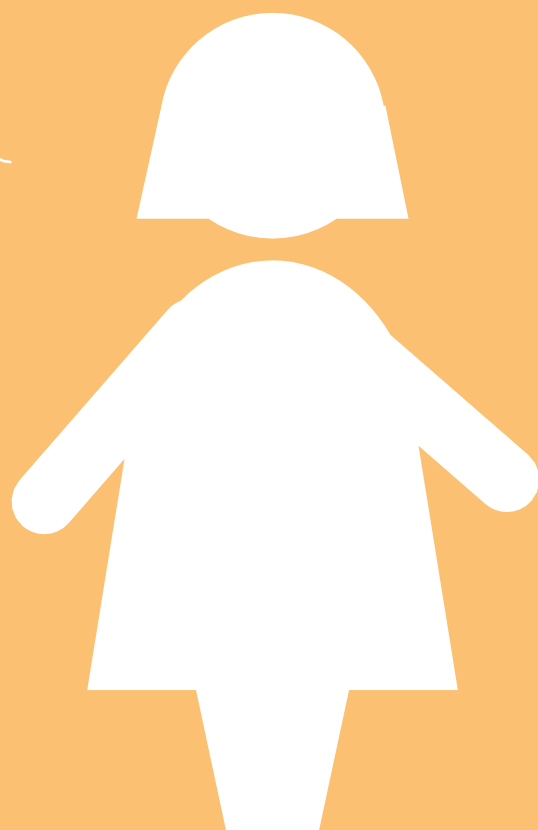
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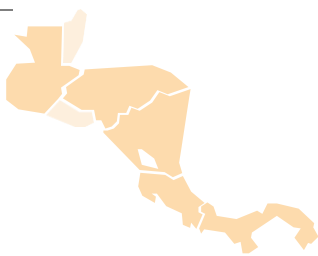
3)/"H&)@/F `%%\$4" e/F Z"\$#/# #& I)\$A&" P)(/"\$- K/#, #&2 ^"\$-\$3&)\$, EO82\$%,F \ [EQZXdR,A,3,F Asociación Miriam de Estelí, Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children and Pastoral Social de Movilidad Humana.

In J&%&5I: Ministry of Security/General SecretariatP Public Prosecutor's Office/Organized Crime Prosecutor's OfficeP National Council for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Crimes (CONAPREDES)P National Women's Institute, Ombudsman's Office, Center for Popular Legal Assistance (CEALP), Refugee Program, Dr. Ramón Alemán, specialist in the subject; Centro para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (CEDEM), Aldeas Infantiles SOS, Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM), Alian- za de Mujeres de Panamá, Organización Inter- nacional de las Migraciones (OIM), Siria Martí- "&KF &- 1&%/\$2\$-3/ ? f&2Y? - f&/F &-1&%/\$2\$-3/g



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The issue of human trafficking is generally approached from a human rights perspective because of the serious consequences that this crime has on the lives of the people who suffer from it. In Central America, as in the rest of the world, human trafficking also threatens the right to life and integrity of vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents and women, who are subjected to insecurity, violence and new forms of slavery.

The Central American region is going through a context of violence that has increased substantially due to the actions of organized crime. In this context, it is important to address human trafficking as a problem of insecurity that threatens the most vulnerable groups of the Central American population.

It is necessary to analyze the relationship between security, violence and human trafficking. This section provides some conceptual references for understanding human trafficking as a social phenomenon and as a crime, as well as its link with violence and security.

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In its broadest sense, human security prioritizes the protection of people's access to various basic goods and services such as health, education and decent housing, as well as the exercise of their rights, gender equality and democratic participation in political life.

S" 2#& +"\$%\$4" #& `2Y\$)& b9GGBc 2-& (.)##. A"// %, "-\$-3& &" 21),- tection of the vital center of human lives against critical and foreseeable threats, in a manner consistent with long-term human fulfillment. Meanwhile, in a narrower sense, the security

M. A"/ -&)&+&)& / 2/%&)3\$#_ A8)& , 1&)%& 1%\$4" #& 2-1&)-,"/- 1/)/
to feel free from fear (of war or violence, for example).

Some of the contributions and potentialities of the concept mentioned by Pérez de Armiño (2007) are: making the individual the subject of security, the theoretical and political interrelation of security and development problems, the integration of local/global dimensions as well as micro and macro, and providing criteria for the analysis of public policies and their relationship with citizens.

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sessions it has contributed is related to **democratic security**. Such
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tica in Central America (SICA, 1995), signed by the region's presidents
in December 1995. In the Treaty, democratic security is #&+"\$#/ %A,
"\$3&()/2 & "\$#\$>\$-\$82&F "\$-&1/)/82& #& 2/ #&\$A&-"\$4" M.A"/F involves
solidarity aid and considers poverty and extreme poverty as threats to
security. The following are included as guiding principles: the rule of law,
the strengthening of democratic institutions, the subordination of the
armed forces, police and security forces to the
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respect for human rights.

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citizen security, although in reality the debate has not ceased and is
not &"%&.&"3)/" #&+"\$%\$,"&- 1)&%\$-/-g E/)/ /2(.,"- /3,)&- %A, C,
"K*2&K (2003) citizen security emphasizes the co-responsibility of the
two main actors: state and society, to become active subjects of political
action within the framework of the democratic game. From this
perspective, citizen security responds to the idea of channeling &2
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citizen security is the "set of social, political, economic, cultural and
institutional conditions that guarantee the adequate and normal
functioning of the community and citizen coexistence".

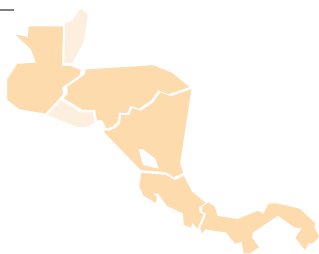
According to the Human Development Report for Central America and the Caribbean (HDR), the
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Essential characteristics: it is the basis of human security, it is the main
form of human security, it guarantees fundamental human rights,
security from crime is one of its essential components, and it concerns
freedom, which is the essence of human development.

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The main factor that makes the application of these concepts feasible is the continuity of
violations.

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violence in less than five years, because their states are institutionally fragile and peace can easily be broken.

In some of these cases, however, violence does not occur with 2/- A\$-A/- %/)/%3&)@-3\$%/- T.& #.)/"3& &2 1&)@, #, #& %, "=\$%3, F -\$", T.& acquires new forms of expression that, at times, appear to be unrelated. Analyzing early on the cases of Central America and I,2,A8\$/ j\$" &%Y&) bDJJJJc \$"#\$/ T.&;

1. In contexts of incomplete transition, civil society may be slow and uncivilized, a condition that changes only with the culmination of the process. This implies the civilization of society and the dismantling of structurally established violence. In this case, the political variable is fundamental to change situations of violence.
2. In some Latin American countries, civil society may have been "built" or "constructed" only in contiguous periods.
/ /))&(2,- #& %, "=\$%3,- 1), >"\$&"3&- #& (.&))/- %\$>\$2&- , /- , %\$/#,- to guerrilla warfare through negotiations, followed by peace agreements. In this case, some violent political actors would be misplaced, since only those coming from the most recent violence would be taken into account.
3. In these contexts, the "old" violence becomes a chronic phenomenon, evolving into "new" forms that preserve the characteristics of the old violence, but are superimposed on it because of relative deprivation; becoming a dispersed and anomic violence where the boundaries between political and criminal violence are blurred, when they are not intertwined in the form of banditry.
4. The models of social action that are generated from these processes are -, - & -, 2\$#\$+%/ " ? %, /(.2/" & " 2/ &-3).%3.)/ #& 2/ -, %\$&#/#g

Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, in Central America, currently have ", -& 2&-)&%, ", %& -. %, "#\$%\$4" #& -, %\$&#/#&- 1,-%, "=\$%3, ? 3/A1, %, an attempt has been made to establish a link between the new forms of vio- 2&"%\$/ T.& A.&-3)/" ? &2 1/-/#,)&%\$&"3& #& 2/)(, -, %\$, "=\$%3, - / 2,- T.& were subjected to. Analyzed from this perspective, it would include new forms of violence present in the region, such as youth gangs, high rates of violence against women, the use of firearms in the commission of crimes, and new forms of organized crime, including human trafficking.

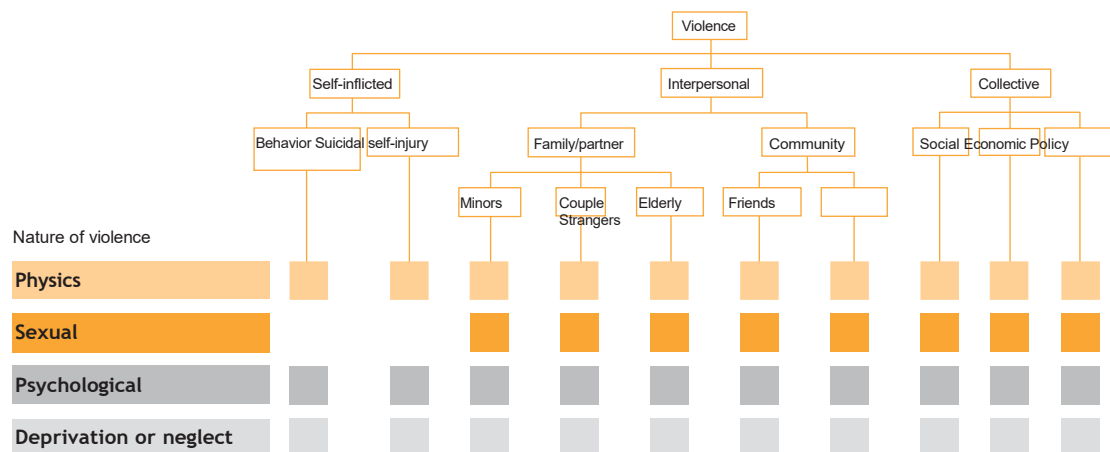
In these cases, **violence** acquires a structural dimension in the sense proposed by Galtung (2003): as a set of structures that do not allow the satisfaction of people's needs and that in reality takes the form of their denial. But in addition, it is accompanied by direct violence, adopting new forms of

expression against people, the community or nature and is
H.-3\$+%/ #/ 1,) 2/ >\$,2&"%\$/ % .23.)/2F 2/ %./2 %) &/ ." A/)% , 2&(\$3\$A/#,) T.&
is materialized through attitudes at different levels.

The fundamental premise of Galtung's approach is the inequality of power in social relations. The violence exercised individually and collectively against vulnerable groups made up, in general, of children, adolescents and women, is in most cases a relationship based on inequality and expressed in abuse.

The WHO World Report on Violence and Health (2002) defines #&+"& % ,A, k&2 .-, \$"3&"%\$, "/2 #& 2/ L.&)K/ , &2 1,#&) L@-\$%,F #& M&%M, or as a threat, against oneself, another person, or a group or community, that causes or has a high likelihood of causing injury, death, psychological harm, developmental impairment or deprivation." This A\$-A, #,% .A&"3, \$&"3\$+%/ %./3), 3\$1,- #& >\$,2&"%\$/ -&(O" -."/3.)/2&-&- and three depending on the actor exercising it.

Figure 1: -, &=\$"#&#\$>% 9) ,& . \$+,)%#&\$&



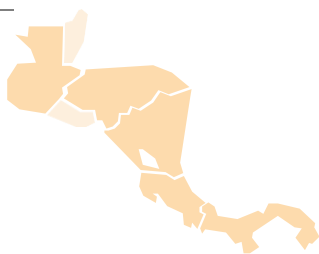
Source: WHO, 2002.

U/ >\$,2&"%\$/ /.3,\$"=(\$#/ \$"%2.?& 2,- %,A1,)3/A&"3,- -.\$%\$#/- ? 2/- /.- tolesions and ranges from the thought of taking one's own life, through the search for the means to do so, the attempt and the consummation of the act. The next type of violence is interpersonal violence, which in turn has the categories of intrafamily or intimate partner violence and violence &"3)& 2,- A&A8),- #& ."/ % ,A."\$#/#g S" &2 1)\$A&) %/-,F -&)&+&&)& / 2/ violence that occurs between family members or intimate partners, and generally occurs in the home. This category includes child abuse, intimate partner violence and elder abuse.

%\$/",-g ^\$&"3)/- T.& 2/ -&(. "#/ %/3&(.)@/ -&)&+&)& / 2/ >\$,2&"%\$/ &"3)& people who are not related to each other and do not necessarily know each other. It usually occurs outside the home and includes youth violence,







rape and sexual assault by strangers, violence in schools, workplaces, prisons, among others.

The following are some of the most common forms of violence: armed violence within or between States; genocide; repression and other violations of human rights; terrorism and organized crime. This type of violence can also take the form of violent acts, whether physical, sexual or psychological, based on deprivation or neglect, as well as the importance of the environment in which they occur, the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim and his or her motives, in the case of collective violence.

Violence against children and adolescents is recognized as a long-standing phenomenon, the magnitude and impact of which have only recently become known. This type of violence is a serious problem of global dimensions. It is therefore urgent to develop actions to prevent it. The most common forms of violence against children and adolescents, although not the only ones, are: physical, cruel or degrading punishment; intimidation; sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse; and traditional violent practices (Pinheiro, 2006).

Because of the special condition of girls and boys, the rate of reporting abuse and violence is extremely low, especially in the case of the youngest children. This is due to the fear of reprisals from their parents or guardians or because the intervention of the authorities may aggravate their situation.

Girls and boys include: the high degree of tolerance in all societies for such abuse and the widely assumed idea that physical, sexual and psychological violence is part of development; social and cultural patterns; socioeconomic factors; and gender stereotypes.

Two of the places where children suffer most violence and abuse are the home and the school, while the aggressors are people in their immediate environment, such as parents, other family members, boyfriends, girlfriends, teachers, schoolmates and employers.

Table 1: **R+25&= 9) .\$.+,%)#\$& #+%32& %\$A&= 0 %\$A+=**

R+25&= 9) .\$.+,%)#\$&)% ,& #&=& 0)% +32+=)=4&#\$+=	R+25&= 9) .\$.+,%)#\$&)% ,&)=#<),&
<ul style="list-style-type: none">① Physical violence (homicide and non-lethal physical violence)① Negligent treatment① Sexual violence① Sexual violence in intimate relations and child marriage① Harmful traditional practices (female genital mutilation/cutting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">① Physical and psychological punishment① Gender-based discrimination or violence① Sexual and gender-based violence① Bullying① Fights, physical aggressions and gangs① Homicide and serious injury① Weapons at school

Source: Pinheiro, 2006.

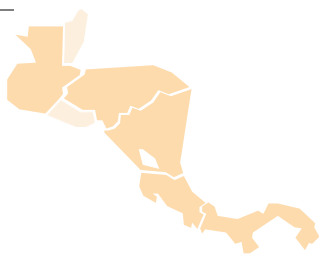
According to Pinheiro (2006), the type of violence suffered by boys and girls is differentiated according to age and sex. Thus, younger children are at greater risk of suffering physical violence, while adolescents and teenagers are at greater risk of suffering sexual violence. Boys are at greater risk of physical violence, while girls are more exposed to neglect and sexual violence. Other vulnerable groups of children include children with disabilities, orphans, children belonging to indigenous groups or ethnic minorities, children living and working on the street, displaced persons and refugees, among others.

The consequences of violence in the case of children can sometimes be more serious and profound than in other population groups and have consequences for physical, sexual and reproductive health, psychological, chronic or long-term illnesses, as well as economic consequences.

The other group that also suffers the effects of violence are women. This is understood as the violent expressions directed against them, which are not casual, but related to the condition of discrimination and subordination in which they find themselves.

For some feminists such as Carcedo (2010), this type of violence is not considered social violence as such, but rather as structural, directed and asymmetrical violence, which is exercised by men or by patriarchal power against women; furthermore, its manifestations go beyond the physical, emotional, sexual, material and symbolic, as its essence is the control that subdues and disposes of women's individual and collective lives.





Violence against women is exercised in different spheres, both domestic and public, both by men who are close or acquaintances, as well as by those who are not, but who claim the *"social prerogative to dispose of women's bodies and lives"* (Carcedo, 2010:3).

The most serious expression of violence against women is femicide, a concept developed in the second half of the 50s. It is defined as *"all death derived from female subordination, which encompasses both homicides and suicides originating in violence or conditions of discrimination, as well as actions and omissions that, having the same origin, end up causing the death of a woman or girl"* (Carcedo, 2010:4-5).

Of greatest violence is the domestic sphere. Numerous studies show how different types of violence are perpetrated in the domestic sphere against those populations that are considered "subordinate" in the social hierarchy. That is to say, girls, boys, female adolescents, the sick, the elderly and the disabled. However, this is not the only place where these population groups suffer violence. In the case of children and adolescents, the school is also one of the places where they suffer most from violence.

Heise, Germain and Pitangury (1994) have shown through the ecological approach that violence is a complex and multicausal phenomenon whose approach must be comprehensive. The ecological approach to child abuse
states that children and adolescents are affected by violence due to factors that have different personal, situational and sociocultural factors. This same model has been used to analyze violence against children.

The WHO (2002) defines violence as the use of physical force against oneself or others, which results in or has the potential to result in injury, damage, or death. It is a behavior (WHO, 2002) or the risk of committing or suffering acts of violence at four levels: biological and personal history, close relationships (family, friends, partners, peers), community contexts (schools, workplaces, neighborhoods) and social structure.

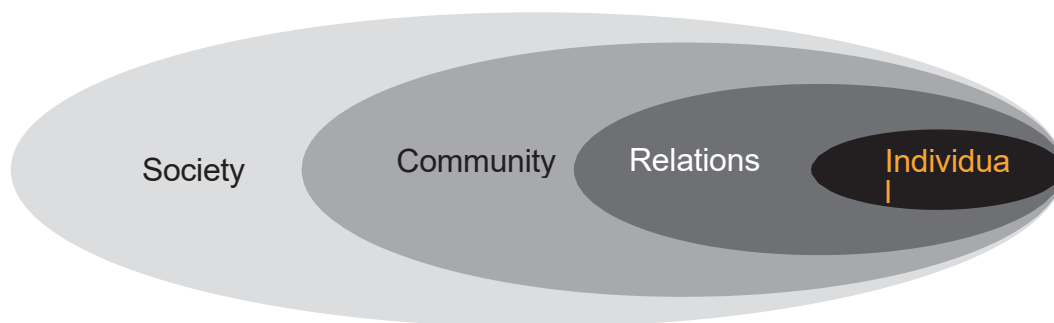
Table 2: **S+9),+)#+,>*\$#+ 4&2& ,& #+542)%=\$>% 9) ,& .\$.+,%)#\$&**

Q\$.),)= 9) &%l,\$=\$== R&#3+2)=	
Biological and personal history factors that are more important than personal history factors.	Biological and personal history factors that are more important than personal history factors. "\$=.?&" &" &2 %,A1,)3/A\$&&"3, #& 2/- 1&)-,"/- ? increase their likelihood of becoming victims or perpetrators of violent acts. Factors: %/)/%3&)%@-3\$%/- #&A,()*+%/F 3)/-3,)"- 1-@T.\$%,- or personality disorders, drug addictions, history of aggressive behavior or having suffered mistreatment.
Close relationships	Q&2/%\$,"&- %&)%/"- ? -. \$"=.&"%\$/ 1/)/ /.A&"3/) &2 risk of suffering or perpetrating violent acts.
Community contexts	Community contexts where social relations develop with characteristics that increase &2)\$&- (, #& /%3,- >\$,2&"3,-g </%3,)&- #& \$"=.&"%\$/; mobility of residence, population density, high "\$>&&2&- #& #& #&-&A12&,F 3)*+%, #& #),(/-g
Social structure	General factors relating to the structure of society that contribute to a climate in which violence is encouraged or inhibited, such as the availability of weapons, social and cultural norms, health, economic, educational and social policies.

Source: WHO, 2002.

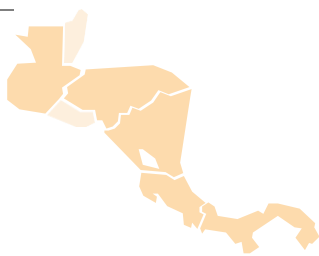
In the model, each level is represented by overlapping rings,)&L,)K/"#, ? A,#\$+%//"#, 2,- ,3),-F #& A/"&)/ T.& -. /"*2\$-\$-\$- 1&)A\$3&& to clarify the causes of violence, the complexity of its interactions and the need to act on several levels simultaneously in order to prevent it.

Figure 2: **S+9),+)#+,>*\$#+ 4&2& ,& #+542)%=\$>% 9) ,& .\$.+,%)#\$&**



Source: WHO, 2002.





According to the ecological model, close social relationships, e.g., with friends, partners and/or family members, increase the risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violent acts. S" 2,- %/-,- #& 2/ >\$,2&"%\$/ "\$=\$(\$#/ 1,) 2/ 1/ 1/)&H/ ? #&2 A/23)/3, /"\$N/- ? children, almost daily interaction or sharing a home with a perpetrator may increase the opportunities for violent encounters to occur. Because the individuals are bonded in an ongoing relationship, it is likely that in these cases the victim will be repeatedly abused by the batterer.

This ecological approach is useful for the analysis of human trafficking because of T.& 1&)A\$3& \$#&"3\$+%/) 2,- L/%3,)&- %/./2&- #&2 &"3,)", T.& /.A&"3/" the risks of certain people in vulnerable conditions and that lead them to become victims. But also, the conditions that can strengthen their resilience.

12&3& 9) 4)2=+%&=

Trafficking in persons was recognized as a crime several decades ago when the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others was established in 1949. However,

-. #& +"\$%\$4" ", &)/ - . +%\$& "3&A& "3&%2)/ ? -& %, "L. "#@/ %, " ,3),- #& 2\$3,- / > & %&-)&2%\$,"/#,- %,A, &2 3)*+%, #& 1&)-,"/- ? 1& 012,3/%\$4" -& 0./2 commercial. Recently, human trafficking as a concept and as a de- 2\$3, L. &) & #& +"\$#, 1,) ![//%\$, "&- Z"? -& 2& #&L&)&"%\$4 %2)/A&"3&#&2 3)*+%, #& A\$()/ "3&-g U/ ` / ` (&"%\$/#& 2[//%\$, "&- Z"? 1)/ / 2,- Q& L. (\$- #,- b1[ZQc & 012\$%/ T. & 2,- 3h)A\$", - k3)/3/ #&-&)&- M. A"/, -I ? k3)*+%, #& A\$()/ "3&-I M/" -\$#, . 3\$2\$K/#,- %,A, -\$"4"\$, -F 1&), T. &-&)&+&)&" / different situations. The main purpose of human trafficking is the exploitation of the person and for the criminal act to take place, it is not indispensable for the person to cross borders.³

In addition, trafficking is the use of persons for personal gain, such that exploitation includes at a minimum the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or similar practices, servitude or the removal of organs.

Z" "\$L,)A& 1)&-&"3/#, &" &2 /N, 9GGi 1,) C2,8/2 Q\$(M3-F R\$" <), "3&)/ & IAP before the IACHR states that trafficking is a crime committed against women and children. -, /F A\$&"3)/- T.& 2/ A\$()/ %\$4" \$))&(.2/) ? &2 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& A\$()/ "3&- are violations against the State. The two facts are not necessarily related, however, there are occasions in which the migrant ends up with

3 ver !"#\$%&&&'()*+,-. %/0%1+23!()2%#,-/2))4-*%/,/(353/,6)-3723#2,8-*(8%

This occurs when she is exploited during the migration process, either during transit or in the country of destination.

The Palermo Protocol, adopted in 2000, together with the two international instruments: the Convention against Organized K/#/ 3)/"- "/%\$, "/2 ? &2 E),3,% ,2, %, "3)/ &2 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& A\$()/"3&- 1,) 3\$&&))F A/ ? /\$)&F #&+"& T.&;

Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of 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. !"# \$% '() (\$*+, -,) ,. "\$-%, -+ #/ #, -+ \$ O, 1- (',) %\$- (21, +, - 3 (1+ \$) #0 (0 %\$*), \$+) (4 "\$- !-, % 0, , 5'. \$+ ("#6- 7 8% (, 5'. \$+ ("#6- #-. 1#) 94 "\$/\$ /:- #/\$4 . (, 5'. \$+ ("#6- 0, . (') \$%+ #+ 1 "#6- (;, - (1 \$+) (% < \$) / (% 0, , 5'. \$+ ("#6- %, 51 (. 4 . \$% +) (* (; % \$ %,) = # " # \$ % < \$) - slavery or slavery-like practices, slavery or slavery-like practices, slavery or slavery-like practices, the %,) = # 0 1 / *), \$. (, 5+) (" " "#6- 0, 6) 3 (- \$ % >

HT 8. "\$-%, -+ #/ #, -+ \$ O (0 \$ ' \$) . (=: "+ #/ (0, . (+) (+ (0, ',) %\$- (% (+ \$ 0 (< \$) / (0, , 5'. \$+ ("#6- #+ , - "# \$ - (. 0, %)) #+ (, - ,. (') + (0 \$ (a) of this article shall not be taken into account when any of the means set forth in that paragraph have been used. + (0 \$ >

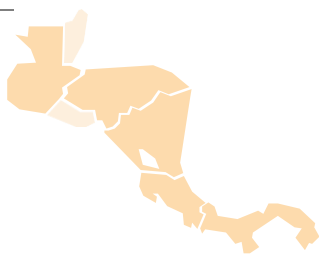
#T Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or reception 0, 1- #? \$ "\$- !-, % 0, , 5'. \$+ ("#6- %, "\$- % # 0,) () 9 @+) (+ (0, ',) - even when none of the above means are used. , - 1- "# (0 \$ % , - ,. (') + (0 \$ (A 0, . '), %, -+ ,) +: " 1. \$ >

9T B\$) @- #? \$ C %, , -+ , - 0,) 9 + \$ 0 (' ,) %\$- (/ , - \$) 0, DE (? \$ % 7

W& /% . &) #, %, " ` I [Z Q F 3 / " 3, 2 / - > @ % 3 \$ A / - # & 3) / 3 / %, A, 2 / - 1 &) - , "/ - , 8 H & 3, # & 3) * + %, T. & - & > & " , 8 2 \$ (/ # / - / 1, " &) - & / A &) % & # # & 2 / -) & # & - international criminals, are in a situation of great vulnerability and are exposed or subjected to all kinds of humiliation and mistreatment. For the IOM (2009), human trafficking is a criminal act, a form of human rights violation, a form of exploitation and an act of violence.

Z" &- 3. # \$,) & (\$, "/2 & L & % 3. / #, & " I & " 3) , / A h) \$ % / ? Q & 1 0 8 2 \$ % / W, A \$ " \$ % / - na by Hidalgo (2008) points out that there are three constituent elements of human trafficking: , & & & # \$ > % F T. & - &) & + &) & / 2 / - # \$ - 3 \$ " 3 / - & 3 / 1 / - 1,) those through which the crime transits (recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving or harboring victims; , + = 5) 9 \$ + = , which are the coercive actions employed.





against victims of trafficking, such as threat and use of force, blackmail and abuse of authority among others; and ,+= "%)=, which are related to the purpose of exploitation and include the exploitation of the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery and similar activities, servitude and organ removal.

S2 E),3,%,2, #& E/2&&)A, \$##"3\$+%/ %./3), %/)/%3&)@-3\$%/- &" 2/ 3)/3/ #& persons:), #+%=)%3\$5\$)%3+, acquired through coercion, deception or by abuse; ,&)E4,+3&#\$>%; ,& 32&%=%&#\$+%&,\$9&9, considering that trafficking can occur within a country or by transferring the victim to other countries, once or several times; and =< #+9\$#\$>% 9) H\$)% U<2M9\$#+ 42+- 3)*\$9+, which makes it a crime since it attempts against the life, general and sexual freedom of the victim, and injures her dignity and physical integrity.

S2 E),3,%,2, 3/A8\$h" \$##"3\$+%/ 2,- 1),14-\$3,- #& 2/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/-F although he mentions that these types are not unique and in many occasions they acquire different nuances.⁴

The most common forms of trafficking in persons throughout the world are the following
A. "#,F #& /%.&)#, / -.- +"&-F -,," -&(O" X\$#/2(, b9GG::9Dc;

- ① Sexual exploitation: which is broken down into forced prostitution, commercial sexual exploitation of minors (pornography, sexual exploitation related to tourism), paid sexual relations, shows with sexual content.
- ① Military purposes: captive soldiers and child soldiers.
- ① For labor or forced labor: maquilas, domestic service, mines, agricultural work, fishing, among others.
- ① Bondage and marriage purposes: servile marriage, domestic work, begging, surrogate wombs, religious and cultural practices.
- ① Classical slavery: status or condition of a person over whom all or some of the powers associated with the right of ownership are exercised.
- ① Theft or other forms of delinquency: sale of drugs, weapons, stolen goods, among others.
- ① Organ harvesting: removal of an anatomical component, organ or tissue without consent or under coercion.

S2 &-3.##\$, #& X\$#/2(, b9GG:c M\$#&"3\$+%/#, T. &&" 23)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/- \$""3&)- come multiple economic, social, political, cultural, institutional and environmental factors. These factors are grouped into two types: push or push factors and pull or pull factors. In the first

6 7&03./2A&"3&F &2 E),3,%,2, #& E/2&&)A, b9GGGGc \$##"3\$+%/F %,A, A@"\$A,F 2/- -\$(.\$&"3&- L.)A/- #& 3)/3/ #&& the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs".

The first case includes socioeconomic or family conditions, and the second case includes the demand for cheap labor, among others.

Table 3: **R+2)= 9))E4<,\$>% 0% 0 &32&32&##\$>%)% ,& & 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&=**

R&#3+2)=9))E4<,\$>%	R&#3+2)= 9) &32&##\$>%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❶ Poverty and social exclusion. ❷ Political, social and economic instability. ❸ Family problems, domestic violence, sexual abuse. ❹ Social discrimination. ❺ Globalization and world economic crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❶ Employment opportunities and job stability. ❷ \2.-\$4" #&)&."\$+%//%\$4" L/A\$2\$/)g ❸ Demand for cheap labor in destination countries.

Source: Hidalgo, 2008.

Other elements that facilitate this crime may be present in the environment, including: the existence of organized crime networks, impunity and lack of access to justice, lack of social and institutional response, and the existence of repressive laws or policies towards migrants.

R& \$&"3\$+%/"/ 2 A&",- %\$"% , A,A&"3,- #-\$-3\$"3,- #.)/"3& 2/ %,A\$-\$4" #&2 crime:), 2)#,<3&5\$)%3+F %."/"#, 2/ >@%3\$A/ &- \$&"3\$+%/#/ ?)&%2.3/#/ 1,) the network or structure of traffickers; ,&)3&4& 9) .&U) 0 32I%=\$3+, during which the victim leaves her place of origin until she reaches her destination. This stage may include travel to several points, and is one of the most dangerous because the victim is subjected to violence and abuse, is often transported in dangerous and traumatic conditions, and is subjected to a process of "commodification";)3&4& 9) 9)=3\$%+ 0)E4,+3&#&\$>%, during which the victims begin to work for the traffickers and are subjected to different tactics to ensure their dependency and their mission; 9)3)%#&\$>%P 2)=#&3) + D<*&;)3&4& 9) 2)3+2%+ 0 2)\$%3)*2&#&\$>%,

which in most cases involves a long process of physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration. At this stage, the victim may not be able to strengthen his or her resilience and may become a victim again.

The consequences suffered by victims of trafficking are wide-ranging and have profound effects, such as deterioration of their physical, mental and emotional health; isolation and social exclusion; economic precariousness and permanent debt; and illegality. According to Hidalgo's (2008) report &" l&"3),/Ah)\$%/ &2 :m 1,) %\$&"3, #& 2,- %/-,- \$&"3\$+%//#,- ? /-\$-3\$#,- corresponded to women between the ages of 10 and 50, although most cases are concentrated in girls and adolescents, which makes them one of the groups most vulnerable to human trafficking.







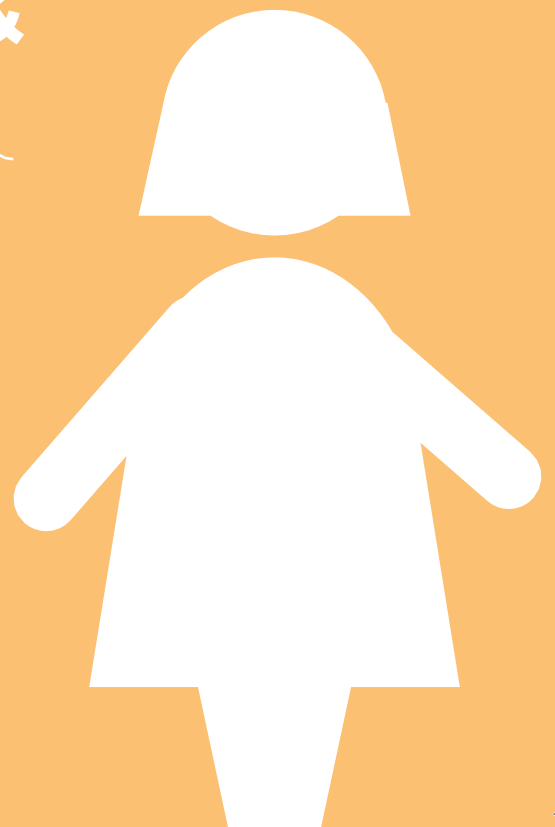


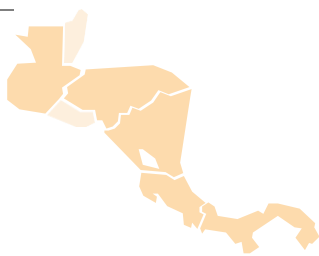
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)E#,<=\$>%

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Central America is made up of seven countries: Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. As a whole, the region has an estimated population of 42.8 million inhabitants. Of these about 50 percent are indigenous. Despite their richness and diversity, Central American countries also share many similarities in economic, political and social aspects.⁵

Central America is the Latin American sub-region with the greatest social, economic and political inequalities and exclusions. According to the analysis of the State of the Nation (2008), all Central American countries have high percentages of exclusion in different aspects, but not all exclusions are the same. Some countries have higher levels of social exclusion, others have higher levels of economic exclusion and some experience political exclusion.

Despite their richness and diversity, Central American countries also share many similarities in economic, political and social aspects.⁵

Table 4: Social, economic and political exclusions in Central America

Central America is the Latin American sub-region with the greatest social, economic and political inequalities and exclusions. According to the analysis of the State of the Nation (2008), all Central American countries have high percentages of exclusion in different aspects, but not all exclusions are the same. Some countries have higher levels of social exclusion, others have higher levels of economic exclusion and some experience political exclusion.

Table 4: Social, economic and political exclusions in Central America

Country	Asset ownership and access to household water (%)	Holding of assets and educational securities (%)	Consumption of assets and educational securities (%)	Asset ownership and access to household water (%)	Holding of assets and educational securities (%)	Consumption of assets and educational securities (%)
Costa Rica	6.0	9.5	4.7	3.9	22.0	19.0
El Salvador	24.0	14.7	16.5	9.3	22.7	47.5
Guatemala	20.9	21.8	17.6	26.6	12.4	51.0
Honduras	26.8	23.9	12.4	10.3	8.8	71.5
Nicaragua	32.7	30.0	13.7	22.1	22.6	48.3
All countries	22.5	20.2	13.1	14.5	17.9	

Source: State of the Nation, 2008.
 (9 Consumption: asset ownership and access to household water.
 9 Assets: holding of assets and educational securities.

⁵ The data and tables presented below include information from Belize only when the original source of the information is recorded as such.

Table 5: **R+2)= 9))E#,<=\$>%)% -)%32+&562\$#&**

J)2=+%&= #+% 5&0+2)= 42+H&H\$,\$9&9)= 9) =<D2\$2)E#,<=\$\$>% =+##\$&,
⓪ Schooling of less than seven years of education.
⓪ Residing in rural areas.
⓪ Be an agricultural worker.
⓪ Be under 20 years of age (in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica).
⓪ Belonging to an indigenous ethnic group (especially in Guatemala).
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Source: State of the Nation, 2008.

According to the State of the Nation report (2008), poverty is also a form of exclusion that is crudely expressed in the region through poverty and indigence indicators. It also points out that in the region there are groups of people who are more susceptible to social exclusion. Some of their characteristics are contained in the table above.

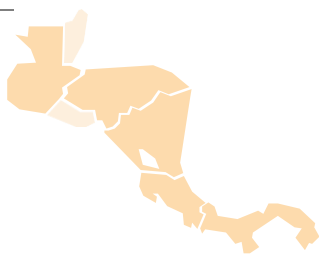
Table 6: **J)2=+%&=)% =\$3<&#>% 9) 4+H2)V&&
)%\$%9\$*)%#&\$&)% -)%32+&562\$#&**

J&M=)=	GA+	J+H2)V&	B%9\$*)%#&\$&
Belize	2010	43.0	—
Costa Rica		20.3	8.2
	2009	18.9	6.9
El Salvador	2001	48.9	22.1
	2009	47.9	17.3
Guatemala		60.2	30.9
	2006	54.8	29.1
Honduras	1999	79.7	56.8
	2007	68.9	45.6
Nicaragua	2001	69.3	42.4
	2005	61.9	31.9
Panama		36.9	18.6
	2009	26.4	11.1

Source: ECLAC, 2010.

According to data presented by ECLAC (2010), during the first decade of the 2000s, the percentages of poverty and indigence decreased in all countries of the region. However, these reductions ", L.&)," - .+%\$&"3&A&"3& -\$("+\$+%/3\$>/- %,A, 1/)/ \$"#\$%/) ."/)"&>&)-\$4" in the trend of population impoverishment.





In addition, during the last five years the region experienced a general trend of declining economic growth. The lowest year was 2009 and in 2010 the curve experienced a slight growth of 3.1 percent across the region. According to the ICEFI report (2011), the lowest growth rates recorded for that year were in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Meanwhile, inequality and exclusion are compounded by the high concentration of income in Central America.

Table 7: Income concentration in Central America, 2009

Country	Year	Gini index		Theil index	
		2009	2010	2009	2010
Guatemala	2009	1.0	2.6	16.8	36.5
El Salvador	2009	1.2	2.6	16.4	38.8
Honduras	2009	0.8	2.1	17.0	39.4
Nicaragua	2009	1.5	2.8	15.8	37.2
Costa Rica	2009	1.3	2.4	16.3	43.0
Regional average	2009	1.0	1.8	15.2	47.4
Guatemala	2006	0.8	1.9	16.6	43.8
El Salvador	2006	0.6	1.3	17.5	43.4
Honduras	2006	0.6	1.9	15.2	46.5
Nicaragua	2006	1.2	2.3	15.3	42.2
Costa Rica	2006	0.7	1.6	17.0	43.3
Regional average	2006	1.1	2.1	16.8	39.6

Source: ECLAC, 2010.

As the data show, income concentration remains high in all countries, especially in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Thus, in spite of the progress made by each country in terms of poverty reduction and economic growth, the countries of the region are still experiencing a high level of income concentration.

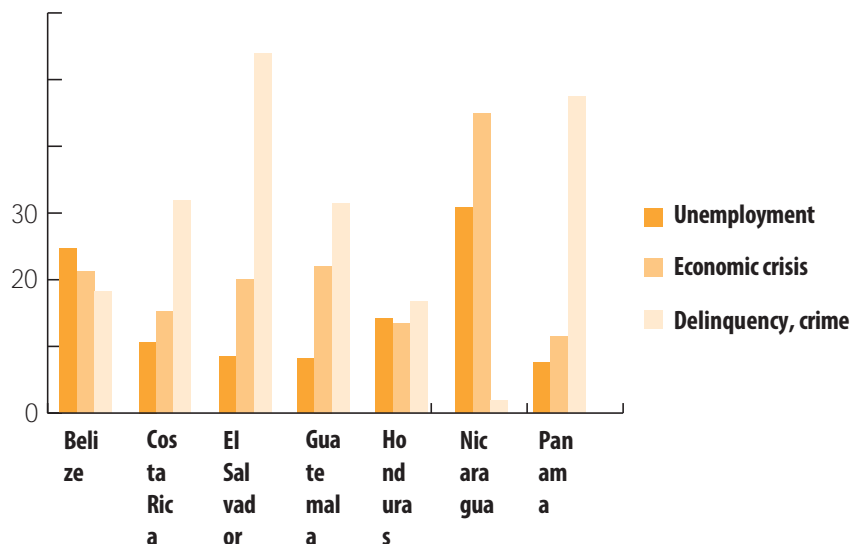
On the contrary, inequalities are accentuated.

As the data show, income concentration remains high in all countries, especially in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Thus, in spite of the progress made by each country in terms of poverty reduction and economic growth, the countries of the region are still experiencing a high level of income concentration.

54.)+P)9<#&#\$>% 0 =&,<9

The economic crisis and unemployment are perceived by citizens throughout the region as two of the three main problems afflicting their countries, after crime and delinquency.

C)*+%, D: J2\$%#\$4&,) = 42+H,)5&= 9), 4&M=P XYIY



Source: Own elaboration based on LAPOP data, 2010.

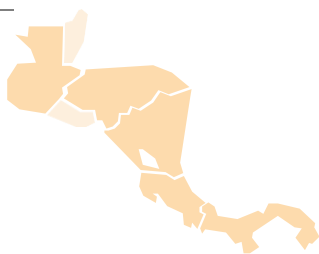
The annual unemployment rate and the size of the informal sector in each of the countries of the region show how pressing this situation is for citizens.

Table 8: B%9\$#&9+2)= 9))54,) +)% -)%32+&562\$#&&

J&M=)	1&= & 9)=)54,) + 2010	7)#3+2 \$%D+25&, XYZ _ XYIY
Costa Rica	7.1	37.1
El Salvador	7.1 ^a	n.a.
Guatemala	4.4 ^b	58.1
Honduras	6.4	43.9
Nicaragua	10.5 ^a	n.a.
Panama	7.7	35.9

<.&"3&; S2/8,)%\$4" 1),1\$/ / 1/3\$) #& #/3,- bISE`UF 9GDGc ? bPS`dE[ZWd<ISF 9GDGcg
a: Data corresponding to the year 2009. b: Data corresponding to the year 2004. n.a: Data not available.





Education and health are key aspects of social investment for development and represent two of the fundamental rights of people. Education is considered a fundamental investment in the fight against poverty, economic growth and human development, especially when focused on children and adolescents.

At least two recent studies (ICEFI, 2011 and State of the Nation, 2011) estimate that in 2011 Central America had a population of 23.5 million people between the ages of 0 and 24. Moreover, in this

According to ICEFI (2011) all countries in the region have made progress in the implementation of social policies more consistent with development, without

Table 9: **J2\$%#\$4&.)= \$%9\$#&9&9+2)= 9))9<#&#\$>% 4&2& -)%32+&562\$#&P XYYa**

J&M)=	1&=& %&,- D&H)3\$=5+ &9<,3+ ²	1&=& 9) 5&32M#<,&		
		J2\$5&2\$&	7)#<%9&2\$&	1)2#&2\$&
Costa Rica		n.a.	n.d	25.3
El Salvador	82	94.0	55.0	24.6
Guatemala		95.0	38.1	17.7
Honduras		96.6	n.a.	18.7
Nicaragua		91.8	45.2	n.a.
Panama		98.3	65.6	45.0

<.&"3&; PS`dE[ZWd<ISF 9GDGg

Between 2000 and 2004, the protection of the right to health suffered a setback with the decrease in public spending allocated to this sector, but from that date until 2010 it began to recover in all countries, even though El Salvador and Guatemala were the ones that invested the least in this sector.

average health and social security spending for the region was 5.3 percent of GDP.

Table 10: **Health and social security spending as a percentage of GDP, 2008 and 2009**

Country	2008	2009	2008	2009	2009
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2009
Costa Rica				99.2	26.2
El Salvador				74.1	37.5
Guatemala	110			76.3	40.3
Honduras	110			82.5	33.0
Nicaragua				64.6	26.4
Panama				93.0 ^a	n.a.

Source: ECLAC, 2010.
a: Data for 2008.

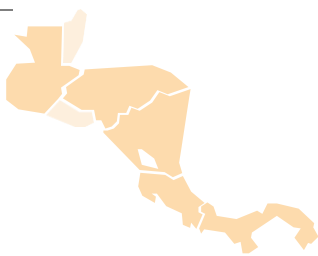
However, despite the increase in public spending on health, disparities in access to health care persist throughout the region for large sectors of the population. In the case of both this sector and education, the main problems are the quality of services, the breadth of coverage and the equity with which they are offered.

Unfavorable environment restricts Central Americans' opportunities

This unfavorable environment restricts Central Americans' opportunities to improve their living conditions and overcome their poverty. In countries such as Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, the precariousness of these situations has forced thousands of people to emigrate, either within the same region or to other destinations, in search of better life opportunities.

The most important intra-regional trade is between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and between Guatemala and Belize.





At the regional level, both Guatemala and Costa Rica appear as migrant-receiving countries, while the others are considered population expellers. With regard to extra-regional migration, it is- 3\$A/ T.& &"3)& 9GGi ? 9GGJ \$"%)&A&"34 &2 =.H, #& A\$()/"3&- %&"3),/A&-)\$%/" , - M/%\$/ S-3/#, - Z"\$#, -F 2/ %\$L)/ / 12%/"K4 9gJ A\$22,"&- #& A\$()/"3&- during the last year mentioned. The countries with the highest percentage #& A\$()/"3&- &" S-3/#, - Z"\$#, - -, " S2 R/2>/#,) ? C./3&A/2/F %, " 6G ? 27 percent respectively. The percentage of Central American migrants to destinations in Europe is concentrated in Spain, with 46 percent of Hondurans residing in that country.

According to this same study, emigration represents for the %&"3),/A&)\$%/" , - ."/ / 123&)"3\$>/ 1)/ M.\$) #& 2/ (.&))/ ? #& 2, - %, "=\$%- cess in the recent past and, later, an alternative to mitigate the effects of poverty and unemployment. However, it seriously jeopardizes the future development of the region, as a significant proportion of the population of productive age is lost.

Table 11: **F+= 5\$*2&%3)= #)%32+&5)2\$#&%+=**

GA+ XYZ	F<*&2)= 9) 9)=3\$%+			(5)=&=
J&M=)	Q+23)&562\$#&	-G	()=3+ 9), 5<%9+	b 9), JBL
Costa Rica	73.8	10.9	15.3	2.0
El Salvador	86.2	3.9	9.9	17.0
Guatemala	86.0	4.5	9.5	9.0
Honduras	81.8	8.6	9.6	28.0
Nicaragua	44.8	46.7	8.5	12.0
Panama	81.4	6.3	12.3	1.0

Source: State of the Nation, 2008.

Until recently, the issue of migrants was approached from a strictly economic perspective, measuring the impact of family remittances on national and family economies. However, in recent years it has begun to be analyzed from a human rights and security perspective, especially because most Central American migrants travel in irreplaceable (.2/)&- ? L)&%.&&"3&A&"3& -, " >@%3\$A/- #& 2, - 3)/+%/ "3&- ? 3)/3/"3&- #& people. Rocha (2010) and the State of the Nation reports of 2008 and 2011 raise some of the main critical issues regarding Central American migrants, which are contained in the following table.

Table 12: **!32& .\$.=\$>% 9) ,+= 5\$*2&%3)=**

SI= &,I 9) ,&= 2)5)=&=? +32& .\$.=\$>% 9) ,+= 5\$*2&%3)=

- ① S2 =.H, #& A\$("/"3&- M/ /.A&"3/#, %,"-\$#&)/82&A&"3& &" I&"3),/Ah)\$%/// and shows a sustained trend in that direction.
- ① An economic approach to the issue has been favored, with a strong emphasis on remittances.
- ① In recent years, the issue has acquired greater social and human rights relevance.
- ① There is a tendency to criminalize migrants, as can be seen in the region's laws, some studies and the media's approach.
- ① There are gaps in information on important aspects.
- ① Two of the most vulnerable groups are girls, boys and women, as they are more exposed to the violation of their human rights.
- ① Migrants are victims of constant violations of their human rights not only by governments, but also by the 3)/+%/"/"3&-g
- ① They are also victims of discrimination, xenophobia and disrespect. their labor rights.

Source: Prepared by the authors based on Rocha (2010) and State of the Nation (2008).

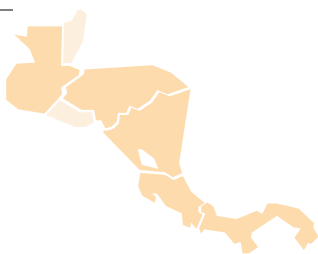
:, #2\$5)% 0 ,& .\$.+,)%#\$&

In addition to poverty and exclusion, the region's citizens also suffer from threats to their lives, physical integrity and security. Crimes against people are the order of the day in each of the Central American countries and have become the main source of their concerns. Threats and risks to people's security are of various types, the most important of which are expressed in the form of crime and violence.

In recent years, threats to people's integrity have been exacerbated, affecting particularly vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents and women. The northern countries (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras), recently referred to as the "northern triangle", show higher indicators of crime and violence, while the countries of the "southern triangle" (Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama) show lower indicators. In all the countries of the region, crime and criminality occupy the first place in the concern of citizens, with the exception of Nicaragua,⁶ and this perception is not at all far from reality.

6 <8 *2)28(,4- =2*)4-* (, 1+2 2* >4)(,((.+ (?(8 2*)+28/(8 72 -#4*4@** ,2(?4A(7(8 7+,(* /2 ?-8 B?C=-8 7-8 (D-8 =+283 /,(* 1+2 ?(4*82+,47(7 !((?)(?A(7- =(5-, 4=#-,/(*)4(2* ?(#2,)2#)4@*)4+7(7(*E 8-;,2 /-7-)+(* 7- 82 ,262,2 (? 2* /-,*- =F8)2,)(*- 72?)4+7(7(*-E #-, 2G2=#?- \$ 8+ ?-)(?47(7 5 ?+.(, (, 72 ,28472*)4('





F&= &*2)=\$+%)= #+%32& ,& . \$9&

Z", #& 2,- \$"#\$%/#,) &- T.& A*- 1)&,% .1/ &- 2/ 3/-/ #& M,A\$%\$#\$,- 1,) per 100 thousand inhabitants, as it shows how the number of deaths due to crime and violence has been increasing. In 2006, Central America had an average of 40 homicides per day (World Bank, 2011),⁷ making it the most violent region #&2 A. "#, #&-1.h- #& 2,- 1/@-&-&- &" %,"=\$%3,- 1,2@3\$%,-g

Table 13: N%9\$#) 9) 8+5\$#\$9\$9\$+= 4+2 #&9& \YYYY 5\$, 8&H\$3&%3)=

J&M=)	2000	2006	2008	2010
Belize				41.7
Costa Rica	6.3	8.0	11.0	10.5
El Salvador	37.3	58.0	52.0	62.0
Guatemala	25.8	45.0	48.0	41.3
Honduras	49.9	43.0	57.9	77.9
Nicaragua	9.0	14.0	13.0	13.2
Panama	10.1	11.0	19.2	21.0

<.&"3&; S" 8/-& / #/3,- 1)&-&"3/#,- &" PS`dE[ZWd<IS b9GDGcF]/"%, ^. "\$\$/2 b9GDDc ? R\l' b9GDDDCg

R&(O" &2 E[ZW b9GGJc &"3)& 2,- /N,- 9GGB ? 9GGB ? 9GG: -& 1),#.H&)," 5JFGGGGG
The countries with the highest rates were Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. However, in Costa Rica and Panama, rates doubled in 2007 and 2008. After homicides, the most serious and frequent crimes against persons in the Central American region are the following
-," 2/- /()&-\$,"&-\$,"&-F 2/- >\$,2/%\$,"&- ? 2,- -&%.&-3),-g U/ #&+%.23/# A*-
An important factor in the recording of this type of crime is the so-called "black figure", which is the number of crimes that occur but are not reported to the authorities. In the case of Central American countries, it is estimated that this underreporting is high. In 2007, the behavior of these acts of violence is shown in the following table.

7 H4* 2=;(-E 2? I*J-,=2 72? K>LM NOPPQ9 (6,=(1+2 #,(282 =48=- (D- ?(/8(#,-=274- 72 !=4)474-8 #,(?-8 842/2 #(R828)2*/,-(=2,4)(*8 J+2 72 00 #-,(7(SPP =4? !(;4/(*/28'

Table 14: $G^2 = \chi^2 / df = 542 / 3 = 180.67$, $p < 0.001$

J&M=	$G^2 = \chi^2 / df =$	$\chi^2 / df =$	$\chi^2 / df =$
Belize	542		0.3
Costa Rica			0.2
El Salvador			0.2
Guatemala		-	-
Honduras	-	1	0.3
Nicaragua	335		0.8
Panama	-		0.9

< 0.001; E[ZWF 9GGJg

Another analysis by the World Bank (2011) shows that violence also has economic consequences, especially when it threatens people's lives and health.

Table 15: $\chi^2 = 1.99$, $p = 0.16$, $JBLP = 0.001$

J&M=	b 9), JBL	$\chi^2 = 1.99$
Belize	--	--
Costa Rica	0.58	
El Salvador	1.99	271
Guatemala	1.43	289
Honduras	1.31	
Nicaragua	0.96	
Panama	0.63	

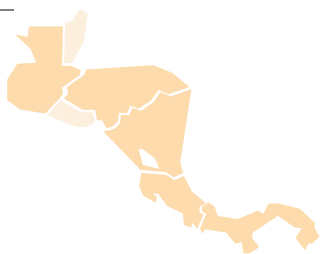
Source: World Bank, 2011...

$\chi^2 = 1.99$, $p = 0.16$, $JBLP = 0.001$

The most serious crime against the integrity of persons is that of children. From the analysis of the data, it can be seen that the most common type of violence against children and adolescents is physical violence. However, there is also psychological violence, sexual violence, and abuse by authorities, mistreatment of minors, abuse by authorities, mistreatment of

8 In this regard, it is important to mention that no regional reports were found that provide an updated diagnosis.





domestic violence, sexual abuse, labor exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation.

F& 5&*%\$3<9 9) ,& .\$.+,%#\$& #+32& %\$A+= 0 %\$A&=)%), 5<%9+

WHO estimates that, in 2002, about 53,000 children died worldwide as a result of homicides.

The Global School Health Survey conducted in a wide range of developing countries showed that between 20 and 65 percent of school-age children reported being verbally or physically bullied at their school in the preceding 30 days. Similar rates of bullying have been found in industrialized countries.

In 2002, an estimated 150 million girls and 73 million boys under the age of 18 experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual violence with physical contact.

Estimates made by the ILO in 2004 indicate that 218 million children were engaged in child labor and 126 million in forced labor. Estimates for 2000 indicate that 5.7 million were engaged in forced or bonded labor, 1.8 million were sexually exploited through prostitution and pornography, and 1.2 million were victims of trafficking.

The highest rates of homicides of minors are among adolescents, especially boys, aged 15 to 17 years (3.28 per 100,000 for girls and 9.06 for boys) and among children aged 0 to 4 years (1.99 for girls and 2.09 for boys).

WHO estimates that between 11.3 - 25.5 million children witness domestic violence in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Source: WHO, 2002.

S2 \$"L,)A& -,8)& &2 &-3/#, #& 2/ \$"L/"%\$/ &" &2 A. "#, #& Z[IS< b9GD9c
The report reports on the main protection indicators.

Table 16: **J2\$%#\$4&.)= \$%9\$#&9+2)= 9) 42+3)##\$>%)% -)%32+&&562\$#&**

J&M=)	12&H&U+ \$%D&%3\$, 2000-2010*			S&32\$5+%%\$+ 42)#+V 2000-2010**		e<=3\$"#&#\$>% 9) *+,4)&2 & ,& 5<U)2 2002-2010***		@\$=#\$4,\$%& .\$+,)%3& 2005- 2010****
	1	H	M	-&=&9+= & ,+= \^ &A+=	-&=&9+= & ,+= \^ &A+=	H	M	
Belize			42	--	--	--		
Costa Rica	5			--	--	--	--	--
El Salvador	5			5		--	--	--
Guatemala		--	--			--	--	--
Honduras						--		--
Nicaragua						--		--
Panama				--	--	--	--	--

<.&"3&; Z[\IS< :9GD9g

* **12&H&U+ \$%D&%3\$,**: Percentage of children 5 to 14 years old who were working at the time of the survey. A child is considered to be engaged in child labor when the following conditions are present: children aged 5 to 11 years who, during the reference week, performed an economic activity for at least one hour or performed household chores for at least 28 hours and children aged 12 to 14 years who, during the reference week of the survey, performed an economic activity for at least 14 hours or performed household chores for at least 28 hours.

** **S&32\$5+%%\$+ 42)#+V**: Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were already married or in some type of relationship before their 15th birthday and percentage of women aged 20-24 who were already married or in some type of relationship before their 18th birthday.

*** **e<=3\$"#&#\$>% 9) *+,4)&2 & ,& 5<U)2**: Percentage of women aged 15-49 who consider themselves to be H.-3\$+%/#, T.& ." A/\$#, (.21&&& / -. A.H&) 1,) /2 A&,"- ." / #& 2/-)/K,"&- &-1&%\$+%/#/-F &-#&%\$)F -\$ woman burns food, argues with him, goes outside without telling him, neglects children, or refuses to have sex.

**** **@\$=#\$4,\$%& .\$.+)%3&** : Percentage of children 2-14 years old who suffer some type of violent discipline (psychological aggression and/or physical punishment).

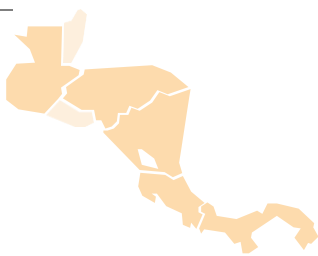
S2 \$"L,)A&)&>&2/ T.& &" 2/)&(\$4" &0\$-3& ." #h+%%\$3 #& \$"L,)A/%\$4" &" in relation to child protection systems, since not all countries generate information to feed the data of the most sensitive protection indicators. In addition, it is clear that child labor is still a reality that forces children to provide for their own livelihoods.

F& .\$.+)%#\$& #+%%32& ,&= %\$A&= 0 ,&= 5<U)2)=

Another of the groups most affected by violence and crimes against life and integrity of persons is that of girls and women. The most serious acts of violence are femicide, sexual violence and domestic or intra-family violence.

In relation to femicide, the study by Carcedo (2010) distinguishes two different behaviors among Central American countries in terms of homicides of women and femicides. In the first





Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador have the highest homicide rates; the other group includes Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, with lower rates. However, the percentage of femicides in relation to the number of homicides of women rises above 70 percent in all countries, with the exception of Guatemala, where it reaches 40 percent.

Table 17: **R)5\$#\$9\$ \$+=)% -)%32+&562\$#&&**

1&=& 9) D)5\$#\$9\$ \$+= E #&9& \YYPYYY 5<U)2)= 2005	
Guatemala	7.96
El Salvador	11.15
Honduras	4.69
Nicaragua	2.18
Costa Rica	1.78
Panama	2.18

Source: IIDH, 2006.

According to research conducted by Carcedo (2010) and the IIDH (2006), there are very few studies on the subject in the region. There is also little updated data by country and by region. In general, 2/ "\$L,)A/%\$4" &- #& 1,%/ %/2\$#/# ? 2,- 3)/8/H,-)&/2\$K/#,- %, "+)A/" 2/ the premise that femicide is an expression of power, domination, and control by men over women. Femicides are generally preceded by sexual attacks and are characterized by overkill against the victim's body. Most femicides are committed with firearms. Young women are most at risk, both in the domestic sphere and in public spaces.

As mentioned above, in the case of sexual crimes and domestic violence against women, underreporting is high and, moreover, there is divergence in the data presented by the different institutions.

%,,"&-F #& A/"&)/ T.& 2/- &-3/#@-3\$%/- ", -\$&A1)&)&=&H/" 2/)&/2\$#/#/# #&& this type of violence.

Table 18: **@),\$3+= =)E<&,)=)% -+=3& (\$#&P
:, 7&,,&9+2P K<&3)5&, 0 Q\$#&2&*<&P XYY^**

J&M)=	/ \$-+,&#\$ +%)=	@),\$3+= =)E<&,)=
Costa Rica	1,523	5,178
El Salvador	1,770	610
Guatemala	314	-
Nicaragua	718	-

<.&"3&; E[ZWF 9GGJg

young women are the main victims of sexual violence and shows as examples the cases of Nicaragua and Honduras, where more than 60 percent of rapes and between 50 and 90 percent of sexual assaults are committed against women under 20 years of age. The same source indicates that around 7 million women in the region have suffered violence at some time, 2.5 million have been sexually abused and more than 3 million have been threatened by their partners or ex-partners.

Figure 9: Percentage of adult victims of armed robbery and burglary in Central America, 2010

Meanwhile, in the case of crimes against property, robbery, theft and fraud are the most frequent and violent. According to the report prepared by the World Bank (2011), the countries with the highest percentage of adult victims of armed robbery are Guatemala and El Salvador; while the countries with the highest percentage of adult victims of burglary are Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Table 19: Percentage of adult victims of armed robbery and burglary in Central America, 2010

Country	Armed robbery (%)	Burglary (%)	Percentage of adult victims (%)
Belize	46.1	33.7	n.a.
Costa Rica	5.3	5.4	
El Salvador	10.6	4.3	
Guatemala	11.4	4.4	
Honduras	5.8	2.9	
Nicaragua	5.6	4.6	
Panama	3.8	3.8	

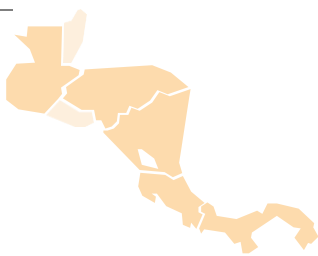
Sources: Population and Housing Census, 2010 and World Bank, 2011.

With the exception of armed robbery, these types of crimes are less dangerous than crimes against life and personal integrity, but they produce an increase in perceptions of insecurity.

Figure 10: Percentage of adult victims of armed robbery and burglary in Central America, 2010

In Central America, organized crime takes two forms: transnational crime organizations and critical organizations. The first type of organization is characterized by its structure, which is based on a hierarchy of command and control, and its activities are often transnational in scope. The second type of organization is characterized by its structure, which is based on a network of individuals, and its activities are often localized in scope.





-& /+)A/ T.& l&"3),/Ah)\$%/ &- A*- >.2"&)/82& / 2/- ,)/("\$K/%\$, "&-%- %)\$- A\$"/2&- 3)/"-"/%\$, "/2&- %,A12&H/- ? -,+-3\$%/#/-F 3/2&- %,A, 2,- %/)3&2&- #&")%,3)*+%,F 2/-)&#&&- #& 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& /)A/- #& L.&,(F 2/-)&#&- #& 3)/3/ #& 1&)-, "/- ? 2/-)&#&- T.& 3)/+%/ " %, " A\$("/3&-g R& %, "-\$#&)/ T.& .", #& 2,- L/%3,)&- T.& A*- \$"= .?& &" &22, &- 2/ (2,8/2\$K/%\$4 "g

The organized criminal activity that most affects the region is drug trafficking. 3)*+%,g E,) l&"3),/Ah)\$%/ ? ^h0\$%, 3)/"-3\$/ &2 JG 1,) %\$&&"3, #& 2/ 1),- duction of psychotropic substances, particularly cocaine, on a route that runs from south to north, between the main cocaine-producing countries of the world.

)&(\$4" ? S-3/#,- Z"\$#,-F T.\$&" &- &2 1)\$"%\$1/2 %, "-.A\$#,)g

Z" &-3.\$#,)&%\$&"3&)&2\$K/#, 1,) &2 \SSEE bP),K%,F 9GDGc \$"#\$%\$/ T.& 2/ region has gone from being a simple corridor for drug transportation, to being a service station for temporary storage, supply #& %,A8.-3\$82& ? ,3)/- ,1&)/%\$, "&- 2,(@-3\$%/- #& 2,- "/)%3)/+%/ "3&-g

This organized criminal activity brings with it five serious threats to the region's security: an increase in homicides and violence in general, especially in the form of hired killings; local consumption of #,)/(F / +" #& %)&/))&#&&- #& %, "-.A\$#,)&- &"3)& 2/- 1&)-, "/- H4>&-

The following are some of the main causes of organized crime in the region: the use of public institutions to protect and collaborate with the movement of shipments; the encouragement and strengthening of other forms of organized crime, such as trafficking in persons, commercial sexual exploitation, sex tourism and child pornography; corruption of public institutions and money laundering; the dedication of substantial state resources to combat these crimes and threats to democratic and institutional stability.

Among the local expressions of organized crime, one of the most worrisome in the region are the youth gangs or "maras". W& /%.&)#, %, " &2 E[ZW b9GGJc k2/- 1/"#\$22/- #& H4>&"&- -, " ." L&"4- complex, heterogeneous, and changing environment in Central

America". Table 20: J&%9\$,,&= U<.)%\$,)=)% -)%32+&562\$#&P

XXXXZ

J&M=	K2<4+=	J&%9\$,,)2+=
Belize		
Costa Rica		2,660
El Salvador		10,500
Guatemala	432	14,000
Honduras		36,000
Nicaragua	268	4,500
Panama		1,385



In general, all countries in the region experience the gang phenomenon and it mainly affects young people, but there are some countries where it has spread and become more complex, such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

According to World Bank analysis (2011), the level of gang organization, the availability of firearms and their relationship with high social impact crimes such as homicides, easily link them to the gangs.

%, " 2,- ().1,- #& %) \$A&" ,) (/ " \$K / #, F &- 1& % \$ / 2A&" 3& & 2" /) % , 3) * + % , F ? 2,- becomes its agents.

In the recent past, the most affected countries have opted to apply heavy-handed policies to deal with it, but these have not solved the problem, but rather have aggravated it, adding to the constant violation of the human rights of citizens in general.⁹ Some non-governmental organizations in countries such as Honduras consider T.& & 2 L&" 4A&" , #& 2 / - 1 / " # \$ 22 / - - & M / A (" \$ + % / # , 1 /) / / 2 & " 3 /) ? H.- 3 \$ + - car processes of strengthening the police institution.¹⁰

R+2)= D&#\$, \$3&9+2)= 9) ,& . \$ + ,) % # \$ &

W \$ L &) " 3 &- &- 3. # \$, -) & / 2 \$ K / # , - , 8) & 2 / > \$, 2 & " % \$ / ? & 2 %) \$ A &" \$ # & " 3 \$ + % / " . " / - &) \$ & # & L / % 3 ,) &- # & \$ " = . & " % \$ / , L / % \$ 2 \$ 3 / # ,) &- T. & > / " # &- # & & 2 " \$ > & 2 structural (political and governance conditions) to situational (local and community) and personal factors. In the case of Central America) \$ % / " L ,) A &-) & % \$ & " 3 &- , 8) & & 2 3 & A / # & 2] / " % , ^ . " # \$ / 2 b9GDDc ? E [ZW (2009) mention factors such as: the availability of firearms, corruption in public institutions, the threat of organized crime K / # , F 1 /) 3 \$ % . 2 /) A & " 3 & & 2 " /) % , 3) * + % , ? 2 / - % , " # \$ % \$, " &- , % \$, & % , " 4 A \$ % / - countries.

In relation to the availability of firearms and their link to crime and violence, there is no doubt that this is a factor of great importance.

= % \$ / g R & % / 2 % . 2 / T. & 1 /) & 2 / N , 9GG5 M / 8 @ / % &) % / # & 6gi A \$ 22 , " &- # & legal and illegal firearms circulating in the region. Between 2000 and 2006, the importance of firearms increased in all countries.

` # & A * - F - & M / \$ # & " 3 \$ + % / # , T. & - \$ 2 /) . 3 / # & 2 " /) % , 3) * + % , &- - .) d " ,) 3 & F & " & 2 % / - , # & 2 3) * + % , \$ 2 @ % \$ 3 , # & /) A / - F &- / 2 / \$ " > &) - / F # & " ,) 3 & / - .) j

9 On the subject see also T @ = (, 4A U - , (. (. (E OPSS and V2 @ * 3 < 8) , 4 ; (* - E OPSP.

10 On this issue, see Diagnóstico situacional de las maras y pandillas en los municipios de la zona metropolitana del Valle de Sula, 2002 and Bardales, 2003.



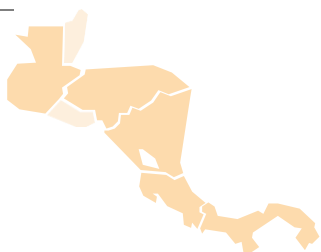


Table 21: **G25&= 9) D<)*+)% 5&%+= 9) #\$.\$.)=P XYYYa**

J&M=)=	G25&= 2)*\$=32&9&=	G25&=)=3\$5&9&=	G25&= 4+2 #&9& \YYY 4)2=+%&==
Costa Rica	43,241	115,000	2.8
El Salvador	198,000	450,000	7.0
Guatemala	147,581	1.950,000	15.8
Honduras	133,185	450,000	6.2
Nicaragua	–	385,000	7.0
Panama	96,600	525,600	5.4

Source: World Bank, 2011.

The most recent analyses on firearms in the region indicate that there is no clear evidence of a relationship between firearms availability and high levels of violence as a consequence of 2,- 1/-/#,- %,"=\$%3,- 8h2\$%,-g R& M/" L,)A.2/#, #-, M\$143&-\$- 1)/ &0--

The first argues that the war established the The first argues that the war established a % .23.)/ #& >\$,2&"%\$/ T.& 22&>/ /)&,-2>&) 2,- %,"=\$%3,- #& L,)A/ >\$,2&"3/F above the law and with retaliatory actions. The other hypothesis planned 3&/ T.& 2,-)&%\$&"3&- %,"=\$%3,- /)A/#,- %, "3)\$8.?&)," / \$"%)&A&"3/) 2,- levels of violence through the transfer of arms and ammunition to the region.

Other factors related to crime and violence are found in the governance conditions of each of the countries in the region. According to studies conducted by LAPOP¹¹ and the World Bank (2011), there is a close relationship between crime and violence.

? /2(. "- \$"#\$%/#,)&- %2/>& #& (,8&)"8\$2\$#/# 3/2&- %,A, 2/ %, "+/"K/ #& citizens in public institutions and corruption.

According to these studies, crime and violence have a significant effect on -,8)& 2/- \$"-3\$3.%\$,"&- 1082\$%/- &" 3)&- -&"3\$#,-; #&\$-A\$".?&" 2/ %, "+/"- The higher the level of violence, the more visible these effects are, as in the cases of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The higher the level of violence, the more visible these effects are, as in the cases of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

But the relationship between criminality, institutionalism and governance is a two-way street because, although the rates of violence affect the growth of the country's economy, they also have a positive impact on the economy and the economy as a whole, and the relationship between crime, institutionalism and governance is twofold.

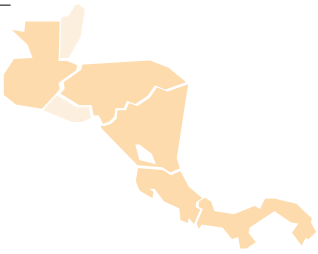
&- %\$&&)3, T.& 2/- #&8\$2\$#/#&- ? #&+%\$&"%\$/- \$"-3\$3.%\$,"/2&- %,A, 2/ %,- rruption contribute to increased crime and violence. This is the

11 W2, ?-8 74J2,2*/28 28/+74-8,2{?4A(7-8 #-, 2? V(C* X=2,4)(* K+;?4) Y#4*4-* K,-G2)/E VXXYK\$!"#\$%&&&&Z(*72;4?/' 27+%(#-#%



organized crime has been gradually eating away at state institutions, especially those that form part of the criminal justice system in each of the countries of the region, and has been taking control of certain territories where the state presence is weak, as has occurred in some areas of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

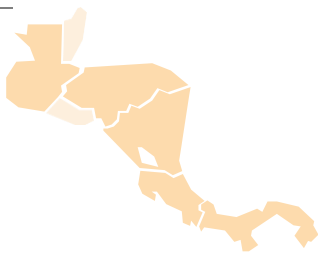






BBBC F& 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&==





The Central American context of violence and exclusion is the environment in which human trafficking exists as a social phenomenon and as a crime. U/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/- &- ." #&&2\$3, %,A12&H, ? -& #&\$L&)"%\$/ #&2 3)*+%, #& people in their nature and forms. On many occasions it is often confused or conflated with it, either because in reality many irregular migrants become victims of traffickers, 1,)T.& 2/- 2&(\$-2/%\$, "&- "/%\$, "/2&- ", -," -.+%\$&"3&A&"3& %2/)/- 1/)/ differentiate the two types of crimes, or because people tend to confuse them.

`2 \$(. /2 T.& &2"/)%3)*+%, ? &2 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& /)A/- #& L.&(,F 2/ 3)/3/ #& people is one of the expressions of organized crime in the region; however, so far it has not been given the same priority as these crimes, so that intervention actions by public institutions and social organizations are still incipient. A multidimensional and comprehensive approach is required to address this problem in order to intervene in the environmental factors that lead to it and to provide better care for the victims. It is therefore important to understand its characteristics and how it has evolved in each of the countries of the region.

This chapter presents a summary of the most important characteristics of the crime of trafficking in persons in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. An attempt has been made to include statistical data on cases and victims in order to measure the crime and its evolution over time; however, this information is limited and incomplete in some cases for various reasons, ranging from the low level of reporting of cases to the complexity of the criminal justice systems in each of the countries, 1/-/"#, 1,) 2/ #&+%\$&"%\$/ &" &2 -&(\$A\$&"3, #& 2/- &-3/#@-3\$%/-g `#&A*- includes sections describing the methods used by traffickers to recruit and exploit their victims, the characteristics of their organizations K/%\$, "&- %) \$A\$"/2&- ? ." 1&)+2 #& 2,- 3)/3/"3&-F /-@ %,A, 2/- K,"/- #& risk of each of the countries.

F& \$%D+25&#\$>% 9\$=4+%\$H,)

As mentioned above, trafficking in persons is a crime of recent intervention for the different actors in the region. In the Report 1,) &2 E[ZW b9GGJc -& /+)A/ T.& -& -/8& 1,%, #& &-3& #&2\$3,g W.)/"3& the last few years a series of investigations have been carried out in an attempt to dimension the problem and analyze it from different perspectives. Z"/ -&\$- 3&A/3\$K/%\$4")&(\$, "/2 #& 2,- 3)/8/H,-,-,8)& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 commercial and trafficking in persons conducted by Paz (2011) indicates that between 2000 and 2010 only 8 percent of the work carried out

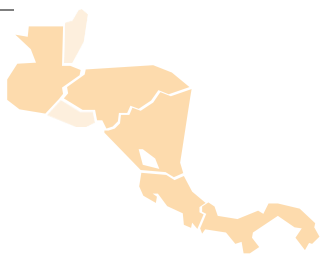
The studies on the subject of trafficking in persons. However, in the course of this research it was found that during the last five years in the region there have been a considerable number of studies on the subject from a regional, national and local perspective. The main characteristics of these studies are as follows:

- ① Most of them are diagnostic reports or baselines to understand the characteristics and dimensions of crime, either in the re- (\$4 "F & " 2,- 1/@- & , &" 2,%/2\$#/#&- &-1&%@+%/&- &-1&%@+%/ -g
- ① Most of these studies were prepared between 2005 and 2007, so that some of this information has already been overtaken by the evolution of the crime. More recently, in countries such as Nicaragua, efforts have been made to update the general information on this crime, while in other countries such as El Salvador, progress has been made in more qualitative aspects such as the characteristics of the victims and their resilience capacities.¹² Not all countries have the same information or the same level of quality.
- ① S2 h "L/- \$- #& 2,- &-3.\$\$, - &- 2/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-, "/- %, " + "&- #& &012,3/- commercial sexual exploitation, as well as the transnational dimension of the crime. E, %, - & %, ", %& -, 8)& 2/ 3)/3/ \$"3&)" /n 2/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-, "/- %, " + "&- labor exploitation, servitude, among others. The characteristics of the perpetrators, the organized crime structures involved in this crime and the relationship established between demand/client/exploiter have also not been studied.
- ① E)*%3\$%/A&"3& 3,#,- 2,- 1/@- &- &- M/")&/2\$K/#, A/1&,- (&,()*+%, - ? social trafficking routes.¹³ However, not all the actors involved in the mapping process provide all the information available to them and not all the recommendations of the resulting mappings are used in the design of prevention and protection policies (Grillo, 2010).
- ① A series of regulations, protocols and documents have also been produced in an attempt to improve inter-institutional coordination at the national and regional levels, as well as to improve the quality of institutional actions in the treatment of cases at different stages, especially with regard to victim care and protection.

12 See, for example, the studies carried out by Save the Children: Study of good practices of Salvadoran families and communities that help prevent human trafficking. From the perspective #& 2/ #&->\$/%\$4" 1,- \$3\$>/ b9GGDcF W&->\$/%\$4" 1,- \$3\$>/ &" 2/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-, "/- g Z" &-3.\$\$, %./2\$3/3\$>, -, 8)& conditions that help survivors not to reoffend as victims of this crime (2011), La trata de personas en El Salvador. Estudio sobre conocimientos, actitudes y prácticas en estudiantes y otros actores del sistema educativo (2011) and La trata de personas en El Salvador. Characterization of the victim and the trafficker (2011).

13 U,- A/1&,- (&,()*+%, - ? -, %/\$2&- #& 2/-).3/- #& 3)/3/ #& 1&)-, "/- -, " ."/ A&3,#,2,(@/ #& \$">&-3\$(- Save the Children has developed in the region for the criminal investigation of crime.





F&= #&2)2M=3\$#&= 9) ,& 32&3&

The crime of trafficking in persons, due to its transnational nature, presents some similar characteristics in the countries of the region, but also has particular expressions in each of them. From the M/22/K(- #& 2,- &-3.#\$, - "/%\$, "/2&-F -& 1.&#& /+)A/) T.& 2/)&(\$4" &- a site of recruitment, transit and exploitation for trafficking victims with different emphases. But viewed from a regional perspective, Central America is primarily a recruitment region for victims who follow the transit route to destinations in the north of the continent such as Mexico, S-3/#,- Z"\$#,- ? &" A&"), A&#\$\$/F I/" /#* ? S.), 1/g S-3, T.\$&&)& #&%\$) that all of them are equally affected by internal and inter-national trafficking.

S2 #&2\$3, &- %,A&3\$#, 1)\$"%\$1/2A&"3& 1/)/ +"&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 %, - commercial, labor exploitation and sex tourism in almost all countries, however, in Guatemala it also occurs in the form of adoption, labor exploitation and sexual tourism. %\$, "&- \$))&(.2/)&- ? &" X, "#.)/- -& M/" \$#&"3\$+%/#, %/-,- >\$"%2/#,- with the removal of organs and tissues.

Most of the victims are nationals of each country; however, in countries such as Belize and Costa Rica, there have been cases involving victims from other countries in the region, the rest of Latin America and Asian countries, not only for commercial sexual exploitation but also for labor exploitation, forced labor and serfdom. In El Salvador and Guatemala there have also been cases involving victims from neighboring countries such as Nicaragua and Honduras. Meanwhile, in the case of Honduras and Nicaragua, the information available seems to indicate that internal trafficking predominates in these countries and that at a certain point, the victims are transferred to other countries in the region to be exploited in the sex and labor trade.

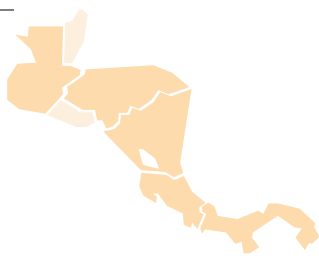
Table 22: **Uptake, transit and destination. Sexual exploitation, sex tourism, labor exploitation. National victims and victims from other countries in the region. Operating customers from Canada, the United States**

L), \$#)	Uptake, transit and destination. Sexual exploitation, sex tourism, labor exploitation. National victims and victims from other countries in the region. Operating customers from Canada, the United States Z"\$#,-g
-+=3& (\$#&	Uptake, transit and destination. Sexual exploitation, labor exploitation and sex tourism. National victims and from the rest of Central America, Latin America and Asia. E. "3, #& 3)"-\$3, #& A\$()/"3&- M/%\$/ S-3/#,- Z"\$#,-g
:, 7&,.&9+2	Recruitment, transit and destination. Sexual exploitation, labor exploitation. National victims and victims from neighboring countries. National victims of trafficking in different countries of the region. region and the rest of the world.
K<&3)5&,&	Uptake, transit and destination. Sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, irregular adoptions, forced labor. Victims from neighboring countries. Nationals, victims from other countries and migrants en route M/%\$/ ^h0\$%, ? S-3/#,- Z"\$#,-g Destination country for victims from El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.
O+9<2&=	Catchment and transit. Sexual exploitation, labor exploitation and sex tourism. Victims from neighboring countries and nationals from rural areas.
Q\$#&2&*<&	Uptake, transit and destination. Commercial sexual exploitation and sex tourism. Victims from rural areas exploited in urban centers and neighboring countries. W&2\$3,)&2/%\$,"/#, &-3)&%M/A&"3& %," =.H,- A\$()/3,)\$,- and international.
J&%&5I	Uptake, transit and destination. Commercial sexual and labor exploitation. National victims and victims from other Central American countries. National victims in other countries.

Source: Own elaboration based on country studies.

U/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/-F -,8)& 3,#, /T.&22/ %, " + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&&0./2
%,A&)%\$/2F %,.)& & & " 2,%/2\$#/#&- #, "#& -& 1)&-&"3/ ." A/?,) =.H, #&&
such as border areas and ports; urban centers; and the urban centers of the
",- ? 2/- 2,%/2\$#/#&- %, " /=.&"%\$/ #& 3.)\$-3/-g ^\$&"3)/- 3/"3,F 2/ 3)/3/ #&&
1&)-,"/- %, " + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" 2/8,)/2 A.%M/- >&%&- ,%.))& &&" K,"/-





and in urban centers. Another characteristic that traffickers take advantage of is the lack of state presence and control in some areas to set up and operate with impunity.

F+= #&=+=

Statistical monitoring of cases of trafficking in persons makes it possible to account for its characteristics and evolution over time. In this regard, the institutions responsible for receiving complaints and processing them in the criminal justice system of each country have begun to record data on the cases and victims of this crime. However, the scarcity of information, the low level of complaints and the lack of an effective system for data reconciliation and follow-up in all countries is

."/ #& 2/- #&+%.23/#&- A*- \$A1,)3/"3&- 1)/ 2/ #&+"\$%\$4" #&/%%%\$,"&- of intervention. The data currently available are dissimilar across countries due to several reasons, including:

- ① The different institutions of the criminal justice system do not keep systematic and exhaustive records of cases, the number of victims and other characteristics of the crime, so that the possibilities for monitoring the evolution of its behavior are limited. In several of the countries this is a statistic that has been compiled recently, following the entry into force of the Palermo Protocol and the 2&(\$-2/%\$4" &-1&%@@+%/ -,8)&&-3& #&2\$3, L,)A.2/#/ &" %/#/ .", #& 2,- countries.
 - ① In most cases, victims do not report the crime due to fear, ignorance, shame, among other reasons, so that a large number of cases are underreported. This high number of cases seriously limits the possibilities of prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators, as well as the restitution of rights to the victims.
 - ① Inter-institutional coordination and the exchange of information is still incipient both within countries and within the region, so that, despite the efforts made, it has not been possible to reconcile data that would indicate the level of effectiveness of public institutions in the treatment of each of the cases.
 - ① In general, the data collected by the institutions do not coincide with each other for different reasons, either because the victim decides to discontinue the judicial process or because the institutions are unable to reconcile the data, so that the information in each of the segments or stages in the processing of the cases does not have the same information as in the other segments.
- %,M&)"%\$/ ? ", 1&)A\$3&" \$##"3\$+%/) 2/ &>.2.%\$4" #& %/#/ %/-, &" 1/- ticular and overall. This means that there are differences between the number of cases and victims recorded as having been attended to in shelters, the number of cases reported to institutions, and the number of cases reported to the shelters.

1,2\$%\$/2&- ? H.#\$%\$/2&-F ? 2,- T.& +"/2A&"3& -, " 1),%&-/#,- ?)&-.&23,- by the systems of administration of justice.

I, " 3,#,F &- 1,-\$82& \$##"3\$+%/) T.& &0\$-3&" #>&)-, - &-L.&)K,- 1/)&-&- To collect more and better information about the cases and victims of A/"&)/ %, "+/82& ? /%3./2\$K/#/F / + " #&)&(\$-3)/ ? #/) -&(. \$A\$&"3, / 2/ evolution of the behavior of this crime in each of the countries of the region.

Table 23: -&=+= 9) 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&=)% -)%32+&562\$#&P XYYf g XYY\\&&&.

J&M=	1+3&,	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^a
Belize		n.a.	n.d	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Costa Rica									
El Salvador	445								
Guatemala ^b								173	
Honduras		n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		n.a.
Nicaragua ^c		6d	7d	6d					
Panama		n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.			

a: Data corresponding to the first half of 2011.

b; W/3,- #&2 ^"\$-3&)\$, EO82\$%, %\$3/#,- 1,) 7/3/ #& 1&)-,"/- &" C./3&A/2/ b9GDG ? 9GDDc ? ZE7EdEWX (2012). Data for 2011 corresponding to the January-October period.

c: Based on data from Casa Alianza, Leiva Cantarero, 2011 and Ministerio Público.

d: Data corresponds only to cases of children and adolescents served by Casa Alianza.

Most of the cases of human trafficking documented by victim assistance organizations, police institutions and institutions of the justice administration system are cases of commercial sexual exploitation. Other cases that have been presented are related to labor exploitation, irregular adoptions and other typologies.

In some countries, an increase in the number of reported cases can be observed, which indicates, from the authorities' point of view, that in reality only a few cases are reported, but also that the prevention and information campaigns carried out so far have had an effect.

F&= .M#3\$5&==

The crime of trafficking in persons has terrible effects on its victims, which is why it is essential to have a characterization as #&3/22/#/ 1,- \$82& #& &22/- / + " #& #& #&+"\$) 2/- /%\$\$,"&- #& 1)&>&&"%\$4" ? attention. But, as with the cases, there are incomplete data and partial descriptions of the characteristics of trafficking victims.



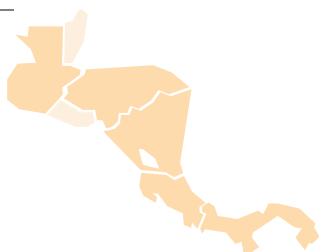


Table 24: **Number of cases of human trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean, 2004-2011**

J&M=	1+3&,	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^a
Belize		n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		n.a.
Costa Rica		n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
El Salvador ^b	460	65.7	65.7	65.7	65.7	65.7	65.7	65.7	n.a.
Guatemala	1,851 ^c	–	–	–	838 ^d	–	–	356	212
Honduras		n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		n.a.
Nicaragua		5e	7e	8e	e				
Panama	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

a: Data corresponding to the first half of 2011.

b: There is no disaggregated data for the period, so an average number of cases was calculated for each year.

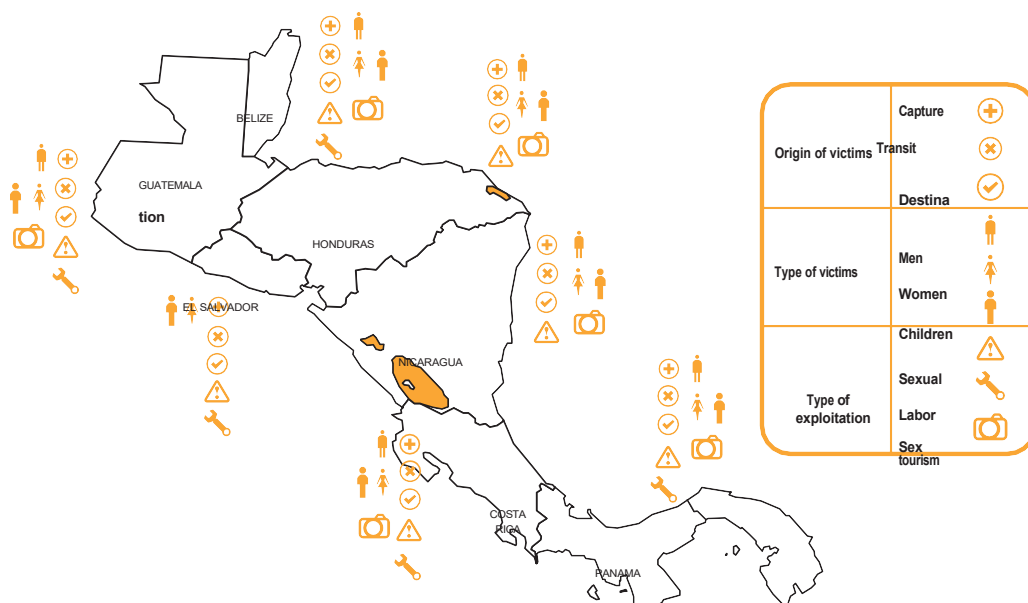
c: Data from the Public Prosecutor's Office for the period 2000-October 2011, cited in PDH report (2011) and ZE7EdEWX b9GD9cg

#: Z[PWI b9GG5c %\$3/#, 1,) S-3)/#/ b9GGJcg

e: Data corresponding only to cases of children and adolescents served by Casa Alianza.

According to the results of the studies carried out in each of the countries, the type of victim depends on the modality of exploitation. In the case of commercial sexual exploitation, which is one of the most widely known in the region, the main victims are adolescents, girls, boys and women; while adult men are mainly victims of trafficking. In this regard, children and adolescents are usually the victims of trafficking, and other forms of exploitation, such as sex tourism and servitude, among others. Adult and young adult women are victims of commercial sexual exploitation and labor exploitation. In the case of adult men, they are victims of labor exploitation and forced labor. Although there are regional similarities, each country presents particularities in the characteristics of the victims.

Map 1: Human trafficking in Central America



Source: Own elaboration.

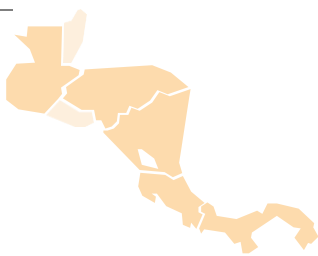
In Central America, trafficking victims are both women and men, nationals and from other countries in the region, mainly El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Cases have even been found of victims originating from Nepal and India. Authorities consider that all age groups are equally affected. In the case of girls and boys, it has been identified that around 12 years of age, suffer from STIs, have undergone abortions or are HIV carriers.

The modalities of human trafficking in the country are varied, but among the most frequent are commercial sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, especially in agriculture and fishing, sex tourism and domestic work.

Most of the victims are girls, young women and women who are sexually abused, and in some coastal towns there are known cases of girls who are victims of sex tourism when cruise ships dock there. Children are unprotected by current legislation in the case of sexual abuse, and in some cases they are sexually exploited.

In Nicaragua, the victims are both nationals and foreigners from different countries in the region, but mainly from Nicaragua. Victims of other nationalities are also recorded (Republic of Nicaragua).





Dominican Republic, Colombia, Asia). In 60 percent of the cases, the victims are women, especially when it comes to commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, while the victims of labor exploitation and forced labor (agro-industry, construction and fishing) are mostly men.

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In the case of women, the age range most affected is between 13 and 35 years, while in the case of men it is between 17 and 50 years. In other words, young people and adults of fully productive age. Although the authorities state that they do not have any information
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A/- #& 3)/3/ %, " +"&- #& 3.)\$-A, -&0./2 \$"L/"3\$2g

From the point of view of some organizations and specialists on the subject, in **78,9+2** ", &- 1,-\$82& M/82/) #& ." 1&)+2 #& 2/->@%3\$A/- of trafficking, since there are cases that do not correspond only to poor strata or marginalized populations. Despite the diversity, some of the most relevant characteristics are: more than half are nationals of El Salvador, followed by victims from Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. Most of them are children, adolescents and women.

According to a study conducted by Save the Children (2011), the age range of most victims is between 12 and 17 years old. They come from environments where family detachment prevails, they have had experiences of early sexual relations, there is a history of abuse and a low schooling average marked by non-attendance and dropout.

In the case of **K<83)58,&** #&\$-3\$"3,- \$"L,)A&-)&/2\$K/#,- 1,) 2/ZE7EdEWX (2012) indicate that the most affected group is women (88 percent of cases), followed by men and, to a lesser extent, boys and girls. Among the most frequent forms of human trafficking are reported: commercial sexual exploitation, child pornography, sex tourism and, although there are no precise and updated data, the issue of irregular adoptions and the sale of children is considered one of the most frequent forms of human trafficking in the country. In this case, children are the most affected group.

According to the report presented by CICIG (2010), this type of human trafficking is carried out by well-organized groups of organized crime with the collaboration of officials in different state institutions. Most of the children adopted in irregular conditions are taken out of the country with destination 1)\$"%\$1/2A&"3& M/%\$/ S-3/#,- Z"\$#,-g R& &-3\$A/ T.& & &"3)& 2,- /N,- 9GG6

and 2007 there were 18,376 irregular adoptions of Guatemalan children (Estrada, 2009).

In **O+9<2&=** the baseline conducted in 2010 by the IPSVT (Integra-3\$"(E),3&%3\$," R&)>\$%&- L,) f\$ % 3\$A- ,L 7)/L+%Y\$"(\$" X, "#.)/-c M/ 1&)A\$- The most relevant data indicate that 60 percent of the cases correspond to commercial sexual exploitation, followed by labor exploitation, labor and work.¹⁴ The most relevant ones indicate that 60 percent of the cases correspond to commercial sexual exploitation, followed by labor exploitation, work, and -&)>\$%\$,- L,)K/#,-F -&)>\$#.A8)& ? %/-,- ", %, "+)A/#,- #& &03)/%\$\$\$4" #&& organs and tissues.

The same report by Berríos (2010) indicates that 71 percent of the victims are women and 29 percent are men. The majority of victims of commercial sexual exploitation are female and the majority of victims of forced labor and services are male. Sixty-three percent are under the age of 18, 25 percent are over the age of 18, and the age of 12 percent of the victims is unknown. Another report¹⁵ conducted in 2011 analyzed cases of irregular migrants and found that many of them had been victims of human trafficking. In those cases 72 percent were victims of labor exploitation and in the case of forced labor the victims were mostly adults (97 percent).

In **Q\$#&&2&*<&** the victims are mostly women, young people, adolescents, girls and boys. According to police data, out of 90 cases that occurred between 2007 and the first half of 2010, 98 percent of the victims were women and only 2 percent were men. Similarly, 98 percent of the victims were natives of the country and the rest were of other nationalities. Other characteristics shared by victims of trafficking in Nicaragua are that they are located in low-income socioeconomic strata, have a low level of schooling or are students.

In the case of **J&%&5I**, the victims of human trafficking are mostly women between 25 and 30 years of age.

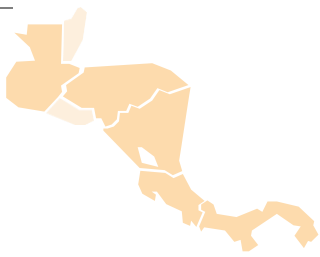
/N,-g Z"/ 8.&"/ 1/)3& #& &22/- -, ""/,%\$,"/2&- T.& -L)&" #& &012,3/%\$4" sexual and labor victims within the same country, and another important group are victims from other countries who did not necessarily enter as undocumented immigrants.

Z" /-1&%3, \$A1,)3/"3& &" &2 T.& %,\$"%\$#&&" /2(."/- /3,) \$#/#&- ? &-1&- %\$/2\$-3/- &- T.& ", &0\$-3& ." 1&)+2 O"\$%, #& 2/- >@%3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ #& 1&)-, - in the region and that factors such as poverty and low educational level 3\$&"&" \$"=.&"%\$/ 1&), ", -, " "&%&-/) \$/A&"3& #&3&)A\$"/"3&- 1)/ T.& a person becomes a victim of trafficking. In the case of children ? H4>&"&"&-F A.%M/- >&%&- \$"=?.&" ,3),- L/%3,)&- %,A, 2/ A/)(\$"/2\$#/#F

¹⁴ Berríos (2010) cited in Andino (2011).

¹⁵ Power Point presentation by IKHWW[%]^ NOPSS9 cited by X*74*- NOPSS9.





lack of opportunities and the environment of violence and abuse they suffer in their families.

In all countries, the authorities and organizations working on the issue believe that the statistical data related to reported cases and victims do not correspond to the existing reality and that the underreporting of cases is high. But, in addition, if the number of cases and victims registered is low, the number of cases processed by the justice administration systems and the traffickers who receive conde- "/ &- /O" A&", U,- L/%3,) &- T.& \$"= .?&" &" &-3/ -\$3./%\$4" \$"%2.?&"F among others:

- ① The complexity of the crime of trafficking in persons often tends to confuse it with other crimes, so that trafficking cases are frequently reported when in fact they do not correspond to this crime,
 , 8\$&" 1,)T.& \$">,2.%)/" ,3),- &2&A&"3,- T.& 2,- 22&>/" / %2/- \$+%/) ?
 1),%&-/) 8/H, ,3)/ 3\$1\$1\$+%//%\$4" g
 ① S" /2(. "" , - 1/@- &- 2,- A)/% , - H.)@# \$% , - 3\$&"&" >/%@ , - &" 2/
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 such as the removal of organs and tissues.
- ① In many cases, the victims desist from pursuing the process because it is long and costly, they do not always have legal and psychological support and advice, the judicial systems do not have the necessary infrastructure and security conditions to deal with this type of case, and they are often intimidated by the traffickers' networks.
- ① The research procedures and capabilities to support the
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 The fact that many of them are dismissed by the judicial authorities due to weak investigations and lack of evidence.
- ① Some cases are highly complex, protracted and often very complex.
 %&- " , &- 1,-\$82& #&#"3\$+%/) , %/13.)/ / 2,- >%\$3\$A/)\$, -F 2, %./2)&3)/#/
 or makes it impossible to issue convictions.

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Z" , #& 2,- &-2/8,"&- A*- \$A1,)3/"3&- &" 2/ 2.%M/ % , "3)/ &2 #&2\$3 , #& 2/
 The key to understanding the methods and the way in which trafficking networks are structured as organized and "professionalized" criminal groups that form part of a criminal chain. However, this is one of the aspects on which little information is available due to the complexity and modalities of operation.
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 found during the course of this study.

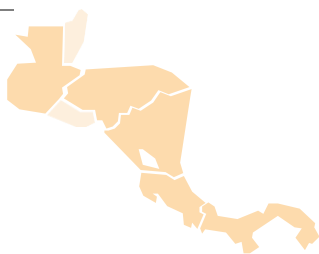
The crime route begins with the recruitment of victims. As shown in the figure, the main methods used by traffickers to recruit and keep their victims captive are the use of deception, intimidation and threats. Recruitment is mainly done through "enganche", which is the offer of employment and study opportunities. The study conducted by Molina, Mejía and Delgado (2011) describes that in the communities of Chinandega, the department most affected by this crime in Nicaragua, traffickers use car speakers to offer work to young people in Costa Rica cutting melons or coffee or caring for the elderly. In other places, such as the border areas and the port of Corinto, recruitment is carried out by bicycle cab, cab and truck drivers.

In other communities this task is carried out by close relatives, neighbors, female neighbors, friends, female bar owners and, according to other sources, in some cases traffickers have been found to use trafficked women to recruit others. In the case of girls and adolescents, traffickers generally seek to convince their parents by offering them gifts, study opportunities, courses and even provide the necessary legal documents. Similar methods are used in the other countries of the region, but in addition are added vignettes on television, advertisements on radio stations, among others. The study conducted by Save the Children (2011) in El Salvador indicates that each case has particular characteristics and that traffickers constantly vary their recruitment methods, adapting them to the opportunities presented to them and to the situation of the victims.

1. L) & % & " % \$ / 2, - 3) / 3 " 3 & - \$ # & " 3 \$ + % / " / 2 / > @ % 3 \$ A / ?) & / 2 \$ K / " . " & - 3. - gave of their environment, starting with distant relatives and the network of friends of the potential victim, then they approach her and gain - . % , " + / " K / / 3) / > h - # &) & (/ 2, - # & @ " # , 2 & 1 &) - , " / 2 , 8 \$ & " F L / % \$ 2 \$ 3 / " # , support to meet specific needs, giving gifts to the family and offering employment with attractive salaries. When the method used is abduction, they look for children in squares, parks and shopping malls.

Z" / > & K T. & M / " % /) / % 3 &) \$ K / # , / 2 / > @ % 3 \$ A / ? - . & " 3 ,) , F & 2 1) \$ A &) / % &) - cation takes place through the intervention of a third person who takes the victim to the recruiter. The latter converses with the victim and conducts an interview to learn about her needs and vulnerabilities, which he then uses to convince her that his offer is the only option to solve her problems. In the case of Belize, the / . 3 ,) \$ # / # & & - M / " \$ # & " 3 \$ + % / # , T. & . " , # & 2, - Ah3, # , - # & 2, - 3) / 3 " 3 & - & -- show the accounts of other people who have worked in the country for





that the potential victim is convinced that the country offers opportunities for work and welfare.

Another method used in Belize is the so-called "*Sugar Daddy Syndrome*", which consists of the exploitation of a young victim, generally a woman or adolescent, by an older person who sexually exploits her in exchange for money, jewelry, telephones, tuition, etc. In most cases, the victims are unaware that they are being exploited and have lost the ability to resist their victimizer. In most cases, the victims are not aware that they are being exploited and have lost the ability to resist their victimizer. In other cases, the victim's family also accepts this exploitative relationship in exchange for provisions and money.

In the case of Honduras and Costa Rica, it has been found that many trafficking victims are originally migrants in irregular conditions, a situation that is exploited by criminals to force them into forced labor or servitude in conditions of overcrowding, hunger and intimidation.

In Costa Rica and Belize, traffickers frequently use legal procedures to transfer and exploit victims. In the case of the traffickers, they leave the country with valid immigration documents, which are retained upon arrival at the destination. In the case of exploitation, it is possible that the victim is working in a place, has the corresponding work permit if she is not originally from the country, and the "employer" pays her the corresponding salary. But in reality, the victim is in conditions of slavery and most of the salary earned is retained to pay for expenses such as clothing, food, lodging, among others.

S2 &-3.##\$, #& R/>& 3M& IM\$2#)&" b9GDDDC)&+&&)& T.& 2/-A, #/2\$#/#/#&- #& transfer of victims depends on whether it is carried out by a recruiter or an exploiter, whether male or female, and whether it is internal or transnational trafficking. When the structure is more organized, cellular telephones are often used to coordinate all operations, so that the people involved in committing the crime do not get to know each other.

Other modalities used are: convincing the victim to arrive alone at the indicated place and upon learning that it is not what was promised, she is convinced to stay of her own free will or forced to stay by force; during the transfer she is accompanied by a member of the criminal network who provides her with all the necessary resources for the trip, from documents, to money, transportation and food.

In some cases of internal trafficking, once the victim has been recruited, especially if she is from rural areas or the interior of the country, she is transferred to urban centers where she begins her "training",

especially when it comes to commercial sexual exploitation. In this case, girls, adolescents and young women are forced to work in massage parlors, bars and restaurants. In these places, they begin accompanied-
 #, / 2,- %2\$&"3&- , 8/\$2/"#,F 1)/ 2.&(-&) 1),-3\$3.\$#/-g R& M/"
 \$&"3\$+- cases in which the victim is first convinced or forced to 1,-/) ?
 L,3,()/+/-& #&-"#./ , -&A\$d#&-"#./ 1)/)&L,)K/) &2 %M/"3/H& and
 destroy her self-esteem.

R/>& 3M& IM\$2#)&" b9GDDDC \$&"3\$+%/ ,3)/- A,#/2\$#/#&- #& &012,3/%\$4" &"
 where the victim is exploited in one way during the day and in another
 way at night. The exploiter makes her feel guilty and indebted, subjects
 her to hard labor and makes her believe that she is there of her own free
 will. In the case of transnational trafficking, they are stripped of their
 documents and made to believe that they cannot report them because
 they are not legal. In the case of commercial sexual exploitation, the
 victim is often raped and physically assaulted to induce fear and
 subjugation. In some cases, the method is the complete opposite and
 the exploiter treats her well by persuading her on the basis of her
 material needs.

It is common for victims to develop Stockholm Syndrome¹⁶ towards
 traffickers during the period of exploitation and even afterwards,
 especially when victims are transferred from their country of origin to
 another country of destination under irregular conditions. In Belize, when
 such cases are encountered, the authorities

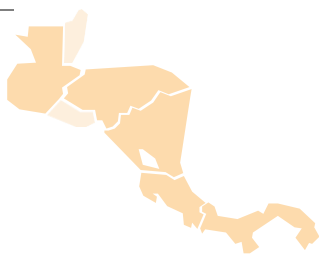
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 3/ situation making them believe that they cannot get out of that ex-
 ploitation situation because they are the only ones who help them
 and who know everyone.

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 considered "old" by clients and the operator, are transferred to other
 sites, either within the country or in neighboring countries. More
)&%\$&"3&A&"3&F 2/- /3,) \$#/#&- #& #L&)&"3&- 1/@-&-&- M/" 2,()/#,
 \$&"3\$+- car that many of the victims, upon entering adulthood, are
 returned to their communities of origin and used by traffickers to recruit
 new victims.

There is little information about the existence and functioning of internal
 trafficking networks. In fact, some government and NGO officials believe
 that the people who deal with this type of crime do not have a truly
 organized structure and that it is a question of

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 The victim tends to feel grateful to her oppressor. The victim tends to feel grateful toward her oppressor because he
 2& 1&)#, "/ 2/ >\$#/ ? 3&)A\$/ \$&"3\$+%"#,-&F -\$" #/)& %&.&"3/F %, " -,- %, "#.%3/- ? 1&"/A\$&"3,-g





persons who act even alone. In some cases it has been detected that the same person carries out the activities of recruitment, transfer and exploitation and a client-exploiter who takes advantage of the victim and becomes an accomplice to the crime, especially in the most well-known cases related to commercial sexual exploitation.

Based on the results of the different country studies and other studies on the characteristics of this type of criminals and their links with the international trafficking networks operating in the region:

- ① It appears that the trafficking networks operating within the region at the international level. But it is clear that there is a link between the two and that the internal networks "supply" the international networks with victims.
- ① They work individually or in networks. They may be nationals or foreigners.
- ① Recruiters are close to the victims or to their places of origin, know their families, their problems and affective needs, and their economic situation, making it easy for them to persuade and deceive them. In many cases, the women who recruit victims have themselves been victims of trafficking.
- ① They have a network of accomplices or cooperators, including: cab drivers, truck drivers, bar and restaurant owners, hotel and motel owners and/or managers, police and immigration authorities. In some cases it is associated with other criminal activities. In some cases it is associated with the transport of victims from one country to another.
- ① Traffickers take advantage of the conditions in certain environments to cover up the exploitation of victims, as is the case of commercial activities that serve as a façade for this crime.

Table 25: -&2)2M=3\$#&= 4=\$#+,>*\$#&= 9) ,+= 32&3&%3)= 0 ,&= 32&3&%3)=

They are scholars.	They investigate the victims' environment and establish networks with distant relatives.
They are creative and innovative.	Recruitment methods often change as they become known.
Persuasion skills and 1/)/ (/"/)-& 2/ %, "+/"K/ #& victims.	\#&"3\$+%/ ")*1\$#/A&"3& 2/- "&%&-\$#/#&- #& victims and use that information to persuade them.
Human relations skills.	Immediately accepted by people close to the victim's environment and by the authorities.
Skilled at lying.	They lie to convince the victims.
Experts in handling physical and psychological violence.	Z3\$2\$K/" #&>&)-,-)&%.)-,- 1/)/ \$"3\$A\$#/) ? to break the will of the victims.
They are enterprising and organized.	\#&"3\$+%/ " 2/ 3)/3/ %,A, ."/ ,1,)3."\$#/# to generate income easily, they go from being employees or exploited to being exploiters. They show no values or respect for the human rights of the victims.
They have similar family histories and socioeconomic backgrounds to the victims.	Unstable relationships, early pregnancies, tragic situations, school dropouts, diversity #& ,+%, -F 1)&-\$4" L/A\$2\$2\$/g

Source: Save the Children, 2011.

In Central America, trafficking has become a crime that has become a major problem in the region.

=. ?&")&#&-" /%\$, "/2&- & \$"3&)" /%\$, "/2&- T. & %,A1/)3&" 2/-).3/- ? 2,- #&-3\$",- #& ,3)/- /%3\$>\$#/#&- #&2 %) \$A&" ,)(/"\$K/#,F %,A, &2"/)%,3)*+%, ? &2 3)*+%, #& /)A/-g `#&A*-F -& 1),#. %& 2/ %, ">&)(&"%\$/ #& 2/ 3)/3/ \$"3&)" / %, " 3)/3/ \$"3&)" /%\$, "/2F >\$"% .2/ %\$, "&- %, " &2 3)*+%, #& 1&)-, "- ? %, " 2,- =.H,- #& A\$() /%\$4" 2&(/2g P3), ().1, #& #& #&2\$3,- %, " 2,- %./2&- -& &"% .&"3)/)&2/ %\$, "/#, -," &2 -&% .&-3),F &"(/N, iL)/. #&F L/2-\$+%/ %/ %\$4" #&& documents and corruption. In summary, the number of links that /3)/>\$&- / 2& ,3,)(/ A/? ,)&- "\$>&2&- #& #&+%.23/# / ." L&"4A&" , #&2\$%3\$>, complex in itself.

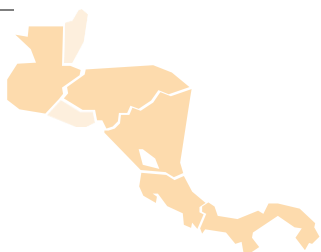
In the case of networks operating at the international level, it is possible to identify 3\$+%/) T. & % .&"3/" %, ")&%.)-,- 1/)/ &2 3)/-2/#,F %, .23/A\$&&"3, ? &012,3/-

The victims' participation includes the participation of nationals and foreigners, and they have higher levels of organization. Among their accomplices or

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The police and immigration authorities, the so-called "show businessmen" and nightclub owners. In most cases,





These groups are also linked to other criminal activities and to political and economic power groups that ensure their impunity.

During the last few years, the actions of international organized crime have increased in the region and have become more complex. This includes groups that commit the crime of human trafficking. Despite this, the priority of state institutions is the fight against drug trafficking. organized crime and human trafficking.

The last link in the chain is the client-exploiter, regardless of the type of exploitation suffered by the victims. This type of person is a collaborator and accomplice to the crime of trafficking inasmuch as he/she maintains "and" buying their sexual "services", labor, in illegal adoptions, among others.

There is very little information on this type of person; some studies have shown that the number of clients in the case of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is very low. of clients in the case of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents- cannot be generalized to cases of trafficking, even when the purpose of the latter is the commercial sexual exploitation of the victim, since they are much more complex. On the other hand, although the line that separates one type of crime from the other is very thin and often tends to confuse them, it is important that there be clarity regarding the differences between them, especially among the authorities in charge of handling cases and prosecuting them.

The studies were carried out in order to identify the types of exploitation to which the victims are subjected. During the course of the studies of commercial sexual exploitation, among them: they are mostly men, between 30 and 50 years of age, living in localities close to those of their victims.

Interventions by the various state institutions and social organizations to discourage this demand and sanction these individuals are still quite incipient.

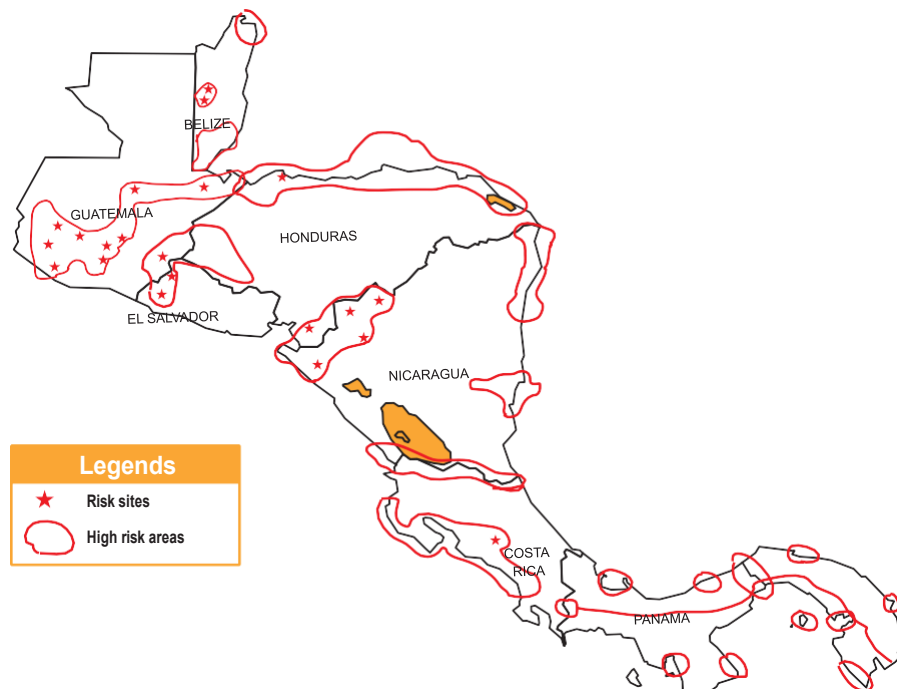
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` 1/3\$) #& 2/ \$"L,)A/%\$4" ? #/3,- #&-1,"\$82&- &- 1,-\$82& /+)A/) T.& 3,#/ the Central American region suffers the effects of the crime of human trafficking, but each of the countries has localities that are affected in different ways and that form different routes depending on whether it is international or internal trafficking.

U,- #/3,-)&%/8/#,- #.)/"3& 2/)&/2\$K/%\$4" #&2 \$"L,)A& 1&)A\$3&" /+)A/) that in general, the region is an area of recruitment, transit and temporary destination of victims of transnational trafficking in persons, and that the routes coincide with those of other organized crime activities such as "/)%,(3)*+%, ? &2 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& /)A/- #& L.&(g S" &- &-"\$3\$#,F 2/).3/ -& A.&>& #& -.) / ",)3& ? -. 1/@-&-&- #& #& #&-3\$", +"/2 -, " ^h0\$%,F &" 1)\$- A&) 2.(/ ? S-3/#,- Z"\$#,-g P3),- #&-3\$",- %,",%\$#,-F 1&), %," A&"- European countries. Countries such as Guatemala, Costa Rica and, eventually, Panama, are the main destination points for victims. Guatemala, because of its proximity to Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama because they are destination countries for victims coming from other countries.

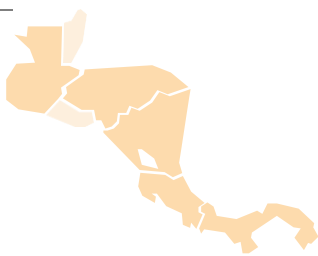
The map shows that the border areas between the countries and some coastal regions function as wide corridors for the 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"-F &-1&%\$/2A&"3& /T.&22/ %, " +&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&&0./2 commercial.

Map 2: J2\$%#\$4&,) = ,<*&2)= 0 V+%&= 9) 2\$)=*+)% -)%32+&&562\$#&



Source: Own elaboration.





S- \$A1,)3/"3/"3& /",3/) T.& A.%M,- #& &-3,- -\$3\$,- #&)\$&-(-, -&)&+&)&" / 3)/3/ %, " + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 %,A&)%\$/2 1,)T.& ", -&\$&A1)& -&& \$#\$&"3\$+%/ " 2/- K,"/- #&)\$&-(-, 1)/ ,3)/- A,#/2\$#/#&- #&2 A\$-A, #&2\$- to. Various sources, including the latest trafficking in persons report 1)&- &&"3/#, 1,) &2 W&1/3/A&"3, #& S-3/#, #& S-3/#,- Z"\$#,- b9GDDc \$#\$&"3\$+%/ " /2(.-, - #& 2,- 2.(/)&- ? K,"/- #& A/?,))\$&-(-, &" %/#/ .", of Central American countries.

Table 26: **h+=%&= 9) 2\$)=*+ 9) ,& 32&3& 9) 9) 4)2=+%&= =)*W% 4&M=)=**

Belize	San Pedro San Ignacio Western border Coastal zone Corozal Dangriga
Costa Rica	E/%@+%, %&"3)/2; E. "3/)&"/- l&"3),F `(.))& Capital: San José Tourist resorts: Guanacaste, Puntarenas, Limón, Alajuelita, Guararí <), "3&)/-; E&N/- j2/"%/-F E/-, l/" ,/-F U/ I).KF Z1/2/F Los Chiles
El Salvador	Sonsonate Santa Ana
Guatemala	Izabal Jutiapa Chiquimula Escuintla Suchitepéquez Retalhuleu Huehuetenango Quezaltenango Petén Alta Verapaz Baja Verapaz La Antigua Puerto Barrios Lago Atitlán Guatemala City
Honduras	Southern Zone: Choluteca Region Cortés North Coast Central region j, "/ #&2 7)\$+"\$,

Nicaragua	Northern Zone: Nueva Segovia, Estelí, Madriz Occidente: Chinandega South: Rivas, San Juan River Caribbean Coast: RAAN, RAAS Tourist resorts: Granada, San Juan del Sur
Panama	Panama Panama Oeste Colón Cocle Herrera

Source: Own elaboration based on country studies.

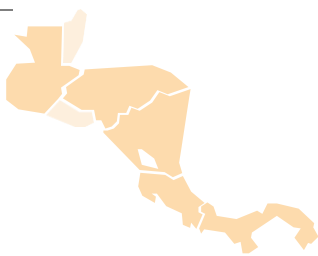
L), \$#) is considered a catchment, transit, and destination country for the trafficking of 3/ #& 1&)-, "/- %, " + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 %,A&)%\$/2F &012,3/%\$4" 2/- The victims are nationals and foreigners, the latter mostly from countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, although there have been cases of Nepalese and Indians. The victims are nationals and foreigners, the latter mainly from countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, although cases of Nepalese and Indians have been reported. The authorities consider that internal trafficking in the country is as frequent and widespread as domestic trafficking, and that it occurs in practically all parts of the country.

Some of the risk areas are located in San Pedro, San Ignacio, Belize City, the western border, the coastal area, Corozal, Benque and Dangriga. The first three cities are considered to be the hotspots for human trafficking. Trafficking in M/ \$#&"3\$+%/#/, T.&&" 2/- K, "/- L), "3&)\$K/- ? 2/ K, "/ %,-3&)/ 2/ 3)/3/ #& people increases in certain seasons, for example with the arrival of cruise ships with tourists from other countries, or in the citrus and banana growing areas. Some localities, such as Dangriga ? J&"T.& M/" - \$#, \$#&"3\$+%/#/- %,A, K, "/- #& %/13/%\$4" #& >@%3\$A/-F which are transferred to the city of San Pedro. In some cases -& M/ #&&3&%3/#, T.& 2,- 3)/+%//"3&- 22&("/ /2 1/@- 3)/3/"#, #& %/13/) >@%- thymes to exploit them for labor in countries such as Canada and the United States Z"\$#,-g

-+=3& (\$#& is considered a source, transit, and destination country for >@%3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ %, " + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 %,A&)%\$/2F &012,3/%\$4" 2/8,)/2 ? 3.)\$-A, -&0./2 1)\$"%\$1/2A&"3&g S2 1/@- &- &- \$#&"3\$+%/#/, %,A, . 1. "3, #& A\$("/"3&- M/%\$/ S-3/#,- Z"\$#,-F A.%M,- #& 2,- %./2&- 3&)\$A\$- "/" %,A, >@%3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ ?/ / -&/ %, " + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 %,- commercial or labor exploitation.

In this country, many of the victims leave legally with the corresponding migratory authorizations and are stripped of their documents once they arrive in the country of destination, or else they travel part of the route in an undocumented condition. The main destinations of





%, -3/))\$%&"-&- >@%3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ -, " S-3/#,- Z"\$#, -F I"/#*F ^h0\$%, F S-1/N/ %, A, 1. "3, #& \$"()&- , /2)&-3, #& S.), 1/ ? -& M/" \$#\$"3\$+%/ #, cases in Japan.

-+=\$(\$#& is a recipient of victims from other countries such as Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Colombia. At the domestic level, the =H, , %.)& #&-#& 2/- K,"/-).)/2&- / 2/- *)&- .)8"/-F , 8\$&"F #&-#& urban centers towards tourist areas. Some of these localities are Alajuelita, province of San José and Guararí, province of Heredia.

`2(."/ - #& 2/- K,"/- A*- /L&%3/#/- -, "; &2 E/%@+%, %&"3)/2 bE. "3/)&"/- Centro, Aguirre), the capital San José, tourist centers such as Guana- caste, Puntarenas and Limón and border areas such as Peñas Blancas, E/-, I"/, -F U/ I).KF Z1/2/ ? U,- IM\$2&-g

:, 7&,,.&9+2 is considered a country of recruitment, transit and destination for victims, mainly women, children and adolescents, who- 2&- -, " -, A&3\$#, - / 3)/3/ %, " + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 %, A&)%\$/2 ? labor exploitation. Approximately half of the victims are nationals and the rest come from neighboring countries, mainly Nicaragua and Honduras. Victims of national origin are exploited in different countries in the region, most notably Guatemala, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Costa Q\$%/F S-3/#,- Z"\$#, - ? 1/@-&-&- #& S.), 1/g

K<&3)5&,& is considered a country of recruitment, transit and destination for victims of trafficking, mainly women, girls, boys and men, with + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 ? &012,3/%\$4" 2/8,)/2g Z" 1,)%&&"3/H& \$A1,)- The majority of the victims come from neighboring countries, while Guatemala is the country with the highest number of %, "-\$#&)/#, 2/ /"3&-/2/ #& 2/).3/ ^h0\$%, dS-3/#,- Z"\$#, -g

As in other countries in the region, in Guatemala the centers of greatest trafficking in persons are located in the border areas with Mexico and Belize, the capital city of Guatemala, Ju- tiapa in the border area with El Salvador, and in towns such as Izabal, Chiquimula, Escuintla, Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez.

According to the latest report issued by the PDH (2011) the level of inci- #&"%\$/ #& %/-, - &- #&L&)&"3& & " %/#/)&(\$4"" K,"/ (&,()*+%/F #& A/- nera that most cases are reported in the capital city, Guatemala, Escuintla, Huehuetenango and Quezaltenango.

O+%9<2&= is considered a country of recruitment and transit, although it is also reported as a destination for human trafficking. Victims are M,A8)&-F A.H&)&-F "\$N/- ?"\$N,- T.& -, " &012,3/#,- %, " + "&- #& %, A&)- and sex tourism. Many of the victims come from neighboring countries and rural areas of the country. In the Cortés region,



The Southern region and the North Coast accounted for most cases of commercial sexual exploitation in 2010. Meanwhile, in the Central, South and Western regions, most cases of labor exploitation occurred. Cases related to forced labor and services were mostly registered in the Cortés region, child pornography in the North Coast and servitude in the Western region of the country.

The key actors involved in the fight against trafficking in persons in the region are X, "#.)/- \$##"3\$+%/ " 2/-).3/- T.& .3\$2\$K/" 2,- 3)/+%/ "3&- ? 3)/3/"3&- #&& The southern zone is the one with the highest number of people, among them: places near the border, commercial and tourist sites. The southern zone is the one with the highest number of people.
, #& %/-,- 1,)T.& %,"=.?&" 3)&- L), "3&)/-; [\$%/)/(./F X, "#.)/- ? S2 Salvador.

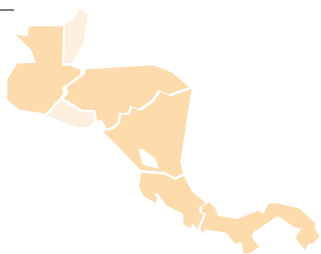
P3)/- K,"/- \$##"3\$+%/#/- -," 2/-).3/- , 1/-,- %\$&(- .3\$2\$K/#,- 1)/ / /%- 3\$>\$>#/#&- \$2@%\$3/-F 2/- T.& -& 1)&-A& -," .-/#/- 1,) 2,- 3)/+%/ "3&- 1)/ take their victims. These are located in La Ceiba, Roatan, San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, San Lorenzo and Puerto Lempira.

The Atlantic Coast area, Copán and Ocotepeque are also areas of)\$&- (F &" &-1&%\$2 2/ K,"/ #&2 7)\$+"\$, bL), "3&)/ C./3&A/2/dX, "#.)/- dS2 R/2>/#,)cg I,A/?/(./F .8\$%/#/ &" 2/ K,"/ %&"3)/2F 3/A8\$h" &- \$##"3\$+- each as a blind spot, through the Comayagua Valley many peasants from the highlands (Marcala and Tutule) come down in search of a job option. In these areas, work is temporary, especially during the harvest season. Comayagua has positioned itself as a colonial tourist city and the Comayagua Valley as a prosperous agro-industrial region.

U/-).3/- 1)/ &2 3)*+%, #& #),(./F %, "3)/8/"#, ? 3)/3/ #& 1&-),/- %, \$"- ciden: Choluteca- Tegucigalpa- Comayagua- Puerto Cortes and Corinto, San Pedro Sula - La Entrada- y Florido and Santa Rosa de Copán- Ocote- peque-Agua Caliente.

According to the country study analysis, there was no relationship between &2 3\$1, #& 3)/3/ ? 2/)&(\$4" (&())*+%/ #&2 1/@- #, "#& -& 1)&- &"3/)," 2,- cases. In other words, in the same area, there were both cases of trafficking %," +&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&&0./2 %,A&)%\$2 %,A, 3)/3/ %, " +&- #& &0- labor exploitation, for example. The main poles of development and attraction of labor and merchandise are concentrated in the northern corridor and the Atlantic coast. These are the regions with the greatest commercial, industrial, tourist and agro-industrial capitalist movement. For this reason, they require the mobilization of large amounts of temporary and permanent labor, and are therefore attractive areas for internal migration. The southern zone is a cross-border transit zone between Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.





Salvador through which in a short distance and time two borders and three countries are crossed.

R.- %, "#\$%\$, "&- (&()*+%/F &%, "4A\$%/- ? -, %\$/2&- %, ">\$&&)3&" / &-/- regions in preferred areas for trafficking networks, as they facilitate the recruitment, under deception or by force, of young women for commercial sexual exploitation, both inside and outside the country.

Q\$#&&2&*<& is considered a country of recruitment and transit for human trafficking. Victims suffer mainly from commercial sexual exploitation and sex tourism and include mostly young women, adolescents, girls, boys and some men. Many of the victims come from rural areas of the country and are trafficked to urban centers and other countries in the region, such as Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador.

The Department of Chinandega, bordering Honduras, is the most affected area of the country. Other localities in the same situation are located in the northern zone (Nueva Segovia, Estelí and Madriz), the southern zone (Rivas and Río San Juan), the Caribbean Coast (RAAN and RAAS) and in the tourist centers of the country.

%, - #& ()/" /=.&"%\$/ b%\$.#/# #& C)"//#/ ? R/" _./" #&2 R.)cg

According to a study by Molina, Mejía and Delgado (2001), the Department of Chinandega is a key point in the country for both internal and transnational trafficking. In addition to being a place of recruitment, it also serves as a reception or transit point since trafficking victims are transferred to this department from other areas of the country such as Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Estelí, Matagalpa, Río San Juan and Rivas. Victims have also been found who stay temporarily in the area and are transferred from Costa Rica to countries in the north, such as Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Like other countries in the region, **J&%&5I** is considered a country of recruitment, transit and destination for human trafficking. In estu- #\$, - 1)&>>\$, - L.&)," \$#\$"3\$+%/#,- ".A&),-,- 1. "3,- %\$&(- &" 2/ L), "3&)/

The airports and land border posts are also critical points as many victims enter and leave the country under legal conditions. Airports and land border posts are also critical points since many victims enter and leave the country legally. Other areas considered at risk are tourist areas, especially beaches. Some of the highest risk areas are: Panama, Panama Oeste, Cocle, Colon and Herrera.

There are places and areas of risk for each type of activity in the crime of trafficking in persons. In each of the countries, it is possible to find risk areas for recruitment and exploitation, as well as zones of

risk for the transit or transfer of victims. Likewise, there are areas that must be done to direct and focus intervention actions more effectively, both at the national and regional levels.

Factors that must be done to direct and focus intervention actions more effectively, both at the national and regional levels.

The risk factors for the crime of trafficking in persons include those of a structural nature, those of the victims' immediate environment and individual factors. Based on the country studies and other previous studies¹⁷ it was found that the main structural risk factors include: poverty and social exclusion; violence and crime; political, social and economic instability; social discrimination; and lack of access to opportunities. Other factors include: the existence of organized crime networks in the region and the increase in their actions, impunity and lack of access to justice, the lack of broad and inclusive social policies, and the existence of repressive laws and policies towards migrants.

The study by Molina, Mejia and Delgado (2011) provides a detailed analysis of the ecological model of violence allowed them to delve deeper into the topic and their conclusions coincide with those found in the country studies and in other research on the same topic carried out in the region.

Structural and institutional, training resources, that of the community and the individual level.

¹⁷ See studies by Hidalgo, Mejía and Delgado (2011) and Save the Children (2011).



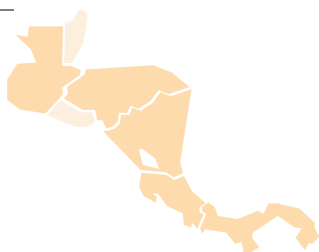


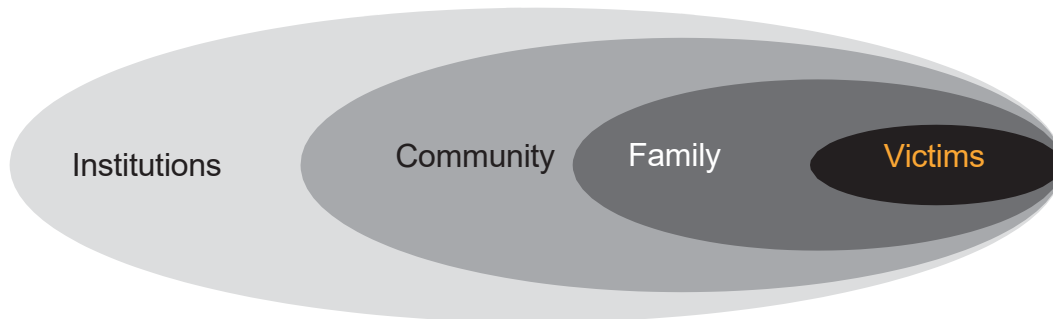
Table 27: **Factors influencing the protection of victims of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking in Mexico**

Q\$.), % +25&3\$.+) \$%=3\$3<#\$+%&,	()#<2+= 9) D+25&#\$>%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of institutional policies that guarantee the protection of victims. • Lack of comprehensive care protocols. • Prejudice and victim-blaming when they are of legal age. • Discrimination and exclusion based on the confusion between prostitution and sexual exploitation. • W&&+%"\$/"&" &" &2 /8,)#/H& #& 2/ police investigation. • Evidence collection procedures and process as an obstacle to crime investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and coaching "\$-.+%"\$&"3& 1/)/)&2\$K/)." comprehensive approach. • Lack of specialized human and financial resources to deal with cases. • Lack of mechanisms and procedures to address this type of cases at the level of the judicial system. • Lack of specialization in the treatment of victims in the care route.
@)=9) ,& # +5<%"\$9&9	Q\$.), \$%"\$9\$. \$9<&,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerance and social acceptance of violence against children, adolescents, women and human trafficking, especially in the areas of %," + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 commercial. • Indifference and rejection of the community in the face of the problem and during the return of the victims. • Little reporting by victims and their family members for fear of reprisals from the captors or traffickers. In other cases, due to lack of information about the complaint process. • Presence of risk areas in the localities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child abuse. • Eyewitnesses to violence during childhood and adolescence. • Sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence. • Parental rejection or abandonment. • Sexist parenting models. • Affective deficiencies during childhood and adolescence. • Non-recognition of their status as victims of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Source: Molina, Mejía and Delgado (2011).



Figure 3: **Relationships between the actors in the pre-victimization environment**



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R\$-3&A/ T.& victimizes, discriminates and rejects victims • W&&+%"\$%"\$/" &" &" &2 addressing the entire justice system • </23/ #&)&%.)-,- for victim protection • `.-&"%\$/ #& #/3,- and records • l/2\$+%"/%\$4" #&2 crime • W\$+%.23# 1/)/ research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7,2&)"%\$/ ? acceptance of violence • "\"#\$L&)"%\$/ /"3& victim problems • j, "/- #&)\$&-(- (,,; bars, parking lots, border limits, harbors, schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ^,#&2,- &#. %/3\$>,- authoritarian • 7,2&)"%\$/ ? acceptance of violence • </23/ #&)&%.)-,- • E,8)&K/ • E, %/ \$"L,)A/%\$4" ? family support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ^/23)/3,F /8.-, • Q&%"M/K,F parental abandonment • l/)&"%\$/- /L&%3\$>/-/- • ^,#&2,- #& %& %)"\$/"/K/ sexist and workload at home • [, -&)&%,",%&" as victims |
|---|--|---|--|

Source: Molina, Mejía and Delgado, 2011.

Z"/ \$##"3\$+%"/%\$4" -\$A\$2/) L.&)&/2\$K/#/ 1,) R/>& 3M& IM\$2#)&" b9GDDc &" S2 R/2>/#,)g S" &-3& %/-, -& #&-/()&(/" 2,- #&L&)"&"3&- L/%3,)&- #& \$"=.&"- - cia according to the actors in the pre-victimization environment and in relation to the different actors involved such as the potential victim, the family, the community, the economic environment and the institutions.



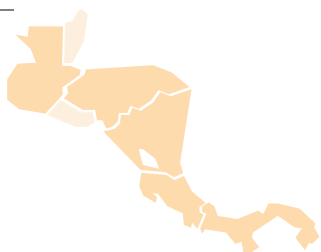


Table 28: **R+2)= 9) \$%i<)%#\$&)%),)%3+2%+ 42).\$+ & ,&& .#\$3\$5\$V&#\$>%**

G#3+2)=jD&#3+2)=	-&2&#3)2M=3\$#&=
Potential victim	Underage, female, early sexual intercourse, early school dropout (before the age of 18) + "/2\$K/) &#. %/ %\$4" A&#\$/cg
Family	Single parent, existence of domestic violence, counterproductive parenting practices, %,M&-\$4" L/A\$2\$/) 1)&%/)\$ /F #&+ %\$&"3& % ,A."\$%/ %\$4" ? %, "+ /"K/F L/A\$2\$/- &03&" -/ -F %, "%&1%\$4" #& T. & 2,- children and adolescents are objects of property and not subjects of rights.
Community	Indifference to the problem, lack of a culture of denunciation, weak social fabric.
Economic system	Victims live in a context of social exclusion &2 %./2 -&)&=&H/ &" 2/ 8/H/ &-%,2/)\$#/#F #&-&A12&,F \$"-/2.8)\$#/#F -&)>\$%\$, - 8*-\$%, - #&+ %\$&&"3&-F >\$>\$&"#/- precarious conditions that lead to overcrowding.
Institutional response	Absence of systematic Information-Education-Communication (IEC) campaigns to provide timely and concrete data to prevent trafficking in persons. 1&)-, "/-g U/ #&-%, "+ /"K/ &" 2,- ,1&)/#,) &- #&2 system could be influencing the non-reporting of known cases. Re-victimizing judicial processes.

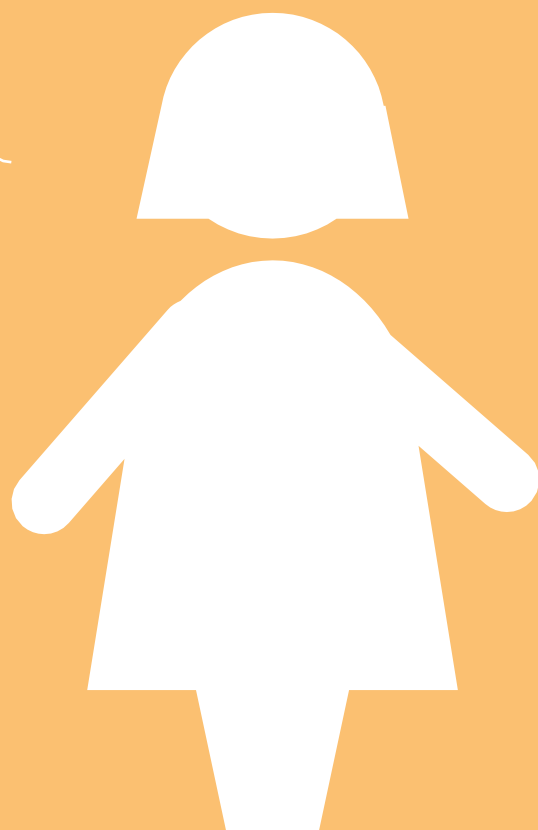
Source: Save the Children, 2011.

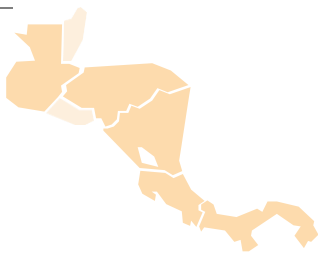
S2 A\$-A, &-3. #\$, #& R/>& 3M& IM\$2#)&" b9GDDDC \$##"3\$+%4 ."/ -&&)\$& #&)/--- individual characteristics of the trafficked person prior to victimization: young age, choice of friends, having performed child labor, in- maturity, being female, being a migrant, located in a family with which she has no direct consanguineous link or in a family with absent parents.





B/C F& ,<#8& #+%32& ,& . \$+ ,)%#\$&&
0 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&=





Crime, violence and trafficking violate people's human rights, especially the right to life and physical integrity. They also lead to an increase in perceptions of insecurity and the weakening of state institutions because citizens see them as incapable of providing security.

Addressing violence involves the action of both citizens and public and private institutions to prevent the different expressions of crime, violence and human trafficking and to ensure that victims have access to protection, prompt justice and full restitution of their rights.

This section analyzes the institutional capacities of Central American countries to address violence and human trafficking, understood as the legal framework in force at the national level and in the region, as well as the existing institutional strengths.

S&2#+ U<2M9\$#+ 0 %+25&3\$.+ .\$**)%)3)

During the last three decades, there has been growing global concern about various situations that threaten the right to life and integrity, especially of vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents and women. As a result, several conferences, conventions and events have been held to preserve this right and a series of international legal instruments have been created.

U,- \$"-3).A&"3,- -, " >/)\$/#,- ? -& %2/- \$+%/ " -&(O" &2 3\$1, #& #& #&)&%M, that protect: rights of children and adolescents, rights of A.H&)&-F #&)&%M,- M.A/" , - ? 3&A*3\$%/- &-1&%@+%/ - %,A, 2/ 3)/3/ #& persons.

Central America is no exception to this concern and has therefore signed numerous conventions and treaties and has created its own body of laws and regulations. This current legal and regulatory framework on violence and trafficking in persons is divided into international and hemispheric instruments (conventions, agreements, treaties) signed by the countries of the region, national laws and regulations on violence and trafficking in persons, and regional and national regulations, guidelines and protocols on trafficking in persons.

J2\$%#\$4&.)= \$%=32<5)%3+= \$%3)2%&#\$+%&.)=)%5&3)2\$& 9) . \$+ ,)%#\$& 0 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&=

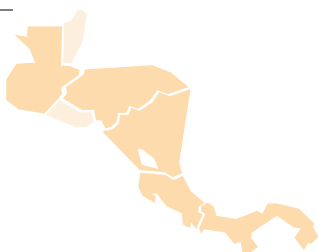
The international legal instruments on human rights are the fundamental basis for the protection and application of the right to life and integrity of persons. They form the basis for the protection and
1),3&%%\$4" ? /12\$/%\$4" #& #&&)&%M,- &-1&%@+%, -g X/" -\$#, /#,13/#,- 1,) the countries of the Central American region, are still valid and are being \$"% ,1),/#,- &" 2,- A/)%,- H.)@#\$\$,- ? ",)A/3\$>,- &-1&%@+%, - #& %/#/ one of the countries.

The following table details the covenants, conventions, bylaws and
1),3,%,2,- &" A/3&)\$/ #& #&&)&%M,- M.A/" , - T.& M/" -\$#,)/3\$+%/#,- , / which the Central American countries have joined.

Table 29: J2\$%#\$4&.)= \$%=32<5)%3+= \$%3)2%&#\$+%&.)=)% 9)2)#8+= 8<5&.%+=

B%=32<5)%3+	J&M= ;<) ,+ 8& 2&3\$"#&9+ + &98)2\$9+ ³						
	B	-(	:7	G	H	N	P
B%=32<5)%3+= B%3)2%&#\$+%&.)=							
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	X	X	X	X ^(a)	X	X ^(a)	X
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights		X	X	X ^(a)	X	X ^(a)	X
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	X	X	X ^(a)	X ^(a)	X ^(a)	X	X
Rome Statute: The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.	X	X			X		X
B%=32<5)%3+= B%3)2&5)2\$#&&%+=							
American Convention on Human Rights		X	X	X	X	X	X





B%=32<5)%3+	J&M= ;<) ,+ 8& 2&3\$"#&9+ + &98)2\$9+ ³						
	B	-(	:7	G	H	N	P
Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Human Rights of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Cultural		X	X	X			X
Protocol to the Convention American Convention on Human Rights concerning the abolition of of the death penalty		X				X	X
Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture		X	X	X			X
Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons		X		X	X		X

(a): Adhesion.
<.&"3&; Z\IS<aP\^F 9GG5g

7,#,- 2,- 1/@-&-&- #& 2/)&(\$4" -& M/" /#M&)\$#, ?)/3\$+%/#, 2,- A*- \$A1,)-
tant international and inter-American human rights instruments.

However, some countries are still awaiting accession to these instruments.

-\$4" ?)/3\$+%//%\$4" /2 S-3/3.3, #& Q,A/ ? /2 E),3,%,2, #& 2/ I,">&"%\$4"
American Convention on Human Rights concerning the death penalty.

In the area of protection of children's rights, the countries of the region have)&(\$4" ?/ -& M/" /#M&)\$#, ?)/3\$+%/#, 2,- A*- \$A1,.)3/"3&- \$"-3).A&"3,- international legal standards. This reveals the political will of the States, especially for the prevention of the cruelest forms of child abuse. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol stand out, as does the ILO Convention prohibiting child labor and promoting actions for its elimination.



Table 30: J2\$%#\$4&,) = \$%=32<5)%3+ = \$%3)2%&#\$+%&,) = 4&2& ,& 42+3)#- #&>% 9) ,+= 9)2)#8+= 9) % \$A&=P % \$A+= 0 &9+,)=#)%3)=

B%=32<5)%3+	J&M= ;<) ,+ 8& 2&3\$"#&9+ + &98)2\$9+						
	B	-(	:7	G	H	N	P
Convention on the Rights of the Child	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography	X	X	X	X	X	X ^(a)	X
ILO Convention 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour for Disposal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

(a): Adhesion.

<.&"3&; Z[\IS<aP\^F 9GG5g

All countries, without exception, have acceded to or are signatories to the three most important international legal instruments on the rights of children and adolescents.

In the case of international and Inter-American instruments against violence against women it is important to note that all countries #& 2/)&(\$4" -& M/" /#M&)\$#, ?)/3\$+%/#, 2,- 3)&- \$"-3).A&"3,- 1)\$"%\$1/- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women "/%\$4" %, "3)/ 2/ ^.H&) bISW`VcF 2/ I,">&"%\$4" #&]&2hA #, E/)* ? 2/ Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. However, the Protocol </%.23/3\$>, #& 2/ ISW`V ", M/ - \$#, /#, 13/#, 3, #/>@/ 1,) 1/@-&-&- %,A, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.



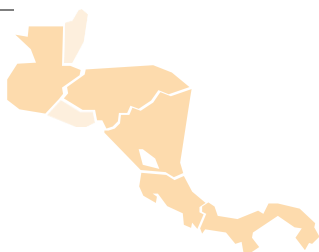


Table 31: **Instrumentos internacionales y regionales de derechos humanos**

Instrumentos internacionales y regionales de derechos humanos	Países						
	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Convención sobre la Eliminación de Todas las Formas de Discriminación contra las Mujeres (CEDAW)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Protocolo Opcional a la Convención sobre la Eliminación de Todas las Formas de Discriminación contra las Mujeres (CEDAW)	X	X		X			X
Convención de Belém do Pará: Inter-América Convención sobre la Prevención, el Castigo y la Erradicación de la Violencia contra las Mujeres.	X ^(a)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Declaración y Plataforma de Acción de Beijing		X	X	X	X	X	

(a): Adhesión.
<."3&; Z[IS<aP\^F 9GG5g

This body of international and inter-American legal norms constitutes the fundamental basis for the region in the area of crime prevention 2/ >\$,2&"%\$/ ? %,A12&A&"3/ ,3),- \$"-3).A&"3,- &-1&%@+%, - 1/)/ 2/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/- ? &2 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& A\$("/"3&-g



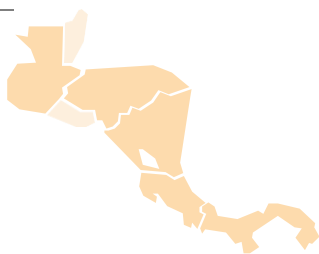
Table 32: J2\$%#\$4&,) = \$%=32<5)%3+ = \$%3)2%&#\$+%&,) = =+H2) 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&&= 0 32I "#+ \$,M#\$3+ 9) 5\$*2&%3)=

B%=32<5)%3+	J&M= ;<) ,+ 8& 2&3\$"#&9+ + &98)2\$9+						
	B	-(	:7	G	H	N	P
Convention [//%\$,"&- Z"\$#/- against Transnational Organized Crime	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children. Palermo Protocol	X ^(a)	X	X	X	X	X ^(a)	X
Protocol against &2 7)*+%, \2@%\$3, #& Migrants, by Land, Sea and Air	X ^(a)	X	X	X ^(a)		X ^(a)	X
Inter-American Convention on 7)*+%, "3&)/%\$,"/2 #& Minors	X	X	X ^(a)			X ^(a)	X
Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions or Institutions for the Suppression of Slavery. Slavery-Like Practices				X		X ^(a)	

(a): Adhesion.
<.&"3&; Z\IS<aP\^F 9GG5 ? &-3.#\$,- #& 1/@-g

In the area of organized crime and trafficking in persons, the countries of the region are (\$4" M/"")/3\$+%//#, 2,- #-, 1)\$"%\$1/2&- \$"-3).A&"3,- H.)@#\$\$,- &0\$-3&"3&; 2/ I,">&"%\$4" #& 2/- [//%\$,"&- Z"\$#/- %, "3)/ 2/ W&2\$"%.&"%\$/ P)/("\$K/- Transnational Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, known as E),3,%,2, #& E/2&)A,g P3),- 3)&- \$"-3).A&"3,-)&2/%\$,"/#,- %," &2 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& A\$()/"3&-F &2 3)*+%, \$"3&)/%\$,"/2 #& 1&)-,"/- A&"),&- #& &&#/# and the abolition of slavery, the slave trade and similar practices have been adopted by countries, but some of them have not yet M/")/3\$+%//#,g U/ I,">&"%\$4" %, "3)/ 2/ W&2\$"%.&"%\$/ P)/("\$K/#/ 7)/"-- national includes two protocols:





- ① Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, known as the Palermo Protocol.
- ① E),3,%,2, %, "3)/ & 2 7)*+%, \2@%\$3, #& ^\$()/"3&- 1,) 7\$&))/F ^/) ? `)\$&g

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, is considered the first instrument H.)@#%, \$"3&)"/%\$,"/2 T. & #&+"& \)&-1,"- /8\$2\$#/#& - #& \,- S-3/#,- relating to this crime. Entered into force on December 25, 2003.

? &" L&8)&), #& 9GGJ \, M/8@)")/3\$+%//#, D96 1/@-@-&- &" \, #, &2 A. "#, This Protocol is the primary reference instrument used by the countries of the region to develop national approaches to combat this crime.

In relation to the implementation of the Palermo Protocol, according to re- (\$-3)/#,- &" &2 \L,)A& ^. "#\$/2 -,8)& 2/ 7)/3/ #& E&)-,"/- bZ[PWIF 2009), as of November 2008 63 percent of 155 countries and territories had adopted laws addressing the main forms of trafficking. Another 16 percent had adopted laws covering only al- (.",- &2&A&"3,- #& 2/ #&+"\$%\$4" T.& +(.)/ &" &2 E),3,%,2, ? &" &-&-& In the same year, 2008, 80 percent of the countries had legislation against human trafficking.

As a result of the adoption of the Protocol, the number of countries with legislation on the issue more than doubled between 2003 and 2008. In addition, 54 percent of the countries surveyed established a special anti-trafficking police unit, and more than half formulated a national action plan to address the issue.¹⁸

In general, in spite of the political will of the Central American countries, the "- &01)&-#/ &" 2/ /#M&-\$4" ?)/3\$+%//%\$4" #& 3,#,- &-3,- \$"-3).A&"3,- \$"3&)" /%\$, "/2&-F &0\$-3&" 3,#/>@/ #&+%.23/#&- 1/)/ 2/ /12\$%//%\$4" & \$"%,)- poration of these instruments in national legislations. This is particularly sensitive in the case of human trafficking. Some of the aspects that need to be improved and strengthened for the incorporation of the Palermo Protocol include:

- ① Overcome the vision of some criminal justice system operators and law formulators who consider these instruments to be not very useful tools that are difficult to apply and to implement in national legislation.
- ① To pay attention to international conventions and instruments and to the focal points, to their application throughout the judicial process and in 2/- -&"3&"%\$/- T.& &A\$3&" 2,- H.#\$%\$/2&- / +" #& T.&)&%,H/" &2 &- 1@@)\$3. of such instruments.

18 W2, (72=F8 L>YM\ NOPPQ9', (72=F8 L>YM\ NOPPQ9'.

① \ "%)&A&"3/) 2/ %A1)&"-\$4" #& 2,- H.#\$%\$/2&-)&-1&%3, / 2/ #&+"\$%\$4" contained in article 3 of the Palermo Protocol (2000) referred to 2/ #&+"\$%\$4" #&2 #&2\$3,F / +" #& T.& 1.&#/" A&H,)/) -. /12\$/%/\$4" &" specific cases.

① To harmonize the content of international instruments with the 2&(\$- 2/%\$,"&-"/%\$,"/2&-F &-1&%\$/2A&"3&& &" 2,)&2/%\$,"/#, / 2/- #&+ nitions of the crime of trafficking, the components, penalties, the nature and extraterritorial scope of the crime, reintegration of the victim and compensation for damages, among others.

S-3/- #&+%.23/#&&- M/" -\$#,)&%,",%\$#/- 1,) 2/- #&-3\$"3/- \$"-3\$3.%\$,"&- &- &-- and other actors involved in actions against the crime of trafficking in persons. For this reason, in recent years, various regional and national initiatives have been promoted aimed at overcoming these #&+%.23/#&- ? />/"K/) &" 2/ /)A,"\$K/%\$4" #& 2,- A/)%,- H.)@#\$%,- ? ",)- in each of the countries.

The process is incipient, but has already yielded some results, such as seminars, workshops and other regional activities to analyze, discuss and establish agreements among the countries. Many of these activities have been sponsored by international agencies and organizations such as the IOM, Save the Children, the ILO, and #&2 R\$-3&A/ #& 2/- [//%\$,"&- Z"\$#/-F &"3)& ,3)/-g

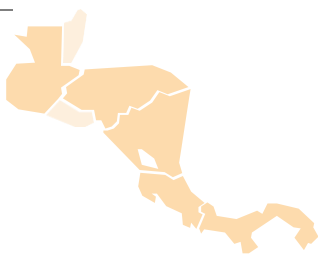
F)*\$=,&#\$+%&)= %&#\$+%&,&)=

The second step in the normative legal framework in the area of violence and trafficking in persons is constituted by national laws and regulations. For the analysis of these legal frameworks, the main laws on human rights, children's and adolescents' rights, women's rights and trafficking in persons were taken into account, as well as decrees and other regulations on the aforementioned topics.

It is important to mention that the creation of national laws on human rights, children's and adolescents' rights and women's rights has been part of broader processes of reform and updating of legal and regulatory frameworks throughout the region. This has been the case in both criminal and civil matters.

The protection of human rights, children's rights and women's rights through national laws and regulations is recent and has not been completed in all countries. In some countries, the legislation in force has traditional approaches and the modernization processes underway have been accelerated, in order to ensure that the protection of human rights, the rights of children and adolescents, and women's rights through national laws and regulations is recent and not complete in all countries.





There is a time lag between the approval of laws and their application by state institutions.

L), \$#)

In terms of national legislation related to violence and trafficking in persons, it is important to mention that since 2003 the government of Belize has made systematic efforts to update and complete the laws against this type of crime.

Table 33: J2\$%#\$4&,)= ,)0)= 9) L), \$#))% . \$+,)%# \$& 0 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&&=

Laws
Criminal Code.
Prohibited Firearm and Statutory Instrument.
Crime Control and Criminal Justice Act.
Firearms Amendment Act.
Domestic Violence Act.
7)/L+%Y\$"(\$" E&)-," E),M\$8\$3\$, " %3g
Families and Children's Act.

Source: Leiva, 2012.

The Criminal Code is the main instrument of national legislation to punish crimes, including sexual crimes. Other related laws are those regulating firearms and crime prevention. In the area of domestic violence, one of the most important laws is the Domestic Violence Act.

S")&2/%\$4" / 2/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/- 2/ 1)\$"%\$1/2 2&? &- k7)/L+%Y\$"(\$" E&)-," Prohibition Act", which was passed in 2003 and includes the most important elements of the Palermo Protocol (2000), especially in the case of women, children and adolescents. But, in addition, it adds some new elements such as the sanctioning of those persons who re- 3\$&"&" \$2&/(2A&"3& 2,- #,%A&"3,- #& \$#\$&"3\$+%//%\$4" , 3)/"-1,)3& %," &2 purpose of prostituting persons. Other provisions established in the law hold that in this type of crime, consent, the victim's past sexual life or possessing the minimum age established for sexual relations or marriage (14 years of age) are irrelevant and cannot be used as arguments to evade the crime and the penalty. In addition, a victim of trafficking cannot be criminalized on the basis of her immigration status or other trafficking-related actions.

U/ 2&? 3/A8\$h" &-3/82&%& # \$-1,-\$%\$,"&- &-1&%@+%/ - %./"#, 2/- >@%3\$A/- are girls or boys. For example, that the crime exists independently

#& 2,- A&#\$, - .3\$2\$K/#, - 1)/ % ,A&3&)2,- ? T.& 2/ +(.)/ #&2 \$"3&)A&#\$/-)\$, &- \$(./2A&"3&)&-1,"-/82& 1,) &2 #&2\$3,g Z"/ #& 2/- ,A\$-\$,"&- A*-\$A1,)3/"3&- &" 2/ &2/8,)/%\$4" #& &-3/ 2&?)&+&)/ 2/ L/23/ #& #&-1,-\$%\$,- "&- &-1&%@+%/ - 1)/ -/"%\$,"/) 2/ 3/3/ \$"3&)" / %," +"&- #& &012,3/%\$4" commercial sex tourism or in the form of the "Sugar Daddy Syndrome" (see page 62), especially in the case of children.

Z-./2A&"3&F %./"#, 2,- &2&A&"3,- #& 1).&8/ #&2 #&2\$3, ", -& 1.&#&&" to find easily, victim advocates use other laws to prosecute traffickers on charges such as rape, among others.

To address this gap, several institutions and organizations have requested a revision of the law, and there is a proposal by organizations -, %\$/2&- 1)/ 1&"/2\$K/) ".&>& 3\$1,- &-1&%@+%, - #& #&&2\$3,-g W& A/"&)/ similar it is considered necessary to update and give greater consistency to national legislation to punish crimes related to sexual abuse of children, including commercial sexual exploitation and pornography on the Internet.

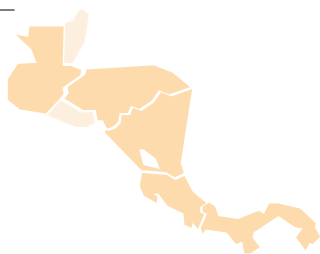
+=3& (\$#&

In the Costa Rican legal system, international treaties or conventions on fundamental human rights constitute cases &0%&1%\$,"/2&- 1.&- 3\$&"&" 2/ %/1/%\$#/# #& A,#\$+%/) 2/ H&)/T.@/ #& 2/- sources of domestic law, ranking above the Political Constitution. In this hierarchy, below the Constitution are placed, in order of category, the treaties and conventions with a higher rank than the ",)A/3\$>/ ,)#\$"/)\$/ p-\$&A1)& ? %./"#, -&/")/3\$+%//#, - 1,) 2/ `-/A82&/ Legislative- and other acts with the value of law or ordinary law. Subsequently follow decrees, directives, regulations and rules issued on a given subject.

Table 34: !29)%&5\$)%3+ U<2M9\$#+ 9) +=3& (\$#&)% 5&3)2\$& 9) .\$.+,%)#\$& 0 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&=

Laws
Law against Domestic Violence.
Childhood and Adolescence Code.
I4#\$(, E&"/2g Q&L,)A/ /2 /)3g D59 -,8)& 1&"/2\$K/%\$4" 1,) 3)*+%, #& 1&)-, "/2\$K/%\$4" 1,) 3)*+%, #& 1&)-, "/-g
Law against sexual exploitation of minors.
I4#\$(, E&"/2F)&L,)A/ /2 /)3g B5m)&L&)\$#, /2 3)*+%, #& 1&)-, "/- A&,")&- for adoption and its penalization.
Penal Code, amendment to Art. 374 on penalties in case of kidnapping for ransom, illicit association and international crimes.





Law for the criminalization of violence against women.
Law against organized crime.
General Law on Migration and Aliens.
Law for the protection of victims, witnesses and other parties involved in criminal proceedings, amendments and additions to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Code.
Decrees
Formation of the National Steering Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor and the Protection of Adolescent Workers.
Designation of the Attorney General's Office as the central authority to channel legal assistance and technical cooperation within the Ministry of the Interior.
Designation of the Attorney General's Office as the central authority to channel legal assistance and technical cooperation within the Ministry of the Interior.
Creation of the Immediate Response Team (ERI) for human trafficking situations.

Source: Espinoza, 2011.

Costa Rica has different legal instruments to sanction the following organized crime groups: "structured group of two or more persons existing for a certain period of time and acting in concert for the purpose of committing one or more serious crimes." This conceptualization allows the judicial process to constitute a special category that permits the extension of the time limits for investigation, as well as those of the statute of limitations of the crime, which enables the deepening of the investigations.

It also incorporates the use of the police information platform that concentrates information from the various police forces in the country. This platform is a structured group of two or more persons existing for a certain period of time and acting in concert for the purpose of committing one or more serious crimes. The conceptualization also makes it possible to establish a mandatory cooperation link with telecommunication companies in connection with wiretapping. Failure to comply with these guidelines enables the establishment of sanctions, fines and economic suspensions. The Judicial Investigation Organism, OIJ, is the governing body for the implementation.

It is also pointed out that there will be no major problem to lift the bank secrecy and demand that, in case of "emerging capital (the suspicious increase of accounts), a declaration of the origin of the funds must be made.

Regarding the distribution of confiscated money and securities or the proceeds of invested, auctioned or auctioned assets, the Costa Rican Institute against Drugs (ICD) is in charge of distributing them on the basis of a list of governmental institutions with percentages T.& 2/ A\$-A/ 2&? &-3/82&%&g U,- 8&"&+%\$/)\$. - , " 1)\$"%\$1/2A&"3&& &2 P)- ganism of Judicial Investigation, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Justice and Security. In addition, the law allocates a percentage to the social area directed to the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia.

Costa Rica's Penal Code has made great strides in the prosecution of the crime of trafficking and its corresponding punishment. The General Law on Migration and Foreigners establishes a special category for victims of human trafficking and has the power to grant temporary residence permits to persons in this situation. In addition, it indicates 2/).3/ / -&(. \$) &" %/-,- #& \$#&"3\$+%//%\$4" #& 1&)-,"/- &" %, "#\$%\$4" #& trafficking, proposes preventive activities that discourage violence and criminality and proposes to carry out research linked to the migratory field against corruption and organized crime.

The decree of November 8, 2005 created the National Coalition Against &2 7)*+%, \2@%\$3, #& ^\$()/"3&- ? 2/ 7)/3/ #& E&)-,"/- bl[I7\^7Ec %, " &2 +" #& %,.)#\$/) & \$A12&A&"3/) ." 12/" #& /%/%\$4" 1/)/ 2/ 1)&>&"%\$4 "F the combat, punishment and eradication of these actions that violate human rights, the protection of their victims and the effective judicial prosecution of those responsible.

U/- L/%.23/#&- #& 2/ 1,/2\$%\$4" L.&)," A,#\$+%/#/#/-F /A12\$/#/- ? &- 1&&%\$+- cadas through a decree issued on March 12, 2007, which incorporates the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, excludes t h e Ministries for the Status of Women and Children and Adolescents and opens the instance to the participation of the Judiciary, the Ombudsman's Office and the Legislative Assembly as observers.

Another decree,¹⁹ of 2009, provides the legal framework for specialized intersectoral and comprehensive care and for this purpose established a space for social response through the creation of the Immediate Response Team (ERI) for situations of human trafficking.

∴, 7&,.&9+2

The Republic of El Salvador also has a series of laws that protect the rights of citizens in the area of human rights and prevent violence and the crime of human trafficking. The most important laws in this area are detailed in the following table.

19 <http://ministeriopublico.poder-judicial.go.cr/noticias/2009/mayo/DECRETO%2035144.html>



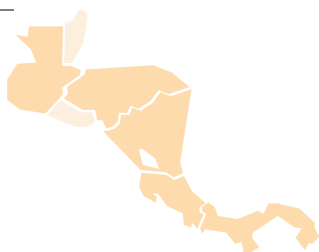


Table 35: Laws

Laws
Constitution of the Republic (Article 3).
Integral Law for a Life Free of Violence.
Law against Domestic Violence.
Family Code and its reforms
Law for Equality, Equity and Eradication of Discrimination against Women in El Salvador.
Penal Code (2004 amendments introducing the crime of trafficking and its 3\$1\$1\$+%//%\$4 "cg
Civil Code.
Labor Code.
Law for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents.
Special Law for the Protection and Development of Salvadoran Migrants.
Special Law for the Protection of Victims and Witnesses.
Municipal decrees and ordinances.
Executive Decree creating the National Committee against Trafficking in Persons.
Executive Decree creating the National Council against Trafficking in Persons.
Municipal ordinances for the prevention of human trafficking in the municipalities of Mejicanos, Santa Ana and San Miguel.

The Constitution of the Republic of El Salvador establishes the equality of persons before the law without distinction of nationality, race, sex or religion. This is the basic premise of the nation for the protection of the rights of all persons.

Z"/ -&)%\$& #& 2&?&- 1),3&(&" &2 #&)%&M, #& 2/-"\$N/-F"\$N,- ? /#,2&-%&"- tes and another group of laws safeguard the exercise of fundamental rights for Salvadoran women. Among them are the Law for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents and the Law against Domestic Violence.

S2 #&2\$3, #& 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,/- L.& 3\$1\$+%//#, %,A, 3/2 &" 9GG6 &" &" &2 I4- It is a crime under the country's Penal Code and establishes penalties comparable to those for rape and other serious crimes. It covers the activities of exploitation -&0./2F -,A&3&) / 3)/8/H,- L,)K/#,- ? 2/ &-%2/>\$3.# %, " +"&- &%, "4A\$%,-g The crime is aggravated if the perpetrator is a public or municipal official or a member of the police. It also establishes the creation of a special unit for the prosecution of the crime of human trafficking within the Border Division of the PNC.



The country has the Law for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents, known as LEPINA, which protects children and adolescents, and the Special Law for the Protection and Development of Salvadoran Migrants and their Families, which constitutes a State commitment to care for victims of trafficking.

The main objective of the municipal ordinances created in Mejicanos, Santa Ana and San Miguel is to prevent human trafficking through actions and procedures that reduce the risk of recruiting victims. To this end, it regulates access to public places, internet sites, virtual access sites, lodging, sale of alcoholic beverages and places dedicated to the commercialization of products, among others. In addition, it creates municipal structures of attention in the preventive area. It is important to mention that these ordinances are a unique experience in the entire Central American region and have been developed with the support of Save the Children.

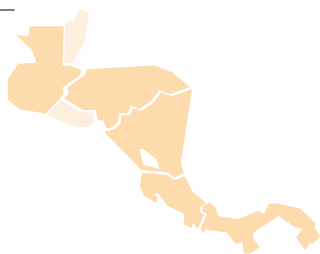
K<&3)5&,&

This country also has a body of national laws on violence and trafficking in persons. The most important are contained in the following table.

Table 36: **F)*\$=,&#\$>% 9) K<&3)5&,& =+H2) .\$.+,%)#\$& 0 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&==**

Laws
Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala.
Adoption Law.
Law against Femicide and other forms of Violence against Women.
Framework Law of the National Security System.
Law against Organized Crime.
U&? #& W\$("\$+%//%\$4" ? E),A,%\$4" \"3&()/2 #& 2/ ^.H&)g
Law against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons.
Penal Code of Guatemala (reformed in 2005 to incorporate A,#\$+%//%\$, "&-)&2/3\$>/- / 2/ 1&"/2\$K/%\$4" #& 2/ 3)/3/ %, " +"&- #& &012,3/%\$4" sexual).
Law for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents.
Code of Criminal Procedure.
Law for the Protection of Subjects of Proceedings and Persons Linked to the Administration of Criminal Justice.
Law for the Strengthening of Criminal Persuasion.





Alba-Keneth Alert System Act.

Decrees

Decree Creating the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG).

The Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala is considered the fundamental normative basis of the country. The Criminal Code of Guatemala is the next most important in the area of human trafficking. This was reformed- #, &" &2 /N, 9GGi & \$"3),#H, ."/ -&)\$& #& A,#\$+%//%\$,"&-)&2/3\$>/- / 2/ 1&"/2\$K/%\$4" #& 2,- #&2\$3,- #& 3)/3/ #& 1& 1&-),"/- %, " + "&- #& &012,3/%\$4" sexual, prostitution, pornography or any other form of sexual exploitation. It also established an increase in penalties if the victim of this type of crime was a child or adolescent.

The crimes of rape, statutory rape, sexual abuse, and corruption of minors ", L.&)," A,#\$+%//#,- &" &-3/)" &L,)A/ 1,) 2, T.& -.- #&+"\$%\$,"&- -, " 2/- A\$-A/- #&-#& &2 /N, DJ5Bg S2 l4#\$\$\$(, E&"/2 3\$1\$+%/ &2 #&2\$3, #& >\$,2/%\$4" for female victims or victims under 12 years of age, while statutory rape is)&+&& & / kA.H&)&- M,"&-3/-lg

The Penal Code also punishes the exploiter of prostitution for the following reasons "\$N,-F"\$N/- ? /#,2&-%&"3&- 1,) A&#\$, #& 2/- +(.)/- #& %,)).1%\$4" #&& minors and aggravated corruption. Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents /#,2&-%&"3&- ", -&& &"%&."3)/ 3\$1\$+%/#/ %,A, 3/2 ? 3/A1,%, &0\$-3& ."/ 1),3&%%\$4" 2&(/2 &-1&%@+%/ &" %."/3, / -. .3\$2\$K/%\$4" %, " + "&- #& 1)," -graphy.

In 2009, the Law Against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking of Persons was passed to complement the Code. This law is considered an advance for the country as it provides the necessary measures to protect victims of trafficking, violence and sexual abuse. It contains reforms on rape, creates a special chapter to penalize different crimes of commercial sexual exploitation, the production and possession of child pornography and paid sexual relations.

The focus is on prevention, prevention and punishment, and it assigns to the institutions involved a function and a role that is not only formal but also operational. To this end, it uses tools that facilitate compliance with the objectives and encourages the State to assume its responsibility in the matter. In other words, it harmonizes domestic criminal law with the international instrument.

Z" \$"-3).A&"3, H.)@#\$%, ">&#,-, %) &/#, &" C./3&A/2/ &- 2/ U&? #&2 R\$-- The Alba-Keneth Alert, which allows for rapid action by different state institutions when cases of disappearance of children and adolescents occur. This law has made it possible to resolve and prevent

The abduction of children through the adoption of immediate measures once a case is reported, such as the closing of borders and the activation of search systems throughout the national territory.

O+9<2&=

In recent years, Honduras has updated and completed its legal framework to prevent and punish violence and trafficking in persons. The main national laws are listed in the following table.

Table 37: S&2#+ U<2M9\$#+ 9) O+9<2&=)% 5&3)2\$& 9) .\$. ,)%#\$& 0 32&3&& 9) 4)2=+%&=

Laws
Constitution of the Republic of Honduras.
Penal Code.
Police and Social Coexistence Law.
Law against Domestic Violence.
Equal Opportunity for Women Act.
Childhood and Adolescence Code.
Framework Law for the Integral Development of Youth.
Law for the Prevention, Rehabilitation and Social Reinsertion of Juveniles in Gangs.

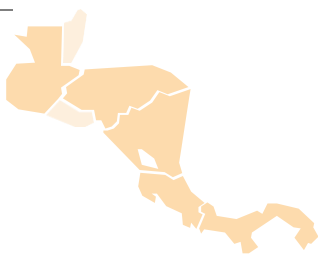
As in other countries in the region, the basis for legislation in Honduras is the Constitution of the Republic. Both the Constitution and the Penal Code have been reformed on various occasions to adapt them to the concerns and commitments acquired by the State in relation to the protection of children and adolescents, as well as the prevention of violence against women.

These reforms have been complemented by the approval of several laws, including: the Law on Police and Social Coexistence, the Code for Children and Adolescents, the Framework Law for the Comprehensive Development of Youth, the Law against Domestic Violence, the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women, and the Law on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Social Reinsertion of Youth in Gangs.

The Law against Domestic Violence, passed in 1997, represents a significant step forward in the fight against domestic violence.

/>/"%& H.)@#\$%, \$A1,)3/"3& ? ." 2,(, %.23.)/2 -\$(" \$+%/3\$>, 1,)T.& >\$-\$8\$2\$-
The law has also addressed the serious problem of violence in the home. This crime is now considered a public order crime and the law gives the State the power to intervene and protect women.





S2 S-3/#, #& X, "#, "#.)/-)/3\$+%4 &2 : #& A/? , #& 9GG9 &2 E),3,%2, </%.2-3/3\$>, Q&2/3\$>, / 2/ f&"3/ #& [N,-F 2/ E),-3\$3.%"\$4" \œ "L/"3\$2 ? 2/ Z3\$2\$K/%\$4" of Children in Pornography. On April 1, 2008, it did the same with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Children and Women (Palermo Protocol), thus, in theory, the most modern provisions of the international legal system have been integrated into Honduran domestic legislation, including with constitutional rank by virtue of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic.

However, international instruments are not operative unless the domestic legal system is adapted to these norms in order to make them enforceable. Although several institutions have been proposing reforms in this regard for the past nine years, the only progress

-\$("\$+%/3\$>,- &" A/3&)\$ / 2&&(\$-2/3\$>/ -& #&\$&)," %," 2/-)&L,)A/- /2 I4#\$(, E&" /2 1/ / %/-3\$(/) %," &-1&%\$+/%\$#/# &2 #&2\$3, #& 2/ &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 commercial, while there is barely a faint reference in D6J #&2 I4#\$(, E&" /2 T.& 3\$1\$1\$+%/ 2/ +(.) / #&2\$%3\$>/ #& 2/ 3/ 3/ &" -@F 2\$A\$- 3/# / / 2/ 3/ 3/ %," +"&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 %,A&)%\$ /2g

Institutions and non-governmental organizations working on this issue formulated a proposal to update national legislation with respect to the guidelines of the Palermo Protocol. The development of such an effort began in 2008 with a study of national and international legislation and the preparation of a draft Anti-Trafficking Bill. The law was approved in April 2012. This process was supported by international cooperation.

The strategy devised by the working group consists of three phases: the adoption of a criminal offence of trafficking, which includes all the complexities of the offence and meets all the requirements of domestic legislation.

%,," /2 &" 2/A/3&)\$ /n (&"&) /) ."/ \$" -3\$3. %\$, "/2\$# / # %,"),2&- 8\$& " #& +"\$,- and the construction of programs that respond to the reality of the country.

Q\$#&2&*<&

Like other countries in the region, Nicaragua has a national legal framework to prevent and punish crimes related to violence and human trafficking. Some of the most important laws are included in the following table:

Table 38: F)*\$=,&#\$>% 9) Q\$#&2&*<&)% 5&3)2\$& 9) .\$.+,%)#\$& 0 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&==

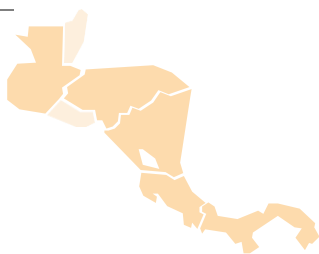
Laws
Political Constitution of the Republic.
Penal Code.
National Police Act.
Equal Rights and Opportunities Act.
Law of the Attorney General's Office for the Defense of Human Rights.
Childhood and Adolescence Code.
Integral Law against Violence against Women.
U&? P)(*\$%/ #&2 ^"\$-3&&)\$, EO82\$%, ? -.- Z"\$##/##&&- S-1&%\$/2\$K/#/- #& attention to Violence, Organized Crime and Human Trafficking.
Law for the Prevention, Investigation and Prosecution of Organized Crime and the Administration of Seized, Forfeited and Abandoned Property.
U&? #& SH&%.%\$4 "F]&"&+%, - ? I, "3),2 _.)\$-#%\$%%\$, "/2 #& 2/ R/"%\$4" E&"/2g
Decrees
Executive Decree on the Gender Policy of the Government of the Dominican Republic
Q&%, "%\$2\$/%\$4" ? Z"\$##/ [/%, "/2g
Decree of the Ministry of Education prohibiting physical and psychological punishment of children and adolescents in schools throughout the country.

The Political Constitution is the highest norm of the Nicaraguan legal system. It is followed by the Penal Code approved in 2008, which 3\$1\$+%/ ? -/"%\$, "/ 2,- #&2\$3,- T.& /3&"3/" %, "3)/ 2/ 2\$8&)3/# & "\$3&())\$##/ sexual abuse of persons and establishes special protection measures or precautionary measures aimed at guaranteeing the rights of the victims #& >\$,2&"%\$/g \'"%2.?& &2 #&2\$3, #& 3)/3/ #& 1&)-, "/- ? 2, #&+"& &" &2 /)3@- article 182.

In relation to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence and trafficking in persons, the Criminal Code establishes that the police and judicial authorities must protect their interests and guarantee their safety and integrity. To safeguard the safety of victims, the Code provides that the judicial authority, at the request of a party, may apply, depending on the case, various protection measures. Without em- 8/)(,F .", #& 2,- 1)\$"%\$1/2&- 1),82&A/- T.&)&&=&H/ &-3/)&&(.2/%\$4" &- 2/ /12\$%//%/%\$4" 1,%, &+%/K #& 2/- A&#\$/-g [, M/? ."- \$-3&A/ #& %, "3),2 and surveillance for persons for whom protective measures have been taken.

The Equal Rights and Opportunities Law, passed in 2008, establishes equality, equity, justice, non-discrimination and non-violence, as well as respect for people's dignity and life. In addition, it institutes a set of responsibilities for the institutions of the





State to develop programs for the detection, prevention and care of physical, psychological and sexual violence.

In the area of children's rights, the main instrument available to the country is the Code for Children and Adolescents, approved in the /N, DJJ:g S-3/ ",)A/ H.)@#\$/)&%,",%&F 1),3&(& ? #&+&"#& 2,- #&)&%M,- of persons under 18 years of age. The National Assembly approved the Comprehensive Law against Violence against Women,²⁰ T.& #&+"& ? 3\$1\$+%/ all forms of violence against women, especially femicide, and establishes expeditious procedures for granting protection measures to victims. It also mandates the State's responsibility to formulate a public policy for the prevention, attention and punishment of violence against women.

In relation to organized crime and human trafficking there is a A/)% , H.)@#\$, &-1&%@+%, T.& 3\$&"& / 2/ U&? P)(*"\$%/ #&2 ^"\$-\$3&)\$, EO-82\$%, ? -.- Z"\$#/#&&- S-1&%\$/2\$K/#/- #& `3&"%\$4" / 2/ **f\$**,2&"%\$/F l)\$A&" Organized Crime and Trafficking in Persons, as the main reference. This law has been recently complemented with the approval of the Law for the Prevention, Investigation and Prosecution of Organized Crime and the Administration of Seized, Confiscated and Abandoned Assets, Law 735 of 2010.

This law contemplates aspects such as the creation of the National Anti-Drug Council, the interception of communications, protection expenses for individuals and the validity of their testimonies. Similarly A/"&)/ %, "3&A12/ 2/ %)&/%\$4" #& 2/ Z"\$#/# `#A\$"\$-3)/#,) #& 2,- j\$&&- The law also includes the inclusion of three institutions that carry out prevention and investigation work in the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), the Youth Institute and the Superintendence of Banks, as part of the search to adapt and modernize the way to confront the methods with which organized crime operates. This law is based on the Palermo Convention and its protocols, and incorporates human trafficking as an organized crime offense.

U/ U&? #& SH&%.%\$4 "F j&"&+%, - ? l, "3),2 _.)\$-#\$\$%%\$, "/2 #& 2/ R/"%\$4" The purpose of the Criminal Code, which entered into force in 2011, is to regulate the jurisdictional control of the execution of criminal sanctions, prison supervision, the monitoring of security measures and the establishment of procedures for the processing and resolution of criminal cases. "\$"%\$#&"3&- %,))&-1, "\$\$&"3&-F (/)"3\$K/"#, 2/ +"/2\$#/#)&&#.%/3\$>/ #& 2/ The sentence and the reintegration of the convicted person into society.

²⁰ The law was approved in January 2012.

Some key institutions such as the National Police have created internal administrative provisions that accompany their actions in the area of violence and human trafficking, such as: Provision 009/2010 of the National Police, which establishes the Police System for the Attention to the Crime of Human Trafficking; Provision 002-2011 on operational measures to confront the crime of human trafficking; and the national plan against human trafficking of the same institution.

During the last few years Nicaragua has carried out an intense process of reform and modernization of its criminal legal framework. Despite this, however, it still lacks a comprehensive legal framework for the prevention and punishment of crimes related to violence and human trafficking. The main laws are mentioned below:

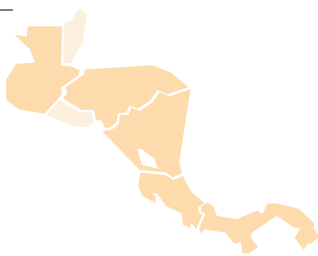
J&%&5I

Panama has a comprehensive legal framework for the prevention and punishment of crimes related to violence and human trafficking. The main laws are mentioned below:

Table 39: S&2#+ U<2M9\$#+ 9) J&%&5I)% .\$.+,%)#\$& 0 32&3& 9) 4)2=+&=&

Laws
Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama.
Criminal Code of the Republic of Panama.
Law No. 71 of December 23, 2008 creating the National Women's Institute.
U&? Dm #&2 BD #& A/K, #& 9GG6 T.& 1)&>=\$&"& ? 3\$1\$+%/ #&2\$3,- %, "3)/ 2/ \$"3&()\$#/# ? 2\$8&)3/# -&0./2F /#&A*- #& A,#\$+%/) ? /#\$%\$,") /)3@%.2,- /2 Penal Code and Judicial Code.
Law 38 of July 10, 2001 on Domestic Violence and Abuse of Children and Adolescents.
Law No. 4 of January 29, 1999 on Equal Opportunities for Women.
Law No. 31 of May 28, 1998 on the protection of crime victims.
Law No. 11 of December 28, 1995 creating the Family Prosecutor's Offices.
U&? [q 95 #&2 Dm #& H."\$, #& DJJi T.& 3\$1\$+%/ 2,- #&2\$3,- #& >\$,2&"%\$/ and child abuse.
Law No. 3 of May 17, 1994 approving the Family Code
Law against Trafficking in Persons and Related Activities.





In Panama, the highest legal norm is the Political Constitution of the Republic. It is followed by the Penal Code. The country also has extensive legislation on violence, especially for the protection of children, youth and women.

U/ 2&? &" A/3&)/ #& 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/- L.& /1),8/#/ / +"/2&- #&2 /N, 2011 after a long process. Its implementation is just beginning and has given rise to high expectations among specialized institutions because it involves the strengthening of their operational and institutional capacities in the fight against human trafficking.

-&4&#\$9&9)= \$%=3\$3<#\$+%&,)=

Institutional capacities for the prevention and protection of violence and human trafficking are as important as institutional frameworks.

H.)@#\$\$,- ? ",)A/3\$>,-g S-3,)&+&)& / 2/ \$"-3\$3.%, "/2\$##/ 1082\$%/ ? -.-)&- The capacity of social organizations and institutions that accompany state actions and contribute to the fight against trafficking in persons. In addition to the capacities of social organizations and institutions that accompany state actions and contribute to the fight against human trafficking.

()*\$+%&,)=

In the Central American region, there are agencies that work to prevent and combat violence and human trafficking. Some of the most relevant are:

① 7\$=3)5& 9) The main SICA bodies related to the prevention and fight against violence and trafficking in persons are: the Central American Parliament, which also has a Commission on Women, Children, Youth and Family; the Central American Court of Justice; the General Secretariat #&2 RI` %, " -.- ."\$/#&- 3h% "\$%/- &-1&%\$/2\$K/#/- %,A, 2/ Z"\$##/ of Democratic Security; the Council of Central American Women's Ministers and the Central American Security Commission, which in turn includes other bodies such as the Commission of Central American Police Chiefs. The latter has developed joint actions in relation to human trafficking, such as the regional plans known as "PACTO".

① -+%D)2)%#\$& ()*\$+%&, =+H2) S\$*2&#\$>%P 3&5H\$6% #+%+#\$9& #+5++ J2+#)=+ J<)H,&C It is a multilateral regional forum composed of all 2,- 1/@-&- %&"3),/A&)\$%/,"- /#&A*- #& I/"/#*F S-3/#,- Z"\$##,-F Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Other Latin American countries are participating as observers (Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico and the Dominican Republic).

In the same category, it has the participation of the member countries and has, among other international bodies, a Technical Secretariat. Its two main lines of work are: to coordinate and organize the efforts of the member countries in the fight against human trafficking and to provide technical assistance to the member countries in the area of human trafficking. In the area of human trafficking, some studies and documents have been prepared, such as: Regional guidelines for special protection in cases of repatriation of children and adolescent victims of trafficking in persons and the Comparative matrix of the legislation of the member countries of the RCM related to trafficking in persons.

- ① The Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) was formally installed on September 16, 2011, after a process of regional coordination and organization. It is made up of the coordinators and technical secretaries of the coalitions, committees or national commissions of the seven countries in the region (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) in the fight against human trafficking. In 2011, the Coalition of the Americas (CA) was created, which is made up of the coordinators and technical secretaries of the coalitions, committees or national commissions of the seven countries in the region (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) in the fight against human trafficking. In 2011, the Coalition of the Americas (CA) was created, which is made up of the coordinators and technical secretaries of the coalitions, committees or national commissions of the seven countries in the region (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) in the fight against human trafficking.

- ② The Organization of American States (OAS) has been working to fight against human trafficking through the Organization of American States, OAS. To this end, two high-level meetings were held in March 2006 and March 2009. In addition, a specialized unit for trafficking in persons was created and the OAS has a work plan for the period 2010-2012, which was approved by the member states of the organization.

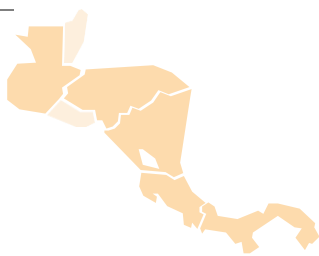
The work plan for the period 2010-2012, which was approved by the member states of the organization.

The work plan for the period 2010-2012, which was approved by the member states of the organization.

Since 2003, the country's institutional capacities to work against human trafficking began to be strengthened. This came after the government received with concern the annual report of the Organization of American States (OAS) on human trafficking in the Americas. In 2003, the government received with concern the annual report of the Organization of American States (OAS) on human trafficking in the Americas. In 2003, the government received with concern the annual report of the Organization of American States (OAS) on human trafficking in the Americas.

Two of the most important actions since then have been the approval of the Law on Human Trafficking and the creation of the National System for the Fight Against Human Trafficking. The Law on Human Trafficking was approved in 2003 and the National System for the Fight Against Human Trafficking was created in 2004. The Law on Human Trafficking was approved in 2003 and the National System for the Fight Against Human Trafficking was created in 2004.





In 2006 it was elevated to the category of national committee and was named "National Committee for Family and Children" by the Ministry of Human Development and is made up of the following government institutions and non-governmental organizations:

- ① Police Department
- ① Ministry of Human Development
- ① Migration Department
- ① National Committee for Family and Children
- ① Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ① Ministry of Domestic Affairs
- ① Ministry of the Attorney General
- ① Statistical Institute of Belize
- ① Department of Labor
- ① Customs Department
- ① Belize Tourism Directory
- ① National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN)
- ① Youth Enhancement Services (YES)

The main function of the Committee is to coordinate the effective implementation of the law on human trafficking. Its work plan includes various activities, among them: training and capacity building of personnel, prevention and public education, regional collaboration and joint actions, operations, attention to victims, investigation and information gathering. Its actions are guided by a multisectoral approach, for which it has been divided into three subcommittees: the Information, Communication and Education Subcommittee, the Tripartite Operations Subcommittee and the Information Subcommittee.

In 2007, a protocol was developed for the care of victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children. This protocol is used by all personnel involved in dealing with these crimes, such as police, social workers, health and education officials, NGOs and community organizations.

The Committee has a National Action Plan and has developed various activities, among them: training and capacity building of personnel, prevention and public education, regional collaboration and joint actions, operations, attention to victims, investigation and information gathering. Its actions are guided by a multisectoral approach, for which it has been divided into three subcommittees: the Information, Communication and Education Subcommittee, the Tripartite Operations Subcommittee and the Information Subcommittee.

Prevention actions have also been carried out throughout the country, including: announcements in several languages for radio, television and newspapers; the following have been carried out



The company has placed posters at different key points in the country, such as the international airport, main border posts and tourist areas, as well as a con-

%.), 1/) &2/8,)/%\$4" #& /+%M&- ? 3/22&)&- %," A/&-3),-g P3)/- /%%%\$,- nes have to do with roadblocks and distribution of flyers, />\$,- ? /+%M&-g U/- /%%%\$,"&- #& 1)&>&"%\$4" -," %,-3,-/-F -,8)& 3,#, The Committee has limited resources for this, so it has relied on the support of various international organizations and agencies.

In terms of data processing, the Committee compiles the statistics for each unit, as each unit collects them according to its function. However, these are shared and compared in working sessions and meetings. However, this is still an aspect that needs to be improved, as in the rest of the countries in the region. In the area of joint actions, the members of the Committee have participated in regional and international conferences and seminars, as well as in joint operations such as the three regional "PACTO" operations.

The Police Department implements a plan that has human trafficking as one of its priorities. To address this crime, it created a special unit for investigation and support of trafficking victims that works under the same multisectoral approach as the Committee. Actions include the training of %\$3/%\$4" #& ,+%/2& - &" #L&)& "3&- 3&A*3\$%/-)&%, "/#/- %," &- 3& #& 2\$3,F throughout the country, but with special attention to border areas. Other actions developed include training and joint inter-agency actions, as well as the strengthening of contacts, collaboration and information exchange with other regional institutions or those of neighboring countries. This specialized unit is also in charge of 12/"\$+%/) ? &H&%.3/) 2/- ,1&)/%\$,"&- #&)&-%/3& #& >@%3\$A/-g

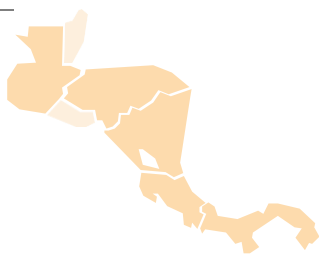
The Department of Labor works closely and in constant communication with the police to conduct inspections and prevent child labor. It has also developed a similar relationship with the immigration authorities and has set up a committee for immigration permits.

3)/8/H,g U/- \$"-1&%%\$,"&- 2&- M/" 1&)A\$3\$#, \$#&"3\$+%/) %/-, - &" 2,- T.&F apparently, immigrants are working as masseurs or jar- diners when in reality they are being trafficked.

The Migration Department has been able to train about 95 percent of its staff to prevent and detect cases of human trafficking. Some of the officers have been trained as trainers to expand the workshops within the department. Many of the trainings are conducted in conjunction with the police and customs.

In the case of social organizations, the country does not have NGOs working on the issue of human trafficking. Those that work with victims of trafficking in persons do not have NGOs working on the issue.





The women's organizations also deal with other types of problems such as sexual exploitation of girls, boys and women. Some of them participate in the Anti-Trafficking Committee and their level of involvement depends on their capacities. Most of them focus on protection and care for victims and advocacy to strengthen the formulation and enforcement of laws that protect women and children. They also facilitate training for institutions such as the police, migration and customs.

Some of the international agencies that have a presence in the country also support national institutions and organizations, among &22/-; Z[IS< {X\FPRF J\WF P\^ ? P\7g

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Insecurity, crime and violence are three of the main concerns of Costa Rican citizens and are also important issues on the country's political agenda. The government has created several institutional bodies to prevent and combat crime, violence and human trafficking.

The perspective promoted for the prevention of violence and the promotion of social peace is comprehensive. Actions are aimed at addressing common crime, but also include organized crime, with h "L/- \$- &" 2/- A"\$L&-3/%\$,"&- #&2"/)% ,3)*+%, ? #& 2/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/-g

Z"/ #& 2/- A*- \$A1,)3/"3&- #&%\$-\$,"&- M/ %,"-\$-3\$#, &" \$"%)&A&"3/) 2/- inter-institutional actions for the prevention and care of trafficking in 1&)-,"/- ? &2 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& A\$("/"3&- / 3)/>h- #& ."/)&# \$"3&)"\$"-3\$- 3.%\$,"/2 T. &"%2. ?& 2/ 1/3\$%\$1/%\$4" #& (,8\$&)" , - 2,%/2&-F &2 \^ZF &2 PANI, the National Rehabilitation Council, as well as non-governmental organizations and international agencies.

In the field of security and coexistence, the aim is to increase police and prison capacities through the provision of resources of all kinds. In relation to transnational phenomena, the challenge is to improve intelligence work, spaces and the effectiveness of coordination. Among the main actions are the implementation of the Safe, Supportive and Healthy Communities Program, which covers 40 cantons in the country, and the execution of 20 citizen security projects aimed at recovering public spaces, promoting recreational activities of various kinds, strengthening the Safe Schools Program, and offering addiction treatment and protection for victims of crime.

Another important aspect has to do with the country's status as a destination zone for migrants from neighboring countries. As a result, the country is a destination for migrants from neighboring countries.

The General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners and the National Directorate of Community Development (DINADECO) have established guidelines to provide conditions for the integration of the migrant population.

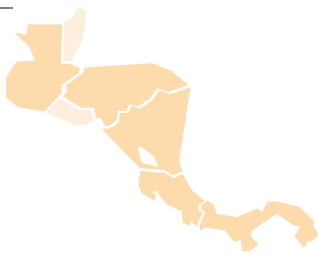
The National Commission for the Prevention of Violence and the Promotion of Social Peace (CONAPAZ) was created to advance in a proposal to address violence from a preventive perspective. S-3/ 3\$&"& & &"3)& -.- L."%\$,"&- \$">&-3\$(/)F 12/"\$+%/)F %,,)#\$"/) ? &>2./) policies and actions in the area of violence and crime prevention. The work program created for this instance is called Citizen Security Policy and Promotion of Social Peace (POLSEPAZ).

From this perspective, the networks of the Committees for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (under the responsibility of DINADECO), the Child Protection Boards (PANI), the Citizen Security Committees (MSP), the local networks for the prevention of violence against women, as well as the mental health programs of the Ministry of Health and the National Drug Plan (ICD) are to be articulated.

Among the main actions developed based on the POLSEPAZ guidelines are the creation of the position of National Anti-Drug Commissioner; the National Drug Plan; the Action Plan against Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (Ministry of Security, PANI) and the road map against child labor (Ministry of Labor). Likewise, the SIMMEL Project (Integrated System of Electronic Migratory Movement, in the phase of collection and registration of facial and fingerprint characteristics of persons entering the country (DGME) and the actions of the National Coalition against &2 7)*+%, \2@%\$3, #& ^\$(/)"3&- ? 2/ 7)/3/ #& E&)-,"/-g X/? F/#&A*-F &" legislative process a bill to reform the Weapons and Explosives Law.
? &" 2/ I,A\$-\$4" E&)A/"&"3& #& R&&(.)\$#/# ? [/)%,3)*+%, ? ." 1),?&%3, of Law No. 17594 against trafficking in persons and related activities.

The National Commission Against Sexual Exploitation (CONACOES) was created in 1996 as a body under the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CNNNA). Its technical secretariat resides in the National Children's Trust and from there it takes on the fight against commercial sexual exploitation affecting minors, coordinates and articulates different instances generating an intersectoral, inter-institutional and multidisciplinary work space that includes the participation of civil society organizations.





And in the area of organized crime and human trafficking, the Judicial Investigation Agency has specialized units such as the Z"\$#/# #& 7)/3/ ? 7)*+%, #& E&)-,"/-g

U/ 1,/2\$%\$4" [//%\$,"/2 %, "3)/ &2 7)*+%, \2@%\$3, #& ^\$()/"3&- ? 2/ 7)/3/ #& People was created in 2005 with the objective of coordinating and implementing a plan of action for the prevention, combat, punishment and eradication of these crimes, the protection of victims and the effective prosecution of those responsible. This Coalition is made up of the Ministry of Government, Police and Public Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, the National Women's Institute, the Ministry of Justice and Peace, the Ministry of Health, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, the Ministry of Public Education, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the National Children's Trust. In addition, it opens its participation to the Judicial Power, the Ombudsman's Office and the Legislative Assembly as observers. It also provides for the participation of international and non-governmental organizations. The coordination of this body is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior, Police and Public Security.

In 2009, the Immediate Response Team (ERI) was created exclusively to provide specialized attention to victims of human trafficking. This team is made up of representatives of the Technical Secretariat, the Directorate General of Migration and Alien Affairs, the Directorate General of Law Enforcement, &2 r)/ #& f\$,2&"%\$/ #& Ch"&), #&2 \[^Z ? #&2 ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #&2 7)/8/H,F &2 E,#&) _#\$%\$/2F .")&1)&- &"3/"3& #& 2/ Z"\$#/# #& 7)/3/ ? 7)*+%, #& 2/ P\F .")&1)&-&"3/"3/"3& #& 2/ P+%\$/ #& `3&"%\$4" / 2/ f@%3\$A/ #&2 ^\$"\$-3&)\$, Public, the Guidance and Information Center of the National Children's Trust and a representative of the International Organization for 2/- ^\$()/%\$,"& &&-F &2 `23, I,A\$-\$,"/#, #& 2/- [//%\$,"&- Z"\$#/- 1)/ 2,- Refugees and the International Labor Organization. The ERI has a 24-hour availability regime, access and facilities to communication resources, transportation and police security, among others.

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In terms of state institutional capacities in El Salvador, several can be mentioned in relation to the issue of violence and the 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/-g Z"/ #& 2/- A*- \$A1,)3/"3/"3&- &- &2 \"-3\$3.3, R/2>/#,-)&N, 1)/ &2 W&-/)),22, #& 2/ ^.H&) b\RWS^Zc T.& &- &2 &"3&)&%3,) #& protection of women's rights in the country. There is also the Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, which issues country reports to the regional and universal human rights system.

Since December 2005, the government has set up the National Committee against Trafficking in Persons, composed of a number of governmental institutions.) &-3& #&2\$3, #&-#& ."/ >\$-\$4" \$"3&()/2 ? / 3)/>h- #& a national plan in accordance with the obligations assumed by the Salvadoran legal system. The institutions that make up the Committee are: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, Ministry of Tourism, National Secretariat of the Family, National Civil Police, General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners, Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Care of Children and Adolescents and Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women.

This Committee is advised by the Inter-American Commission of Women, the International Labor Organization, the International Organization for Migration, Save the Children and the International Organization of S-3/#, - `A&)\$%/",-F 2/ `(&"%\$/ #& 2/- [/%"\$,"&- Z"\$#/- 1/)/ 2/ \ "L/"%\$/F the International Organization for Migration. In addition, civil society organizations may be consulted and gradually integrated into the Committee when there is a need for joint efforts.

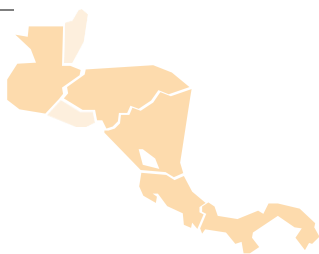
The National Committee has a policy for the eradication of trafficking in 1&)-,"/- ? ." 12/" &-3)/3h(\$%, 1/)/ &2 1&)\$,#, 9GG:s9GD9g \(. /2A&"3& has prepared national guidelines for addressing the issue and has annual operating plans that determine and guide its activities for the period. To develop its actions, the Committee is subdivided into three subcommittees corresponding to the main lines of work: Prevention and Communication, Legislation and Combating and Attention to Victims of Trafficking.

Each one is made up of the institutions with the greatest competence in its area. The first is coordinated by the Ministry of Education, the second by the Attorney General's Office and the National Civil Police, and the third by the Secretariat of Social Inclusion and the Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents.

The subcommittees meet periodically and prepare their annual work plan, which governs the main activities for the year. It is important to note that the Committee in general and its subcommittees receive technical assistance from Save the Children and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It should also be noted that the following international NGOs are also members of this National Committee

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In 2011, the government created the National Council against Trafficking in Persons, which will henceforth be responsible for the formulation, monitoring, coordination and evaluation of the National Policy for the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons. It will also be in charge of developing plans, programs and public actions to prevent and combat this crime and to protect and care for its victims from a comprehensive perspective.

The Council will be composed of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Secretariat of Social Inclusion and the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women.

On the other hand, in the different institutions of the Salvadoran criminal justice system there are specialized units against organized crime and human trafficking. In this sense, the creation of these specialized units is considered a step forward in that it allows for a better treatment of cases in response to their complexity. However, there are also some critical assessments regarding the level of development and strength of these units.

The units specialized in the investigation of trafficking in persons rely on the support and cooperation of international organizations and others designated by the head of the institution due to their level of awareness and commitment and the specialized equipment, human, vehicular transportation and technological equipment, however, the lack of coordination among the institutions involved; the lack of cooperation of victims due to fear and intimidation; and the lack of comprehensive treatment of victims by State institutions to strengthen the comprehensive approach to the crime. Added to this is the lack of specialization of the legal operators in charge of the prosecution and judicialization of this crime and its victims; the centralization and concentration of the units or areas in charge of investigating the crime, as an element of the criminal type of trafficking in persons and problems of interpretation and law enforcement.

In the area of prosecution of crime, there are obstacles that prevent effective punishment of the guilty parties. These include: the fact that nationals cannot be prosecuted for the crime in question; the lack of coordination among the institutions involved; the lack of cooperation of victims due to fear and intimidation; and the lack of comprehensive treatment of victims by State institutions to strengthen the comprehensive approach to the crime. Added to this is the lack of specialization of the legal operators in charge of the prosecution and judicialization of this crime and its victims; the centralization and concentration of the units or areas in charge of investigating the crime, as an element of the criminal type of trafficking in persons and problems of interpretation and law enforcement.

In response to this problem, efforts are being made to strengthen law enforcement against traffickers, investigate and prosecute information about

labor exploitation and forced domestic servitude, as well as complaints against public officials accused of involvement in human trafficking activities.

The institutions participating in the study considered it necessary to increase operations to combat the crime of trafficking. Among others, they mentioned the implementation of operations to rescue victims, improve assistance services for victims, particularly adult victims, and shelter services for children. Other initiatives mentioned included increasing penalties for human trafficking offenses, creating mechanisms for supervision and exhaustive control in judicial proceedings to ensure that officials comply with the law, and improving the quality of the judicial process.

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The country's institutional capacities in the area of violence and trafficking #& 1&)-,"/- -& &"%.&"3)/" &-3/82&%\$#/- &" #&\$-3\$"3/- \$"- 3/"%\$/-g Z"/ #& the most important is the Secretariat Against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET) attached to the Vice-Presidency. This Secretariat coordinates the Inter-institutional Commission Against Trafficking in Persons (CIT),²¹ an inter-institutional space to fight against this crime.

U/ RfS7 L.& #&+"\$#/ %,A, &2 4)/(" , /-&-,)f ,)\$&"3/#,) ? %,,)#\$"/#,) #& The program was created in 2009 at the same time that the Public Policy against Trafficking in Persons and Integral Protection of Victims was formulated, as well as the 2007-2017 strategic action plan. It was created in 2009 at the same time that the Public Policy against Trafficking in Persons and Integral Protection of Victims was formulated, as well as the strategic action plan 2007-2017.

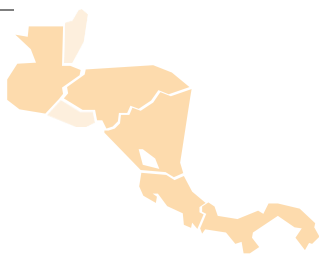
The Inter-institutional Commission Against Trafficking in Persons reports directly to the SVET, but is convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Commission is composed of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Education, Culture and Sports, Public Health and Social Assistance, Labor and Social Welfare; the Secretariats of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic, of Social Communication, of Public Health and Social Assistance, and of Labor and Social Security; and the Ministries of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic, of Social Communication and of Social Welfare.

%"\$2 #& 2/ E)&-\$#&"%\$/ #& 2/ Q&1082\$/F #& E2/"\$+%/%"\$4" ? E),()/A/%\$4" of the Presidency; the Presidential Secretariat for Women, the Secretariat of Social Works of the President's Wife; the Presidential Coordinating Commission for the Executive's Human Rights Policy, COPREDEH and the Office for the Defense of Indigenous Women.

21 The IAC is considered a space. It is not yet recognized as an instance because it does not have a

permanent status and does not have a strategic plan.





The Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency and the Office of the Attorney General for Children and Adolescents are two key institutions for the protection and defense of the rights of children and adolescents. The first is the National Civil Police, which is responsible for the compliance with public policies aimed at children, adolescents and families, especially at-risk groups. The second has the function of legally representing those children and adolescents. The National Civil Police, the Political Constitution, international treaties and conventions, accepted

The National Civil Police is an institution with several ins- 3/2012 and 18/2012. It develops an outreach program on the prevention of drugs, prostitution, domestic violence and abuse of minors, with special emphasis on children and adolescents in different educational centers. This section works with child and adolescent victims and facilitates options for their recovery and reintegration into society.

The Public Prosecutor's Office, through the Women's Prosecutor's Office, created units for human trafficking, adoptions and murdered women. These units are responsible for investigating, processing evidence, precautionary measures, arrest warrants and providing psychological assistance. Subsequently

The judicial body has developed, with the support of the United Nations Fund for International Development, the

The Ministry of Education also participates, which has recently incorporated content on the subject in primary school curricula, education



Due to the importance of this issue in the country, the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman has created a special unit to deal with the situation with respect to this crime.

According to the different actors consulted during the study, despite the progress made, it is necessary to develop numerous international actions for Guatemala to assume its responsibility in the prevention, punishment and protection of the issue. Some of them should point out that, even though there are legal regulations, it is necessary to strengthen the recently created state institutions, as well as a more adequate application of the legal norms, especially in the case of the operators of the criminal justice system.

Civil society has also built institutional capacities. Two years ago it established the "Network against Trafficking in Persons" in which 19 non-governmental organizations participate and which is coordinated by ECPAT-Guatemala. Among its member organizations are: ECPAT-Guatemala, Save the Children Guatemala, Asociación La

Marcos, Instituto de Protección Social, Refugio de la Niñez, Pastoral de Movilidad Humana, Fundación Sobrevivientes, Movimiento Social por los Derechos de la Niñez, Adolescencia y Juventud en Guatemala, Misión Internacional de Justicia, Médicos Sin Fronteras, Asociación de Salud Integral, Mujeres Transformando el Mundo, Centro Pastoral de Atención al Migrante, Programa de Atención, Movilización e Incidencia por la Niñez y la Adolescencia. The following are invited to participate as guests: Procuraduría de los Derechos de los Derechos Humanos.

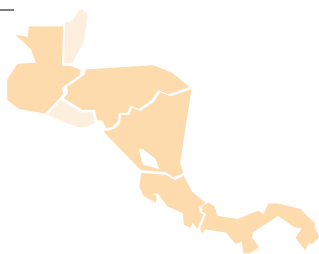
International Labor Organization.

The purpose of this network is to facilitate dialogue, establish relations of cooperation and coordination and coordinate advocacy activities. During 2010, they held coordination meetings, training workshops, press conferences, visits and advocacy meetings with different state institutions. They also developed various educational and informative materials for the prevention of human trafficking.

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In Honduras there are different institutions and agencies dedicated to the fight against violence and human trafficking. Some of the most important are:





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 `34- noma de Honduras (Centro Comunitario de Salud Mental).

There are also a number of non-governmental organizations such as Casa Alianza, the National Migration Forum (FONAMIH), Save the Children Honduras, Plan International, the Center for Attention to Returned Migrants (CAMR), the Association Network of Committees of Families and Migrants of Honduras (REDCOMIFAH), among others. The work of state institutions and NGOs is complemented by the participation and collaboration of various international agencies such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). ? 2/ `(&"%\$/ #& 2,- S-3/#,- Z"\$#,- 1/)/ &2 W&-/)),22, \"3&)"/%\$, "/2 bZR`Wcg

In Honduras there is an inter-institutional network made up of intermediate government officials and non-governmental organizations working on this issue called the Inter-institutional Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking (CICESCT), which coordinates actions to combat trafficking, especially government actions related to prevention and victim rescue.²² This commission is coordinated by the Special Prosecutor's Office for Children and the Disabled, attached to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

This Commission is formally composed of 66 State and non-governmental entities, although in practice its operational number is reduced to about ten. The Commission's organizations and institutions operate on the basis of the Operational Plan for the period 2006-2011, originally conceived to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and not to combat other forms of trafficking in persons. That is to say that, strictly speaking, it is not &0\$-3& &" X, "#.)/- ." 12/" ,+)%\$/2 1/)/ 1)&>&"\$) ? &))/#\$%/) 2/- #\$\$-3\$"3/- A, #/2\$#/#&- #& 3)/3/ #& 1&)-, "/-g Z"/ #& 2/- 1)\$"%\$1/2&- #\$\$+%.23/#&- mentioned in the implementation of the current plan is the isolated performance of institutions, budgetary shortcomings and the lack of a public policy on the subject.

22 Originally what existed was the Inter-institutional Commission Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (CICESCNNA), but in 2008 it became the Inter-institutional Commission Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking (CICESCT).

Despite the above, CICESCT member institutions and organizations have implemented anti-trafficking activities without a formally agreed common plan. These activities arise at the initiative of each institution and the virtue of the Commission is that it serves as a space for coordination of activities and mutual support among institutions.

Unfortunately, the functions of protection, specialized care and reintegration are non-existent, since the only network that provided them has become inactive. This is the so-called IPSVT Network (Integra- 3\$(E), 3&%3\$, " R&)>\$%&- L,) f\$ % 3\$A- ,L 7)/L+%Y\$"(\$" X, "#.)/-c T.& 8)\$"#4

care and reintegration services to at least 300 victims between 2009 and 2010²³ ? T.& 3.>, T.& %&))/) 1&)/%\$, "&- #&8\$#, / L/23/ #& +"/"%\$/- miento. Casa Alianza has remained of the latter, providing services of

1), 3&%%\$4" 1)/ #&%&"/- #&"\$N/- >@%3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ %," +"&- -&0./2&-F being in that sense the only existing option for the care, protection and reintegration of victims.

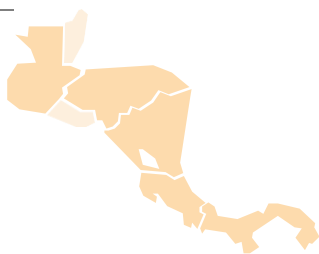
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In the case of Nicaragua, institutional bodies have been created in recent years to combat violence and human trafficking. The most important of these institutions is the National Coalition to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior and is made up of various state institutions, as well as civil society organizations that fight against this crime and work to assist victims.

This body created its own National Inter-institutional Coordination System made up of the institutions that make up the Coalition, among them: National Police, Public Prosecutor's Office, Judiciary, Public Defender's Office, Institute of Legal Medicine, Attorney General's Office, Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, Ministry of the Family, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institute of Social Security and Welfare, Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism, Nicaraguan Institute of Women, Migration and Alien Affairs, and civil society organizations. Some of the social organizations and cooperation agencies that also participate in the Coalition are: Casa Alianza, Acción Ya, Asociación Miriam, Asociación u.\$"%M, J/))\$2&3&F \EQXZF `-, %\$/%\$4" [, >/ Q&#F E/-3,)/2 #& ^, >\$2\$#/# Humana, Save the Children-Nicaragua, IOM, among others.

23 According to CHF's website in Honduras (<http://www.chfhonduras.org/programas-y-proyectos/protec-> %\$, "d1/)/d>\$%3\$A/-d#&d3)/+% ,d?d3)/3/ac &2 1),()/A/ 1),1,)%\$, "4 /-\$-3&"%\$/ /2 A&," - / BGG >@%3\$A/- %," 2/ creation of jobs and microenterprises to 150 and the return to their communities of origin to a similar amount.





The Departmental Roundtables against Trafficking in Persons were recently created, coordinated by the delegate of the Ministry of the Interior in the different departments of the country. In some municipalities there are Municipal Roundtables against Trafficking in Persons. These committees have

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The National Coalition's guidelines were agreed upon in the National Coalition.

Within the framework of the IDB-ECPAT 2009 Regional Project, the Coalition prepared the document "National Guidelines for Strengthening Institutional Coordination to Combat Human Trafficking in Nicaragua". This report constitutes the main national reference for improving organizational capacity and the articulation of inter-institutional work based on the axes of prevention, detection, care, protection, punishment and repatriation of victims of the crime of human trafficking. In addition, the Coalition has a strategic plan that guides its actions at the national level.

Another existing body is the National Interinstitutional Commission of the Criminal Justice System, which coordinates the judicial branch and is made up of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Justice Commission of the National Assembly, the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Attorney General's Office, the National Police, the Public Defender's Office, the Institute of Legal Medicine, the Military Audit Office and the National Penitentiary System. In addition, Inter-institutional Departmental Commissions were created throughout the national territory to contribute to the strengthening of the justice system by operationalizing the decisions taken at the national level.

This same Commission created the Inter-institutional Executive Commission for Criminal Training, which is coordinated by the Judicial School of the Supreme Court of Justice. This body makes efforts to strengthen and improve the training and awareness of criminal justice system officials on issues related to the study of criminal law, with special emphasis on the prevention and fight against violence and human trafficking.

Other public institutions have established specialized units to combat violence and trafficking in persons. The National Police, for example, created several specialized units, most of which are located in the Judicial Assistance Directorate and perform different functions in the area of investigation and attention to 2/- >@%3\$A/-g S2 ^"\$-3&)\$, EO82\$%, 3/A8\$h" 3\$&"& ."/ ,+%"\$"/ &-1&%"\$2\$K/#/ in organized crime and within it operates a unit that handles human trafficking cases. Other institutions that have a unit to deal with cases of human trafficking

The main authorities or officials specialized in the fight against trafficking in persons are Migration and Alien Affairs and the Ministry of the Family.

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In 2010, the Ministry of Security of the Republic created the Technical Co-mission in charge of adapting the international guidelines adopted by the country on human trafficking, considering T.& 2/ #&+"\$%"\$4" #& 2,- #&2\$3,-; %,)).1%"\$4" #& 1&)-,"/- A&"),&- #&& commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons, among others. %, "#.%3/- 3\$1\$+%/#/- &" &2 l4#\$(, E&"/2F ", 1&)A\$3@/" 2/ H.#\$%\$\$/2\$K/%\$4" #& ,3)/- A,#/2\$#/#&- #&2 #&2\$3, #& 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/-g S-3, #&+%.23/8/ &2 investigative and police work. Adopting legislation in accordance with international guidelines dictated by the Palermo Protocol was a necessity. The Commission led by the Ministry of Security was to carry out its work in a term not exceeding ninety (90) days and was composed of:

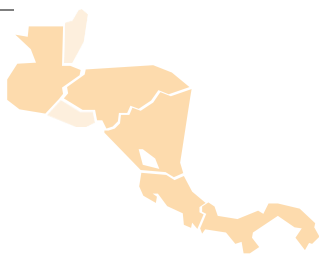
- ① Ministry of Public Security
- ① Ministry of Government
- ① Ministry of Social Development
- ① Ministry of Health
- ① Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ① Ministry of Labor and Labor Development
- ① Public Prosecutor's Office
- ① Panama Tourism Authority
- ① National Secretariat for Childhood, Adolescence and the Family
- ① National Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Crimes
- ① Judicial Body
- ① National Assembly
- ① Ombudsman's Office

The main task of this Commission was to formulate the law, which had ."/ A12\$, 1),%&-, #& %, "-.23/-g U/ 2&? L.& /1),8/#/ / +"/2&- #&2 /N, 2011 (National Assembly, 2011) under the name Law Against Trafficking in Persons and Related Activities.

Z"/ >&K /1),8/#/ 2/ 2&? L.& %)&/#/ 2/ l,A\$-\$4" [/%\$,"/2 %, "3)/ 2/ 7)/3/ body in charge of implementing the National Anti-Trafficking Plan. This Commission is made up of the following ministries and agencies:

- ① Ministry of Public Security, who will preside over it
- ① Ministry of Government
- ① Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ① Ministry of Labor and Labor Development





- ① Ministry of Social Development
- ① Ministry of Education
- ① Ministry of Health
- ① Supreme Court of Justice
- ① National Assembly
- ① Procuraduría General de la Nación
- ① Panama Tourism Authority
- ① Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (National Institute of Women)
- ① National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family
- ① Ombudsman's Office
- ① Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture
- ① National Council of Private Enterprise

U/- L."%\$,"&- #&+"\$#/- 1)/ &-3/ I,A\$-\$4" \$"%2.?&" &2 #&\$-&N, #& 2/ E,- National Anti-Trafficking Policy and its national plan; to recommend the subscription-
%"\$4" ?)/3\$+%/%"\$4" #& /%.&%.&)#,-F %,">&"\$,- , 3)/3/#,- 1)/ L,)3/2&%&&) 2/ international cooperation; to participate in meetings of international organizations related to trafficking in persons and related activities and to designate representatives to such meetings.

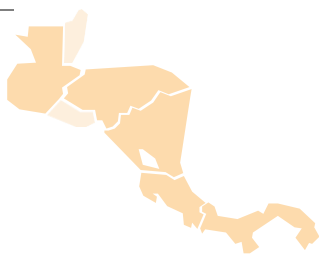
It also includes providing technical assistance to public and private organizations that develop programs, projects or any other type of activities for the prevention, care and protection of victims of trafficking in persons, in coordination with the guiding institutions involved for this purpose; promoting the professionalization, sensitization and training of public and private officials related to the National Plan for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Trafficking in Persons; and promoting the professionalization, sensitization and training of public and private officials related to the National Plan for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Trafficking in Persons.) A&%/"\$-A,- 1)/ 2/ \$#&"3\$+%/%"\$4" #& 1,-\$82&- >@%3\$A/- of trafficking in persons and situations of vulnerability; collaborate with the Integrated Criminal Statistics System in the preparation of statistical reports; lead campaigns for the prevention of the crime of trafficking in persons and related crimes and promote measures for the care and protection of the victims of this crime, among others.





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A couple of decades ago, the fight against violence and human trafficking began in the Central American region. Since then, important advances have been made by the State and social organizations linked to these issues.

Many of these advances and good practices are related to institutional capacity building, the updating of national and regional legal frameworks on human rights, violence prevention and human trafficking. Similarly, prevention actions and awareness and information campaigns and victim assistance have been carried out.

This section summarizes the most important advances and best practices highlighted in recent years, both nationally and regionally.

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The most systematic and consistent institutional actions against the crime of human trafficking began to be developed in the mid-2000s. The treatment of this crime has gone through a first phase of interventions. The actions developed so far have focused on strengthening institutional capacities and the institutionalization of actions by both state and non-governmental actors. At the regional level, some of the most noteworthy advances have to do with:

- ① Greater visibility and awareness of violence and human trafficking as situations that affect Central American societies, their development prospects and the quality of life of their inhabitants, especially children, adolescents and women, who are the most vulnerable groups. This perspective can be found especially in some sectors of the population, linked to the work of social organizations and certain state officials working in violence prevention. The basis for this change of vision is to be found in the prevention, information and education campaigns, as well as in the training and education processes developed in recent years. However, there are still important sectors of the population that, while rejecting violence in general and violence against women, children and adolescents, do not recognize human trafficking as a crime and therefore tolerate and accept it to some extent. Some of the most noteworthy actions in the area of prevention are the information campaign "No more trafficking in persons", promoted regionally by the IOM and including *spots* #&)/#\$, ? 3& 2& > \$-\$4 "F/+ %M& -F ."/

radio novela, the dissemination of hotlines for victim assistance, the promotion of a communication, education and information strategy, and the development of playful methodologies for the prevention of trafficking among children and adolescents, both promoted by Save the Children.

- ① The Central American region has a comprehensive legal framework for the protection and defense of human rights, the fight against violence against women, children and adolescents, and the protection of the rights of women and children in the region.

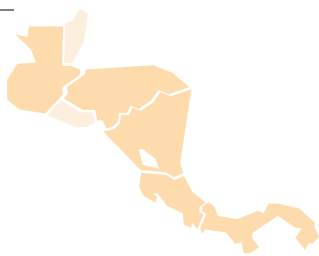
%&"3&-F /-@ %,A, &" A/3&)#& 3/3/ #& 1&-,"/- ? 3)*+%, \$2@%\$3, #& migrants. This legislation is made up of international instruments that have been signed or adhered to by Central American states, regional guidelines created to address various aspects of violence and trafficking in persons, and national laws and regulations on these issues. The joint ECPAT-IDB project for the creation of national guidelines for institutional coordination in each of the countries and in the region is noteworthy.

In the area of violence and trafficking in persons, not all national legislations are harmonized with international instruments. Z"/ #& 2/- 1)\$"%\$1/2&- /%%%\$,"&-)&(\$,"/2&- &-3* &"%/A\$"/#/ 1)&%%\$-/- A&"3& / - .8-"/) &-3/ #&+%\$&"%\$/F #& A/"&)/ T.& &2 A/)% , H.)@#\$%, throughout the region is coherent and responds comprehensively to the eradication of violence and trafficking in persons. This is a task yet to be completed.

- ① The creation of specialized state institutions. Both in the regional institutions and in the countries, the creation of specialized state institutions for the eradication of violence and trafficking in persons has been promoted. At the regional level, COMMCA, the PARLACEN Commission on Women, Children and the Family, the specialized technical units of the SICA General Secretariat, the Central American Security Commission and the integration of Central American countries into the Regional Conference on Migration stand out.

Also noteworthy is the creation of the Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons. This is a process that began in 2007 and has been completed in the last two years by giving this regional body its own institutional framework to develop actions with a regional perspective and scope. The technical secretariats, coalition coordinators and anti-trafficking committees of each of the Central American countries are participating in this body. This body has held several meetings and is working to coordinate regional efforts and actions. In addition, it is part of the Regional Conference on Migration.





The countries have created institutes or ministries for women, children and adolescents. They have created specialized units in the criminal justice system to combat all crimes related to violence against women, children and adolescents, as well as the crime of trafficking in persons. It is important to note that the process of creating these specialized units has not been completed in all countries, so that progress is uneven.

- 1 The development of public policies aimed at addressing situations of violence and the crime of trafficking in persons in a comprehensive manner. In almost all the countries of the region there are public policies and programs aimed at addressing situations of violence and the crime of trafficking in persons.

violence, whether against women, children or adolescents. In the case of trafficking in persons, the formulation process has advanced, but not with the same speed in all countries, and those countries that have not yet formulated them are in the process of doing so. This action was supported by Save the Children and a regional protocol has already been drawn up to guide the preparation, use and safeguarding of the information contained in the maps as a crime investigation tool.

- 2 Capacity building through awareness raising and training of specialized human resources in the different areas of attention to the crime of trafficking. In addition to creating the necessary and appropriate institutional framework to address both violence and human trafficking, Central American countries have developed capacity-building processes among the different actors involved in this type of situation. In the case of human trafficking, intensive and systematic processes have been developed in recent years to train public officials, especially police officers,

human resources have been trained in the areas of customer service, and emphasis has been given to the courses with all the personnel of the system. A better treatment of the cases. These processes have been strongly supported by international agencies such as IOM and Save the Children.

In the case of social organizations working on these issues, they have also developed capacities mainly for prevention and victim assistance actions. In many cases, victims are attended to by organizations that already had experience in the field.



cases of violence against women and against children and adolescents, but no experience had been developed for the case of trafficking victims until a few years ago. Organizations such as Casa Alianza, the IOM, the IPSVT network in Honduras, the Network against Trafficking in Guatemala, and Paniamor in Costa Rica are some examples of the capacities that have been developed.

- ① The convergence, coordination and inter-institutional articulation at the regional level and in each of the countries, as well as inter-institutional coordination and articulation between the State and social organizations working on the issue. This is considered one of the most important achievements at the regional level, considering that violence against women, children and adolescents is a phenomenon present throughout the region, just as the crime of human trafficking has a transnational dimension that crosses country borders.
- ① The exchange of information and the coordination of efforts to build a regional perspective and coordinate actions are developed through regional institutions such as the different SICA bodies, the Regional Conference on Migration and its counterpart in civil society and existing initiatives with a regional scope, such as the IOM Program for the care and reintegration of victims of trafficking and the Regional Agreement on Violence and Trafficking promoted by Save the Children and AECID.

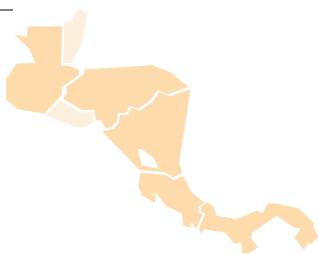
In this first stage of actions it is possible to appreciate that the most important achievements have been aimed at improving and strengthening the exchange of information, the strengthening of institutional capacities for the handling of cases and especially for the training of criminal justice system officials, the prevention of human trafficking, the development of regional guidelines and protocols for action for the prevention of human trafficking, the development of regional guidelines and protocols for the prevention of human trafficking, and the development of regional protocols for the prevention of human trafficking.

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- ① Raising public awareness through prevention campaigns with a regional approach. It is evident that during the last few years the convergence and coordination of efforts from the regional authorities ,+,%\$2&- ? #& -,,%\$&#/# %\$>\$2 M/ #/#, >\$#/ / #>&)-/- %/A1/N/- #& awareness and prevention of violence, especially against women, children and adolescents, but also in the case of human trafficking.

In the latter case, awareness-raising and prevention campaigns have been carried out in #&-/1)),22/#, -,8)& 3,#, &" K,"/- \$#&"3\$+%/#/- %,A, 2/- A*- /L&%3/#/- such as tourist centers and border posts, among others.





others. Among the different prevention and awareness-raising actions, one of the most noteworthy is the installation of emergency hotlines in five cities in the country.

%, #& 2,- -\$&3& 1/@- &- / + " #& T.& 2/- >@%3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ . ,3)/- 1&)- ,"/- cases can be reported and the corresponding rescue can be carried out.

Table 40: **FM%)&= 9))5)2*)%#\$& 4&2& 9)%<%#\$& 9) #&=+= 0 &3)%#\$>% & .M#3\$5&= 9) 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&=)% -)%32+&562\$#&**

Country	Line
Costa Rica	800 8000
El Salvador	911
Guatemala	PDH: 1555 PGN: 1546 NCP: 110 MP: 1570 MINEX: 1552 Migration: 1573
Honduras	101
Nicaragua	PN: 118 MIFAN: 133

Another important action for awareness-raising and prevention is the dissemination of basic information on violence and human trafficking &"3)& "\$N/-F "\$N,- ? /# ,2&- %&"3&- &" 2/- &- %& 2/- / + " #& T.& 1.&#/" clearly recognize these types of situations when confronted with them and can prevent them. Two of the key actors to carry out these prevention actions are the media and vulnerable groups. Save the Children has promoted a regional media contest on the subject and an active participation process for children and adolescent communicators.

Although there are regional achievements, the degree of progress in each of the countries is different. This crime is not considered at the same level of priority as other forms of organized crime by certain countries.

\$"-3/"%\$/- #& (,8\$&)", #& 2,- 1/@- &-g S-3, -& >&)&=&H/#, &" 2,- 2\$A\$3/#,- human and budgetary resources available to governments for preventing and combating trafficking.

:% ,+= 4&M=)=

The different actors involved in the activities for the realization #& & &- 3& &-3.#\$, \$#&"3\$+%/) , " ."/ -&)&\$& #& 2,()- ? />/"%&- &" %/#/ .", of their countries.

L),\$#)C Two of the most important advances in the fight against human trafficking in Belize are the formulation of the law on the subject (The 7)/L+%Y\$(\$" E&)-,"- `"%3c ? 2/ %) &/%\$4" #&2 I,A\$3h %, "3)/ 2/ 7)/3/ #& Persons. The different actions developed by the Committee within the framework of its work plan were also considered as achievements.

The campaigns and systematic prevention work have also had positive results and are recognized by different stakeholders for the breadth and scope of the messages, the diversity of the media used and the joint efforts of government institutions and social organizations.

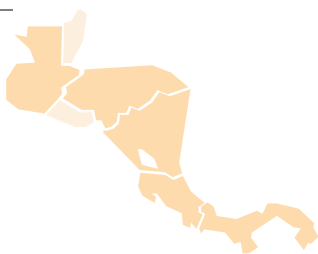
Another achievement in recent years is the design and application of the Protocol for the Care of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. This protocol establishes the procedures to be followed and the different competencies of the various institutions involved in the process of providing the services and care required.

The level of communication and exchange of information among the institutions that make up the Committee has become an important advance- 3/"3& 1/)/ T. & 2-/ % % \$, "& - 12/"\$%#-3& "(/" . " \$A1/%3, & L& %3\$> ,F whether it is a matter of prevention actions or victim rescue operations. The fact that public officials are sensitized and show a committed attitude towards this crime is also positively valued, which facilitates inter- generational collaboration and communication.

Z" L/%3,) L. "#/A&"3/2M/- \$#, 2/> ,2. "3# 1,2@3\$%/ ? 2/#\$-1,-\$%\$4" #& 2 Government of Belize at the highest level on this issue. For example, in 2010, a national symposium on commercial sexual exploitation of children was held and co-hosted by A&"3& 1,) 2P+%\$"/ #& 2 S"> #, S-1& %\$/2 1/)/ 2-^ . H)& - ? 2 [S& K and the wife of the Prime Minister of Belize. All sectors involved in the problem participated in that symposium and a year later, in 2011, a follow-up conference was held, mainly aimed at /2 -& %3,) 3.)@-3\$, #&2 1/@- / + " #& %,A1),A& 3&)2,- &" 2/2-%M/ %, "3)/ 2 commercial sexual exploitation. The result of both activities was the formulation of a national plan against trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children.

In the case of NGOs, one of the main advances is the implementation of programs for the reinsertion of victims through training in traditional and non-traditional occupations. In addition, the implementation of public prevention campaigns throughout the year and a strong advocacy work with magistrates and judges of the courts, as well as the implementation of programs for the reintegration of victims through training in traditional and non-traditional occupations.





The company also works with the media to ensure that the treatment of the news is not revictimizing and that they contribute to prevention.

Among the achievements in this country are those related to the legal framework, inter-institutional spaces, generation of information, attention to victims, capacity-building and awareness-raising, campaigns and reintegration of victims.

The development of the regulatory framework has been key to making the issue visible and institutionalizing its attention. The main legal contributions are the formulation of the Law against the Sexual Exploitation of Persons (Ley contra la Explotación Sexual de las Personas, LESP).

The Penal Code, the decrees for the creation of the National Coalition with the creation of the Immediate Response Team, the Victim and Witness Protection Law, the Migration and Alien Law that establishes a migration category for victims of trafficking, among others.

In the case of inter-institutional spaces, progress has been made in the creation of the National Coalition, the processes of institutionalization of the issue and the potential for joint work through the formulation of action plans, the convergence of governmental, non-governmental and international institutions in inter-institutional, intersectoral and multidisciplinary spaces, and the development of pro-coordination of the different levels of coordination, there is still a lack of articulation of the different levels of coordination.

U/ (&"/%\$4" #& "\$L,)A/%\$4" A,-3)4 />/"%&- -\$("+\$%/3\$>,- #.)/"3& 2,- early years. However, lately not much in- L,)A/%\$4" ".&>/g U/ &2/8,)/%\$4" #& 2,- A/1&,- (&,()*+%, - ? -,/%\$2&- &- ." />/"%& \$A1,)/3/"3/"3&F 1&), 3,#/>@/ 1)&-&"3/ #&+/%\$&"%\$/- %,A, &2 h "L/-&- &" 2/ 3)/3/ %, " +&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&0./2 %,A&)%\$/2g S-3/ M&- tool is considered by the different actors in the country as a reference point for the formulation of public policies. Likewise

A1,)/3/"3/"3& -& %, "-\$#&)/ 2/ %) &/%\$4" #& 2/ Z"\$#/# #& 7)/3/ ? 7)*+%, #& 2/ OIJ, which receives information from different partners and has a telephone hotline (800 8000). As in other countries, Costa Rica needs to improve its statistical information systems, the characterization of internal trafficking, and trafficking involving male victims, among other aspects.

One of the most important advances in the area of care for victims of trafficking in persons has been in

1,)/3/"3&- &- 2/ %) &/%\$4" #& 2/ P+/%\$"/ #& `3&"%\$4" / 2/ f@%3\$A/ #&2 1,#&)



The judicial unit, which is not dedicated exclusively to this type of crime, but has the authority to attend to them and witnesses. This unit has inter-institutional teams composed of legal advisors, social workers, psychologists and criminologists who deal with cases as required. The prevailing perspective is to provide integral care and avoid re-victimization of individuals. However, the OAV &"L)&"3/ -&)"\$/- 2\$A\$3/%\$,"&- &- &" %./"3, / L/23/ #&)&%.)-,- .+%"\$&"3&- 1/)/ provide sustained basic care, shelter, translation services, psychological care and security for foreign victims, especially Asians.

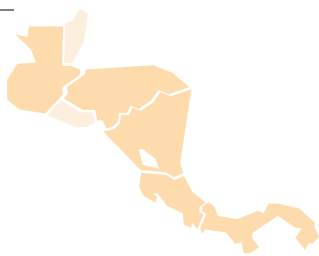
Another advance in the country is the creation of protocols and the Model of Comprehensive Care for survivors of trafficking as an effort to operationalize the State's management and take responsibility for providing comprehensive care from a perspective of protecting their rights. Various social organizations such as Fundación Rahab, DNI, Alianza por tus Derechos, among others, actively participate in this model. These organizations provide various levels of care and services in the psychosocial area, legal advice and individualized attention.

In terms of capacity building and awareness raising, the most important advances are related to the availability of a large can- 3\$#/# #& A/3&&)"\$2&- -,8)& 2/ 3)/3/ ? 1/)/ #&\$L&)"3&- +"&-g R& M/")&- lized numerous workshops and training courses sponsored by the IOM and involving different ministries such as Justice, Labor and academic entities. Another series of trainings have been carried out %," L."%\$,"/)\$,- #&2 ^"\$-\$3&)"\$, #& Q&2/%\$,"&- S03&)"\$,)&-F &-1&%@+%/A&"- to the consuls. Also very useful have been the manuals)&/2\$K/#,- 1,) \U`[ZWdZ[PWI -,8)& \$">&-3\$(/%"\$4" #&2 #&2\$3, #& 3)/3/ 1/)/ %/1/%\$3/) / 2,- +-%/2&- ? 1,2\$%@/-g P3)/- \$"-3\$3.%\$,"&- 1082\$%/- T.& have participated in training courses are the Ministry of Health. ? 2/ Z"\$#/# #& 7)/3/ #& 2/ P_g

Many of these sensitization and training processes are aimed at government officials themselves to act as a catalyst for the government's own efforts. /(&"3&- A.23\$12\$%/#,)&- ? 1/)/ T.& 1.&#/" \$&#"3\$+%/) ? /3&"#&) &2 #&2\$3, provided with basic tools. Judges and communicators are two key groups for which training and sensitization actions are incipient.

Civil society organizations such as DNI, Fundación Paniamor, Alianza por tus Derechos, among others, also have their own training programs and work with teachers, law enforcement officers and communities. There is training both in prevention and detection of possible cases and for strengthening





of capabilities. A lot of work is done on the basis of myths, as it is more didactic. Working with families is a priority, as they must be empowered to recognize risks and reduce their vulnerability.

Awareness-raising campaigns are permanently present in the country's television media, but the focus on child sexual exploitation prevails. Some of the most important campaigns- 3/"3&- M/" -\$,; 2/ %/A1/N/ #& 2/ <. "#/%\$4" Q\$%Y? ^//)3\$"F %/A1/N/- of information in the media (www.protegiendoles.org), the promotion of the Code of Conduct Project for the protection of children and adolescents against commercial sexual exploitation from the Paniamor Foundation, campaigns that include telephone hotlines such as "Mano Amiga" and "Cuenta conmigo" and one that will be carried out 1)40\$A/A&"3& #&,"A\$"/# kl,)/K4" `K.2IF 1),A,>\$#/ 1,) Z[PWlg

Progress in the reintegration of survivors of human trafficking is incipient, despite the existence of a comprehensive care model, which has not been fully deployed. In the country, the State does not have reintegration programs, so it has to rely on the collaboration of social organizations. In this regard, the stakeholders' assessments indicate that in reinsertion and recovery, 1&)/%\$4" #& >@%3\$A/- 2/ /%%%\$4" #&2 S-3/#, &- #&+%\$&"3&g

The Ra- hab Foundation has developed models of care that have evolved into exit and reintegration strategies, including income generation through different economic activities. These strategies contribute to the creation of life projects for surviving victims. Fundación Rahab is probably the only experience that incorporates reintegration processes.

In this country, the different actors involved in the process are %&-, #&2 &-3.#\$, \$#&"3\$+%/),"/>/"%&- &" 2,- #&\$L&)"&"3&- /-1&%3,- #&2 approach to the crime of trafficking in persons.

In the field of prevention, some of the most important advances are as follows -&)&+&)" / 2/ L,)A/%\$4" #& L/%\$2\$3/#,)&- &- &" \$"-3\$3.%\$, "&- (.8&)"A&"3/- key institutions such as tourism, education and government, among others. These projects have been sponsored by NGOs and governmental entities. Another advance is the work carried out with institutional communicators. This is a CNCTP initiative accompanied and supported by cooperation agencies and civil society organizations.

U/ &2/8,)/%\$4" #& ,)#&"/&"/"K/- A."\$%\$1/2&- T.& #&+&" 1,2@3\$%/- ? /%- local organizations to prevent human trafficking, is also one of the notable advances made by the country. This process has been accompanied by

Save the Children in the municipalities of Mejicanos, Santa Ana and San Miguel. In 2011, the Municipality of San Salvador joined the effort and is in the process of approving its own municipal ordinance.

P3), />/"%& &" A/3&&)\$ / #& 1)&>&"%\$4" -&)&+&)& / 2/ (&"&&)/%\$4" #& \$"- training and studies that provide a better understanding and dimension of the crime of human trafficking in the country. A series of research studies promoted by Save the Children during the last few years stand out. These studies have focused on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of students and other actors in the educational system with respect to trafficking; the good practices of survivors to achieve their reintegration and avoid recidivism; and the systematization of the process of formulation and approval of municipal ordinances in the Municipality of Mejicanos.²⁴

Progress has also been made in carrying out prevention campaigns and in training government officials. However, the training of government officials has not been extended to the peripheral areas or the interior of the country.

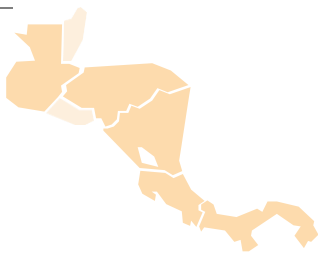
S" &2 *A8\$3, #& 2/ H.#\$%\$/2\$K/%\$4" ? -/"%\$4" 3/A8\$h" -& 1.&#&" \$#\$"3\$+%/ progress in strengthening the capacity of justice operators in the region. %\$/F 2/ #&+"\$%\$4" #& 2,- \$"-3).A&"3,- ? #& 2,- A&%/"\$-A,- #& 1/3& #& 2/- institutions to do effective work. This includes equipment received from cooperating agencies for the conduct of investigations and training of criminal justice system operators &"3)& H.&%&-F +-%/2&-F E,2\$%@/ [//%\$,"/2 l\$>\$2 ? ^\$()//%\$4 "g

In terms of intervention, which includes rescue, victim care, reintegration of survivors, restitution of rights and resilience, the most important advances are related to the institutionalization of the regional shelter for trafficked girls and adolescents. This institutionalization has been supported by inter- national agencies both in terms of capacity building and equipment.

Pilot programs have also been developed for the restitution of rights, taking into account the psychotherapeutic approach, the construction of a life project for victims of trafficking and support for its implementation through the preparation of the Life Project Manual. These programs have been developed through inter-institutional coordination between government agencies and international organizations.

24 Other Save the Children studies include: Characterization of victim and trafficker, _+2*(8 #,F)C)(8 72 ?(8 J(=4?4(8 #,(, ?(#,2Z2*)4@*E <8/+74- 72 Z4*)+?)4@* Z4-?2*)4(5 /,(/E H48/2=(CA()4@* 72 ;+2*(8 #,F)C)(8 2* ?(G+743)4(?4A()4@** 72)(8-8 2'4/-8-8-8 5 U(*+(? 72 #-,52)/- 72 Z47(#,(8-;,2Z4Z42*/28 72? 72?4/-'





In addition, progress has been made in inter-institutional coordination between ISNA, the Attorney General's Office and the National Civil Police in terms of attending to victims. In this regard, ISNA has designed and implemented the national shelter for girl victims of human trafficking and actively participates in the prevention sub-committee of the National Council against Trafficking, both in prevention campaigns through networks of girls and boys, as well as in the inter-institutional coordination mechanism for the prosecution of cases. ISNA welcomes, transfers and psychosocially accompanies girls in their judicial process and then supports them in their return to their environment.

P3),- />/"%&- \$##"3\$+%/#,- &" &2 1/@- -," 2/ L,)A.2/%\$4" #& ."/ 1,2@3\$%/ for the eradication of trafficking in persons, to have a proposal for the reform of the criminal type within the Code on the subject, the development of a national strategy for the eradication of trafficking in persons, to have a proposal for the reform of the criminal type within the Code on the subject, the development of the
)22, #&2 A/1&, (&())*+%, ? -,,%\$2 #&2 #&2\$3, ? %, "3/) %, " ."/ 1),1.&-3/ monitoring the system of indicators for the institutional management of trafficking cases.

K<&3)5&,&C The country has made progress in the fight against trafficking in persons. #& 1&)-, "/- #.)/"3& 2,- O23\$A,- /N,-g Z", #& 2,- />/"%&- A*- \$A1,- The most important is the creation of a specialized institutional framework to deal with this crime. The main bodies are the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons and the Inter-institutional Commission against Trafficking in Persons.

In addition, specialized units have been created in different public institutions such as the Attorney General's Office, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Judiciary, the National Civil Police and a specialized unit in the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, among others.

Guatemala has a Public Policy against Trafficking in Persons and Comprehensive Protection of Victims and a National Strategic Action Plan for the period 2007-2017. The policy and strategic plan set out lines of action to guide the interventions of the various institutions whose mandates are linked to trafficking in persons, in all areas: prevention, comprehensive care and protection, justice enforcement and international cooperation.

Another important advance was the approval of the Law Against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons in 2009 as a result of a long process of advocacy and pressure from civil society organizations. This law incorporates reforms to the Penal Code and A, # \$+%/ &2 &"L, T. & /" #), %h "3) %), ? 1/3) \$/) %/2 %, " T. & &-3/8/" #& + "\$- two sexual crimes and establishes that the legal right to be protected is the @. #*,)+(0 , #0, /-#0(0 %, 51(. 0, . (% ",) % %C. As for the crime of



trafficking in persons, the legal right protected is the *people*.

Also through this regulation it was possible to create new types of penalties- 2/- ? A,\$\$+%/) 2/- 1\$"/- 1)/ T.& 2/- A\$-A/- -&/" A*- 1),1,)%\$,"/2&- to the damage caused to the victim. On the other hand, the pecuniary and accessory sanctions established by this new legislation were innovative because they reach not only those directly responsible, but also those who obtain any type of remuneration for the crime of trafficking in persons.

P3), />/"%& -\$(" \$+%/3\$>, #& &-3/ 2&(\$-2/%\$4" &- &2 &"L,T.& L. "#/A&"3/#, in the principles of victimology under which it raises the attention and 1),3&%%\$4" 1)/ 2/- >@%3\$A/- ? 2,- 3&-3\$(-g ` &-3, -& /()&/ 2/ A,\$\$+%//- ction to the procedure followed to attend to the victims. Previously, the authorities limited themselves to deporting them immediately because most of them were foreigners and they did not recognize themselves as victims (passive subjects) of this crime but, in addition, the authorities (. /3&A/23&&%/- "", 2/-)&%,",%@/" %A, 3/2&-g I,A,)&-23/#, 2/- 3\$1\$1\$+.

To overcome this weakness, the Directorate General of Immigration created a unit #& `-\$-3&"%\$/ E-\$%,24(\$%/ &"%/) (/#/#& \$#& \$#&"3\$+%/) / 1,- \$82&- >@%3\$A/- #&2 #&2\$3, #& 3)/3/ #& 1&-),"/-g Z"/ >&K \$#&"3\$+%//# 2/-)&A\$3& /2 /28&)(.& specialized for your due attention.

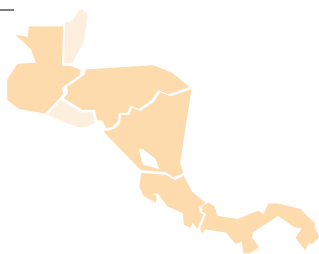
In the area of specialized shelters for the care of victims- 3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ #& 1&-),"/- -& ,8-&)>/" />/"%&- -\$(" \$+%/3\$>,- %," /%- joint ventures between the State and non-governmental organizations. There are currently four shelters for victims, one of which is run by the organization Refugio de la Niñez, which cares for girl victims. Another shelter is managed by the Secretariat of Social Welfare with specialized attention to adult women. This same institution readapted its protection and shelter facilities and set up separate spaces to care for victims of this crime in the Hogar Solidario de San José Pinula and Casa Nuestras Raíces, in Quetzaltenango. Another institution that offers shelter services to victims is Asocia- tion La Alianza, which has a center for this purpose.

On the other hand, it has promoted the coordination of actions between state institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic and SVET with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic and SVET.

,)("/\$K/%\$,"&- -,)%\$/2&- / + " #& &2/8,)/) ? /12\$%/) ."/ -&)\$& #& 2\$"&/- ments and protocols for action. These include: the Inter-institutional Protocol for the Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking - Children, Adolescents and Adults; the Inter-institutional Protocol for the Protection







and Comprehensive Care for Victims of Human Trafficking and the Program for the Compensation of Victims of Sexual Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking,²⁵ which is aimed at developing the areas of care and protection for victims, as well as the administration of resources for the victims.

-, - M.A"/, -F L@-\$%, - ? +"/"%\$&), - /-\$("/#,- /2 <, "#, #& Q&-/)%)\$A\$&"3,g

In 2007 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs installed a hotline with the number 1552 and in 2011 the General Directorate of Migration installed another one with the number 1573. Both operate free of charge, providing information and responding to reports of human trafficking.

O+%9<2&=C S" &2 %/-, #& X, "#.)/- 3/A8\$h" &- 1,-\$82& \$#&"3\$+%/) />/"-

The main objective of the project is to promote the development of a new approach to human trafficking in the different aspects of the treatment of the crime of trafficking in persons, but also from the perspective of state institutions and social organizations.

Z", #& 2,- />/"%&- A*- \$A1,)3/"3&- -&)&+&)& / 2/ \$"3&()/%"\$4" #& 2/ Inter-institutional Commission against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking (CI- CESCT) which coordinates prevention processes from the State. CICESCT has an operational plan for the period 2006-2011 that was originally conceived to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and not trafficking itself #& 1&)-, "/-g Z" /-1&%3, T.& #&&8& A&H,)/)-& &- 2/ %,.)#\$"/%"\$4" &"3) & the member institutions of the Commission, as they often act separately.

In the area of the fight against trafficking, training actions, action plans, repatriation protocols and promotion of legal reform have been carried out by the Special Prosecutor's Office for Children and the Disabled- #,g E/)/ &22, M/" %, "3/#, %, " &2 /1,?, #& Z[IS< FR/>& 3M& IM\$2#)&"F the IOM and the ILO. They have also ensured the creation of capacities and structures, as is the case of prosecutors and investigators of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Other agencies such as the Children's Commission of Congress and the IOM, in conjunction with the Ministry of Security and the Public Prosecutor's Office, have developed prevention campaigns that include television vignettes, advertising *spots* and other types of publicity in the media. Other institutions such as IHNFA, in collaboration with other organizations, have developed training and awareness-raising activities for young people in secondary schools and with children at risk in public places.

25 K-)- C2=#- 728#+a8 82 =-746)@ 2? *-=-, 2 72? 72? #,-,.(= (#-, bK,-,.(= (72 c28C/+)4@* 72 M2,2)1-8 (WR)C=(8 72 W4-?2*)4(H2'+(?E <#?-)/(4@* H2'+(? 5 [(/ (72 K2,8-*(8d' X 4*4)4-8 72? (D- OPSO 2? T-;42,*- 72 T+(/2=(? (72)474@ 8+8#2*72, 8+ 2G2)+4@*'

Since 2010, a hotline with the number 101 has also been open and remains active throughout the year to receive complaints, although it is not limited to cases of human trafficking.

According to the assessments of different stakeholders, it is in the area of prevention that the most coordinated efforts have been made. However, they also consider that communication and dissemination actions should be transcended in order to work with a focus on prevention that also offers life options. In this regard, they believe that the best approach is to generate a comprehensive public policy.

Non-governmental organizations also participate in prevention campaigns in coordination with some state entities. NGOs carry out preventive activities in the media, but their strength is direct prevention action with the population. Meanwhile, training efforts have resulted in the creation of a diploma course on violence and trafficking at the university level, sponsored by Casa Alianza and Save the Children.

Some important efforts in prevention are supported by agencies such as the

Program "Integrated Protection Services for Victims of Human Trafficking" under the leadership of CHF Honduras.

The efforts made by the various institutions, organizations and international agencies have been carried out under the institutional support of the

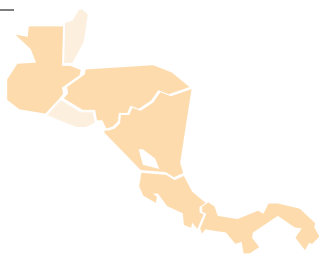
The coup d'état that occurred in 1980, the

As a result, several activities foreseen in the Plan for 2009 and 2010 were suspended. As of 2011, a good part of

Other areas of action such as rescue, care and protection of victims of trafficking are still weak in the case of Honduras, in part due to the weakness of the institutional capacities in charge

On the side of the social organizations, Casa Alianza was for some time at the forefront of actions of denunciation, investigation and rescue of victims, in coordination with the National Preventive Police. CHF Hon-





The member organizations of the IPSVT network and the Center for Attention to Returned Migrants have participated in actions to detect and rescue victims not only in the case of commercial sexual exploitation, but also in labor trafficking, servitude and forced labor. Except for this last organization, the other social organizations ceased their participation in detection and rescue actions because this is fundamentally a responsibility of the State.

In the case of care, the State has no centers or programs &-1&&%@+%, - #& /3&"%\$4" / >@%3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ ? &- / &- ."/ 2/8,) #& 2/ T.& NGOs are in charge. In the case of children, IHNFA is in charge of primary care, but then, if necessary, they are transferred to NGOs. In the case of adults, the State does not have any service to care for victims of trafficking. In this sense, there is a clear recognition of the work carried out by different NGOs in the care and protection of victims.

In this line of action, the most ambitious initiative undertaken by social organizations was the creation of the "Integrated Protection Services Network for Victims of Human Trafficking in Honduras" (IPSVT) led by CHF International. The Network made a fruitful effort to provide protection and care to the victims of trafficking in 1&)-, /- &"3)& 9GGJ ? 9GDG ? %&))4 1,) L/23/ #& +"/"%\$A\$&"3,g S" &2 A,-

At the time of the investigation, only Casa Alianza provides this type of service to victims.

No substantive progress has been made with respect to the reintegration of survivors, especially in the case of adults. In the case of persons under 18 years of age, IHNFA is responsible for the reintegration of children into their families and communities only if they do not merit greater protection or more specialized attention. In the experience of this institution, the return to the family is generally positive because they welcome them well, but occasionally some families see the return as a "failure" in obtaining income, especially in the case of girls.

The restitution of rights is another aspect that shows little progress and in many cases there is re-victimization of persons who have suffered from trafficking, either by action or omission. This aspect in particular has generated some level of sensitivity among various institutions and organizations, and actions have been taken to improve the protection of victims.

Q\$#&2&*<&C The assessments of the different stakeholders regarding the country's progress are positive, although they consider that they focus on the areas of prevention and prosecution. Among these advances are mentioned,

firstly, the creation and strengthening of the National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons as a space for convergence and action of public institutions linked to the issue and social organizations. The Coalition has the participation of approximately 60 actors among state institutions, NGOs and international cooperation agencies. It is led by the Ministry of the Interior and a Technical Secretariat has been established, which is responsible for the execution of the plans and agreements established. The process of strengthening the Coalition has led to the emergence of departmental roundtables in 3, #, & 2 1/@- / + " #& /%&)%/) 2/- /%%%\$, "&- / 2/ 1,82/%\$4 "F &-1&%\$/2A&"3& in the areas most affected by the crime of trafficking and in some places municipal roundtables have also been established.

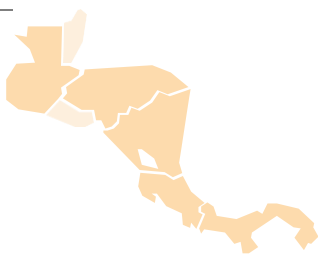
P3), />/"%& \$#\$"3\$+%/#, &- 2/ 3\$1\$+%//%\$4" #&2 #&2\$3, #& 3)/3/ &" &2 l4#\$(, Penal and the approval of the Law against Organized Crime, Law 735, which equates human trafficking with other criminal activities.
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The strengthening and expansion of the legal framework in this area has led to intense and systematic training and education processes for operators in the country's criminal justice system, as well as the creation of specialized units in the National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office and Immigration and Alien Affairs, among other institutions. The direct consequence has been that public officials are now more sensitive and knowledgeable about this crime and respect the victims.

In 2011, the Director of the Nicaraguan National Police issued a decree mandating the entire institution to address human trafficking cases in a comprehensive manner. The Women's and Children's Police Stations were instructed to work with a preventive and victim-centered approach, as well as to open a shelter for women victims of trafficking. To accompany these efforts, the institution created a police unit specialized in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases in the Judicial Assistance Directorate. This unit is responsible for #& 2/ 1)&- &"3/%\$4" #& 2,- %/-,- /"3& 2/ +-%/2@/ ? #& 2/ /1,)3/%\$4" #& 1).&- bas, so that it also involves police intelligence actions. In the different departments of the country, the police headquarters designated
." ,+/%\$2 #& &"2/%& 1)/ &2 #&2\$3, #& 2/ 3)/3/ / + " #& M/%&) A*- &L&%3\$>/ 2/ investigation of the cases.

The Public Prosecutor's Office also has a unit specializing in cri- A&" ,)("/\$K/#, ? 3)/3/ #& 1&)-, /- / + " #& /(\$2\$K/) 2/ H.#\$%\$/2\$K/%\$4" #& cases. The personnel of this unit work in close coordination with the National Police and other public institutions and have also received training on the subject. They have also received training on the subject.





In addition, the Institute of Forensic Medicine has been incorporated to provide priority attention to psychological and forensic assessments and examinations in cases of trafficking in persons.

In the area of prevention, the Network of Child and Adolescent Friendly Municipal Governments (Red de Gobiernos Municipales Amigos de la Niñez y la Adolescencia) has also joined in the actions. With these actors, awareness-raising activities have been carried out with municipal authorities and mayoral staff. These efforts allowed for better work at the territorial level and a comprehensive approach. Preventive education aimed at students and the population is also considered a step forward.

In addition, there have been training courses for public officials, especially those who are part of the criminal justice system. These trainings have helped to raise awareness among officials, strengthen their levels of specialization, improve their investigation and prosecution skills, and help them to issue more consistent convictions.

In the area of protection and attention to victims, progress is more modest. These actions rely mainly on social organizations such as Casa Alianza and Acción Ya, among others. In addition, the Ministry of the Family, together with other institutions and organizations 1/3\$%\$1/"3&- #& 21,2\$%\$4" M" #& +"\$, ."/). 3# #& /3& ""\$4" / !> @%3\$- mas and two emergency telephone lines have been set up to handle complaints: 118, operated by the National Police, and 133, operated by MIFAN. Despite the efforts made, the protection, care and reintegration of the victims of trafficking is one of the aspects that 1)&-& "jA/? ,)&- 2\$A\$3%\$, "&- &" &2 1/@-g E,) & H&A12,F", & 0\$-3& " -. +%\$& "- there are no shelters for victims of trafficking and those that exist are for children and adolescents. In addition, most shelters handle other cases #& > \$,2& ""%\$/ ? /8.-, ? ", ", %_. & "3/" %, " 2,-)& %_.)-,- -. +%\$& "3&- 1/)/ -, -3& - "&) 2,- 1),%&-,- #& /%,A1/N/A\$&"3, ?)&% .1&)/%\$4" #& 2/- >@%3\$A/-g Z"/ one of the few initiatives to attend to victims of human trafficking in a comprehensive manner has been developed around an IOM-sponsored project in high-risk areas of the country.

Another advance that contributes to prevention and the formulation of actions A*- &L&%3\$>/- &- 2/ &2/8,)/%\$4" #& 2,- A/1&,- (&,()*+%, - ? -, %\$/2&&-g This exercise is carried out with the broadest participation of institutions and organizations at both the national and territorial levels, in order to ensure the best possible participation of the institutions and organizations at the national and territorial levels, in order to ensure the best possible participation of the institutions and organizations at the national and territorial levels.).3/- #& A/?,) \$"%\$#&"%\$/g U/ responsibility for mapping rests with the National Police. However, Coalition members participate and the results serve as input for strategic planning. Another exercise of



The generation of useful information is the holding of workshops on trafficking in persons by the Public Prosecutor's Office. These workshops contain three phases through which an attempt is made to reconcile all the information available in the different institutions and organizations of the Coalition on human trafficking cases in order to prosecute them more effectively.

In the case of J&5I, one of the most important achievements is the recent approval of the Law against Trafficking in Persons. The adoption of this instrument reinforces the intervention actions of the various institutions involved in combating this crime, but also because it strengthens them so that they can better respond to this challenge.

The sensitization and training processes that have been developed over the last few years with officials from different public institutions are also considered an achievement. The training courses and seminars have been supported by international organizations- 2&- %,A, 2/ P\^F 2/ PS`F 2/ P[ZWW ? 2/ SA8/H/#/ #& S-3/#,- Z"\$#,-g

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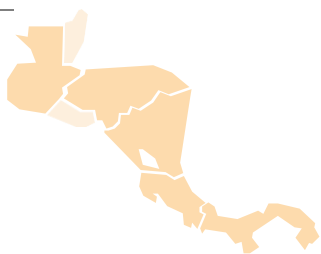
In addition to the achievements and progress that have been made in the fight against human trafficking, the region has good practices to share. This section presents those that the actors participating in the study considered relevant, although they are not the only ones.

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Although the work against the crime of human trafficking is fairly recent in the Central American region, the efforts and actions developed by state institutions as well as social organizations, international cooperation agencies, and regional (\$,/2&-F 1&)A\$3&" \$#&"3\$+%/) 8.&"/- 1)*%3\$%/-F &"3)& 2/- T.& -& %.&"3/";

- ① Coordination and coordination of actions between different regional bodies. There are several examples in this regard, such as the generation of a series of studies that provided basic information on the crime of trafficking and the characteristics of the victims. This was a joint effort of COMMCA, IOM and AECID. P3), &H&A12, #& %,)#\$"/%\$4" ? /)3\$%.2/%\$4" -&)&+&)& & /2 \$"3&)%/A8\$, ? harmonization both in terms of the actions of the main actors at the regional level, the case of the PACTO police operation to rescue victims, and in relation to the exchange of information on cases and the development of guidelines and protocols for action.





- ① Creation of the recently formed Regional Coalition against Trafficking, which has been supported by the IOM, Save the Children and the IDB's Regional Public Good Program. The creation of this coalition has allowed for more effective actions through coordination among national coalitions and committees, formulate strategies and plans with a regional perspective and optimize available resources.
- ① Promotion of agreements to execute projects with regional scope, such as the agreement between AECID and Save the Children on violence and trafficking. Another example is the regional program currently being developed by the IOM, which is based on technical cooperation for institutional capacity building, and the IDB's Regional Public Good Program.
- ① S2/8,)/%\$4" #& 2,- A/1/- (&,()*+%, - ? -, %\$/2&- ? -. %,))&-1, "#\$&"- 3& 1),3,%,2,)&(\$,"/2F %,A, M&))/A\$&"3/- %2/>& 1/)/ \$&"3\$+%//%\$4" #& K,"/- ?).3/- #& \$"%\$#&"%\$/ #&2 #&2\$3, ? 2/ #&+"\$%\$4" #& &- 3)/3&(\$/- focused action, promoted by Save the Children.

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Since the beginning of more systematic actions in the fight against the crime of human trafficking in Central America, each of the countries has developed good practices that deserve to be shared. In the case of Belize, the prevention actions and campaigns carried out throughout the country and by various means stand out. In Costa Rica, the Model of Comprehensive Care for Survivors stands out; in El Salvador, municipal ordinances for the prevention and fight against trafficking at the local level, as well as the prosecution of cases, stand out, among others. In the case of Guatemala, the Protocol for the Protection and Comprehensive Care of Victims and the Program for the Restitution of Rights stand out. In Honduras, a good practice developed was the network of comprehensive victim care services (IPSVT); and in the case of Nicaragua, mention should be made of the workshops on trafficking cases, which include a phase of conciliation of information on the cases between the related institutions and which are information conciliation promoted by the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Police Prevention Model. This section summarizes some of these good practices.

L),\$#). In this country, good practices have been developed among both public institutions and social organizations to address the crime of human trafficking. However, two of them stand out: the protocol known as CARE, for the care of minors when they are victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons, and the campaigns and actions to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.

public prevention programs developed by both state institutions and NGOs.

The Protocol known as the CARE Model is used by the personnel of public institutions involved in the care of minors who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons.

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to promote a more sustainable reintegration process and improve the quality of life of the victims by ensuring respect for their dignity and rights.

According to the Protocol, the intervention process contains several steps or phases, which are monitored and evaluated to measure their effectiveness and to anticipate the necessary steps in each phase.

%/-, 1/3\$% _ 2/g U/ 1)\$&)/ #& 2/- L/&- %,"-\$-3& &" 1\$#& "3\$+%//%\$4" and the registration of the victims, which, in turn, contains several steps that must be conducted by properly trained personnel and in

." /A8\$& "3& #& %, "+/"K/ 1/)/ 2/> @%3\$A/g S" &-3& "\$> & 22/> @%3\$A/ &- the priority. In addition, social workers must make sure that prior to the intervention there are personnel responsible for collecting forensic evidence, someone who will accompany the victim while the medical examinations are performed, that the victim's parents or guardians have given their consent and are present during the examinations, among other requirements. The second step in this phase consists of recording and documenting the evidence for the case. A file is opened where all the information and forensic evidence collected is collected and documented.

The next phase focuses on protecting the victim's rights, mainly the right to life, health, protection against all forms of abuse and exploitation, and the exercise of basic freedoms. To this end, a protection plan is drawn up, usually covering a period of four to six weeks. These measures depend on the particularities of the case and are maintained until it is ensured that the victim has initiated the process.

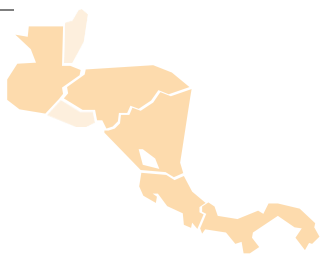
%&-, #&)&% .1&)/%\$4" ? &-3/8\$2\$K/%\$4 "g S-3, -\$(" \$+%/ T.& 2/ >@%3\$A/ &- 3* out of imminent danger and who can initiate the process of restitution of rights.

Z"/ 3&)%&)%&)/ L/-& #& "\$3&)>&"%\$4" -& ,)\$&"3/ / #/) -&(. \$A\$&"3, / 2/-"&- cesities of the victim to overcome the traumatic experience. Interventions in this phase depend on the progress of the case and generally include, among other actions, medical treatment, legal proceedings, educational reintegration, strengthening of family and community ties, etc., as well as the development of a new life.

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The child has been reintegrated as far as possible into a stable life and an environment conducive to his or her development.

Another set of good practices has been developed around prevention campaigns and actions carried out by public institutions and NGOs throughout the country. For this purpose, various mechanisms have been used, ranging from advertisements and vignettes in the radio, television and print media, to the placement of signs on highways and strategic locations such as the airport, the main border posts and tourist areas.

Prevention has also been carried out through talks and conversations in areas considered at risk or in high seasons for the authorization of work permits, which oversees sponsors- cations hides human trafficking. In some cases it has happened that when these talks are given some people come forward to ask questions or request more information, a symptom indicating that human trafficking and labor exploitation exist in that center.

Another example of preventive actions was the implementation of a con- human trafficking. Four awards were established and coverage # 2,- A&#,- #& %,A."\$%/%\$4" / +" #& 3&"&) &2 A/?,) \$A1/%3, 1,-\$82& &"3)& 2/ 1,82/%\$4" #&2 1/@-g I," 2,- /+%M&- (/"/#,)&- -& &2/8,)/),")4- roadside and other smaller titles that were distributed throughout the country.

Some NGOs working in the prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children also contributed to the prevention of trafficking through campaigns in schools, talks, lectures, presentation of socio-dramas and films, among others. From the point of view of the institutions and organizations involved in these actions, the country has made an important effort in prevention and has had a good impact on the population. However, it is important to strengthen this area of intervention.

+=3& (\$#&. The formulation of an Integral Care Model and the creation of an Immediate Response Team for Victims of Trafficking are noteworthy.

The Model of Integral Care for survivors of trafficking in persons #& 1&)-,"/- -& #&+"& %,A, ." &-L.&)K, #&&2 S-3/#, 1)/,L)&%&) ."/ comprehensive care for victims from a perspective of protection of human rights.

and inter-institutional and intersectoral articulation of care and protection of victims that is centered on the person and the restitution of their rights. This model is governed by the principles of human rights, especially those of children and adolescents; it is contextualized according to the biological and emotional development of the person with an age, gender and multicultural and diversity perspective in the understanding of power relations where the victims of trafficking are at a clear disadvantage.

The model has nine main lines of intervention, among which the following are included: leads to the issuance of the technical criteria and the respective migratory category; risk and threat assessment for each particular situation; protection and security of the victims, providing them with safety and keeping them out of the safe lodging; immediate attention to basic material needs; attention to comprehensive health needs; legal accompaniment and immigration regularization.

This model involves all the actors that interact in the National Coalition and includes governmental institutions as well as civil society organizations and international agencies.

The formation and implementation of the Immediate Response Team (ERI), in legal and practical terms, is considered a success and a good practice in the country. This team is integrated by Migration, EO82%F Prevention and Legal Counsel. The team functions as follows: once a case is identified, the accreditation process is expedited. It is supposed to constitute the first contact with the victim, the case is documented, studied, the team meeting is held and an accreditation record is drawn up which is transferred to migration 1/ T. & 3,) (& 2/ %, "#\$%" , + % \$ / 2 / 2 - > @ % 3 \$ A - g l , " & 22 , - & 8) \$ " # / access to the various services in accordance with the protocols and the Comprehensive Care Model. In spite of its potential, the ERI does not have) & % .) - , - . + % \$ & " 3 & - 1 /) / L . " % \$, " /) & " 3 , # / - . % / 1 / % \$ # / # / # g

7.9.2. In the area of prevention, the use of playful methodologies²⁶ in schools was mentioned, for which there is coordination between social organizations and MINED. Another good practice is the awareness-raising work carried out with communicators and institutional communicators and the strengthening of the community fabric, especially in the most affected areas.

²⁶ This is an effort of Save the Children, which has developed a playful methodology to work on the prevention of trafficking with children and adolescents in the region.



nas. This program is managed by SVET and has as its operational basis 2/ %,.)#\$/%\$4" #& #L&)"3&- -&)>\$%\$,- \$"-3\$3.%\$,"/2&- / +" #& T.& 2/- victims of trafficking in persons can exercise their right to compensation, redress and full restitution of their rights by the State.²⁷

The Human Rights Ombudsman's Office has also developed a good practice with the work of promoting denunciations carried out in the departments of the so-called migratory corridor. They have also created a specialized Z"\$#/# %, "3)/ 2/ 7)/3/ #& E&)-,"/- T.& -& &"%/(/ #& /3&"#&) #& A/"&- ra specialized in cases related to this crime.

On the civil society side, one of the best practices developed is the comprehensive approach to care for victims of human trafficking. In this regard, the Refugio de la Niñez and Fundación Sobrevivientes, whose directors have received international recognition for their work, stand out. Both provide psychological care, shelter and shelter, as well as free legal advice and assistance to victims. It also follows up on each case and acts as an adhesive plaintiff in criminal proceedings; it takes all necessary actions before the justice system to ensure due process and that the victims receive prompt and complete justice.

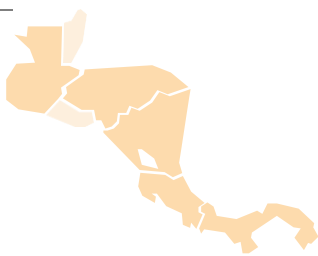
O+%9<2&=. <.&)," \$#&"3\$+%/#/- 8.&"/- 1)*%3\$%/- &" &2 *A8\$3, #& 2/ 1)&- vention and in the protection and care of victims.

In the field of prevention, the Honduran experience has been limited, 1&),)\$%/ &" \$"\$%\$/3\$>/-F &-1&%\$/2A&"3&& &" 2, T.&& -&)&+&)& /2 #&- /)),22, of public awareness campaigns and training. These initiatives include awareness campaigns through the media and direct contact with the population at risk. While in training, human resources training in public institutions stands out.

Awareness-raising campaigns through the media have included advocacy actions on television and radio to obtain their collaboration in the transmission of *spots* and spaces for discussion and information. CICEST has promoted a radio and television program called "Breaking the Silence", which is broadcast on 16 television channels and 32 radio stations nationwide. This program is sponsored by the Legislative Commission on Children and Adolescents.

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The IOM established an agreement with the Secretariat of Security of Honduras to develop a massive campaign that includes television and radio spots as part of a regional campaign. The program

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&" the media, according to which it is estimated to have reached an audience of 1,910,000 people, mainly in the areas with the highest incidence of trafficking. Other efforts include collaboration #& 2,- A&#\$, -&-%)\$3,- A*- \$"=."?&"3&- #&2 1/@- bU/ E)&"/- ? U/ 7)\$8."/c for the realization of reports on CICESCT's activities and journalistic research on the relationship between trafficking and migration.

Awareness campaigns through direct contact with the population at risk have been developed mainly by the IOM, the Security Secretariat and NGOs participating in CICESCT.

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forums and conferences were held with different social sectors, but mainly in universities. The campaign also included "friendly approaches" in public places, which consisted of talking to working street children to alert them to the risks of trafficking.

The IPSVT network reports the dissemination of thousands of copies of informative material in various formats, which were distributed in communities. They also held participatory community discussions, public events such as games, exhibitions, forums and the broadcasting of television *spots on* the network of screens in the country's airports.

Another good practice developed are the awareness-raising days organized by Save the Children in coordination with different municipal sectors such as the network of communicators, teachers, the San Lorenzo trafficking prevention network, parents, municipal and community ombudsmen. Some of the most important activities developed during these days include: awareness-raising fairs against human trafficking, theater presentations, marches, delivery and placement of

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,-, nas, sociodramas, placement of blankets or banners in high traffic areas, etc.

/=.&"%\$/ 3.)@-3\$%/F #&-/)),22, #& 1),()/A/- #&)/#\$, ? 3&2&2&>\$-\$4" /
3)/>h- of the networks of youth communicators, student and television forums, television and radio *spots*, placement of banners in Honduran airports.

Z"/ #& 2-/ /%3\$> \$##&- A*- L. &)3&- #& &-3/- %/A1/N/-L. &)," 2-H,)-
awareness-raising activities with vulnerable groups such as high school students in areas where sex tourism is prevalent and where domestic workers are present, in addition to the

sensitization of media journalists in the country's main cities. Save the Children conducts training and awareness-raising workshops with children, adolescents and young people through youth groups called "Pressure" and "Children's Communicators". These workshops are also carried out with other acts such as: municipal and community children's ombudsmen, teachers, parents, leaders and municipal authorities. Other actions included the training of personnel in the National Police, the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME), the Committees of Migrant Families of Honduras (COFAMIDEH), the Network for the Prevention of Human Trafficking of the Municipality of San Lorenzo, the Prosecutor's Office for Children and Casa Alianza. The latter organization carries out awareness-raising activities for young people in secondary schools and forums with parents, among others.

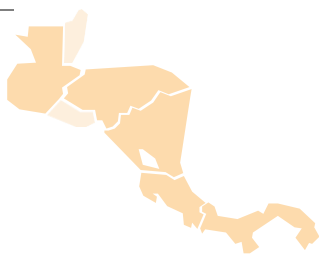
The training of human resources has benefited from the efforts of the organizations participating in CICESCT and the IPSVT Network. Training and education actions have also been developed for public institutions and other social organizations, such as the joint initiative between Save the Children and Casa Alianza to carry out the diploma course "Violence and trafficking, with emphasis on children and adolescents", which was attended by 2 /-1\$%\$, #& 2/ Z"\$>&&)-\$## /%\$,"/2 ` .34",A/ #& X, "#.)/- bZ[`Xcg

In the field of protection and care for victims of trafficking, the good-"/- 1)*%3\$%/- T. & A*- #&-3/%/" -&)&+&)&&" / 1"-3/2/%\$4" #& 12@"& / emergency 101, as part of a care system promoted &" &2 A/)% , #& 1%/A1/N/ P\7d^\$"\$3\$)\$, #& R& (.)### / +" #& T. & any citizen can make direct reports on cases and victims of trafficking.

Another good practice is the coordinated network of referral and mutual support services, which was a space for structured collaboration among NGOs within the framework of the IPSVT Network between 2009 and 2011. The Network supported the reintegration of victims of trafficking. Among the achievements of this process is the participation of 162 of them in short and medium-term vocational training workshops, 40 were economically reintegrated and obtain income for 2/ /%3\$>\$## /1)&"#\$\$/n 6G 8&"&+%\$/#/- -, " 1/3& #& ."/ A\$%), &A1)&-/ and 1,098 people were assisted to return to their communities.

The good practices developed by Casa Alianza also include attention to cases with a differentiated approach and a gender focus. The reason for the differentiated approach is because the victims #& 3)/3/ %, " +&- #& &012,3/%\$4" -&&0./2 %,A&)%\$/2)&T.\$&&)&" #& 1&)@, #, -, #& /3&"%\$4" A*- 1),2,"(/#,- T.& 2/- >@%3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ %, " +&- #& &0-labor exploitation. In the meantime, the gender approach opens up options for





vocational training for girls in areas traditionally reserved for men. This enhances their chances of successfully reintegrating into society without pigeonholing them into stereotypes.

Q\$#&2&*<&. In Nicaragua there is a diversity of good practices in different aspects related to human trafficking. Some of them refer to the processes of prosecution and punishment of the crime, others are related to prevention and some others to the care and reintegration of victims.

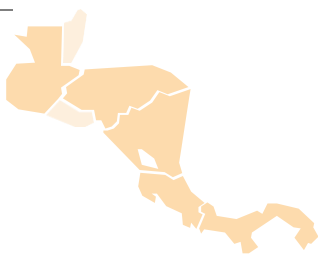
In the area of prosecution and punishment of the crime, the following are noteworthy: the formation of departmental roundtables against trafficking in persons; the holding of workshops on trafficking in persons by the Public Ministry; and internal police provisions to strengthen their effectiveness in combating the crime. The creation of the roundtables at the local level has meant that officials from the various institutions involved in combating the crime of trafficking do not have to travel from the central or national level, but rather their territorial delegations can attend to cases quickly when they arise. These roundtables are made up of the same public institutions that participate in the National Coalition and local social organizations that work on this issue.

Another good practice is the implementation of in-training conciliation workshops on human trafficking cases organized by the Public Prosecutor's Office. These workshops have been implemented since 2009 in three phases. In the first phase, different institutions and civil society organizations are convened to reconcile data and information on trafficking cases, the cases are collected and a kind of 8/-& #& #/3,- ? -& M/%& ./ 3\$1\$+%//%\$4" 1)&2\$A\$"/)g S" 2/ -&(. "#/ L/-& -&& %, ">,%/ / 2,- +-%/2&- & \$">&-3\$(/#,)&- 1,2\$%\$/2& - #& 2,- #&1/)3/A&"3,- where cases have been reported, are analyzed with them and a work plan is drawn up to proceed to prosecution. In the third phase, a formal complaint is filed depending on the police investigations carried out and the evidence gathered by the Public Prosecutor's Office.

U/ 3&)%&)/ 8.&"/ 1)*%3\$%/ -&)&+&)& / ./ -&)& #& #&-1,-\$%\$,"&- \$"3&)"- of the National Police in order to more effectively combat the crime of trafficking through a police prevention model. This includes, among others, the following actions: creation of special units in the area of police investigations; implementation of plans especially aimed at rescuing victims of trafficking and preventing the crime; elaboration of a police prevention model.

)/%\$4" #& 2,- A/1&,- (&,()*+%, - ? -, %\$/2&-n /%/%\$,"&- #& 1)&>&"%\$4" ? raising awareness through appearances in the media or visits to schools throughout the country; incorporation of the topic in courses given by the Police Academy, at different levels;





to help them understand what happened and reintegrate into their community. Coordination with businessmen in the area to help generate projects and opportunities for the economic reintegration of 2/->@%3\$A/-g 7/A8\$h" -& # \$-1.-, #& ." /1,?, +"/"%\$&), 1/)/ T.& /2(-victims to establish micro or small businesses. Z", #& 2,- /-1&%3,- T.& 3/A8\$h" -& \$"%2.?& &" &-3/ &01&)\$&"%\$/ &- 2/ creation of a broad working group with the participation of various local actors such as public institutions, local government, NGOs, private entrepreneurs and the media to design joint action plans aimed at prevention.

J&%&5I. Good practices related to the fight against human trafficking are incipient in this country considering the recent apro- 8/%\$4" #& 2/ 2/ 2&? &-1&%@+%/ &" &-/ A/3&)\$/g U/- %/1/%\$#/#&- \$"-3\$3.%\$,- nal and intervention actions had not been widely developed. The formulation and approval of the law is in itself a good practice, since it involved concerted efforts and coordination among several public institutions.

P3)/ 8.&"/ 1)*%3\$%/ \$#\$"3\$+%/#/ -&)&+&&)& / 2,- 1),%&-,- #& -&-"&-\$8\$2\$K/- training developed so far with public officials because it is considered that they have contributed to the strengthening of institutional capacities. Despite the progress and good practices, it is also considered that there are many challenges and that the approval of the law has increased the expectations of different actors in relation to intervention actions on human trafficking.

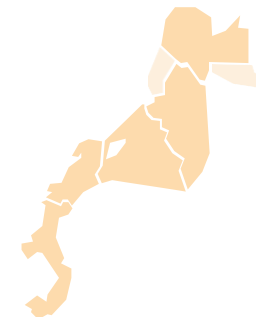
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1,-\$82& \$#\$"3\$+%/) ."/ #>\$&)-\$#/# #& /%3,)&-F &"3)& \$"-3/"%\$/-)&(\$,"/2&-F international cooperation agencies, state institutions and civil society organizations. Each of the actors plays a role in the struggle and their contributions help to work against this problem.

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Table 41: J2\$%#\$4&,)=\$%=3&%#\$&=&j)=4&#\$\$+=P \$%=3\$3<#\$\$+%)= 0 +2*&&%\$V&#\$\$+%)= .%#<,&9&= & ,& ,& ,<#8& #+32& ,& 32&3& 9) 4)2=+%&=)% -)%32+&562\$#&

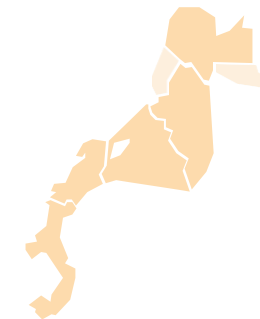
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Region	R\I` - E/)2/A&"3, Central American • I,)3& Central American #& _.- 3\$%\$/ - IP^^I` - Central American #& _.-3\$%\$/ - IP^^I` - Commission on R&(.)\$#/# - Regional Conference on ^\$()/%\$,"&- - Regional Anti- Trafficking Coalition			P\^ - P\7 - R/>& 3M& IM\$2#)&" - `SI\W - Z[IS<
Belize	7M& ``3\$d7)/L+%Y\$\$(in Persons Committee	^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& W&-/)),22, X.A/", - W&1/)3/A&"3, #& ^\$()/%\$4" - W&1/)3/A&"3, #& E,2\$%@/ - I,A\$3h [/%\$,"/2 #& 2/ </A\$2\$/ ? 2/ [\$N&K - P+%\$"/ #&2 W\$)&%3,) #&2 ^"\$-\$3&)\$, EO82\$%, - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& `-. "3,- S03&)\$,)&- - P+%\$"/ #&2 <\$-%/2 C&"&)/2 #&2 S-3/#, - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& `-. "3,- W,Ah-3\$%, - - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #&2 E),%.)/#,) C&"&)/2 - \"-3\$3.3, #& S-3/#@-3\$%/- #&]&2\$%& - W&1/)3/A&"3, #&2 7)/8/H, - W&1/)3/A&"3, #& `#./"/- - W\$)&%3,)\$, #& 7.)\$-A, #&]&2\$%& - P+%\$"/ #&2 S">\$/#, Special for Women and Children.	National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and [(2&%3 b[PEI`[c - Youth Enhancement R&)>\$%&- beSRc - V[]&2\$K& - C,>&" e,.3M Leadership in Sexual Reproductive Health Program	P\^ - P\7 - X\PR • Z[IS<



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Costa Rica	National Coalition I, "3)/ &2 7)*+%, Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking	`-/A82&/ U&(\$-2/3\$>/ - I,A\$-\$4" #& C,8\$&"), ? `#A\$"\$-3)/%\$4" - I,A\$-\$4" E&A/"&"3& #&& R&&(.)\$#/# ? [/)% ,3)*+%, - W&L&"-,)@/ #& 2,- X/8\$3/"3&- #& 2/ Q&1O82\$%/ - ^"\$-\$- 3&)\$, #& Q&2/%\$,"&- S03&)\$,)&- - ^"\$-\$- 3&)\$, #&& C,8&)"%\$4" - E,2\$%@/ bC&-3\$4" #& 7)*+%, #& E&-,"/-c - <.&)K/ #& R&(.)\$#/# EO82\$%/ - W\$)&%%\$4" C&"&)/2 #& ^\$()/%\$4" ? S03)/"H&)@/ - ^"\$-\$-3&)\$, #& _.-3\$%\$/ ? E/K - I,A\$-\$4" [/%\$,"/2 for the Prevention of Violence and the Promotion #& 2/ E/K R,%\$/2 - WCSE`j - W\$)&%%\$4" #& \"3&2\$(&"%\$/ ? R&(.)\$#/# [/%\$,"/2 - ^"\$-\$-3&)\$, #& S#.%/%\$4" EO82\$%/ - ^"\$-\$-3&)\$, #&2 7)/8/H, ? R&(.)\$#/# R,%\$/2 - ^"\$-\$-3&)\$, #& R/2.# - \"-3\$3.3, [/%\$,"/2 #& 2/- ^.H&)&- - E/3),"/3, [/%\$,"/2 #& 2/ \"L/"%\$/ - P)(/"\$-A, #& \">&-3\$\$(/%\$4" _#\$%\$/2 - ^"\$-\$-3&)\$, EO82\$\$%, - P+%\$/ #& `3&"%\$4" / 2/ Victim	Paniamor Foundation • <. "#/%\$4" Q`X`] • `2\$/"K/ 1,) 3.- W&)&%M,- - W&L&"-/ #& Child International	E[ZW - P \\U`[ZW - `I[ZQ - `SI\\W - P\\^

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El Salvador	National Committee against Trafficking in Persons ³¹	`-/A82&/ U&(\$-2/3\$>/ - I,)3& R.1)&A/ #& _.- 3\$%\$/ - E),%.)/#.)@/ C&"&)/2 #& 2/ Q&1082\$%/ - E,2\$%@/ [/%\$,"/2 I\$>\$2 - <\$-%/2@/ C&"&)/2 #& 2/ Q&1082\$%/ • \"-3\$3.3, R/2>/#,)&N, 1/)/ &2 W&-/)),22, #& 2/ ^.H&) - \"-3\$3.3, R/2>/#,)&N, 1/)/ 2/ E),3&%%\$4" \"3&()/2 #& 2/ [N&K ? 2/ `#,2&-%&"%\$/ - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& 7.)\$-A, - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& S#. %/ %\$4" - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& C,8&)" / %\$4" - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& Q&2/ %\$, "&- S03&)\$,) &- - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& 2 7)/8/H, ? E)&>\$-\$4" R, %\$/2 - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& R/2.# EO82\$%/ ? `-\$-3&"%\$/ R, %\$/2 - R&%)&3/)@/ [/ %\$, "/2 #& 2/ </A\$2\$/ - Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (General Directorate of Migration and Aliens) • \"-3\$3.3, #& ^&#%\$"/ U&(/2 - I,)1,)/ %\$4" #& Municipalities of the Republic of El Salvador	IS^Z_SQ - I,A\$3h of Relatives of Disappeared Migrants (COFAMIDE)	`S\W - P\^ - E[ZW - R/>& 3M& IM\$2#)&" - I,A\$-\$4" Interamericana de 2/ ^.H&) - Z[<E` -

31 It is now known as the National Council Against Trafficking in Persons.

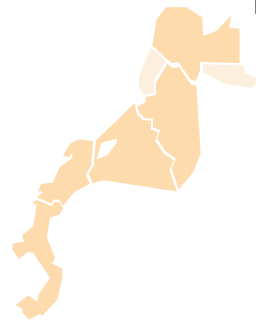


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Guatemala	Inter-institutional Commission against Trafficking in Human Be&)-,"/- - Q&# against Trafficking #& E&)-,"/- - National Board of Migration of Guatemala	Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Exploitation of Children and Adolescents ? 7)/3/ #& E&)-,"/- - P+%\$"/ #& `3&"%\$4" / 2/ f@%3\$A/ #& 2/ E,2\$%@/ [//%\$, "/2 I\$>\$2 - Z"\$#/# #& 7)/3/ #& 2/ E,2\$%@/ [//%\$, "/2 I\$>\$2 - P+%\$"/ of Victim Assistance of the Public Prosecutor's Office - Z"\$#/# #& 7)/3/ #&2 ^"\$-\$3&)\$, EO82\$%, - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& Q&2/)%\$, "&- S03&)\$,)&- - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& C,8&)" /)%\$4" - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& S#. /)%\$4" - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& I.23.) / ? W&1,)3&- - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& R/2.# EO82\$% / ? ^-\$3&"%\$ / R,%\$/2 - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& 7)/8/H, ? E)&>\$-\$4" R,%\$/2 - R&%)&3/)@/ of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Q&1082\$% / - R&%)&3/)@/ #& I,A."\$% /)%\$4" R,%\$/2 #& 2/ E)&-\$#&"%\$ / #& 2/ Q&1082\$% / - R&%)&3/)@/ #& E2/"\$+%/)%\$4" ? E),) / A /)%\$4" #& 2/ E)&-\$#&"%\$ / - R&%)&3/)@/ E)&-\$#&"%\$ /2 #& 2/ ^.H&) - R&%)&3/)@/ of Social Works of the President's Wife • I,A\$-\$4" E)&-\$#&"%\$ /2 I,,)#\$"//#,) / #& 2/ Executive Policy on Rights X.A/" , - vIPEQSWSX - W&L&"-,)@/ #& 2/ ^.H&) \ "#@(&"/ - I,,)#\$"//#,) / [//%\$, "/2 1/)/ Prevent Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and Children ^.H&) bIP[EQSf\c - ^"\$-\$3&)\$, #& <\$"/"K/- - I,"-&H, [//%\$, "/2 #& `# , 1%\$, "&- - E), % .)/#.)@/ #& 2,- W&)&%M,- X.A/" , - P)(/"\$-\$-A, _.\$%\$/2 • P)(/"\$-\$-A, U&(\$-2/3\$>, - \"-3\$3.3, [//%\$, "/2 #&& I\$&"%\$ /- <,)& "-&- - I,A\$-\$4" [//%\$, "/2 #& 2/ Childhood and Adolescence (CNNA)	Foundation R,8)&>\$>\$>\$&"3&- - I/- / #&2 ^\$()/"3&- - Asociación "Refugio de la Niñez (Hogar de E),3&%%\$4" ? `8)\$ (,c - Q&L.(\$, kU/ `2\$/"K/I - Instituto de Protección Integral de la Niñez • f\$> / H. "3,- 1,) 2/ [N&K - _4>&"&- 1,) C./3&A/2/ - E/-3,)/2 of Social Mobility • `-, %\$ /)%\$4" #& Integral Services &" R/2.# - C).1, Guatemalan of ^.H&)&- -	P\7 - Z[\IS<d - R/>& 3M& IM\$2#)&" - ECPAT-Guatemala • ^h#%\$,- -\$" <), "3&)/- - P`I[ZWX - `I[ZQ - `SIW • P\^ - IM)\$-\$3\$/" International Adoption Agency vXPU7 - Z[\<S^ • Z[\<E` - Embassies and consulates that support the subject, especially S-3/#,- Z"\$#,- #& America and France



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Honduras	Inter-institutional Commission Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons	^\$"\$-3&&)\$, EO82\$%, - <\$-%/2@/S-1&%\$/2 #& 2/ [\$N&K ? #&2 W\$-%/1/%\$3/#, - \"-3\$3.3, X, "#.)&N, #& 2/ [\$N&K ? 2/ </A\$2\$/ - R&%)&3/)@/ #& R&(.)\$#/# - R&%)&3/)@/ #& Q&2/%\$, "&- S03&)\$,)&- R&%)&3/)@/ #& W&)&%M,- X.A/" , - ? _.-3\$%\$/ - R&%)&3/)@/ #& S#. %/%\$4" - I,A\$-\$, "/# , [//%\$, "/2 #& 2,- W&)&%M,- X.A/" , - - I, "(")&- , [//%\$, "/2 #&& X, "#.) / - - "-3\$3.3, [//%\$, "/2 #& 2/ ^.H&) - Z"\$>&&)-\$#/# [//%\$, "/2 ` .34", A/ #& X, "#. "#.) /-	I/-/ `2\$/ "K/ - National Forum of ^\$ () / %\$, "&- - E2/" \ "3&)" / %\$, "/2 - l&"3), de Atención al Migrante Q&3,)" / #, - `-, %\$ / %\$4" Red de Comités de Familiares y Migrantes de Honduras (Network of Committees of Families and Migrants of Honduras)	P^ - l, AA. "\$3? d Habitat-Finance • l, 1&) / 3\$> & Housing Foundation (CHF) • `SI\W - P\7 - Z[\IS< - R/> & 3M& IM\$2#)&" - ZR`W - International Plan
Nicaragua	National Anti-Trafficking Coalition	`-/A82&/ [//%\$, "/2 - l,)3& R.1)&A/ #& _.-3\$%\$// - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& C,8&)" / %\$4" - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& Q&2/%\$, "&- S03&)\$,)&- ^\$"\$-3&)\$, EO82\$%, - E,2\$% @/ [//%\$, "/2 - S-%. &2/ _.\$%\$/2 - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& S#. %/%\$4" - ^\$"\$-3&)\$, #& 2/ </A\$2\$/ - W\$)&%%\$4" of Migration and Alien Affairs.	I/-/ `2\$/ "K/ - `-, %\$ / %\$4" ^\$) \$/ A - ` % % \$4" e/ - \ [EQXZ - Women's Movement #& IM\$ " / "#& (/ - Human Mobility Pastoral-Caritas #& [\$ % /) / (/ - National Movement of Adolescents and Adolescents Youth	P^ - P\7 - `SI\W - Z[<E` - R/> & 3M& Children

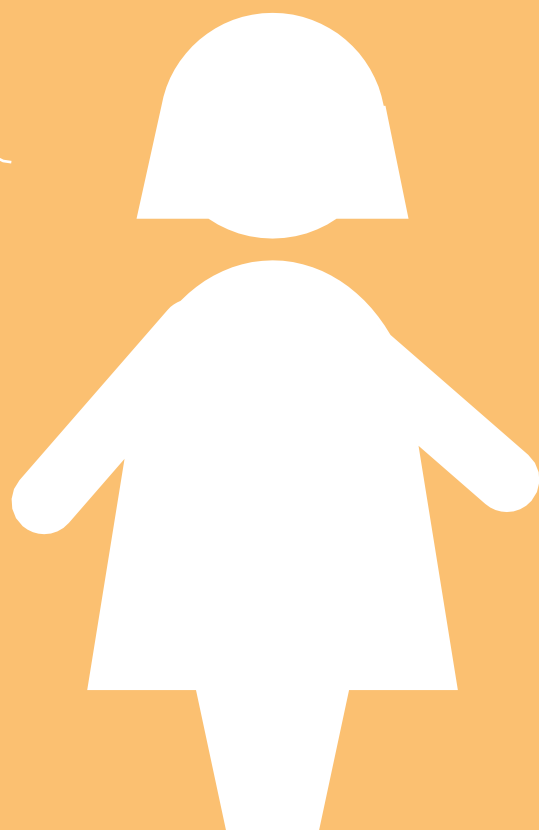


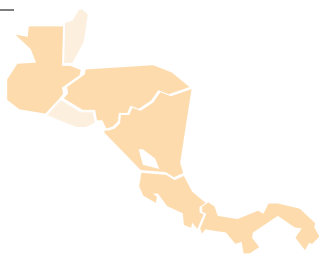


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Panama	National Anti-Trafficking Committee	^"\$-3&)\$, #& R&&(.)\$## EO82\$/ - ^"\$-3&)\$, #& C,8\$&)", - ^"\$-3&)\$, #& Q&2/%\$, "&- S03&)\$,)&- - ^"\$-3&)\$, #& 2 7)/8/H, ? W&-/)),22, U/8,)/2 - ^"\$-3&)\$, #& W&-/)),22, R,%\$/2 - ^"\$-3&)\$, #& S#.%/%\$4" - ^"\$-3&)\$, #& R/2.# - I,)3& R.1)&A/ #& _-3\$%\$/ - `-/A82&/ [/%\$, "/2 - E),%.)/#.)@/ C&"&)/2 #& 2/ [/%\$4" - `.3,)\$## #& 7.)\$-A, #& E"/A* - \"-3\$3.3, [/%\$, "/2 #& 2/ ^.H&) - National Secretariat for Childhood and Adolescence ? </A\$2\$/ - W&L&"-,.)@/ #& 2 E.&82, - I*A/)/ #& I,A&)%\$, CE "#.-3)\$/- ? `()\$%.23.)/ - I,"- &H, National Private Enterprise		



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This section presents a set of conclusions based on the analysis of the information contained in each of the previous chapters.

against violence and human trafficking in the Central American region.

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In addition to being a crime, human trafficking is also a social phenomenon that has serious consequences for societies and especially for the people who become victims. It is one of the cruelest expressions of violence and violation of human rights, especially in the case of children, adolescents and women. In addition to the profound consequences it leaves on its victims, it breaks the social fabric of the communities where it occurs, causing disarticulation, #&-%, "+/"K/ ? L/23/ #& -& -,2\$#//)\$#/#g

This crime has become a concern in the region, especially during the last decade, when organized crime in all its forms has substantially varied its forms of expression. The most important and systematic actions have been developed since the mid-2000s, after the enactment of the Palermo Protocol (2000).

In general, Central American societies show high levels of tolerance and social acceptance of human trafficking and only 3& &0\$-3& %\$&&)3,)&%M/K, &" &2 %/-%, #& /T.&22/ T.& 3\$&"& %A, +" 2/ &012,- commercial sexual exploitation of victims. Little recognition is given to the existence of other forms of human trafficking.

Although the governments of the region have begun to show political will to work against this crime and have undertaken actions from the state institutions, they have not yet given it the same priority as other forms of organized crime such as "/)%3)*+%,g W& A/"&"&)/ T.& 2/- /%%%\$,"&- #& \$"3&)>&"%\$4" ", -," &T.\$>/- lenses with the evolution and characteristics of this crime throughout the region.

On the other hand, existing visions and analyses of human trafficking are barely exploring its relationship with the more general context of the region in social, economic, political, security and violence terms. The predominant human rights and public health approaches tend to focus on the victims and rarely relate the crime to the structural trends, the security situation and the new characteristics of organized crime that all Central American countries are experiencing.

Addressing the problem from a more holistic perspective is of vital importance. Central America is vulnerable to insecurity, violence and human trafficking. The region's social and economic indicators show that these social phenomena cannot be addressed if structural factors such as social exclusion, poverty and weak state institutions are not taken into account.

During the second half of this decade, violence in general and violence against children, adolescents and women showed an alarming growth trend. All countries, without exception, saw a worrying increase in homicide and femicide rates, the two most serious expressions of violence, especially in the countries of the so-called "northern triangle": Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. The countries of the so-called "southern triangle" have also experienced significant changes in the behavior of violence and crime. But not only has the frequency of acts of violence increased, but so have the actions of organized crime and the viciousness with which certain types of crimes such as femicide are committed.

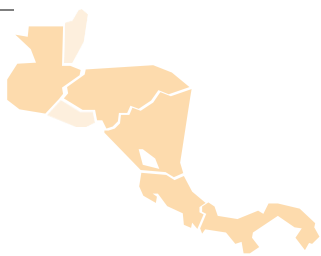
the search for better living conditions also constitutes one of the structural factors as most of these people travel in irregular conditions, exposed to become victims of criminal organizations or state institutions that violate their human rights and criminalize them for the simple fact of traveling in

also the criminal networks of human trafficking and there are many cases in which the person who began his or her journey as a migrant ended up becoming a victim of trafficking. The phenomena that are occurring, particularly that of human trafficking, are little studied and known, but it is clear that actions are required with a regional perspective and aimed at the structural causes of violence, crime and human trafficking.

To fill this gap, in recent years a series of studies have been conducted in an attempt to measure the crime and the phenomenon of trafficking in persons in the region and in each of the countries. The studies provide valuable information on the most relevant characteristics of the crime, but focus on trafficking in persons.

commercial sexual exploitation of victims and that which victimizes children and adolescents. There are still information gaps in relation to the number and evolution of cases, the number and characteristics of the victims, the characteristics of the criminal networks that commit





The characteristics of the client-exploiters, among other data.

Some important characteristics of crime in the region. For example, victims generally come from impoverished communities and families, but above all, they are excluded, with low levels of education, with few opportunities for economic and social insertion and with histories of violence and abuse. Most of the victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation are girls, adolescents and women in the early age ranges. Almost half of them come from Central American countries, but in Belize, Costa Rica and Panama, for example, there are also cases of victims from other countries beyond the Central American region.

The methods used by trafficking networks are based primarily on deception and violence. In the case of internal trafficking, even though T. & A. of persons dedicated to the recruitment, transfer and exploitation of the victims on a route that takes them from their communities to important urban centers and from there they move them under the control of international networks to other countries within the region or to Mexico, mainly. Human trafficking networks are generally linked to other national or transnational organized crime activities.

In much the same way as other organized crime activities, Central America shares characteristics in relation to human trafficking. In general, all countries in the region are places of recruitment, transit and destination of victims. At least five of the seven countries (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama) are transit destinations on a south-north route. The entire region is a region of victim recruitment, internal transit and temporary destinations on a route to large urban centers in the north of the continent.

The intervention logics that have been developed since the middle of the decade correspond to the first phase of the work against human trafficking. The emphasis of these interventions has been the creation and strengthening of the necessary institutional capacities 1/), A8/3\$) &-3& #&2\$3,g S" &-& -"3\$#,F &- 1,-\$82& \$##"3\$+%/) &-L.&&)K,- joint efforts at the regional and country level, such as the studies promoted by COMMCA, IOM, AECID and the actions developed by Save the Children and AECID within the framework of the regional agreement "Violence and Trafficking in Central America". In this joint effort, some actors have regional leadership on the issue, such as the Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons.

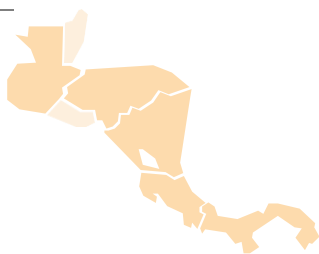
At the state level, some of the most relevant actions consist of the creation of bodies such as coalitions or national anti-trafficking committees that demonstrate the government's willingness to combat the crime. At least the most important institutions of the criminal justice system in each country and other institutions that play a fundamental role in child prevention and protection actions, such as the health and education sectors, participate in these committees. These institutions have developed intensive and systematic training processes for their specialization and for the creation of institutional capacities to work against this crime. The creation and implementation of the Regional Coalition against Trafficking shows that these initial efforts have been consolidated and that there is regional capacity for joint actions.

In addition, in each of the countries there is a network of social organizations, both at the national and local levels, which accompany public institutions in their actions, especially in the areas of prevention, protection, care and reintegration of victims.

Regional bodies and state institutions have the support of legal and regulatory frameworks to develop their actions. Practically all the countries in the region are signatories to the main international legal instruments on violence and trafficking in persons, but in recent years they have also been L,)A.2/"#, 2&(\$-2/%\$, "&- "/%\$, "/2&- &-1&%@+%/ - / + " #& 3)/8/H/) #& A/- "&)/ A*- &+/%\$&&"3& &" %, "3)/ #& &-3& #&2\$3,g R& M/" &2/8,)/#, #&\$>&)-,- action protocols, regulations and national and regional guidelines on key aspects related to human trafficking, such as the rescue and initial care of victims, among others. These protocols and regulations seek to harmonize the efforts of the different institutions and actors involved in dealing with the crime at both the national and regional levels.

In the case of laws, despite the fact that all countries now have national legal frameworks, there are still some limitations, such as the lack of harmonization of international instruments with respect to the 3, / 2/ 2&(\$-2/%\$4""/%\$, "/2F 2&(\$-2/%\$4""/%\$, "/2 \$"% ,A12&3/F #&+/%\$&"%\$/- and differences in the conceptualization of crime between the countries of the)&(\$4 "F #&+/%\$&"%\$/- #& %, ,)#\$/"/%\$4" &"3)& 2,- 1/@-&- ? &"3)& 2/- \$"-3\$3. This results in weak law enforcement, high levels of impunity and limited access to justice for victims, as can be seen in the low number of cases reported and prosecuted and the even lower number of convictions for criminals.





Some state institutions also have specialized units for investigating cases, prosecuting the perpetrators and attending to the victims, which indicates that a process of awareness-raising and institutionalization of actions among all state actors is underway. However, in some countries this process is still incipient and does not have the full support of governments from both the political-institutional and budgetary points of view. The direct consequence is the scarcity and quality of human and material resources dedicated to work against this crime, as well as the effectiveness and scope of intervention actions.

Social organizations have strongly supported this struggle, particularly in actions related to prevention, protection, care and reintegration of victims at the national and local levels. Many initiatives and good practices have been developed by these organizations and are strongly supported by international cooperation agencies. However, the nature and complexity of the actions, especially those related to the care and reintegration of victims or the scope required in prevention actions, do not have 2,-)&%.)-,- +"/"%\$&),- -.+%\$&"3&-g E,) ,3)/ 1/3&F ", -\$&A1)& M/? ."/

good communication or coordination between social organizations and state institutions, especially for the care of victims, the monitoring of their reintegration processes and the restitution of their rights.

I,A, -& 1.&#& /1)&%\$/) &" &2 -\$(.\$&"3& (*)+%,F -& M/" 1),#.It is also clear, however, that some areas of intervention are more developed than others and that more comprehensive actions need to be designed to address this crime. This is understandable if we consider the previous actions as a first stage of interventions and the emphasis on the creation and strengthening of the necessary institutional capacities. The balance of actions is clear in this regard.

It is also evident that a second stage of interventions requires strengthening and expanding key actions such as prevention, rescue, protection and attention to victims, especially in terms of reintegration and restitution of rights and effective punishment of perpetrators.

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C = KB kQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of regional coalition d Q/3\$+%//%\$4" international legal instruments - Elaboration of guidelines, regulations and protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional prevention campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PACT Operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Coordination - Exchanges of information
J G N 7: 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of national authorities to combat trafficking in persons - Formulation of national laws - Elaboration of guidelines, regulations and protocols - Creation of specialized units in institutions - Awareness raising and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and targeted prevention campaigns - Information and education actions for at-risk groups and localities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of specialized units - Formulation of care models - Installation of emergency lines - Installation of shelters - Rescue operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d 7\$1\$+%//%\$4" #& crimes - Case processing

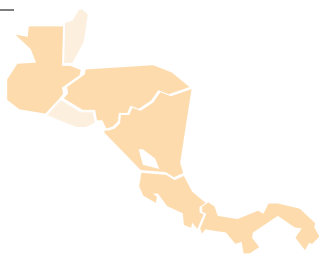
On the other hand, the processes in each of the countries of the region are not homogeneous; they have disparities and progress depending on their

%, "#\$%\$,"&- 1/)3\$%.2/)&-g Z", #& 2,- 1)\$"%\$1/2&- &-L.&&)K,- &" ."/
 ".&>/ stage of actions should take these particularities into account and facilitate them through the exchange of experiences.

L),\$#), for example, has particular characteristics not only because the majority of its population is English-speaking, but also because its historical background is markedly different from the rest of the countries in the region. Until recently, it was con-
 -\$#&)/#, 1,) -.- M/8\$3/"3&- %,A, ." 1/@- 1/%@+%, ? %, " 1, %/ >\$,2&"%\$/F
 but that reality began to change during the last two decades.
 `%3./2A&"3& +(.)/ &"3)& 2,- 1/@-&- %, " /23,- @"#\$%&- #& %) \$A\$"/2\$#/# ?
 violence in the region and the world.

The fight against violence, especially against human trafficking, has been established as a priority for both the government and its institutions and social organizations. Since 2003, there has been a substantial increase and strengthening of state institutional intervention actions to stop this crime and important progress has been made, such as the formulation of the law on the subject and the creation of a special agency to coordinate and direct intervention actions. According to the assessment of the actors themselves, there is





governmental commitment to work on the issue and has promoted action based on a multisectoral and interagency approach in all spheres of action.

The actors consulted during the study considered that trafficking in persons in Belize is a widespread crime that takes on different forms ranging from commercial sexual exploitation and labor exploitation to forms cloaked in legality. Victims are both male and female, of different ages, nationals and foreigners. R\$" &A8/)(,F .", #& 2,- ().1,- T.& A*- - .L)& #& &-3& =/(&2, &- &- &2 #& children and adolescents. Few cases are known and even fewer result in convictions for the traffickers.

In Belizean society there is a high tolerance for this type of crime and in many cases it is accepted by the families and the victims themselves as it facilitates their access to resources that their socio-economic conditions do not allow them. In this sense, the crime of human trafficking is linked not only to the living conditions of the victims, but also to environmental conditions and cultural aspects specific to the country.

Some of these characteristics make it possible for internal trafficking in the country to be -&/ 3/" &03&"#\$#/ %,A, 2/ 3)/3/ \$"3&)"%\$,"/2 ? -& M/" \$#\$"3\$+%/#, K,- high-risk areas for the recruitment, transit and destination of victims. Border borders and tourist areas are among these high-risk sites. In addition, it has been proven that this crime is carried out by organized groups of traffickers who also have resources at their disposal, many times more abundant than those of state institutions.

The extent and complexity of the crime has led government authorities to work intensively on institutional capacity building. The creation of the Committee and the participation of various state institutions, as well as social organizations, is one of its most outstanding aspects. This Committee has an action plan covering all areas of action: prevention, rescue, protection, care, reintegration and punishment.

Another important step forward has been the creation of specialized units in different state institutions and the sensitization and training of officials who deal with cases. The multisectoral approach and interagency action have made it possible to develop successful prevention and prevention actions.

)&-%/3& #& >@%3\$A/-g Z"/ #& 2/- 1)*%3\$%/- A*- #&-3/%/#/- &- 2/ %)&/%\$4" of the CARE Care Protocol. Progress has also been made in the protection, care and reintegration of victims, but the actions in

are generally constrained by limited budgets and resources. E,) &H&A12,F &2 1/@- ", %.&"3/ %, " /28&)(.&- -.+&\$&"3&- 1)/ 2/- >@%3\$- more trafficking cases and the few that exist are managed by NGOs that do not only deal with trafficking cases.

-+=\$#&) does not escape the regional trend of increasing violence and crime. Human trafficking, as a social and criminal problem, has the aggravating factor of diversity and complexity because it is a totally clandestine activity that tends to be confused or masked with others. Ignorance of the crime is combined with levels of social tolerance and disinterest, both in society and in state institutions, so that the treatment given to cases is usually no different from that of other crimes or criminal acts.

There is little information in the country on crime in its different forms. Other topics on which limited information is available include -, "; 3)/3/ \$"3&)" / &" (&"&)/2F 3)/3/ 2/8,)/2 ? 3)/3/ %, " +&"- #& &012,3/%\$4" sexual abuse in men. Lack of knowledge is a factor that contributes to the invi- sibilization and even tolerance of this phenomenon; which together with 2/ #&-%, "+/"K/ &" 2/- \$"-3\$3.%, "&- #&2 S-3/#, 2\$A\$3/ 2/- 1,-\$8\$2\$#/#&- #& documenting and processing complaints.

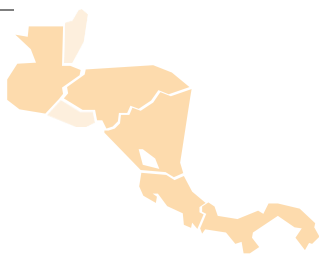
Sustained intervention actions began in 2005 as a result of the availability of a legal instrument to address this issue. However, an analysis of the links and linkages demonstrates that the 3)/ 2/- #&+&\$&"%\$/- &" &" &2 /8,)#/H&F #& A/"&)/ T.& 2/ /3&"%\$4" -& %&"3)/ on the victim. On the other hand, aspects such as distribution networks and demand do not have the same level of attention. Hence, the efforts ", -, " -.+&\$&"3&- ? &2)&%.)-, #&&-3\$"/#, &- &- &-&/-, & \$"#\$L&)&"%\$"/#,g

In relation to the performance of civil society organizations, they also operate from their own thematic niche and tend to exclude themselves when the problem affects an age group that is outside their target population or when the gender of the victims does not match. -& A&K%2/ 2/ -\$3./%\$4" %, " =.H,- #& A\$()/%\$4" \$2&(/2g S" %\$&&)/3/ L,)/A/ &- understandable since resources are scarce for civil society organizations and they generally do not have a presence throughout the national territory. They also depend to a large extent on cooperation trends and this is a major constraint. In many aspects there is a high level of concentration, either in certain places or in certain age or population groups.

Z" 3&A/ T.& 1)&-&-&"3/ >/%@,- &- 2/ 1)&>&"%\$4" #&-#& ."/ 1&)-1&%3\$>/ integral. In this area, segmentation of actions is perceived, which is more evident in the sensitization/training processes and in the sectorialization of their approach. The areas where actions have been concentrated are







The main efforts are: the development of legislation, care that works more as palliative measures and the preventive part, from a limited perspective.

people is neither perceived nor analyzed as a threat to state security, despite its transnational nature. In this sense, the links and overlaps with other organized crime activities, the broad impact it can have on various sectors of the economy, and the fact that it is not perceived or analyzed as a threat to the security of the State, despite its transnational nature, are lost sight of.

cations that human trafficking has on security, governance, corruption, impacts on investment, among other important factors. In other words, it relegates the attention of the State to a situation of human rights violation, as it is indeed, but it is not perceived in relation to the implications it has on stability. In this way, the problem is made invisible and becomes an individual matter.

With regard to cooperation agencies, Costa Rica is generally not considered a priority for the allocation of resources, which places it at a clear disadvantage with respect to other countries in the region in terms of fundraising. In addition, most cooperation goes to civil society organizations and development management

with aid levels, especially since this country is the source of most of the "clients" of sex tourism and child sex tourism in the country.

In **78, 9+2** given by the different actors involved in the fight against human trafficking are enriching and undoubtedly point towards the construction of national strategies and country models for prevention and intervention based on more comprehensive visions and better inter-institutional coordination.

While the actions require the combined efforts of all stakeholders, it is important that the

The main objective of the project is to prevent, but also to denounce both the social tolerance that sustains the crime of human trafficking and the networks of traffickers when it is known that they are operating in their area.

In relation to the exploitative client, there is a need for greater dissemination and understanding of the term itself, as well as the design of sensitization strategies and the creation of legal sanctions for exploitative clients. Up to now, practically no institution or organization has designed actions to prevent exploitative clients.

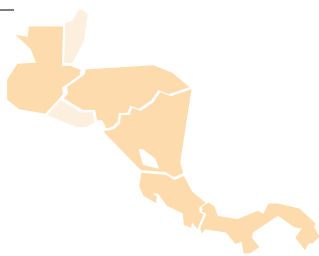
2/ chain of operation indispensable for the existence of trafficking in persons, as the Palermo Protocol itself points out.

It is also necessary to rethink trafficking as a modality of organized crime, since it is widely believed that it is the only crime committed by more than two persons. - commission, i.e., when committed by more than two persons. Only some of the officials involved in the investigation and prosecution of a crime are involved in the commission, i.e., when it is committed by more than two persons.

in a sustained manner over time. Other elements that transcend the mere judicialization of crime and are related to structural factors such as corruption and the penetration of organized crime in the spheres of power are also overlooked or omitted in the analysis of the problem. This invisibilization undoubtedly has consequences not only for the approach from the perspective of working against this crime, but also for the preventive role and the social network that cooperation and civil society itself can promote as a watchdog of the transpa- rence of public power.

In the area of prevention, the lack of linkage of human trafficking as an expression of organized crime means that in the field of information campaigns are not developed from that perspective, i.e., they are oriented to self-care or care strategies at the personal level or, in the best of cases, at the family level. Campaigns at the community level are aimed more at encouraging denunciation of situations that are traditionally "naturalized" and promote, facilitate or guarantee the existence of trafficking. However, awareness of the link between trafficking and organized crime would make it necessary to direct campaigns to other audiences: for example, to officials whose behavior forms part of the chains of corruption that are essential to the existence of human trafficking. It would also make it necessary to promote community denunciation and to design awareness-raising processes, taking into account the risk that people in their communities run when they work to disseminate the messages, especially when their neighbors may be part of organized crime structures.





In the area of intervention, the lack of linking trafficking as an expression of organized crime means that the immediate attention given to victims does not take into account the risk conditions in which the family may be at the time of their rescue. There may be very good intentions in the approach to victims and in promoting the minimization of "confinement" situations as much as possible, however, sometimes in response to this and to the lack of awareness of the link between organized crime and the crime of trafficking, external activities are simply promoted with the victims for their recreation or even those activities that are mandatory for the prosecution process (interviews, examinations, among others) in which the victims do not have the opportunity to participate.

-& 1),3&(& -.+%%\$&"3&A&"3& -. \$##&"3\$##/ #& L,)A/ \$"3&()/2g E/)/ 2/ L/- & of reintegration of the victim person not seeing the link between trafficking and organized crime can even generate greater vulnerability of the victim to being captured if a serious analysis of the levels #&)\$&- (, T.& #&&3&)A\$" T.&&2 2.(/) #, "#& +H/)* -.)&-\$##&"%\$/ &L&%3\$>/- mind cannot be located by organized crime, or the places where they will attend for education or work.

The failure to make visible the connection between human trafficking and organized crime in relation to the personnel working on the issue, both from governmental and non-governmental entities that carry out interventions, also brings with it foreseeable consequences, in terms of the level of risk in which they are placed when carrying out their work if the necessary protection and self-protection measures are not taken. In the work place itself, in their accompaniment, in the transfer and even in the practices of their private life that the risk imposes.

S- \$A1,)3/"3/"3& T.& 2/- ."\$#/#&&- L."%\$,"/2&- #& 2/ 1,2\$%@/ ? 2/ +-%/2@/)&-- possible for investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons are separate #& 2/- T.& >&" ,3)/- &01)&-\$,"&- #& %)A&" ,)/("\$K/#, %,A, &2 3)*+%,

of drugs or weapons or money laundering. Human trafficking harms human dignity, the impact on the victims is substantially different, therefore a human rights-based approach with a more holistic vision will impose a particular approach to this #&2\$3, %," /(&"3&- L,)A/#,- 1/)/ \$##&"3\$+%/) ? 1),%&-/) 2,- %/-,- -\$")&

victimization and with the objective of contributing through their interventions to the process of restitution of rights.

Although the functional separation between the units that investigate human trafficking and organized crime is important for the aforementioned approach, it is essential that the coordination between them be timely, strategic and effective. The persons interviewed also agreed that in the case of the units specializing in human trafficking the)&%.)-,- 1/)/ 2/ \$">&-3\$(/%\$4" -," \$"-.+%%\$&"3&-F ", ,8-3/"3& #&-3%//" that their allocation has been improving accordingly.

The company's management is also aware of the importance of raising awareness of human trafficking among its employees.

K<&3)5&,& is one of the Central American countries where human trafficking presents complex characteristics because it is the country on the doorstep of Mexico, the main destination of victims and where some of the largest organized crime groups in all of Latin America are located. Added to this are the high levels of criminal violence, the penetration of organized crime groups and the serious exclusions suffered by large population groups, especially indigenous populations.

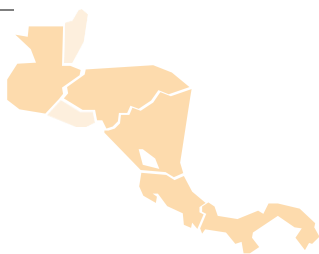
The country is a temporary destination for victims from the Central American area, but there is also internal trafficking whereby victims are moved from the interior or rural areas of the country to urban centers, especially tourist centers located in the area known as the "migration corridor".

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The majority of victims are women of all ages, and in the case of irregular adoptions, the victims are children. In the country, there have been
\$#&"3\$+%//#, K,"/- #&)\$&- (, / # \$L&)&"3&- "\$>&2&-g R& M/" #&3&%3/#,
2,%/- lities of high, medium and low risk depending on the number of cases known or reported to authorities in those localities.

For some years now, the Government of Guatemala has been making sustained efforts to intervene against human trafficking, but as in other countries in the region, actions have focused mainly on the creation and strengthening of adequate institutional capacities to deal with the crime. The most important advances are found in the creation of a new legal and regulatory framework that supports institutional actions and the creation of specialized units in different state institutions. However, an approach to trafficking in persons that relates this crime almost exclusively to commercial sexual exploitation still prevails in state institutions. Actions are also quite focused on this modality and attention to other modalities is more limited. More recently, irregular adoptions have been recognized as a form of trafficking and intervention actions by state institutions are more oriented by this approach.

Various civil society organizations have also developed processes of institutional capacity building and strengthening, but their actions have focused mainly on advocacy, prevention and care for victims of trafficking. The processes of





The projects developed by state institutions and civil society have been supported and promoted by various international and cooperation agencies.

Efforts by both state actors and NGOs have resulted in a variety of good practices in all areas of action against human trafficking. These include the creation of a legal and regulatory framework, especially the Alba-Keneth Alert System, a novelty not only in the country but in the region as a whole. Also noteworthy is the work of protection and care for victims carried out by some social organizations, which have been recognized at the international level.

But there are still great challenges and pending tasks in the area of attention to victims, especially in the processes of reintegration and restitution of rights, in the area of punishment of criminals and in prevention.

In **Orange** there is a context of violence that generates multiple human rights violations that permeates the entire Honduran society and fosters a culture of tolerance to violence and criminality in all its forms. This violence has worsened since the 2009 coup d'état.

The phenomenon of trafficking is difficult to detect, record and monitor. Criteria and recording methodologies are different and their results are sometimes contradictory, but it is possible to find information at a basic level that needs to be processed.

Among the most important factors related to human trafficking affecting young people are the lack of opportunities, decent income and job stability. This leads them to be potential victims of trafficking groups.

U/ 3)/3/ %, " + "&- -&0./2&- &- #& 2/)/(3)/?&%3,)\$/ &" &2 1/@-F &- 1&%\$/2- in rural and indigenous communities. Less well known but pre -&"3& &" (/ " A/("\$3.# &- 2/ 3)/3/ %, " + "&- 2/8,)/2&- ? #& -& -&)>\$#.A8)& domestic. The trafficking business routes are related to the type of activity predominant in the area, being proportional to commercial, entertainment and customs activities.

The actors involved in the business are diverse, ranging from individual traffickers to medium and large organized criminal gangs with complex distribution of tasks. Traffickers are involved in different forms of organized crime, from the individual trafficker to medium and large organized crime gangs with a complex distribution of tasks.

nized. Recruitment patterns are common, with an emphasis on employment and education supply.

U/-)&(\$,"&- (&,()*+%/- A*- 1), 1&"-/- / 1/#&%&) &-3& 1),82&A/ - , " the southern part of the country (Choluteca), the Atlantic coast (Atlántida), the border area between Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador and the central area (Tegucigalpa, Comayagua).

The population at risk varies according to the type of trafficking: young women in the 3)/3/ %, " + "&- -&0./2&- ? #& -&)>\$#.A8)& #,Ah-3\$%/F M,A8)&- H4>&"&- &" 2/ 3)/3/ %, " + "&- 2/8,)&-F "\$N/- ?"\$N,- &" &2 %/-, #& 2/- /#,1%\$,"&- irregular.

Honduras has taken an important step in adopting international instruments to combat trafficking, but it did not have an adequate legal framework to formally support the fight against this social problem. The approval in April 2012 of the Special Law against Trafficking in Persons is a major step towards legislation that more clearly and precisely conceptualizes the crimes and provides comprehensive treatment of the various forms of trafficking prevalent in the country.

This situation is partly a consequence of the weak will of the State 1)/ />"K/) &" 2/ 2.%M/ 1,) &))/#\$%/) &-3& =/(&2, %) \$A\$"/2g W& M& M&%M,F 2/ most public actions have been developed in response to the 1)&-\$4" #& 2,- \$"L,)A&- #&2 W&1/3/A&"3, #& S-3/#, #& S-3/#,- Z"\$##,- on this topic.

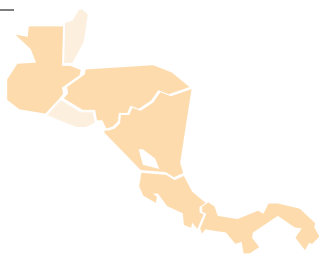
There are good initiatives and good practices for the prevention of trafficking and care for victims, especially on the part of nongovernmental organizations. State care services are scarce, institutionally very weak and lack strategic clarity on how to address this problem.

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Nicaragua has always been considered a privileged country in terms of violence and crime in general, so much so that its authorities insist on calling it "the safest country in Central America". However, despite the fact that its indicators in relation to crime and criminality are much lower than those of other countries in the region, the country does not escape the growth trend that the region presents with respect to this type of phenomena.

During the last few years, the frequency of crimes has increased and statistics show a worrying behavior, especially in terms of violence against women, children and adolescents.





In addition, the cruelty and viciousness with which these acts of violence are committed has increased substantially, as can be seen in the reports of femicides, sexual crimes and child abuse. Similarly, there has been an increase in the complexity of the type of operations.

Another type of violence, such as that associated with youth groups or gangs, has also undergone significant changes in recent years, although it does not have the same characteristics as in the neighboring countries of the so-called "northern triangle".

In this context of violence, trafficking in persons also has its pressures in the country. This crime is nourished by these conditions, but it is also combined with a series of structural factors in the country's context, such as the levels of poverty in some areas, the exclusion suffered by large population groups, illiteracy and lack of access to education and, above all, the lack of access to educational and work opportunities suffered especially by young people, girls and boys.

These factors push these people to look for better opportunities. The fact that they are in irregular conditions exposes them to human rights violations, abuses and, in the worst cases, to becoming victims of trafficking either within the same country or in neighboring countries, as shown by the known cases.

Some areas of the country are particularly affected, such as the Department of Chinandega in the west. This area, in addition to being on the border with Honduras and having a strong commercial and migratory activity, has a majority of the population in precarious conditions and is considered one of the departments with the highest migration to neighboring countries, particularly Costa Rica. In some communities of the department, it is possible to see that the population has been reduced to children, adolescents and elderly people because men and women of productive age have migrated in search of better job opportunities. The population that remains in these communities is highly vulnerable and at high risk of becoming victims of human trafficking because the social fabric has been broken, the family has disintegrated and the environment is unfavorable. It is no coincidence, then, that this area has one of the highest incidences of this crime in the country.

Actions to combat trafficking have gained momentum in the country since 2011. The government has taken measures to fight against this crime, which is expressed in the provision

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The country's willingness to adopt the most important international instruments, as well as regional protocols, regulations and guidelines on the subject. However, this willingness is not replicated equally in all state institutions involved in the fight against trafficking, so that while in some of them it is a high priority issue, in others it is not.

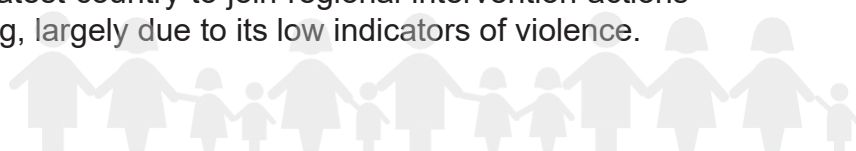
The country has managed to build a legal and institutional infrastructure to fight the crime of human trafficking. The creation of the National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons and the departmental roundtables, the criminalization of the crime in the Penal Code, as well as the formulation of the Law against Organized Crime, which has substantially completed the legal framework, constitute outstanding advances. In addition, intensive training and education activities have been promoted in all institutions related to the issue. The country's strengths are focused on institutional capacity building and the prosecution of crime.

Actions for the prevention, protection, care and reintegration of victims have been developed mainly by social organizations. It can be said that progress in this area has been slower. There is a network of national and local organizations committed to the fight against trafficking. They support and complement state actions in this area; however, their resources are extremely limited, especially because the processes of victim assistance require sustained accompaniment and the availability of material resources, which they often do not have. In the case of prevention, something similar occurs, since the actions developed so far -," L,%/2\$K/#/- &" /2(.- -&%3,)&- #& 1,82/%\$4" , K,"/- (&,()*+%/ -F but still fall short of covering the entire population.

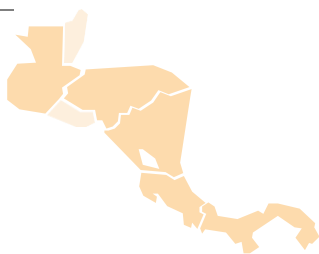
The country has good practices and experiences that deserve to be replicated in different areas of the country and in other countries. The accompaniment and advice of international agencies, especially the IOM and Save the Children, is fundamental, especially because in the coming years the country's main challenge will be to strengthen the institutional capacities of the State and civil society that have already been acquired in the fight against this crime, but above all, to create capacities to offer victims better opportunities for the restitution of their rights.

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Among all the Central American countries, Panama is the country that has joined regional intervention actions against human trafficking the latest, largely due to its low indicators of violence. Although this does not mean that the authorities have not developed previous actions to prevent violence and trafficking in persons, it is important to note that Panama has been the latest country to join regional intervention actions against human trafficking, largely due to its low indicators of violence.







Unfortunately, there are few records documenting the progress made.

In the country, human trafficking is still associated with sexual crimes and commercial sexual exploitation. There is little social sensitivity to other forms of human trafficking and to crime in general.

During the past three years, the State of Panama has provided for the formulation of a law of intervention both within the country and in the regional context. The law is considered one of the most important advances and was approved and signed by the President of the Republic, Dr. Ricardo Martinelli, on November 1, 2011.

The process of institutional capacity building that had been underway for several years, especially with the creation of the National Commission against Trafficking in Persons and the beginning of the process of formulating a national policy and plan, has been incipient.

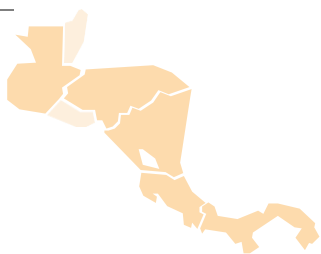
In addition, specialized units have begun to be established in various public institutions and it is expected that in the coming months they will be able to begin their work. In addition, the country has joined regional efforts to work against human trafficking and actively participates in regional meetings and activities organized for this purpose.

Working against violence and particularly against human trafficking

Working against violence and particularly against human trafficking poses a host of challenges and challenges for all involved. Some of the most important.

1. To build comprehensive and integral visions of violence, insecurity and human trafficking

1. To build comprehensive and integral visions of violence, insecurity and human trafficking, so as to overcome isolated, police and partial approaches to these issues. In these new approaches, human trafficking should also be seen as an organized crime in which complex and resourceful criminal structures are involved. In addition, these new visions should place people as subjects of human rights at the center of actions, especially the most vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents and women.



e The promotion of exchanges of experience between countries e
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knowledge in the fight against this crime.

- ① Strengthen the support and advisory actions of international cooperation agencies to promote ownership of the management of the problem and the attention given to it among governments, regional authorities and other actors in the region. It is also important to maintain) &2 /1,?, +"/"%\$&), / 2/- /%%%\$,"&- / +" #& L/%\$2\$3/))&%.)-,- / 2,- different public and private actors and to demand a greater budgetary allocation from the States for intervention actions.
- ① `A12\$/) ? #>&)-\$+%/) 2/- /%%%\$,"&- #& 1)&>&"%\$4" ? -&"- \$8\$2\$2\$K/%\$4" / the entire population so as not to increase the number of cases victimized by this crime. These actions should reposition the issue of human rights and trafficking as a form of slavery that cruelly affects its victims, which also affects the entire society of each country and is a form of organized crime.
- ① Promote actions that contribute to reducing the structural environmental factors that fuel human trafficking, such as the impact of economic crises, inequality and inequity, and social exclusion, especially among the most vulnerable groups.
- ① Promote studies with a regional perspective that will make it possible to understand and measure human trafficking as a social and economic phenomenon.
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in relation to prevention and comprehensive care for victims.

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In the same way that the region presents important challenges in the fight against human trafficking, each country has its own challenges.

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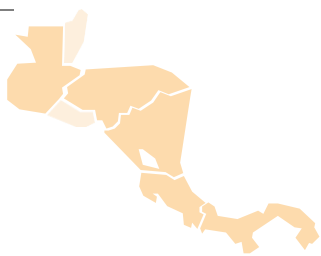
- ① Strengthen work in regional and national networks with the participation of governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations. In this regard, international cooperation agencies can play a key role in promoting and strengthening these networks.
- ① Q&L,)A/) ? /H.-3/) 2/ 2& 2&? %, "3)/ 2/ 3)/3/ / +" #& %,A12&3/) 2,- >/%@,-
and to have more and better resources to punish the guilty parties. In this regard, the advocacy work of the different actors involved in the issue is crucial for these reforms to be carried out.

- ① Invest in the improvement of the system of care for victims of a disaster. >&K T.& M/" -\$#,)&-%/3/#/-g S-3, -\$("+\$%/ %)&/) ." -\$-3&A/ &-1&%\$/2\$-zed to provide victims with appropriate resources in terms of protection, transitional and permanent shelter, medical care, among others.
- ① Conduct conferences and seminars, as well as other activities to broaden and strengthen crime prevention, and improve the monitoring and evaluation of efforts made.
- ① `A12\$/) 2/ /3&"%\$4" 1-\$%,24(\$%/ / 2/- >@%3\$A/-g Z"/ \$"3&)>&"%\$4"%2/>& in this sense could be the constitution of a network of specialists composed of nurses, social workers, psychiatrists and psychologists to attend to the victims.
- ① Expand public prevention campaigns to help change Belizean society's view of the problem of trafficking, provide information on the different forms of exploitation so that they can recognize and report them, and so that they understand that this phenomenon affects the entire country, especially the most vulnerable groups such as children and adolescents.
- ① ^&H,)/) 2/ /3&"%\$4" / 2/- >@%3\$A/-g Z"/ #& 2/- 1)\$A&)/- /%\$\$,"&-%,"- siste in carrying out a study to measure the differentiated impact of care programs, both for children and adolescents and for adult men and women.
- ① Q& % , " , %&) 21)\$,)\$##- , %\$/2 #& &-3& l&"4A& " , ? #& 2\$3 , / + " #& T . & &2
- ① Improve the public information and statistics system of the Anti-Trafficking Committee. Two types of actions are proposed, one aimed at compiling data on cases and victims in a centralized manner, in order to follow up on each of them and learn about the evolution of the behavior of the crime within the country.
U/ -& -&(. "#/ % , "-\$-3& &" 2/ %) &/%\$4" #& ."/ 1*(\$"/ V&8 / 3)/>h-#& which the Belizean society and the rest of the world - especially the A&#\$,- #& % , A."\$%//%\$4 "p 1.&#/" 3&"&) /%\$\$%&- , / \$"L,)A/%\$4" % , "+/- ble and truthful about this crime.

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- ① Develop institutional and inter-institutional protocols to give coherence and systematization to actions until they reach the level of State policies.
- ① Allocate more budget and human resources to guarantee comprehensive attention to crime based on a political and institutional commitment.
- ① Strengthen the role and functioning of the Technical Secretariat through training and information exchange. In addition, the role of each institution should be operationalized and performance evaluation systems implemented.





- ① 2/ dispersion of information, which is handled in a partial and sometimes rather anecdotal manner.
- ① Strengthen the agencies involved in the prosecution of this crime. Develop more jurisprudence that allows a better approach to 3&A/-3/" %,A12&H,- %,A, 2/ 3)/3/ #& 1&)-,"/-F &2 3)*+%, #& 1&)-,"/- and related activities.
- ① To develop permanent awareness-raising processes with extensive coverage to all sectors of the population, especially the A*->.2"&)/82&- ? / / /T.&22,- /%3,) &- &" %/1/%\$#/# #& \$#&"3\$+%/) 1,- 1.-\$82&- >@%3\$A/- #& 3)/3/ %,A, 2,- ,+%/2&- #& 1,2\$%@/F A\$()//%\$4 "F L),"- teras, among others. Other groups to be considered in these actions are cab drivers, transporters, business owners and those who could become accomplices to the crime.
- ① ☒⑥ permanently maintain awareness-raising campaigns that contribute to reducing tolerance and social acceptance of this type of situation.
- ① Promote the development of research that will make it possible to recognize the magnitude of the phenomenon of human trafficking and its different manifestations and implications.
- ① Develop binational joint work strategies, especially in border areas. In addition, promote actions at the local level and follow them up with clear policies. This implies transferring part of the actions, especially those in preventive matters, to be managed by the local government itself, which in principle is the first instance of government and attention to the population.

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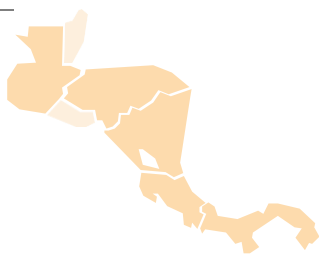
- ① To make visible and establish the links that exist between this crime and other forms of organized crime. It is necessary to conduct an in-depth study on these links and their impact on the population.
- ① Strengthen the system of accountability and transparency of state institutions involved in preventing and combating human trafficking as an expression of organized crime in order to avoid corruption and reduce impunity.
- ① Expand investigations and incorporate the criminalization of laundering the proceeds of crimes related to trafficking in persons, focusing not only on natural persons but also recognizing the role of legal persons in the crime of trafficking, such as companies or organizations.
- ① Strengthen the victimological approach in the work with the institutions, mainly in the investigation and combat component,

taking into account that the restitution of rights is the individual's point of arrival, but socially the result should be a significant reduction in crime.

- ① Increase the levels of articulation within the country and between intervention actions in the different fields of action. Some of the key actions are: institutionalization of the management of the field of prevention this implies the elaboration of a strategy to be oriented and particular messages/methodologies of work with each of them based on their conditions. In the area of prosecution, improve the level of coordination within the same investigative entities with other related units, having as an indispensable element the person who is a victim and the full respect of his/her rights. In the area of intervention with people who have been trafficked, the challenge is to adequately coordinate the timing and quality with which each entity responds. It is urgent to work on a national model that involves other non-traditional actors such as private or even academic entities.
- ① Direct actions to make visible the role of the exploitative client in the behavior.
- ① Design and implement security and protection measures in the physical structural, virtual information and data, and personal areas: employees, activists and promoters of public institutions and social organizations.
- ① Work at the local level, involving local governments as the structures closest to the population, but also creating local committees to carry out prevention work.
- ① Improve the complexity of the crime. Improve investigative technology and use existing tools such as wiretapping.
- ① Develop shelter alternatives such as mobile systems or protective shelters. Work with the newly appointed children's judges. particular impact on victims and how their actions can affect people who have been in these situations. Implement a comprehensive care model and allocate resources to it; create local committees to work on victim care and involve private enterprise in the reintegration of survivors of trafficking through corporate social responsibility actions.
- ① Develop proposals with full awareness that the people who have survived trafficking have been victims of organized crime, that their risk levels are higher than other types of trafficking victims, and that they are more likely to be victims of organized crime than other types of trafficked persons.







common crime and, consequently, that protection and reincorporation measures should have this framework.

- ① Pay attention to structural factors such as the dismantling of historical cultural patterns linked to power inequalities, 2/ %,- \$+%/ %\$4" ? A&)%/"3\$2\$K/%\$4" #& 2/ 1&)-, / M.A"/ ? 2/- %, "#\$%\$,- nes of vulnerability (access to education and health).

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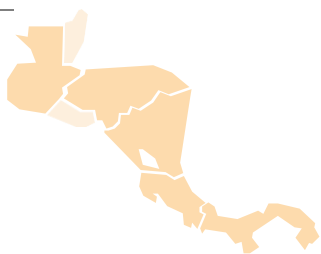
- ① Strengthen state institutions linked to security and the fight against violence. Special attention should be paid to the reform of the country's police force and prison system.
- ① To maintain the enforcement actions of the Law against Organized Crime, the investigation processes and all those legal tools that contribute to the consolidation of justice and the special investigation methods.
- ① Strengthen the Presidential Commission for the Coordination of Executive Policy on Human Rights, COPREDEH, due to its potential capacity to influence executive decisions and its prevailing approaches to human rights, the gender perspective and ethnic relevance, giving them consistency with the recommendations of the Rapporteur for Guatemala in A/3&)%/ #& W&)&%M,- X.A"/,- #& 2/- [/ %\$,"&- Z"\$#/-g
- ① Strengthen the processes of sensitization of public officials on human trafficking, especially at the highest level, / +" #& T.& %,A1)&"#/" 2/ %,A12&H\$#/# ? 1)\$,) \$#/# T.&)&T.\$&)& 2/ 2.%M/ %, "3)/ &-3& #&2\$3,g Z" /%3,) %2/>& &" &-3& -&"3\$#, -," 2,- 1/2/- The government is responsible for the formulation of laws and legal instruments that support the intervention actions of the various state institutions, the punishment of the guilty parties and the formulation of national budgets.
- ① Strengthen the approved and current legal framework and its application t h r o u g h t h e provision of the necessary human and material resources. It is also necessary to expand and decentralize the care services offered by public institutions, especially the units specialized in dealing with cases of human trafficking in the interior of the country and far from urban centers, especially in rural, border and coastal areas, which are the most at-risk localities.
- ① Promoting the creation of statistical information systems in state institutions is another important challenge in the fight against trafficking. This would make it possible to systematize information and be able to measure the &+%/ %\$/ #& 2/ /12\$%/8\$2\$2\$#/# #& 2/ 2&? 1,) 1/3& #& 2,- ,1&)/#,)&-F /-@ as well as their performance in dealing with cases and punishing the culprits.

- ① \ "-3\$3.%, "/2\$K/) ? A&H,)/) 2/ &2/8,)/%\$4" #& 2,- A/1&,- (&,()*+%, - ? social, especially at the level of communities and key sectors such as: schools, health institutions and the media.
- t <,)3/2&%&) 2/- /2\$/ "K/- ? 2/- %, ,)#\$/ "%\$,"&- #& 2/- P[C / + " #& \$"- to increase their capacity to influence public actions, especially because it is still necessary to improve the legal framework against human trafficking, raise awareness among public officials and improve the response capacity of the institutions involved in this type of crime.
- ① Expand information and prevention campaigns among students and teachers, as well as in at-risk localities. In addition, it is important to build alliances and coordination at the local level, with the participation of local governments, in order to better direct prevention actions, especially in high-risk localities.

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- ① To build a State policy on the issue based on the experience accumulated by CICESCT and the IPSVT Network. It is also necessary to create a National Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons that will give permanent institutionalization to this action and that forms part of a strong institutional framework, but at the same time integrates the participation of the entire spectrum of governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- ① Design and set up an observatory on trafficking that centralizes, collects, updates, produces and disseminates information on this crime, fed by all the institutions involved in the issue.
- ① To create a Specialized Care Center for victims of trafficking that provides attention to their basic needs, vocational training and comprehensive therapeutic care.
- ① `A12\$/) ? A&H,)/) 2/ %, ,)#\$/ "%\$4" \$"3&)"-3\$3.%, "/2 / + " #& #& #&- &-/)),22/) more effective, coherent and complementary joint actions. In the area of the administration of justice, it is essential to train judges, deputies, deputies and officials of key State entities and in the CICESCT itself.
- ① Conduct massive information and prevention campaigns, especially at the municipal level, with the coordination of the Ministry of the Interior, AHMON and NGOs working on municipal issues.
- ① Encourage the exchange of experiences with other countries in the region (\$4" 2/3\$", /A&)\$\$/ " / + " #& A&H,)/) 2/- %, ,)#\$/ "%\$,"&- ? 1),A,>&) the learning of good practices.
- ① Promote initiatives for the reintegration into society of victims of trafficking, by offering vocational training opportunities and youth entrepreneurship.





- ① Strengthen the work of FONAMIH member organizations in their work of monitoring and accompanying migrants, especially migrant children and adolescents.
- ① Raise awareness, train and audit Honduran consular personnel in the countries of destination of trafficked persons, so that they can fulfill their role as watchdogs and protectors of the rights of migrants, particularly those who are victims of trafficking.
- ① Increased surveillance and investigations in high-risk areas (borders and tourist cities) and even in places where trafficking is presumed not to take place, such as schools and secondary schools.
- ① Establish victim investigation protocols in accordance with respect for the rights of the victimized person so as not to re-victimize him/her with invasive interrogations. At the social level, it is necessary to deepen research on internal trafficking.
- ① Strengthen the practice of rescue by the Public Prosecutor's Office and the National Preventive Police by professionalizing their personnel. In addition, their capacities for the detection and care of victims should be strengthened through training and the development of protocols.
- ① Develop violence prevention models at the community level in order to build a culture of vigilance and protection for potential victims of trafficking and strengthen the protective role of families. In addition, care for victims should be based on a gender approach and respect for differences.
- ① <,A&"3/) ."),2 /%3\$>, #& 2/ /%/#&A\$/ bZ[`XF ZE[? ."\$>&&)- \$#/##&-) in research and dissemination of studies on trafficking, as well as the role of the media in the field of prevention. In this regard, community radio stations and closed local television circuits in the most at-risk cities are key.

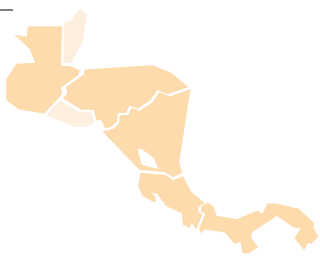
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- ① Strengthen the system of protection and attention to victims, expanding the capacities of the actors that attend to them, creating the necessary infrastructure for housing and specialized attention and accompaniment for their reintegration.
- ① To give continuity to the process of capacity building insti-3.%%,"/2&-g Z" /%3,) %2/>& &- 2/ 1,/2\$%\$4" [/%%\$,"/2 %, "3)/ 2/ 7)/3/ #& E&)-,"/- ? 2/- A&-/- #&1)/3/A&"3/2&- / +" #& T.& 1.&#/" /3&"#&) more quickly and effectively the cases that arise throughout the country, but also to facilitate the articulation between national and local actions and actors.
- ① Strengthen the existing specialized units in the different public institutions, particularly the National Police, the Public Ministry, Migration and Alien Affairs and MIFAMILIA, in addition to improving inter-institutional coordination at the State level, but also

between the State and the social organizations that carry out prevention and victim assistance actions.

- ⑥ expand awareness-raising and training processes for public officials involved in the different actions to combat the crime of trafficking, especially in the case of the National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the courts of justice, migration, among others. In addition, it is necessary to develop sensitization processes with other state powers, mainly the National Assembly to
 - The formulation of laws and the approval of state budgets for the fight against this crime.
- ⑦ Strengthen the national legal framework on human trafficking by formulating and implementing national guidelines, action protocols and regulations.
- ⑧ Strengthen capacities for the investigation and punishment of human trafficking cases. This implies not only more training for police officers, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Institute of Forensic Medicine, among others, but also in the provision of equipment, technology and other resources.
- ⑨ Implement more effective action at all levels and for all actors, such as statistical databases for monitoring of the ca-
 - specialized in victim characterization and other related aspects.
- ⑩ In the area of prevention there are several important challenges such as
 - awareness-raising, trying to cover as much of the national territory and sectors of the population as possible; designing action strategies that involve the media and national and local communicators,
 - to carry out more effective prevention actions; to promote the articulation of efforts between state institutions and
 - comprehensive, broad and joint action strategies, especially in rural areas, and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices in the prevention of violence and trafficking in persons.
- ⑪ To build consensus in relation to an approach and a model of comprehensive care for victims of trafficking that allows for effective protection, care and reintegration; to build a map of national actors that
- ⑫ Promote the training and specialization of human resources that provide different services for the care of victims of trafficking, especially those who are not in a position to provide such services.





The following are also needed: to strengthen mechanisms and spaces for victims of trafficking to report their situation, such as the 118 hotline, which needs to be more widely publicized, as well as the agility in dealing with reported cases. Another related aspect is to provide social organizations, especially those at the local level, with resources so that they can attend to cases that arise with greater agility and effectiveness.

Design comprehensive reintegration programs for victims of trafficking that allow them not only to reintegrate economically and socially, but also to develop sustained processes for the restitution of their rights.

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- ① To materialize the government's political will by supporting institutional intervention actions in the fight against trafficking in 1&)-, /-F -,8)& 3,#, / 1/3\$) #& 2/ /1),8/%\$4" #& 2/ 2&? &-1&%@+%/g
- ① Strengthen and expand the capacities of the public institutions linked to the %.2/#/- %," &2 3&A/g S-3, 1/- 1,) #&+"\$) %2/)/A&"3& 2/- L."%\$,"&- ? institutional competencies, strengthen inter-institutional coordination, exchange of information, education and training of specialized personnel and the elaboration of protocols, guidelines and regulations that serve as references for institutional actions, as well as the development of a new institutional framework.-g Z" /%3,) %2/>& "& -3& -&"3\$#, &- 2/ 1,A\$-\$4" [//%\$,"/2 %, "3)/ 2/ Trafficking, as it is the agency in charge of executing the national plan.
- ① To transform existing national visions regarding trafficking in persons, both among Panamanian society in general and in the local communities.
\$"-3\$3.%\$,"&- >\$"%2/#/- #&)%3/A&"3& %," &2 %,A8/3& /2 #&2\$3,g Z"/ #& the visions to be dismantled is the association of human trafficking with commercial sexual exploitation and the recognition that this crime has other forms of expression.
- ① Q&/2\$K/) %/A1/N/- #& 1)&>"%\$4" -\$3&A*3\$%/- / +" #& T.& 2/ -,-,- %\$&#/# &" (&"&)/2 ? 2,- ().1,- #&)\$&-(), 1.&#/" \$#&"3\$+%//) &2 #&2\$3,g It is also important to develop awareness-raising processes among public officials involved in the handling of cases, especially police, migration agents, judges and justice administration officials, among others.
- ① Generate quality information that will make it possible to design more effective intervention strategies and actions for all stakeholders. This involves carrying out a national diagnosis of the problem, the ela- 8,)/%\$4" -\$3&A*3\$%/ #& 2,- A/1&,- (&,) *+%, - ? -, %\$/2&- 1/)/ \$#&"- 3\$+%/) 2/- K,"/- ? ().1,- #&)\$&-(), F ? 2/ %, "-3).%\$4" #& ." -\$3&A/ #& -&(&.\$A\$&"3, / 1/3\$) #& &-3/#@-3\$%/- >&)/%&- ? %, "+/82&-g

- ① Improve the care and reintegration of trafficking victims in terms of available actions and resources. State institutions and ,)/("\$K/%\$,"&- -, %\$/2&- #&8&&@/" L,)A.2/) A,#&2,- &-1&%@+%, - T.& enable them to attend more effectively to the victims of human trafficking, in addition to special shelters, specialized human resources and resources that allow them to follow up on the processes of reintegration and restitution of rights of the victims.





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G:-B@	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
-GS(	Center for Attention to Returned Migrants
-:@Gm	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination /(/\$"-3 V,A&"
-:FG@:	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center
-:Sce:(	Institute for Women's Studies
-:JGF	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
-OR	Cooperative Housing Foundation
-B-:7-1	Inter-institutional Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons
-B-:7-QQG	Inter-Institutional Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents
-B-BK	International Commission Against Impunity
-B@0	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
-B1	Inter-institutional Commission against Human Trafficking
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-QQQG	National Council of Children and Adolescents
-!SS-G	Council of Women's Ministers of Central America
-!QG-!:7	National Commission against Sexual Exploitation
-!QGJGh	National Commission for the Prevention of Violence and the Promotion of Social Peace
-!J(:@:O	Presidential Commission for the Coordination of the Executive's Human Rights Policy
-(S	Regional Conference on Migration
-7e	Supreme Court of Justice
DGM	General Directorate of Migration
@BQG@:-!	National Directorate of Communal Development
DNI	Defense for Children International
:-JG1	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and 7)/L+L+%Y\$"(,L IM\$2#)&" L,) R&0./2 E.)1,-&- Immediate Response Team
:(B	Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation
OB/!7	Costa Rican Institute against Drugs
B-@	Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies IEEPP
B-:RB	Institute for Strategic Studies and Public Policy
BOQRG	Honduran Institute for Children and the Family (Instituto Hondureño de la Niñez y la Familia)
IIDH	Inter-American Institute of Human Rights





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BQGS

National Women's Institute

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Institute for Human Promotion

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International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC)

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Integrating Protection Services for Victims of 7)/L+%Y\$\" (\$\" X, \"#.)/-

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Salvadoran Institute for Women's Development

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Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y la Adolescencia (Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents)

FGJ!J

Latin American Public Opinion Project

F:JBQG

Law for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents

SBRGQ

Ministry of Family, Adolescence and Childhood

MINED

Ministry of Education

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National Organization for the Prevention for Child Abuse and Neglect

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!:G

Organization of American States

OIJ

Judicial Investigation Organism

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International Organization for Migration

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International Labor Organization

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World Health Organization

NGOS

Non-Governmental Organizations

JG(FG-:Q

Central American Parliament

JGQB

National Children's Trust

PDH

Human Rights Ombudsman's Office

GDP

Gross Domestic Product

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National Civil Police

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Citizen Security and Social Peace Promotion Policy

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Network of Committees of Families and Migrants of Honduras

7B-G

Central American Integration System

7BSS:F

Integrated Electronic Migratory Movement System

7/:1

Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking of Persons

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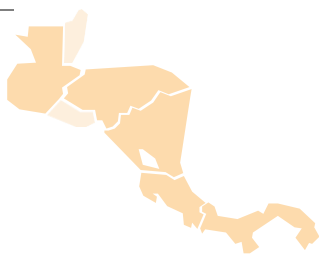
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Youth Enhancement Services



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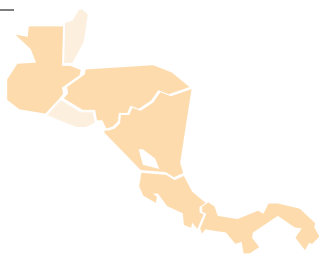
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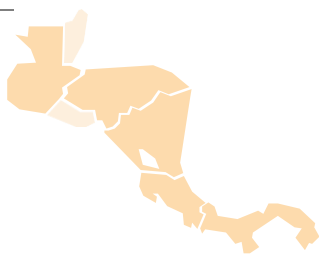
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