assessment of human trafficking in honduras

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# ACRONYMS

ACNUR The UN Human Rights Commissioner for Refugees

CAPI Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing

CICESCT Comisión Interinstitucional Contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial y Trata de Personas De Honduras

CSE Commercial Sexual Expoitation

C-TIP Counter Trafficking in Persons

DATSI Division Against Abuse, Traffic, and Sexual Exploitation of Children

DINAF Dirección de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia

ECPAT End Child Prostitution & Trafficking

IRB Institutional Review Board

J/TIP Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

KAP Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices

NGO Non-governmental Organization

PI Principal Investigator

TIP Trafficking in Persons

TVPA Trafficking Victims Protection Act

UNHRC The UN Human Rights Commissioner for Refugees

USAID U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Honduras ratified the Palermo Protocol in 2008, and in 2012 passed the special law against human trafficking (Decreto 59-2012). With the exception of three years (2004, 2007, and 2013) when Honduras was placed on the Tier 2 Watch List of the U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report, Honduras has consistently been placed in Tier 2. Despite various governmental and non-governmental activities and programs to combat human trafficking in Honduras, there has never been a systematic study that examines the prevalence of different forms of human trafficking in Honduras, and how victim vulnerabilities, recruitment patterns, regional particularities, and servitude experiences vary given different types of human trafficking. The purpose of this study is to begin to answer these questions and fill these empirical knowledge gaps regarding human trafficking in Honduras. This study is among the first to survey a large number of trafficking victims in Honduras, an otherwise very difficult to reach population.

## Methodology

To answer the key research questions, the NORC team, in collaboration with USAID, developed a survey instrument as part of this study. Interviewing trafficking victims facilitates the ability to answer research questions that inform policies, programs, and resource allocation. The survey included 10 different modules. The first module collected background information on the survey respondent, including a screener asking the respondent whether or not he or she experienced any of the seven types of human trafficking set forth in the Honduran trafficking law (Decreto 59-2012). If the respondent answered affirmatively to any of the screener questions, they were directed to the specific module pertaining to that type of trafficking. Thus, modules two through eight were only relevant to those respondents who indicated they experienced that type of trafficking including: sex trafficking, labor trafficking, debt bondage, forced begging, forced crime, forced pregnancy, and forced marriage. Module 9 asks questions about victims’ post-trafficking experiences, and the final module includes the enumerator observations.

No sampling frame was generated to determine survey respondents. Instead, the research team identified partner Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) serving vulnerable populations in Honduras who provided a representative to be trained to administer the Honduras C-TIP survey to all persons aged 14 or older in their care or receiving services, regardless of whether or not that person was suspected of being a human trafficking victim. There were 24 partner NGOs that fielded the survey spanning all regions of Honduras that provide services to adults and children. In total, there were 916 respondents to the survey, with 30% of them identifying as victims of human trafficking.

Partnering with local NGOs that work with vulnerable populations proved to be an efficient and effective method to identify trafficking victims. This method builds the capacity of local NGOs that are likely coming into contact with victims of human trafficking by educating them about the issue, including how to identify, interact with, and refer appropriate services to victims. Moreover, it is imperative for both ethical and validity reasons that potential trafficking victims of human trafficking feel they are in a safe and trusting environment when they are surveyed about their experience. Given that many of the NGO staff are trained social workers and are likely to have established a rapport with the individuals they are serving, they are better equipped to serve as the survey enumerators than a stranger.

## Key Findings

1. ***Approximately 30% of vulnerable populations who receive services from NGOs in Honduras are victims of some form of human trafficking. Of those identified as human trafficking victims:***

* 45% are victims of labor trafficking
* 40% are sex trafficking victims
* 24% are forced crime victims
* One-third have experienced more than one type of human trafficking.

1. ***The demographics characteristics of the victims tend to vary by age, gender, sexuality, and education level for different types of human trafficking.***

* The average age of entry into trafficking—regardless of the type of trafficking—is 14 to 16 years old.
* There does not appear to be significant trafficking victimization patterns based on the ethnicity of the victim.
* Roughly equal numbers of males and females surveyed identified as victims of human trafficking at about 30% for each group.
  + Females are about equally likely to be trafficked for sex and labor, but much less likely to be trafficked for forced crime.
  + Males are most likely to be trafficked for labor and forced crime, but much less likely to be trafficking for sex.
* 55% of labor trafficking victims are female and 42% are male.
* 81% of sex trafficking are female and only 13% are male.
* 52% of homosexuals in the sample said they were victims of human trafficking, 38% of bisexuals, and 40% of “other” report being victims of some form of human trafficking. This is in contrast to only 28% of heterosexuals in the sample.
* Low levels of education are significantly correlated with trafficking victimization.

1. ***The vast majority of trafficking taking place in Honduras is internal trafficking, with most occurring in one’s own hometown or village.***

* 62% of labor trafficking victims were trafficked in their local community.
* 56% of sex trafficking victims said they were trafficked in their local community.
* 68% of forced crime victims were trafficked in their local community.

1. ***The most common type of labor trafficking is for commercial purposes, including selling various goods in stores or markets. Next is domestic servitude, followed by agriculture.***

* Males and females are equally likely to be trafficked for commercial work.
* Females are more likely to be trafficked for domestic work.
* Males are more likely to be trafficked for agriculture.

1. ***Recruitment for sex trafficking is most often perpetrated by family or friends of the victim, and the majority of sex trafficking takes place in homes.***

* There is a strong indication that younger victims of sex trafficking are being trafficked by family members in their hometown or village.
* Older victims are significantly less likely to report that they lived in their hometown or village when they were first trafficked.
* The majority of sex trafficking victims had 1 to 3 buyers per day, but there is a strong positive correlation between having more buyers per day and facing threats of violence or blackmail, as well as getting paid more per customer, on average.
* 70% of sex trafficking victims reported being threatened and 51% reported they were physically harmed.
* The majority of customers are Honduran.
* 24% said their primary customers were foreign nationals/tourists. Those who report that their customers were primarily foreign nationals/tourists are also significantly more likely to report that they get paid more per customer.
* The majority of sex trafficking victims are not allowed to keep any of the money that they make.

1. ***The most common type of forced crime is selling drugs.***

* Those recruited by a gang are significantly more likely to be forced to smuggle/transport drugs, collect war taxes, or vandalize.
* Those forced by gangs to commit crimes are no more or less likely to get arrested than those forced to commit crimes by someone else, despite the fact that gangs are more likely to force people to engage in the specific types of criminal activity that are more likely to lead to arrests.
* Those forced to commit crimes are threatened the most, with 76% stating that they were threatened.

1. ***There appears to be significantly more social services for victims of sex trafficking than victims of other forms of trafficking.***

* Sex trafficking victims are more likely than victims of other types of trafficking to state that they received help from various government agencies including law enforcement, DINAF, CICESCT, and SEDIS.
* Victims need a variety of support programs, including job/vocational training, education, counseling, shelter, medical care, and drug/alcohol rehabilitation.

1. ***The majority of victims have not filed a complaint, and do not plan to file a complaint for a variety of reasons, including fear, lack of knowledge about the crime, and low levels of political trust.***

## Recommendations

The results of this research yield several empirically-driven recommendations to combat human trafficking in Honduras, which include all of the following:

1. ***Outreach and education on signs to look for in labor recruitment.*** There is a significant need for awareness about domestic servitude among young girls given that domestic work can become labor trafficking, and it is also used as a ploy to recruit victims into sex trafficking.
2. ***Awareness about labor rights among workers***. There is a clear need for education about signed, written contracts with employers.
3. ***Labor audits***. Given the amount of labor trafficking in commercial businesses and agriculture, there is a need for increased labor audits and regulation of commercial businesses and the agriculture sector.
4. ***Awareness among youth****.* Youth are at an increased risk for trafficking, yet there seems to be a relative lack of self-awareness and emotional maturity among younger respondents, suggesting they are less likely to identify themselves as victims.
5. ***Awareness among homosexual/bisexual populations.*** Homosexuals/bisexuals are at increased risk for sex trafficking, and the stigma of homosexuality/bisexuality leaves this population particularly vulnerable. Therefore, education and outreach is needed not only to minimize the stigma, but also to raise the level of awareness among this vulnerable population.
6. ***Invest in education.*** One way to not only raise awareness about human trafficking, but prevent it in the first place, is to invest in education in Honduras. More highly educated individuals are less likely to be a victim of any type of human trafficking. Therefore, investing in education and promoting staying in school for as long as possible is a human trafficking prevention mechanism. Schools can also serve as an excellent venue for teaching anti-trafficking curricula and raising awareness among young people.
7. ***Proactive policing.*** The majority of sex trafficking victims reported that they were trafficked in homes, making it very difficult to detect. In the absence of proactive investigations, these types of cases are unlikely to be detected. Additionally, sex trafficking appears to be common in tourist regions of Honduras; therefore, there is a need for increased policing of tourist regions and enforcement of sex tourism laws.
8. ***Awareness about overlap between childhood sexual abuse & sex trafficking****.* Results suggest there is significant overlap between sex trafficking of youth and childhood sexual abuse among family members. Although it is a difficult topic to broach, it is necessary to increase public discourse about childhood sexual abuse.
9. ***Research on law enforcement complicity with gangs***. Another recommendation is that more research be conducted on the relationship between law enforcement and gangs. Specifically, this research raised the suggestion that gangs who engage in forced crime are more likely to get away with it than other groups who engage in forced crime. Further research should examine whether this holds true for other crimes beyond human trafficking or the extent to which this reveals law enforcement colluding with gangs in forced criminal activity.
10. ***Increased services for human trafficking victims***. Trafficking victims that participated in this study reported they need educational and job/vocational programs, and they seem to prioritize this over the prosecution of their trafficker.

# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The United Nations adopted the Palermo Protocol in 2000, the first document to set forth an internationally accepted definition of human trafficking. Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol defined human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, 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 to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.” In addition to defining human trafficking, the Palermo Protocol also set forth the legal provisions to which states must adhere if they sign onto the protocol, including certain provisions for law enforcement and victim services. Today, there are 173 signatories to the Palermo Protocol, including Honduras which ratified it in 2008.

After the passage of the Palermo Protocol, the U.S. Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. Among the provisions in the TVPA was the mandate that the U.S. Department of State publish an annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report that rates how all countries around the globe are doing in preventing, protecting, and prosecuting human trafficking. With the exception of three years between 2001 and 2017, Honduras has always been placed in Tier 2 of the TIP Report; in 2004, 2007, and 2013 Honduras was placed on the Tier 2 Watch List.[[1]](#footnote-1)

In the early years of the Palermo Protocol and the TIP Report, human trafficking was largely absent from the political discourse in Honduras. In 2000, Save the Children/UK began to investigate human trafficking in Honduras, but it was not until 2002 that the Comisión Interinstitucional Contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial y Trata de Personas De Honduras (hereafter “CICESCT”) was formed. CICESCT was created on the heels of a federally-prosecuted human trafficking case in the United States that involved Honduran girls being trafficked by Honduran nationals to work in bars and cantinas in Fort Worth, TX. This case led Honduran Congressman Carlos Gutierrez to convene a team to investigate the topic further, and CICESCT was formed.

Also in 2002, the Honduran national police created a unit called Division Against Abuse, Trafficking, and Sexual Exploitation of Children (DATSI). Between its formation in 2002 and its deactivation in 2010, DATSI trained more than 80,000 people in Honduras on sex trafficking of minors, which is on average 10,000 people per year.[[2]](#footnote-2)

In 2005, CICESCT pushed for a reform in the penal code on sexual exploitation, which included sex trafficking. In the early issue-framing stages of human trafficking, both CICESCT and DATSI understood human trafficking primarily as sexual exploitation of children, and the early legal efforts reflected this narrow understanding of the issue.

In 2007, with the support of Save the Children/UK, the national police created seven mappings of trafficking routes across Honduras; however, the maps included only trafficking routes through Honduras that led to destinations outside of Honduras, to the exclusion of trafficking taking place within Honduras itself. As with the disproportionate focus on minor sex trafficking, this mapping project also reflects early misperceptions that human trafficking requires some type of movement or transit across borders.

2008 marked a significant shift in the political climate around the issue of human trafficking as Honduras ratified the Palermo Protocol, which was a major milestone that signaled government awareness of and desire to combat human trafficking. Nevertheless, CICESCT was not recognized as an official government commission, nor did it have a budget. Rather, CICESCT operated during this time out of a commitment to the issue.

The year 2012 was a major turning point. First, the special law against human trafficking (Decreto 59-2012) was passed, which made CICESCT an official state institution within the Justice & Human Rights Ministry and gave CICESCT an operating budget (see Appendix B for text of Honduran anti-trafficking law).[[3]](#footnote-3) Second, Honduras received increased foreign assistance to help with implementation of the new anti-trafficking law. Specifically, Global Communities received a grant from the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) office from 2012 to 2015 to run programs supporting CICESCT in writing the regulations and administrative code for the trafficking law, supporting implementation of the law through building the Immediate Response Team and local committees, and developing an information system for reporting cases. Third, 2012 marked a year in which several important reports on human trafficking in Honduras and Central America were produced. The UN Human Rights Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC, aka ACNUR) in partnership with the Migrant Human Rights Center published a report on forced displacement in Honduras, an issue closely related to human trafficking.[[4]](#footnote-4) The Ministerio Público published a report that mapped human trafficking in Honduras.[[5]](#footnote-5) Additionally, both End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) and Save the Children published reports on human trafficking across Central America.[[6]](#footnote-6)

Since 2012, CICESCT has obtained office space and hired full-time staff. Some of the other accomplishments of CICESCT in the last five years include:

* Publishing In 2014 its first report on its 2006 to 2012 activities;
* Creating and Immediate Response Team;
* Creating 14 local committees, 9 of which are currently receiving CICESCT technical and financial support;
* Training local committees;
* Drafting the administrative code; and
* Agreeing with the Ministry of Social Inclusion to provide social protection services to victims of human trafficking.

Despite these significant strides in anti-trafficking policies, programs, and initiatives, in the last decade, there is still a gap in empirical knowledge regarding the major types of human trafficking taking place across Honduras, the groups that are most vulnerable to being victims of different types of trafficking, and the needs of the victims once they are identified.

The purpose of this study is to begin to fill this empirical knowledge gap on human trafficking in Honduras, which is directly in line with the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) 2012 Counter-Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) Policy to develop an ambitious learning agenda using advanced survey research methods to generate systematic and reliable evidence on human trafficking and its victims around the globe. Consistent with this commitment, USAID/Honduras has undertaken the Honduras C-TIP Survey in partnership with the USAID/DRG Human Rights and Learning Divisions and NORC (see Appendix A. Scope of Work). The objective of the survey is to identify trafficking victims in sufficient numbers to explore in depth their backgrounds, circumstances and experiences in a way that will inform policy, practice, and interventions on human trafficking in Honduras.

## DEFINITIONS AND APPROACH

For the purpose of this research, we define human trafficking according to the Honduran legal code, Decree 59-2012 (see Appendix B for Honduras Human Trafficking Law). Article 6 sets forth the following definitions of human trafficking:

TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE:The catchment, transport, movement, taking and reception of people, by threat or use of force or any other forms of coaction, kidnaping, fraud, deception, abuse of power or a vulnerability situation, or the concession or reception of payment or benefits to obtain the consent by a person who has authority over another, with the goal of exploitation. This exploitation includes, as minimum, the exploitation for prostitution or any other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or analog practices of slavery, servitude or the extraction of organs.

FORCED WORK OR SERVICE: It is understood as the forced work or service all work or service demanded to a person under threat of damage or the payment of a spurious debt.

FORCED BEGGING: Person who obliges another with the use of deception, threat, abuse of power relationships or any other form of violence, to ask for money in public places to obtain a benefit that does not favor the victim.

FORCED PREGNANCY: When a woman is induced by force, deception or any other means of violence to become pregnant, with the objective of selling the minor, product of the same.

FORCED OR SERVILE MARRIAGE: All institution or practice in virtue of which a person, without the assistance of the right to oppose, is promised or given in marriage in exchange of a counterpart of money or kind, given to the father, mother, tutor, family members or any other person or group of people. The forced or servile marriage may also occur when a person contracts marriage under deception and is forced to sexual and/or labor servitude.

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE): The use of people in activities with sexual objectives where there exists a payment or promise of payment for the victim or a third party who commercializes with the person.

RECRUITING OF PEOPLE UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES:The use of children in the activities of Organized crime, as defined in the Palermo Agreement.

Using the Honduran legal code as the basis for the survey, we examine seven specific modalities of human trafficking with the understanding that there may be some overlap across these seven categories. These include: labor trafficking, sex trafficking, debt bondage, forced begging, forced pregnancy, forced marriage, and forced crime of minors.

There are several reasons for this approach. First, our approach demonstrates deference to the Honduran legal code, which was informed by the input of Honduran anti-trafficking experts with experience on this issue in the local context. The law was written to reflect the reality of human trafficking in Honduras as it is understood locally. Therefore, in keeping with the legal and legislative understanding of human trafficking in Honduras, we use the country’s legal code to inform our approach.

Second, although the law was written to reflect human trafficking modalities in Honduras, there was no empirical study examining the extent of each of these modalities. This is a research question that many of the anti-trafficking stakeholders, including USAID, wanted to answer. There was a significant degree of anecdotal data, and a number of studies published by NGOs and international organizations, but none were informed by survey research methodology aimed at understanding firsthand the experiences of victims. Thus, we use the Honduran legal definition of human trafficking and the modalities set forth in the law to answer important questions about the extent of each of these modalities so that there is evidence-based guidance and justification for policy reform and resource allocation.

# METHODOLOGY

The Principal Investigator (PI) traveled to Honduras in July 2015 to interview Honduras C-TIP stakeholders and to identify past and current C-TIP activities, major areas of need, and research questions that remained unanswered.[[7]](#footnote-7) As part of this trip, the PI met with over 25 individuals who serve in both governmental and non-governmental capacities, all of whom are working on anti-trafficking programs and initiatives in Honduras (see Appendix B for the Scoping Trip Report).

On the basis of the findings from the scoping trip, the PI recommended a unique sampling methodology that included partnering with NGOs across Honduras that serve vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to abused or neglected children, sexually exploited women, and migrants.

## SAMPLE SELECTION AND SURVEY SITES

The methodology for fielding the survey was to partner with local NGOs that serve vulnerable populations in Honduras. There are several reasons for choosing this sampling methodology. First, as previously noted, the purpose of the survey is to identify trafficking victims in sufficient numbers to explore in depth their backgrounds, circumstances and experiences. The only way to do this is by establishing an adequate sample size of identified human trafficking victims. However, this is a population that is not only difficult to identify among the general population (in part because they often do not self-identify as victims of human trafficking), but also it is a population that lacks social trust, has experienced severe trauma, and lives in fear. Any nationally representative approach—even in high-risk areas of the country—wherein a survey is administered by unknown interviewers is unlikely to garner honest, open, and truthful responses regarding victimization. Instead, social workers and psychologists at participating NGOs—who are usually trained in trauma-informed care and have established some type of relationship with the victims—are more likely to cultivate a trusting environment that allows the victims to provide open, honest answers.

Second, partnering with NGOs across the country that work with vulnerable populations provides an opportunity, built into the research design itself, to build the capacity of NGOs on the issue of human trafficking, as well train them on research practices and survey enumeration. Not all NGOs that work with vulnerable populations are trained in human trafficking or how to identify a victim of trafficking. Additionally, they may not be aware of the resources available for human trafficking victims in the event that they do encounter victims in their course of work. Therefore, working through NGOs is not only a way to maximize the likelihood that a victim will self-identify, but also is a way to increase knowledge about human trafficking among those working with vulnerable populations.

Additionally, partnering with NGOs that work with vulnerable populations is among the most efficient sampling methods to identify victims of human trafficking. Nationally-representative sampling or random sampling in high-risk regions of the country is less efficient as it requires sampling a much larger number of respondents in order to yield a large enough sub-sample of self-identified victims. Working with organizations who already come in contact with vulnerable populations means that it is likely that a higher percentage of those surveyed will self-identify as victims.

Moreover, working with NGOs is potentially more ethically sound than other sampling methods used to identify human trafficking victims. The victims identified through the survey are already receiving some type of service from the NGO administering the survey, and they are in a safe place. Also, when a respondent self-identifies as a victim, the NGO can immediately refer them to services. Other methods of sampling, including snowball sampling of human trafficking victims, pose an ethical dilemma. Specifically, asking a self-identified victim of human trafficking to refer the researcher to another known victim of human trafficking poses a significant risk both to the self-identified victim, as well as to the victim to whom they are referring the researcher. These individuals may still be living under considerable physical or psychological threat from their traffickers, and asking them to identify other people who may have experienced the same level of trauma could place them at increased risk of threat or violence.

Finally, this approach lays the groundwork for USAID/Honduras to establish strong relationships with a nationwide network of on-the-ground service providers, which may be important for future programs. As USAID/Honduras considers its future programming on C-TIP issues, this sampling methodology provided the opportunity to forge connections with NGOs that they previously had not encountered.

In order to identify the participating agencies, NORC partnered with the Honduras Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family (DINAF – Dirección de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia, in Spanish) to recruit organizations that work with vulnerable populations in Honduras to administer the Honduras C-TIP survey. The organizations that were recruited, which include DINAF and the Honduras Inter-Institutional Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (CICESCT - Comisión Interinstitucional Contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial y Trata, in Spanish), span all regions of Honduras and include organizations that provide services to adults and children. The recruitment process led to agreements with twenty-four organizations to field the survey.

Once agreements were finalized, representatives from each organization attended a week-long training in Tegucigalpa where they learned more about human trafficking in Honduras, how to administer the tablet-based survey, how to ensure a trauma-informed approach to survey administration to avoid re-traumatization, and what to do if they discover a trafficking victims, including what resources are available for the victims. The training was spearheaded by NORC at the University of Chicago, with special presentations by DINAF, CICEST and the Honduran Attorney General’s Office. At the end of the training, each representative set a goal for the number of surveys they felt they could administer, and returned to their home organization to administer the Honduras C-TIP survey.[[8]](#footnote-8)

All participants of the training, including DINAF and CICEST guests, were asked to complete a brief survey evaluating the training itself. The survey included questions ranging from the organization of the training and presenters to the participants’ confidence in the protocols established to respond to emotional distress during interviews and how to assist identified victims of human trafficking. In total 36 participants provided their feedback on the training ranking each item on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 was “strongly agree” and 5 was “strongly disagree”

Based on the survey results, 94% of the participants strongly agreed or agreed that the materials were informative and 92% strongly agreed or agreed that the main points of the training were covered well and doubts were clarified. Additionally, 94% strongly agreed or agreed that they understood the protocol to follow if a respondent experiences emotional distress during the interview and 92% strongly agreed or agreed that they understood the protocol to follow if they encountered a trafficking victim while conducting the survey.

At the end of the survey, participants answered open-ended questions regarding what their favorite part of the training was and what topics they would like to learn more about. The same general theme emerged for both of these questions. Multiple respondents reported that their favorite part of the training was learning about the problem of human trafficking in Honduras and said they would like to learn more about human trafficking in Honduras and the support services available to victims thought the country.

Under this design, no sampling frame was generated to determine survey respondents. Instead, representatives from partnering NGOs interviewed all persons aged 14 or older who came to the NGO for services, regardless of whether or not it was suspected that they were human trafficking victims. In addition to administering the survey within the participating organizations, DINAF and CICESCT representatives travelled to other organizations in their regions to administer the survey to populations receiving services from similar organizations. Administration of data collection spanned a little over nine months beginning February 24, 2017 and ending November 30, 2017. Table 1 below provides the name of each organization participating in the data collection, the department where they are located, and the number of interviews they completed. In total, there were 916 respondents to the survey, with 30% of them identifying as victims of human trafficking.

**Table 1: Organizations, Departments, and Interviews Completed**

| **Organization** | **Department** | **Completed Interviews** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Albergue de Niños El Refugio | Cortés | 24 |
| Asociación Calidad de Vida | Tegucigalpa | 63 |
| Asociación de Acción Social/ Hogar de Niños Senderos de | Cortés | 21 |
| Asociación Horizontes al Futuro | Comayagua | 33 |
| Asociación Pan Techo y Trabajo | Tegucigalpa | 31 |
| Asociación para el Servicio Mundial | Tegucigalpa | 19 |
| Asociación Pueblo Franciscano de Muchachos y Muchachas | Comayagua | 71 |
| Casa Alianza de Honduras | Tegucigalpa | 32 |
| Casa de la Mujer Ixchel | Atlántida | 16 |
| Comunidad para los niños Huérfanos | Colón | 9 |
| Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family (DINAF) - Atlantic | Atlantic\* | 26 |
| Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family (DINAF) – Comayagua | Comayagua\* | 31 |
| Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family (DINAF) - West | Western\* | 25 |
| Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family (DINAF) - San Pedro Sula | Cortés\* | 26 |
| Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family (DINAF) - South | Southern\* | 29 |
| Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family (DINAF) – Tegucigalpa | Tegucigalpa\* | 17 |
| Fundación Casa Hogar Santa Rosa | Copán | 13 |
| Fundación Fe y Alegría | Yoro | 39 |
| Fundación Proniño | Cortés | 29 |
| Fundación Señor San José | La Paz | 31 |
| Hogar IMI, Impacto Ministerial Internacional | Comayagua | 19 |
| Hogar Refugio de Ovejitas | Atlántida | 71 |
| Hogares Crea | Tegucigalpa | 88 |
| Inter-Institutional Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (CICESCT) | Tegucigalpa | 41 |
| Legado de Esperanza | Copán | 10 |
| Ministerio Infantil Koinonia | Choluteca | 18 |
| Ministerio La Flecha para Niño y Familia en Honduras | Choluteca | 28 |
| Refugio Misión Lázaro | Tegucigalpa | 32 |
| Student Helping Honduras, Hogar de Niños Villa Soleada | Yoro | 24 |
| **Total** |  | **916** |

\*DINAF offices have regional coverage. While some offices are linked to specific departments, many cover more than one department.

## SURVEY INSTRUMENT AND MEASUREMENT

The Honduras C-TIP survey was modeled after the C-TIP survey NORC administered in the Philippines under the DRG-LER contract whereby a screener identifies potential trafficking victims and is then followed by modules specific to the type of human trafficking identified in the screener. However, the screener in the Honduras C-TIP survey was modified by the PI and NORC to correspond explicitly to the Honduran legal definition of human trafficking. Since the Honduran law identifies seven different types of human trafficking, the final survey instrument contains modules on those seven types: sex trafficking, labor trafficking, debt bondage, forced begging, forced marriage, forced crime, and forced pregnancy.

The final instrument was translated into Spanish, vetted by DINAF and CICESCT psychologists and approved by the NORC Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the Scientific Investigation Unit Biomedical Investigation Ethics Committee at the National Autonomous University of Honduras.

Once the instrument was approved, it was programmed into a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) format using the Nfield data collection application. Surveys in the field were administered in Spanish using Samsung Galaxy tablets NORC provided to each organization, which were programmed using the Nfield application. All data was electronically captured and synced onto NORC’s secure servers.

The instrument opens with an informed consent statement, notifying the potential respondent that participating in the survey is completely voluntary, that their responses are anonymous and confidential and that they can stop at any time or refuse to answer any question. Next, the respondent is taken through a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) section to gather information on their general knowledge of, and attitudes toward, human trafficking in Honduras. The survey then takes the respondent through a set of questions that allow the respondent to self-identify as a victim of each modality of human trafficking defined under Honduran Law. If the respondent self-identifies as a victim of human trafficking, they are routed to survey modules that ask them more detailed questions about their experiences related to each trafficking modality they identify as having experienced.[[9]](#footnote-9) Identified victims are routed to one final survey module that collects information on their experiences after surviving human trafficking. An outline of the survey instrument is presented below in Table 2.

**Table 2: Honduras C-TIP Survey Outline**

| **Module Number** | **Topic** |
| --- | --- |
| Module 1 | Respondent Background |
| Module 2 | Sex Trafficking |
| Module 3 | Labor Trafficking |
| Module 4 | Debt Bondage |
| Module 5 | Forced Begging |
| Module 6 | Forced Criminal Activity |
| Module 7 | Forced Pregnancy |
| Module 8 | Forced Marriage |
| Module 9 | Post Trafficking |
| Module 10 | Enumerator Observations |

## RESEARCH TEAM

NORC’s research team is comprised of Principal Investigator Dr. Vanessa Bouché, Survey Director Renée Hendley, Senior Research Analyst Carlos Fierros, and Local Coordinator Luis Figueroa. The team worked in conjunction to develop the survey instrument, prepare enumerators for survey administration, monitor data collection in the field, and analyze the final dataset for this report.

## ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

NORC implemented steps to ensure ethical considerations were addressed at each stage of project implementation. During the instrument design phase, NORC received IRB approval from both the NORC IRB and the Scientific Investigation Unit Biomedical Investigation Ethics Committee at the National Autonomous University of Honduras. Both ethics bodies also approved NORC’s designed sampling approach, which included administering the survey instrument to minors between the ages of 14 and 17 years of age.

Informed consent (assent in the case of minors) was collected from each respondent prior to participating in the survey. In the case of minors, consent for participation was sought from the director of the organization caring for the minor. The design sought consent from organization directors rather than parents because of the types of organizations with which NORC partnered; these organizations provide services to at risk populations, and often care for homeless children who do not have parents who can provide consent.

NORC also ensured that all survey enumerators were prepared to manage emotional distress in identified survivors of human trafficking. NORC’s sample design was developed to ensure that each respondent to the Honduras C-TIP survey was receiving services from an organization that could provide emotional support services if needed. During the enumerator training, each enumerator was trained in how to ask sensitive questions to possible victims of human trafficking and how to respond if a respondent displayed signs of emotional distress caused by the survey. The team developed a standard protocol for responding to emotional distress, which was distributed to each enumerator at the end of training. The team also developed a standard protocol for reporting cases of human trafficking to the proper authorities and detailed how the participating organizations could obtain support to guide the identified survivor through the legal process.

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The data was imported into Stata 13 statistical software package for analysis. Analysis includes basic descriptive statistics of the sample, bivariate correlations, multi-variate analyses.

# DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS OF SAMPLE AND VICTIM IDENTIFICATION

In this section, we describe the demographic breakdown of the overall sample population. Then we examine how human trafficking victims—regardless of type of human trafficking—differ from those who are not victims of trafficking based on various demographic characteristics including age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, region, and education level. We then drill down deeper into the different types of human trafficking to determine whether there are discernable trends or patterns of victimization for certain types of trafficking based on demographic characteristics of the victims. Where there are differences, we conduct tests to determine whether these differences are statistically significant.

## TYPES OF TRAFFICKING

We begin this discussion with a description of the overall numbers of respondents who identified as a victim of human trafficking. In total, there were 916 survey participants, and the vast majority (69%; n=636) did not identify as a victim of human trafficking. Although they may be in need of various social services (given that they were interviewed by NGOs that serve vulnerable populations), they have not experienced human trafficking. Put differently, about 30% of “vulnerable populations” in Honduras—defined as those who receive services from non-governmental organizations—are victims of human trafficking.

As illustrated in Figure 1, the plurality of those who identified as a victim report being a victim of only one type of trafficking. However, almost 10% (n=88) of the sample identified as a victim of two or more types of human trafficking. There were eight respondents who reported they were victims of four different types of human trafficking.

**Figure 1: Number of types of trafficking experienced by sample population (n=916)**

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As previously stated, the Honduran anti-trafficking law differentiates between different types of trafficking, including: labor trafficking, sex trafficking, forced crime, debt bondage, forced begging, forced marriage, and forced pregnancy. An examination of the distribution of the different types of trafficking based on these categorizations is included in Figure 2, and reveals that about 13% (n=124) of vulnerable populations in Honduras are labor trafficking victims, 12% (n=110) are victims of sex trafficking, and 8% (n=76) of vulnerable populations are victims of forced crime. There are fewer victims of debt bondage (n=39), forced begging (n=33), forced marriage (n=14), and forced pregnancy (n=7).

**Figure 2: Percentage of sample reporting being trafficked by type of tracking (n=916)**

Note that for the purpose of the forthcoming analysis, labor trafficking is combined with the responses for debt bondage and forced begging, forced marriage and forced pregnancy are combined with sex trafficking, and forced crime remains in its own category. We do this for a few reasons. First, begging may be defined as a type of labor, and debt bondage is often experienced in the context of forced labor. Similarly, forced marriage and forced pregnancy both involve a type of trafficking involving sexual exploitation. Second, it allows us to gain additional leverage on the labor and sex trafficking variables by adding observations that otherwise were not part of a grouping that allows for robust statistical analysis.

## Age

The results of the survey reveal distinct demographic characteristics of victims of human trafficking in Honduras versus those that have not experienced human trafficking. First, we examine age. Overall, the sample was very young. As illustrated in Figure 3, almost half of the sample population was minors between the ages of 14 to 17 years at the time they took the survey. Another 13% of the sample was 18 or 19 years old. Thus, overall, 60% of the sample population was under the age of 20 years.[[10]](#footnote-10) This compares to 21% of the entire Honduran population that is between the ages of 15 and 24 years old, indicating that the sample is skewed young.

**Figure 3: Age distribution of the sample (n=916)**

However, as illustrated in **Figure 4**, those most likely to identify as victims of human trafficking were between 20-40 years of age when they were surveyed. Whereas only one quarter (n=107) of the minors in the sample identified as victims of human trafficking, almost 40% (n=110) of those between the ages of 20-40 years of age identified as victims of human trafficking. This does not necessarily mean that older people are more likely to become victims of human trafficking; rather it means that they are more likely to identify themselves as having been victimized.

**Figure 4: Percentage of sample identifying as victims by age when surveyed**

Indeed, an examination of those respondents between the ages of 20-40 years of age reveals that 50% (n=52) of those who identify as victims of sex or labor trafficking were first trafficked when they were minors. In other words, although they are adults now, they were minors at the time they were first trafficked.

An investigation into the age when respondents were first trafficked for sex, labor, or crime reveals that most are first trafficked as teenagers, as depicted in Table 3. The mean age for labor trafficking victimization is 15.9, with median and modal age being 14. For sex trafficking victims, the mean age is 15.7, with a modal age of 13 and a median age of 15. The mean age for forced crime victims is 14.9, with a median of 14 and a modal age of 14. Overall, the average age of entry into trafficking for sex, labor and forced crime is very similar with the critical age range being 14 to 16 years old regardless of the type of trafficking.

**Table 3: Average age when trafficked**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Labor trafficking | Sex trafficking | Force Crime |
| Mean | 15.9 | 15.7 | 14.9 |
| Median | 14 | 13 | 14 |
| Mode | 14 | 15 | 15 |

**Ethnicity**

As illustrated in Figure 5, the ethnic distribution of the sample was heavily skewed towards Mestizo with almost 60% of the sample identifying as such.[[11]](#footnote-11) The ethnic group least represented in the sample is Garifuna (AfroHondurans), comprising only 1.5% (n=14) of the sample.

**Figure 5: Ethnic distribution of the sample**

Despite this, Garifuna are the most likely ethic group to identify as victims of human trafficking, as depicted in Figure 6**;** 36% (n=5) of Garifuna respondents said they experienced human trafficking, which is higher than any other group, though very close to the percentage of Ladinos, with 35% (n=38) identifying as a trafficking victim.

**Figure 6: Percentage of total sample identifying as victims by ethnicity**

There is no discernable trend revealing that one ethnic group is more or less likely to be a victim of a specific type of trafficking. Figure 7 shows across all ethnic groups, the largest percentage is victims of labor trafficking, then sex trafficking, then forced crime. Nevertheless, there are a few nuances worth noting. Ladinos are much more likely to be victims of labor trafficking than forced crime, whereas among Mestizos the difference between labor trafficking and being forced to commit a crime is less stark. Overall, however, there does not appear to be significant variation in trafficking patterns in Honduras based on ethnicity of the victim.

**Figure 7: Type of trafficking by ethnic groups**

## Gender

Figure 8 shows a majority (65%; n=594) of respondents identified as female, while another 32% (n=294) identified as male, and 3% (n=26) as transgender or “other.

**Figure 8: Gender distribution of sample**

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As illustrated in Figure 9, roughly equal numbers of males and females identified as victims of human trafficking at about 30% for each group. However, a much higher percentage of those who identify as transgender or “other” said they experienced human trafficking at 46% (n=12).

**Figure 9: Percent of respondents identifying as victims by gender**

Although males and females are roughly equal in terms of their overall likelihood of victimization, an examination of gender by type of trafficking reveals a strong pattern. Figure 10 shows males are much more likely to be trafficked for labor and forced crime than for sex. Females, on the other hand, are about equally likely to be trafficked for sex and labor, but much less likely to be trafficked for forced crime. Transgender and “other” are most likely to be trafficked for labor, then sex, and then forced crime. In other words, all three gender categories reveal different patterns in terms of the likelihood to be victimized for different purposes. It also reveals that, although the majority of the sample is female, the plurality of labor trafficking cases is relatively evenly distributed between male and female victims. Of the labor trafficking victims (including debt bondage and forced begging), 55% (n=89) are female and 42% (n=68) are male. This is in contrast to sex trafficking where the percentage of female victims is 81% (n=101) and the percentage of male victims is only 13% (n=16).

**Figure 10: Type of trafficking by gender**

## Sexual orientation

Figure 11shows that the vast majority of the sample identified as heterosexual (88%; n=801). While that is the case, however, Figure 12 shows a much larger percentage of those who do not identify as heterosexual report they are victims of human trafficking. For example, 52% (n=14) of homosexuals in the sample said they were victims of human trafficking, 38% (n=16) of bisexuals, and 40% (n=15) of “other” report being victims of some form of human trafficking. This is in contrast to only 28% (n=224) of heterosexuals in the sample.

**Figure 11: Sexual orientation of sample**

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**Figure 12: Percentage of respondents identifying as victims by sexual orientation**

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Figure 13 shows the breakdown of sexual orientation by type of trafficking and reveals that a larger percentage of the sample identifying themselves as homosexual/bisexual/other are victims of both labor trafficking and sex trafficking than the percentage of those who identify themselves as heterosexual. Additionally, while the plurality of victims who are heterosexual are victims of labor trafficking (17%), the plurality of homosexual/bisexual/other victims are victims of sex trafficking (28%). Thus, there appear to be clear differences in victimization based on sexual orientation of the population.

**Figure 13: Type of trafficking by sexual orientation**

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## Geographic distribution

There was a significant degree of geographic dispersion across the sample population based on the home departments of the respondents. As seen in Figure 14, the plurality of the sample was from Francisco Morazán (n=176), Cortés (n=117), Yoro (n=88), and Choluteca (n=75). The remainder was spread among the remaining departments.

**Figure 14: Total respondents from each department and percentage identifying as victims**



An examination of where the victims of trafficking are from shows the highest raw numbers of respondents that report being trafficking victims are from Francisco Morazán (n=75), Comayagua (n=29), Cortés (n=25), Choluteca (n=22), and Atlántida (n=20). However, the departments with the largest proportion of respondents reporting they are victims of human trafficking are Valle (64%), El Paraiso (62%), and Francisco Morazán (43%).

To examine type of trafficking by geographic region, we divide the country into three different regions. The Western region is comprised of the following departments: Cortes, Intibuca, Santa Barbara, Lempira, Copan, and Ocotepeque. The Central region includes the departments of Atlantida, Yoro, Comagua, Francisco Morazan, Choluteca, Valle, and La Paz. The Eastern region consists of the following departments: Colon, Olancho, Gracias a Dios, El Paraiso, and Islas de la Bahia.

Figure 15 shows sex trafficking and labor trafficking victimization is equal for respondents from the Western region and the Eastern region. In the central region, however, a greater percentage of those identifying as victims are victims of labor trafficking than sex trafficking. It appears that the highest concentration of respondents reporting as victims of human trafficking are from the Eastern region, athough this result is largely driven by El Paraiso, where 62% (n=18) of those interviewed identified as a victim of some form of human trafficking.

**Figure 15: Type of trafficking by region**

Figure 16 examines the percentage of victims in each department who report being victims of different types of trafficking to determine whether there are any spatial patterns for different types of trafficking. Trafficking for labor, sex, and forced crime is relatively equal in several departments, including Atlántida, Cortés, and Francisco Morazán. In other departments, such as Choluteca, Colón, La Paz, and Olancho, labor trafficking appears to be the dominant form of trafficking. Sex trafficking is the dominant form of trafficking in Copán, Intibucá, and Valle.

**Figure 16: Type of trafficking by department**

## Education

The educational background of the sample is also varied. As shown in Figure 17, plurality (30%; n=277) of the sample went to some elementary school, and another 28% (n=258) went to school through 7th to 9th grades. With the exception of 2% (n=18) that never completed any formal schooling, the remainder of the sample completed ciclo comun (9%; n=87), bachillerato (18%; n=165), or carrera, bachillerato universidad, or maestria (12%; n=111).

**Figure 17: Educational background of sample**

There is no trend in terms of identification as a victim based on education level. Indeed, Figure 18 reveals that the respondents who completed ciclo comun are most likely to say they have been a victim of human trafficking with 45% (n=39) identifying as such. Those who completed any grade between first and sixth are second most likely to report being a victim of human trafficking (38%; n=105), and then those with no formal schooling (33%; n=6).

**Figure 18: Percentage of respondents identifying as victims by education level**

Across all education levels (except Bachillerato), labor trafficking is more common than sex trafficking or forced crime. However, there are some nuances to point out. Figure 19shows, trafficking for forced crime is most prevalent among those with no formal schooling (17%), at the Ciclo Comun level (15%), or between 7th-9th grades (11%). In fact, among those who completed no school or who completed 7th-9th grades, equal numbers identify as victims of sex trafficking and forced crime, 17% and 11% respectively. This indicates that the pattern for recruiting victims for forced crime may be tied in some capacity to education level where those with no schooling are vulnerable and those in junior high are also susceptible to recruitment.

**Figure 19: Type of trafficking by education level**

## Predicting victimization

Table 4 reports results of four logistic regressions that predict what demographic characteristics significantly predict human trafficking victimization. In all of them, the dependent variable takes on a value of 1 if the respondent identifies as a victim of any type of human trafficking (Model 1), labor trafficking (Model 2), sex trafficking (Model 3), or forced crime (Model 4). The dependent variable takes on a value of 0 if the respondent did not identify as a victim.

The results of these regressions show some significant variations in vulnerability for trafficking generally, as well as for specific types of trafficking, based on various demographic characteristics. Age is a significant predictor in Models 1 and 2. The coefficient for age is positive and significant for victimization and for labor trafficking, meaning that older individuals are significantly more likely to be victims of human trafficking generally, and labor trafficking specifically.

However, this result should be approached with caution. There are three things that are important to point out with respect to this finding. First, this age variable is capturing the current age of the respondent, not the age at which the respondent was first trafficked. Delving more deeply into the age when respondents were first trafficked reveals that about half of the adult respondents who were trafficked for either sex or labor were first trafficked when they were minors. Second, and relatedly, this indicates that adults may be more likely and able than minors to identify themselves as having been a victim of human trafficking. Finally, this may also indicate that older respondents are more able to reach NGOs for services, and suggests that there may be a population of younger victims that are not being reached.

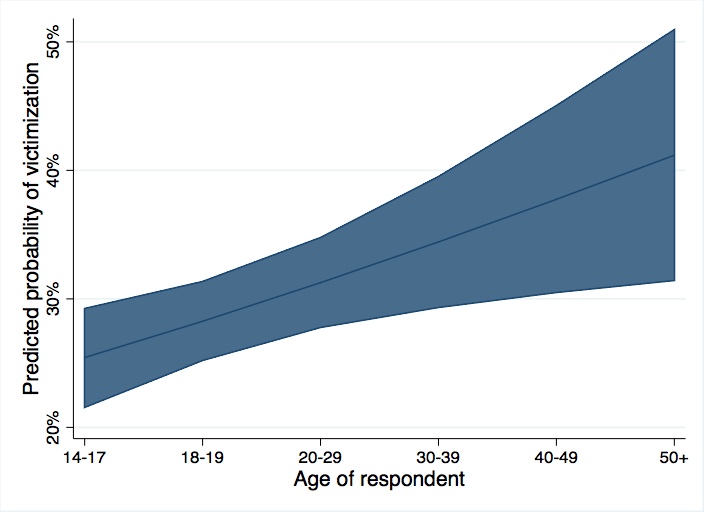
**Table 4: Predicting human trafficking victimization**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | Victim  (Model 1) | Labor  (Model 2) | Sex  (Model 3) | Crime  (Model 4) |
| Age | 0.14\*\*\*  (0.05) | 0.18\*\*\*  (0.06) | 0.06  (0.07) | -0.07  (0.09) |
| Female | -0.11  (0.16) | -0.64\*\*\*  (0.19) | 1.25\*\*\*  (0.29) | -0.88\*\*\*  (0.27) |
| Heterosexual | -0.52\*\*  (0.23) | -0.36  (0.27) | -0.90\*\*\*  (0.27) | -0.16  (0.40) |
| Mestizo | 0.18  (0.23) | -0.35  (0.27) | -0.25  (0.30) | 0.86\*  (0.53) |
| Indigenous | -0.49  (0.37) | -0.08  (0.42) | -0.90\*  (0.54) | -0.04  (0.88) |
| Garifuna | 0.02  (0.64) | 0.22  (0.72) | -0.66  (1.09) | 0.52  (1.17) |
| Other ethnicity | -0.37  (0.27) | -0.32  (0.31) | 0.52  (0.35) | 0.94\*  (0.58) |
| Education | -0.12\*\*\*  (0.03) | -0.13\*\*\*  (0.04) | -0.10\*\*  (0.05) | -0.05  (0.06) |
| Constant | 0.25  (0.36) | -0.20  (0.43) | -1.31\*\*\*  (0.49) | -2.05\*\*\*  (0.70) |
| Pseudo R2 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 0.04 |
| N | 880 | 880 | 880 | 880 |

\*p<=0.10; \*\*p<=0.05; \*\*\*p<=0.01. Results of logistic regression. Coefficients reported with standard errors in parentheses. The comparison category for ethnicity is Ladino.

Figure 20 shows that the predicted probability of adult respondents identifying as a human trafficking victim is over 40%, whereas this drops to about 25% for minor respondents.

**Figure 20: Predicted probability of human trafficking victimization by age**



In our sample, being female significantly predicts whether an individual will become a victim of labor trafficking, sex trafficking or forced crime. Females are significantly less likely than males to report being a victim of labor trafficking and forced crime; however, they are significantly more likely than males to report being a victim of sex trafficking. The predicted probability of a male labor trafficking victim is 23%, while it is only 14% for females. The predicted probability of a male forced crime victim is 12%, and drops to 5% for females. This is in contrast to sex trafficking, where the predicted probability of a male sex trafficking victim is only 5%, but increases to 16% for females.

The other variable that significantly predicts human trafficking victimization is sexual orientation. Heterosexual respondents are significantly less likely than homosexual, bisexual, or respondents with other sexual orientations to identify as a victim of human trafficking in Honduras.

However, when this variable is examined across the models predicting specific types of trafficking victimization, it becomes clear that these results are being driven by sex trafficking. In other words, heterosexuals are significantly less likely to report being a victim of sex trafficking than are homosexual, bisexual, or other respondents. Whereas the predicted probability of a heterosexual victim of sex trafficking is only 10%, it increases to 22% for homosexual, bisexual, or respondents of other sexual orientations. The likelihood of victimization for both labor trafficking and forced crime are not statistically different based on sexual orientation.

There are some weak patterns that emerge regarding ethnicity and the likelihood of being a victim of various types of trafficking. Specifically, the results of the logistic regression analysis reveal that Mestizos and those that report their ethnicity to be “other” are significantly more likely than Ladinos (the comparison group) to be victims of forced crime, and the indigenous population is significantly less likely than Ladinos to be trafficked for sex.

Education level is a significant predictor of overall victimization, labor trafficking, and sex trafficking.[[12]](#footnote-12) The predicted probability that an individual with no formal schooling at all will be a victim of labor trafficking is 28%, and this drops to 9% for those with master’s degrees. Similarly the predicted probability that an individual with no formal schooling with be a sex trafficking victim is 17%; however, it drops to 7% for those with master’s degree. On the other hand, there is no significant effect of education level on whether or not someone is likely to be a victim of forced crime. This may be due to the higher than average percentage of those in 7th grade to Ciclo Comun that report having been a victim of forced crime.

# LABOR TRAFFICKING IN HONDURAS

The previous section revealed that labor trafficking victims on average are first trafficked between the ages of 14 and 16 year, that there is no significant difference among different ethnic groups and the likelihood of being trafficked for labor, that males are significantly more likely to be a victim of labor trafficking than females, and that those with lower education levels are significantly more likely than those with more education to report being a victim of labor trafficking. The following section examines more closely the patterns of labor trafficking in Honduras, including the recruitment process, the major industries, and the working conditions and experiences of the victims while they were being trafficked.

## Recruitment

The majority of labor trafficking victims reported they were not deceived or tricked into believing they would be doing something other than what they were forced to do. Specifically, 53% (n=66) reported that they were not tricked, while only 46% (n=57) reported that they were tricked. However, there are no significant patterns between those who were and were not deceived in the recruitment process and the type of work they were ultimately forced to do or whether or not there was a written or verbal agreement for the labor. In other words, there is no relationship between level of deception in recruitment and the type of forced labor or the likelihood of having an agreement with the employer.

Additionally, there are few discernable patterns among those who were deceived in the recruitment process based on who deceived them. The most commonly reported person that deceived the victims was the employer (27%; n=16). However, there was great variability for the remainder, including parents/guardians (14%; n=8), friends (12%; n=7), acquaintances (12%; n=7), strangers (10%; n=6), and recruiters (7%; n=4).

Traffickers deceived victims using a variety of different stories about the type of work they would be doing. The plurality (30%; n=17) of labor trafficking victims that were deceived were told that they would be performing domestic work, and the most likely person to have deceived them in the recruitment process regarding domestic work was the employer or recruiter (n=8). Less common stories include being told they would be getting an education, working in agriculture, maquilas, restaurants, stores, offices, tourism, nursing, delivering gas, plumbing, and cabinetry.

Despite the fact that these individuals were deceived or tricked into believing they would be doing something other than what they were forced to do, only 33% (n=19) stated they were forced or threatened to take the job.

## Industries

As depicted in Figure 21, the three most common types of labor trafficking reported were commercial work (45%, n=57), domestic work (31%, n=39), and agriculture (12%, n=15). The main types of commercial work include selling clothing and/or merchandise in stores or on the street, or working in grocery stores or food markets.

**Figure 21: Type of labor trafficking**

An examination of the three most common types of labor trafficking reveals some trends. First, females are significantly more likely than males to be trafficked for domestic work (r=0.41; p=0.00), whereas males are significantly more likely than females to be trafficked for agriculture (r=0.35; p=0.00). Mestizos are significantly less likely to report being trafficked for domestic work (r=-0.21; p=0.01), and they are significantly more likely to report being trafficked in commercial work (r=0.30; p=0.00). Agriculture trafficking victims are also significantly younger than those not trafficked in agriculture (r=-0.33; p=0.00) and are less educated (r=-0.22; p=0.01).

The majority of the labor trafficking victims were living in their hometown at the time they were trafficked for labor (62%; n=77). There are no significant trends regarding the type of trafficking and being trafficked in one’s hometown for domestic work or agriculture; however, those trafficked into commercial work are significantly more likely than those not trafficked for this purpose to report being trafficked in their hometown (r=0.35; p=0.00), and significantly less likely to say that they were trafficked elsewhere in Honduras (r=-0.33; p=0.00).

## Labor trafficking conditions

Only 5% (n=7) of the labor trafficking victims said they had a written contract with their employer. The plurality (47%; n=58) said they had no prior agreement at all with their employer, while another 43% (n=53) said they had a verbal agreement.

The vast majority of labor trafficking victims said they were not required to pay any money to their boss or recruiter to get the job (93%; n=116), and 77% (n=95) said they did not have to borrow money or receive a cash advance from their employer for travel, uniforms or other things required to do the job.[[13]](#footnote-13) This may be due to most of the victims being trafficked internal to Honduras rather than externally. It is possible that debt may be more common in people trafficked outside of their home community. Of those that did have to borrow money from their employer, however, 62% (n=18) said they were not permitted to quit work or take another job. In other words, these victims were bonded in debt to their employer until the loan was paid off; however, the vast majority (90%; n=26) reported it took less than one year to pay back the debt.

A small majority of the labor trafficking victims said their boss did not threaten them while they were working (52%; n=65), while the remaining 48% (n=59) said the boss did threaten them. The three most common types of threats included threats of physical violence towards the victim (39%; n=23), blackmail (36%; n=21), and economic retribution (29%; n=17). Fourteen percent (n=8) said they received death threats from their employer. Those who experienced labor trafficking in the agricultural sector (n=15) are significantly more likely to report they were threatened by their employer than those who did not work in agriculture (r=0.19; p=0.03). There is no strong correlation between being threatened and being trafficked for labor in any other industry.

The vast majority of labor trafficking victims said they were not physically hurt if they did not do the work (74%; n=92). There are no strong correlations between those who were physically harmed by their employer and the type of work they were trafficked into. Additionally, 57% (n=71) of labor trafficking victims said no one controlled how much they ate or slept, while 42% (n=52) said that someone did control their eating and sleeping.

There is great variability in the number of hours that victims of labor trafficking were forced to work. As illustrated in Figure 22, the plurality 32% (n=39) were forced to work more than 13 hours per day. However, the rest of the sample is relatively evenly divided between 8 hours or less, 9 to 10 hours, or 11 to 12 hours.

**Figure 22: Number of hours labor trafficking victims work**

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Moreover, those forced into domestic work (n=39) report working significantly more hours than those not trafficking for domestic servitude (r=0.26; p=0.00), while those forced into agriculture (n=15) report working significantly less hours than those not forced into agriculture (r=-0.22; p=0.01).

The majority (52%; n=64) of the labor trafficking victims said that they were not allowed to keep any of the money that they earned. Domestic labor trafficking victims are significantly less likely than those who were not trafficked for domestic labor to state that they could keep some of the money that they earned (r=-0.27; p=0.00). Those trafficked for labor in “other” industries are significantly more likely to say that they were able to keep some of the money that they earned (r=0.22; p=0.01). Of those who were allowed to keep some of the money that they earned, 62% (n=37) said that they were not able to save any of this money.

Additionally, 53% (n=66) of labor trafficking victims said that money for food, clothing and shelter was not deducted from their pay, while 37% (n=46) said that it was deducted from their pay.

# SEX TRAFFICKING IN HONDURAS

As noted earlier, respondents who reported being sex trafficking victims stated that the age of first victimization is between 13 to 15 years old. Sex trafficking victims are disproportionately female and less educated. Homosexual/bisexual respondents are significantly more likely than heterosexuals to report they are a victim of sex trafficking. The following section provides greater context about sex trafficking in Honduras, including details about recruitment, venues of sex trafficking, and the conditions endured by victims of sex trafficking.

## Recruitment

Unlike labor trafficking victims, the majority of sex trafficking victims said that they were tricked or deceived into believing they would be doing something other than sex work. In fact, 65% (n=71) were tricked or deceived versus only 35% (n=39) who said they were not.

As seen in Figure 23, among those who were deceived, 30% (n=21) said the most common person to deceive them was a family member, including parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, siblings-in-law, and step-parents. Another 25% (n=18) said that a friend deceived them. In other words, the majority of those deceived into sex trafficking were tricked by some of the most trusted individuals in their lives, friends and family.

**Figure 23: Person who deceived victim in recruitment[[14]](#footnote-14)**

There were many ways in which victims were deceived. Thirty-five percent (n=25) were told they would be doing domestic work, and 10% (n=7) were told they would be modeling. Other stories included working in a massage clinic, restaurants, bars, tattoo parlors, stores, or getting an education. However, there were also several respondents who noted they were invited somewhere and the trafficking started at that point. For instance, one person said she was invited to a birthday party and another to someone’s house to sleep over. Several respondents said the sex trafficking was part of the abuse they had endured most of their lives. In other words, the stories that were given as part of the process of deceiving the sex trafficking victims were varied.

## Venues

The most common place where people were trafficked for commercial sex was in homes. Over half (55%; n=61) of the sex trafficking victims said they were trafficked in homes, which may make the trafficking particularly difficult to detect. The next most common venues include hotels/motels (20%; n=22) and bars (14%; n=16).[[15]](#footnote-15) Beyond those venues reported in Figure 24, other places where victims said they were forced to perform sex acts included prison and work fields. One respondent said she was trafficked over the Internet.

**Figure 24: Venues of sex trafficking**

The majority (56%; n=62) said they were trafficked in their local community, while 37% (n=41) said they were trafficked elsewhere in Honduras and only 8% (n=9) said they were trafficked outside of Honduras.

Table 5 reveals that there are no clear trends regarding source and destination departments for sex trafficking victims. There is immense geographic variability; 9 of the departments serve as both origin and destination locations for sex trafficking victims, 3 departments are origin departments but not destinations (Gracias a Dios, Olancho, Santa Barbara, and Yoro) and 3 departments (La Paz, Lempira, and Ocotepeque) are neither origin nor destination locations based on this sample.

**Table 5: Sex trafficking origin and destination locations**

|  | From department/ trafficked in department | From department/ trafficked elsewhere | From elsewhere/ trafficked to department |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Atlántida | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Choluteca | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Colón | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Comayagua | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| Copán | 5 | 0 | 2 |
| Cortés | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| El Paraíso | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| Francisco Morazán | 16 | 8 | 13 |
| Gracias a Dios | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Intibucá | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| La Paz | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lempira | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ocotepeque | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Olancho | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Santa Bárbara | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Valle | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Yoro | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 64 | 34 | 37 |

## conditions

Sex trafficking victims endure a great degree of threats and abuse, significantly more than labor trafficking victims. Seventy percent (n=77) stated that they were threatened if they did not do what they were told (versus 48% of labor trafficking victims). The most common types of threats included physical violence (47%; n=36), blackmail (40%; n=31), and death threats (29%; n=22). In addition to being threatened, 51% (n=56) of sex trafficking victims reported that they were physically harmed if they did not do what they were told, compared to only 26% of labor trafficking victims.

The majority of sex trafficking victims said that they had on average one to three buyers per day (58%; n=64). Only 13% said they had four or more buyers per day, while 22% said that they had zero buyers per day on average. These may be cases of childhood sexual abuse, but not commercial sexual exploitation. There is a significant correlation between having more buyers per day and being threatened (r=0.29; p=0.00).

Fifty-seven percent of the respondents (n=63) said that their primary customers were Honduran nationals, while 24% said foreign nationals/tourists, and 11% (n=12) said military and/or law enforcement officers. All of these categories of customers are also significantly correlated with having more customers per day. For example, there is a positive, significant relationship between number of customers per day and Honduran national customers (r=0.39; p=0.00), foreign/tourist customers (r=0.24; p=0.01), and military/law enforcement customers (r=0.21; p=0.03).

However, an examination of the buyers reveals that the sex trafficking experience in Honduras is diverse. Several noted that the “customers” were neighbors, family members, or the individual that tricked them. In these cases, it is unclear whether the sex trafficking involved a commercial exchange. While these relationships are clearly sexually abusive, they appear to be cases in which only one or two people are forcing the victim to perform sex acts where there is not necessarily an exchange of anything of value for the sex act. Indeed, there is a significant negative correlation between those that report that the “customers” were in the “other” category and the number of customers they had per day (r=-22; p=0.02). An analysis of the qualitative responses in the “other” category includes neighbors, boyfriends, family members (uncle, brother-in-law, father), and friends. In other words, most of the sex trafficking victims who said that the customers were “other” seemed to indicate that the “customer” was one or a few people who were forcing them to perform sex acts, where it is not clear that anything of value was being exchanged for the sex act.

Forty-three percent (n=47) of the sex trafficking victims were paid less than 100 Lempiras per customer, while 32% (n=35) were paid between 100 to 500 Lempiras, and 35% (n=28) said they were paid more than 500 Lempiras per customer. There is a significant positive relationship between having foreign/tourist customers (r=0.33; p=0.00) and military/law enforcement customers (r=0.25; p=0.01) and getting paid more per customer. There is also a positive significant relationship between having more customers per day and being paid more per customer (r=0.42; p=0.00).

Those who get paid more per customer are also significantly more likely to be older when they are first trafficked for the purpose of commercial sex (r=0.30; p=0.00). This is a strong indication that those who are younger when they are first trafficked are being trafficked by family members in their local community, while those who are older when they are first trafficked are more likely to be trafficked by someone other than family or friends outside of their hometown. In fact, sex trafficking victims who were older when they were first trafficked are significantly less likely to report that they were living in their hometown or village when they were first trafficked (r=-0.22; p=0.02).

Fifty-five (n=60) percent of sex trafficking victims noted that they were not allowed to keep any of the money that they earned. However, those that earned more money per customer are significantly more likely to report that they could keep some of the money that the buyers paid (r=0.32; p=0.00). For example, 57% (n=16) of those who made more than 500 Lempiras per customer were allowed to keep some of the money they made, whereas only 18% (n=6) of those who made less than 100 Lempiras per customer were allowed to keep some of the money they made.

# FORCED CRIME IN HONDURAS

Victims of forced crime in Honduras are significantly more likely than those not forced to commit crimes to be male and mestizo; however, there are no other demographic predictors of who may become a victim of forced crime in Honduras. To understand this type of victimization better, the following section delves more deeply into the results for this population.

## Recruitment

Unlike both sex trafficking and labor trafficking where gangs did not play a role in the recruitment experience, gangs appear to play a very large role in forced crime. Specifically, 36% (n=27) of the victims of forced crime said that it was a gang who forced them to do something illegal, which is equal to the percentage who said that their friends forced them (and in some cases the gang would be comprised of people they considered to be friends).

**Figure 25: Recruitment for forced crime[[16]](#footnote-16)**

## Venues

The majority of victims of forced crime were forced to do something illegal in their local community (68%; n=52), while another 28% (n=22) said that they were forced to do something illegal somewhere else in Honduras.

Table 6 below shows that eight departments in Honduras are both origin and destination departments for forced crime, while six are origin but not destination departments, and three departments have no forced crime based on this sample.

**Table 6: Forced crime origin and destination locations**

|  | From department/ trafficked in department | From department/ trafficked elsewhere | From elsewhere/ trafficked to department |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Atlántida | 7 | 0 | 4 |
| Choluteca | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Colón | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Comayagua | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Copán | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Cortés | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| El Paraíso | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Francisco Morazán | 28 | 2 | 4 |
| Gracias a Dios | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Intibucá | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| La Paz | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Lempira | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ocotepeque | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Olancho | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Santa Bárbara | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Valle | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Yoro | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 52 | 14 | 22 |

## Conditions

Of those who are forced to commit crimes, 76% (n=58) state they were threatened if they did not commit the illegal activity that they were being told to do. The most common threat is physical violence (64%; n=37), followed by a death threat (53%; n=31). Although there is no significant relationship between being threatened with physical violence and being forced by a gang, there is a highly significant relationship between receiving death threats and being forced by a gang to commit illegal acts (r=0.47; r=0.00). Specifically, 83% of those forced by a gang received death threats, and this drops to 34% for those forced by someone other than a gang.

The types of crimes victims were forced to commit vary, but the most common crime was being forced to sell drugs (45%; n=34). There is a statistically significant relationship between being forced by a gang and specific types of crime. Specifically, those forced by a gang are significantly more likely than those forced to commit crimes by someone else to smuggle/transport drugs (r=0.23; p=0.04), collect war tax (p=0.39; p=0.00), and vandalize (r=0.36; p=0.00). Put differently, 56% of those who smuggled/transported drugs, 73% of those who were forced to collect war tax, and 75% of those forced to vandalize were forced by a gang.

**Figure 26: Types of forced criminal activities[[17]](#footnote-17)**

Only 26% of those forced to commit crimes said that they were arrested for committing the forced crime. There is a positive significant relationship between getting arrested and being forced to smuggle/transport drugs (r=0.23; p=0.05) and collect war tax (r=0.23; p=0.05). Interestingly, although those are the two most commonly forced crimes among those who are forced by gangs, there is no significant relationship between committing the crime on behalf of the gang and getting arrested. Therefore, it appears to be the case that those forced by gangs to commit crimes are no more or less likely to get arrested than those forced to commit crimes by someone else, despite the fact that gangs are more likely to force people to engage in the specific types of criminal activity that are more likely to lead to arrests. In other words, there is a disproportionate negative relationship between gang activity around forcing people to smuggle drugs and collecting war taxes and the likelihood of arrest, suggesting some type of complicity of gang activity by law enforcement.

# POST-TRAFFICKING ASSISTANCE

When respondents were asked who helped them out of their trafficking situation, 39% (n=108) of respondents said that their family helped them. Those trafficked for the purpose of commercial sex, labor, or forced crime were all equally likely to report that their family helped them. The next most commonly reported group helping victims out of their situation is law enforcement (21%; n=58), which includes police, migration officials, prosecutors, and public defenders. Twenty percent (n=55) said friends helped them out of their situation, while another 18% (n=51) reported NGOs. It is important to note, however, that the number of victims who said no one helped them is equal to the number that said NGOs helped them. Eighteen percent (n=51) of the victims in this sample said that no one helped them get out of their trafficking situation.

**Figure 27: Who helped victim out of trafficking situation[[18]](#footnote-18)**

The results reveal that sex trafficking victims are significantly less likely than victims of other types of human trafficking to say that no one helped them out of their situation (r=-0.15; p=0.01). On the other hand, they are significantly more likely to state that they received help from law enforcement (r=0.28; p=0.00), DINAF, (r=0.13; p=0.03), CICESCT (r=0.34; p=0.00), and SEDIS (r=0.29; p=0.00). Overall, these results suggest that government agencies and institutions in Honduras are more attentive to identifying and helping victims of sex trafficking than victims of other forms of exploitation.

The vast majority of human trafficking victims in the sample said that they did not file a complaint with the authorities about the situation (74%; n=208). An examination of who did file a complaint reveals that it is mostly sex trafficking victims (r=0.31; p=0.00) rather than victims of other forms of trafficking. Specifically, 71% of those who filed a complaint were victims of sex trafficking, which is reflective of the finding above that government agencies are more likely to help sex trafficking victims get out of the situation. However, about half of the victims who filed a complaint said that the process of filing the complaint was somewhat or very difficult (49%; n=35). Despite the difficulty in the process, however, 67% (n=46) noted that they were very or somewhat satisfied about the outcome of the complaint and 77% (n=53) said that they felt very or somewhat safe as they have pursued justice in their trafficking situation.

The majority of those who did not file a complaint also note that they do not plan on filing a complaint (85%; n=176). There are a variety of reasons why these human trafficking victims have not or will not file a complaint about their situation, including 31% (n=64) who did not realize they were a victim of a crime, 23% (n=48) who fear for their safety, 22% (n=45) who said they do not trust the justice operators to do the right thing, and 21% (n=44) who do not believe their complaint will be addressed. In other words, the issues preventing people from filing a complaint about their human trafficking victimization experience range from lack of knowledge about the crime, fear, as well as low levels of political trust.

Human trafficking victims report needing various types of support. Thirty-seven percent (n=104) said they need job or vocational training, and the same percentage said they need educational services. In addition to jobs and education, 36% (n=101) need counseling or psychological support, 26% (n=73) need shelter, 14% (n=40) need medical care, 14% (n=39) need drug or alcohol rehabilitation, and 8% need legal assistance. The most commonly reported types of support that trafficking victims need are those that will allow them to live an independent life wherein they are employed, educated, and mentally and physically healthy—all of which represent basic human rights. Victims of human trafficking are less interested in pursuing justice against their perpetrator, and more interested in their own human flourishing.

# CONCLUSIONS

There are several important contributions that this study makes. First, from a methodological perspective, it suggests that partnering with local NGOs that work with vulnerable populations is an efficient and effective method to identify trafficking victims. This method builds the capacity of local NGOs that are likely coming into contact with victims of human trafficking by educating them about the issue, including how to identify, interact with, and refer appropriate services to victims. Moreover, it is imperative for both ethical and validity reasons that potential trafficking victims of human trafficking feel they are in a safe and trusting environment when they are surveyed about their experience. Given that many of the NGO staff are trained social workers and are likely to have established a rapport with the individuals they are serving, they are better equipped to serve as the survey enumerators than a stranger would be.

Beyond the methodological contribution, this study is among the first to survey a large number of trafficking victims in Honduras, an otherwise very difficult to reach population. Interviewing trafficking victims facilitates the ability to answer research questions that inform policies, programs, and resource allocation. There were many findings from this research that go a long way in doing just that.

The research found that approximately 30% of vulnerable populations who receive services from NGOs in Honduras are victims of some form of human trafficking. Of those identified as human trafficking victims, 45% are victims of labor trafficking, 40% are sex trafficking victims, and 24% are forced crime victims. About one-third of human trafficking victims have experienced more than one type of human trafficking. Although the results suggest that there are more labor than sex trafficking victims in Honduras, there appears to be significantly more support for victims of sex trafficking than victims of other forms of trafficking, especially from government agencies including law enforcement, DINAF, CICESCT, and SEDIS.

This may reflect a gender bias with respect to human trafficking victimization. Specifically, females are significantly less likely to be victims of labor trafficking and forced crime and significantly more likely to be sex trafficking victims as compared to males. Perceptions of victimization may be biased against males. Indeed, public opinion research in other country contexts (including the United States, Moldova, and Albania) has revealed that males are not perceived to be as vulnerable to human trafficking as females. As such, there are less services available to male victims.

There are several other results that comport with global anti-trafficking literature. First, this study found that larger percentages of homosexuals and bisexuals identify as victims of human trafficking than heterosexuals and are significantly more likely than heterosexuals to be victims of sex trafficking. This is not unique to Honduras, and has been found to be the case in other country contexts, as well, including in the Philippines. Similarly, this study confirmed what has been found in other country contexts with respect to education. Low levels of education are significantly correlated with trafficking victimization.

The results also suggest that the level of force, fraud, and coercion endured by trafficking victims varies based on the type of trafficking. Sex trafficking victims face higher levels of threats and violence than labor trafficking victims with 70% reporting they were threatened, and 51% reporting they were physically harmed. However, those forced to commit crimes experience are threatened the most, with 76% stating that they were threatened. Additionally, where gangs did not play a large role in recruitment or trafficking for the purpose of labor or sex, they played a very large role in forced crime.

The vast majority of trafficking taking place in Honduras is internal trafficking, with the most occurring in one’s own hometown or village. The most common type of labor trafficking is for commercial purposes, including selling various goods in stores or markets. Next is domestic servitude, followed by agriculture. Where males and females are equally likely to be trafficked for commercial work, females are more likely to be trafficked for domestic work and males for agriculture.

Although stories of sex trafficking recruitment are varied and diverse, recruitment is most often perpetrated by family or friends of the victim, with the majority of trafficking taking place in homes. There is a strong indication that younger victims of sex trafficking are being trafficked by family members in their hometown or village, while older victims are significantly less likely to report that they lived in their hometown or village when they were first trafficked. The majority of victims had one-three buyers per day, but there is a strong positive correlation between having more buyers per day and facing threats of violence or blackmail, as well as getting paid more per customer, on average. The majority of customers are Honduran, but 24% said their primary customers were foreign nationals/tourists. Those who report that their customers were primarily foreign nationals/tourists are also significantly more likely to report that they get paid more per customer. The majority of sex trafficking victims are not allowed to keep any of the money that they make.

The majority of forced crime trafficking takes place in one’s hometown/village, with another 28% taking place somewhere else in Honduras. The most common crime they were forced to commit is selling drugs. Those recruited by a gang are significantly more likely to be forced to smuggle/transport drugs, collect war taxes, or vandalize. Those forced by gangs to commit crimes are no more or less likely to get arrested than those forced to commit crimes by someone else, despite the fact that gangs are more likely to force people to engage in the specific types of criminal activity that are more likely to lead to arrests. This suggests some level of complicity of gang activity by law enforcement.

The majority of victims have not filed a complaint, and do not plan to file a complaint for a variety of reasons, including fear, lack of knowledge about the crime, and low levels of political trust. Victims state that they need a variety of support programs, including job/vocational training, education, counseling, shelter, medical care, and drug/alcohol rehabilitation. Victims of human trafficking are less interested in pursuing justice against their perpetrator, and more interested in their own human flourishing.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusions of this research lead to a variety of research, policy and programmatic recommendations. First is that this this methodology—partnership with NGOs to survey vulnerable populations—is a promising research practice that should be replicated other country contexts to efficiently 1) train NGOs on human trafficking; 2) screen for human trafficking victimization and 3) survey those identified in a safe and trusting environment. The week-long training of NGOs in Honduras revealed that there is a greater need for human trafficking training among NGOs that work with vulnerable populations. When NGOs are trained on what to look for and how to respond, it leads to increased identification of and service provision for human trafficking victims. Thus, research methods can integrate NGOs in a way that serves the dual purpose of simultaneously collecting data and building capacity.

The second recommendation is Honduras’ anti-trafficking community should increase their focus on labor trafficking. The research suggests that there are more people victimized by labor trafficking than any other form of trafficking; however, there do not appear to be as many services for these victims. One potential reason for this is that labor trafficking victims do not always match the typical stereotype of a victim in terms of gender, or the level of force, fraud, and coercion they endure. Therefore, more education must be done to increase awareness about labor trafficking, including what it is, where and how it takes place, and who might be vulnerable. There is a clear need for increased resources for victims of other types of human trafficking beyond sex trafficking.

Specifically, there could be increased outreach and education on signs to look for in labor recruitment. There is a significant need for awareness about domestic servitude among young girls given that domestic work can become labor trafficking, and it is also used as a ploy to recruit victims into sex trafficking. There is also a need for awareness about labor rights among workers, especially education about the need for a signed, written contract with an employer. Finally, the results reveal that, given the amount of labor trafficking in commercial businesses and agriculture, there is a need for increased labor audits and regulation of commercial businesses and the agriculture sector.

This research also suggests that there is a need for more awareness among particularly vulnerable populations in Honduras, including youth and homosexuals/bisexuals. The results seem to indicate a relative lack the self-awareness and emotional maturity among younger respondents in the sample. This means they are less likely to identify themselves as victims despite the fact that they are more vulnerable to being trafficked with the average age across all forms of trafficking being 14-16 years. Beyond the youth, there should also be a concerted effort to increase awareness of trafficking among other vulnerable populations, especially homosexuals/bisexuals. The stigma of homosexuality/bisexuality leaves this population particularly vulnerable as a target population for sex trafficking. Therefore, education and outreach is needed not only to minimize the stigma, but also to raise the level of awareness among this vulnerable population.

One way to not only raise awareness about human trafficking, but prevent it in the first place, is to invest in education in Honduras. More highly educated individuals are less likely to be a victim of any type of human trafficking. Therefore, investing in education and promoting staying in school for as long as possible is a human trafficking prevention mechanism. Schools can also serve as an excellent venue for teaching anti-trafficking curricula and raising awareness among young people.

There are also several recommendations that surfaced as a result of examining patterns of sex trafficking in Honduras. First, there is a need for proactive policing with regard to sex trafficking given how hidden it is. The majority of sex trafficking victims reported that they were trafficked in homes, making it very difficult to detect. In the absence of proactive investigations, these types of cases are unlikely to be detected. Beyond this, there seems to be a great deal of overlap between sex trafficking of youth and childhood sexual abuse among family members. Therefore, although it is a difficult topic to broach and often taboo to discuss, it is necessary to increase public discourse about childhood sexual abuse. Finally, the results suggest that sex trafficking is somewhat common in tourist regions of Honduras; therefore, there is a need for increased policing of tourist regions and enforcement of sex tourism laws.

Another recommendation is that more research be conducted on the relationship between law enforcement and gangs. Specifically, this research raised the suggestion that gangs who engage in forced crime are more likely to get away with it than other groups who engage in forced crime. Further research should examine whether this holds true for other crimes beyond human trafficking.

The last recommendation is to more carefully consider what trafficking victims say that they need to heal and move forward with their lives. Trafficking victims that participated in this study reported they need educational and job/vocational programs, and they seem to prioritize this over the prosecution of their trafficker. Overall, trafficking victims desire restorative programs that facilitate their health and healing to live a dignified life into the future.

# ANNEX A: SCOPE OF WORK

**SCOPE OF WORK**

**Honduras Trafficking in Persons Knowledge, Awareness,**

**and Victim Identification Survey**

**Introduction**

Human Trafficking victimizes millions of people, but it is substantially hidden from public sight. The issue of trafficking only recently has become the focus of sustained, global counter-trafficking activity. Since 2001, USAID has programmed an average of $16.3 million annually to combat both labor and sex trafficking in 68 countries and Regional Missions. Existing programs have focused broadly on the “Four P’s framework”: Prevention and awareness-raising activities about trafficking (as well as economic growth and other interventions to address its root causes); Protection of survivors by providing direct services and increasing the capacity of first responders to identify victims; Prosecution, investments to build government capacity to take law enforcement action against traffickers and develop legislation criminalizing trafficking, and Partnerships both regionally and between relevant government agencies and NGOs. While all of these counter-trafficking activities are believed to reduce trafficking risks, their efficacy remains largely untested.

**Background**

The covert nature of trafficking has limited rigorous, data driven research on the nature and extent of the trafficking problem, its underlying dynamics, and the effectiveness of counter-trafficking programs. In part, this is because the victims of trafficking are largely hidden, frequently fearful of retribution if they are exposed, and concerned about being stigmatized or ostracized afterwards by family and friends. Trafficking is a complex phenomenon often overlapping with cultural practices and societal norms linked to class, caste, age, sex and ethnicity that in some cases may appear to sanction and encourage trafficking. Thus, some who objectively are victims may not self-identify as such, further complicating research in the area.

Even where victims can be identified, research has been hampered in several ways. First, the purposeful way in which victims are identified (usually by informants), as opposed to random selection, means that it is impossible to know how representative victims who are interviewed are of all victims. Second, it is hard to assess the reliability of the information provided by victims, since we cannot know how candidly they answer inherently sensitive questions about their experiences given that their identities and answers are known to researchers who victims may not fully trust. Indeed, in some societies where trafficking is of most concern, there may not even be an adequate word for trafficking that the average person would understand.

The inability to identify and reliably interview representative samples of trafficking victims means that we cannot generate good estimates of the numbers of victims in most countries, much less know what types of trafficking are most common in different places. Still less is known about the victims themselves, how they became ensnared in the enterprise, what attitudes, values and practices may have contributed, or when and how they manage to escape. As a result, current C-TIP programs have been developed based on very limited evidence and their effectiveness has been hard to evaluate systematically.

**Rationale and Goals**

In response to these problems, USAID’s 2012 Counter-Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) Policy commits to an ambitious learning agenda using advanced survey research methods to generate systematic and reliable evidence on human trafficking and its victims. These data are critical for improved targeting of C-TIP programs and for establishing baseline data by which new programs can be monitored and their effectiveness evaluated. Consistent with this commitment, USAID/Honduras has committed to undertaking a C-TIP Assessment and Victim Identification Survey in partnership with the USAID/DRG Human Rights and Learning Divisions. The dual purpose of the survey is to assess current knowledge, attitudes and practices with regard to trafficking threats and resources in Honduras and to identify trafficking victims in sufficient numbers to explore in depth their backgrounds, circumstances and experiences.

**Requirements and Deliverables**

The first of the core components of the survey will be a variant of a standard Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey designed to assess the public’s general knowledge about and attitudes toward trafficking. A national probability sample of approximately 1500 individuals, ages 14-60, will be selected for this component of the survey, which will also serve as a control group for the second, victim focused component of the survey. The Knowledge and Awareness component of the survey will focus on the extent to which individuals have heard of trafficking in its relevant local forms and consider it to be a problem, what they think trafficking entails and how they assess its importance in comparison with other crimes (e.g., smuggling, illegal migration, fraudulent adoption). This component also will measure what individuals know about trafficking laws and their perceptions of the laws’ enforcement. It will assess the extent to which individuals are aware of the risk factors for trafficking and whether they think they apply to them personally. Additionally, the survey will ask whether (and what) individuals know about government, NGO or other resources intended to mitigate the risks. Finally, respondents will be asked whether they personally have been victims and, separately, whether they know of family members or friends who have been victims.

The Knowledge and Awareness component of the survey will include questions asking whether respondents have ever been forced to work or personally know someone else who has been trafficked. However, the number of victims identified in this part of the survey is likely to be too small for meaningful analysis given the relatively small KAP sample size and the small absolute percentage of people within any society who are trafficking victims. Therefore, a second component of the project will seek to identify a much larger number of trafficking victims, for more detailed statistical analyses.

Assuming that trafficking survivors, while rare, are likely to be geographically clustered, the second component of the survey will seek to target and over-sample geographic and demographic subgroups perceived to be especially vulnerable to trafficking. Oversamples of approximately 3500 individuals will be selected and interviewed (for a total of approximately 5000 interviews). The targeted oversamples should maximize the number of trafficking victims identified, increasing the possibilities for meaningful statistical analyses. Because the victim subsamples are not national probability samples, they will be weighted post-hoc based on national census characteristics and according to the characteristics of the baseline KAP sample.

Victim Identification: Collecting victim oversamples is only half of the challenge of the victimization survey. The other half is persuading victims to identify themselves as such and to answer sensitive questions about their experiences. Several strategies will be used. First, respondents will be read a definition of trafficking and asked whether it has ever happened to them. Second, respondents also will be asked about their work histories and whether they have ever suffered any of a variety of common indicators of trafficking such as having their documents confiscated, being locked up at night and held *in communicado*. This will help to identify “hidden victims” who are either are unaware or do not want to publicly admit they were trafficked. Third, a variety of recent ideas have been advanced in survey research to encourage and facilitate responses to sensitive questions. These include:

1. Secret Ballots in which respondents are asked to mark their responses to sensitive questions on paper ballots (i.e. answer sheets which they are provided) devoid of any identification and, then, to seal the ballots in an envelope containing only the survey identification number. Respondents are thus assured that no one will know their answers until the survey is opened by the research firm, by which time the victim will have disappeared back into the community.
2. List Experiments in which half of the respondents in the survey, randomly chosen, are given a list of three experiences of varying probabilities (i.e., having read a book, having been unemployed, having received medical attention, ) and asked how many of the three they have done/experienced in the past year. The other half of respondents will be given the same question but with a fourth experience (having been forced to work against my will). Since the groups are randomly selected, the difference in the mean number of experiences reported by the two groups measures the incidence of forced work without requiring anyone to publicly admit to being a victim.

The survey will experiment with both methods, randomly using each with one-quarter of the targeted sample, with the remaining half of respondents being asked directly a standard C-TIP question as to whether they have ever been forced to work against their will.

Those who self-identify as victims or are identified as hidden victims will, then, be asked an extensive battery of questions about the circumstances of their victimization, escape and subsequent rehabilitation.

The sampling frame for the first 1,500 interviews shall be a multi-level stratified sample with Probabilities Proportional to Population Size (PPP). Age and gender quotas may be used be used at the household level to facilitate representation by gender and age and limit call backs. A Honduran survey research firm will be identified to conduct the field work. Interviews likely will average 45 minutes in length.

The sample shall be representative down to the level of Departments.

The survey is likely to be complex with numerous skip questions, a need to randomize response options for numerous questions, and the possible use of survey experiments and list questions (requiring the random selection of respondents into treatment and control groups) so the use of electronic, hand-held devices is essential.

Deliverables shall include a detail sampling frame, survey results in machine-readable form (SPSS or STATA), post-stratification weights, and a final, technical report describing the work completed, any problems or issues encountered, and how such issues were overcome. A top-line report summarizing the data disaggregated by three covariates to be chosen by the Mission also will be provided as will a final report analyzing the data in detail and making recommendations based on the results for strengthening USAID/Honduras C-TIP policies and programs.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

The Contractor will:

1. Lead the development of an English language survey instrument
2. Conduct a scoping trip to Honduras in March/April 2015 to gather information for instrument design and identify issues for survey implementation.
3. Provide an individual to serve as Principal Investigator for the study and liaison with USAID/Honduras and other key stakeholders.
4. Consult with USAID/Honduras, gain approval from the Mission on the survey instrument and with necessary Government of Honduras institutions.
5. Analyze the results and produce a final report of findings and recommendations.
6. Adhere to the survey research principles and policies adopted by the Americas Barometer detailed on their website.
7. Provide for the translation of the USAID English-language survey instrument into two languages and dialects including: Spanish and possibly Garifuna. Pre-testing of the translated instrument must take place in all languages in which the study will be conducted. Translation must be completed within 14 days of contracting by the data collection firm and receipt of the USAID-provided survey instrument.
8. Contract for and oversee the survey field work.
   1. Surveys must be conducted with electronic tablets (or other hand held devices approved by USAID) rather than paper questionnaires. Tablets must be properly programmed to account for all languages used in field work. Tablet software must be capable of randomizing unlimited numbers of question response sets. Geo-codes should be recorded for all interviews -- if not automatically by the hand held devices then by some other means.
   2. Survey work must be completed by a professional Latin American-based survey firm that is experienced doing nationwide population surveys in Honduras. They also need to have extensive experience conducting surveys in unstable environments, and be willing to do so with this survey.
   3. The survey firm will be responsible for administering a survey with a nationwide sample of 5,000 including oversamples. Surveys shall be face-to-face in the respondent’s household. A minimum of two call backs shall be required to interview a selected individual before replacement with a new household. No more than ten percent of households and not more than 8 households in total may be selected from any final enumeration area.
   4. The survey firm also shall provide appropriate post-weights to insure that the final sample is nationally representative.
9. Ensure proper selection and adequate training of field supervisions and enumerators normally consisting of a week-long training regimen.
10. Provide oversight of survey implementation by individual(s) or organization(s) with appropriate local language skills and familiarity, experience with Honduran survey research.
    1. There must be one trained field supervisor for every five enumerators.
    2. Check backs shall be performed on at least one in eight completed surveys.
11. Secure IRB approval for the project.
12. Provide a complete, cleaned data set in SPSS or STATA including appropriate sample weights within one month of the completion of the field work.
13. Provide a top-line report providing descriptions of key variables disaggregated by age, region and gender plus a brief executive summary.
14. Provide a final report and policy recommendations within three months of the completion of the field work.
15. Provide a survey implementation plan and management and monitoring arrangement. The Contractor is required to submit a plan for approval that describes the survey implementation arrangements, the qualifications of the survey firm, and the plan to ensure the monitoring and oversight so that survey quality control procedures are both established and followed.

USAID/Honduras will:

1. Designate an activity manager and provide in-country supervision of the project.
2. Cooperate with the contractor in organizing the scoping trip and facilitating the contractor’s access to appropriate Mission and U.S. Embassy officials working on C-TIP programs, Government of Honduras C-TIP officials and partner NGOs working in the area.
3. Provide feedback to the contractor on the survey sub-contractor, if needed.

USAID Human Rights and Learning Divisions will

1. Work with contractor to ensure timely progress of survey.
2. Consult as needed/requested with USAID Honduras and with the Contractor and Principal Investigator.
3. Review and advise on the final Sampling Plan and English language Questionnaire.

**Management**

The COR will approve all deliverables, the budget and provide required authorizations. USAID/Honduras will provide a point person to serve as the activity manager especially during the field work.

**Expected Timeline**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Timeline** |
| SCOPING TRIP: The Contactor/Principal Investigator will conduct the Scoping Trip to the Honduras to consult on questionnaire design with the Mission, interested Government Agencies and NGOs; identifying population subgroups for targeted over-samples; and assessing the capacity of local survey research firms | March-April, 2015 |
| Survey Preparation: The Contractor will finalize the questionnaire, identify and contract with a local survey firm, supervise the translation of the survey, pretest and revise the questionnaire; finalize the sampling frame and over-samples; and train enumerators. | April-May 2015 |
| Field Work: Field work shall begin as soon as possible following the completion of the English language instrument and the contacting of a survey research firm. | June-July, 2015 |
| Completed Data Delivered to USAID | July, 2015 |
| Topline report | August 2015 |
| Final Report and Recommendations | October 2015 |

# ANNEX B: HONDURAS HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAW



Decree 59-2012

Law Against Trafficking of People HONDURAS

The Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras, CICESCT (Comisión Interinstitucional Contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial y Trata de Personas de Honduras), began its activities approximately in 2002 as part of the international demand facing the commitments acquired by the State of Honduras during the First World Conference held in Stockholm, Sweden, and the Second held in Yokohama, Japan, to prevent and eradicate the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

This commitment, which includes among other aspects, the creation of an inter-institutional space which promotes such actions, signaled the beginning of CICESCT. One of the first actions was to impulse the legislative reform so that the crimes of commercial sexual exploitation of children are penalized; as well as the creation and implementation of a National Action Plan Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in.

Throughout a decade of operating, the CICESCT has had many lessons learned, but, the pass of various governments and what this means regarding sensibilization and awareness on the issue, the actions have been sustainable in time and space.

A relevant aspect is the success obtained in the fight against the sexual exploitation of children in the different areas of action – prevention, prosecution of crime, and the care to victims – which signaled the need to address the Trafficking of People from the inter-institutional space, given that in Honduras nobody was taking on the challenge which we also were obliged to attend as a country.

The fight against the Trafficking of People implied for the Commission to start actions that went from the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Repress, and Sanction the Trafficking of People, especially Women and Children, up to the most recent achievement which has been publishing a Special Law Against the Trafficking of People.

There is no doubt that the fight against this type of crime is not easy, it implies great efforts, sometimes discouraged by the lac at the high levels and the lack of budget, but it has been evidenced that the efficient coordination and the sum of the will is fundamental for achieving those goals.

We have to mention and recognize the permanent companionship of some Civil Society organizations, Cooperation Organisms, and the United States Embassy, who have always been there to strengthen the implemented actions; without their support nothing would have been possible. To them, thank you.

Another aspect we are obliged to mention is that up to now, no exclusive budget account has been found by the State in order to fight against these scourges, all actions have been carried out with what each institution part of the Commission has assigned to the issue from their small budgets, and as was said before, with finding coming from the international cooperation and the organizations of civil society in counterpart of the State institutions. This shows that volunteering, attitude, and commitment have marked the difference with many other inter-institutional spaces; this effort must continue and must consolidate itself more for the benefit of society.

Today, we are here taking on this challenge as CICESCT and it is the effective enforcement of the Law Against the Trafficking of People, with a different view since there are now legal dispositions that mandate the assignment of budget to combat these crimes. There is no doubt that the challenge is greater; we do not doubt that more achievements will come and more satisfaction so that less people become victims; and those who inevitably are survivors to this cruel crime may re-integrate themselves fully to the family and community. Let’s take on the challenge.

Nora Urbina

President

Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation

and Trafficking of People

CICESCT

Legislative Power

Decree No. 59-2012

National Congress,

**CONSIDERING**: That the State of Honduras has ratified, among other, la following international normative to combat the crime of Trafficking of human beings: United Nations Convention against Organized Delinquency and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Sanction the Trafficking of People, especially Women and Children, as well as the Protocol against the Illicit Traffic of immigrants through Land, Sea, and Air; the Convention on the Rights of Children and its Facultative Protocols, regarding the Selling of Children, Child Pornography and the use of Children in Pornography, and the use of Children in Armed Conflicts; Agreements 29, 105 and 182 of IOT regarding the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, Agreement 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to labor, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, subscribed by Honduras in 1990 and ratified in 1992; Agreement for the Repression of the Trafficking of People and Exploitation of Prostitution, currently in force since 1992, the American Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American Convention against the International Trafficking of Minors, as well as the Constitution of the Republic recognizes in a judicial higher rank to the law, those Treaties properly current for Honduras. Those which are part of its internal rights.

**CONSIDERING**: That, in conformity with the international and/or regional conventions to which the State of Honduras is part of, it is necessary to take measures to prevent the Trafficking of People, punish those who traffic and those who help and to protect the victims of such traffic, including the protection of their human rights, as is established with the other international accords, the Declaration and Action Program Against the Commercial Sexual exploitation of Children, celebrated in Stockholm, Sweden in 1996.

**CONSIDERING**: That the Political Constitution affirms that: “The human person is the supreme end of society and the State. All have the obligation to respect and protect it. The dignity of a human being is inviolable.” Taking into account that all measures and initiatives that are adopted against the Trafficking of People must not be discriminative and must take into account the equality between genders, and a focus adapted to the needs of children.

**CONSIDERING**: That the grave crime of Traffic Human Beings is a dilictive modality both nationally and transnationally , and that it affects especially women and children; and that in order to dissuade the activity of the traffickers and bring them into justice, it is necessary to penalize adequately the Trafficking of People, prescribe an appropriate penalty, give priority to the investigation and trial of the crime of Trafficking of People and help protect the victims of the crimes, this being a criminal figure of the Trafficking of Human Beings which is a similar practice to slavery and which attempts against the human rights of its victims, and that many compatriots have been or could be victims of these criminal networks; which makes it a priority the need to have an integral normative framework for the prevention, combat and care of the victims of Trafficking of People.

**CONSIDERING**: That it is a power of national Congress, as indicated in ARTICLE 205 attribute 1) of the Constitution of the Republic to create, decree, interpret, reform and derogate the laws.

THEREFORE; DECREES:

The following:

Law Against Trafficking of People

**CHAPTER I**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**ARTICLE 1.- OBJECTIVE, END AND NATURE OF THE LAW.** The current law has as end to define the judicial and institutional framework necessary for the prevention and combat of the Trafficking of People and the care of its victims. The current Law is special for public order and of indefinite duration.

**ARTICLE 2.- OBJECTIVES.** The current Law has as objective to adopt the necessary measures to:

**1)** Create public policy for the prevention of the Trafficking of People;

**2)** Produce the necessary normative to strengthen the sanction of the Trafficking of People;

**3)** Define a specific and complementary framework for the protection and assistance of the victims of the Trafficking of People;

**4)** Bring the restitution and promotion of the rights of the victims; and,

**5)** Structure, impulse and facilitate the national and international cooperation in the issue of the Trafficking of People.

**ARTICLE 3.- GENERAL PRINCIPLES**. For the enforcement of this Law, the following principles will be taken into account;

**1) PRINCIPLE OF THE UNIVERSALITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS**: In all provisions oriented to the prevention of the crime of Trafficking of People, as with the protection and care of the people declared victims or potential victims, it must be taken as basis the respect and restitution of their fundamental human rights. For all effects, it must be considered with special condition, the specifics by gender, age, incapacity and disability;

**2) PRINCIPLE OF NO DISCRIMINATION:** With independence to the penal or Administrative process carried out for the investigation of the crime of Trafficking of People, the provisions contained in this Law must be applied in such a manner as to warrantee the no discrimination of the people victims of this crime, by motives of ethnic group, gender, age, language, religion, sexual orientation, public opinion or of any other nature, origin, nationality, economic position or any other social or immigration condition;

**3) PRINCIPLE OF PROTECTION**: It is considered prime the protection of life, physical integrity, liberty and security of the people who are victims of the crime of Trafficking of People, the witnesses of the crime and the people who are dependent or related to the people who are victims, who are under threat, before, during and after the process, without the obligation of the people who are victims to collaborate with the investigation as requirement for them to be awarded protection.

When the person who is victim is a child or adolescent, the higher interest and all the fundamental human rights must be taken into account, as provided in the national and international current normative;

**4) PRINCIPLE OF SUITABILITY OF THE MEASURE**: The measures for assistance and protection must be applied according to the particular case and the special needs of the people who are victims always for their benefit;

**5) PRINCIPLE OF CONFIDENTIALITY:** All the administrative or jurisdiction information related with the protection of the people who are victims of the crime of Trafficking of People, their dependents, people related to them and the witnesses of the crime, will be of confidential character, therefore the use shall be reserved exclusively for the ends of the investigation or of the respective process.

This obligation is extended to all judicial and administrative instances, public and private;

**6) PRINCIPLE NO RE-VICTIMIZATION:** In the processes regulated by this Law, the people who are officials and employed by the institutions, public and private, must avoid all action or omission which hinders the physical, mental, or psychic state of the victim, including the exposure to the communications media, and act at all moments in strict adherence to the respect of the fundamental human rights of the people affected by the crime of Trafficking of People;

**7) PRINCIPLE OF PARTICIPATION AND OF INFORMATION:** The opinions and the specific needs of the people who are victims must be taken into consideration when any type of decision is made which concerns their interest. In the case of the children and the adolescents, the right of expression must be warranted at all stages of the process, tending always to their superior interest;

**8) SUPERIOR INTEREST OF THE CHILD:** In all actions that are adopted regarding the Children, the superior interest of the child must be the main consideration, warranting their correct re-integration into society, through the exercise, enjoyment and restitution of their hindered rights, recognizing the person under eighteen (18) years of age as title bearer of rights favoring the decisions made; and,

**9) PRINCIPLE OF NO RETURN:** When a person indicates to be a victim of Trafficking, the humanitarian principle of no return to the State where they come from will be applied, or to third States where they manifest fear of returning. This without hindering the right of the current Law granted to the national territory, according to the immigration laws.

**ARTICLE 4.- SCOPE OF APPLICATION**. This law is applied to the prevention and sanction of all forms of Trafficking of People may it be national or transnational, may it be related or not to organized crime, and the care and protection of the people who are victims of these crimes, and the restitution of their rights. In case of the children and adolescents, one must attend the provisions established in the Code of Childhood and Adolescence, contained in the Decree No.73-96 dated May 30th, 1996.

**ARTICLE 5.- APPLICABLE NORMATIVE**. Constitute sources of application of this Law all international and national instruments of human rights, current in the country, or any that are subscribed or ratified by Honduras regarding this matter.

In particular, will be applicable normative:

**1)** The Constitution of the Republic;

**2)** Current Treaties and Agreements in Honduras;

**3)** The current Law;

**4)** The Code of Childhood and Adolescence;

**5)** The Penal Code;

**6)** The Penal Processing Code; and,

**7)** Other national legislation related.

**CHAPTER II**

**DEFINITIONS**

**ARTICLE 6. - DEFINITIONS**. For the effects of the current Law, it will be understood that:

**1) TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE:** The catchment, transport, movement, taking and reception of people, by threat or use of force or any other forms of coaction, kidnaping, fraud, deception, abuse of power or a vulnerability situation, or the concession or reception of payment or benefits to obtain the consent by a person who has authority over another, with the goal of exploitation. This exploitation includes, as minimum, the exploitation for prostitution or any other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or analog practices of slavery, servitude or the extraction of organs.

**2) SERVITUDE**: State of dependency or submission of the will where the person who is victimizer through any means induces, obliges or conditions the person who is victim of Trafficking of People to perform acts, work or services.

**3) SLAVERY OR ANALOG PRACTICES:** The State or condition of an individual over which the attributes of the right of property or some of them, are applied.

**4) FORCED WORK OR SERVICE**: It is understood as the forced work or service all work or service demanded to a person under threat of damage or the payment of a spurious debt.

**5) FORCED BEGGING**: Person who obliges another with the use of deception, threat, abuse of power relationships or any other form of violence, to ask for money in public places to obtain a benefit that does not favor the victim.

**6) FORCED PREGNANCY:** When a woman is induced by force, deception or any other means of violence to become pregnant, with the objective of selling the minor, product of the same.

**7) FORCED OR SERVILE MARRIAGE:** All institution or practice in virtue of which a person, without the assistance of the right to oppose, is promised or given in marriage in exchange of a counterpart of money or kind, given to the father, mother, tutor, family members or any other person or group of people. The forced or servile marriage may also occur when a person contracts marriage under deception and is forced to sexual and/or labor servitude.

**8) ORGAN, FLUID, OR HUMAN TISSUE TRAFFICKING:** Transport or ceasing of organs, fluids, or human tissues with the objective of obtaining an economic benefit.

**9) SELLING OF PEOPLE:** All act or transaction through which a person is sold to another or a group of people in exchange for payment or any other form of benefit.

**10) COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE):** The use of people in activities with sexual objectives where there exists a payment or promise of payment for the victim or a third party who commercializes with the person.

**11) IRREGULAR ADOPTION**: It is produced when the adoption is equal to a sale, in other words, the case where children and adolescents have been taken away, kidnaped or given in adoption with or without the consent of the parents, tutors, or family members.

**12) RECRUITING OF PEOPLE UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES:** The use of children in the activities of Organized crime, as defined in the Palermo Agreement.

**13) PEOPLE DEPENDENT AND/OR RELATED TO THE VICTIM**: The people who are dependent or are related to the victim include: All those people who the victim of Trafficking have under their care or are obliged to support, them being members of the nuclear family within the fourth degree of consanguinity and the second degree of affinity, or kinship due to adoption and/or who have been present with the person who is victim of Trafficking during the committing of the crime, as well as all the people who because of their relationship with the person who is victim, find themselves in a risk situation as consequence of their direct or indirect intervention in the investigation of the crime or in the rescue process and caring of the victim;

**14) REINTEGRATION**: Orderly, planned and consesuated process with the person who is victim of Trafficking that supports their integral recuperation on the long term and the full restitution of their human rights in society.

**15) RESTITUTION OF RIGHTS:** It is understood as the return of the person who is victim to the enjoyment of their fundamental human rights, especially in family life when this does not imply risk, the return to a place of residence when it is safe, and the re-integration to work, including the possibility of continuous training and the return of assets that where taken by force or deception by the traffickers, respecting the rights of third parties, in good faith.

**16) REPETITION:** It includes the rights that the Honduran State has to carry out the necessary legal actions tending to recover the expenses incurred by the caring, protection and re-integration process for the victim.

**CHAPTER III**

**OF THE ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE, ROLES AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

**ARTICLE 7. CREATION OF THE COMMISSION**. Be created the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT) (Comisión Interinstitucional Contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial y Trata de Personas), with the purpose of promoting, articulating, monitoring and evaluating the actions directed to the prevention and eradication of this phenomena in its diverse manifestations through the management and implementation of public policies specialized in the matter.

The Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT) will work as a decentralized organism of the Secretariat of State in the Office of Justice and Human Rights, and will have legal recognition, organizative, technical, financial and budgetary autonomy.

**ARTICLE 8. INTEGRATION**. The Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT) will be integrated by the officer or representative of the following Public Institutions:

**1)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Justice and Human Rights;

**2)** Supreme Court of Justice;

**3)** National Congress through the commissions linked to the topic;

**4)** Public Ministry (District attorney’s Office);

**5)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Security;

**6)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Finance;

**7)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Interior and Population;

**8)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Foreign Relations;

**9)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Education;

**10)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Health;

**11)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Labor and Social Security;

**12)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Social Development;

**13)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Tourism;

**14)** Technical Secretariat for Planning and Foreign Cooperation;

**15)** Secretariat of State in the Office of Indigenous People and African Descendants;

**16)** National Commissioner for Human Rights;

**17)** Honduran institute for Childhood and Family;

**18)** National Institute of Youth;

**19)** National Institute of Women;

**20)** Presidential regional Commissioners;

**21)** Association of Municipalities of Honduras; and,

**22)** A representative of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) accredited who work in the topic of this Commission, who will assist with the right to speak and vote.

For the effects of making its functioning more efficient, the assembly of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), by simple majority will proceed to elect a Directive Board, integrated by seven (7) members, with duration of two (2) years.

The members of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT) and the Directive Board to which is referred in the present ARTICLE will perform their functions in ad honorem form since they are people with a salary in each of the institutions they represent.

**ARTICLE 9. OBJECT OF THE COMMISSION**. The object of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT) is to promote the coordination of the actions towards prevention, care and eradication of these crimes in their diverse manifestations.

**ARTICLE 10. ATTRIBUTES**. The Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT) will have the following attributes:

**1)** Coordinate at the national level the actions carried out by public and private Institutions in order to sensibilize, prevent, care for the victims and actions to combat the crimes of commercial sexual exploitation and Trafficking of People;

**2)** Impulse the legal protection and integral care of the victims form the focus of human rights;

**3)** Contribute to the prevention of risk factors at the local and national level;

**4)** Promote the eradication of the phenomenon of Trafficking of People as well as the sexual exploitation in their different manifestations;

**5)** Impulse the participation of children in the different actions oriented towards prevention;

**6)** Monitor the country actions for the prevention and eradication of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and the Trafficking of People;

**7)** Contribute to the development of regional initiatives for the prevention and eradication of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and the Trafficking of People; and,

**8)** Name the Executive Secretary.

**ARTICLE 11. RESOLUTIONS**. The decisions and resolutions will be made by half plus one of the assisting members in the first call or in agreement with those who assist on the next call.

It is the duty of the officials from the State Institutions which form part of the directive board to assist to the meetings. If they cannot assist, they must substitute their representation with an accredited official for the effect, who will then assist with full faculties for decision on issues that concern the assembly.

**ARTICLE 12. ORGANIZATION**. The directorship and administration of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT) will be performed through the following organisms:

**1)** Directive Board;

**2)** Executive Secretary; and,

**3)** Consulting and technical advisory organism.

**ARTICLE 13. ATTRIBUTES OF THE DIRECTIVE BOARD**. Are attributes of the Directive Board:

**1)** Execute the resolutions, policies and guidelines adopted by the assembly of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT);

**2)** Promote the interaction, coordination and cooperation among the Public Institutions, non-governmental and international cooperation organisms, to carry out actions towards the prevention, promotion and eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and the Trafficking of People;

**3)** Act as consultation, advisorship and control organism of other dependencies and entities of public administration, as well as the regional, departmental and municipal authorities and the social and private sectors when these require the discussion and follow up on the actions in matters of prevention and eradication of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and the Trafficking of People;

**4)** Convene, through the Executive Secretariat, to ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT) according to the Code;

**5)** Indicate the guidelines to the Executive Secretary; and,

**6)** The other to be delegated by the assembly of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT).

**ARTICLE 14. TECHNICAL ORGANISM**. The Executive Secretary: will be named by the Directive Board of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), based on public call and according to the reference terms for the contracting, who will be the legal and administrative representative of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT). The duration of the position will be of three (3) years, extendable, the exercise of its functions will be at full time, having to comply with the following requirements:

**1)** Be Honduran by birth;

**2)** Be above twenty-five (25) tears of age;

**3)** Of recognized honorability; and,

**4)** Professional preferably in the social area, and/or recognized experience and authority in the matter.

**ARTICLE 15. FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**. Are functions of the Executive Secretary:

**1)** Execute, plan, organize, manage, and supervise the administrative, operative, economic, and financial tasks of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), according to the instructions established by the Directive Board;

**2)** Facilitate and support the inter-institutional coordination and articulation processes of the State entities responsible for the direct execution of the national plans;

**3)** Solve in the first instance the cases that the Directive Board expressively delegates;

**4)** Act as Secretary of the Directive Board;

**5)** Supervise the correct execution of the accords of the Directive Board;

**6)** Coordinate the celebration of acts, agreements and contracts with public and private entities, both national and international;

**7)** The coordination of the elaboration and the articulation of the action plans at the national and international level, as well as the administration, finances and international relationships, according to the guidelines established by the Directive Board;

**8)** Convene the ordinary meetings which will be held once a month, and extraordinary meetings when necessary;

**9)** Elaborate the annual report of the management performed by the Commission, which will be presented to the three (3) State powers and to the Public Ministry;

**10)** Coordinate the activities of the Immediate Response Team (Equipo de Respuesta Inmediata - ERI);

**11)** Elaborate the Annual operative Plan (Plan Operativo Anual - POA) and its budget for the corresponding fiscal exercise;

**12)** Define the compliance indicators for the goals of the Annual Operative Plan and maintain a supervision and monitoring system of the member entities; and,

**13)** Other which are established in the corresponding Code.

**ARTICLE 16. ORGANISMS FOR CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY**. Will be incorporated as members of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), with character of organisms for consultation and technical advisory the organizations of civil society, private sector and guilds, specialized professionals, universities, regional and international cooperation entities that work in the prevention, recuperation, and social re-insertion of victims. Their participation will be joint with the execution of the guidelines and national action plans, as well as, other actions in favor of the eradication of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and the Trafficking of People. These sectors will be invited formally to assist to the meetings of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT).

**ARTICLE 17. ECONOMIC RESOURCES**. For the compliance with the objectives of this Law, the Secretariat of State in the Office of Finance will assign in the Income and Expense Budget of the Republic, an annual budget account necessary for the rational and efficient functioning of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), according to the budget presented by the same. Each institution, it being the central government, decentralized or municipal, must assign the budget accounts in their pre-project budget, for the effects of complying with the respective competencies within the framework of the national action plans in each fiscal year.

Also the Commission will have the following resources:

**1)** The contributions and subventions received from diverse institutions;

**2)** Donations, inheritances and legacies, as well as from the national and international cooperation of licit sources, from natural or judicial people, public or private, of which it will be accountable through a special report according to the norms and procedures regulated by the Supreme Account Tribunal, the institutions or people who bring the respective cooperation;

**3)** Those granted by special laws;

**4)** The funds that come from the administration or sale of assets product of the crime of Trafficking of People who are seized; and,

**5)** All other obtained through any title.

The Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), will destine a maximum of thirty percent (30%) of its financial resources to the Fund for the Care of Victims of Trafficking of People (Fondo para la Atención de Victimas de Trata de Personas - FOAVIT) and a ten percent (10%) to the operation of the Immediate Response Team. Such resources shall be ruled by the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT).

The resources referred in the present Article may not be transferred to other ends than those established by Law.

**ARTICLE I8. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TEAM**. Create the Immediate Response Team (Equipo de Respuesta Inmediata - ERI) coordinated by the Executive Secretary of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), which will have as main:

**1)** Interview possible victims of Trafficking of People detected by the authorities in the process of investigation or in cases in flagrancy and accredited as victims of the crime; and,

**2)** Recommend the measures for the care which could be primary or secondary applicable to each person victim.

The team will be integrated by technical representatives specialized in the crime of Trafficking of People of the institutions designated by the Directive Board.

The form of operation of the Immediate Response Team will be detailed in the Code for the current Law.

**ARTICLE 19. NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION ON TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE**. The National System of Information on Trafficking of People (Sistema Nacional de Información sobre Trata de Personas - SNITdP) will be a recollection, processing and analysis instrument for the statistical and academic information on the characteristics and dimensions of the internal and external Trafficking in Honduras; its causes and effects, and will serve as a basis for the formulation of policies, strategic plans, and programs, as well as to measure the compliance with the objectives indicates in the national plans.

The Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), will create, develop, coordinate and maintain the operation of such System through the Executive Secretary who, will collect and systematize the information being gathered by the different units and entities that integrate the Commission and the results of the academic, social, judicial and criminological investigations. These data will be updated periodically.

The public and private institutions and the organisms of the State that manage information related to the Trafficking of People, shall deliver it to the Executive Secretary for the corresponding registry in The National System of Information on Trafficking of People (SNITdP). In no case, the data shall refer to issues of legal reserve.

The data entered into the National System of Information on Trafficking of People (SNITdP) may be disclosed to the public, in number summaries, reports and statistics that do not include personal data of the victims or of judicial character and that do not allow for the deduction of any information of individual character that may be used with discriminatory ends or threaten the rights to life, liberty and personal integrity of the victims.

**CHAPTER IV**

**OF THE FUND FOR THE CARING OF THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE**

**ARTICLE 20. FUND FOR THE CARING OF VICTIMS**. Constitute the Fund for the Caring of the Victims of the Trafficking of People (Fondo para la Atención de Victimas de la Trata de Personas y Actividades Conexas - FOAVIT) which will be integrated according to what is determined in the current Law.

He same will be destined exclusively for the caring and social re-integration of the victims of the Trafficking of People.

The amounts of money that correspond to the Fund will be deposited in a special account through the procedure and regulation to be determined in the Code of the current Law.

**CHAPTER V**

**OF THE PREVENTION**

**ARTICLE 21. CONCEPT**. By prevention will be understood the application of all those actions of preparation, delimitation and planning towards anticipating, lessening and preventing the criminal phenomenon of Trafficking of People, in its different modalities.

**ARTICLE 22. MEASURES OF PREVENTION.** It corresponds to the institutions of the State defined in this Law, its Code, and in the national Plan Against the Trafficking of People, according to its competencies, assign the personnel and resources necessary for the formulation of plans and permanent programs for the disclosure and training and the application of concrete measures that discourage the demand for Trafficking of People, facilitate its detection and alert the population in general and specially the officials of the public and private entities on the existence and effects of this criminal phenomenon.

The request for resources for the prevention of the Trafficking of People is extended to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and organized groups from civil society. These must be accredited as having an Action Plan on the subject, as well as a detail of their related programs and projects.

**ARTICLE 23. CAMPAIGNS**. The Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), under the protection of the Law of the Emission of Thought, will manage the free procurement, of weekly sensibilization spaces and campaigns in the communication media destined for education and orientation campaigns directed to combat the Trafficking of People in all its modalities, without prejudice of the space that can be dedicated to other public health campaigns. The Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), will coordinate these spaces.

**CHAPTER VI**

**OF THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF THE VICTIMS**

**ARTICLE 24. CONCEPT OF VICTIM.** The person who has suffered harm, including physical or mental lesions, emotional suffering, financial loss or impairment of their fundamental rights, as consecuence of the crime of Trafficking of People. Will considered a victim the person, with arrangement to the current Law, independently of being identified, apprehended, judicialized or sentenced the author person of such crime. In the expression “victim” is also included, in its case, the family members or people to their charge who have an immediate relationship with the direct victim and the people who have suffered harm upon intervening to assist the victim in danger or to prevent the victimization.

**ARTICLE 25. RIGHTS**. Are Rights of the victims of the crime of Trafficking of People:

**1)** Receive immediate and integral care;

**2)** Protection in their physical and emotional integrity;

**3)** Receive clear and comprehensible information on their legal and immigration status in an idiom, media or language they understand according to their age, level of maturity or disability condition, or any other situation, as well as access to free legal representation;

**4)** Immigration protection including the right to remain in Honduras, in conformity with what is provided in the current Law and receive the documentation de certifies such circumstance;

**5)** To be facilitated to them the voluntary return to their country to the place where their living address is located;

**6)** To be facilitated to them the re-settlement when the circumstances determine the need for their transport to a third country;

**7)** The integral repair of the harm suffered;

**8)** The protection and restitution of the rights that were restricted, threatened or violated; and,

**9)** Other that are determined in the national and international laws.

In the case of children and adolescents who are victims of Trafficking of People, beyond the rights that have been mentioned, it will be warranted that the procedures recognize their specific needs resulting from their condition of subjects in development of their personality. Their reintegration into their family nucleus or community will be seeked, if it is determined by the superior interest and the circumstance of the case, when the case involves people who are victims in condition of disability their special needs will be cared for.

The rights cited in this Article are integral, unresignable and undivisable.

**ARTICLE 26. MEASURES FOR THE PRIMARY CARE OF THE VICTIMS.** These measures will be applied during the first seventy two (72) hours after the authorities have information of a case of Trafficking of People through the process of investigation or in flagrancy. These measures of assisting victims must include:

**1)** That they are provided the necessary supplies to attend their basic needs for personal hygiene, food, health and clothing;

**2)** Health care and medical assistance necessary, including, when proceeding and with the due confidentiality, the testing for HIV and detoxification and other diseases;

**3)** Have available adequate and safe shelter. In no case people who are victims of the crime of Trafficking of People will be sheltered in jails, penitentiaries, police or administrative locations destined to the accommodation of people who are arrested, processed or sentenced;

**4)** Advisorship and legal and psico-social assistance to the victims and their families, in a confidential manner and with full respect to the intimacy of the interested person, in an idiom, media and language they comprehend; and,

**5)** Translation and interpretation services according to the nationality, customs, and disability condition.

In all forms possible and when it corresponds, it will also be provided the assistance to the family members or people to their charge who have an immediate relationship with the direct victim and the people who have suffered harm upon intervening to assist the victim in danger or to prevent the victimization.

They will be provided with all services for assistance to the victim taking into account their specific and special requirements.

These measures will be determined in the technical report by the specialized personnel form the Immediate Response Team (ERI), except in the cases where because of the circumstances of distance or communication the authorities of the place where the victim was found must decide.

**ARTICLE 27. SECONDARY CARE MEASURES FOR THE VICTIMS.** These measures are associated with the process of prolonged assistance to the surviving victim of the Trafficking of People and are implemented on the medium and long term. Are carried out by different entities in accordance with their institutional roles and responsibilities and include:

**1)** Improvement of the physical and mental state of the victim with the treatment that is necessary;

**2)** Provide a temporary immigration condition, prolonged or permanent, when it corresponds and in accordance with a technical detailed analysis and in consensus with the victim;

**3)** Manage, when it corresponds, and with acceptance of the victim, the sending back to their country and resettlement; and,

**4)** Apply the coordination measures necessary between the institutions in order to have proper and safe accommodations and opportunities for study and work.

These measures will be determined in the technical report by the specialized personnel form the Immediate Response Team (ERI).

**ARTICLE 28. SPECIALIZED CENTERS OR PLACES FOR THE CARRYING OF THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE.** The State will provide the necessary resources for the creation and integration of the adequate installations and programs for the integral care of the victims that survived the Trafficking of People, nationals or foreigners, or contribute with the private organizations that provide those services. The centers or areas for care will be integrated by specialized multi-disciplinary teams and will be administrated by personnel from public and private institutions.

**ARTICLE 29. ACCREDITATION OF THE VICTIM.** The Immediate Response Team (ERI) is in charge of the process for accreditation of the victims of Trafficking of People. It will present reports which contain the technical criteria that backup the identification of the victim of Trafficking of People. The accreditation will be carried out through a technical procedure established and by professionals specially trained for this effect.

The procedure for the accreditation of victims will be defined in the Code for the current Law.

**ARTICLE 30. DOCUMENTATION OF THE PERSON VICTIM**. The national authorities in coordination with the diplomatic and consulate representatives of Honduras, must use all means necessary to achieve the positive identification of the victims of Trafficking of People, foreign or national that are found within or outside of the national territory and who do not have identification documents In the same manner will be proceeded with people to the charge of the victim when it corresponds. The absence of identification documents will not impede that the victim and their dependents have access to all the care or protection resources referred here in this Law.

**ARTICLE 31. PERIOD OF TEMPORAL PERMANENCE**. When the Immediate Response Team (ERI) emits a report that determines a foreign person as a victim of Trafficking of People and who must remain in temporal manner in the Honduran territory because of his recuperation and/or personal safety or to decide, with the necessary legal assistance, if to file a corresponding complaint; the General Directorship of Immigration and Foreingcy, will award the victim a temporal permanence permit for a minimum period of ninety (90) natural days. This permit will be extended to the people who depend directly from the victim.

If the victim is a minor, the permit of temporary permanence will include all the rights and benefits that are established by the international instruments and the national normative on the subjects regarding the superior interest.

In all cases, the victims have the option to apply to the refugee status.

**CHAPTER VII**

**OF THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND JUST TREATMENT**

**ARTICLE 32. HUMAN DIGNITY.** The victims of the Trafficking of People will be treated by officials and employees of the public and private institutions with consideration and respect to their dignity in strict maintenance to their fundamental human rights under penalty of the sanctions that the national legislation establishes.

**ARTICLE 33. RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND RESERVATION OF IDENTITY**. In no case will norms or administrative provisions be dictated that indicate the inscription of the person victim of Trafficking of People in a special registry, or that they are obliged to possess a special document that identifies them expressively as a victim.

**ARTICLE 34. PARTICIPATION OF THE VICTIM IN THE PROCESS.** The competent authorities in the judicial or administrative headquarters, should:

**1)** Inform the victims of their role as the scope, the chronological development and the march of acts, as well as the decision of their causes, especially when referring to grave crimes and when having requested that information;

**2)** Allow that the opinions and worries of the victims to be presented and examined in the different stages of the process, it being administrative or penal;

**3)** Give appropriate assistance to the victims during all the process it being penal or administrative;

**4)** Adopt measures to minimize the discomfort caused to the victims, protect their intimacy, in necessary case, and warrantee their safety, as well as their families and the witnesses in their favor, against all act of intimidation and reprisal; and,

**5)** Present interview or declaration in special conditions of protection and care.

**ARTICLE 35. PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF THE INFORMATION.** All the information related with a case of Trafficking of People is confidential, the information obtained in the process of investigation as well as the information provided by the victim and the witnesses in the judicial or administrative headquarters and in presence of officials from the private entities. It will be of exclusive use for judicial goals in the penal process by the parts directly interested and accredited. Be safe all the measures necessary for the protection of the identity and the accommodation of the victims, their dependents and the witnesses. This does not include information for statistical or academic effects.

All public and private institutions in charge of the identification, assistance to victims and persecution of the crime of Trafficking of People in the country, in common accord, will implement and apply a acting protocol which will be detailed in the Code for the current Law, on the reception, storage, provision and exchange of information related to the cases of Trafficking of People.

The legal complaint or interview of the victim and/or witnesses during the judicial or administrative acts, will be carried out with the due respect to their private life, and away of the presence of the public and the communication media.

The name, address, or any other information of identification, including images, of a victim of Trafficking of People, their families or people close to them, will not be disclosed or published in the communication media.

**ARTICLE 36. SPECIAL EXPERTISE.** When different expertise testing must be performed, like psychological or medical-legal testing, to the victims of the crime of Trafficking of People, as possible an inter-disciplinary team must be conformed, with the goal as to integrate, in the same session, the interviews that the victim requires, when that does not affect the performance of the expertise. It must be taken into account the superior interest, in the case of minors; and, in all cases, try to reduce or avoid at all times the re-victimization.

**ARTICLE 37. PROTECTION OF THE VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE IN THE PENAL PROCESS.** In case that the victim has formulated a legal complaint and is under threat, one will proceed in conformity to what has been established in Decree No.67-2007 dated May 28th, 2007, content of the Law for the Protection of Witnesses in the Penal Process, Code of Childhood and Adolescence and Process Code.

**ARTICLE 38. PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF THE PENAL PROCESS.** The victims of Trafficking of People that decide not to file a legal complaint or collaborate with the authorities, may receive protection upon situations of threat and with the previous assessment of the risk. The protection will be under the charge of the institution designated in the Code of the current Law. The protection in these cases will be carried out as part and complement of the primary and secondary care and with resources from the Fund for the Care of the Victims of the Trafficking of People and Related Activities (Fondo para la Atención de las Victimas de la Trata de Personas y Actividades Conexas - FOAVIT).

**ARTICLE 39. INTEGRAL REPRESENTATION OF THE VICTIM.** The victims of Trafficking of People may have free of charge services by a Professional Lawyer provided by the State, who will assist in all procedures and processes related with the him in the condition of victim of the crime, be it in the penal, civil, immigration, or administrative area. This includes the due representation in the civil action when it is required.

**CHAPTER VIII**

**OF THE PROCESS OF RE-INTEGRATION**

**ARTICLE 40. RESTITUTION.** The Honduran State through its institutions and the cooperation of civil organizations and international organisms must warrantee that the victims that survive the crime of Trafficking of People be restituted the exercise and enjoyment of their fundamental human rights, specially the life in family, the return to their place of residence when it is safe and the re-incorporation to work, including the possibility of continuous training and the return of assets of their property which were taken during the development of the activity of Trafficking of People, without prejudice of that established for third parties in good faith.

**ARTICLE 41. REPAIR OF DAMAGE.** The repair of damage must be warranted through the extra-judicial arrangement between the victimary and the victim, judicial and administrative mechanisms contemplated in the corresponding laws; the victims will be informed of their rights to obtain repair through these mechanisms.

**ARTICLE 42. COMPENSATION**. In the cases with firm sentencing, the people sentenced must compensate the victims, their families or the people under their charge. This compensation will include the return of the assets or the payment for damages or losses suffered, the reimbursement of the expenses carried out as consequence of the victimization, the rendering of services and the restitution of rights.

**ARTICLE 43. REPATRIATION.** The competent authorities must facilitate the repatriation of the victims of Trafficking of People, nationals in a foreign country or foreigners in the national territory, without inappropriate or unjustified delay, and with the due respect to their rights and dignity, through a previous analysis of the risk that could be generated by their return. For all effects the repatriation is voluntary and assisted. The diplomatic corresponding representations are obliged to collaborate for the due repatriation.

**ARTICLE 44. RE-SETTLEMENT.** The process of re-settlement will proceed when the victim or their dependents cannot return to their country of birth or residence and may not remain in Honduras due to threat or reasonable danger that affects their life, integrity and personal freedom.

In all processes the re-integration cited in this Chapter will respect the human rights of the victim and the people under their charge. Their opinion will be taken into account and confidentiality will be maintained regarding their condition as victim. These procedures will be developed in the Code of the current Law.

**ARTICLE 45. REFUGE.** The provisions in the current Law do not affect the rights, obligations and responsibilities of the State, international organizations and the people when applicable, the international normative on humanitarian rights specially the Convention on The Statute of the Refugees and its Protocol, as well as the principle of no return consecrated in such instruments.

**CHAPTER IX**

**PROVISIONS OF THE PROCESS**

**ARTICLE 46. CRIME OF PUBLIC ACTION.** The crime of Trafficking of People contemplated in the current Law and the pertaining normative are of public action.

**ARTICLE 47. NON PUNISHABLE.** The victims of the crime of Trafficking of People are not penal or administratively punishable for faults or crimes when the same occurred during the execution of the dilictive activity of Trafficking and as consequence of it.

**ARTICLE 48. DUTY TO DENUNCIATE.** The public officials are obliged to denunciate to the Public ministry any situation that constitutes reasonable suspicion of an activity of Trafficking of People.

**ARTICLE 49. ANTICIPATION OF PROOF.** The anticipation of proof will be applied in immediate form and in all cases when a person is accredited through the corresponding procedure as a victim of Trafficking of People and is available to render interview or declaration in the penal process; which will be ruled by the rules established in the Penal Processing Code.

The victim and witness declaration may beyond the forms established in the Penal Processing Code, be rendered through the use of the Gesell Chamber and the Video Conference System.

**ARTICLE 50. RESARCITORY CIVIL ACTION.** When a tribunal declares the accused penalty responsible of the crime of Trafficking of People, he will also be sentenced to pay for the repair of damages provoked to the victim. The civil sentencing must include, according to the particularities of the case:

**1)** The costs of the medical treatment;

**2)** The costs of the psychological care and the physical and occupational rehabilitation;

**3)** The costs of transportation, including the return to their place of origin or transportation to another country when it corresponds, food expenses, provisional housing and care of minors under Eighteen (18) years of age, which were incurred;

**4)** The lost income;

**5)** The resarcicing of the occurred prejudice;

**6)** The indemnization for the moral damage; and,

**7)** The resarcicing derived by any other loss suffered by the victim which was generated by the committing of the crime.

The immigration status of the victim or their absence due to the return to their country of origin, residence or third country, will not hinder that the tribunal orders the payment of an indemnization with agreement to the current Article. Through the diplomatic channels established and with the support of the information given by the Public Ministry, all procedures necessary will be performed to locate the victim and inform of the judicial resolution which grants the resarcitory benefit.

**ARTICLE 51. RIGHT OF REPETITION.** The Honduran State will apply in all cases the right of repetition against a person accused when there is a firm sentencing. This right will apply the costs of the State in the process of care, protection and re-integration of the victim of the crime.

**CHAPTER X**

**PENAL PROVISIONS**

**ARTICLE 52. TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE**. Incurs in the crime of Trafficking of People, who facilitates, promotes or executes the catchment, retention, transport, transfer, delivery, sheltering or the reception of people, within or outside of the national territory, to be forced into servitude, slavery or its analog practices, forced work or services, forced begging or pregnancy, forced marriage or servitude, illicit traffic of organs, fluids and human tissue, selling of people, commercial sexual exploitation, irregular adoption and the recruitment of minors under eighteen (18) years of age for the use in criminal activities and will be sanctioned with a sentence of ten (10) to fifteen (15) years of reclusion, plus the absolute in-habilitation by double the time of duration of the reclusion and a fine of one hundred fifty (150) to two hundred fifty (250) minimum wages.

The previous penalties will increase by one half (1/2), in the following cases:

**1)** When the victim is under eighteen (18) years of age;

**2)** When the committer is husband or wife, partner or family member of the victim up to the third degree of consanguinity or second degree of affinity;

**3)** When the active subjects uses force, intimidation, deceit, promise of work or applies drugs or alcohol to the victim;

**4)** When the active subject takes advantage of their business, occupation, profession or function performed;

**5)** When the active subject takes advantage of the relationship of trust with people who have authority over the victim or makes payments, loans or concessions to obtain their consent;

**6)** When the punishable act was committed by a delinquent group integrates by three (3) or more members; and,

**7)** When the victim due to the abuse suffered, remains in a state of disability or contracts a disease that threatens her life.

In no case will the consent granted by the victim of Trafficking of People or her legal representative be taken into account.

**ARTICLE 53. REFORMS BY ADDITION**. Reforming by addition the Decree No.208-2003 dated December 12th, 2003, contained in the LAW OF IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGNCY, incorporating into it a new item to ARTICLE 39 under the naming 5-A), and a new Section with a new ARTICLE, under the naming of: FIFTH SECTION. SPECIAL PERMANENCE CONDITIONS AND PERMITS and 54-A, which texts are the following:

“ARTICLE 39. SPECIAL PERMANENCE PERMITS. The General Directorship of Immigration and Foreigncy may grant special permanence permits in the country for up to a maximum of five (5) years, to foreigners who for justified causes request them, such as:

1) …;

2) …;

3) …;

4) …;

5) …;

5-A) Victims of Trafficking of People;

6) …;

7) …;

8) …;

9) …;

10)...;

11)...;

12)...;

13) ...; and,

14)...”

**ARTICLE 54. REFORM TO THE LAW ON DEFINITE DEPRIVATION OF DOMAIN OF ASSETS FROM ILLICIT ORIGIN.** Reform the number 3) of ARTICLE 78 of the Decree No. 27- 2010 dated May 5th, 2010, contained in the LAW ON DEFINITE DEPRIVATION OF ASSETS FROM ILLICIT ORIGIN, reformed through Decree No.258-2011 dated December 14th, 2011, which form now on will read like this:

“ARTICLE 78.- OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF CEASED ASSETS...

1) ...;

2) ...;

3) Two percent (2%) for the institutions that work in programs for caring for victims of Trafficking of People or their resarciment in case it proceeds. When the definite deprivation of the domain falls on assets, product of the earnings of Trafficking of People, this percentage will be assigned directly to the Fund for the Caring of Victims of Trafficking of People of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT);

4) ...;

5) ...;

6) ...;

7) ...; and,

8) ...”

**CHAPTER XI**

**FINAL AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

**ARTICLE 55. DEROGATORY**. This Law is of public order and it derogates the following provisions: ARTICLE 149 of Decree No. 144-83 dated August 23rd, 1983, contained in the PENAL CODE, reformed through Decree No. 234-2005 dated September 1st, 2005, published in the Official Newspaper La Gaceta No.30,920 dated February 4th, 2006, which reforms the Penal Code in Title II, Second Book, Special Part of the Penal Code, in the section: CRIMES AGAINST THE LIBERTY AND PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SEXUAL INTEGRITY OF PEOPLE.

**ARTICLE 56. TRANSITORY. CALL FOR THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTIVE BOARD, CODING OF THE CURRENT LAW.** The Secretary of State in the Office of Justice and Human Rights, in a period no longer than thirty (30) days from the date the current Law enters enforcement, calls the members of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), to be installed by the President of the Republic, followed by the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), proceeding to the naming of the Directive Board.

Under the responsibility of the Secretariat of State in the Office of Justice and Human Rights, the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), will proceed to present the Code in a period of sixty (60) days.

**ARTICLE 57. AD HONOREM**. The members of the Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT) and the Directive Board will carry out the functions referred to in the current Law in ad honorem for, with the exception of the Executive Secretary and the personnel from the Immediate Response Unit.

**ARTICLE 58. VALIDITY**. The current Decree will enter validity from the day of it being published in the Official Newspaper La Gaceta.

Given in the city of Tegucigalpa, municipality of the Central District, in the Session Hall of National Congress, on the twenty-fifth day of the month of April, twenty twelve.

JUAN ORLANDO HERNÁNDEZ ALVARADO

PRESIDENT

RIGOBERTO CHANG CASTILLO

SECRETARY

GLADIS AURORA LÓPEZ CALDERÓN

SECRETARY

To the Executive Power

Therefore, Execute

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., May 30th, 2012.

PORFIRIO LOBO SOSA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

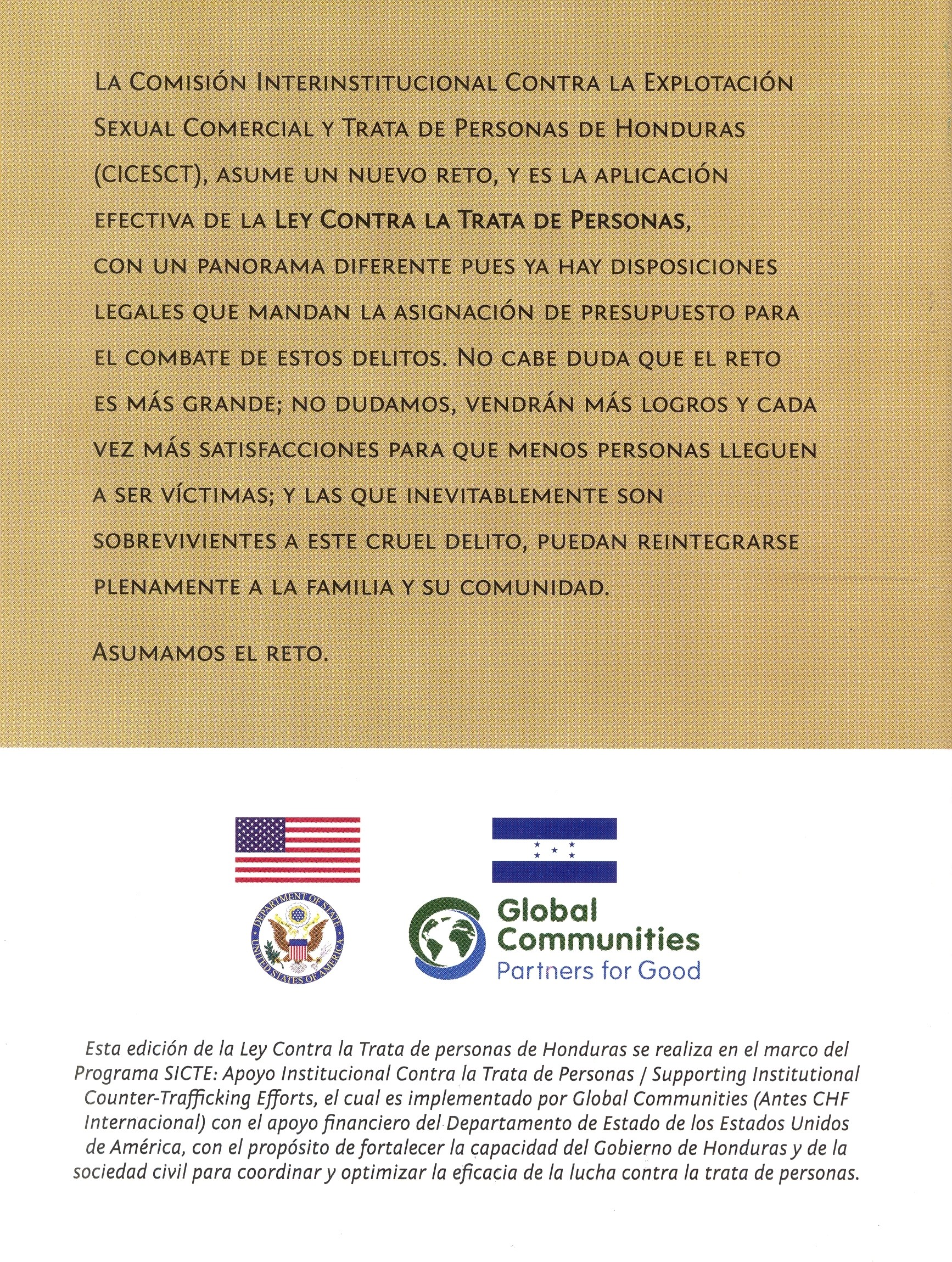
THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

ANA A. PINEDA

*Inter-Institutional Commission Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of People of Honduras (CICESCT), takes on a new challenge, and it is the effective enforcement of the Law Against the Trafficking of People, with a different view since there are now legal dispositions that mandate the assignment of budget to combat these crimes. There is no doubt that the challenge is greater; we do not doubt that more achievements will come and more satisfaction so that less people become victims; and those who inevitably are survivors to this cruel crime may re-integrate themselves fully to the family and community.*

*Let’s take on the challenge.*

*This edition of the Law Against the Trafficking of People of Honduras is made within the framework of the SICTE Program: Supporting Institutional Counter-Trafficking Efforts, which is implemented by Global Communities (Before CHF International) with the financial support of the Department of State of the United States of America, with the purpose of strengthening the capacity of the Honduran Government and of civil society to coordinate and optimize the efficacy of the fight against the trafficking of people.*



# ANNEX C: SCOPING TRIP REPORT

**Report on USAID/Honduras C-TIP Scoping Trip**

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August 19, 2015

**Statement of Purpose**

USAID/Honduras is undertaking a C-TIP Assessment and Victim Identification survey in partnership with USAID/DRG Human Rights and Learning Divisions. The purpose of the assessment is two-fold: 1) to inform USAID/Honduras’ strategic plan for C-TIP programming; and 2) to help move the knowledge-base forward on key questions regarding human trafficking in Honduras.

USAID has contracted with NORC to oversee the development, implementation, and analysis of the survey. NORC retained Dr. Vanessa Bouché (hereafter “consultant”) as a subject-matter and methodological consultant to assist with survey design, identifying the appropriate sampling frame, and analysis of the results. The consultant traveled to Honduras July 27-31, 2015 to interview C-TIP stakeholders to identify past and current C-TIP activities, major areas of need, and questions that remain unanswered.

The purpose of this report is to summarize key findings from the scoping trip and recommend next steps for the C-TIP Assessment and Victim Identification Survey.

**Background**

Aggressive government actions countering human trafficking in Honduras are relatively recent, although NGOs have been working on the issue for over a decade.

In 2000, with the passage of the Palermo Protocol, Save the Children/UK began to investigate human trafficking in Honduras. However, at this time human trafficking was not at all part of the political discourse in the country.

It was not until 2002 that The Comisión Interinstitucional Contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial y Trata de Personas De Honduras (hereafter “CICESCT”) was formed. CICESCT was created on the heels of a trafficking case involving a Honduran in Dallas, TX. This case led Congressman Carlos Gutierrez to convene a team to investigate the topic further, and CICESCT was formed.

Also in 2002, the national police created a unit called Division Against Abuse, Traffick, and Sexual Exploitation of Children (DATSI). Between its formation in 2002 and its deactivation in 2010, DATSI trained more than 80,000 people on sex trafficking of minors.

In 2005, CICESCT pushed for a reform in the penal code on sexual exploitation, which included sex trafficking. In the early issue-framing stages of human trafficking, both CICESCT and DATSI understood human trafficking primarily as sexual exploitation of children, and the early legal efforts reflected this narrow understanding of the issue.

In 2007, with the support of Save the Children/UK, the national police created seven mappings of trafficking routes in Honduras. The maps included only trafficking routes external to Honduras, to the exclusion of trafficking taking place within Honduras itself. This reflects early misperceptions that human trafficking requires some type of movement or transit across borders.

2008 marked a significant shift in the political climate around the issue of human trafficking as Honduras ratified the Palermo Protocol. This was a major milestone, signaling government awareness of and desire to combat human trafficking.

From 2002 to 2012, CICESCT was not recognized an official government commission, nor did it have a budget. Many of those interviewed agreed that CICESCT operated during this time solely out of a commitment to the issue, and as an overload to their normal jobs.

2012 was a major turning point. First, the special law against human trafficking (Decreto 59-2012) was passed, which made CICESCT an official state institution within the Justice & Human Rights Ministry and gave CICESCT had an operating budget.[[19]](#footnote-19)

Second, increased foreign assistance came to Honduras to assist with implementation of the new anti-trafficking law. Specifically, Global Communities received a grant from the US Department of State J/TIP office from 2012 to 2015 to run programs supporting CICESCT in writing up the regulations and administrative code for the trafficking law, supporting implementation of the law through building the Immediate Response Team and local committees, and developing an information system for reporting cases.

Third, 2012 marked a year in which two important reports on human trafficking in Honduras were produced. In March 2012, Global Communities published a baseline study on human trafficking in Honduras. In May 2012, the UN Human Rights Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC, aka ACNUR) in partnership with the Migrant Human Rights Center published a report on forced displacement in Honduras, an issue closely related to human trafficking.[[20]](#footnote-20)

Since they have received funding, CICESCT has obtained office space and hired full-time staff. Some of the other accomplishments of CICESCT in the last two years include:

In 2014 publishing its first report on its activities from 2006 to 2012;

Creation of the Immediate Response Team;

Creation of 14 local committees, 9 of which are currently receiving CICESCT technical and financial support;

Training of local committees;

Drafting the administrative code (currently pending President Hernandez’s signature);

Agreement with Ministry of Social Inclusion to provide social protection services to victims of human trafficking.

**Meetings and Bios**

During the five-day scoping trip, the consultant and USAID/Honduras staff met with a total of 14 stakeholders working on C-TIP issues in Honduras. All meetings took place in Tegucigalpa. What follows is a brief description of the organizations and individuals with whom the team met.

Honduras government officials/offices

*CICESCT* (11 members in attendance from a variety of governmental and non-governmental agencies). In addition to the meeting with all of CICESCT, the team met separately with Rosa Corea, Executive Secretary of CICESCT, and Rina López, CICESCT Pyschologist.

*Karla Cueva*, Vice Minister of Human Rights in the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Ms. Cueva has an extensive history as a human rights advocate in Honduras, and previously worked for Casa Alianza.

*Lolis María Salas Montes*, Executive Director of DINAF. The former child protective services division of the Honduras government was dismantled in 2014 due to severe corruption, and DINAF was created on June 6, 2014. Also in attendance was one of Ms. Montes’ assistants who provides legal counsel for children in the system.

*General Suazo*, Former General in the National Police. Retired in February 2014, General Suazo served in the police for 35 years and has been part of the anti-trafficking community in Honduras since its inception. Also currently working on regional security efforts through SICA (Central American Integration System).

*Nora Urbina*, Vice Minister for Children’s Affairs in the Public Ministry. Ms. Urbina is currently the head of CICESCT.

NGOs

*Calidad de Vida*, provides shelter to adult female victims of domestic violence, and has served victims of sex trafficking. Met with Ana Cruz Aleman, Executive Director, who reviewed their programs and discussed needs.

*Casa Alianza*, provides physical, emotional, and legal services and provision to minor victims, assisted with the unaccompanied minor crisis. Met with José Ruelas, Executive Director, who discussed their work and the pressing needs.

*COIPRODEN*, umbrella advocacy organization comprised of 26 organizations that work at the national level on issues related to children and youth. Wilmer Marel Vásquez Florentino, Executive Director, provided background on anti-trafficking advocacy work at the national and international levels.

*Global Communities*, currently implementing a 3-year US Department of State J/TIP program. Gabriel Perdomo, Director of Programs, serves as an advisor to CICESCT for training the local committees. Also in attendance at the meeting was John Jordan, Director of Operations.

*Hermanas Misioneras de San Carlos Borromeo*, a group of nuns working primarily on prevention and training programs. We met with Sister Souza who has carried out much of the anti-trafficking work for this group.

*Proyecto Victoria*, provides rehabilitation and reintegration services and shelter to recovering males addicted to drugs, ages 14 and up. Met with Rosa Aguilera, Executive Director, and the psychologist.

*Save the Children*, carried out human trafficking mapping project and report on human trafficking in Central America, provides education/outreach programs on TIP. Met with Marielena Flores, Program Manager.

USG personnel

*Luis Peral*, US Department of Justice Legal Attaché. Mr. Peral has been training human trafficking prosecutors and conducting human trafficking case assessments and reviews.

*Liz Vega*, US Department of State, Political Section, TIP expert. Ms. Vega has been the liaison between the U.S. Embassy and CICESCT.

**Findings**

Finding 1: The majority of C-TIP work that has been done in Honduras to date is in the arena of prevention, but there remains a lack of knowledge and awareness among the public, which hamstrings C-TIP efforts.

There have been various types of training, education, and outreach programs to the public regarding human trafficking.

President Hernandez launched a campaign against human trafficking in which the private sector radio and television companies donated air space for PSAs, which were produced by Global Communities with J/TIP funding.

It was noted, however, that these campaigns took place only in large cities, and the most vulnerable populations are in the rural areas of the country.

Global Communities has conducted prevention and training programs in seven local committees, including Roatan, Trujillo, La Ceiba, Copan Ruins, Omoa, Potrerillos, and Comayagua. These activities include:

television and radio campaigns (part of the above PSA campaign)

poster campaigns with the police and TIP hotline numbers

distributing brochures—produced by CICESCT—to cruise ship tourists

training in schools

educating community leaders

educating hotel management, including a Code of Ethics to which hotels can subscribe saying they will refuse service to adults coming in to have sex with a minor.

Save the Children has conducted a variety of outreach and education efforts in high-risk regions, including:

Theater skits

Public fairs

Training in schools

Disseminating brochures

Calidad de Vida has done a variety of anti-trafficking training and outreach programs.

They have trained 10,000 students between the ages of 7-12 years old in the last three years across 25 schools in Tegucigalpa.

They have partnered with the Palacios Family (a renowned Honduran family with several members being professional soccer players) to “throw a score at human trafficking” where children come to the soccer complex, learn about trafficking, then play soccer.

They have “train the trainer” programs for youth ages 13-18 and the students do fairs that support human trafficking awareness.

They train “legal promoters” in 120 communities who are volunteers that provide legal support to women, educating them on their rights and the complaints they can file.

They coordinated a public outreach campaign with funding from the US Department of Defense to print banners, art, and brochures.

Hermanas Misioneras de San Carlos Borromeo is conducting a variety of education programs to communities and in schools, informing them about the law and their rights and responsibilities.

Many of the trainings have resulted in reports of actual cases being prevented and others that have catalyzed investigations.

In Potrerillos, Samaritan’s Purse did a training at which two girls said they believed they were being recruited by a Mexican trafficker over Facebook.

In San Lorenzo, Save the Children training led local residents to decline an offer of work in Tegucigalpa conditional on paying a fee. The residents recognized it as a potential trafficking situation.

In Tegucigalpa, the employee of a computer training business told the students he could get them high paying jobs if they allowed him to take nude photos. The students had been trained by the Calidad de Vida “train-the-trainer” program and were able to identify that it as a suspicious situation.[[21]](#footnote-21)

Subsequent to a training by Hermanas in Tegucigalpa, a girl realized she was being recruited over a social networking site so she stopped engaging with the person.

In Laterique, training programs by the Hermanas helped identify 17 girls between the ages of 12-17 that were being recruited for domestic servitude.

Human trafficking training in schools conducted by Hermanas in Choluteca led to the identification of a case in which a woman asked the principal to take five girls out of the school to model.

Hermanas training in Puerto Cortes led a principal there to file a complaint against someone trying to recruit children from the school.

A training of Catholic men in Reitoca led to a complaint filed with the U.S. Embassy regarding someone recruiting 30 young men to work in maquilas in the U.S.

Continued lack of knowledge about human trafficking among the public prevents victim identification.

The public is uneducated about workers’ rights, so exploitation at work is not understood to be illegal and those exploited at work largely do not identify themselves as victims.

First responders, such as those in health clinics, often misclassify trafficking cases and treat trafficking victims solely as victims of gender-based violence.

Continued lack of knowledge about human trafficking among the public can lead to revictimization.

There is a social stigma against those who have been exploited and identify as such, and therefore victims may encounter revictimization when they return to their home communities.

Victims who do not receive treatment and are returned home still do not understand the phenomenon and may be vulnerable to similar traps in the future.

Finding 2: There are serious security risks involved in clamping down on human trafficking in Honduras given the involvement of gangs and organized crime.

The “war tax,” facilitates human trafficking.

Gangs coerce children or elderly women to collect the “war tax” for them. This is a type of labor trafficking.

The “war tax” leads some to move away either to avoid paying it or because they cannot pay it, putting these individuals in a position of vulnerability.

One study, conducted in a detention facility in the United States, identified two Honduran women in the facility who migrated to the U.S. because they could not pay their war tax.

Gang recruitment facilitates human trafficking and child exploitation.

The Honduran law on human trafficking defines the use of a minor for any criminal purpose as a form of human trafficking, deeming most gang activity involving minors a form or human trafficking. Gangs use minors for all the following purposes:

Selling drugs

Smuggling drugs

Kidnapping

Committing murder

Collecting war tax

There have been instances in which minors were being investigated for criminal behavior and were later identified as having been trafficked.

A study by Proyecto Victoria on young drug addicts found that most of them were victims of human trafficking by gangs. They reported that this study made them realize that the problem behind drugs was human trafficking.

To avoid recruitment or to escape gang force, people flee their homes (displacement due to violence), increasing their vulnerability to be trafficked.

According to DINAF, most of the child welfare cases referred to their office involve gangs and drugs. There are significantly fewer cases of abandonment and extreme poverty.

Gang violence prevents human trafficking investigations and prosecutions.

Some victims have been murdered in the prosecutorial process by gangs or organized crime groups because they filed a complaint or testified against them.

Victims’ families are in danger if the victims testify.

In one case, a man left a gang and received treatment at Proyecto Victoria, and his family was subsequently killed.

Service providers and shelters are in danger when victims testify.

The Calidad de Vida shelter was forced to shut down for nine months after it was infiltrated by a female gang member attempting to identify who was testifying against the gang.

According to DINAF, there are some places they simply cannot go to rescue a victim due to security concerns.

Gangs use coercive tactics to generate community loyalty, making prevention programs and public awareness in these areas very difficult.

Gangs provide protection for the community.

In some cases, gangs provide healthcare and other social goods/services.

Finding 3: Corruption and impunity are major barriers to anti-trafficking work in Honduras.

The prosecution effort rests on the investigative and prosecutorial efforts of government officials; however, there is corruption among some of the key agencies needed to tackle human trafficking.

In 2014, three migration officers were found to be running a trafficking ring in Omoa. This led to a recent purge of migration services and the creation of the National Migration Institute. Among the new requirements is that migration officials submit to polygraph testing. President Hernandez launched this office in the context of his commitment to combatting TIP.

The previous child welfare administration, IHADFA, was dismantled in 2014 due to corruption, including reports that they were selling children. The new child welfare administration, DINAF, is working to rebuild trust.

Allegedly, cases are manipulated in the Public Ministry so that only those cases not involving power groups are brought to justice. This means only low-level operators are prosecuted, leaving the power structure intact. According to one interview, “In Honduras, justice is applied to those that have less ability to defend themselves.”

In 2011, under pressure from the Alliance for Peace and Justice, there was an effort to purge the national police after a scandal in which the police were suspects in a case involving the murder of the son of the Rector of the Honduran National University. This effort led to the elimination of internal affairs and the initiation of polygraphs and new security measures for police.

Government officials allegedly benefit from impunity for organized crime, including taking a percentage of the “war tax” collected by the gangs.

Corruption and impunity impede victims’ trust in police and government.

It was alleged that police allow gang members to borrow their police uniforms to facilitate certain criminal acts.

Police leak informant information to gang members.

In one case, a lady in a residential area called the police because her neighbors were selling drugs. The police came and took drugs from the gang members; however, they also provided information to the gang regarding the source of the information. The gang threatened the woman with death unless she paid the value of the confiscated drugs.

Police make show arrests of gang members, who are then released without trial.

It is alleged that only 4% of complaints filed are eventually prosecuted. Put differently, there is a 96% rate of impunity. Citizens reason that filing a complaint potentially puts their life at risk and the complaint likely will not lead to a prosecution anyway.

Finding 4: Despite some human trafficking training of justice operators, systemic administrative and budgetary problems prevent the work from getting done.

The national police are transferred and transient.

When one unit is trained in a certain locality, they are soon transferred out and a new unit comes in, requiring the same training.

Community police need to be empowered and trained as they are stationed permanently.

When corruption investigations lead to the dismantling of a state institution, new staff needs to be trained.

All DINAF staff is new.

All migration officials are new.

Lack of resources prevents investigations and prosecutions from taking place.

Local police, immigration officials, and prosecutors lack the resources to carry out their duties.

Save the Children has provided technology equipment to immigration offices at border crossings to help carry out their work, and provided a car to a human trafficking investigation office to conduct investigations.

Asociación para una Sociedad Más Justa (ASJ) collaborates with prosecutors to provide logistical support to prosecute cases, including car and gas.

The Labor Ministry does not have enough or trained personnel to investigate potential labor trafficking regions.

Although just created, the CICESCT Local Committees have low budgets and no immediate response teams yet.[[22]](#footnote-22)

The witness protection program has no funding and is ineffective.

Without a robust witness protection program, victims will continue to remain fearful, skeptical, and hesitant to file a complaint or to testify.

Cases are very difficult to prosecute without victim testimony.

Finding 5: In addition to the governmental structures and institutions that impede C-TIP work, certain sociocultural and economic structures in Honduras also make it a fertile environment for human trafficking.

Poverty is a major push factor that facilitates human trafficking.

Some parents are so desperate that they willingly sell their children or force their children to work or engage in commercial sex.

In Colón, two sets of impoverished parents sold their girls to traffickers.

In San Lorenzo, mothers take their daughters to the arriving ships to provide sexual services to those coming off the ships.

It is common for parents to force their children to beg on the streets.

In rural areas, people are easily preyed upon by traffickers making offers of opportunity elsewhere.

Many parents allow their daughters to accept offers of employment as domestic maids in exchange for education or money; the girls are then trafficked as sex or domestic slaves.

Minors are often wooed by promises of money, fame, and opportunity.

The weight of poverty falls particularly heavily on minorities.

Garifuna youth have indicated that they got into human trafficking because of the lack of opportunity for them.

Lenca women and girls have been trafficked for domestic and sex slavery.

Attitudes about sex and prostitution in Honduras may be handicapping anti-trafficking efforts.

Prostitution and soliciting prostitution is legal in Honduras, and the prevailing mentality is that prostitution is sex between consenting adults.

In general, there is very little discussion about how the legality of prostitution and solicitation relate to the issue of sex trafficking, including consideration of debt bondage, lack of salary, and the use of force and coercion in prostitution.

The legal status of prostitution and solicitation makes Honduras an ideal location for sex tourism, which is especially problematic in Comayagua (where the U.S. military base is located), Roatan, San Lorenzo, Trujillo, Atlanta, and Cortes.

In some rural areas the sexual abuse of girls as young as 12 is normalized, often leading to very early pregnancies. Currently, 25% of minor girls are pregnant and 30% of all mothers are under the age of 18.

Finding 6: There is very little C-TIP work being done in any area of labor trafficking and there have been no prosecutions for labor trafficking thus far.

Domestic servitude appears to be a major problem.

In Lepaterique, Francisco Morazán 17 girls between the ages of 12-17 that were being recruited for domestic servitude.

In Catacamas Olancho, a couple recruited a girl to work in their house in exchange for an education. The parents agreed to the terms, and she ended up as a domestic slave who had to pay a debt for clothes and food, never actually making any income.

Maquilas (especially in the industrial area of San Pedro Sula) may be trafficking workers.

In 2008, there was an investigation into maquilas which showed that women were “handicapped from working too many hours,” had no time to eat, and pay was illegally deducted at the end of the month for water, electricity, etc.

It was alleged that the government turns a blind eye to trafficking in the maquilas because it is foreign investment in the country.

Labor trafficking may be taking place in the agricultural regions of Honduras, though this has not been investigated.

Child labor trafficking in agriculture often occurs because the children work but the parents receive the salary.

Trafficking may be involved in melon production in the South, sugar cane production, and the shrimping industry.

Finding 7: Among the largest needs articulated by stakeholders is protection for victims, including short- and long-term rehabilitation and reintegration.

There is a significant lack of shelters for victims of human trafficking across Honduras.

Casa Alianza provides services to minors, and Save the Children has supported them financially in creating a psychosocial center for children and women victims of trafficking.

Many NGOs that provide services have closed down either due to security concerns (e.g., Samaritan’s Purse) or lack of resources (e.g., Buckner). Many organizations that provide services are fearful that traffickers will find out that they are providing care, and there are security concerns involved in caring for people fleeing from gangs.

DINAF is currently transferring resources for care of vulnerable children to 10 NGOs that they have already certified. There are another 35 NGOs that are volunteering their services to take children, but they still need to go through the proper certification process.

Unaccompanied minor crisis led to the urgent processing of 14,000 minors across the border. Many of the children could not or should not go home, but there were no shelters to house them.

Calidad de Vida has short-term shelter for adult women and their children.

They had to close the shelter for 9 months because the location was compromised.

Although they follow up with the women for three months after they leave the shelter, there is no referral mechanism in the locations to which the women return upon leaving the shelter.

There is a lack of long-term rehabilitation and reintegration services for victims of human trafficking across Honduras.

Proyecto Victoria provides long-term rehabilitation care to drug-addicted males ages 14 and older. The minimum stay is 6 months and their 2014 success rate for those going through their programs was 44%. Their program has several stages:

Detox (20-30 days)

Rehabilitation: occupational therapy, physical/sports therapy, spiritual therapy, psychological therapy (5-6 months)

Social reinsertion (6 months to 1 year)

Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion is going to begin provided services to victims of human trafficking; however, it is not clear how they will get access to these services and for how long.

There is no system or funding for repatriation of victims.

Calidad de Vida had a Brazilian woman at their shelter. The Brazilian Embassy originally said they could not repatriate her because they did not have the funds.

There are no resources for victims of internal trafficking to return home and it is left to the shelter to cobble together the resources.

Most victims are sent to shelters in Tegucigalpa, most likely because this is where prosecution takes place, but it aggravates the problem of lack of shelter space in the city.

**Recommendations**

Based on these findings, the recommendations will be divided into three sections. The first section includes recommendations regarding C-TIP focal areas for USAID/Honduras. The second section makes recommendations for what research questions the C-TIP Assessment and Victim Identification should aim to answer. The final section makes recommendations regarding methodological approach.

1. Focal Areas

Prevention

The development work USAID/Honduras is already doing in the areas of extreme poverty, gender-based violence, community policing, gang prevention, etc. should incorporate anti-human trafficking messaging and education. Development work, by definition, is human trafficking prevention because it decreases economic, political, and social vulnerabilities. Thus, USAID/Honduras should embed anti-trafficking education into its current and future development programs.

As only one example, USAID/Honduras’ Feed the Future program in Western Honduras would be an excellent program in which to embed anti-trafficking awareness. First, the population is comprised largely of rural subsistence farmers living in extreme poverty. Thus, this population is especially vulnerable to believing the types of fraudulent stories of traffickers that lead them to send their children away. Raising awareness about human trafficking among the Feed the Future program beneficiaries will decrease their vulnerability to falling into the traps of the traffickers. Second, Western Honduras borders both Guatemala and El Salvador, which are notoriously weak borders used to smuggle goods and people. As USAID/Honduras begins its work with the immigration officials on these borders to improve the legal flow of Honduran exports, it might also consider embedding human trafficking awareness into the program.

In short, USAID/Honduras should view all of its programs as inherently C-TIP prevention programs. To further increase the effectiveness of these programs to prevent human trafficking, USAID/Honduras should embed explicit C-TIP messaging into existing and future programs.

Protection

This is the area of biggest need in which USAID/Honduras it is recommended that USAID/Honduras focus its efforts. Protection for victims is a broad category inclusive of a variety of needs, including, but not limited to all of the following:

Victim identification

There is a need for a validated questionnaire to determine who is a victim.

Casa Alianza and Proyecto Victoria developed tools to determine who may be a victim of human trafficking, and IOM also has program for detecting labor trafficking victims. These instruments need to be validated, and then scaled across first responders, including health clinic workers, educators, shelters and service providers, immigration officials, *etc*.

Victim registry

There is currently no central mechanism for governmental and non-governmental actors to register victims of human trafficking.

A victim registry, with all personal identifying information redacted, will assist with measurement, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation of human trafficking in Honduras.

Shelter

There is a need for more short- and long-term shelters for victims.

Shelters must be in secure and undisclosed locations given security risks to the victims at the shelter, as well as the staff.

Shelters should separate men and women, girls and boys.

Medical services

Victims of sex trafficking often arrive at shelters with STDs and/or pregnancies.

Victims of sex and labor trafficking can also be suffering from drug addiction.

Victims may have also faced serious physical or sexual abuse requiring other types of medical attention and care.

Psychological services

Victims of human trafficking have experienced severe forms of trauma and need to receive trauma-informed care.

Long-term shelters should conduct psychological evaluations that will help determine treatment and develop a specialized program based on victim needs.

Legal services

Victims need assistance gaining access to the judicial system, including legal representation and assistance filing complaints.

Reintegration services

Long-term shelters should be responsible for reintegration services, which collectively turn victims into survivors.

Job training is among the most important aspects of reintegration. This includes teaching survivors a trade, or providing business and financial training for them to run their own microenterprise with seed capital.

Some survivors may not be able to return to their home community, and therefore need assistance with migrating internally.

Prosecution

Although there are major areas of need in the realm of prosecution, it is not recommended that USAID/Honduras focus its resources here. The US Department of Justice’s Legal Attaché in Honduras is training prosecutors, and the US Embassy has supported CICESCT’s central and local efforts. Other international actors have also been working to assist with prosecution.

Nevertheless, any Democracy & Governance programs that USAID/Honduras runs should incorporate C-TIP education, training, and awareness efforts, especially in programs aimed at corruption, strengthening municipal governments, and community policing.

2. Research Questions

Given the recommended focal area of protection, the following research questions are specific to the needs and experiences of victims of human trafficking in Honduras. Answers to these questions will assist USAID/Honduras in developing a targeted and strategic C-TIP protection program.

Victim Background

What are the demographic profiles of trafficking victims in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, region of origin, level of education, family composition, work history, criminal history, etc.?

Has the victim ever migrated? Where? How?

Victim Recruitment

Who recruited them? Did they know the recruiter? How well did they know the recruiter?

Where were they recruited? At school, at home, over a social networking site, at a workplace or somewhere else?

How were they recruited? What was the story they were told? What did they think they would be doing when they left? Was there fraud involved in the recruitment process?

Who was involved in the recruitment process? Were parents involved in allowing them to leave? Were other individuals recruited with them simultaneously?

Why was the recruitment successful? Were they economically desperate? Were they forced into it through fear and threats?

Victim Experience In Trafficking Situation

Was the person who recruited them the same as the person who sold or exploited them for sex or labor? If it was a different person, who sold them and received the monetary benefit of their exploitation?

What type(s) of work were they forced or coerced to do? If labor, what type of labor? If sex, what venues?

In what city, region, or country did the trafficking take place? Were they trafficked within Honduras or across international borders?

What type of physical force did they experience when they were being trafficked? Who inflicted this abuse?

What type of psychological coercion did they experience when being trafficked? How was this coercion manifest?

How much control did the trafficker retain over their physical possessions, including identification documents, food, clothing, any technological device, etc.?

Did the trafficker withhold pay, require a debt be paid, or deduct living expenses from wages?

What were the working conditions like? How many hours did they work per day? What did a typical day look like? For sex trafficking victims, how many sexual acts/buyers per day? What were the consequences of not meeting these quotas?

Victim Experience After Trafficking Situation

How did they escape or otherwise leave their situation?

Did they have any encounters with the police? What were those encounters like? How were they treated? What are their general perceptions of the police?

Did they have any encounters with migration officials? What were those encounters like? How were they treated?

Have they filed a complaint? Why or why not? What was the process like? Do they feel they have access to the judicial system? Do they believe they can trust justice operators to do the right thing?

Do they feel safe or are they concerned for their safety or their family’s safety?

What do they believe could have prevented the situation from happening?

Do they want to go home? Why or why not? What do they need to help them go home? Does their family know about their situation? Have they communicated with their family at all? How have they communicated (phone, email, etc.)?

3. Methodology

Survey of Victims/Potential Victims

It is recommended that USAID/Honduras partner with shelters and service providers across Honduras to conduct the C-TIP Assessment and Victim Identification survey. There are three reasons for this recommendation.

First, the recommended focal area and corresponding research questions relate to the past, present, and future experiences of victims of human trafficking. The only way to ensure an adequate sample size to answer these questions, make inferences, and inform programming is to target the specific population of interest.

Second, this is a population that is not only difficult to identify among the general population (in part because they often do not self-identify as a victim of human trafficking), but also that lacks social trust, has experienced severe trauma, and is living in fear. Any nationally representative approach—even in high-risk areas of the country—wherein a survey is administered by unknown interviewers is unlikely to garner honest, open, and truthful responses regarding victimization. Instead, social workers and psychologists at the shelters—who are trained in trauma-informed care and have established some type of relationship with the victims—are more likely to cultivate an environment that allows the victims to provide open, honest answers.

Finally, this approach—partnering with shelters and service providers to administer the survey to the target population—will lay the groundwork for USAID/Honduras to establish strong relationships with a nationwide network of on-the-ground service providers, which may be important for future programs.

The scoping trip confirmed the ability and willingness of current and future service providers to partner with USAID/Honduras in this manner.

Calidad de Vida has agreed to partner in the administration of this survey instrument. They have approximately 90 adult women come through their shelter per year, and about 10% of them they have identified as victims of human trafficking. However, they also stated that that they do not have a validated identification tool to determine who is a victim of human trafficking and who is not. Therefore, the number of human trafficking victims could be higher.

Proyecto Victoria, which serves adult men and young boys ages 14 and up, also agreed to partner on the victim survey. They conducted a study that surveyed all people that came to Proyecto Victoria from 2010-2011 to determine if they were victims of human trafficking. They concluded after the two-year study that most of the young people that came to them addicted to drug were also victims of human trafficking. They currently have about 50 young boys/men in their shelter.

DINAF, the new child welfare agency, has certified 10 shelters for youth across Honduras, and they are currently in the process of certifying another 35 shelters. DINAF has agreed to partner on the administration of this survey by requiring the shelters that it funds to field the survey to the children they serve. In the past six months, DINAF has identified 16 sex trafficking cases of minor girls and filed complaints on these cases with the Public Ministry. They currently have another 412 children who have fled vulnerable situations in their protection centers. They do not know how many of these cases are sex or labor trafficking.

Casa Alianza has also agreed to partner on the administration of a victim survey. They identified 40 victims of human trafficking in the last 12 months; however, they stated that many more have been sexually abused.

Partnership with these shelters would collectively yield a sample of victims that are adult men, adult women, as well as male and female minors. In other words, it will provide for the most representative snapshot of the experiences of trafficking victims in Honduras.

Challenges/Limitations

#### Surveying victims of human trafficking presents many challenges.

In the absence of gang violence, victims of human trafficking are a challenging population to survey, but the Honduran context is particularly challenging given the component of gang violence. Indeed, most gang activity is a form of human trafficking and it is likely that many victims in Honduras have some gang-related element to their human trafficking experience. This breeds a strong sense of fear and lack of trust for their own lives and the lives of their family members, making it very difficult for them to talk freely.

Even if victims are willing to talk, they may be inclined to provide false data and information to protect themselves and their families, or to protect the identity of the trafficker him/herself. Stockholm Syndrome, or loyalty to the captor, is a common phenomenon among human trafficking victims.

Another challenge is the psychological shock and trauma that these individuals have experienced, which adds another layer of complexity when asking them to divulge information about themselves and their experiences. Dissociative disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder are common among victims of human trafficking, so asking sensitive questions may trigger negative emotions and psychological duress.

Finally, it was noted by many of the service providers that most victims of human trafficking in Honduras have less than a 2nd grade education. Long survey instruments are cognitively taxing for an uneducated population, which may lead to a compromised completion rate.

#### This sampling methodology will require more time than other sampling methods.

Many of the challenges mentioned above can be overcome with time. First, when victims come to the shelter, it may take time for the staff to establish rapport with the victims such that the victims will be willing to talk about their experience. It is more likely that victims will be willing to speak with someone with whom they have developed a rapport.

Second, it may be the case that it is too cognitively and emotionally taxing to complete the survey in one sitting. The staff may deem that a phased approach is more effective in achieving the best results, but completing the survey with one respondent over days or weeks will take much longer.

Third, in order to achieve a large enough sample size, service providers may need to administer the survey in their facilities over a period of months. If each service provider aims for a certain sample size, it may require months to survey victims that come through their door to achieve the target sample size.

#### This methodology is time-consuming for the service providers.

While many of the service providers have agreed to partner in the dissemination and administration of this survey instrument, it will be a time-consuming task for them. In order to minimize the onerousness of this task, USAID/Honduras can provide a stipend to all those organizations who agree to partner in the administration of the survey. If the survey is electronic, USAID/Honduras might also consider providing the partner organizations with tablet devices to administer the instrument.

# ANNEX D: SURVEY INSTRUMENT

1. Tier 2 means that the government does not fully meet the minimum standards set forth by the U.S. State Department in the areas of prevention, protection, and prosecution, but the government is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards. Tier 2 Watch List is the same as Tier 2, but also must satisfy one of the following additional conditions: 1) The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; 2) There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or 3) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Interview with General Suazo, Former General in the National Police, July 31, 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. CICESCT budget is financed by the security tax and asset forfeitures. A US State Department J/TIP grant to Global Communities for 2011-2015 allows Global Communities to match these government funds to CICESCT. However, Global Communities indicated that administrative procedures have made it difficult for CICESCT to receive the government funds, and no government funds have been available to CICESCT since January 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. La Angencia de la ONU para los Refugiados. 2012. “Desplazamiento Forzado y Necesidades de Protección, generados por nuevas formas de Violencia y Criminalidad en Centroamérica.” [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ministerio Público, Republica de Honduras. 2012.“Mapeo Geográfico y Social de Casos y Rutas de Trata de Personas Con Énfasis en Niñez y Adolescencia." [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Proyecto Regional BID/ECPAT. 2012. "Marco de Acción Regional para el Combate, Prevención y Atención a Víctimas de la Trata de Personas en Centro América”; Save the Children. 2012. “Violencia y trata de personas en Centroamérica: Oportunidades de intervención regional.” [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. On the scoping trip, the PI met with: 11 members of CICESCT, Karla Cueva, Vice Minister of Human Rights in the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Lolis María Salas Montes, Executive Director of DINAF, General Suazo, Former General in the National Police, Nora Urbina, Vice Minister for Children’s Affairs in the Public Ministry, with Ana Cruz Aleman, Executive Director of Calidad de Vida, José Ruelas, Executive Director of Casa Alianza, Wilmer Marel Vásquez Florentino, Executive Director of COIPRODEN, Gabriel Perdomo, Director of Programs for Global Communities, Sister Souza of Hermanas Misioneras de San Carlos Borromeo, Rosa Aguilera, Executive Director of Proyecto Victoria, and Marielena Flores, Program Manager of Save the Children. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. This methodology was replicated from a study on minor sex trafficking in the United Stated conducted by the Principle Investigator in collaboration with Thorn in which they partner with organizations that work with minor sex trafficking victims to administer the survey. The most recent report utilizing this methodology is available here: <https://27l51l1qnwey246mkc1vzqg0-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Thorn_Survivor_Insights_012918.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. The survey instrument asks about retrospective perceptions/experiences of trafficking and therefore the responses may reflect potential recall bias; however, we believe recall bias is minimized given that being a victim of human trafficking is an event that is unlikely to be forgotten. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The primary reason for this is that the research team partnered with DINAF, the Honduras child welfare agency, to administer the survey at its centers across the country. Therefore, most of the partner agencies who administered the survey work exclusively with minors, while only a handful serve adult populations. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Mestizo is a mix of European and Indigenous ethnicity, and comprises 90% of the overall population of Honduras. Mestizos are therefore underrepresented in the sample population as a proportion of the overall population. Garifuna comprise about 1% of the population in Honduras and indigenous groups make up about 6% of the overall population, meaning that the Garifuna and indigenous sample population is proportional to the overall population. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Education was coded 1 to 6 where 1=no formal schooling; 2=1st-6th grade; 3=7th-9th grade; 4=Ciclo Comun; 5=bachillerato; 6=Carrera or beyond. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Among those that did have to pay the boss or recruiter, the amount they were required to pay was extremely variable, ranging from 50 lempiras to 30,000 lempiras, with an average of 13,550. Additionally, among those who reported having to borrow or receive an advance from the employer, the amount borrowed was also highly variable ranging from 20 to 30,000 lempiras, with an average of 1608 lempiras. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Overall, 71 respondents report being deceived, but several of those 71 respondents had more than one person deceive them. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. A total of 110 respondents identified as sex trafficking victims. However, several of them indicated they were trafficked in more than one venue. This survey questions allowed respondents to select more than one response. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Total is more than 100% because respondents were asked to check all responses that apply. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Total is more than 100% because respondents were asked to check all responses that apply. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Total is more than 100% because respondents were asked to check all responses that apply. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. CICESCT budget is financed by the security tax and asset forfeitures. A US State Department J-TIP grant to Global Communities for 2011-2015 allows Global Communities to match these government funds to CICESCT. However, Global Communities indicated that administrative procedures have made it difficult for CICESCT to receive the government funds, and no government funds have been available to CICESCT since January 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. In addition to the country-specific reports, there have been a number of other regional reports on human trafficking in Central America published in various years by UNODC, UNHRC, Save the Children, and IDB/ECPAT, and the U.S. Congressional Research Service, among others. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Here, the students filed a complaint with the Public Ministry, but no investigation occurred. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. CICESCT is funded by the security tax and through asset forfeitures. Administrative issues have held up some of these funds; however, it should be noted that through asset forfeitures, the government gave Calidad de Vida the resources for a house as a new shelter for women. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)