ACTIONS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSON COUNCIL BELIZE | ANUARY-DECEMBER 2019



SITUATIONAL CONTEXT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN BELIZE

In Belize, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council operates from a multi-sectoral approach. It is comprised of representatives from Governmental Ministries and Departments, and Non-Governmental Organizations.

LOCATION



VICTIM IDENTIFICATION



A victim of human trafficking is a person who has been officially identified by the relevant government official(s) and is guaranteed a series of rights and protections.

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PROFILE





NATIONALITIES





PURPOSE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

All cases detected during 2019 involved both labor and sexual exploitation according to the Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act.



Obtaining economic or other benefits by exploiting another person into forced prostitution, sexual servitude, or other sexual services, including forced pregnancy, acts of pornography, and the production of pornographic materials.



An individual being exploited for work or services against their will, under the threat of a penalty/dismissal, withholding of payment, or payment of wages below the legal minimum wage.

ASSISTED VICTIMS



Under the Council and in close coordination with the relevant institutions, all detected victims have the right to receive assistance in Belize. It is important to note that the assisted victims include persons from previous years that were still in care of the Department of Human Services.

PROFILE







MEANS OF ASSISTANCE

During 2019, a total of 19 victims were assisted. The following were the main services provided to victims as needed. Among the offered assistance provided for the victims are the following services:

19 (100%)

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE



This includes all statement of Health, plus 2 additional medical.

19 (100%)

LEGAL ADVICE



This includes access to police.

19 (100%) ACCOMMODATION

All the victims were granted with accommodation.

9 (47%)

PSYCHOSOCIAL
AND MENTAL
HEALTH ASSISTANCE



This includes referrals to psychological counseling; however, all referred victims left before the counseling process could begin.

4 (21%)

FAMILY REINTEGRATION



All the assisted victims were returned home.

4 (21%)

MAINTENANCE



This service refers to living stipends.

1 (5%)

EDUCATIONAL AND/OR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING



The services refers to life skills training.

Provision of Justice

The Office of Public Prosecutions and the Police Department are part of the Council. On the other hand, the Supreme Court has the function of process the accusations for Trafficking in Persons. The numbers reflected below are referring to files submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions Office from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Police Unit.



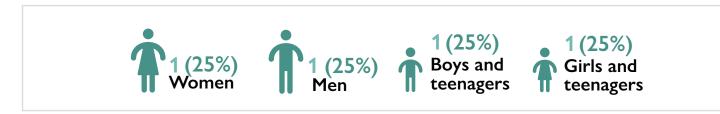






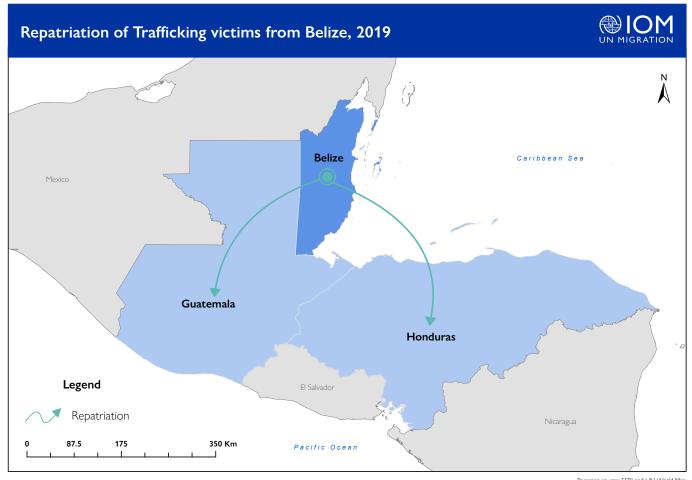
For 2019, 4 foreign victims identified in Belize were repatriated. The victims were repatriated to Guatemala and Honduras.

PROFILE



MEANS OF REPATRIATION





Basemap source: ESRI and UN World Map

PREVENTION

The Council, as part of its functions, formulates and coordinates measures to educate the public on preventative and protective measures for victims or potential victims of trafficking.



Prevention activities include:

- Activities in schools
- Trainings with health workers

EVENTS OF INTEREST

In 2019, the Belize Police Department and the Human Trafficking Institute entered into the second year of their agreement to partner in building the capacity of ATIP Police Unit. The agreement provides for office space for members of the specialized unit, as well as staff of the Institute, who will provide on-going technical investigative assistance in trafficking in persons (TIP) cases. The space will also serve as a secure and private location for interviewing TIP victims and witnesses, collecting evidence, and planning operations.

Also, the Council Participated in RET's "Call to Action" tour in Benque Viejo. The goal: strengthen government-civil society partnership capacity to sustain transparent local and community-based responses to GBV and TIP and other forms of violence and corruption.







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