

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN CITIZEN SECURITY
AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Geospatial Mapping of the City of Belmopan

Jaunna Murrillo

Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council

27th April 2023

www.infosegura.org



Human Trafficking in Belize

- ❖ Human trafficking hot spots in Belize: San Pedro, Bella Vista, Orange Walk, Santa Cruz, Belize City.
- ❖ Foreign victims come mostly from the Central American Northern Triangle: Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.
- ❖ Familial Trafficking is becoming more evident affecting primarily girls under 18 years old.
- ❖ Authorities have identified cases of sexual and labour exploitation, in some cases both. Have not yet uncovered other forms of human trafficking in Belize such organ removal, irregular adoption and others.
- ❖ No sophisticated or organized human trafficking networks or rings have been identified in Belize yet. Generally, for foreign nationals, it is a two-party operation with a recruiter in the country of origin and the intended trafficker in Belize.

Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council



Operations Committee



Information, Education, Communications Committee



Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

Belize's Success

- 1) Information sharing with authorities in countries in the region.
 - Belize/Honduras achieved success in convicting a recruiter in Honduras by providing investigative information to Honduran authorities in a case where recruitment occurred in Honduras and intended exploitation was to occur in Belize.
- 2) Partnership with NGOs that have expertise in niche areas.
 - Partnership with organizations like the Human Trafficking Institute that provide technical assistance for victim care, investigations and training of law enforcement. HTI is comprised of persons with experience working human trafficking cases.
- 3) The Strengthening partnership with NGOs and CSOs to encourage trust and collaboration, particularly in remote communities that would otherwise be out of reach of the ATIPs Council.
- 4) Protection of persons that are suspected victims.
 - By providing services for persons that are suspected to be victims of human trafficking we ensure to reduce re victimization, if that persons is in fact a victim

Belize Success Stories

- 5) Ensure that in all interviews with a survivor and a police officer, a social worker must be present.
- 6) Multisectoral operations including organizations such as Police, Immigration, Labour, Human Services, Social Security Board or any relevant agency that would aid in the execution of the operation according to intelligence.
- 6) The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Police Unit work in plain clothing, use unmarked vehicles and utilize an office that is not close to or resembles a police station.
 - This provides a safe space for survivors to recount their experiences and even helps with any possible negative feelings they have towards law enforcement agencies.
- 7) Screening of migrant children (accompanied and unaccompanied) and adults for human trafficking elements.
 - This ensures that:
 - persons that are victims are not imprisoned
 - any child in potential danger can receive protection
 - Foreign nationals that are victims in their country of origin are identified and provided with protection

Operations Committee

Operational Plan 2021 – 2023

- 1.To increase intelligence driven surveillance and operations inclusive of monitoring of smuggling rings and;
- 2.To strengthen data collection on trafficking

United States 2022 State Department J/TIP Report Recommendations

1. Ensure labor and liquor license inspectors comply with domestic law and policy requiring inspections of workplaces and identification of victims. (2021 & 2022)
2. Take measures to reduce the demand for commercial sex.

Liquor Licensing Act

According to the *Intoxication **Liquor Licensing Act*** liquor licensing boards can refuse to grant a certificate or permit transfer of a license of several grounds including:

a --that the applicant is of bad fame or character or of drunken habits or habitually permitting or suffering breaches of the provisions of this Act or the rules or of the conditions endorsed on the license or habitually permitting or suffering any nuisance or unsanitary conditions being created by persons to whom liquor is sold on his premises;

c -- that the premises are in the vicinity of place of public worship, school, hospital;

d -- that there are already a sufficient number of licensed premises within the boundaries of the district, town, or area or in the part whereof or of the neighborhood in which the license for any premises is sought;

Project Objectives

General Objective: To Enhance Belize's Surveillance and Operational Awareness to combat human trafficking through inter-agency collaboration and coordination using geospatial technology and innovation.

Specific Objectives:

- ❖ To Strengthen mechanisms to ensure the identification of all victims of trafficking particularly women and children and persons from vulnerable communities.
- ❖ To map the locations and capture descriptive information on liquor licensed establishments, schools and churches and other critical community assets to determine risk areas for human trafficking and related crimes.
- ❖ To gather data and information on confirmed and suspected cases of human trafficking and other related offences that are risk factors to human trafficking.
- ❖ To provide local governments with the ability to monitor infractions made by liquor licensed establishment to determine eligibility to continue operations in the future according to their compliance to the Liquor License Act
- ❖ Identify and document key strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned from this pilot project towards replicating best practices in the other eight (8) municipalities.

Methodology and Information Gathering

Technology: Belize Crime Observatory's ArcGIS system will be utilized by consultants to record and display data. GPS technology will be used to record precise location of all locations.

- A form will be created by the consultants to reflect details needed for each location.

Information Gathering: The ATIPs Council will facilitate the collection of data on the liquor licensed establishments, churches, schools, hospitals and parks that are already available such as:

- Name of place, Address, denomination (churches), level (schools), and license type (liquor licensed establishments).
- This information will determine the number of places to be mapped.

Information to be Collected

- Name of the businesses on license
- Name of the business on the building
- Name of the owner(s) of the business
- Operations Manager
- List of other liquor licensed establishment owned by the same person
- Licensed timeframe
- Record of the Liquor License has ever been suspended
- Conditions set out by Belmopan City LLB for the Liquor License
- Picture of the business
- Spatial image of the location of the business
- Brief description of the location of the business including the surrounding area
- Precise coordinates of the business
- Description of the community in which the establishment is located

Outcome

Immediate Outcome:

local governments having access to data relating to their municipalities and improving their potential to keep track of businesses; identify gaps in local government's legislation and policies.

Intermediate Outcome:

increased usage of technology to improve law enforcement and local government systems, law enforcement ability to conduct operations in a discrete manner increasing the number of successful operations; improved assessment and identification of places where persons are at risk of both sex and labour exploitation

Outcome

Long-Term Outcome:

service providers (social workers) to become more capable of identifying vulnerable locations nationwide; ability to build strong cases against persons that facilitate and participate in trafficking of persons; improve systems to monitor liquor licenses for municipalities

Ultimate Outcome:

Reduction of persons at risk of being victims of human trafficking.



*info***SEGURA**

 www.infosegura.org



@infoseguraPNUD @PNUDLAC