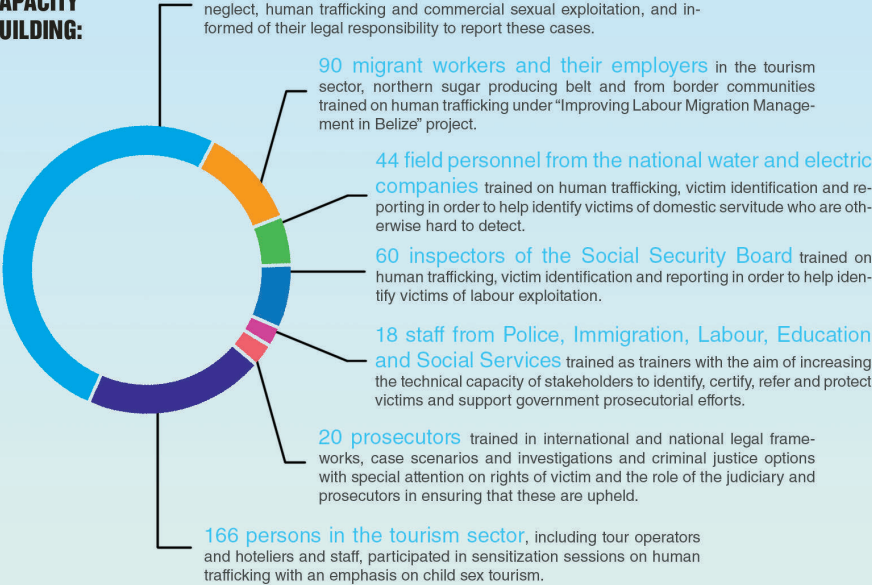


Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council of Belize

2016-2017 Activities

PREVENTION AND CAPACITY BUILDING:



A luncheon was hosted by the ATIP Council to provide a forum for US Ambassador Carlos Moreno to meet with the Chief Justice of Belize, the judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Magistrate to share his experiences as a Judge working on TIP cases and to discuss human trafficking within the Belizean context.

The Anti Trafficking in Persons Council continues to maintain a social media presence through its Facebook page



11 public awareness sessions on human trafficking and other forms of gender based violence held in 5 of 9 municipalities countrywide.

237 persons from community based and civil society organizations participated in country-wide, public education sessions on human trafficking.



6 billboard Ads in English and Spanish placed at prime locations such as, the Western border, Northern border, Phillip Goldson International Airport and the three major crossroads in the country.



3 new television ads on human trafficking aired on all national television stations during prime time.

Continued airing of pre-existing ads on commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking.



Advert against child sex tourism placed in 50,000 copies of the Belize Travel Guide printed in April, 2016 for dissemination to tourists through hotels and other tourism points.

PROTECTION:



Trafficking victims are provided with shelter and basic needs as well as medical and psychological care. All victims are assigned a social worker who assesses their individualized needs and develops a care plan.

Developed manual and accompanying toolkit on victim care for all forms of gender-based violence, including human trafficking, for care providers in shelters.

PROSECUTION/ INVESTIGATIONS:

2 arrests made in trafficking cases.

10 persons identified as possible TIP victims for which investigations are on-going.

2 cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation currently before the Magistrate (lower) court.

35 unaccompanied minors screened: 26 males and 9 females. None were found to be victims of human trafficking. The majority originated from Honduras followed by El Salvador, Guatemala Mexico and Cuba.

Surveillance equipment procured for use by the Major Crimes Unit of the Police in TIP investigations.

A counseling room at the headquarters of the Department of Human Services (social services) retrofitted with audio /visual equipment to video tape victim interviews/statements in a non-intimidating and safe setting.

4 representatives from Belize are a part of a regional working group being facilitated by IOM that are developing guidelines/SOPs for Immigration Officers, Labour Officers, Prosecutors and the Judiciary for the Caribbean sub region.

PARTNERSHIPS:



Belize continues to participate in TIP related regional activities and conferences organized under SICA and Regional Conference on Migration.

Belize is a participant in the Caribbean sub regional project managed by IOM and financed by JTIP.

