

CAP MEXICO PROTEJA – TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) SHELTER PROJECT

Project Overview: Funded by USAID/Mexico under the President’s Initiative to Combat Trafficking in Persons, CAP Mexico (2006-2009, US\$3 million), the CAP Mexico TIP Shelter Project (PROTEJA) aimed to improve legal protection and access to and quality of services available to victims of trafficking. The project promoted a holistic approach encompassing medical, legal, psychosocial and vocational services.

From **May 2006** to **March 2009**, PROTEJA:

- Assisted Mexico’s federal government in enacting national anti-TIP legislation;
- Assisted seven of Mexico’s thirty-one state legislatures in enacting anti-TIP reforms, and gave legislative advice on similar reforms to over half of the states;
- Empowered shelters to work together to bring specialized care to TIP victims;
- Educated vulnerable populations on trafficking and how to detect predators;
- Trained national and state public servants including legal and law enforcement personnel, in indentifying victims, referring victims to proper care and prosecuting TIP as a crime;
- Created the country’s first and only website for information and networking on TIP, and developed standards of care and an advocacy manual;
- Formed numerous networks and task forces at local, state and national levels that either work to prevent TIP, detect TIP or assist its victims; and
- Premiered its short-film “The Exploitation of the XXI Century: Trafficking in Persons”.

Mexico Context: Mexico is considered a country of origin of trafficking victims, as well as a country of transit and destination. Mexico also experiences

a significant amount of internal and external migration to the United States, and this migratory flow is correlated with the incidence of trafficking victims in Mexico.

The **major components of the program** were:

- **Raising public awareness** and promoting community-based strategies to address human trafficking at local and national levels;
- **Providing technical assistance to federal and state congresses** to support the categorization of human trafficking as a crime;
- **Providing technical and financial support to shelters** to develop integrated service models that address the specific needs of TIP victims; and
- **Providing technical assistance to networks and task forces** to coordinate efforts to combat human trafficking and to establish or improve the provision of restorative care to trafficking victims.

Number of individuals trained: 8,980

Number of TIP beneficiaries who received services: 8,206

Number of organizations worked with: 127 CSOs, 95 government departments and agencies

Number of grants to shelters executed and total value: 5 grants totaling US\$324,587

Number of technical assistance episodes and monitoring visits: 96

“Thanks to PROTEJA’s technical assistance we have improved the quality of our services to trafficking victims, as well as our capacity to detect this crime. The capacity building has been fundamental to our launch of a strategy for political engagement and legislative proposals.”

-- Alternativas Pacificas
CAP Mexico Grantee