



## Combating Trafficking in Persons with a Multidimensional Approach: Why it Matters?

Across the Americas, vulnerable populations face exploitation due to poverty, insecurity, unemployment, and limited access to education and public services. Traffickers prey on these vulnerabilities with false promises. To address the trafficking in persons, we need a multisectoral response at the local and national levels to achieve positive results. The OAS teams working under the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security –through the Department of Public Security and the Department Against Transnational Organized Crime– support member states with a comprehensive, coordinated response to this complex crime.

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**OAS** | More rights  
for more people

## 1 Strengthening Frameworks

Human trafficking, a grave human rights violation, affects populations across the Americas. The OAS Department of Public Security and the Department against Transnational Organized Crime develop anti-trafficking legislation, implement multisectoral approaches to investigation and prosecution, and create robust prevention and protection frameworks. Our expertise empowers communities and fosters a human rights, victim-centered, trauma-informed and gender-sensitive approach to eradicating this crime.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Design tailored anti-trafficking legislation.
- Implement multisectoral policies and programs for investigation and prosecution.
- Develop comprehensive human trafficking frameworks.

## 3 Combating Sexual Exploitation: A Gender-Sensitive Approach

The OAS Department of Public Security, and the Inter-American Commission on Women, collaborate with public and civil sectors to develop protective frameworks for at-risk migrant women and girls, strengthening safeguards against gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, and related crimes.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Map legal and policy frameworks on the prevention of sexual exploitation and GBV.
- Develop guidelines for migration officers on protecting survivors.
- Develop guidelines for the prevention of sexual exploitation in the tourism sector.
- Create protocols for protecting migrant victims of sexual violence.
- Conduct studies on shelters for violence victims.

## 2 Cross-Sector Training on Human Trafficking

Preventing and combating human trafficking demands a skilled, knowledgeable workforce across sectors. The OAS Department of Public Security training programs enhance responses to trafficking cases, improving capacities to detect cases, protect victims, and investigate and prosecute cases. Teams within the Secretariat collaborate to support member states in developing their workforce for swift, effective action.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Deliver virtual and in-person courses for public sector and NGO personnel.
- Partner with renowned universities and educational institutions across the region for training development and certification.
- Offer mentoring programs in security, justice, and survivor protection.
- Conduct mock trial training with law enforcement, judges and prosecutors.

## 4 Protecting LGBTIQ+ Individuals from Human Trafficking

Across the Americas, LGBTIQ+ individuals are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. The OAS Department of Public Security focuses on strengthening the capacities of professionals responsible for assisting and protecting trafficking victims, with special emphasis on the LGBTIQ+ community. Our efforts include developing self-directed online courses and disseminating targeted guides to enhance support for this at-risk group.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Assess existing assistance and protection services for trafficking victims.
- Develop online training tools to upskill frontline actors.
- Create guides for assisting and protecting LGBTIQ+ trafficking victims.
- Raise awareness about comprehensive assistance for LGBTIQ+ trafficking victims.

## 5 Supporting Police Operations to Rescue Victims

The OAS Department of Public Security provides support for proactive police operations to rescue victims and arrest traffickers. Law enforcement professionals participate in formal training and a workshop provided by experienced NGO that provides support to survivors.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Offer training to law enforcement professionals.
- Financially support pro-active police operations.
- Contribute to victims rescuing and traffickers' arrest.

## 7 Financial Investigations Parallel to Human Trafficking Investigations

Human trafficking, driven by economic motives, can be combated by monitoring financial assets associated with these crimes. The Department Against Transnational Organized Crime advocates for tracking financial movements to identify network leaders and their methods. Parallel financial investigations serve to locate and seize illicit assets, which can then be repurposed to fund victim assistance programs and awareness campaigns targeting vulnerable populations.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Dialogue facilitation among diplomats, law enforcement, prosecutors, financial analysts, and officials investigating trafficking-related crimes.
- Advocacy for financial investigations in human trafficking cases.
- Analysis of money laundering typologies associated with human trafficking together with the OAS Group of Experts for the control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX).

## 6 Awareness Raising Campaigns

The Department of Public Security develops campaigns to raise awareness about various crimes and violence types, including human trafficking. We collaborate with governments to create context-driven, culturally sensitive materials in multiple languages, applying gender and human rights perspectives.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Communication campaigns at the national and local levels, including design of materials in local languages, media relations, and community activities such as school contests and actions at airports and bus terminals.

## 8 Combating Criminal Groups Associated with Human Trafficking

Human trafficking and migrant smuggling involve complex transnational criminal networks, complicating investigations and prosecutions. The Department Against Transnational Organized Crime has developed tools with partners to address this, focusing on strengthening investigative and international cooperation capacities of relevant officials and professionals.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Develop comprehensive guides for investigating and prosecuting human trafficking and migrant smuggling crimes linked to transnational organized crime.
- Design of practical guides for inter-institutional coordination to respond to human trafficking and migrant smuggling cases.
- Manuals of international legal cooperation in human trafficking and illegal smuggling of migrants.
- Specialized training for law enforcement professionals.

## OUR IMPACT

**5,000+** professionals trained on the investigation, prosecution, and assistance to protect victims of trafficking in persons.

**10+** protocols and guides created.

**1** national anti-trafficking law approved.

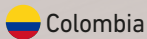
Facilitated the rescue of **8** victims and the arrest of traffickers.

**5 million+** people reached through communications campaigns broadcasted using social media, radio spots and television in Ecuador.

**3,000+** people sensitized in Ecuador about trafficking in persons through community activities, including service fairs, movie discussions and outreach at the airport and bus terminals.

**7,500+** people reached by the campaign “*Mi Comunidad en Movimiento*” in **10** municipalities of countries in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico.

### COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE WORKED



Colombia



Ecuador



Honduras



Panama



Costa Rica



El Salvador



Mexico



Peru



Dominican Rep.



Guatemala



Nicaragua



Trinidad and Tobago



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