



CRS and human trafficking

OUR APPROACH

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, with 21 million victims worldwide—more than at any time in history. While sex trafficking accounts for much of this fast-growing crime, it also includes forced labor, debt bondage, domestic servitude and the use of children in armed conflict.

Traffickers prey upon the poor and vulnerable. Widespread poverty and other factors such as civil unrest and migration have created a vast “supply” of potential victims. At the same time, the goods produced by the victims are sold all over the world, making us all inadvertent consumers of trafficked products. Therefore, strategies to combat trafficking must address both supply and demand.

CRS’ 4P (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnerships) approach to stopping human trafficking closely aligns to the strategy of the U.S. State Department to counter human trafficking worldwide. It includes education, awareness, and selected interventions to prevent trafficking and exploitation, as well as to protect families and individuals who are directly affected. Within this context, protection of the trafficking survivor consists of rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Often,

this includes counseling and vocational services, as well as peer support and health care (particularly in the case of sexual trafficking and abuse). As our long-standing partner Prajwala in India has shown, the protection aspect of this work is critically important to prevent recidivism, but it can take years. Support for survivors may also include work with authorities to prosecute traffickers, or the training of the local authorities so that they can better undertake this process themselves. In doing all of this, CRS highlights the importance of supporting partnerships—by working with, and building the capacity of, local organizations to engage government, health care providers, educational authorities, and religious and civic leaders.

STRONG ADVOCACY

CRS works to address trafficking and human slavery by identifying and advocating for changes in U.S. policy that would contribute to ending these harmful and exploitative practices. To support this, we collaborate with international partners and church affiliates to increase public awareness and response to the factors that sustain and exacerbate human trafficking. Our experience is based in our work in development, humanitarian relief and hu-

man rights arenas. This work connects us directly to the lived realities of those we serve and acts as the foundation for policies and procedures in regard to fighting trafficking.

CRS reflects its values through its policies, programs and procedures which are embedded in Integral Human Development (IHD) and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Accordingly, CRS is committed to upholding practicing what it preaches by upholding the safety, protection and dignity of all CRS staff, affiliates, beneficiaries and community members with whom it has contact. Relevant CRS policies include, but are not limited to, our staff protection, whistle-blower, sexual harassment and anti-trafficking policies and our Code of Conduct.

EDUCATION

The CRS [Faculty Learning Commons](#) (FLC) provides opportunities for US-based faculty members and others to enrich student learning experiences on Human Trafficking by tapping into CRS' expertise around the world. In partnership with the University of Notre Dame, CRS has developed sample modules, articles, case studies, and videos—for flexible, interdisciplinary classroom use, beginning in Summer 2018.

PARTNERSHIPS

CRS participates in the U.S.-based Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking. This coalition works to raise awareness of the U.S. and international dimensions of this tragedy as well as create new opportunities for Catholics in the U.S. to engage in solidarity with their brothers and sisters around the world.

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS

Colombia/Ecuador/Peru

In the wake of armed conflict in Colombia, on Ecuadorian territory, there are extractive industries which have intensified trafficking on Ecuador's northern and southern border areas. Most survivors experienced intra-familial childhood abuse. Design and implementation of policies, plans and programs have been revised to tackle the structur-



Bernabe Yonatan Mulul Tzoy, in his house in Chuijaj, Santa Mar'a Chiquimula, Guatemala. *Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS*

al factors and rights violations that trigger trafficking, and the different forms of exploitation. CRS is combating and changing values around forms of trafficking which have become normalized and the cultural practices, deemed acceptable, which give rise to trafficking.

India

CRS works in primary source locations of individuals trafficked with high levels of poverty and natural disasters which increase vulnerabilities. Programs emphasize the reintegration of sex trafficking survivors, partnering with local non-profits to help rehabilitate survivors and reintegrate them. Successful interventions have included strengthening child protection committees at various levels, working in partnership with schools and governments, and school-focused interventions and livelihood support initiative.

Western Balkans

CRS has conducted trainings on trafficking and improved coordination between key actors involved in counter-trafficking efforts. For successful programming, the willingness and availability of government officials must be in place for effective evaluation. Active involvement of community support organizations has improved the vital connection between the government and community organizations—especially regarding ensuring project sustainability.



For more information about our work in human trafficking, go to crs.org/trafficking or contact pqpublications@crs.org | CRS World Headquarters, 228 W. Lexington, Baltimore MD, USA 21201