

# Strengthening TIP Prevention and Protection in Guatemala



## OVERALL VISION

Guatemala is an origin, destination, and transit point for trafficking in persons for sexual and labor exploitation. At the international level, Guatemalans who travel to Mexico and the United States are subjected to labor exploitation in agriculture, the garment industry, and domestic service. Women, LGBTQ individuals, and children are also subject to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation both within Guatemala and abroad.

Guatemalan women are at highest risk and most vulnerable to trafficking in persons. Indigenous Guatemalans, including children and adolescents, are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons for labor exploitation or forced labor, especially in tortilla factories and stores. Traffickers also exploit children for forced begging or as street peddlers in Guatemala City and along the border with Mexico.



## OBJECTIVE

The **Strengthening TIP Prevention and Protection in Guatemala** project, implemented by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), aims to strengthen the capacity of the government, civil society, and local communities in Guatemala to prevent and respond to trafficking in persons through two objectives:

1. Increase efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, including through community-based mechanisms.
2. Strengthen the capacity of the State and civil society to identify and provide comprehensive and specialized services to victims of trafficking in persons, including boys, girls, and adult victims of trafficking.

## ACTIVITIES

The project's prevention activities focus on indigenous populations in the Western Highlands, specifically Huehuetenango and Quiché departments, where PADF is working to empower a cadre of local women to be Volunteer Community Facilitators (VCFs) to prevent trafficking in persons. VCFs conduct anti-TIP education and awareness-raising activities in their communities, promote grassroots collaboration, and help to identify possible TIP victims in their municipalities.



The project's protection activities focus on providing attention to child and adult victims of trafficking in persons in the Western Highlands and the Guatemala City area. Activities include strengthening the capacity of government programs and personnel to attend to victims of trafficking in persons; providing shelter, psychological counselling, legal assistance, medical care, education, repatriation, and reintegration services to victims; and strengthening inter-institutional coordination, in close collaboration with the Secretary for Sexual Violence, Exploitation, and Trafficking in Persons (SVET) and the Secretary of Social Welfare (SBS). Finally, PADF also implements activities to train and support judges and prosecutors in Guatemala.

## RESULTS

PADF and partners work to achieve the following results over the length of the project:

140

individuals trained and empowered as Volunteer Community Facilitators (VCFs) to lead prevention efforts in their communities and refer possible cases of TIP.

1,200

individuals reached (including 600 key stakeholders and 600 individuals at risk for TIP) through awareness-raising and prevention workshops led by VCFs in their communities.

12,000

individuals reached with public awareness-raising campaigns through communications media.

130

victims of trafficking in persons provided with in-house care through specialized shelters for TIP victims.

400

victims of trafficking in persons provided protection services through ambulatory attention teams.

200

frontline actors (such as judges and other government officials) trained to detect and refer cases of trafficking in persons.

## ABOUT PADF

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) believes in creating a hemisphere of opportunity, for all. We work across Latin America and the Caribbean to make our region stronger—more healthy, peaceful, just, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for current and future generations. For nearly 60 years, we have served the most vulnerable communities, investing resources throughout the hemisphere. We partner with and enable civil society, governments, and the private sector for the greater good of the region.

## PARTNERS

PADF implements this project in close coordination with the Guatemalan NGOs Refugio de la Niñez and Misión Redentora to provide services to victims of trafficking in persons through specialized shelters and ambulatory attention teams and with the Organization of American States (OAS) to strengthen identification, referral, and attention to victims of trafficking in persons in Guatemala, particularly LGBTI individuals.