

CAP MEXICO **PROTEJA: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) SHELTER PROJECT**

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a global problem whose solution requires action at local, national and international levels. One country experiencing significant effects from trafficking is Mexico.

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

Although not fully documented due to the clandestine nature of trafficking, it is clear that TIP victims' needs are not fully met by services currently available.

The CAP Mexico TIP Shelter Project, PROTEJA, is creating a national network of shelters in Mexico to improve access to and quality of services available to trafficking victims. Funded by USAID/Mexico under the President's Initiative to Combat Trafficking in Persons, CAP Mexico promotes a holistic approach encompassing medical, legal, psychosocial and vocational services.

CAP Mexico's team of experts is building capacity by:

- Establishing alliances among service providers, NGOs, faith-based groups and the Mexican government.
- Fostering awareness and building capacity among shelters, grassroots communities and key decision-making officials.
- Developing a victim's assistance model that will include manuals and protocols for service providers.
- Facilitating the creation of state-level task forces to coordinate government and civil society efforts to combat trafficking.
- Working with state leaders to promote legislative reform to criminalize trafficking

CAP Mexico is engaged in a process that will build bridges between civil society and the Mexican states in an effort to coordinate the services offered to victims and that will strengthen shelter services, rescue, and voluntary return.

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