



TO REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

In any case of emergency and immediate danger, please call 911.

Report Anonymously to Crime Stoppers via:



- P3 TIPs App
- Call 922
- Visit Crime Stoppers Website

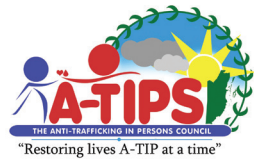
Report to the Department of Human Services:

- DHS Direct/During Working Hours: 227 2057
- Toll Free 0-800-PROTECT

You may also communicate with the A-TIPs Council representatives via the social media pages on Facebook or Instagram

▪ Facebook ▪ Instagram



**JANUARY -
DECEMBER
2024**

**Anti-Trafficking in Persons
Report for Belize**

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Left: Park Ranger Training

Below: Leadership Summit HTI and A-TIPs Council



Left: PG BDF Training

Right: High Level Meeting on Partnership with Brazil-Belize for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour



Acronyms

ACRONYM	MEANING
NCFC	National Commission for Families and Children
BCG	Belize Coast Guard
BDF	Belize Defence Force
BPD	Belize Police Department
BTB	Belize Tourism Board
CARICOM IMPACS	The Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CSAM	Child Sexual Abuse Material
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Child
IO	Inter-governmental Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOPCAN	National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
PITCU	Police Information, Technology and Cyber Unit
RCM	Regional Conference on Migration
SICA	Central American Integration System
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
YES	Youth Enhancement Services

Foreword



Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia

Human trafficking continues to affect individuals and families in Belize, and responding to it remains a shared national responsibility. This 2024 report presents the work carried out by the Government of Belize, through the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council, in coordination with partner agencies and organizations.

The report outlines how agencies worked together during the year to improve coordination, strengthen frontline response, and ensure that suspected victims and survivors were treated with care and respect. It reflects the practical steps taken to increase awareness, build capacity, and support investigations, while also highlighting the importance of strong partnerships at the national and regional levels.

Protection of victims remains central to Belize's response. The report shows how services were provided to meet the needs of both adults and children, regardless of nationality or immigration status. At the same time, law enforcement and judicial authorities continued efforts to investigate cases and pursue accountability through the courts.

This report is intended to give a clear picture of the national response to human trafficking in 2024. It acknowledges progress made, while recognizing that challenges remain and continued effort is required.

The Government of Belize remains committed to preventing human trafficking, protecting those affected, and working with partners to strengthen the country's response in the years ahead.

Dolores Balderamos Garcia

Ministry of Human Development, Families,
and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Introduction



Human Trafficking remains a priority of the Government of Belize. A key factor to be highlighted is that this crime does not happen within a vacuum, but rather because of vulnerabilities faced by many people around the world including Belize. In Belize, the most vulnerable include migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, children (primarily girls), and persons from a lower socioeconomic status.

The 2024-2028 Strategy launched in 2024 has been created with the considerations of current known vulnerabilities and other vulnerabilities we may not have yet been presented with in Belize

The information and data presented in this report is from January 2024 - December 2024.

Partnership and Coordination

The Government of Belize continues its anti-human trafficking work through the efforts of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council. The Council is multi-sectoral and continues to partner with Inter-Governmental Agencies, Government Departments and Civil Society Organizations.

The Chair of the A-TIPs Council is the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs. In 2024, Mrs. Adele Catzim-Sanchez served in this capacity.

In June 2024 the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council launched the 2024-2028 Strategy to address human trafficking in Belize. The strategy focuses on four strategic priority areas: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership. There are a total of 11 objectives spread across the strategic priority areas.

Keynote addresses and an overview of the strategy can be found by scanning this QR code.

The Council has executed the first year of the five (5) year strategy through its three committees:

1. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Operations Committee of the Council has the responsibility to protect suspected victims and survivors of human trafficking, investigate human trafficking cases, and prosecute human trafficking cases.

- Department of Human Services: Trafficking in Persons Care Unit
- Belize Police Department: Anti-Trafficking in Persons Police Unit
- Labour Department
- Immigration Department: Border Management and Immigration Services
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Customs and Excise Department

2. INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The IEC committee has the responsibility to increase the public understanding of the nature and consequences of human trafficking, sensitize vulnerable populations and communities on human trafficking, and to build the capacity of front-line personnel on human trafficking.

- Labour Department
- Immigration Department: Border Management and Immigration Services
- Attorney General's Ministry
- Belize Tourism Board
- National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC)
- Youth Enhancement Services (YES)
- National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN)

SCAN FOR
keynote
addresses
and strategic
overview



3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The M&E Committee has a responsibility to collate and analyze data, and enhance the knowledge generation and management.

- Statistical Institute of Belize [Member of the M&E Committee only]
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health and Wellness

COUNCIL PARTNERS:

In partnership with the A-TIPs Council, there are organizations that support and supplement the response to human trafficking in 2023. The organizations are listed below:

ORGANIZATION	TYPE OF ORGANIZATION	AREA OF SUPPORT
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Intergovernmental Organization	Capacity Building, Awareness, Migrant Support, System Strengthening
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Intergovernmental Organization	Child Protection
Human Trafficking Institute (HTI)	Non-Governmental Organization	Training and equipping through collaboration with partners for increased arrests and prosecution of human trafficking cases
Child Development Foundation (CDF)	Non-Governmental Organization	Awareness and Victim Protection
RET International	Non-Governmental Organization	Capacity Building and Awareness
Love Foundation	Non-Governmental Organization	Awareness

1 When the CEOs of the Ministry are responsible for human development, the Chair of the Council will take on that role change.

Partnership and Coordination



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIP MEETING:

In 2024 the A-TIPs Council partnered with its partners to host the following sessions:

- Legislative Review: A final draft counter trafficking bill was submitted to the A-TIPs Council. These meetings were supported by the International Organization for Migration.
- August 2024 – Legal drafter met with the NCFC Policy and Legislation subcommittee to review the draft counter trafficking bill
- August 2024 – Consultation session with statutory bodies, law enforcement and civil society.
- August 2024 – Trafficking in Persons Leadership Summit hosted by the Human Trafficking Institute and the A-TIPs Council. The summit focused on leadership best practices; TIPs in Latin American and the Caribbean; best practices in victim protection.
- December 2024 – the A-TIPs Council and IOM hosted an NGO and Private Sector Human Trafficking Forum. The forum's agenda focused on the geopolitical and transnational aspects of human trafficking while highlighting the vulnerabilities and risk factors that lead to the exploitation by traffickers.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES:

Regional Operations:

Regional and International bodies such as INTERPOL remained committed to leading out in a regional operation in 2024. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Police Unit led these operations in Belize.

Operations carried out country wide during 2024 included: Arrested accused human traffickers; Interviewing suspected traffickers; Screening migrant persons that are vulnerable; and search warrants.

Regional Projects:

The Anti-trafficking in Persons Council attends conferences regionally that encourage collaboration, information sharing and closer partnerships with state agencies responsible to respond to human trafficking.

Belize was represented at regional conferences with focus on human trafficking; human smuggling; anti-money laundering and its connections to crime such as human smuggling and human trafficking; migrant vulnerabilities and how it connects with vulnerabilities to exploitation such as human trafficking.

These conferences are crucial to connect key partners from all over the region. The in-person engagement encourages stronger partnerships and foster more streamline information sharing mediums.

4 reps. Colombia
April 2024

1 rep. El Salvador
July 2024

Regional Organization:

Belize remains an active member of the Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling. The Regional Coalition brings together countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic to strengthen state-state communication for human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Belize shared 2021-2023 data to the Coalition to support analysis of data relevant to the Central American region.

Belize participated in the 7th TIP meeting of the OAS chaired by the United States of America. The priority was to have member states of the OAS to discuss shared concerns and priorities on the prevention and prosecution of trafficking in persons and the protection of victims and survivors. Belize was represented by H.E. Lynn Young, the Ambassador of Belize for the Permanent Mission to the United States of America. You can view the full session by scanning the QR code.

During 2024 Belize was the pro tempore presidency of the Regional Conference for Migration (RCM).

SCAN FOR
OAS meeting



NGO Highlight

RET INTERNATIONAL

Led the execution of three anti-human trafficking projects.

STARTED 2021	STARTED 2022	STARTED 2023
<p>SAFE</p> <p>Shelters with Adequate Functioning for an Effective response to human trafficking in Belize.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under SAFE, RET International created a Standard Operating Procedure for Shelters, developed strategic plan/action plan/advocacy plan with six (6) shelters; trained shelter staff on obtaining constitutive documents; formed the Human Trafficking CSO Coalition, Launched quarterly newsletter issues; reach thousands through social media; conducted municipal and education tours throughout Belize. Under TLEAP, RET International collaborated with UB to develop an e-course training platform; placed posters raising awareness about human trafficking at bus terminals throughout Belize; trained staff working in the transport industry including taxi drivers. Under PROTECT, RET International developed a training module for doctors and nurses; partnered with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to deliver training content resulting in 143 Medical Personnel trained. 	<p>TLEAP</p> <p>Transport Leaders Empowered Through Education, Awareness, and Effective Policy Change on Human Trafficking in Belize.</p>	<p>PROTECT Belize</p> <p>Providing Tools to Health care Workers Through Education and Coordination to Eliminate Human Trafficking in Belize</p>

HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

In 2024, one of Humana People to People Belize's (HPPBZ) significant projects, the Migrant Hub, is funded by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This initiative aims to promote integration, foster peaceful coexistence, and raise awareness about critical issues such as human trafficking.

It focuses on educating children and youth, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to recognize and prevent exploitation.

The project also serves as a platform to empower migrant communities, emphasizing the importance of unity and shared understanding in building resilient societies.

By addressing human trafficking and promoting inclusivity, the Migrant Hub contributes to creating a safer and more informed community

HUMAN TRAFFICKING INSTITUTE

- Development of a training workbook for law enforcement officers on TIP.
- Training of the trainers was conducted for social work practitioners from government and non-governmental residential facilities on trauma informed care and approaches for victims of TIP.
- Through partnership with the Department of Local Government- TIP identification and referral training was provided nationally to the Liquor licensing boards with the aim to strengthen vetting and assessment of liquor license holders, 105 liquor license board members were engaged in capacity building.
- Hosting the Trafficking in Person Leadership Summit in August in collaboration with the A-TIPS Council and Ministry of Human Development Families and Indigenous People's Affairs. The summit had the participation of 14 key government representatives from the A-TIPs Council, Department of Human Services, National Women's Commission, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, Department of Labour, Ministry of Defense, Belize Police Department.
- The GOB participants conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis of TIP in Belize and developed an Action plan to address those areas.

<p>16</p> <p>victims of trafficking supported through partnership with the DHS, HTI with relevant services.</p>	<p>42</p> <p>services were provided to the clients, and these include housing, education registration, psychosocial services, medical consultation and repatriation.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>TIP cases were supported by HTI, through case file review and provision of recommendations for further evidence gathering.</p>	<p>631</p> <p>police officers across the country were provided training to improve their skills in identification, investigation and referral of TIP cases through partnership with the Belize Police Department, HTI (April- November)</p>
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CSO COALITION GROUP ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACTION PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Advocacy with:

- Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council
- Immigration Department
- Labour Department
- tourism sector
- medical sector

NGO Highlight

CHILD DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

- Migrant support, regularization assistance, advocacy, legal information, embassy support, reintegration and repatriation support – Partnership with IOM.
- CSO Coalition Group on trafficking in Persons Action Plan accomplishments
- Advocacy with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council, Immigration department, Labour department, tourism sector and medical sector.



Prevention and Capacity Building

Prevention efforts are fundamental to eradicating human trafficking in Belize. The A-TIPs Council is determined to continue strengthening the efforts of the Government of Belize to seek out the best ways to prevent cases of human trafficking but also to prevent further victimization of those currently being exploited.

TRAINING AND SENSITIZATION SESSIONS

Under the framework of the Information, Education and Communication Operational Plan, the council continued to conduct training and sensitization sessions countrywide.

These sessions were facilitated by Police Officers, Social Workers, Coordinators, NGOs and partners from Intergovernmental Organizations.

TRAINING TOPICS:

- Human Trafficking 101
- Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

TRAINING LOCATIONS



ORGANIZATION	SESSIONS
BDF and BCG	120
Tour Guides and Hospitality Stakeholders	32
NGOs/IOs	24
Liquor License Boards and Regulatory Agencies	120
Teachers	834
Park Rangers	39
Police Officers	500



The Children's Agenda 2017-2030 is the new framework of the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC) given government's directive dated April 26th 2017 in tandem with Government's commitments (TG4-GC20 and NO3-GC1). The Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Trafficking – Response Protocols is a National Program and one of the primary activities of this Agenda. The Program is spearheaded and funded by the Ministry of Human Development in collaboration with NOPCAN, NCFC, and the Ministry of Education. The implementing agency is the National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN).

The Mandatory Reporting Program under a social, health, and educational framework and undergirded by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, (CRC), has provided a collaborated response to Child Protection. It is predicated on the notion that when a culture takes responsibility for reporting child abuse in whatever form it is occurring, this existential threat to the welfare and wellbeing of children is neutralized.

AWARENESS



Wear Blue Fridays Campaign in July:

Blue is the official color that symbolizes raising awareness for human trafficking. As a reminder the blue color represents the sadness of victims and the cold-heartedness of traffickers. A blue heart (as shown in this document) is the official symbol to raise awareness to human trafficking.

Every Friday in July, Belizeans were encouraged to wear the color blue and post about its significance. This could be used as a conversation starter to encourage healthy and constructive discourse around the issue of human trafficking in Belize.



Media Appearance:

The A-TIPs Council appeared on Sunup7 with the PITCU of the BPD to discuss the dangers of technology and how it is used in the context of human trafficking.

Posts and Video Creation:

The A-TIPs Council worked with a media company to create two videos for awareness. The focus of the videos are:

- The difference between human trafficking and human smuggling
- The dangers of Technology
- During the month of December, the Council paid to stream three videos on channel 5. The videos published included the two videos created in 2024 along with a Department of Labour video on Child Labour.
- You can access all three videos on the A-TIPs Council Website.



Protection

The Ministry of Human Development through its Department of Human Services continues to advocate on behalf of all survivors of human trafficking through their dedicated work. Both adults and minors that are potential victims of human trafficking can expect to receive protection from the Government of Belize. The services provided by the Department of Human Services are:

Care provided to victims include but are not limited to:

- Medical care and attention
- Repatriations
- Shelter
- Clothing and footwear
- Food and water
- Counselling
- School enrollment
- Skill development
- Transportation assistance for cases of witnesses returning to Belize
- Stipend [Adults]
- Independent living provisions [rent] [Adults]
- Family reunification [cases where appropriate and survivors are determined to be safe]
- Translation
- Communication with family
- Immigration status regularization
- Other unique needs of survivors

The Department of Human Services has an Alternative Care Unit whose primary responsibility is to ensure survivors of human trafficking are protected and vulnerable persons are protected. The social workers at the Alternative Care Unit function as advocates for all potential victims. They accompany them to any and all interviews with law enforcement and prosecutors and ensure that their needs and concerns are being considered in all contexts. The unit develops individualized plans for all persons based on their specific needs.

Potential victims of human trafficking are able to complete their police interviews in a room that creates the sense of a safe space. The Department of Human Services and the A-TIPs Police Unit who have been trained on victim-centered approach, ensure to avoid behaviors that can re-traumatize a potential victim. The current law government anti-human trafficking in Belize ensures that protection is provided to all persons regardless of regular/irregular status.

Shelter for survivors takes the form as either a residential care facility, independent living, foster care or family reunification. Family reunification is prioritized in cases where it is feasible and safe for the survivor.



REPATRIATION:

The Human Trafficking Institute provided funds for the repatriation of two suspected victims in 2024.

In the event of repatriation needs, the Coordinator of the Alternative Care Unit with the support of the leadership of the Ministry of Human Development and other Council members, will communicate with the origin country to ensure smooth transition of victim and protection.



AMNESTY:

Two (2) Applicants to the 2023 Amnesty program were successful in receiving their documents to ensure regularization in Belize.

The two persons are survivors of human trafficking in Belize.



MIGRANT SHELTER:

A total of 40 migrant children were provided shelter at the migrant shelter operated with the support from the Ministry of Human Development and UNICEF.

Prosecution/Investigations

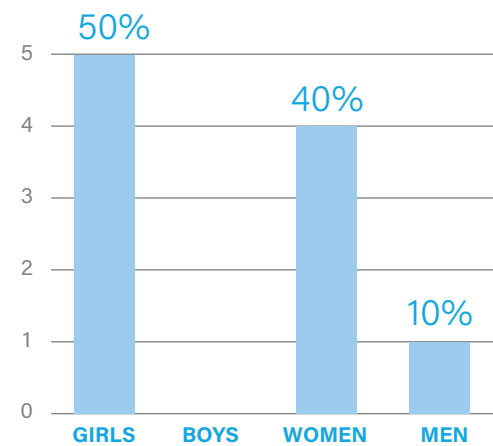
Throughout 2024, 18 suspected cases of human trafficking were investigated by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Police Unit based in Belmopan, Cayo. The A-TIPs Police Unit is led by an Assistant Superintendent of Police and has the support of eight (8) officers of varying ranks that are dedicated to the investigations of human trafficking cases.

The A-TIPs PU works closely with Social Workers, Immigration Officers, Labour Officers and Public Prosecutors to execute successful cases. The Police Unit handles the gathering of intelligence, organizing operations, investigation of human trafficking and the screening of migrants.

THE RESULTS OF ALL CASES INVESTIGATED IN 2024 AS OF DECEMBER 2024 ARE:



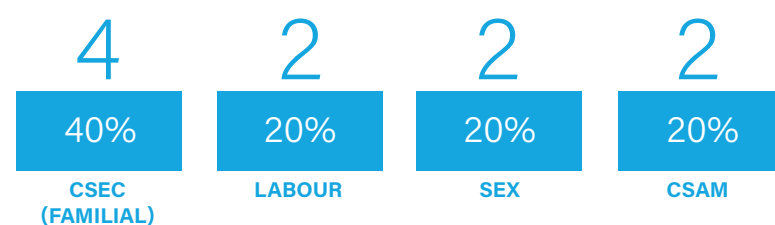
MINOR/ADULTS



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



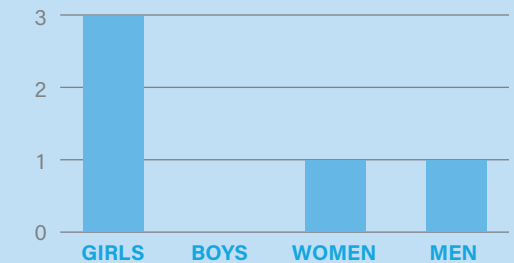
TYPE OF TRAFFICKING



102 migrants were screened at the request of the immigration department. Those screened came from Turkey, Honduras, Guatemala, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Venezuela, El Salvador, Vietnam and Colombia.

The Unit offers trauma-informed care to ensure suspected victims and survivors feel safe as they understand the psychological impacts of human trafficking on the survivors.

PROFILE OF ACTIVE CASES 2021 - 2024 (5)



The data represented may not represent all cases of human trafficking that exists in Belize. The numbers we present come from cases referred from the Belize Police Department, Inter-Governmental Agencies, Ministry of Health, and Wellness. Cases are also initiated after identification during an A-TIPs PU led operation.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRENDS IN BELIZE:

Girls remain the primary target of sexual human trafficking which is referred to as the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Child. These cases often implicate a family member involved in the facilitation of exploitation. Most foreign nationals that are victims routinely continue to be from the countries in the Central American Northern Triangle: Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Three are some survivors that are from Nicaragua.

COURT PROCEEDINGS:

Important facts to know about human trafficking court cases:

- All human trafficking cases are to be heard at the high courts² where there is an assigned justice to preside over all cases.
- As of 2022 all cases of human trafficking are judge only.

²All cases that must go to the high courts will still begin at the Magistrate's Court.

Prosecution/Investigations

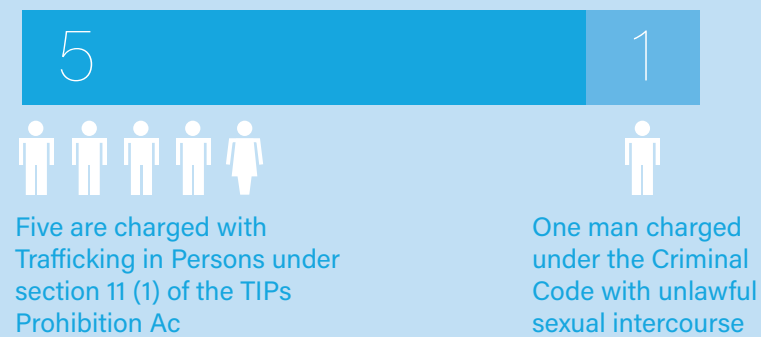
During 2024, the progress made at the courts are as follows:

CONVICTION

1 GUATEMALAN MAN
 Convicted of two (2) counts of Human Trafficking (Sex)

1 GUATEMALAN WOMAN
 Convicted of Human Trafficking (Labour)

PERSONS AWAITING TRIAL IN 2024



PERSONS BEING PROCESSED AT THE MAGISTRATES COURT

1 BELIZEAN WOMAN
 charged with making child pornography (CSE)

3 BELIZEAN MEN
 charged with child prostitution

2 BELIZEAN WOMAN
 charged with procuring a child for sexual exploitation

ARRESTS

7 persons were arrested in 2024. Of the 7 arrests:

1 person
 one case has already made its way through the magistrate's court and have been committed to the High Court.

1 person
 one of the men arrested in 2024 has passed away.

5 persons
 five of the persons arrested in 2024 were in connection to one survivor.



Child Labour Inspection in Bean Plantation

LABOUR HIGHLIGHT

During the reporting period, the Labour Department made significant progress in addressing labour issues within the Belizean community.

In 2024, the department conducted a total of 834 inspections, of which 125 were specifically focused on child labour. These inspections were a combination of proactive measures, such as routine visits to key sectors, and responsive actions prompted by specific complaints. Unannounced inspections are regularly conducted across all sectors and geographic regions.

While child labour differs from human trafficking, it is essential to address the factors that create vulnerabilities to potential exploitation of children throughout Belize.

Below are some accomplishments of the Labour Department in promoting safe employment and reducing vulnerabilities to labour trafficking in Belize:

Policy Development and Implementation

The Labour Department, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has developed and implemented several key policies aimed at enhancing worker protection, promoting fair labour practices, and improving working conditions. These policies focus on addressing specific issues affecting workers and supporting vulnerable populations.

National Child Labour Policy: The National Child Labour Policy aims to eliminate child labour in all its forms and ensure that children have access to education and opportunities for development. The Labour Department works closely with the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC) and other partners to raise awareness of the detrimental effects of child labour and to implement measures for its eradication.

Decent Work Country Program (DWCP)

The Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) was launched for the period 2024-2029. This program focuses on promoting decent working conditions, rights at work, and social protection for all workers in Belize. A validation workshop for the program was held in late 2023, and the DWCP officially launched in September 2024. The program aims to address issues such as job creation, social dialogue, and sustainable development.

Seasonal Migrant Workers Program

Cabinet approved a Seasonal Migrant Workers Program was approved by Cabinet in 2024. This program allows foreign workers in identified industries to apply for their Temporary Employment Permit from their home countries. Once TEP is approved, they will receive it upon arrival in Belize, enabling them to start work immediately. This system benefits workers by eliminating the need for them to be in Belize to submit their application, streamlining the process and allowing them to begin their employment as soon as they arrive. Currently, the proposed legislative changes required to implement this program are with the Attorney General's Ministry, once finalized the program will be implemented.

Prosecution/Investigations

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The Labour Department is actively reviewing and developing key pieces of legislation to strengthen the protection of workers, ensure compliance with international labour standards, and adapt to the changing nature of work. These legislative initiatives are critical in addressing emerging challenges in the labour market.

Education and Awareness Campaign

The Labour Department recognizes the importance of awareness in promoting workers' rights and preventing exploitation. Education and sensitization campaigns have been implemented to inform both employers and workers about labour rights and obligations.

- **Awareness Campaigns:**

Organization (ILO), has led campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of child labour and the importance of workplace safety. This campaign reached several high schools, impacting thousands of students in March 2024.

- **Webinars and Labour Education Sessions:**

The department has organized webinars with key social partners to address issues such as child labour and worker protection. These events have fostered important discussions among stakeholders, contributing to more informed decision-making. Additionally, the department has conducted multiple educational sessions to raise awareness of labour laws and workers' rights.

- **Commemoration of World Day Against Child Labour and Labour Day:**

In June 2024, the Ministry observed World Day Against Child Labour, bringing together key social partners to foster a collaborative approach to eradicating child labour. In May 2024, the Ministry observed Labour Day, gathering key social partners and raising awareness among workers through a webinar and educational sessions countrywide.

Stakeholders Collaboration and International Partnership

Belize's efforts to enhance worker protection have been significantly strengthened through collaboration with international organizations, regional bodies, and local stakeholders. These partnerships foster the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and resources to address critical issues such as child labour and worker welfare.

- **Collaboration with International Bodies:**

Belize is a member of the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour. Through this membership, the country participates in regional workshops and knowledge exchanges, gaining valuable insights from successful practices implemented by other nations.

- **High-Level Meetings:**

Belize engaged in a high-level meeting with Brazilian officials to discuss strategies for eliminating child labour in June 2024. This meeting facilitated the exchange of technical knowledge and strengthened Belize's understanding of best practices for combating child labour.

- **South-South Cooperation:**

Belize's participation in the South-South Cooperation Technical Visit to Brazil from September 2-6, 2024, allowed for the exchange of information on labour inspections and the integration of social protection measures to enhance worker welfare. The South-South Cooperation Technical Visit to Brazil empowered Belize to adopt more effective labour inspection models and strategies for integrating social protection into child labour elimination efforts.

- **Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour:**

Belize joined this initiative on May 24, 2023, alongside 31 other nations, to combat child labour in the region. In 2024, Belize took part in regional workshops and knowledge exchange events, including the Brazil-Belize Technical Knowledge Exchange held in Belize City from June 25-27, 2024, focusing on strategic labour inspections and social protection integration.

- **Collaboration with the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC):**

In partnership with the NCFC, the Ministry conducted extensive education and sensitization sessions in rural communities and high schools nationwide. These sessions highlighted the importance of education and raised awareness about the dangers of child labour.

- **Focal Points Network Annual Meeting:**

Belize reaffirmed its commitment to a child labour-free region at the Focal Points Network Annual Meeting of the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, held in Brasilia on October 18, 2024. Belize's participation aligns with the Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 to eliminate child labour globally. Belize reaffirmed its commitment to achieving a child labour-free region during the Focal Points Network Annual Meeting in October 2024, contributing to global efforts to reach Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7.



Partnership with Brazil-Belize for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour