HUMAN TRAFFICKING – A COMPLEX CHALLENGE FOR FORENSIC SCIENCE

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this presentation are those of UNTCHI and the presenter and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Government.
Conditions Increasing Human Trafficking Instances

- Economic disproportions among regions
- Poverty
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Decline of border controls
- Gender and ethnic discrimination
- Conflicts
- Natural disasters and economic crises
- Flow of migration
- Childhood abuse/runaways/foster care
Human Trafficking: Diverse Forms of Human Exploitation

- Sex trafficking
- Labor exploitation
- Marriage
- Begging
- Child soldiers
- Illegal organ transplantation
- Illegal adoptions
Individual, Communal, Regional, National, and Global Costs: Social and Health Consequences

- Victims – death, illness, or invalid
- Survivors – post-traumatic stress disorders, substance addiction
- Beggars – intentional injuries
- Children – deprivation from education; disrupted families

- Labor work – work-related injuries, hazardous conditions
- Organ trafficking – donors lack postoperative health care; recipients receive diseased organs
- Sex trafficking – many victims become pregnant – forced to abort; increase of HIV – demand for younger victims; social stigma of victims within own communities
Goals of the Human Trafficking Project

- Decrease instances of human trafficking within and from Central America
- Decrease the effects of human trafficking on the populations of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama
  - Create legal framework for use of forensic data to combat human trafficking
  - Enhance Technical Capacity
  - Create an effective and a properly managed DNA Database
  - Enhance Public Outreach
  - Increase Coordination
Humanitarian DNA database in Guatemala

Challenges:
- privacy concerns surrounding DNA profiling
- potential benefits and risks of using a database to prevent and investigate crime
- use of the database by law enforcement
- when and how profiles may be expunged
- defining vulnerable segments of the population
Red flags:

- Living and working on site
- Unpaid/paid very little
- Works excessively long/not allowed to take breaks
- Multiple recurrent STIs
- Signs of physical trauma
- Poor oral health
- Pregnancy/abortion(s) at young age
- Drug/alcohol addiction
- Frequently monitored/accompanied
- Not in control of their own identification documents
- Fear/anxious/depressed

More at: Polaris: https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/recognize-signs
Humanitarian DNA Identification Database

- Center for Human Identification (UNTCHI)
- Missing Persons Database
- Stand alone database – not linked to SDIS or NDIS
- CODIS Software (MOU with FBI)
- Identify missing persons (border crossings)
- Exchange with Central America and Mexico
- Another way to bring some resolution to families from a tragic event
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The Institute of Forensic Medicine (IMF, Honduras)
The National Institute of Forensic Science (INACIF) in Guatemala
The State of Texas
Sources:

- IOM Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC)
- Victim Case Management System (VCMS)
- Polaris
- UNODC Global Report on Human Trafficking
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) Anti-trafficking in Persons Network
- UNODC Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal
- Trafficking in Persons Report, Department of State, United States of America
- UNODC Transnational Organized Crime in Central America and Caribbean
- The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, The Attorney General, Texas
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Not a Number www.love146.org/notanumber.org
- UnBoundnow.org
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