



"Alexandra," 16, is a survivor of sex trafficking who is now in a CRS-supported shelter in Peru.

CRS and trafficking

OUR APPROACH

CRS tackles the root causes of trafficking by alleviating drivers such as extreme poverty, loss of safety and security, economic lures, and weak or nonexistent legal penalties and deterrents. CRS also improves legal enforcement, strengthens local referral systems, improves access to health and education services, and offers psycho-social support. Increasing public awareness and knowledge around issues of human trafficking and slavery, both in the US and abroad, is another key component of our work. Our anti-trafficking programming is multi-faceted, adapted to the local context, and designed to prevent the exploitation and abuse of vulnerable people. We strive to include prevention and protection activities in the countries we serve and in our programs that have a particular focus on children and vulnerable adults.

STRONG POLICIES

We work to strengthen the capacity of governments and law enforcement agencies to prosecute traffickers. We create economic reintegration opportunities and reduce stigma for those who have been trafficked, or who are at risk of being trafficked. We partner effectively with local churches and organizations that can assist us in reaching those most in need while also being accountable to the communities in which we serve.

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 human 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.

\$150 billion

AMOUNT OF ILLEGAL PROFITS
MADE EACH YEAR FROM
TRAFFICKING

21 million

NUMBER OF PEOPLE CURRENTLY
LIVING IN SLAVERY AS TRAF-
FICKED HUMAN BEINGS—MORE
THAN EVER BEFORE

46,462

NUMBER OF VICTIMS WHO WERE
IDENTIFIED AND RESCUED IN 2014

145

NUMBER OF CRS PROJECTS THAT
HAVE ADDRESSED TRAFFICKING
AND HUMAN SLAVERY SINCE 2000

CRS faith.
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES action.
results.

CRS's Protection Policy mandates a strict code of conduct for all staff, volunteers and partners that helps protect both children and vulnerable adults. The policy includes a contractual agreement by all staff to be trained and held accountable to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm, including physical or psychological abuse and exploitation. It also requires staff to report incidences of abuse and to assist with recovery via referral and other follow-up actions. Over 3,800 CRS staff members from 56 countries have completed training on the policy.

CRS' programming in other areas (including peacebuilding, agriculture, microfinance, health, and disaster-response) gives a weighted concern to the needs of the poorest, and contributes to efforts that decrease the vulnerability of poor and marginalized people and reduce their risk of victimization.

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 and 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

In coastal communities of Kenya, where 42% of girls are married before the age of 15, the Dialogue and Action Program (DAP) works to address harmful cultural beliefs and practices that contribute to human trafficking and slavery. The program uses inter-religious approaches to instill child protection values in the communities. In addition, the savings and loans from the program's 54 savings groups go towards school fees and levies aimed at girls retention in schools as a means to reduce their vulnerability to sexual exploitation, early pregnancies, school drop-out and risks of trafficking.

From 2004 to 2008, CRS worked in Bosnia-Herzegovina to combat trafficking using economic empowerment, media campaigns, and education to decrease the vulnerability of children. Working in collaboration with the



CRS' Rekha Bahanwal talks with girls at the CRS-supported Naunihal Girls' Shelter in India, which provides a night care center where the children of prostitutes can be safe while their mothers work, and training to help other organizations establish best practices in protection and anti-trafficking work.

State Coordinator's Office, CRS assisted 144 schools in implementing integrated counter-trafficking programs into their curriculum, reaching more than 21,000 children.

In India, a CRS program called "Preventing Child Migration by Strengthening Livelihoods and Education in West Champaran, Bihar," directly benefits 100 families across five villages in one block (Bagaha-II) of West Champaran. The goal of the project is to assist children in leading dignified and safe lives by working with parents to stop the practice of sending boys aged 14 years and under outside of the village for work, and reducing marriage for girls under 18. This is done by increasing awareness of child rights that promote protection from mental and physical abuse and exploitation, and improving education practices.

CRS' work to address slave labor in Brazil began in 2004 with the Freedom Trails project, initially funded by the U.S. government. The project fights human slavery within large segments of the coffee, timber and wood industries, specifically in the Amazon and the Northeast, where the largest number of cases is concentrated. Program implementation has been carried out by a diverse network of humanitarian and governmental entities, and is led by the Bishop's Conference in Brazil.



For more information about our work in human trafficking, contact pqpublications@crs.org
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