

Diversification of criminal organizations in Human Trafficking

Chapter 1



TOGETHER AGAINST TRAFFICKING TO SAFE LIVES



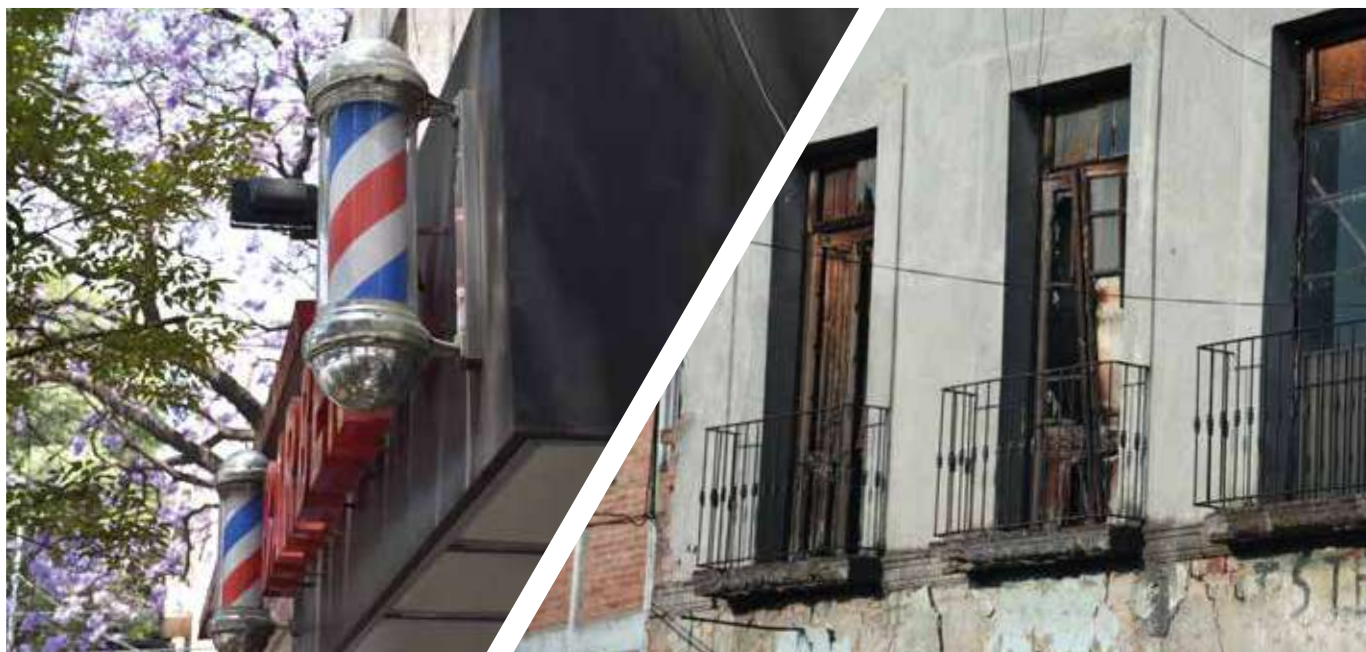
La Human Trafficking has diversified in such a way that it could happen right now; even in a barbershop or in an area destined for commerce.

That is the case of Hilda (the name was changed to protect the victim's identity, as will happen with the rest of the names that appear on this report) who, on December 2020, together with her children who were still underage, were forced to work without payment in food hawker stalls. They were freed by the Attorney General's Office in Mexico City (FGJCDMX).

LNCTP and the National Chat Against Trafficking (with the same number but via Whatsapp) are fundamental to help victims.

Strengthening this bond made possible that in 2019, the Citizen Council could contribute with opening 11% of the total number of investigation files on Trafficking nationwide. Meanwhile, in 2020, during the pandemic, they opened a total of 8% of the investigation files, also nationwide.

This crime's situation in our country and around the world requires great commitment and efforts to fight against it. For this



This family was victim of Human Trafficking in the form of forced labor. They were deprived from all their personal documents and they were physically abused. Rescuing them was possible thanks to one of the victims' family members who called the National Line Against Human Trafficking (LNCTP) 800 5533 000.

Work in coordination with the Citizen Council for Safety and Justice in Mexico City and the country's authorities, through the

reason, the Citizen Council assures that they can only work "Together Against Trafficking to Safe Lives".

Human Trafficking has grown in Mexico because it's a country of origin, transit and destination, so prevention, detection, attention and fighting against this international crime that violates the victims' human rights and that is considered the third most lucrative worldwide, after guns and drugs trafficking, are vital.

Actually, it's a fundamental issue for the Citizen Council that, among other actions, operates the only LNCTP since 2013.

During the past couple of years they have increased efforts made on four fundamental aspects: offering their own data and findings that contribute with identifying the ways criminal groups operate; assessing and updating attention protocols; strengthening and promoting collaborative work with national authorities in charge of fighting against this crime and the procurement of justice, as well as offering attention to victims (both, nationwide and internationally), one of the most urgent demands within this criminal cycle.

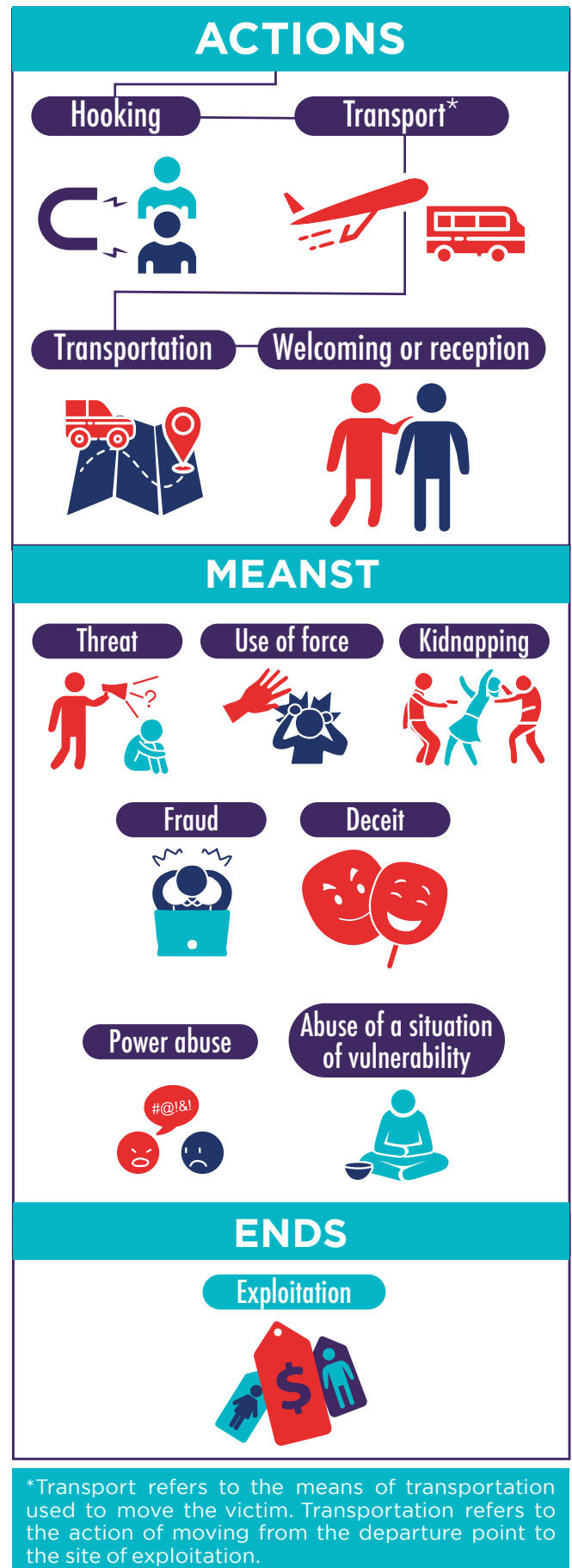
According to the 4 thousand 445 reports they received between 2019 and 2020 at the LNCTP of the Citizen Council, all the country's states registered cases.

It's important to say that during this period the reports that were received were more than during the four previous years, which added 3 thousand 671.

They identified a total of 232 victims, 43 men, 187 women and 2 more that didn't specify their gender; as well as a total of 119 groups: 90 made up by women, 15 by men and 14 in which they didn't specify their gender.

Other 463 reports were "situations of risk", meaning that they implied one of the three elements mentioned above; even so, intervention helps prevent the consummation of this crime, for example, when people receive a deceiving job offer in which the payment seems excessive.

We registered 495 reports of other crimes, among which we can mention: kidnapping, violence within the family, human trafficking, child porn, sex crimes, extortion and fraud. In these cases we offered legal and psychological aid apart from channeling people with the corresponding authorities.



Also, 1,591 people received attention, and legal and psychological aid, although they didn't necessarily report a crime.

A total number of 1,712 reports offer information, given that the LNCTP is promoted through Uber platforms, at bus station, at the Mexico City International Airport and at other public places that offer an easy access for those who need help.

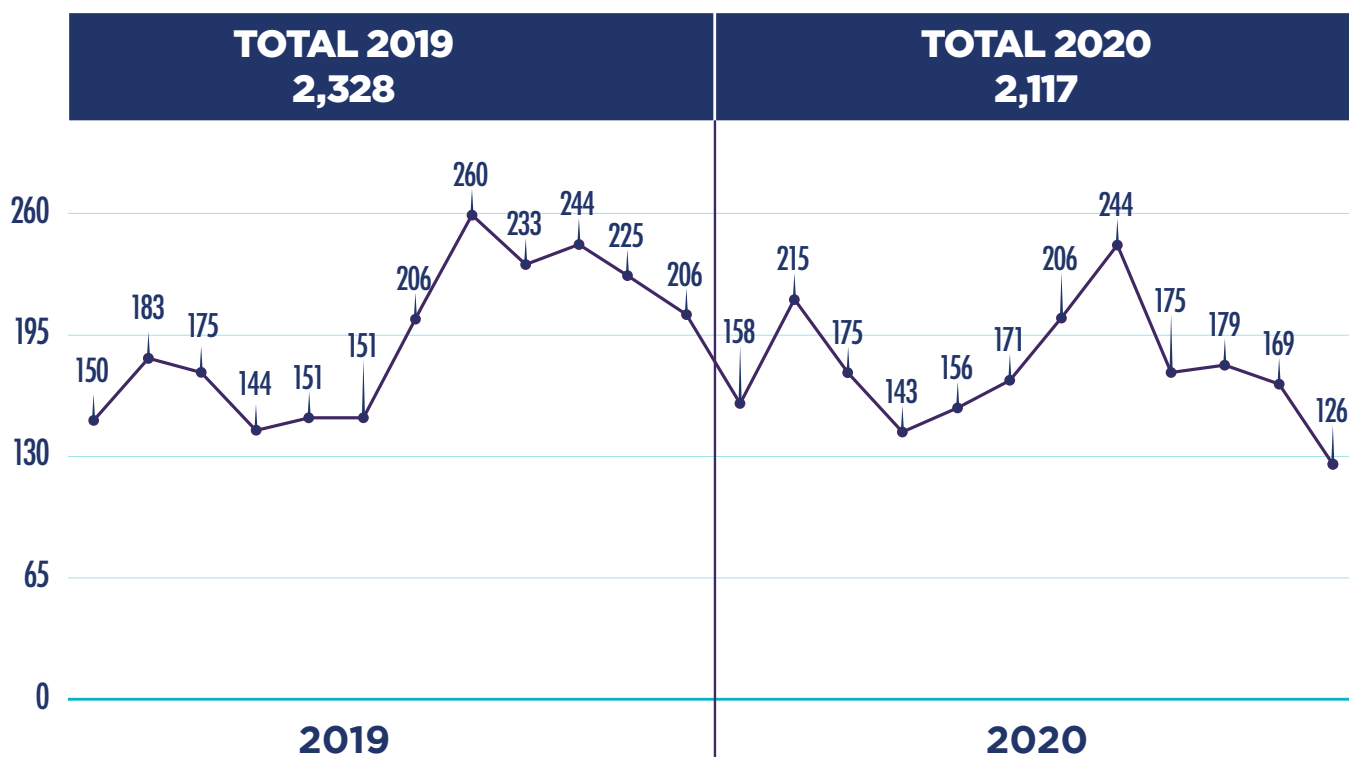
The information gathered through the National Line against Human Trafficking

allows us to understand the operation mechanisms of trafficking networks, as well as the characteristics of the traffickers and victims' profiles, as will be seen ahead.

In that sense, the specialized attention line has become a referent for the generation of reliable and in real time statistics, apart from offering the possibility to contact a support network with over 100 service providers including authorities dedicated to the procurement of justice, government and non-government organisms, the civil society and academics.

REPORTING TRENDS

The number of reports the National Line Against Human Trafficking receives registers the highest numbers of attentions offered in August, especially in relation with the commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking on July 30th.



Source: Citizen Council for Safety and Justice in Mexico City

OUR ALLIES SAY



Vulnerability is the main factor that identifies victims of Trafficking; the economical crisis that derived from the closure of activities due to COVID-19 has increased the volume of the vulnerable population, so there are more people who live in a situation of poverty and decide to migrate to try to find a better life; also, conflicts within the family caused by being together in reduced spaces are more frequent, so the number of teenagers and children who feel isolated and who have affective needs has

increased. Awareness and prevention are two labors that must not recede in times of COVID and post COVID.

The scenario post COVID is expected to be complicated, so as entities that seek to eradicate Human Trafficking in our country, we must double our efforts in order to have a greater impact, given that the situation seems to favor the industry of Trafficking; today more than ever we see social networks as our allies to raise awareness about this topic and to multiply the number of abolitionists. Let's make fighting against Human Trafficking something in which we all participate.

COVID-9 changed the rules of the game, that's why Ágape has adapted its goal of raising awareness about Human Trafficking in three axis related with the identification of people in conditions of exploitation: measuring the economical and social consequences, determining the government's operational capacity to eradicate this crime and seeking to find efficient information systems that help create a better coordination.

One of the challenges we will face during this post-pandemic stage will be to stop fighting this problem by only taking into account official reports, and trying to build collective information systems that are better known as BIG DATA, in order to develop more real and dynamic strategies that decrease the problem, just as Human Trafficking criminal networks do when they adapt swiftly to all the operative and legal infrastructure that fights against it.



AGAPE

OUR ALLIES SAY



ANTHUS

ASOCIACIÓN NACIONAL CONTRA
LA TRATA HUMANA EN LA SOCIEDAD

Unfortunately, operations and rescue missions organized by the attorney's office decreased due to the pandemic, but this doesn't mean that there are no victims being exploited during the pandemic. We know that, even though hotels and night clubs closed, victims have been exploited at private homes, making rescues more

difficult.

Most survivors who had already graduated and who a job were fired due to the closure of venues during the pandemic, and this forced us to create a "monitoring project" through which we contacted them to make sure that unemployment didn't lead them back to circles of exploitation.

One of the challenges we continue to face is that users who were already ready to graduate have overpassed their stay in an enclosed place and this has increased their anxiety and tiredness, something that works against their process. But since there is no better alternative given the current situation, we prefer them to stay at the shelter home.

Mariana Wenzel González

General Director and Co-founder
of the National Association Against Human Trafficking in Society

We start from the fact that abuse, extortion, inequality and violence already existed but the pandemic caused by COVID-19 worsened.

Given that the northern and southern Mexican borders are more closed and guarded by the National Guard, the police elements of the National Migration Institute, migrating from Mexico to the United States has become more complicated so the payment the "polleros", guides and traffickers demand has increased. This also translates in more extortions and more dangerous roads and routes.

The economical need, the loss of employment and the closure of commercial activities has caused despair within many families and the few jobs that are available demand long work days without any benefits, with unfavorable conditions and, added to the pandemic, the lack of a migratory document that causes a double disadvantage. Particularly for women, there are jobs in which they are offered excellent wages, and little or no experience and documentation required, so given their ignorance and economical needs there are more vulnerable to being hooked by Trafficking networks.

When people are taken back to the northern Mexican border, unfortunately, they face situations of insecurity and risk, and if there is little or no institutional presence and support networks, they are exposed to being hooked by traffickers.

People under the Protection Protocols for Migrants in border cities face challenges such as the lack of services and programs, and being homeless, being exposed to work and sexual exploitation. In addition, communities are discontent.

Laura Trejo Chirino

General Director of Assistance and Counseling for Human Mobility

