

## **NARRATIVE REPORT 2016-2017**

### **1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ORGANIZATION.**

#### **a) Name of the Organization:**

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women - Latin America and the Caribbean (CATW-LAC)

#### **b) Title of the Program:**

Access to Justice and Due Diligence for Sex Trafficking Victims through the Red Alert System (RAS)

#### **c) Amount of the donation:**

USD \$50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand dollars)

#### **d) Contact person:**

MCS. Teresa Columba Ulloa Ziáurriz, Regional Director

#### **e) Address:**

Av. Centenario 585, Lomas de Tarango, Álvaro Obregón, CP. 01620, Mexico City.

### **2. RECAP BRIEFLY WHAT OUTCOMES THE PROGRAM WAS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE.**

The project is designed to provide assistance and legal representation to victims of sex trafficking, by seeking justice and monetary reparations from their exploiters. We have provided legal assistance to 83 victims, of which 35 of their cases are at the local law enforcement level, and 48 are federal law enforcement level cases. During the period of the report, 64 cases are in preliminary investigation; 18 are undergoing criminal proceedings and 1 conviction had been reached.

It should be noted that 38 victims have been located alive, unfortunately 8 have been found dead. At the time of this report, 37 victims are still missing, and are presumed to be victims of sexual exploitation, linked with organized

crime cartels. CATW-LAC has also cared for the relatives of the victims, because in the process of searching and locating the missing persons, the families need protection and tools that allow them to establish better living conditions. They also need support toward self-empowerment, since they are often displaced from their homes and have to flee from criminal groups.

**3. HAS FUNDING CHANGED FOR THIS PROGRAM? FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE YOU RECEIVED UNEXPECTED FUNDING FROM ANOTHER SOURCE?**

During the execution of the project we have not changed any of the budget lines, but we have observed that the money allotted for international travel to assist victims abroad was extended for three trips to the United States. Also with the exchange rate fluctuation, some gains have been registered in the project budget in Mexican pesos, but these gains have been used in the execution of the project, in order to meet the project goals. Also, we have had the support of the Social Co-investment Program operated by the Institute of Social Development (Public Instance of the Federal Government), that financed the amount of USD \$17,500.00 for different programs of the RAS, mainly we delivered humanitarian assistance to the victims and their families. We also received USD \$20,416.00 from the Mexico City Institute of Women for this project, but only for cases from or in Mexico City.

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**4. IS YOUR ORGANIZATION OR PROGRAM SITUATION DIFFERENT THAN PRESENTED IN THE APPROVED PROPOSAL? FOR EXAMPLE, NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM STAFFING CHANGES OR NGO AFFILIATION, LOSS OF LARGE FUNDING OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGES?**

In the day-to-day work of the Organization, we are constantly facing certain physical threats, even some that reach the media. We address these issues through security mechanisms and the networks we have with government agencies.

As a result of the perilous security situation, staff turnover is an issue, especially in the legal department, although thanks to our efforts and DFW funds, we have been able to strengthen our efforts with staff retention. The situation of the Organization and the program has not changed from the approved proposal. There have not been any registered changes in the Executive Board of the Organization.

## 5. WHAT CHALLENGES ARE YOU FACING AS YOU MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS PROJECT? HOW ARE YOU APPROACHING THESE CHALLENGES?

In dealing with victims of trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery, we are constantly facing adversity and danger, since most cases involve organized crime cartels or criminal cells, and, in other cases, the traffickers are the ones who threaten and try to locate both the victims and their families to hurt them. Similarly, our work often confronts politicians and others in the halls of power who are connected to buying commercial sexual exploitation.

**CASE 1.** Last November 16, RAS legally represented Victim 1 of trafficking and sexual slavery, in her first hearing after 4 years of her rescue. She is an indigenous woman who has been sexually enslaved, first in Reynosa, Mexico, for 4 years and after for two years in New York, U.S.A. She was recruited by a false job opportunity and the same day she was raped. Here is her testimony:

"I was transported by earth to Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, directly to the red district. As she was the youngest, she was given a birth certificate of another woman, "Maricela", 20 years old and they gave her the voter's credentials of that woman, so she was registered in the municipal health services. She realized that armed men were watching them and taking them to the municipal services. Then was when her nightmare began, she had to charge \$ 400 for fifteen minutes and a thousand for an hour, she got to make them \$ 1,000 dollars a day, she did not have a single day off. After 4 years, she was transported to New York where she was sexually enslaved for two more years. All the time was severely mistreated and threaten, until she was sure she had no other alternative than obey them.

She was sexually exploited day and night, very badly fed, and slept for as much as four hours. When the menstruation came to me they made me put on a cap made with pantyhose so I would not stop being in prostitution and I would not mess up the clients.

I never received a single dollar, all the money that we won the other girls and I sent it to San Pablo del Monte, Tlaxcala. She was forced to say that she was there for her free election, but fortunately when she was two years in New York, in an operation on a Queens' brothel, she was arrested, and when she told them her story they protected and assisted her."

The perpetrators ran away to Mexico, and after several years, finally we were able to apprehend six of them and the hearings finally started.

Today she has legal residence in the United States, but she has 10 years of not seeing her family, in a cold country, indifferent to pain, she has just been diagnosed Human Papilloma Virus and at 26 years in next January, she will undergo Salpingoclasia as consequence of delivering sexual services to 50 men daily for so long time. She is alone, sick, depressed, she has not yet been able to rebuild her project life and she is still waiting for justice, although now I am nearest.

**CASE 2.** Last December 5, 2016 we assisted the mother of Yamile, a girl 12 years old from a little town, Saint Rosa, in Tlaltenango, Morelos, that was abducted on her way to school, in the accusation hearing of two men, and we have taking care of the case since then. Yamile was abducted in the presence of her sister, 14 years old, who tried desperately to recover her, and ran to look for assistance. Unfortunately, up to now, Yamile continues missing. And soon the two men processed that still are in jail, have been reluctant to say what they did with Yamile.



During the period of investigation, we have organized, in coordination with local and federal authorities, a search to see if she had been killed and buried near the place where the vehicle in which they took her was found. We have reinforced the campaign to look for her, but up to now we have not had any results. We are afraid that the girl was trafficked to USA with purposes of sexual exploitation.

The family had been suffering a lot, including her elder sister and we really hope to find and rescue her very soon. Although her mother crying begs to find her daughter death or alive.

**Case 3.** Amalia Calzada Hernández, 15 years old, is missing since 8 March, 2017. She was seen last time in the bakery "La Esperanza", in Tecamac, State of Mexico. Since then we have been supporting her family to look for her. We have made a campaign in social media and we have delivered legal assistance in the case before the prosecutor office.



We have installed a working group in the State of Mexico to look for the missing women and girls in the State of Mexico, to promote the looking of Amalia and other victims missing in that State. We are afraid the girl was recruited by the organized crime. Her family, especially her mother is coursing a deep depression since her daughter is missing.

It is very frustrating the time that have elapsed and the few advances in the investigation it has been registered.

We are aware in this and other cases that it is urgent to count with a unified searching Protocol, both in the Federal and local level.

**CASE 4.** Estefanía Hernández Flores, was missing and recovered two times. She is a girl 15 years old with cleft lip and palate, with very low self-esteem and was a very good student. She is from Tepoztlan, Morelos where she meet a man 26 years old that using a loving and seduction language, he convinced the girl to go with him. The first time she have her begging taking advantage of her disability, and after 20 days we were able to recover her. During that time we were able to present denounce and obtain a restriction order.

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The second time Estefanía was missing for 12 months and when we were able to recover her she came back with a baby. Since then, the perpetrator, Estefanía and the baby are living with her parents, because they prefer to have both with them and be sure she is being well treated.

The family decided not to prosecute the perpetrator because they realized that Estefanía believes she is in love with him, and they are afraid that she will keep trying to escape with him, because she is coursing Stockholm syndrome.

**LOCALIZADA**

**CASE 5.** In December 18, 2014 Alejandra was kidnapped. She was a girl, 26 years old and lived in Puente de Ixtla, Morelos. On 24 of December the rescue was paid. And the last time her family received a phone call from her was on December 27, 2014. Since then and up to October 2015 her family looked for her without pause. In that month they received the news that some rests of her daughter appeared in a dump and she was killed by dismemberment, and her identity was confirmed with DNA analysis. Two of the perpetrators were already in jail in criminal procedure in Morelos Local Court, and we started assisting the family in July 2015. But the criminal procedure was held because one of the perpetrators presented a **Habeas Corpus** Resource, which he gained. The Judge cited a hearing on May 11, 2016 to declare herself not competent and decline the case to a Judge in Taxco, Guerrero Local Court, also in June 10, 2016 the Judge cited a hearing with the same purposes for the second perpetrator, but there was not court in Taxco and it took more than two months that the case arrived to the Control Judge in Iguala, Guerrero. The Judge declared himself not competent and send back the case to Morelos' Court. Morelos' Court did not accepted the competence and it was sent a resource conflict of competence between the two local courts, which was solved in November 2016, which decided that Morelos' Court is the competent. On January 4, 2017, we receive a call for the intermediate hearing, where vicious of the accusation and of the damage reparation could be added or corrected.

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**LOCALIZADA**



**Alerta Roja**  
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By the end of the year, the Federal Kidnapping Prosecutor raise to Iguala's Federal Court the case to demand the apprehension orders, but the Federal Judge decided he was not competent because of the new criminal procedure enforced on October 2016 and declined the case to the Control Federal Judge in Acapulco, but he as well declared himself not competent, which again raise to the Unitarian Court in Chilpancingo, Guerrero, to define the competence and the criminal procedure to be applied to the case, the oral or traditional criminal procedure. This conflict of competence was decided in favor of the traditional procedure, so the case was sent to the 5<sup>th</sup>. Federal Court of Iguala, Guerrero. He issued 6 apprehension orders, some for organized crime linked with kidnapping and drug trafficking. Of those 6

apprehension orders 4 have been already executed.

In January, 2017 the Federal Prosecutor presented the case for aggravated kidnapping to the Federal Judge in Iguala, Guerrero, including those that are in jail in criminal process before the local court of Morelos. But the Judge again declare himself he was not competent because of the new criminal procedure enforced on October 2016 and declined the case to the Control Federal Judge in Acapulco, but he as well declared himself not competent, which again raise to the Unitarian Court in Chilpancingo, Guerrero, to define the competence and the criminal procedure to be applied to the case, the oral or traditional criminal procedure. This conflict of competence was decided in favor of the traditional procedure, so the case was sent to the 5<sup>th</sup>. Federal Court of Iguala, Guerrero. But this time, the Federal Judge denied the granting of the apprehension orders, arguing the competent is the first court that knew the case.

Since January, when was established the intermediate hearing we have been granted dates every 15 days, and up to the moment I am closing this report, it has not happen. Therefore we will need to take care of two criminal procedure for the same case.

**6. HAVE YOU REVISED YOUR ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES SINCE THE PROJECT BEGAN? IF SO, WHY? WHAT ARE YOUR NEW OBJECTIVES?**

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No, we have not revised the original objectives since the project began, but the objectives are constantly reviewed and evaluated, in order to monitor the expected results and goals.

Specifically for this project we have not set new objectives, rather we have seen that the competent authorities responsible for providing and ensuring the application of the law have been overtaken by organized crime and do not provide comprehensive protection and assistance to victims and their families. Additionally, on several occasions, due to bureaucratic procedures, legal proceedings are lengthened, hampering our work as an organization specialized in trafficking. As there are no specialized courts on sex trafficking in Mexico, these procedures often lack:

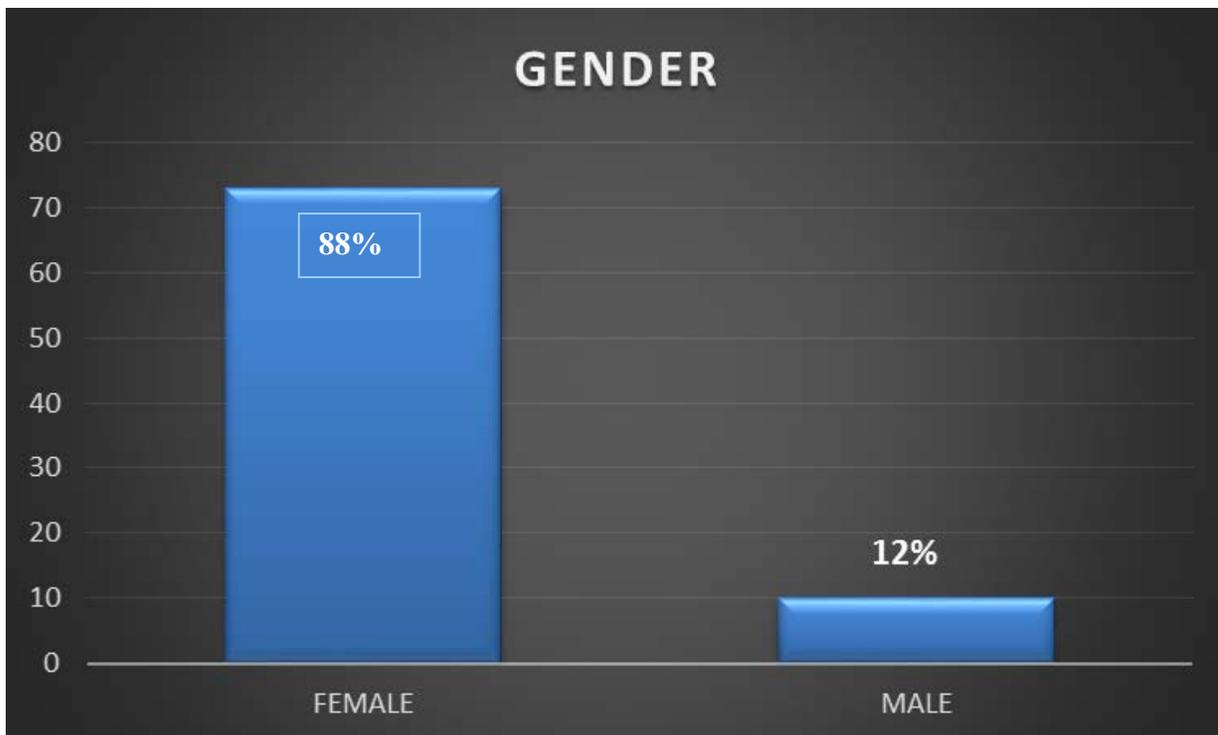
- the gender perspective,
- a full knowledge of human rights law,
- procedural sensitivity for victims,
- knowledge of the laws and their reforms,
- the principle of due diligence

**7. WHAT PROGRESS HAVE YOU MADE TOWARD ACHIEVING YOUR OBJECTIVES? PLEASE ADDRESS EACH STATED OBJECTIVE.**

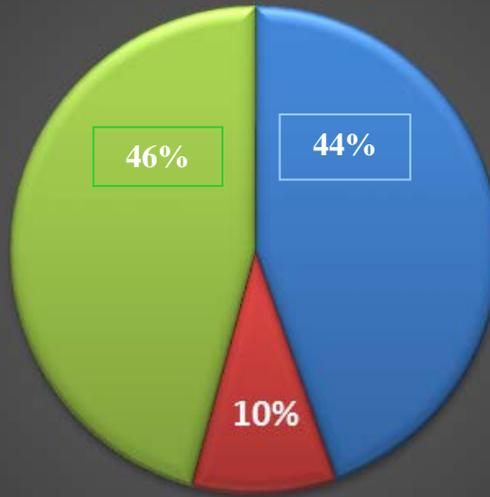
#	Target Expected	Advances																																	
1	90 New reports received in RAS.	<b>70 received reports</b> from September 1 <sup>st</sup> 2016 to February 28 <sup>th</sup> 2017 and turned to different areas of RAS (Red Alert System).																																	
	<b>Total of Cases</b>	<b>70 Cases</b>																																	
2	90 New cases that have received legal assistance and representation.	23 cases before federal authorities. 22 cases before local authorities.																																	
	<b>Total of Cases</b>	<b>45 Cases</b>																																	
3	100 Cases that have received legal assistance. (All years)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Victims Treated</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>14</td> <td>18</td> <td>20</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Victims Treated	1	2	5	7	5	6	14	18	20	5											
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Victims Treated	1	2	5	7	5	6	14	18	20	5																									
	<b>Total of Cases</b>	<b>83 Cases</b>																																	
4	40 Cases have received legal assistance before the court.	48Cases before federal and 35 local courts. 1 Conviction.																																	
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5	180 Family members received protection measures for sue and follow up their cases in Court.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Direct Victims</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>14</td> <td>18</td> <td>20</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family members</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>14</td> <td>17</td> <td>16</td> <td>13</td> <td>38</td> <td>44</td> <td>56</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Direct Victims	1	2	5	7	5	6	14	18	20	5	Family members	4	5	14	17	16	13	38	44	56	15
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	<b>Total of Cases</b>	<b>83 Cases and 222 victims' relatives were served.</b>																																	
6	140 Cases that have received at least one time a follow up to check on the advances.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year of Reception</th> <th>Cases</th> <th>Diligences in Period Report</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>1</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>5</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>7</td> <td>66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>5</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>6</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>14</td> <td>205</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>18</td> <td>354</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>20</td> <td>320</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>5</td> <td>58</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year of Reception	Cases	Diligences in Period Report	2008	1	21	2009	2	20	2010	5	54	2011	7	66	2012	5	59	2013	6	93	2014	14	205	2015	18	354	2016	20	320	2017	5	58
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**8. DO YOU ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING YOUR PROJECT IN THE TIMEFRAME OUTLINED IN YOUR PROPOSAL?**

Yes. To a certain extent, the lack of commitment on the part of the Mexican Government hampers our work. We have observed that the lack of knowledge of the laws and their reforms, as well as the lack of awareness of the rights and sensitivity for victims and their families and the lack of a gender perspective by the incumbent authorities are determining factors in the search for truth, access to justice and reparation. However with the efforts made, the relationship with other NGOs, and even with other public bodies, we have been able to make significant progress in legal processes. Another important factor that has impacted our activities is the exchange rate of the Mexican peso with the US Dollar, since these fluctuations have affected us mainly in helping with the expenses for transportation and per diems to bring cases to courts at a significant distance from Mexico City in the interior of the Mexican Republic, as well as the expenses when assisting victims abroad.

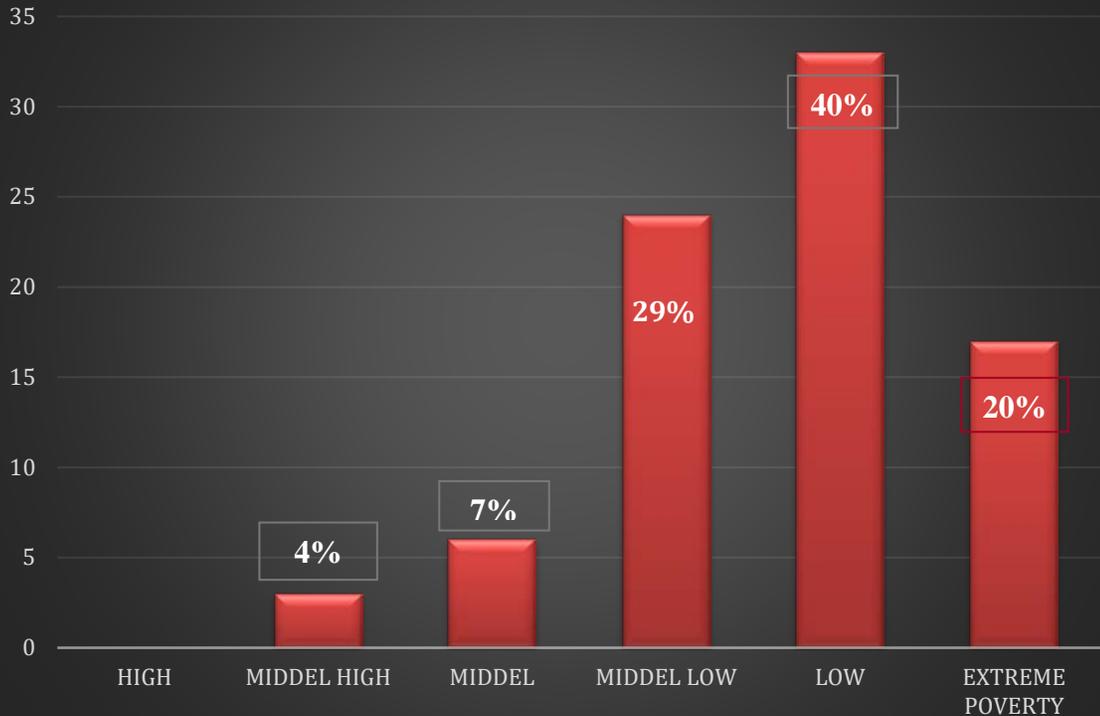


## VICTIM STATUS



STILL MISSING FOUND DEAD REUNIFICATION

## SES



## AGE OF VICTIMS BY GENDER

