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COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN ECUADOR

FINAL REPORT: October 1, 2006 – July 31, 2009

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FINAL REPORT

PROGRAM: COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN ECUADOR

Executing agency:	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ecuador
Project partner agencies (or national counterparts):	Ministry of Government (MI), Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES), National Child and Family Institute (INFA), the Child Welfare Police (DINAPEN), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Ricky Martin Foundation, the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CNNA), the National Police, Our Youth Foundation (FNJ) and Foundation Quimera (FQ).
Geographical coverage:	Ecuador
Project management site:	IOM Quito
Target group(s):	Government of Ecuador, institutions involved in the implementation of the National Plan against Human Trafficking and other forms of violence, population vulnerable to human trafficking, victims of trafficking. October 1, 2006 to September, 2007 (Original dates) Modification #1: Increased the total estimated from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and extended the completion date from September 30, 2007 through March 30, 2008. Modification #2: Extended the completion date from March 30, 2008 through April 30, 2008 Modification #3: Increased the total estimated cost from \$500,000 to \$800,000 and extended the completion date to March 30, 2009. Modification #4: Modified the cost-share in the Fiscal Data for Modification #3, included a revised budget and added a “Branding and Marking Plan”. Modification #5: Extended the award end date from March 31, 2009 to July 31, 2009.
Project period and duration:	
Reporting period:	October 1, 2006 to July 31, 2009
Total confirmed funding:	USD 800,000
Cumulative expenditure during reporting period:	USD 800,000

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the implementation of activities and the results of the “Combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Ecuador” Program executed under Cooperative Agreement #518-A-00-06-00077-00 between USAID and IOM Ecuador for the period October 1, 2006 to July 31, 2009.

The primary purpose of the USAID-funded Program has been to contribute to the implementation of the Government of Ecuador's (GOE) National TIP Plan via the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC), or the appropriate State institution(s) in charge of the protection of victims of trafficking (VOTs) and TIP prevention.

The activities undertaken along the Program have strengthened the capacity of the Government to combat human trafficking and to assist victims in a coordinated and adequate manner. All initiatives and activities set in the operative plan have been fully accomplished, exceeding in some cases the set goals and objectives. Accomplishments from the previous period have been consolidated. Efforts have focused on ensuring the sustainability of Program results by enhancing links among central and local governments responsible for the implementation of the National TIP Plan and civil society actors active in the implementation of the Shelter Pilot Program.

Several mechanisms were developed to establish and monitor inter-institutional coordination in order to address special needs of VOTs requiring direct assistance, and to provide necessary support to implementing partners. Technical assistance was provided for institutional strengthening and specialized training was offered in order to build institutional capacities regarding trafficking. During the execution of this program the reintegration of 154 VOTs was directly supported by the Shelter Pilot Program. It is important to mention that while the initial goal was to rescue and reintegrate 40 VOTs this number has been almost quadrupled.

Overall, IOM has coordinated, supported, mentored and built the capacity of local partners in Ecuador to provide vital protection services to victims of trafficking, to reduce the vulnerability of high-risk groups, and to increase the coordination between service providers, other civil society organizations working to counter trafficking, and local law enforcement and government officials.

2. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Ecuador is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation and forced labor. Although exact statistics on the extent of the crime are unavailable, the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that more than 5,000 victims in Ecuador are children trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The project aimed to combat TIP in Ecuador by working with the GOE to create a national-level impact and to achieve international standards in the prevention and eradication of this modern-day form of slavery. Building upon its previous work with NGO's at the local and community levels to promote legal reform and to create awareness of the problem within the Ecuadorian context, the Government of Ecuador has assumed responsibility and is taking concrete actions to combat this crime.

As the National Plan to combat TIP and other forms of violence is now in place, the overall objective of this project was to assist the GOE to implement and monitor this plan. Additionally, the project had six specific objectives: 1) to strengthen the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC), Technical Secretariat (TS), or the appropriate State institution(s) for the implementation of the National Plan to Combat TIP and other forms of violence; 2) to identify and implement other related activities as necessary to support the GOE efforts to counter trafficking; 3) to promote inter-institutional mechanisms for the registry of VOTs; 4) to develop a protocol for the route of victim assistance in Ecuador; 5) to enhance shelter services for VOTs; and 6) to develop transitional and follow-up mechanisms to support successful reintegration of VOTs.

Capitalizing on its breadth of experience in counter-trafficking activities internationally and the expansion of its counter-trafficking work in Ecuador, IOM has worked collaboratively to ensure the success of the project objectives through strategic alliances with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Government, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the National Family Institute, the Child Welfare Police, and the National Police.

3. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO ACHIEVE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthening of the IIC and the TS or the appropriate State institution for the implementation of the National TIP Plan

1.1. Work with the appropriate State institutions(s) for the Implementation of the National Plan

IOM has provided technical assistance to several institutions members of the Plan and counter trafficking networks, including the Ministry of Government, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Labor, the National Institute for the Family (INFA, Spanish acronym), the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Secretariat for Migrants (SENAMI, Spanish acronym), the Metropolitan Counsel for the Integral Protection of Children and Youth (COMPINA, Spanish acronym), the Anti-trafficking network, among others.

The following results are part of the strengthening of the IIC and the TS:

- **Website for the Dissemination of the National Plan to Combat TIP**

Activities in support of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry of the Government included the development of the website for the National Plan to Combat TIP. The site will serve as a communications, monitoring and assessment tool for the institutions members of the Plan. The website was officially launched in April 2009 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The website hosts information including the Annual Operative Plan, an introduction to the contents of the Plan, its members, national and international legislation and the monitoring and assessment mechanisms of the Plan. A series of documents including national and international publications on the subject, legislation, manuals, etc. can be accessed through the site which also has a section that explains where TIP denunciations can be made. The website can be accessed at: www.plantrata.gov.ec

IOM officially handed over the website, its manuals and passwords to the Ministry of Government (as head of the National TIP Plan); under the commitment that IOM's technical team would maintain the website and update it periodically. Additionally, this formal delivery commits the Ministry of Government to hand in the management of the website to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, once the latter assumes the National Plan. All 14 member organizations of the plan (Ministry of Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Labor, Public Ministry, National Secretariat For Planning and Development, National Secretariat for Migrants, national Council of Children and Adolescents, national Women's Council, People Ombudsman Office) were informed of this formal hand over.

Therefore IOM has achieved its goal defined in the annual operative plan, as the website has been technically finalized, approved by both ministries and has actually reached 100% of its development.

- **Technical assistance in the establishment of the Police Unit Specialized in TIP**

IOM provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Government and the National Police in the creation of a specialized TIP police unit. IOM provided background information, principles of international law, and practical knowledge through several documents including a written report on international principles for law enforcement officers that handle TIP cases. Also IOM helped with the development of a proposal for the establishment of the police unit. The proposal was presented in several meetings to several authorities in the Ministry of Government and the Council of Police Generals.

As a result, the Police Unit specialized in TIP became operational and received the support of government and police authorities. The elite group began with 7 TIP experienced police agents and until July 2009 it had 14 investigative agents. IOM supported in preparing the regulations that govern the unit.

Until July 2009, the Unit received a total of 258 TIP reports; carried out 189 investigations and conducted 25 operations. The Unit detained 41 suspects and rescued 64 VOTs. Please see the table below for details.

- **Specific training to key GOE institutions part of the ICC**

IOM has trained several key GOE institutions currently implementing counter-trafficking activities as well as those with a demonstrated interest in incorporating counter-TIP actions in their agendas. Throughout the program, IOM provided permanent technical support to authorities in the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights responsible for coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the National TIP Plan.

IOM and the Ministry of Government developed and executed a work plan for a national training program on the appropriate mechanisms to use the Protocol for VOTs Assistance developed by the National Counsel for Children and Adolescents (CNNA, Spanish acronym). The workshop took place in January of 2009 in the city of Lago

Agrio, Province of Sucumbíos.

In addition, IOM supported the strengthening of the Technical Secretariat (TS) by facilitating work meetings between the Ministry of Government, INFA, the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES), the Ministry of Education, COMPINA and the network of organizations that work to eradicate the presence of children in the streets. This support furthered the campaign against child forced begging during Christmas, favoring the prevention component of the Plan.

In October 2008, IOM also coordinated with INFA the funding of a research study on the perception and characterization of TIP for forced begging and labor exploitation purposes in the provinces of Chimborazo and Tungurahua.

Between January and December 2008, the operative working group of the IIC met several times to discuss and analyze specific VOTs cases and the difficulties faced in handling these cases. A series of conclusions and recommendations resulted from these meetings which were held with the support of OIM. In addition, IOM supported IIC meetings to discuss the progress made by members of the Commission regarding TIP, including training and capacity building programs for judges and prosecutors. Meetings also discussed the coordinated work between members of the IIC for the Christmas campaign against mendicancy; the incorporation of activities to prevent and combat TIP in the operative plans of member organizations for 2009; among others.

In 2008, IOM supported the ministries of Government and Justice in training 2,500 police officers from the cities of Portoviejo, Esmeraldas, Santo Domingo, Riobamba and Quito on human rights and TIP-related issues.

2. Identification and Implementation of other Activities as Necessary to complement national CT efforts

2.1 Additional prevention, protection and prosecution related activities identified and nature of support determined

- **GOE-identified Counter-Trafficking Activities**

IOM's technical assistance for the Ecuadorian government has included specialized training, presentations in conferences and other forms of TIP prevention and awareness-raising actions. Some of the activities are described below:

- In October of 2008, the National Diagnosis on Trafficking "An invisible presence" was presented to the institutions that supported this initiative. The National Council of Children and Adolescents, the National Council for Women, INFA and IOM were the institutions that supported this first national report on human trafficking. The outcomes of the study were presented in a one-day workshop where all participating institutions provided feedback. The comments and observations were incorporated in the final document.
- On August 31, 2008, IOM, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Working Group on Labor Migration, published a special TIP issue of the bulletin "Entretierras". This issue reflected the work of local anti-trafficking

networks in Lago Agrio, Cuenca and Quito, as well as the work of the Central Government and international organizations. For its publication a Panel of Experts was invited to participate in Quito and Cuenca in order to share their experiences in counter trafficking. The special issue was published in order to commemorate the 4th anniversary of the GOE's declaration of the fight against TIP as a political priority.

- IOM also provided technical assistance to the GOE at a workshop held in November 2008 by the National Committee for the Progressive Eradication of Child Labor (CONEPTI, Spanish acronym), as part of the Working Table for the Progressive Eradication of Indigenous Child Labor.
- On December 3, 2008, at the request of the Riobamba Canton Council for Children and Adolescents and the Province of Chimborazo INFA Department, IOM provided a training workshop on conceptual TIP to members of the Decentralized System for the Protection of Children and Adolescents of the Province of Chimborazo.
- On December 15 2008, IOM took part in the First Andean Regional Meeting of High Police Authorities in the Fight against Trafficking in Persons for the Purposes of Forced Begging. Police authorities from Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Chile met to share local initiatives and experiences; to systematize good practices; and to establish agreements between the Andean countries in counter trafficking. This initiative was led by the National Council for Children and Adolescents and IOM had the opportunity to share its experiences combating TIP, specifically regarding the coordination established among Government institutions and the Police specialized in children.
- On April 3 2008, IOM supported the presentation of the TIP-related theatre production "Pájaros de la Memoria" in the city of Manta in coordination with the Inter-institutional working group on labor migration led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The report of the 1st National Convention on Migration and Development held on February 27, 2008 was presented prior to the show. IOM made a presentation on the reality of human trafficking in Ecuador and the national efforts to combat crime. The play and topic were very well received by the public.
- Since July 2008, IOM has distributed a quarterly bulletin with news, activities and information on TIP in Ecuador. The bulletin was presented in an electronic version to members of IIC, civil society institutions engaged in counter TIP activities, IOM offices, and other counterparts totaling 50 recipient institutions with broad reach. The four bulletins submitted were of great value to counterparts that received not only information on counter TIP activities and advances undertaken on the National Plan Against Trafficking in Persons, but also news from Ecuador and the region on TIP. Most of all, the bulletin served as an instrument to publicize the work conducted by the GOE and the support of USAID and IOM for implementation of counter TIP activities, technical assistance to the GOE and VOTs assistance in coordination with civil society institutions, as well as prevention activities.

National Council of Women (CONAMU)

IOM and the National Council of Women (CONAMU, acronym in Spanish) signed an agreement in July 2008. The agreement was to plan, organize, and execute necessary activities for the development of joint action on TIP prevention, protection of women VOTs, the promotion of women rights and the application of gender equality.

IOM and CONAMU's office for Social Rights and Violence prepared a training seminar for judges and prosecutors on TIP. IOM partially financed and provided technical assistance to the TIP training module prepared by an international expert of the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) that was used for training on October, 2008. The seminar was a success with more than 30 participants, 10 of which were women who acted as judges and prosecutors.

In April 2009, IOM participated in and partially financed two TIP training sessions for women police officers and one replica of the training session for judges and prosecutors based on the module prepared by ILANUD with IOM support. During the two training sessions for women police officers IOM participated with a module on TIP with a gender view.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Between April and May 2007, IOM worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present the K-11 project in Ecuador. The K-11 project is a three-film project (one non-fiction film and two documentaries) that exposes the real stories of children abducted into the horrifying world of human trafficking.

A private presentation of the K-11 project for guests of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, took place on May 28, 2007 in the theatre Ocho y Medio in Quito. The Minister of Foreign Affairs opened the event in front of a packed theatre full of high level government authorities, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, human rights and international organizations as well as strategic partners from the private sector.

National Secretariat for the Migrant (SENAMI)

In February 2009, a training workshop was held for 13 SENAMI officials in charge of providing assistance to migrants and immigrants. The objective was to strengthen the skills on VOTs identification, interviewing techniques and case referral. The training focused on differentiating TIP from smuggling as most of the cases addressed by SENAMI regard migrant smuggling. Mainly, the activities were also aimed at raising awareness on TIP and sensibility toward TIP victims.

In March 2009, SENAMI invited IOM to provide a specialized training for 4 of their representatives abroad. These officials work in Venezuela, New York, Madrid and Milan in SENAMI's Ecuadorian Houses, which were established at the end of 2008 with the aim of providing different services to Ecuadorian nationals. The training focused on the identification of victims of human trafficking and the mechanisms of coordination available at the national and international levels in order to assist these victims.

Ministry of Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism officially requested IOM to provide technical assistance for a series of activities that it undertakes as Head of the Pro Tempore Secretariat for the Regional Action Group against sexual exploitation in tourism and travel. The request included training focused on awareness raising and of TIP with the purposes of sexual exploitation in tourism and travel. Within this framework, a specialized training session for the National Federation of Tourism Chambers (FENACAPTUR) took place in June 2009 and was attended by 25 participants, including presidents and delegates of the Provincial Chambers of Tourism and officers of the Ministry of Tourism.

Additionally, IOM provided technical assistance to produce training modules on TIP with sexual exploitation purposes in tourism and travel regarding children from 7 to 18 years old and adults from 19 to 21 years old. IOM worked on this initiative with the Ecuadorian Boys Scouts Association and the Ministry of Tourism in order to ensure that 1,200 children are trained at a national level by 2010. As a first step, IOM trained the trainers on TIP concepts and relevant law. As a second step, an interactive and specialized methodology designed to be used with children outdoors was created and has been used in Quito, Cuenca, Machala, Esmeraldas and Guayaquil with high impact results.

Ministry of Labor

Another counter TIP initiative supported by IOM was held in coordination with the Ministry of Labor, INFA and civil society organizations including Our Youth Foundation, and under the framework of a network that carries out workshops on child labor. In February 2009, a workshop was held aimed at bringing new elements of analysis in the framework of TIP, as well as sharing work experiences gathered. There was a discussion panel on trafficking in persons, child and domestic work held with the support of IOM. IOM provided input for the discussion panel, including documents concerning trafficking in persons and child work. IOM supported the systematization of this discussion workshop which defined possible areas of work for the prevention of child labor exploitation in domestic work.

In March 2009, IOM conducted a 2 day training event on conceptual and legal elements of TIP, victim identification and interviewing techniques for public officials, particularly the Labor Inspectors at the Ministry of Labor and the members of SENAMI unit of assistance to migrants and their families. The training focused on developing knowledge and skills for detecting TIP while carrying out routine inspections. Participants from the Ministry of Labor included 25 labor inspectors from different provinces, 3 members of UNICEF, 2 members of the Ministry's unit that issues work permits to foreigners, and the Vice-minister of Labor.

DINAPEN

In celebration of DINAPEN's 10th Anniversary, IOM, in coordination with INFA and the International Labor Organization (ILO) provided support for the development of a video highlighting the significant achievements of this specialized police force in CT. The video was presented in a formal commemoration ceremony on November 22, 2007

in which the Minister of Government praised DINAPEN's efforts and specifically addressed the impact of TIP on Ecuadorian children and adolescents, the importance of the progress made in CT and the need for continued support and specialization of the police in CT.

With the support of USAID, the US Embassy, and IOM missions throughout Latin America, IOM developed in August 2007, a methodology for the provision of specialized training to strengthen the capacity of DINAPEN to enforce the CT legislation in Ecuador.

- **Civil Society-identified Counter-Trafficking Activities**

Esperanza Foundation

IOM supported Esperanza Foundation as a co-sponsor of the film festival on migration held in Quito and Cuenca during February and March, 2008. The festival was jointly organized by the European Union, Esperanza Foundation and the Municipality of Cuenca and additional co-sponsors included the Italian Embassy and the Dante Alighieri Institute. The event served to promote the rights of migrants and prevent trafficking in persons through the presentation of movies including Lilya 4-Ever. 4,965 people attended the festival.

UN System in Ecuador

In July 2008, the proposal for the Project of Youth, Employment and Migration was approved for funding by the Spanish International Development Agency. An important component of the proposal is the support for the GOE institutions responsible for the implementation of the National TIP Plan. The project also contemplates training workshops for public officials in protection and restitution of rights of adolescent VOTs.

IOM, jointly with the United Nations System in Ecuador and several State ministries that included the Ministry of Government, participated in 2007 and 2008 in the music festival Quitofest. During the events IOM distributed prevention and awareness materials that included 5,000 brochures, stickers, key-chains and postcards with TIP data and an Our Youth Foundation hotline number for automated information. In 2008, 40,000 people attended the broadcasting of a pre-recorded TIP-prevention message by a known radio DJ. IOM, together with UN agencies, presented video forum workshops aimed at prevention and awareness-raising on TIP reaching nearly 750 people. IOM prepared and distributed among the youth at the festival 500 music compact discs with songs donated by 7 Ecuadorian bands. These CDs contained a series of TIP-prevention messages.

In addition, in February of 2008, as part of a course on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law offered by the United Nations to the Ministerial Military Police, IOM trained 35 officers posted across the country on basic TIP concepts, victim identification, and the principles of first response and the protection of victims' rights.

In December 2007, IOM worked with the UN System in Ecuador to incorporate TIP as an integral component of the annual international 16 Day Campaign to End Violence.

Flyers and posters with information about gender-based violence were distributed to NGOs working with vulnerable populations across the country. This material was accompanied by informative CDs containing greater detail for social service providers on the identification and best practices in assistance for victims of violence, including VOTs. Additionally, IOM provided technical assistance for the inclusion of TIP in the blog shared with media outlets during the campaign (<http://16diasdeactivismoecuador.blogspot.com/>).

CIESPAL

IOM was actively involved in the planning and execution of the Seminar – Workshop: Socially Responsible Journalism. It was held in CIESPAL in Quito on August 7 and 8, 2007. The two-day workshop on socially responsible investigative reporting was provided for 70 key print, radio and television journalists. The event capitalized on a TIP training program for radio journalists established by the American Bar Association in 2006, bringing a new and innovative partnership while using lessons learned to broaden the scope of the event to opinion-makers in the national context.

MIP3

IOM facilitated the participation of Machala’s public prosecutor and a national TIP expert in a 5-day event on TIP in Galapagos in June 24-29, 2007. The event was organized by MIP3 and cosponsored by INFA. The local children’s advisory board played a key role in convening local authorities to the workshop. Immediate results of the event include the change in the commercial sex industry to incorporate specific human rights standards and the norms established in the Ecuadorian penal code.

Also, on August 29-31, 2007 IOM organized a 3-day training program to build local (governmental and nongovernmental) capacity related to TIP prevention in the Peninsula of Santa Elena. The training methodology employed drew on resources developed over the course of the American Bar Association Counter-Trafficking Project, and IOM’s counter-trafficking work in the Northern Border in Coordination with Esquel Foundation and local actors in Sucumbíos.

2.2 Implement selected activities based on results of activities 5.1

Colombian Consulate

Recognizing the prevalence of Colombian VOTs among the targeted beneficiaries of the Shelter Pilot Program, IOM has worked with the Colombian Consulate to strengthen the identification process of VOTs during the routine activities that may put Consular staff in contact with victims.

As a result, a strategic alliance has been formed between the Colombian Consulate, the Religious Order of the Adoratrices, and IOM. Results of the coordination include continued commitment to establishing concrete roles and responsibilities of each partner institution in the protection of Colombian VOTs identified in Ecuador. Please refer to activities of specific objective 5.1.

2.3 Strengthen local policies for the prevention, protection, and rehabilitation of VOTs

Cuenca Council for Children and Adolescents (CCNA)

With the support of IOM, the CCNA of Cuenca was able to develop important processes of prevention and information dissemination against TIP, directed at children and adolescents, as well as the urban and rural population. Specifically, the CCNA carry out TIP awareness raising workshops with more than 4,000 youngsters from 13 schools of the urban and rural zones of the county. The youngsters validated the methodology of the workshops as well as the recreational and didactic material on trafficking in persons developed by the CCNA.

The project also carried out counter TIP awareness raising workshops that resulted in more than 100 people trained, including public prosecutors, political authorities, tourism authorities, representatives of organizations in charge of special attention and protection of children and adolescents, including INFA, representatives of the National Journalists Union, among others.

In addition, in the framework of the project's massive prevention campaign, the CCNA developed two TIP prevention radio spots, one intended for children and another one for the youth. The CCNA also designed and elaborated two newsletters focused on the prevention of TIP, one directed at children, with a different language than the other directed at youths. A total of 33,000 newsletters for children and 33,000 newsletters for youths have been published. Both newsletters have been distributed to unschooled children of the urban and rural parishes of the county.

Regarding the comprehensive attention to victims of TIP in the Cuenca County component, CCNA signed an inter-institutional cooperation agreement with the Provincial Prosecutor's Office of Azuay and INFA in order to implement a joint mechanism to assist commercial sexual exploitation victims and TIP of children and adolescents.

Hence, through the implementation of this project, the mandate of the CCNA, that is, the protection of children and adolescents' rights and the oversight of its compliance, has been strengthened. This has been achieved through important information dissemination, awareness raising and prevention activities against TIP undertaken by the CCNA in the framework of this project. In addition, local policies against TIP in the Cuenca County are in process of consolidation.

Municipality of Machala

In Machala, on November 29, 2007, IOM, along with Esquel Foundation, International Labor Organization (ILO), the Municipality of Machala, the Cantonal Children and Adolescent Advisory Board, Quimera Foundation and the Inter-institutional Network against Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CCSE) of the Canton Machala, participated in the USAID-sponsored official presentation of the Cantonal Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of CCSE. The event also provided the occasion for the formal presentation of the proposed local ordinance against CCSE and TIP and the report consolidating the successful experience of the Machala Inter-institutional

Network against CCSE. The event was attended by all network members and the local media and served to effectively spotlight the important results obtained in Machala to combat TIP.

3. Promote Inter-institutional Mechanism for the Registry of VOTs

3.1 System to Register VOTs case information

IOM concluded the implementation of the Data Base System for TIP information in Ecuador. The system should serve as a mechanism to register VOTs case information, enabling the members of the IIC, civil society organizations, NGOs and other private and public institutions to provide information to a joint registry system managed by a State institution. This system to register VOTs and sexual exploitation cases is crucial as Ecuador does not have any systematized statistical information on TIP, which in turn, does not allow the GOE to develop public policies that reflect the TIP needs of the country.

The system design included several products, a System Definition; Route of TIP cases; Definitions of the System's Indicators; General Characteristics and System Structure; System Process Flow Description; Administration and Technical Competences Description. Also, the system hosts twelve forms that will serve the institutions members of the system.

It is noteworthy that the system design produced a Route of TIP cases that include a System Flow Description which details the route for assistance, follow up and oversight. So in addition to collecting information through the forms filled by different institutions along the way as the case develops, it also organized the intervention and responsibilities of State institutions in a TIP case. IOM was keen on emphasizing the need to establish specific roles for institutions at each step in the route so as to facilitate intervention and improve inter-institutional coordination, efficiency in the judicial process, VOTs assistance and rights restitution as the ultimate goal in State intervention.

Meetings and training activities were held regarding the Database System for TIP information in Ecuador. The meetings have allowed members of the Plan to understand and acknowledge their roles. The members have now a plan on the route, responsibilities and actions to carry out once a VOTs case is denounced. In this sense, during the period, IOM has fully accompanied the establishment of a sustained coordination mechanism between members of the Plan. The data base system is placed in the website www.infotrata.gov.ec where information will be available for anyone searching for statistics on TIP in Ecuador.

4. Develop a protocol for the route of victim assistance in Ecuador

4.1 Inter-institutional Coordination for the Elaboration of the Protocol

Within the framework of a cooperative agreement signed between IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2007 to strengthen consular services, IOM agreed to support the Ministry in the development of a protocol on consular assistance for VOTs.

The Protocol on Consular Assistance to VOTs was developed as a mechanism available for Foreign Service officials on procedures to identify Ecuadorian VOTs abroad. The

Protocol sets standards for the assistance and return of victims with a human rights approach. Research tasks, examinations, case studies and a series of interviews to relevant actors in counter-trafficking activities in Ecuador are part of the methodology.

The Protocol on Consular Assistance to VOTs was officially presented in May 2009 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in an event attended by the Diplomatic and Consular Corps and Public International Organizations working in Ecuador.

The Protocol on Consular Assistance to VOTs was also adapted to a Virtual Training Module which includes modern and interactive learning methods such as interviews to relevant actors, videos, virtual forums and on-line tutorials.

5. Enhance Shelter Services

5.1 Support direct assistance to VOTs through innovative initiatives that promote successful reintegration

The USAID/IOM Shelter Pilot Program was implemented until September 2008 through Quimera Foundation and until March 2009 through Our Youth Foundation. Achievements, challenges, progresses and constraints were appropriately and periodically reported in quarterly reports. The following information summarizes the achievements of the Program and overviews its impacts after its completion.

The Shelter Pilot Program provided direct assistance services to 154 VOTs. The victims were offered group, family and individual therapy, crisis intervention, as well as career orientation and support. VOTs and their children were ensured access to health care, medicine, clothing and personal hygiene supplies.

Additionally, legal support services provided included, among others: notification to the Child Court Judge of the presence of VOTs at shelters, assistance to enforce child support payments from fathers, support in obtaining restraining orders, conflict mediation between VOTs and third parties, assistance during legal proceedings against traffickers and in acquiring identity documents.

VOTs in Ecuador are protected by the Victims and Witness Protection and TIP Units of the Office of the Attorney General only if they agree to take part in the criminal case against their traffickers. VOTs assisted by the Shelter Pilot Program were guaranteed access to all the benefits it and its strategic allies offered.

Between October–December 2008, 1,033 people benefited from training activities on TIP carried out by the Shelter Pilot Program. The training component was implemented in VOTs' communities of origin (20 communities) as a strategy to support their successful reintegration process once they leave the Shelter.

The most important achievement of the Shelter Pilot Program in terms of influencing the GOE's decision-making processes was the enactment in January 2009 of a decree by the Minister of Education which guarantees full access to education to VOTs. IOM partners lobbied before the Minister to successfully include in the decree measures to overcome all the constraints they identified for VOTs successful educational reintegration. The decree will serve as a fundamental legal tool for future initiatives pursuing full access to education.

Young Mother Shelter

The Shelter Pilot Program has developed and strengthened the capabilities of local institutions to better and jointly respond to TIP cases. Members of the local Counter-Trafficking Network in Quito gradually learn that together they can provide all the services that the Pilot Program has been supporting.

Now that the Pilot Program is finished, local institutions are definitely empowered enough as to be able to –jointly- guarantee quality direct attention.

VOTs assisted by the Program participated in several workshops designed to meet their needs and interests and aimed at academic preparation for educational opportunities on: sexual and reproductive health, legal issues rights and responsibilities, social skills and personal growth, sexual violence and trafficking self-esteem, expressive arts, cooking, jewelry design, computer sciences, among others.

Certificates of participation in the training workshops were issued to VOTs so as to enhance their CVs and to motivate their process of independence and the development of strategies for reintegration. IOM was reported that this initiative has had a major influence in empowerment and successful reintegration of VOTs at family and work level.

Casa Linda Shelter

On November 2008, USAID and IOM formally handed over the Casa Linda Shelter to the local Government. The Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES, Spanish acronym) will provide the economic resources for the functioning of the shelter and the Rotary Club committed to provide the furnishing. Quimera Foundation staff will be responsible for operating the shelter during its first year. Overall, the Program's goal of assisting 10 VOTs was surpassed since 13 VOTs were assisted and successfully reintegrated.

5.2 Support the development of specialized shelter services for adult female VOTs

Congregation of Adoratrices

In order to meet the needs of adult female VOTs, IOM signed a cooperative agreement on January 3, 2008 with the Congregation of the Adoratrices. Under this agreement, IOM provided technical and financial support on a case per case basis for VOTs in the shelter of the Adoratrices. The Adoratrices, with USAID/Ecuador's support, have a fully-equipped shelter in Quito able to receive up to 7 VOTs at a given time. The Adoratrices provide integral support to adult VOTs, including psychosocial and medical services as well as vocational training, computer training and reintegration support. The intervention tools used by the Adoratrices to support the reintegration of adult female VOTs could serve as a pilot which may be built upon and replicated by GOE institutions whose mandates include the protection of VOTs. IOM also coordinated with the Esperanza Foundation which provided legal services as necessary for the VOTs supported in the Adoratrices' shelter.

6. Development of Transitional and Follow-up Mechanisms to Support Successful Reintegration of VOTs

6.1 Identification of viable alternatives for VOTs

Multidisciplinary teams met on a weekly basis in both implementing sites to design reintegration plans for individual VOTs. During these team meetings the progress of each beneficiary was evaluated and decisions were made taking in consideration the best interest determination of the youth with their full participation. IOM participated actively in these team meetings in both provinces providing additional technical support and guidance as required.

The IOM Global Fund was accessed to cover specific needs of VOTs that can not be financed by GOE's funds such as special medication and medical treatment to treat substance abuse problems. The support has also included technical assistance through the provision of the IOM Screening Form to be used by both shelters as an important tool to identify VOTs and keep organized records of the cases.

In Machala three support groups have been identified. One is comprised by university student volunteers who were trained on human trafficking and its impact on VOTs. The second is a dance group that includes the topic of human trafficking in their productions presented to groups at risk. Finally, a local theatre group will include trafficking in their shows from a gender and human-rights perspective.

6.2 Establishment of Strategic Partnerships in Order to Create Education, Training, and Income-generating options for VOTs

In 2007, agreements were reached with Junior Achievement and Movistar for the implementation of special education options for VOTs including entrepreneurial skills training and scholarships.

Additionally, partnerships were established with "Fé y Alegría" and the INFA for the provision of educational scholarships. Together with the partnership established with Movistar, these strategic alliances greatly increased the support provided for the educational reintegration of VOTs. Movistar also provided volunteers who taught computer and English classes to the VOTs and engaged with them in mentoring relationships and trips.

Movistar Proniño provided scholarships for VOTs as well as youth at risk identified by both Foundations to ensure that no VOTs is denied the opportunity for formal education due to financial limitations. Importantly, this partnership supported the dual objectives of successful reintegration and prevention.

Between January and March 2009, the alliance forged with the company Movistar provided significant benefits for VOTs including the academic scholarships for 216 youngsters at-risk in Quito, 80 in Machala and 80 in Lago Agrio.

6.3 Provision of Direct Assistance to VOTs

Access to Child Care

A Child Development Centre was activated on site at the Our Youth Foundation in Quito. The centre is equipped and staffed to provide integral care for the children of VOTs participating in workshops and internships; it includes a mural, child play kitchen, play house and didactic materials developed by the shelter staff and made possible by the program. In addition, the centre provided training and role modeling in parenting practices and early stimulation for VOTs to apply in their relationships with their children.

Provision of Education and Training Options

During the implementation of the Pilot Program 111 VOTs assisted by the Shelter Pilot Program were reintegrated to formal educational institutions. Special efforts have been undertaken in order to promote and maintain successful reintegration process. Therefore, 18 VOTs joined the internships program designed to match their interests. The internship program has proved to strengthen VOTs capability to assume their responsibilities once they leave the Shelter.

The creation of internship opportunities for VOTs was an important component of the program. In order to meet the objectives established in the VOTs' individual reintegration plans, agreements were made with institutions able to provide placements in their areas of interest. Notable alliances include: Animal Protection of Ecuador, the Fire Fighters' Association of Quito, Marriott Hotel, the Academy of Dance, the Ecuadorian Red Cross, "Ciudad Mitad del Mundo", and the Garden Project for VOTs of the Our Youth Foundation. All VOTs assisted by the Shelter Pilot Program were interns in one or more of the above mentioned organizations.

These internships allowed the VOTs to apply the skills acquired along formal and non formal educational opportunities provided through the shelters, increased their self-esteem and sense of self-worth through a supported "work" experience in which their rights and dignity are respected. Additionally, they had the opportunity to learn financial planning skills with assistance from shelter staff and to serve as positive role models for VOTs entering the shelter.

A database of 30 institutions that could serve as potential employers for adolescent VOTs was established and agreements were reached with four of the institutions who have actively participated in the job placement process for VOTs.

Access to micro credits

Integrated support was also provided for small-scale micro credit initiatives based on the needs of families and victims. This support was particularly important to help ensure conditions that optimize successful reintegration and prevent re-trafficking.

4. RESULTS ACHIEVED BY OBJECTIVE AND COSTS OF ACTIVITIES

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) IN ECUADOR OCTOBER 2006 – JULY 2009

Overall Objective: Contribute to the implementation of the Government of Ecuador's National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and other forms of violence via the Inter-Institutional Commission (IIC) or the appropriate state institution(s) and TIP prevention as well as the protection of victims of trafficking (VOT).

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	PLANNED	EXECUTED	OBSERVATIONS	COST BY OBJETIVE
1. Strengthening of the IIC and the TS or the appropriate State institution(s) for the Implementation of the National Plan to Combat TIP				
1.1 Work with the appropriate State institutions(s) for the implementation of the National Plan to Combat TIP	100% accompaniment in the establishment of a sustained coordination mechanism 100% website established	100% accompaniment in the establishment of a sustained coordination mechanism 100% website established	IOM has provided technical assistance to several institutions members of the Plan and counter trafficking networks, including the Ministry of Government, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Labor, Health Ministry, National Child and Family Institute (INFA, Spanish acronym), Office of the Ombudsman, the National Secretariat for Migrants (SENAMI, Spanish acronym), Metropolitan Counsel for the Integral Protection of Children and Youth (COMPINA), the Anti-trafficking network, among others.	USD 47,957

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	PLANNED	EXECUTED	OBSERVATIONS	COST BY OBJETIVE
2. Identification and implementation of other activities as necessary to complement national CT efforts				
2.1 Additional prevention, protection and prosecution related activities identified and nature of support determined	100% complementary CT activities identified	100% complementary CT activities identified	IOM has provided technical assistance to several GOE's institutions as well to civil society organizations.	USD 179,197
2.2 Implement selected activities based on results of activities 5.1	100% Identified activities implemented	100% Identified activities implemented	Activity has developed according to schedule.	
2.3 Strengthen local policies for the prevention, protection, and rehabilitation of VOT	100% Intervention sites, partners and additional resources determined 100% Training/awareness-raising efforts promoted 100% Technical assistance & training provided to shelters 100% Strategic partnerships developed	100% Intervention sites, partners and additional resources determined 100% Training/awareness-raising efforts promoted 100% Technical assistance & training provided to shelters 100% Strategic partnerships developed	Support to the Council for Children and Adolescents of Cuenca (CCNA) and the Cantonal Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CCSE) and TIP of Machala.	
3. Promote inter-institutional mechanism for the registry of VOTs				
3.1 Analysis of political and technical needs and conditions related to activity implementation	100% Analysis of existing data collection practices completed 100% Information needs determined / information objectives defined 100% Technical and political conditions assessed 100% Key counterparts established 100% Strategic alliances formed to leverage necessary resources	100% Analysis of existing data collection practices completed 100% Information needs determined / information objectives defined 100% Technical and political conditions assessed 100% Key counterparts established 100% Strategic alliances formed to leverage necessary resources	The analysis of the political and technical needs related to promotion the Data Base was developed according to schedule.	
3.2 Design and development of tools and strategic alliances necessary for successful activity implementation	100% Central data repository located 100% Legal & policy framework articulated 100% GOE links established with partners 100% Key terms defined	100% Central data repository located 100% Legal & policy framework articulated 100% GOE links established with partners 100% Key terms defined	The system design included several products, a System Definition; Route of TIP cases; Definitions of the System's Indicators; General Characteristics and System Structure; System Process	

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	PLANNED	EXECUTED	OBSERVATIONS	COST BY OBJETIVE
	100% Data collection forms designed 100% Information software designed 100% Communications & training strategy defined 100% Data collecting, cleaning and report procedures established 100% MOUs established	100% Data collection forms designed 100% Information software designed 100% Communications & training strategy defined 100% Data collecting, cleaning and report procedures established 100% MOUs established	Flow Description; Administration and Technical Competences Description. Also, twelve forms that will serve the institutions members of the system were finalized.	USD 73,526
3.3 Implementation of data collection tools and accompanying strategies	Required technical assistance provided Application & testing of software & data collection procedures 100% Training executed 100% Communication strategy executed Follow-up information provision	100% Required technical assistance provided 100% Application & testing of software & data collection procedures 100% Training executed 100% Communication strategy executed 100% Follow-up information provision	Concluded the process of implementation of the Data Base System for TIP information in Ecuador.	
4. Develop a protocol for the route of victim assistance in Ecuador				
4.1 Inter-institutional coordination for the Elaboration of the Protocol.	100% Elaboration of the Protocol	100% Elaboration of the Protocol	Within the framework of a cooperative agreement signed between IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2007 to strengthen consular services, IOM agreed to support the Ministry in the development of a Protocol on Consular Assistance for VOTs. The Protocol was officially presented by the MFA in May 2009.	USD 52,130
5. Enhance Shelter Services for VOTs				
5.1 Support direct assistance to VOT through innovative initiatives that promote successful reintegration	100% Voluntary participation in Victim Protection Program 100% Assistance by IOM Global Fund provided 100% Reintegration plans	100% Voluntary participation in Victim Protection Program 100% Assistance by IOM Global Fund provided 100% Reintegration plans	The USAID/IOM Shelter Pilot Program was implemented until September 2008 through Quimera Foundation and until March 2009 through Our Youth	

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	PLANNED	EXECUTED	OBSERVATIONS	COST BY OBJEIVE
	<p>prepared</p> <p>100% Education/life skills training provided</p> <p>100% Alternative forms of therapy incorporated</p> <p>100% Mentoring program established</p> <p>100% Junior Achievement program established</p>	<p>prepared</p> <p>100% Education/life skills training provided</p> <p>100% Alternative forms of therapy incorporated</p> <p>100% Mentoring program established</p> <p>100% Junior Achievement program established</p>	<p>Foundation. Achievements, challenges, progresses and constraints were appropriately and periodically reported in quarterly reports.</p> <p>In addition, the IOM Global Fund was accessed to facilitate the mobilization, legal, security and psychosocial needs of VOTs participating in the judicial process.</p>	USD 154,113
5.2 Support the development of specialized shelter services for adult female VOT	<p>100% Intervention sites identified</p> <p>100% Partners identified</p> <p>100% Screening mechanism identified</p> <p>100% Reintegration assessments implemented</p>	<p>100% Intervention sites identified</p> <p>100% Partners identified</p> <p>100% Screening mechanism identified</p> <p>100% Reintegration assessments implemented</p>	<p>IOM provided technical and financial support on a case per case basis for VOTs attended to in the shelter of the Adoratrices.</p>	
6. Development of transitional and follow-up mechanisms to support the successful reintegration of VOTs				
6.1 Identification of viable alternatives for VOT.	<p>100% Family assessments completed</p> <p>100% Transitional residences identified</p> <p>100% Employment roster developed</p> <p>100% Community organizations trained</p> <p>100% Reintegration plans implemented</p>	<p>100% Family assessments completed</p> <p>100% Transitional residences identified</p> <p>100% Employment roster developed</p> <p>100% Community organizations trained</p> <p>100% Reintegration plans implemented</p>	<p>To facilitate the development of individual reintegration plans multidisciplinary teams met on a weekly basis in both implementing sites to design reintegration plans for individual VOTs.</p>	USD 150,436
6.2 Establishment of strategic partnerships in order to create education, training and income-generating options for VOT.	<p>100% Partnerships for education/training established</p> <p>100% MOUs with community service organizations signed</p>	<p>100% Partnerships for education/training established</p> <p>100% MOUs with community service organizations signed</p>	<p>Agreements were reached with Junior Achievement, Movistar, INFA.</p> <p>In 2009, scholarships were provided to 216 at-risk young people identified by the program in Quito, 80 in Machala and 80 in Lago Agrio.</p>	

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	PLANNED	EXECUTED	OBSERVATIONS	COST BY OBJEIVE
6.3 Direct assistance to VOT including initiatives with their families is enhanced through education and training opportunities.	100% Family mediation/reunification completed 100% Families trained 100% Transitional residences supported 100% Child care access arranged 100% VOT exposure to successful testimonies 100% Number established for advice/help 100% VOT support groups established 100% Education/training options provided	100% Family mediation/reunification completed 100% Families trained 100% Transitional residences supported 100% Child care access arranged 100% VOT exposure to successful testimonies 100% Number established for advice/help 100% VOT support groups established 100% Education/training options provided	A Child Development Centre was set at the Our Youth Foundation in Quito. 111 VOT assisted by the Shelter Pilot Program were reintegrated to formal educational institutions. 18 VOTs joined the internships program. Integrated support was also provided for small-scale micro credit initiatives based on the needs of families and victims.	
<p>*Contribution to the prevention and awareness-raising of TIP cases trough a media campaign (Implement "Call and Live" campaign in Ecuador).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting services for the design of the Campaign Against TIP Consulting services for the design of the Modules of TIP Partial consultancy for the implementation of the Call & Live campaign (CIESPAL) 				USD 69,913
SUBTOTAL				USD 727,273
ADMINISTRATIVE FEE				USD 72,727
TOTAL				USD 800,000

* Please refer to *Heading 6: Constraints and Actions Taken* that explains the opposition of the GOE to the implementation of the "Call and Live" Campaign.

5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO LEVERAGE RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROGRAM

Several partnerships were established to leverage resources and ensure the sustainability of the Program. For example, an agreement was established with the institution “Fe y Alegria” and INFA for the provision of educational scholarships. Together with the partnership established with Movistar these strategic alliances significantly increased the support provided for the educational reintegration of VOTs.

Another good example of actions taken to leverage resources was the relationship forged with the Electoral Observation Mission of the European Union. IOM was able to facilitate the donation of equipment worth approximately \$40,000 to strengthen the work of the Our Youth and Quimera Foundations as well as DINAPEN. This included the provision of 13 laptops, 6 printers, 12 complete work stations, 3 cell phones and various office supplies across the institutions as well as 6 GPS personal navigation systems for DINAPEN.

In addition, IOM obtained support from the Global Emergency Fund of IOM headquarters in order to support several TIP cases. This Protection, Return, and Reintegration program, supported by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, provides rapid, case-by-case assistance to trafficked men, women and children who are stranded outside their place of origin and require immediate assistance for voluntary return. Through the Global Emergency Fund, victims who do not qualify for assistance by existing IOM counter-trafficking projects or other comparable projects, can get help. Assistance may be available in the form of ad-hoc protection, voluntary return to the place of origin, and reintegration support. All assistance is provided in close coordination with local partners, as appropriate.

As successful as the Pilot Program demonstrated to be, it is also true that VOTs lives and needs surpass the duration of any project. The transition from functioning with USAID funds to operating with Government funds has not been smooth for the Young Mother Shelter. All along the implementation of the Pilot Program, IOM has promoted and strengthened Our Youth and Quimera Foundations’ capabilities to function without USAID’s “seed” investment. IOM also implemented strategies to provide follow-up services for the VOTs rescued. Resources and technical support has been funded by the Global Assistance Fund from IOM Headquarters.

IOM identified that one of the major challenges that VOTs face is their reintegration at school considering the years lost in formal education. IOM began conversations with the Ministry of Education and Our Youth Foundation in order to establish an Education Project for VOTs. The direct beneficiaries will be VOTs assisted by the Shelter Pilot Program.

Regarding the sustainability of GOE’s actions against TIP, it is worth mentioning that Our Youth Foundation financed by the USAID/IOM Shelter Pilot Program successfully lobbied at the Constitutional Assembly for VOTs’ human rights to be included in the new Constitution. The final text fully recognizes VOTs’ rights to access to justice, direct specialized assistance services and due reparations. According to this new legislation foreign VOTs’ must be given the same treatment as Ecuadorians.

6. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

The main constraints encountered were due to institutional and individual factors beyond the control of the Program. The challenges and constraints experienced during the Program were mainly due to the opposition of the GOE to the implementation of the Call and Live Campaign.

GOE's explicit position has been that resources should be channeled to enhance existing capabilities for victim response rather than to respond to increasing demand that would exceed the capacity of fledgling services. While national authorities opposed the implementation of the "Call and Live" campaign, funds were still used in the design of the campaign. IOM then proposed the reprogramming of funds initially allocated to the Call and Live Campaign toward the GOE's priority of enhancing TIP data collection capabilities.

IOM negotiated with the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Justice, and all IIC members, the development of the different phases of the registry system. These State Institutions supported the consultants all along the project. The project included a study to obtain first-hand information on the mechanisms used by public and private institutions to collect data related to TIP; the design of a mechanism for data collection; the identification of the most appropriate institution for the administration of the data base, and a communication strategy. The last stage was the actual implementation of the system which included a validation process, trainings and a trial period.

During the last quarter of the Program it was expected that a single institution become head of the IIC but the decree designating the Ministry of Justice and reorganizing the institutions into three commissions has not been signed. This situation turned difficult the coordination and the validation processes. It is hoped that the Ministry of Justice will manage the database and promote its use among the IIC members and civil society institutions, once the decree is signed.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Thanks to the generous contribution of the US Government, through USAID, more than 150 VOTs and their families received integral support in different communities in Ecuador. The results have surpassed the expectations at the beginning of this project. The number of rescued and assisted victims has almost quadrupled. Also, the Program has addressed international and complex cases and it has created and strengthened the capacities of many institutions working in the assistance of VOTs.

Throughout the execution of the program, IOM has effectively provided technical and liaison support to the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, in the development of specific counter trafficking activities; IOM has also provided tools that tackle the National TIP Plan's medium and long term counter-trafficking goals and objectives. Throughout this period, the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights have also continued to work together in the achievement of the objectives and planned activities of the National Plan. In spite

of the fact that the executive decree that changes the Presidency of the Plan to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights is still pending, their joint cooperation and commitment, together with the support of IOM, allowed the production of important counter TIP tools such as the website for the National Plan and the VOTs registry system. In addition, these institutions leading the TIP Plan, together with members of the Inter-Institutional Commission developed its annual operative plan of activities and specific responsibilities, which allowed for the timely monitoring and assessment of the plan's goals and achievements and shows the joint steps and coordinated work that is moving forward among the governmental institutions members of the Plan.

The activities carried out during the execution of this Program have supported increased accountability of GOE actors for the provision of direct assistance and protection for VOTs as established in the National TIP Plan. In addition, several government institutions have been strengthened in order to develop public policies regarding the responsibilities of each actor in the management of trafficking cases. IOM continued to serve as a reference point for national government officials responsible for the implementation of the National TIP Plan for the provision of technical assistance. It is important to mention that the network of civil society and government institutions that work in different stages of the management of a trafficking case is increasingly becoming more structured and organized and is able to bring together all actors involved and to take important decisions regarding victim assistance.

Donor visibility was addressed by including the USAID logo on plans for all published documents and ensuring that the USAID banner was displayed prominently whenever possible at events. Recognition of the significance of USAID's role features prominently in all press releases and bulletins associated with the project. It is worth mentioning that the cooperation of the American Government with the Ecuadorian Government in the context of Counter Trafficking was publicly recognized and mentioned as a role model of international cooperation.

The outcomes of the Program include development and strengthening of the organizational capacities of the Government institutions in charge of implementing the National Plan to Combat TIP, which also represents an important step towards sustainability.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Although positive progress has been made on TIP, the U.S. Department of State's 2009 TIP Report pointed out that the GOE "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking". Hence, anti-TIP policies still need to be developed and advanced. In addition, awareness raising activities, trainings and action plans are required at the local level in order to improve the knowledge and understanding of TIP.

Regarding assistance to VOTs, in spite of the legal framework set in the National Plan to Combat TIP to protect the fundamental rights of VOTs, there is still insufficient infrastructure and inadequate support services for these victims. Consequently, the GOE still need to improve shelter's capacity for service provision and improve their financial sustainability.

Despite its efforts, the GOE continues to rely heavily on foreign governments and international organizations in order to develop trafficking prevention campaigns; raise public awareness; assist victims; provide technical assistance; among other issues. Therefore, it is recommended that the United States Government continues to support the GOE and other institutions in order to combat TIP.