



UNITED NATIONS  
*Office on Drugs and Crime*

**strengthening of  
national and regional capacities in  
preventing and combating  
trafficking in persons  
XCAS26**

**Central America**  
Mexico & the Caribbean

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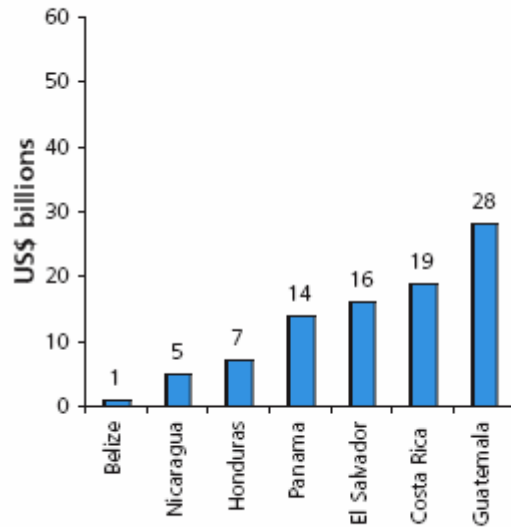
- a) Basic data - Central America
- b) Information and SWOT TIP Central America
- c) Information and SWOT chart – XCAS26
- d) Achievements – projection – XCAS26

# population



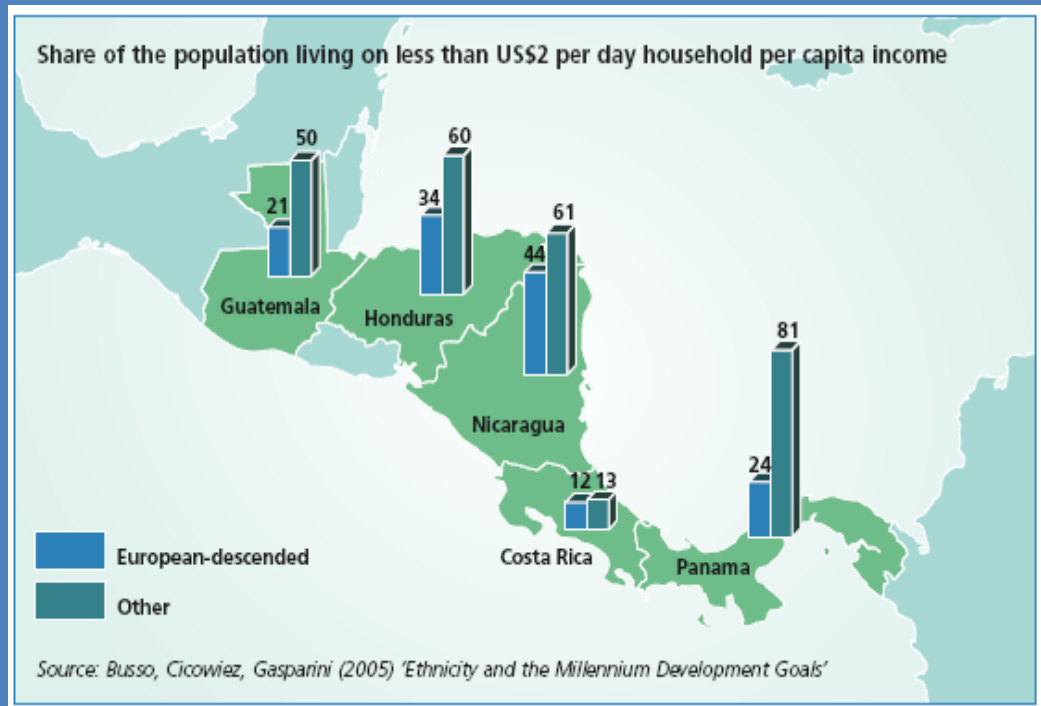
# gross domestic product & household per capita income

Central American GDPs (in US\$ billions)  
2004



Source: UNDP HDR 2006, UNODC WDR 2006

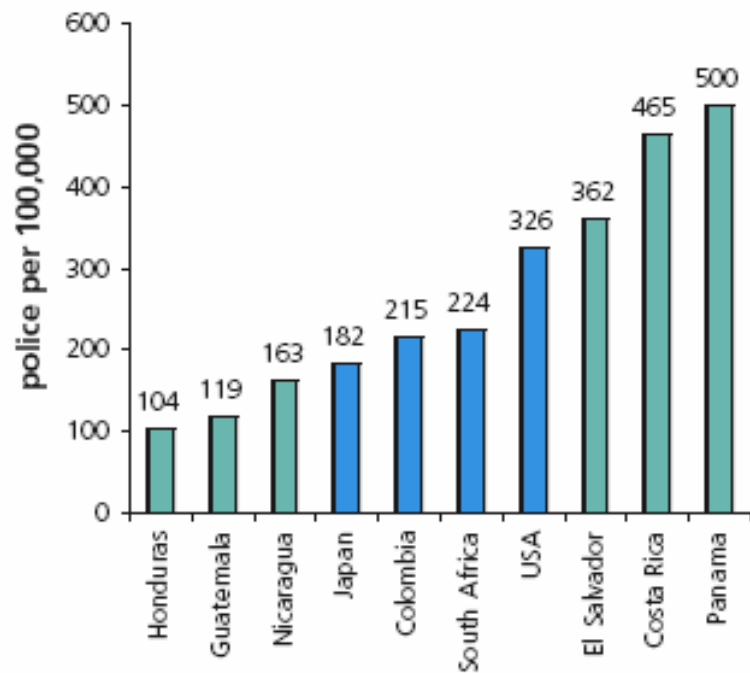
Share of the population living on less than US\$2 per day household per capita income



Source: Busso, Cicowiez, Gasparini (2005) 'Ethnicity and the Millennium Development Goals'

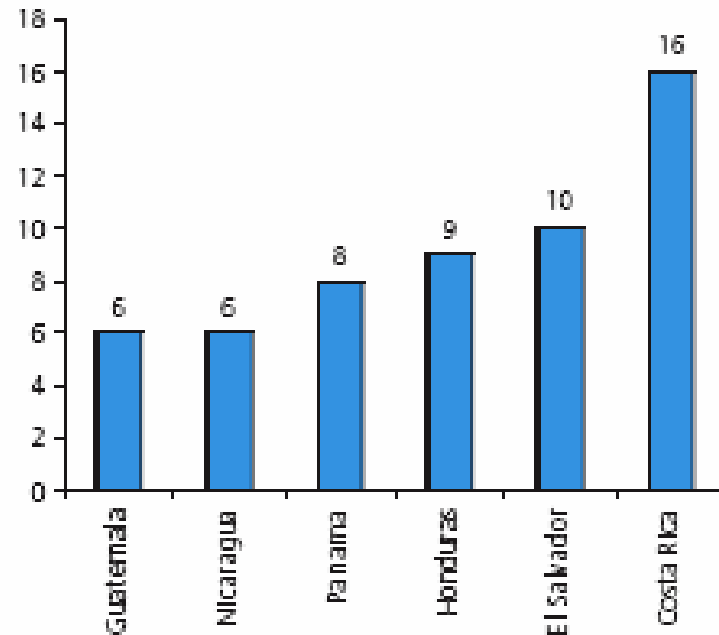
# Police & judges per citizens

Figure 14: Police per 100,000 citizens (various years)



Source: UNODC CTS, CEJA<sup>23</sup>

Figure 17: Judges per 100,000 citizens



Source: Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Américas, Reporte de la Justicia: Segunda Edición (2004-2005); UNDP, Democracy in Latin America – Statistical Compendium 2005

# citizens per number of attorneys, penal judges and public defendants

COUNTRY 2005	CITIZENS PER POLICE*	CITIZENS PER ATTORNEYS	CITIZENS PER PENAL JUDGES	CITIZENS PER PUBLIC DEFENDANTS
ARGENTINA**	<b>Central America: 490</b>  <b>South America: 380</b>	15.773	10.244	28.918
BOLIVIA		6.588	81.269	130.934
<b>COSTA RICA</b>		<b>12.455</b>	<b>14.650</b>	<b>27.182</b>
ECUADOR		38.857	34.405	412.854
<b>ELSALVADOR</b>		<b>10.928</b>	<b>15.516</b>	<b>22.912</b>
<b>GUATEMALA</b>		<b>13.670</b>	<b>71.347</b>	<b>54.273</b>
<b>HONDURAS</b>		<b>15.696</b>	<b>28.475</b>	<b>31.395</b>
<b>NICARAGUA</b>		<b>24.263</b>	<b>15.987</b>	<b>68.543</b>
<b>RDOMINICANA</b>		<b>12.252</b>	<b>16.410</b>	<b>59.953</b>
VENEZUELA		22.148	33.986	51.209

Info from the International Course on Reforms for the Penal Justice Systems in Latin America. (San José, Costa Rica, 2005).

\* Number of citizens per Police Officers was taken from "Determining Trends in Global Crime and Justice", Mark Shaw, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

# migration in Central America

Figure 66: Share of total skilled labour population that emigrates

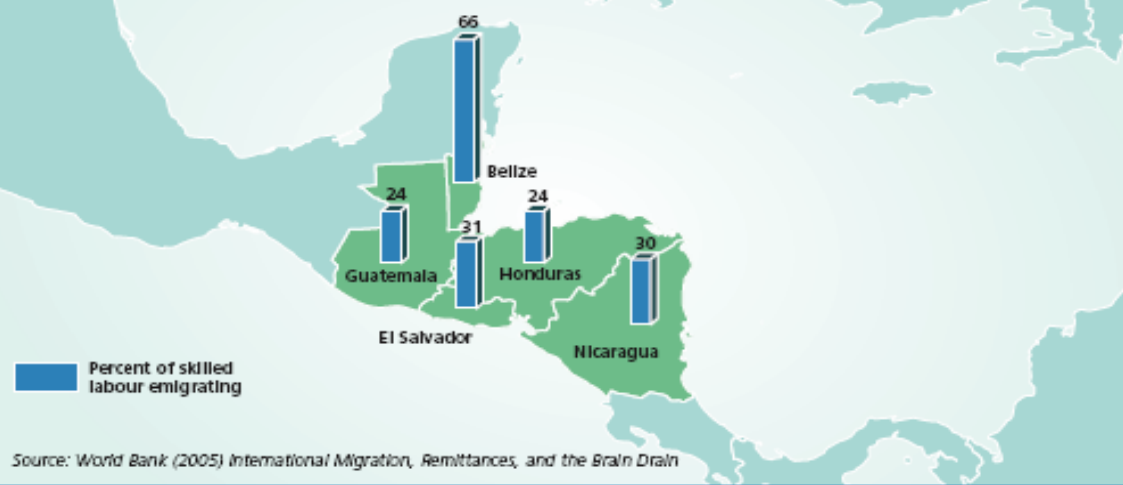
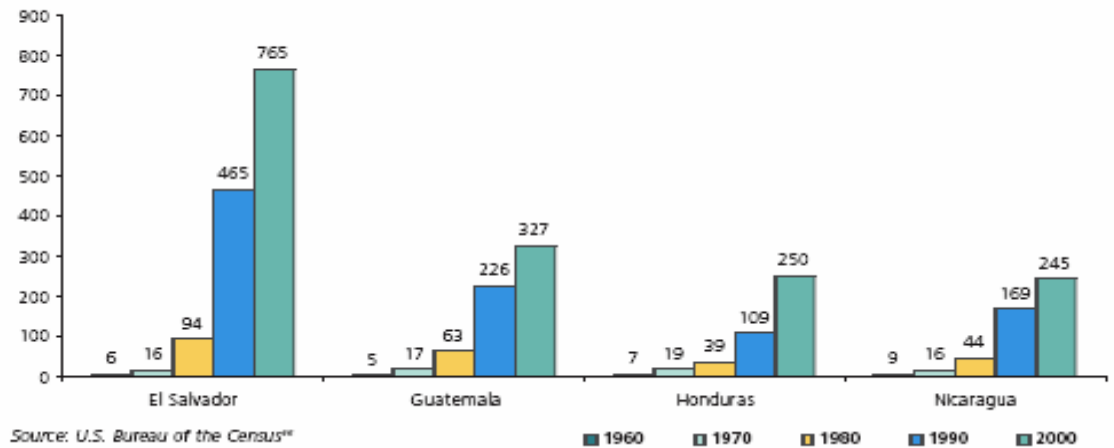


Figure 24: Official estimates of the four biggest Central American contributors to the US population (thousands)



# Trafficking in persons in Central America -general perspective-



**common history of conflict, poverty, crime, migration, political and social instability and economical inequality**

**vulnerable region for the proliferation of organized crime**

**primarily reported as a region of origin for TIP and, to a lesser extent, as a transit and destination region**

**North America, Western Europe and Mexico are the principal destinations for trafficking victims\***



# Trafficking in persons in Central America -general perspective-

**no reliable statistics &  
under-reported crime**

**actual causes of TIP are  
not addressed by  
Governments**

**heterogeneous legislative  
frameworks**

**weak institutions – little  
continuity of authorities**

**poor infrastructures /  
scarce technology / little  
preparation to address TIP  
as a transnational  
organized crime < drug  
trafficking**

**int'l cooperation efforts  
focused on TIP for sexual  
exploitation purposes**



**great need and demand from gov't's  
to provide technical assistance in  
the areas of investigation and  
prosecution**



- **Signatories:** Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama – incorporation of the Dominican Republic approved – second phase: Mexico and Belize
- **State counterparts:** Public Prosecutors Offices / Central American Council of Public Prosecutors Offices / Technical Secretariat of the Central American Council of Public Prosecutors Offices
- **Principal objective:** To build legal, institutional and operational capacities of Public Prosecutors Offices and National Police bodies to better prevent, investigate and prosecute trafficking in persons (TIP) offences as well as to promote the establishment of protection programs for victims / witnesses
- **Partner agency:** United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) - San Jose, Costa Rica



# project's actions to overcome identified weaknesses

assess penal prosecution strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

provide specialized training to law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities

build institutional capacities to improve quality and number of investigations and convictions

promote inter-institutional cooperation among law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities

enhance the use of international cooperation mechanisms to investigate and prosecute TIP cases

position UNODC in national round tables against TIP

assist in the establishment and strengthening of specialized TIP investigation units

promote the exchange of best practices with regional counterparts and other regions

involve the private sector and the civil society in the prevention of TIP

provide technical assistance to public prosecutors offices to revise/reform TIP legislation according to the Palermo Convention and its Protocols

promote the establishment of victim/witness protection programs

increase the expertise of TIP in the region through the recruitment of mentors and advisers



- ❑ project was launched in January 23rd 2008 in San Salvador, El Salvador, with the participation of high-level authorities of the region

- ❑ highest political support was provided by Attorney Generals of all Central American countries as well as by the Central American Council of Public Prosecutors Offices who signed an MOU adopting XCAS26 as the official training program for prosecutors

**Achievements  
Phase 1**

- ❑ inter-agency collaboration has been promoted via an alliance with ILANUD, which foresees close coordination for project's execution

- ❑ a regional assessment to identify investigative and penal prosecution capacities of Police and Public Prosecutors Offices is being completed with full support of project's counterparts and other institutions



❑ SWOT analysis and workshops in capital cities and critical border control points have been facilitated by UNODC and ILANUD

❑ draft of regional assessment has been socialized with governmental counterparts and national roundtables against TIP in each signatory country

**Achievements  
Phase 1**

❑ the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors Offices (AIAMP) resolved in its last General Assembly to propose XCAS26 project as a model program to be replicated in the whole region

❑ worldwide UNODC training material has been compiled, adapted and enriched to address specific needs of Central American investigative and prosecutorial authorities



Activities phase 1:

1. Launching of regional assessment – investigative and penal prosecution capacities to address TIP
2. Completion of training material
3. Training sessions (national, bi-national and regional) for Public Ministries and National Police
4. Provision of legal technical assistance to revise / reform legislation according to TOCC and its Protocols
5. Establishment of alliances with key international organizations and NGO´s



## Activities phase 2:

1. Provision of specialized mentors and advisers to anti-trafficking units
2. Inclusion of the judiciary as official counterparts
3. Inclusion of HIV-TIP and human rights components in training modules and assessments
4. Re-double training sessions
5. Preparation of e-learning material / interactive training modules
6. Public media campaign – film festival – photo-journalist documentary – project's webpage
7. Incorporation of new signatories: Dominican Republic, Belize and Mexico
8. Provision of software and databases





## STRENGTHS

- Unique project in the region that focuses on strengthening penal and investigative capacities of trafficking in persons units
- Designed according to the signatories' needs
- UNODC HQ and other field offices support
- Alliance with ILANUD
- Highest political support

## WEAKNESSES

- Scarce financial resources
- Limited personnel to cover all countries and all planned activities
- New topic = difficulty to find expertise in the region

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Political will of penal prosecution authorities to foster cooperation
- Topic set in the political agenda of governments
- Interest of the private sector and NGO's

## THREATS

- Proliferation of international agencies – confusion of mandates
- Political instability that causes lack of continuity of authorities
- Main donors focused on other regions of the world
- Global financial crisis may affect UNODC funding



UNITED NATIONS  
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**new thematic area:  
smuggling of migrants**





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