

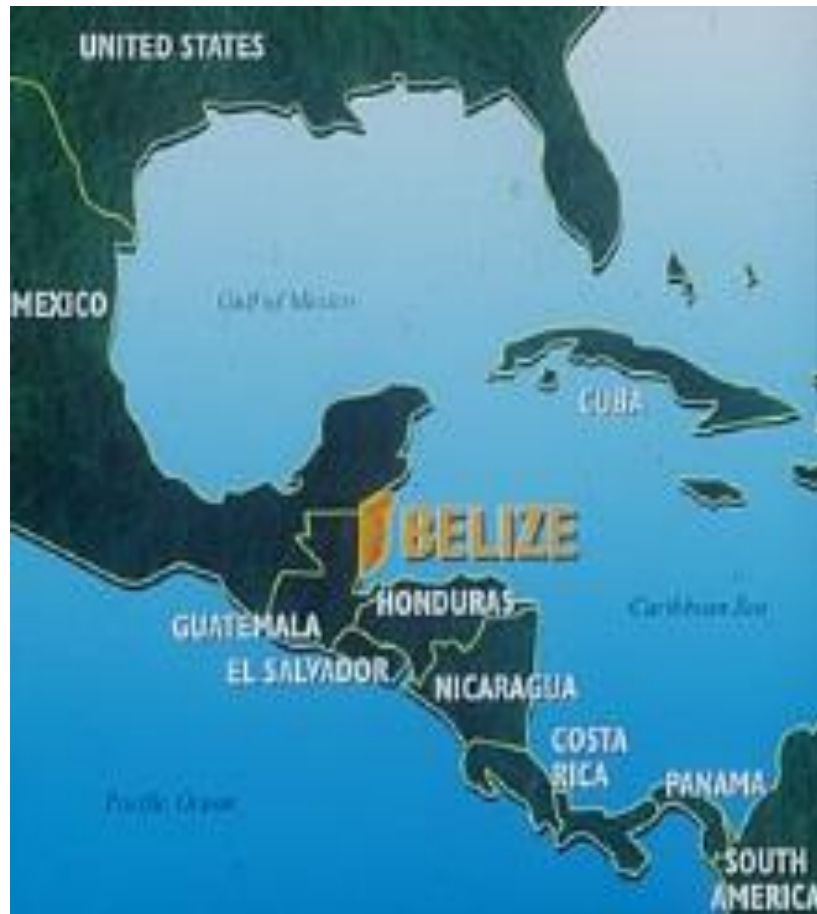
PROTECTION SENSITIVE ENTRY SYSTEMS - BELIZE



**ACCESS TO TERRITORY FOR
ASYLUM SEEKERS,
REFUGEES, MIGRANTS, AND
OTHER GROUPS WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS**

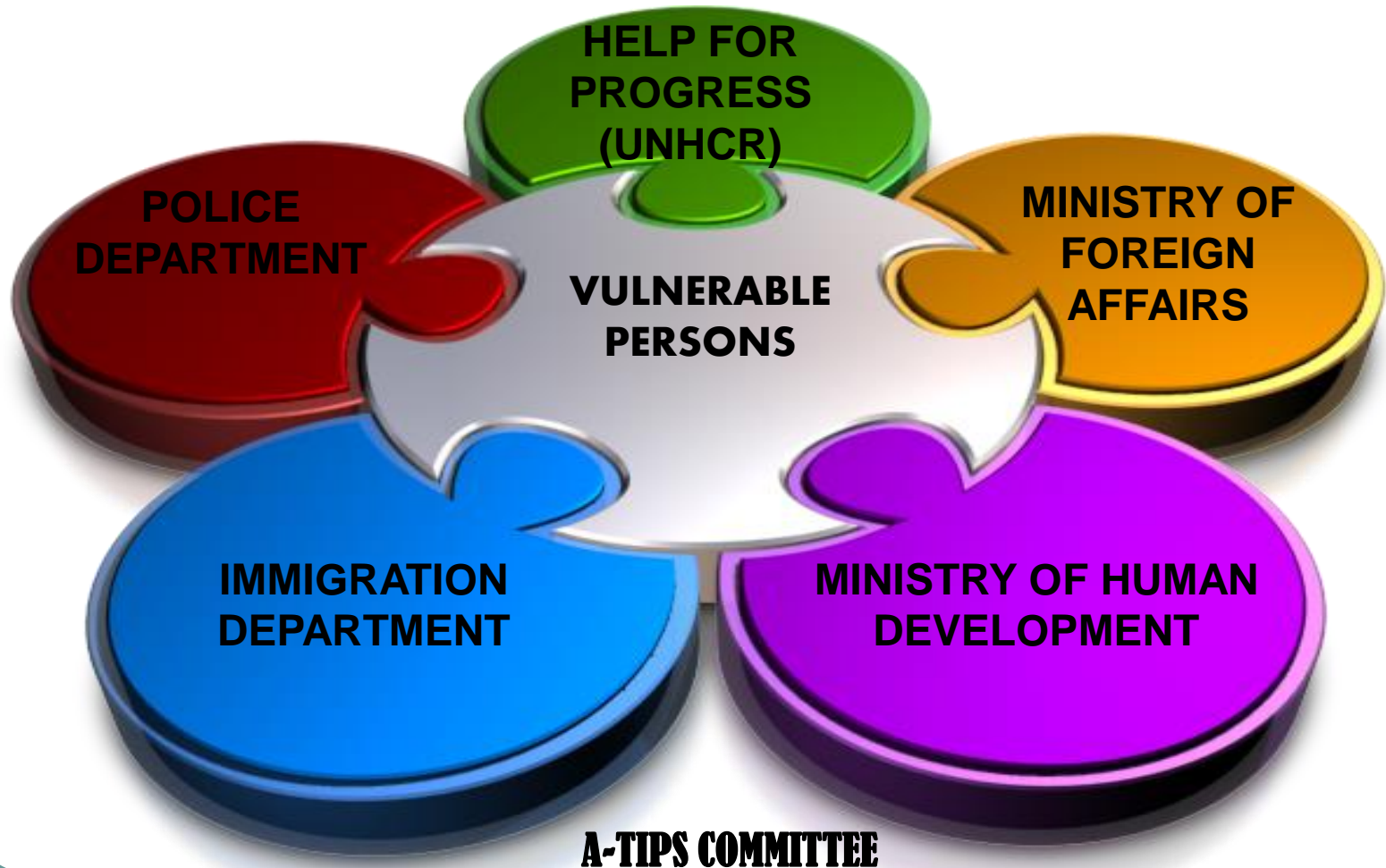


BELIZE.....



- Area- 8,886 sq miles
- Coastline-174 miles
- Population-327,719
- Language-English
- Government-Parliamentary democracy
- Industries-Sugar, banana, fish, tourism

KEY PLAYERS IN MIXED MIGRATION MANAGEMENT



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY PLAYERS

- Identification of vulnerable persons
- Provision of legal, employment, medical, psychological, protection services
- Provision of legal status during duration of stay in country
- Investigation and prosecution of any perpetrators/exploiters & in tandem with regional partners where applicable

*Victim sensitive approach

*Adherence to Confidentiality

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR MIXED MIGRATION

- **IMMIGRATION ACT-
CHAPTER 156**
- **REFUGEE ACT – CHAPTER
165**
- **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
PROHIBITION ACT 2013**
- **VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTIONS**

Operational Mechanism for Asylum Seekers



 **Person (s) attempts to enter country and declares at the point of entry that they are seeking Asylum or indicators are observed.**

- Main reasons includes:
- Political or Religious persecutions
- Extortion from Gangs
- Human Trafficking

 **Person(s) is interviewed by Immigration Officials/Police Personnel. They are then referred to Help for Progress (refugees)/Operations Sub-Committee-ATIPS(trafficking) / Department of Human Services(unaccompanied minors)**



 **An evaluation/assessment is conducted to include:**

- Interview
- Statement Taking
- Evidence gathering etc.







Operational Mechanism for Asylum Seekers Con't



-  Request for further investigation from other relevant authorities:
 - Immigration
 - Police
 - Human Services
 - Embassies
-  **Person (s) presents himself/herself to Immigration Department along with reference letter from Help for Progress/Other Authorities.**
 - Person is interviewed and findings are recorded.
 - Statement is then taken and is signed.
 - Any other evidence is then gathered.
 - Person (s) are provided temporary legal status

CHALLENGES FOR BELIZE



-  Managing Limited Resources
-  Key Partners Working Together
-  Cultural and Language Barriers
-  Continuous Capacity Development

OPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING ASYLUM PROTECTION CAPACITIES



- Committees formulated by legislation provides guidance for operationally working together.
 - Eligibility Committee – Refugee Act
 - Anti Trafficking in Persons Council
- Integrate core training curriculums for vulnerable persons into key agencies in-service training plans/programs



CONCLUSIONS



"Coming together is a beginning,
staying together is progress, and
working together is success. "

-Henry Ford

THANK YOU!!!

