

Peru



Population: 29,549,517 (July 2012 est.)
Population Growth Rate: 1.016% (2012 est.)
Birth Rate: 19.13births/1,000 population (2012 est.)
Life Expectancy: total population: 72.73years
male: 70.78 years
female: 74.76 years (2012 est.)
Literacy Rate: total population: 92.9%
male: 96.4%
female: 89.4% (2007 Census)
Net Migration Rate: -3.03 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2012 est.)
Unemployment Rate: 7.9% in metropolitan Lima; widespread underemployment (2011 est.)
Gross Domestic Product per Capita: \$10,100 (2011 est.)
Religions: Roman Catholic 81.3%, Evangelical 12.5%, other 3.3%, unspecified or none 2.9% (2007 Census)
Languages: Spanish (official) 84.1%, Quechua (official) 13%, Aymara,(official) 1.7%, Ashaninka 0.3%, other native languages (includes a large number of minor Amazonian languages) 0.7%, other 0.2% (2007 Census)
Ethnic Groups: Amerindian 45%, mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white) 37%, white 15%, black, Japanese, Chinese, and other 3%
Capital: Lima¹

Trafficking Routes

Peru is a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking with a predominance of internal trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. Children and men are trafficked to work in the mining and timber industries and in agriculture. Peruvian women are trafficked internally as domestic servants and to Argentina, Japan, and Spain for the purpose of sexual exploitation.²

The source areas are typically economically active regions of Peru where there are few economic opportunities for women. These areas include: Yurimaguas, Iquitos and Pucallpa—Amazon cities known for their logging industries—Tacna, in the south, and Piura, in the north—known regions for their mining industries—and Tumbes, Pucallpa, Puno and Cusco which are located along the border and heavily rely on the agricultural sector.³

¹ CIA, World Factbook, Peru, (January 18, 2013), <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pe.html>

² Press Release, IOM, IOM and Telefónica del Peru Sponsor Photo Exhibit on Child Labour, (Apr 25, 2008), available at: <http://www.iom.ch/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2008/pbn-listing/iom-and-telefoacutenica-del-peru-spons.html> .

³BHAVNA, SHARMA, ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL, COTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY IN PERU, (2006), available at: http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/c/contemporary_forms_of_slavery_in_peru.pdf

The Desaguadero point is used mainly for commercial purposes and often used by traffickers. As a general rule, children mostly come from the urban and rural areas of Puno, Cusco and Arequipa.⁴ Studies on trafficking in Peru have shown that there are various routes of trafficking in the country, including the North Coast route, the Northern Forest route, the Lima route, the La Selva Sur route and the Southern Highlands route.⁵

Factors That Contribute to Trafficking Infrastructure

In Peru, 52 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line and over half of rural Peru is considered extremely poor. Poverty rates in the Amazon are double than the coastal regions.⁶ Only 35 per cent of the female economically active population is able to find work, which pays well under the minimum wage of 460 soles a month (US\$137). 20 per cent of households are headed by women, and this is an increasing trend. With less employment opportunities and lower wages than men, women are becoming increasingly desperate to find work and therefore more susceptible to offers of good wages and employment in other cities and abroad.⁷

The existence of high demand for sexual services, labor or other services related to trafficking and the lack of information also contribute to the trafficking infrastructure.⁸

The global migration and the willingness of many nationals to travel to other regions or countries in search for better job opportunities generates a social environment that is prone to deception used by traffickers to capture victims.⁹

Forms of Trafficking

The most common forms of human trafficking in Peru are: sexual exploitation, pornography, sexual tourism, labor exploitation in agriculture, logging, mining, factories, and domestic work. Purchase and sale of children and adolescents, trade of organs and tissues and trafficking for the purpose of committing other crimes are also present.¹⁰

Sexual tourism includes destinations like Cusco or jungle areas and the incidence of human trafficking increases on local festivals. In the agricultural industry, minors are captured and transferred to work in various crops or farming. Victims come from various parts of the country, including Arequipa, Cusco, Puno and La Libertad. Forced labor in logging has been detected in areas like Ucayali, Madre de Dios and Loreto. In some

⁴ Id.

⁵ Decree that submits the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking No 004-2011-IN, portal institucional del ministerio del estado peruano.p.22 (Perú) available at: <http://www.mininter.gob.pe/userfiles/DS-MIN-004-2011%281%29.pdf>

⁶ Id.

⁷ Id.

⁸ Decree that submits the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking No 004-2011-IN, portal institucional del ministerio del estado peruano.p.20 (Perú) available at: <http://www.mininter.gob.pe/userfiles/DS-MIN-004-2011%281%29.pdf>

⁹ Decree that submits the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking No 004-2011-IN, portal institucional del ministerio del estado peruano. P 21 (Perú) available at: <http://www.mininter.gob.pe/userfiles/DS-MIN-004-2011%281%29.pdf>

¹⁰ Bhavna Sharma, *supra* note 3.

cases, children are sold by their parents or their primary caregivers to transnational networks and shipped abroad.¹¹

Government Responses

The Peruvian Penal Code punishes with penalties from 8 to 12 years in prison for people who are responsible of promoting, catching or transferring human beings with aims of sexual operation.¹²

Despite the Penal Code provisions, prostitution is legal for women over 18 years of age if they register with municipal authorities and carry a health certificate. However, in practice, the vast majority of prostitutes work in the informal sector where they lack health protection. The law provides penalties for those who derive financial benefits from trafficking in persons, especially involving children. Penalties for pimps and clients of underage prostitutes range from four to eight years in prison.¹³

The Peruvian government approved the country's human trafficking law in January 2007. The law puts special emphasis on the protection of children and calls for a 25-year sentence for those found guilty of child trafficking.¹⁴ The new comprehensive law more clearly defines trafficking in persons, strengthens penalties, and provides protection for trafficking victims and witnesses.¹⁵

The Peruvian hotline number (0800-2-3232) is a free and confidential service that provides information to victims of human trafficking and channels complaints to the anti-trafficking arm of the National Police. A similar project targeting only women in Perú in 2005 logged over 7,000 calls in 10 months and resulted in 220 cases of charges related to human trafficking.¹⁶

Nongovernmental and International Organization Responses

¹¹ Decree that submits the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking No 004-2011-IN, portal institucional del ministerio del estado peruano.pp.22-25 (Perú) available at: <http://www.mininter.gob.pe/userfiles/DS-MIN-004-2011%281%29.pdf>

¹² Código Penal Decreto Legislativo No 635, May 08 1991, Diario Oficial art. 153, (Peru) available at: https://apps.contraloria.gob.pe/unealcontrol/pdf/07_635.pdf

¹³ Id.

¹⁴ IOM, *supra* note 2.

¹⁵ Ley contra la Trata de Personas y el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes, No. 28950, Jan 6th 2007, Diario Oficial (Peru)

¹⁶ Press Release, Inter-American Development Bank, IDB Launches Campaign Against Human Trafficking in Peru, (May 23, 2006) available at: <http://www.iadb.org/news/detail.cfm?lang=en&id=3088&artid=3088>

There are several NGO's and international organizations conducting anti-trafficking initiatives in Peru. Among these organizations are IOM, ILO, Acción por los Niños and El movimiento el pozo.

IOM participates in Interagency Working Group meetings and promotes and supports efforts to combat trafficking.¹⁷

ILO has an international program on the elimination of child labour (IPEC) which promotes the development of educational alternatives provided for children and access to decent work, with special attention to vulnerable groups, such as girls involved in sex trade, domestic service and other forms of child labor.¹⁸

Acción por los Niños (Action for Children) is an NGO based in the capital Lima which works to protect and advocate for the rights of children.¹⁹

Movimiento El Pozo, founded in 1976, focuses on the fight against women sexual exploitation. Since 1996, the organization has a specialized center on prostitution and traffickin in women which provides permanent assistance to victims.²⁰

Multilateral Initiatives

The Inter-American Center against Disappearances, Exploitation and Trafficking (CIDETT) is an NGO whose objective is to combat sexual exploitation and trafficking in Latin-American countries. CIDETT is supported in its efforts by Save the Children Sweden, the American Bar Association, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Organization of American States (OAS).²¹ Among the projects implemented by CIDETT is the creation of the Latin American network, a public database with information of missing people (children and adults). This database is managed and fed by the police in various Latin American countries, including Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua. The families of the victims and organizations can consult it and the database has become a useful tool to identify and rescue victims of trafficking in the region.²²

In March 2006, the Inter-American Development Bank launched a regional information campaign in Peru called Llama y Vive ("Call and Live") to promote a hotline for the prevention of human trafficking and victim protection. Peru was the first country in which the campaign was launched.²³

¹⁷IOM-Movimiento el Pozo, *Trata de mujeres para fines sexuales comerciales en el Perú*, p.32, *available at*: <http://www.oas.org/atip/country%20specific/IOM%20Peru%20Rept%20%202005.pdf>

¹⁸IOM, *La trata de personas: Una realidad en el Perú*, p.55 (2007) *available at*: <http://www.oimperu.org/docs/trata-d-personas-peru.pdf>

¹⁹ Acción por los Niños, *Our Work*, <http://www.accionporlosninios.org.pe/quienes-somos.php> (last visited January 31, 2013).

²⁰IOM-Movimiento el Pozo, *supra note 12 p.33*

²¹ *Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking in Latin America*, HumanTrafficking.org (Apr 24, 2006), <http://www.humantrafficking.org/updates/331/>.

²² *Id.*

²³ Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, *Call and Live Campaign*, <http://www.iadb.org/campaign/llamayvive/country/peru.cfm> (last visited January 31, 2013).

Additionally, UNICEF cooperates with the Peruvian government to ensure that the rights of all children, adolescents and women are recognized and to assist victims of child abuse and commercial sexual exploitation.²⁴

Following a request from the Peruvian government, IOM drafted the National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking (2007-2013). The Plan has 10 objectives and 27 goals to be achieved through 60 activities. Some of the objectives that must be reached by 2013 include increased awareness, capacity building for law enforcement officials, systematization of data, and the provision of shelters for the victims.²⁵

²⁴ Decree that submits the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking No 004-2011-IN, portal institucional del ministerio del estado peruano.pp.59 (Perú) available at: <http://www.mininter.gob.pe/userfiles/DS-MIN-004-2011%281%29.pdf>

²⁵ IOM *supra* note 2.