



**USAID**  
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# DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

## USAID'S COUNTER-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TEAM

Human Trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons, involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of exploitation in forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry worldwide and affects the most vulnerable in our societies, with more than 25 million people enslaved. Seventy percent of identified victims are women and girls. These horrific practices undermine the rule of law, corrupt global commerce, foster gender inequality, and threaten global security.

Since 2001, USAID has provided over \$340 million in assistance in 88 countries and regions to fight human trafficking. We integrate our counter-trafficking efforts across Bureaus and sectors, in coordination with the U.S. Government interagency, and multiple external stakeholders. USAID's Counter-Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) approach follows the 4Ps: Prevention of trafficking, Protection of victims and survivors, Prosecution of traffickers, and Partnerships for a strengthened response.

In 2011, USAID adopted a **C-TIP Code of Conduct** that prohibits all employees, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees from engaging in behaviors that facilitate or support TIP. In 2012, USAID released its first comprehensive C-TIP Policy, which was revised in 2021. In 2013, USAID published a **C-TIP Field Guide** to educate USAID Mission personnel and partners about human trafficking and provide technical assistance to integrate, design, implement, and monitor effective C-TIP programs.

## INTEGRATION

The C-TIP Team provides C-TIP field support to USAID bilateral and regional Missions, which includes serving the Missions through technical assistance, training, research, advocacy, and other mechanisms/funding. The Team carries out C-TIP assessments and analyses and provides support for C-TIP program description and scope of work designs. In addition to convening workshop sessions with implementing and interagency partners to collaborate on C-TIP programming, the C-TIP Team also assists Missions in developing country specific action plans to integrate C-TIP across Mission portfolios and provide data for the annual U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report.

## RESEARCH

USAID uses rigorous research methodologies to gain a deeper understanding of the nature and scale of the problems we address, to test and refine programming approaches, and to measure impact. In Libya, USAID conducted research to increase understanding of how patterns of human trafficking and smuggling enable local conflict and influence governance in Libya. The report aimed to help USAID/Libya incorporate a “do no harm” approach into their decision-making to avoid undermining other programs. USAID has also supported research in Honduras and Thailand to understand the prevalence of different forms of trafficking, vulnerabilities of certain populations, and assess knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding trafficking threats and resources.

## ACCOUNTABILITY IN PROCUREMENT

Ensuring strong institutional accountability within USAID to combat trafficking is a critical priority. Our C-TIP Code of Conduct and efforts to prevent human trafficking in U.S. government procurement are central to advancing this objective.

## INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

USAID seeks to explore the potential of innovative approaches, new technologies, and partnerships to combat trafficking. USAID/Thailand’s partnership with Mars Petcare helps prevent forced labor and human trafficking in the seafood industry by leveraging communication technology. The pilot partnership utilizes “plotter” equipment to track fishing boats and uses a mobile chat application specific to the plotter. This provides fishing crews and workers with enhanced connectivity at sea through two-way real-time text communication, using a combination of satellite broadband, satellite tracking, and affordable equipment.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL APPROACHES

USAID aims to increase our effectiveness through regional approaches and partnerships with the private and public sector. A five-year project in Ukraine (2018-2023) builds the local capacity of state officials, social services, and NGOs through the provision of training on identification, referral, and assistance to victims of trafficking. The Mali Justice Project (2015-2022) aims to increase access to justice for trafficking victims by providing targeted training for paralegals and expanding advocacy and public information campaigns.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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