Counter-Trafficking in Persons Policy

Thriving in the shadows of poverty and conflict, trafficking in persons (TIP) victimizes millions of people worldwide. Although precise numbers are unknown, the scale of human trafficking is vast, affecting men, women, and children in every country in the world.

It is also a lucrative business, grossing an estimated $32 billion a year through forced labor, commercial sexual exploitation, and debt bondage, among other forms. The root causes of TIP are linked to development challenges that USAID addresses every day, including limited education and employment opportunities, weak social safety nets, a tenuous rule of law, as well as ethnic and gender discrimination.

USAID is among the largest donors combating TIP (C-TIP). Between 2001-2010, USAID programmed $163 million in 68 countries and Regional Missions. In any given year, we are investing in C-TIP in over two dozen countries.

Led by the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), in partnership with the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL), the 2012 Counter-Trafficking in Persons Policy empowers the Agency to be a catalytic partner by outlining concrete principles and objectives to reinvigorate and focus our C-TIP investments and reflects USAID’s renewed commitment to being a leader in C-TIP.

WHAT IS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS?

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

—UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 2000
SEVEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Employ USAID’s Comparative Advantage
Measure Impact and Bring to Scale
Apply Selectivity and Focus
Develop Regional Approaches
Promote Partnerships
Invest in Innovation and Technology
Promote High Ethical Standards

FIVE PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES

1. Efforts to combat trafficking integrated into relevant Agency initiatives and programs
2. Improved codification and application of learning efforts to combat trafficking
3. Enhanced institutional accountability to combat TIP
4. Augmented C-TIP investments in critical trafficking challenge countries
5. Increased investments in trafficking prevention and protection in conflict and crisis-affected areas

IMPLEMENTATION & STRATEGIC VISION

To implement the policy, DCHA will establish and lead a C-TIP Steering Committee that includes USAID senior leaders and managers in Washington and the field to coordinate programming. The Steering Committee will:

- Oversee the implementation of the policy;
- Provide technical leadership and support to Missions;
- Lead knowledge collection and management;
- Support planning, strategy, and coordination;
- Oversee (minimal) reporting requirements, ensure alignment and input into existing USAID programming, budgeting and project cycles;
- Assess success and consider solutions to policy and program challenges.

The Committee’s structure and operations will be detailed in the forthcoming C-TIP Field Guide to aid in designing and monitoring effective C-TIP programs. In 2012, USAID will produce a public document, the Annual C-TIP Plan, summarizing USAID C-TIP programming.

To access the policy, go to www.usaid.gov/trafficking.