



## USAID ASIA COUNTER TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The USAID Asia Counter Trafficking in Persons (USAID Asia CTIP) program brings together governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and businesses to support regional initiatives to combat trafficking in persons. By strengthening collaboration between source and destination countries and developing tools and systems to prevent and combat human trafficking, USAID Asia CTIP is supporting the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

Trafficking in persons (TIP) is a human rights abuse, global crime and a complex, trans-national problem that requires cross-border solutions and approaches. Asia accounts for more than half of the world's population and the majority of detected trafficked persons. USAID Asia CTIP focuses on the Lower Mekong countries, member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and Bangladesh, Nepal, and the republics of Central Asia. The program also examines key trafficking flows in South Asia to destination countries in East Asia and the Gulf States to help end human trafficking.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of USAID Asia CTIP is to multiply the impact of national level USAID CTIP projects to reduce TIP in Asia by:

**I. Strengthening learning:** USAID Asia CTIP is improving the quality of data and research related to CTIP activities and harmonizing the measurement of USAID CTIP programs across Asia. Specific activities in the region include research to standardize victim identification and support to improve their access to services; the development of capacities and practical tools to measure programs' successes and TIP prevalence; and the improvement of empirical evidence to inform successful interventions.

**2. Increasing regional coordination and strengthening civil society action:** USAID Asia CTIP is reinforcing regional CSO networks through online information sharing, skills building, and the development of tools to improve assistance to TIP survivors. The project is also building a series of Legal Impact Hubs to improve cross-border prosecution of TIP cases. At the national level, the project supports the implementation of bilateral and regional agreements (for example, the Memoranda of Understanding that govern legal labor migration between Cambodia and Thailand) through data-driven advocacy and the development of tools for monitoring the implementation of these agreements. USAID Asia CTIP is testing small-scale pilots (for example, designing a platform where recruiters and employers can connect to encourage transparency) to ensure that new approaches are field-tested before taking to scale.

**3. Increasing opportunities for private sector leadership:** The program is linking with businesses in priority sectors—construction, agriculture, and domestic work—to develop and test tools to monitor and prevent TIP and the exploitation of vulnerable workers from recruitment to employment.

## IMPACTS AND RESULTS

- Established an online network of over 600 CTIP CSOs to allow greater collaboration and exchange of best practices and secure information, including a Victim Journey Map to help track trafficking routes. Eighty-six CSOs contributed to the Victim Case Management System allowing for analysis of survivor service trends in the region.
- Assessed and documented promising pilots such as a website used by low-skilled workers in Cambodia to find work locally, reducing the need to migrate to Thailand in potentially dangerous conditions. By sharing these lessons learned, the project is providing a replicable model for other countries seeking to address TIP.
- Conducted research on the hidden recruitment costs along the Bangladesh/Malaysia migration corridor to help private companies and CSOs better support migrant workers.
- Mobilized researchers in four countries to conduct rapid assessments of migrant workers' needs as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and disseminated findings among stakeholders, including national-level USAID CTIP projects.
- Organized an online learning summit, "Evidence to Action", with over 650 participants to improve the uptake of CTIP research and evidence among government, CSOs, and private sector. As a result of the summit, papers on the challenges to evidence uptake and an easy to navigate tool to combat those challenges during the research process were disseminated.
- Following the Evidence to Action summit, a small grant competition was organized to foster partnerships and produce relevant research to inform policy and practice on the protection policies of Filipino migrants and the experiences of fishers in the Pacific.
- In partnership with Mars Petcare and the national-level USAID CTIP Thailand program, piloted sustainable technology for connectivity-at-sea that will link workers on fishing vessels to information and assistance resources to reduce their trafficking risk.
- Piloted Doc2Work, a blockchain technology to help regularize irregular migrants in Thailand's fishing industry and exploring opportunities for replication among other at-risk groups across the region.
- Developed over 50 original learning products to influence policy and practice, collectively disseminated over 10,000 times to researchers, government officials, and CSOs.
- Launched a seven-episode podcast series, "Labor of Loss", to promote an understanding of the forms of TIP across the Asia region and identify opportunities for change.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please reach out to USAID Asia CTIP [USAIDAsiaCTIP@winrock.org](mailto:USAIDAsiaCTIP@winrock.org).