

**ATTENTION: The Timeline of activities has been updated. Changes are highlighted in yellow.**

### REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

Program Name:	<b>Kazakhstan Actions against Trafficking in Children (KATCH) Project</b>
Request for Application (RFA) No:	<b>KATCH-10019-RFA-02</b>
Date RFA Issued:	<b>5 May 2023</b>
Pre-application Conference Date, if applicable:	<b>12 May 2023, 15:00</b>  <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 259 404 274 093 Passcode: jBsaFj
Due Date and Time for Questions:	<b>15 May 2023</b>
Due Date and Time for Response to Questions:	<b>19 May 2023</b>
RFA Closing Date and Time:	<b>31 May 2023 11:59pm (Almaty time)</b>
Estimated Award Date:	<b>01 September 2023</b>

## SECTION 1: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this RFA is to solicit applications from prospective grantees to support Winrock International (Winrock) in the implementation of the **Kazakhstan Actions against Trafficking in Children (KATCH) Project**, funded by **U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons** for the period of **April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2026**, Award No. **SSJTIP23GR0009**.

In recent years, as a transit and destination location for migrants from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan is facing increased domestic and international migration due to the economic turmoil and Russian-Ukrainian War. In particular, Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan international migrants have almost doubled their presence, respectively by 95.6 per cent and 93.9 per cent, in 2022 compared to 2020. International migrants coming from Azerbaijan and Tajikistan have increased by almost half their presence, respectively by 44.6 and 41.2 per cent their presence in the last two years, while international migrants from Uzbekistan have registered an increase by 38.9 per cent in the same time period. The largest group of migrants were reporting poor working conditions in available jobs, low income, insufficient to cover their living costs and save [194,212 Kazakh Tenge (421 USD)]. They are living with families in temporary accommodation with limited access to education and health services.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/kazakhstan-baseline-assessment-and-surveys-international-migrant-workers-kazakhstan>

According to the Department of State (DOS) trafficking in persons (TIP) Report 2022: “Human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Kazakhstan, and traffickers exploit victims from Kazakhstan abroad. Traffickers force some children to beg and coerce them into criminal behavior.

Thousands of undocumented migrants transit into Kazakhstan each day via informal border crossings for seasonal labor in construction, agriculture, retail, and hospitality; these individuals are particularly vulnerable to trafficking by virtue of their irregular immigration status, as are their accompanying children, who often do not attend school despite their eligibility to do so. The most vulnerable groups at risk of trafficking include undocumented migrants, persons without identity documents, unemployed individuals, individuals experiencing homelessness, and disabled persons.”<sup>2</sup>

The Government of Kazakhstan (GOK) has made notable efforts to combat TIP in recent years, including through public awareness campaigns; survivor assistance hotlines; funding TIP survivor shelters; expanding state services to TIP survivors. The Ministry of Internal Affairs oversees TIP concerns and plans to release an updated “Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings” law in the short term.

Despite progress, Kazakhstan’s existing child protection and CTIP systems lack the capacity, knowledge, and resources to effectively identify and protect child TIP survivors and accompanying children of migrant laborers (ACML). GOK legislation empowers five different ministries to protect children’s rights in some way, but none has clear responsibility to ensure that child TIP survivors are identified and assisted. This often leads to confusion and overlap regarding division of roles and responsibilities; it also results in many survivors being overlooked. For example, only one child TIP criminal case was initiated in Kazakhstan in 2020. Without an agency responsible for protection of child TIP survivors, the GOK has limited understanding of child TIP indicators or approaches to identify, refer, and support survivors. The GOK relies heavily on NGOs to provide support to child TIP survivors; the facilities it does support—such as Juvenile Adaptation Centers (JACs)—are severely understaffed. Due in part to heavy caseloads, service provider support is generic without use of child-sensitive or trauma-informed approaches that tailor support to the distinct needs of the child (e.g., by sex or age), build trust, and avoid re-traumatization. Most case workers have not been trained in child TIP identification or child sensitive and trauma-informed care.

Migrant children are not registered or issued documentation at border crossings. Without identity documents, children are invisible and cannot access services, increasing their overall vulnerability. Unified statistics on volume and demographics of ACML are not available, as state agencies collect information differently—or not at all. Data scarcity prevents evidence-based responses to address the needs of ACMLs and child TIP survivors, such as services by age and gender.

To address these challenges, Winrock International is implementing a three-year project—Kazakhstan Actions against Trafficking in Children (KATCH)—to support central and local government agencies, as well as NGOs network to improve identification and offer individualized,

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

comprehensive assistance to child TIP survivors and accompanying children of migrant laborers (ACML) and to increase accountability within the child protection system.

## **1.2 OBJECTIVE AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**PROJECT GOAL:** GOK agencies and NGOs proactively identify, refer, and assist child TIP survivors and ACML in southern Kazakhstan using child-sensitive and trauma-informed approaches. Our approach will lead to systemic change (a) at individual levels by equipping service providers with trauma-specific skills and tools to identify, refer, and assist child TIP survivors; and (b) at organizational levels by strengthening the capacity of local organizations to expand services to child TIP survivors and ACML and by mobilizing government and civil society leaders to coordinate and improve accountability of child protection systems.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:** KATCH will protect child TIP survivors and ACML through two objectives: (1) Service providers have the capacity and resources to identify and assist child TIP survivors and ACML in a child-sensitive, trauma-informed manner; and (2) Child protection and victim identification systems are proactive, coordinated, and accountable to child TIP survivors and ACML.

**PRIORITY REGIONS OF KAZAKHSTAN:** KATCH will work in five oblasts—Turkistan, Qyzylorda, Almaty, Zhambyl, and Jetysu—and the cities of Almaty and Shymkent in southern Kazakhstan, where economic opportunity and proximity to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan borders attract high numbers of migrants.

### **TARGET POPULATION:**

The target population for project impact are child TIP survivors, accompanying children of migrant laborers and their families in targeted regions.

***Under this RFA, the KATCH project in Kazakhstan is seeking interested applicants who can support the following objectives:***

### **Objective 1:**

Service providers have the capacity and resources to identify and assist child TIP survivors and ACML in a child-sensitive, trauma-informed manner

### **Activity 1.1.**

Train service providers to deliver child-sensitive, trauma-informed support to child TIP survivors and ACML

In October 2023 – February 2024, KATCH will provide 3-day, participatory group trainings for service providers organized by profession on trauma-informed, child-sensitive TIP victim identification, case management, and care.

Following the trainings, KATCH will create an informal online discussion platform for trainees used to share resources, pose questions, and solicit localized inputs to inform Objective 2 work. In December 24 – February 25, a KATCH will conduct a single-day, in person follow-up training by oblast to discuss progress and challenges and review curriculum covered in the original

training. KATCH will convert training materials into digital formats following the U.S. Department of State branding requirements and encourage stakeholders to incorporate these resources in future activities and training.

***It is expected from KATCH resource partners to help identify trainees, lead the trainings, informal online discussion platform and help finalize the modules.***

**Activity 1.2.** Award micro-grants to expand availability of education and other support services for child TIP survivors and ACML

***It is expected from KATCH resource partners to provide grantees technical assistance and strengthen their capacity to assist child TIP survivors and accompanying children of migrant laborers.***

**Objective 2:**

Child protection and victim identification systems are proactive, coordinated, and accountable to child TIP survivors and ACML

**Activity 2.1.**

Mobilize child CTIP champions to increase GOK accountability.

In April – September 2023, KATCH will solicit rolling nominations for Child CTIP Champions (child advocates) among individuals (adults) with community influence and a strong commitment to CTIP and child protection in southern Kazakhstan to advocate for improvements in the identification and protection of child TIP survivors and ACML.

In November 2023, KATCH resource partners will conduct a formal orientation and large group training on advocacy, leadership, facilitation skills. During the large group training, Child CTIP Champions will prepare action plans. Following the large group training, Champions will be divided into small groups by oblast that will work together to fulfill outreach activities. These small groups will be self-guided with regular monitoring and online support from KATCH. In December 24 – February 25, KATCH will convene the Child CTIP Champions for an in-person learning summit to share experiences and solicit recommendations for necessary adjustments to the program.

***It is expected from KATCH resource partners to help identify Child CTIP Champions (child advocates) in each oblast and lead the trainings.***

**Activity 2.2.** Facilitate alignment of roles and responsibilities for child TIP identification, referral, and assistance

In December 2023 – February 2024, the KATCH team will invite government representatives, NGOs, and service providers within each oblast for consultative workshops to coordinate roles and responsibilities and improve efficiency related to child TIP support. Following these oblast-level workshops, KATCH team will work with participants to develop action plans to improve implementation of existing regulations within their agencies or organizations—and will follow up with participants to monitor progress and provide necessary support.

In September 2024, KATCH team will invite the same participants to oblast-level recommendation workshops to share progress and draft recommendations for national-level policy.

Once finalized, the KATCH Project Leader will formally present recommendations to national officials in April - May 2025 for consideration and feedback. KATCH will also use this recommendation workshop to present project findings on key child TIP survivor issues, service provider challenges, capacity strengthening progress, and data updates on identified child TIP victims.

***It is expected from KATCH resource partners to help identify participants in each oblast and facilitate this work.***

**Expected results:**

- At least 387 service providers are equipped with skills to deliver trauma-informed, child-sensitive support to child TIP survivors and ACML.
- Capacity of micro-grant recipients is strengthened to identify, refer, and assist child TIP survivors and ACML.
- A network of capable child CTIP advocates is created to advocate for improvements in the identification and protection of child TIP survivors and ACML.
- Child protection and victim identification systems are proactive, coordinated, and accountable to child TIP survivors and ACML.

## **SECTION 2: GRANT INFORMATION**

### **2.1 ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF GRANTS TO BE ISSUED**

The **KATCH Project** expects to award up to **2** grants under this RFA but reserves the right to award fewer or none based on the quality of applications received and availability of funding.

### **2.2 ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF GRANTS**

It is expected that an individual grant amount will not exceed **35,000 US dollars** equivalent to **15653155 KZT** , **OANDA currency converter, 3 May 2023**. The final amount awarded will depend on award activities and final negotiations. Applicants are encouraged to propose realistic budgets based on actual costs of operating expenses. A budget template is included as Annex B to be used for this purpose. Upon decision of the Winrock evaluation committee, Winrock can contact applicant organizations with a request to reduce or enhance suggested activities and budget.

### **2.3 ANTICIPATED START DATE AND DURATION OF GRANTS**

The anticipated period of performance is **1 September 2023 – 31 May 2025**, depending on the negotiated award activities.

### **2.4 TYPE OF GRANTS TO BE ISSUED**

Winrock will determine the appropriate grant mechanism, in consultation with the applicant during the negotiation process, based on the pre-award assessment of the applicant, nature of the award activity, and estimated total cost of the award.

## SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### 3.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

This solicitation is open to all non-profit non-US organizations. To be minimally eligible for funding, applicants must comply with the following conditions:

- Be legally registered in the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- Physical presence of the office in one of the following cities/regions: Turkistan, Qyzylorda, Almaty, Zhambyl, and Jetysu—and the cities of Almaty and Shymkent in southern Kazakhstan
- Agree to be subject to a pre-award assessment carried out by Winrock staff to examine that the applicant has sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures.
- Be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementation of relevant programs and approaches.
- The proposed project should not duplicate the NGO's current projects funded by other donors, but could complement them.
- Provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number at the time of award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a UEI number before an award is issued.

### 3.2 INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Any entity that has been found to have misused US government funds in the past (unless specifically approved by the U.S. Department of State Grants Officer).
- Political parties, groupings, or institutions or their subsidiaries and affiliates.
- Organizations led directly or indirectly by Government Officials, including when they are office bearers of private companies.
- Organizations that advocate, promote, or espouse anti-democratic policies or illegal activities.
- Faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective for the grant is of a religious nature.
- Any entity whose name appears on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs (<https://sam.gov/SAM/> ).
- Any entity with a member that appears on the U.S. Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) and Blocked Person list (<https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/SDN-List/Pages/default.aspx>).
- Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List  
<https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/un-sc-consolidated-list>
- An organization refusing to comply with the required certifications.
- Partner government entities, without specific prior approval by the U.S. Department of State Agreement Officer.

## SECTION 4: INSTRUCTION TO APPLICANTS AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### 4.1. PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE

☒ A pre-application conference will be held as detailed below. All applicants are encouraged to attend.

Date:	<b>12 May 2023, 15:00</b>
Location:	<b>Online (MS Teams platform)</b>



	<b>Link:</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 259 404 274 093 Passcode: jBsaFj
Confirmation:	<b>An e-mail confirming attendance must be sent to          KATCHgrants@winrock.org</b>
Language Conference to be Held In:	<b>Russian language</b>

☐ A pre-application conference will not be held.

#### 4.2. Technical Application

Applicants will develop their applications based on their understanding of the program's needs, their prior institutional experience and their determination of the approaches that would be feasible and successful. In all cases, applicants shall clearly explain the rationale for the proposed approaches chosen.

Submissions must clearly state the objectives and the expected results of the activity within the life of the funding period and define an implementation plan with a proposed time frame and budget. On-going monitoring and reporting of the funded activities will be the responsibility of the applicant. An Application Form template is provided as an attachment to this RFA.

#### 4.3. COST APPLICATION

Cost applications shall be submitted separately from the technical application. Applicants shall submit a summary and detailed budget in Microsoft Excel with budget notes identifying how the applicant would allocate any grant funds received during the term of the potential agreement. The budget narrative should explain and justify the need for the costs proposed in the budget. The narrative should help the reviewer understand why an item of cost is necessary and how it will be used to support the activity for which it will be incurred. The budget narrative should demonstrate the relationship between the proposed activities and the budget. Just as the technical application should reflect the applicant's understanding of the objectives and the proposed approach to achieve those objectives, the budget and the accompanying narrative should be realistic and show a similar understanding of the financial requirements of the proposed activities.

Applicants should include into the project budget bank transaction fees and other service fees, required for utilization of international grant, in line with national legislation.

#### 4.4. COST-SHARE

☐ Cost share is required

Applicants are encouraged to provide cost-share demonstrating their commitment to the proposed grant activities in order to be competitive. Cost-share may be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions, including real property, equipment, supplies, and other expendable property. Other examples of cost-share include volunteer services and donated office/venue space. To be counted, a cost-share contribution must:

- Be verifiable – The applicant must be willing and able to provide sufficient documentation to support all recorded cost-share.
- Not included as contributions for any other USG-assisted program.

- Necessary and reasonable for efficient and proper accomplishment of the objective(s).
- ☒ Cost-share is not required

#### 4.5. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All questions and other communications regarding this RFA should be submitted in writing to [Click or tap here to enter text.](#), **KATCHgrants@winrock.org**. Written responses to questions will be made available to all applicants.

Applications must be submitted in **Russian or Kazakh, using Times New Roman, font size 12, single-spaced.**

Applications (including a technical description, estimated budget and supporting documentation) **must be submitted electronically via email KATCHgrants@winrock.org and should reference KATCH-10019-RFA-02.** Applications must be submitted **no later than 31 May 2023 11:59pm (Almaty time)**. Receipt time for electronic submissions is when the application is received by Winrock's Internet Server. Your email with attachments **should not exceed 20 MB limit.**

Incomplete or late applications will be marked as such and will be ineligible for review or award; however, Winrock reserves the right to accept and include incomplete or late applications in the review and award process when it is considered within the best interest of Winrock to do so. Applications that are submitted late or incomplete run the risk of **not** being considered for review.

Applications may be withdrawn by written notice via email received at any time before an award is made. Applications may be withdrawn in person by an organization or its authorized representative if the representative's identity is made known and the representative signs a receipt for the application before award is made.

A complete submission, at a minimum, will include the following:

- A copy of the applicant's valid legal registration
- A completed and signed technical application
- A completed and signed budget application
- Budget supporting documents, including the budget narrative, as applicable
- Letters of recommendation and support from local administration, other organizations (if any);
- CVs of the project staff, copies of diplomas and certificates confirming their qualifications.

Add other specifics according to your requirements e.g. audit reports or financial statements, organizational chart, and so on.

## SECTION 5: APPLICATION EVALUATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

### 5.1. MERIT REVIEW

The criteria presented below have been tailored to the requirements of this RFA. A total of 100 points are possible for all components of the application. The relative importance of each criterion is indicated by approximate weight by points.



In evaluating the applications, Winrock will examine overall merit and feasibility, as well as specific criteria relevant to each component as elaborated below. Up to **2** awards will be made to the overall highest scores to the responsible applicant(s). Applicants should note that these criteria: (1) serve as the standard against which all applications will be evaluated, and (2) serve to identify the significant matters which applicants should address in their applications.

Merit Review Criteria	Points
<b>1. Technical Approach</b>	<b>50</b>
1. How relevant is the proposal to the goal/objectives and priorities of current Request for Applications?	10
2. How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved (target groups)? Have their needs been clearly defined and does the proposal address them appropriately? Will the target population and (or) their representatives be involved in the project (project inclusiveness)?	10
3. How elaborated, logic and coherent is the overall design of the action? Does it reflect the analysis of the problems involved?	10
4. Is the action feasible? Will the intervention achieve its objectives and its results?	10
5. Is there a mechanism to ensure the institutional and financial sustainability of the project after the end of the grant agreement? Visibility strategy	10
<b>2. Organizational Capacity / Past Performance</b>	<b>40</b>
1. Proven experience in managing grants/project from International Organizations	10
2. Does the applicant have previous or on-going experience in implementing similar activities? What results have been achieved in previous activities of the applicant, what were the quantitative, qualitative and impact-level results?	10
3. Physical presence of the office in the city/region.	10
4. Is the staff capacity of the applicant appropriate for implementation of the suggested activities? Number of staff assigned to the project. Relevant education and experience	10
<b>3. Budgeting</b>	<b>10</b>
1. Is the budget complete and clear, has sufficient details, and corresponds to project activities, amounts are reasonable and appropriate, budget notes clearly justify the needs for costs.	10
<b>Overall Rating (out of 100 points)</b>	<b>100</b>

## 5.2. REVIEW PROCESS

Grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated by an evaluation panel using the merit review criteria indicated above.

It is anticipated that awards will be made within **3 months** after the submission deadline, as stated on the cover page of this RFA. Final negotiations and award will be managed by Winrock.

**All grants are subject to approval by the**

**U.S. Department of State**  
**Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons**

**SECTION 6: OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**6.1. DISCLAIMERS**

- The issuance of this solicitation does not commit Winrock to make an award to any prospective grantee responding to this solicitation. Prospective grantees will not be reimbursed for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Winrock reserves the right to reject any and all applications, or to make an award without further discussion or negotiation.
- All awards will be negotiated, denominated and funded in Kazakhstan Tenge. All costs funded under the grant must be allowable, allocable and reasonable.

**6.2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Applicants must provide disclosure of any past, present or future relationships with any parties associated with the issuance, review or management of this RFA and anticipated grant. Failure to provide full and open disclosure may result in Winrock having to re-evaluate selection of a potential applicant.

**6.3. OTHER CONDITIONS**

- Applicants must agree and be willing to sign and submit required certifications before a grant is issued.
- For those selected for a grant award, Winrock will conduct a pre-award risk assessment.
- Issuance of grant agreements will be subject to applicable prior written approval by Winrock funder, as needed.
- Applicants may only submit one application per prime organization under this RFA.
- Individuals are not eligible to receive funding under this solicitation.
- Applications must remain valid for at least 180 days.
- Application forms should be signed by an authorized agent of the applicant's organization.
- Applicants that submit applications that meet or exceed the evaluation criteria will be notified of next steps in the application process.

Additionally, the following items cannot be purchased under the potential resultant grants:

- Private ceremonies, parties, celebrations or "representation" expenses
- Ineligible Commodities, including but not limited to: military equipment, police or law enforcement equipment, surveillance equipment, abortion equipment and services, weather modification equipment, luxury goods, and gambling equipment
- Construction, infrastructure, renovation, or rehabilitation projects
- Any purchases or activities deemed unnecessary to accomplish grant purposes as determined by Winrock, including any grantee headquarters expenses that are not directly linked to the implementation of the proposed activities
- Previous obligations and/or bad debts
- Fines and/or penalties
- Creation of endowments

- Other costs unallowable under U.S. Department of State and/or federal regulations, such as alcoholic beverages.
- Expenses intended to influence the outcome of elections or other political processes

## SECTION 7: ANNEXES

Annex A – Application Form

Annex B – Detail Budget Template