

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### Notice of Funding Opportunity – Stage 1: Statement of Interest

**Federal Awarding Agency:** U.S. Department of State  
**Program Office:** Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, International Programs Section  
**Funding Opportunity Title:** 2022 TIP Office **Notice of Funding Opportunity – Stage 1: Statement of Interest**  
**Announcement Type:** 2022 TIP Office Initial Notification of Funding Opportunity  
**Funding Opportunity:** SFOP0009089  
**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number(s):** 19.019  
**Deadline for Applications:** August 1, 2022, 5:00 p.m. EDT

## FULL TEXT OF NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) announces an open competition for projects to combat trafficking in persons outside of the United States. Informed by the annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report), current anti-trafficking programming and trends, and in consultation with other U.S. government agencies and offices, the TIP Office has identified 19 programming priorities for funding as listed on page 5.

The TIP Office will allocate funding for anti-trafficking projects through an open, two-stage competitive process. In stage one of competition, also known as the statement of interest (SOI) stage, applicants are invited to submit three-page SOIs for projects designed to address the TIP Office’s 2022 programming priorities. The TIP Office welcomes strong SOIs that address human trafficking challenges on a significant scale, offer the potential to have a systemic and sustainable impact, align with U.S. government priorities and the TIP Office’s country and regional programming priorities, among other factors.

### B. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

#### *1. Eligible Applicants*

Organizations eligible to apply include U.S.-based and foreign non-profits, non-governmental organizations (including faith-based organizations), public

international organizations (PIOs), institutions of higher education, and for-profit entities. For-profit organizations are not permitted to generate profits from grant-funded activities. U.S. government agencies may respond to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with applications for projects that would be funded through an Interagency Acquisition Agreement. While foreign governments are not eligible to apply, governments may be beneficiaries of projects provided that funding does not pay salaries of government agency personnel and that such assistance is not restricted by U.S. law or policy.

Applications submitted by for-profit entities may be subject to additional review following the panel selection process. Additionally, the Department of State prohibits profit to for-profit or commercial organizations under its assistance awards. Profit is defined as any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs. The allowability of costs incurred by commercial organizations is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 CFR 30, Cost Accounting Standards Administration, and 48 CFR 31 Contract Cost Principles and Procedures.

Organizations currently receiving funds from the TIP Office may apply for additional funding under the present funding opportunity. The eligibility requirements for applying to this funding opportunity do not restrict applicants from receiving other sources of funding from the United States government, including funding from other bureaus within the Department of State. However, the applicant must provide information on any work conducted with U.S. government funding related to human-trafficking issues or cross-cutting (health, education, labor, gender, etc.) human-trafficking issues within the project narrative.

Under this funding opportunity, applicants may partner with other organizations in submitting application(s). Applicants partnering with other organizations must clearly identify the lead applicant, and the applicant may designate one or more partner organizations as sub-recipients. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a *partner organization* is any organization that would receive sub-award funding from a successful applicant to help the applicant organization implement anti-trafficking projects and/or activities. All mandatory terms and conditions for a successful applicant also apply to any sub-awards awarded.

## 2. *Cost Sharing or Matching*

Cost sharing, cost matching, and cost participation are not required to carry out a project under this funding opportunity. While not required, applicants can propose to include voluntary cost-share. Applications that include voluntary cost share will **NOT** be evaluated differently than other applications. Applicants that voluntarily propose cost share should list the cost share amount in the SF-424.

### **C. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION**

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 USC 7101 et seq.), as amended (TVPA), established the TIP Office in the U.S. Department of State. The TIP Office leads the United States’ global engagement on the fight against human trafficking and seeks partnerships with foreign governments, civil society organizations, and multilateral organizations to combat human trafficking through the “3P” paradigm: **prosecuting** traffickers through victim-centered and trauma-informed law enforcement, **protecting** trafficking victims through proactive identification and the provision of comprehensive, trauma-informed care, and **preventing** trafficking in persons by making it more difficult or risky for traffickers to commit the crime. The TIP Office also recognizes the importance of **partnerships** and collaborative efforts with relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in anti-trafficking work. TIP Office programs and projects combat human trafficking – to refer to a crime whereby traffickers exploit and profit at the expense of adults or children by compelling them to perform labor or engage in commercial sex. It should be noted that when a person younger than 18 is used to perform a commercial sex act, it is a crime regardless of whether there is any force, fraud, or coercion. The two primary forms of human trafficking are sex trafficking and forced labor.

The U.S. government defines “trafficking in persons” as:

- Sex Trafficking encompasses the range of activities involved when a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to compel another person to engage in a commercial sex act or causes a child to engage in a commercial sex act.
- Forced Labor, sometimes also referred to as labor trafficking, encompasses the range of activities involved when a person uses force, fraud, or coercion to exploit the labor or services of another person.

Trafficking in persons does not require the movement of a person. Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) and generally consistent with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), individuals may be trafficking

victims regardless of whether they once consented, they participated in unlawful acts their traffickers compelled them to commit, someone transported them into the exploitative situation, or they were simply born into a state of servitude. The TIP Office will not support projects that use alternate definitions of trafficking.

The TVPA requires that the Department of State submit to Congress an annual report assessing the efforts of governments to address trafficking in persons. The annual TIP Report is the primary tool for the Department's engagement with other governments on human trafficking and informs U.S. policy and assistance priorities to combat this crime.

Since 2000, when the United Nations adopted the Palermo Protocol and the United States enacted the TVPA, the number of parties to the Protocol has reached 178. In addition, a majority of countries have criminalized all forms of trafficking, and many countries have established specialized law enforcement units, set up trafficking victim assistance mechanisms, and launched public awareness campaigns. Nonetheless, the number of victims identified and assisted and the number of traffickers investigated, prosecuted, and convicted remain low relative to the size of the problem; and governments continue to face challenges in effectively implementing anti-trafficking legal and policy frameworks.

The TIP Office works to build the capacity of partner governments and civil society to address these challenges through foreign assistance programs. Information on U.S. government anti-trafficking efforts is available at <https://www.state.gov/humantrafficking/> and a summary of international projects currently funded by the TIP Office is available at <https://www.state.gov/tip-office-project-descriptions/>.

## **2022 PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES**

The TIP Office has identified 19 regional and country programming priorities for potential funding. These priorities are heavily informed by recommendations from the annual TIP Report, coordination with a broad range of anti-trafficking donors, and engagement with foreign governments and local civil society, and are based on the TIP Office's current anti-trafficking efforts.

The TIP Office generally prioritizes foreign assistance in those countries assessed below Tier 1 in the TIP Report and where governments demonstrate political will but lack the economic resources or anti-trafficking expertise to effectively address the problem. The 2022 programming priorities below are listed by geographic

region. Priorities were developed by reviewing recent TIP Report assessments and human trafficking trends; consulting with intra- and interagency policy and programming stakeholders; and considering current and planned programming from this office, other U.S. government agencies, and other public and private donors.

The TIP Office may fund activities in high-income countries, but the use of foreign assistance funding to benefit a high-income country requires additional review. Applicants should ensure that inclusion of high-income countries is responsive to the TIP Office's regional and country priorities. The TIP Office considers high-income countries to be those designed as high income by the World Bank using the gross national income (GNI) per capita (Atlas method). The current threshold for high-income countries (based on 2019 data) is a GNI per capita of \$12,536 or more.

To be eligible for consideration, SOIs must respond to *at least one* of the specific programming priority areas and countries or regions identified below.

## **AFRICA (AF)**

### **East Africa Programming**

In East Africa, the TIP Office currently has programming in Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The TIP Office's current program in Tanzania recently ended, and the government has demonstrated significant political will over the past year, making Tanzania an opportune country within which to continue programming. Therefore, we are seeking applications to build on the previous work done and continue to build specialized investigative and prosecutorial skills within Tanzania.

- 1. (Bilateral – Tanzania) – Prosecution, Protection** – Tanzania is a programming priority because of the significant capacity needs to address the high prevalence of internal trafficking of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and domestic servitude, combined with an increased political will to address the problem. Since President Hassan came to office, the Government of Tanzania has demonstrated a willingness to strengthen its anti-trafficking response, evidenced by the recent launch of its 2021-2024 national action plan, a drafted amendment to strengthen its anti-trafficking law by mandating prison times (expected to pass in June), and the development of a fund for victim services. However, the lack of coordination, victim witness protection, and specialized skills of

investigators and prosecutors continues to hinder anti-trafficking efforts. The time is ripe for significant programming to help Tanzania strengthen its national response to combat trafficking. With our program's recent conclusion, and political will of the new government to combat human trafficking, further efforts are needed to build on this momentum, including the recently launched case consultation mechanism developed in partnership with the National District Attorneys Association and supported by the Department of Public Prosecutions.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications to build on previous and current efforts from anti-trafficking stakeholders to: 1) Develop specialized skills of investigators and prosecutors through direct engagement, mentoring and ongoing case consultation, including strong victim witness protection measures; 2) Strengthen coordination of government multi-disciplinary actors through the operationalization of a national referral mechanism; and 3) Improve comprehensive, specialized services for victims of trafficking through the provision of shelter, trauma-informed mental health counseling, medical care, and legal assistance.

### **Southern & Central Africa Programming**

The TIP Office currently has programming in Angola, Malawi, Lesotho, Zambia, Mozambique, and South Africa. South Africa, Burundi, and Lesotho are the priority countries the TIP Office has selected for FY 2022 funding, as well as a research and implementation project focused on the intersections between climate change and human trafficking in the Southern and Central African region. South Africa remains a priority in the region due to its regional impact, its draw for migrant laborers, and its need to build on and improve its government processes and coordination to combat human trafficking. In Burundi and Lesotho, The TIP Office sees opportunities for programming because of increased political will, a need to continue momentum on human trafficking and to consolidate and improve gains made in recent years.

- 1. (Bilateral – Burundi) – Prevention and Protection** – Since 2015, Burundi's socio-political situation has declined and resulted in the rising cost of goods, food insecurity, fewer employment opportunities, and humanitarian issues increasing vulnerabilities to trafficking. Burundi, like its Great Lakes neighbors, is permeated by migration flows through porous borders. In recent years, the Government of Burundi has worked to address the exploitation of Burundian women in Gulf States in partnership with an international organization and with foreign donor funding. It has also made

advances by establishing a National Commission on Trafficking, developing a law enforcement data collection system, increasing the number of investigations and prosecutions compared to the previous four years, and improving awareness-raising efforts and protection measures. Efforts to address human trafficking remain ad hoc due to the lack of formalized coordination structures and standardized operating procedures to identify and refer victims of trafficking. With current anti-trafficking projects concluding in September 2022, further efforts are needed to sustain this upward momentum in anti-trafficking efforts and support protection of victims of trafficking.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications to build on previous and current efforts from anti-trafficking stakeholders to: 1) Develop and support the implementation of a national referral mechanism for protecting victims of trafficking, especially in coordination with immigration officials; 2) Conduct a comprehensive research study to understand the full scope of human trafficking in Burundi; 3) Strengthen national coordination and partnerships among civil society and government by formalizing the structures of the existing ad hoc committee; and/or 4) Develop and support the implementation of a national anti-trafficking action plan. Applications should focus solely on Burundi, with the exception of the research effort, which may include some information on neighboring countries as appropriate. Applicants may choose to address one or more programming initiatives in their application. Selecting more than one programming initiative will not hinder or improve the applicant's chances of being selected for funding. Applicants should seek government buy-in for project activities.

2. **(Bilateral – Lesotho) – Prosecution, Protection, Partnerships** – For the last decade, the TIP Office has invested small amounts of funding to support the Government of Lesotho to make significant advancements in anti-trafficking efforts, including development of the first and second National Strategic Framework and Action Plan, amendments to the national anti-trafficking legislation, launching a communications strategy, implementing standardized procedures to identify and refer victims of trafficking, dedicating resources to official shelters for survivors of trafficking, reviving the multi-sectoral committee and establishing four district-level committees to coordinate anti-trafficking efforts, establishing law enforcement focal points in five districts, and supporting joint investigations in key areas. The Government of Lesotho has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to

revitalizing efforts to address human trafficking in coordination with civil society partners. With current anti-trafficking projects concluding in September 2023 and elections taking place in October 2022, further efforts are needed to sustain this upward momentum in anti-trafficking efforts and support protection of victims of trafficking by assisting in the implementation of these key efforts.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications to build on previous and current efforts from anti-trafficking stakeholders to: 1) Build the capacity of front-line officials to proactively screen, identify, refer, and protect victims of trafficking in line with the National Referral Mechanism; 2) Strengthen coordination at the national and/or district level among key stakeholders (civil society and government officials) within Lesotho; 3) Enhance collaboration and training among criminal justice practitioners to successfully investigate and prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking, conduct joint labor inspections and investigations to identify human trafficking in business establishments, increase victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches, and facilitate collaboration on cases involving Lesotho and South Africa; and/or 4) Expand comprehensive services for identified victims of trafficking, including obtaining legal identity documents. Applicants should focus solely on working in Lesotho and preliminarily identify specific locations in Lesotho to work in, with the understanding these can be refined early in the project. Applicants may choose to address one or more programming initiatives in their application. Selecting more than one programming initiative will not hinder or improve the applicant's chances of being selected for funding. Applicants should seek government buy-in for project activities where appropriate.

- 3. (Bilateral – South Africa) – Prevention, Protection, Partnerships –** South Africa is a resource-constrained country where authorities grapple with high levels of transnational organized crime, increasing unemployment of more than 34%, rising rates of gender-based violence, and high homicide rates. In recent months these challenges have manifested into xenophobia-induced violence between foreign migrants (documented and undocumented) and local communities. These contextual factors attribute to increased vulnerability to trafficking internally, but South Africa also remains a key destination for marginalized communities across the region. While the government has made some efforts under the National Policy Framework to improve coordination and build the capacity of anti-trafficking stakeholders through the roll-out of new standard operating procedures, key gaps in

prevention and protection efforts remain, leaving many unidentified trafficking victims and impunity for traffickers . Despite recently developed standard operating procedures on victim assistance, poor understanding of human trafficking, lack of awareness of stakeholders’ roles in the referral process, and weak coordination among partners continue to hamper anti-trafficking efforts. Through high-level engagements and informal conversations with government officials and civil society, there is significant interest in partnering to continue advancing efforts to protect victims of trafficking and hold those responsible accountable.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications to build on previous and current efforts from anti-trafficking stakeholders to: 1) Support workshops, training, and/or on the ground mentoring for border officials, law enforcement, immigration officials, and communities with a high prevalence of trafficking to understand their role in proactively screening, identifying, and referring cases of trafficking to proper care using a victim-centered approach and standard operating procedures, as applicable; 2) Build the capacity of national and select provincial task force teams on victim identification and assistance, with a focus on sustainable coordination and communication; and/or 3) Enhance collaboration among law enforcement, investigators, prosecutors, and the judiciary to move human trafficking cases forward to prosecution. Applicants should preliminarily identify specific locations to work in South Africa and may include efforts to collaborate and coordinate with neighboring countries, with the understanding that these locations can be refined early in the project. Applicants may choose to address one or more programming initiatives in their application. Selecting more than one programming initiative will not hinder or improve the applicant’s chances of being selected for funding. Applicants should seek relevant buy-in from national and/or provincial government entities for project activities where appropriate.

4. **(Regional/Thematic – Climate Impacts and Trafficking in Persons) – Research, Partnerships, and Protection** – The Southern Africa region is at the forefront of the most extreme impacts of slow onset and sudden onset climate events resulting in increased vulnerabilities to trafficking for many communities. In both slow onset and sudden onset climate events, enhanced marginalization, increased poverty, lack of social protections or access to social protections, and minimal resources result in increased susceptibility to human trafficking. Over the last 40+ years these climate events have increased in frequency resulting in increased vulnerability to trafficking in

nearly every country in the region. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment indicates that by 2030 half of the continent of Africa may experience high water stress and up to 700 million people may be displaced as a result. While many communities will experience increased vulnerability, gender inequalities increase women's and girls' vulnerability to exploitation in crisis, forcing them into household head roles with minimal resources. It is crucial that the relevant actors understand the impacts of climate changes in the Southern Africa region in relation to vulnerability to trafficking and identify how to respond to these increasing vulnerabilities through programming.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications to build on previous and current efforts from anti-trafficking stakeholders and climate change actors to: Conduct desk research culminating in a report assessing the effects of climate change on vulnerabilities and trends of human trafficking in Southern Africa. This should include, but not be limited to, sudden onset, slow onset, or combined sudden and slow onset climate factors with a particular focus on vulnerabilities of women and girls. The report should recommend proactive and reactive measures to reduce vulnerability to trafficking within the region, as well as inform a second phase of the project to respond to the needs identified in the research. Applicants may briefly allude to a prospective technical approach for activities drawing on findings from the research report to address the links between human trafficking and sudden and slow onset climate events in key areas affected by climate change in the region. Applications should focus solely on Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Applicants should develop technical approaches that allow desk research to inform the follow-on activities carried out in the initiative. Applicants should be specific in identifying a focus of sudden onset, slow onset, or both types of climate impacts and identify specific vulnerable groups to be targeted. In proposing technical approaches, applicants must keep in mind the mandate of the TIP Office to specifically address human trafficking. Applicants should seek government buy-in for project activities. This award will be provided in the form of a cooperative agreement.

### **West Africa Programming**

In the FY 2022 NOFO, the key priority for West Africa programming is to address the issue of forced child begging through a regional prevention and protection program. Forced child begging is one of the most common forms of human

trafficking in West Africa, yet most programmatic approaches seem to focus solely on protection work that does not resolve the complex roots of the issue.

- 1. (Regional – West Africa) –Prevention and Protection** – Estimates indicate that tens of thousands of children are involved in forced begging in West Africa. Children from Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and surrounding countries are forced to beg, and the practice is often connected to religious schools and formal or informal religious teachers. Active programs to address forced child begging in West Africa have not focused on long-term solutions that effect behavioral change.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications to build on previous and current efforts from anti-trafficking stakeholders to develop a transformational, long-term program to address forced child begging. Applicants should propose a phased approach to study, pilot, and expand innovative ideas to address this problem at the local level working with survivors, families, grassroots organizations, communities, and/or the national level with pragmatic, workable solutions. Applicants must incorporate a thorough review of existing data, research, evidence, evaluations, and other materials surrounding forced child begging; analyze lessons learned in preventing and addressing forced child begging in West Africa; and employ international standards governing the treatment of children in their project designs. Based on this research, applicants should establish plans to develop one or multiple pilot projects to address the issue through evidence-based programming designs in select countries. Pilot projects should work beyond solely protection efforts and incorporate solutions to program around cultural sensitivities. The expectation would be that the pilots would produce results that could expand within the chosen country as well as to other countries in the region. Project designs should be measurable by including prevalence studies, rigorous monitoring and evaluation, mid-term assessments, final assessments, and/or adjustment plans to analyze and evaluate the success and failures of the pilot and expansion projects. Applicants may propose to program in one or more countries in West Africa. Selecting more than one country will not hinder or improve the applicant's chances of being selected for funding. Applications should propose phased initiatives for a three-to-five-year period but should demonstrate a strategy and capacity for executing a project with a longer duration. The TIP Office intends to fund the selected program

incrementally, based on availability of funding, over a substantial period, with the first award covering 36-60 months in duration.

### **EAST ASIA and PACIFIC (EAP)**

The TIP Office currently has programming in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Our priorities for our FY 2022 funding are combatting the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) in Indonesia and providing protection to vulnerable migrants in Thailand. The TIP report has highlighted for several years that child sex trafficking remains a major problem in Indonesia. Over the past two years, though, Indonesia has seen a sharp increase in online child sexual exploitation, with more than 1,800,000 reports of child sexual abuse material to NCMEC originating from Indonesia in 2021 – nearly double that of 2020. In Thailand, local poverty, political unrest in Burma, and the COVID-19 pandemic have combined to increase both the rate of migration and the vulnerability of migrants to human trafficking, leading to an increase in human trafficking along its border with Burma. The TIP Office seeks to promote stronger partnerships between government and civil society in providing needed protection for victims of trafficking.

- 1. (Bilateral – Indonesia) – Prosecution, Prevention – Preventing the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) –** As reported in the TIP Report for several years in a row, child sex trafficking remains a major problem in Indonesia. Children are exploited in the underground commercial sex industry, particularly in Bali and in the Riau Islands near Singapore. Statistics recently reported by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) show that Indonesia also has a growing problem with OSEC. There were more than 1,800,000 reports of child sexual abuse material to NCMEC originating from Indonesia in 2021 – nearly double that of 2020.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office seeks applications that will help establish, equip, and train specialized Indonesian police units that can effectively receive and process tips from NCMEC and carry out effective OSEC and child trafficking investigations. In addition to working in Jakarta, a prospective grantee should also work in at least one other province in Indonesia, which can be phased in over time. This effort should include onsite mentoring focused on long-term sustainability with an eye towards expanding to other provinces in Indonesia over time.

2. **(Bilateral – Thailand) – Prevention, Protection – Protecting Vulnerable Migrant Populations in Northern Thailand** – Migration between Burma and Thailand is common, particularly around the Mae Sot district of Tak Province in northwestern Thailand. Local poverty, political unrest in Burma, and the COVID-19 pandemic have combined to increase both the rate of migration and the vulnerability of migrants to human trafficking. Over the past five years, prior TIP Office programs in Thailand have largely focused on providing outreach to vulnerable populations, providing shelter services, and working with the Thai government on addressing trafficking in the fishing sector. The TIP Office has recently begun a program in Thailand centering on assisting frontline officers with victim identification and case referrals in investigations focusing primarily on forced labor. The combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing political unrest in Burma, however, has caused TIP along the Thai-Burmese border to increase, which we seek to address.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office seeks applications from organizations that will work in partnership with local government and other local organizations to prevent the trafficking of vulnerable migrants and assist victims of the crime. Successful organizations will partner with local “multidisciplinary teams” in developing and implementing plans to identifying and referring existing victims and using a victim centered approach.

## **EUROPE and EURASIA (EUR)**

In the FY2022 NOFO, the key priority for the EUR region is to address the increasing trafficking risks caused by Russia’s war on Ukraine and to put in place safeguards for trafficking victims and those at risk. The key priorities for Eastern Europe, then, are to develop consistent and coordinated tracking and assistance to trafficking victims and those vulnerable to trafficking in Ukraine and neighboring countries; to create and/or improve effective and sustainable case management processes across the Balkans; to focus on increasing victim-centered investigations, prosecutions, and convictions in trafficking cases, to ensure victim/survivor testimony in Turkey; and to integrate effective protection services in Romania in response to Russia’s war on Ukraine.

1. **(Regional –Ukraine and Neighboring Countries, including Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Germany, the Czech Republic) – Protection, Prevention, and Partnerships – Child and**

**Adolescent Tracking** – Although select countries are likely already tracking children, we were unable to find an overall coordinated regional effort that is specifically integrating a human trafficking prevention, victim identification, and protection systems for children and adolescents. Such a system is needed to prevent vulnerable children from falling through the cracks of the EU social system and to help child trafficking victims as well as those vulnerable to trafficking. The ideal project would build upon systems already in place.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications that aim to coordinate with governmental and international organizations, and NGOs, to develop a safe child tracking system for unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents with the goal of consistent and coordinated tracking and assistance to trafficking victims and those at risk. The project should include prevention, identification of child trafficking victims, and comprehensive protection services, including psychological, medical, and legal assistance for young victims and those vulnerable to trafficking. In collaboration with existing resources and national governments, priority should be given to rapid and safe reintegration of children and adolescents to supportive families and communities. We have a strong preference for partnerships with organizations with specialized experience in training frontline providers in the delivery of trauma-informed child-centered mental health care, with excellent existing government relationships. A successful project would ensure government buy-in and civil society cooperation and last up to 60 months.

- 2. (In three or more of these countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) – Protection and Prevention – Case Management System** – Current TIP Office protection and prevention programming in these countries has led to success in implementing national and transnational standard operating procedures designed to better identify and assist trafficking victims. However, integrated, longer-term sustainable case management protection services and systems remain inadequate across the Balkans. Comprehensive services including identification of victims and provision of mental health, medical and legal assistance, vocational training, and reintegration services are needed to improve the protection of victims/survivors of trafficking. In addition, there is a need for

provider capacity-building that addresses turnover and pays particular attention to burn out and secondary trauma.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications to develop sustainable victim/survivor case management protection systems to assist trafficking victims and survivors over time, in cooperation with victim-centered investigation and prosecution efforts. We have a strong preference for partnerships with organizations with specialized experience in training frontline providers in the delivery of trauma-informed mental health care. Proposals should integrate innovative approaches, such as mobile identification units, screening tools, and expertise in trauma, as well as provide comprehensive services. A strong proposal would include provider capacity-building, training, and networking opportunities to mitigate provider turnover and burn-out while building on existing associations or networks to bring trafficking and trauma training to the widest number of service providers possible. Focus should be on long-term engagement with victims/survivors, so a four- or five-year project to include an external mid-line and end-line evaluation is recommended. Particular attention should be paid to the provision of tailored and targeted services with the goal of informing a phased and scalable case management system model. A successful project would ensure government buy-in and civil society cooperation.

- 3. (Bilateral – Turkey) – Prosecution** – Turkey hosts a large number of migrants and refugees from neighboring countries, and many of them are vulnerable to trafficking. Yet a high number of cases end in acquittals as many survivors flee Turkey as soon as they are able and are not available to testify in trafficking cases.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications that focus on increasing victim-centered investigations, prosecutions, and convictions in trafficking cases and ensuring victim/survivor testimony. Proposals should complement other donor programming that focuses on improving criminal justice efforts in Turkey. This could include mentoring, establishing processes to protect and build trust with trafficking victims, and/or forging new ways to take and use victim testimony in court. Successful proposals must include a track record of working in Turkey within the current civil society environment, and specific Letters of Cooperation from relevant Government of Turkey

entities.

- 4. (Bilateral–Romania)** – Romania hosts nearly a million refugees from Ukraine, including those who are staying in Romania or transiting through the country. Ukrainian refugees in Romania are increasingly vulnerable to sex and labor trafficking. Romanian and third-country nationals also are at risk of trafficking in the country.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office requests applications for implementing enhanced and collaborative identification and multi-sector case management approaches to build capacity of front-line providers to increase identification of trafficking victims and provide comprehensive trauma-informed protection services in Romania. Integrate sustainable capacity-building of service providers in the delivery of trauma-informed mental health care and other comprehensive protection services, to include approaches such as training, supervision, and networking opportunities to mitigate provider turnover and burn-out while building on existing associations or networks to bring effective trafficking and trauma training and provision of services to service providers. Consider strengthening collaboration with neighboring country stakeholders to improve identification and protection for Ukrainian, Romanian, and third-country nationals.

## **NEAR EAST (NEA)**

The TIP Office currently has programming in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia. Migrant workers from all over the world are working in the Gulf, where many are subjected to human trafficking. This year we are prioritizing human trafficking of migrant workers in the Gulf, as well as Morocco and Iraq.

The TIP Office’s current programming in Morocco is ending this year after helping the country draft a National Referral Mechanism. In addition, the TIP Office’s current funding in Iraq is ending this December, which will leave no current victim protective service provider in Federal Iraq.

The TIP Office has prioritized Morocco because there is no programming providing direct protective services to identified victims of trafficking, which is greatly needed, even though current programming seeks to identify and guide change in the legislative and judicial system to increase victim identification and overall prosecution numbers. In Iraq, the country remains fragmented and with the

current protective services programming ending this year, only limited protective services remain, provided by the government, for identified victims in Federal Iraq.

- 1. (Bilateral – Morocco) – Protection** – Moroccan authorities’ anti-trafficking efforts are deeply tied to the current irregular migration crisis with poor screening and conflation of human trafficking and migrant smuggling causing penalization of trafficking victims. In addition, the government rarely provides specialized shelter and services to trafficking victims in Morocco. We seek to expand funding for victim identification and referrals to services.

The TIP Office has been programming in Morocco since 2016 with a program to help amend the trafficking law and implement a National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The TIP Office has also funded programs to further train law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges on the existing trafficking law and to prepare legal NGOs and pro-bono lawyers on how to utilize the NRM once implemented. This will be the first time the TIP Office has advocated solely for protective services in Morocco, recognizing the high need for protective services.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office seeks applications aiming to increase protective services and capacity for the reintegration into society of survivors of trafficking, including working with government and civil society partners to provide comprehensive services for identified victims. Applications should also seek to creatively engage the government to improve collaboration with victim service providers and more consistently refer identified trafficking victims to services.

- 2. (Bilateral – Iraq) – Protection and Prevention** – The Iraqi government remains without comprehensive services or a dedicated shelter for male victims of trafficking, including forced labor. The only trafficking shelter in Federal Iraq is managed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) and continues to provide victims’ basic needs; however, budget and resource constraints remain a challenge to improving overall care. Separately, over the last two years, reports of migrant workers, particularly from Africa, being subjected to conditions indicative of forced labor have increased.

NGOs' and IOs' victim assistance data reinforces this trend – for example, in March 2022, The International Organization for Migration (IOM) facilitated the repatriation of 13 Kenyan female forced labor victims from Iraq. Victims were deceived by fraudulent job offers, and after arrival in Iraq as domestic workers, they experienced passport confiscation, psychological coercion, physical confinement, and sexual, verbal, and physical abuse. Other NGOs report an increase in similar cases. Because of insufficient understanding of the crime, Iraqi officials often do not identify victims of forced labor as such, and some victims are penalized for immigration violations and are unable to receive adequate care. Victim protection concerns – including proactive identification and non-penalization of victims – remain priority recommendations in the TIP Report.

The TIP Office has been supporting programs in Iraq since for over a decade, including a program that sought to provide protective services to identified victims of trafficking, especially amongst the Yezidi population, while also focusing on training first responders to better identify potential victims of trafficking. Subsequent programs have been heavily focused on providing protective services with limited training of first responders and other government officials.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office seeks applications to provide comprehensive services to identified trafficking victims including legal assistance, healthcare, shelter, and repatriation assistance while raising awareness of trafficking in Iraq, with a focus on male and foreign victims of trafficking – especially those experiencing conditions indicative of forced labor.

- 3. (Bilateral – Gulf) – Prevention – Gulf Regional Multistakeholder Working Group Campaign on Trafficking** – Although several GCC governments have begun implementing reforms to their respective visa sponsorship-based employment systems, many workers remain unable to utilize such freedoms due to lack of awareness of their rights and accessibility to both resources and grievance mechanisms. Further, lack of accountability for employers who do not comply with reforms and monitoring programs (such as Wage Protection Systems) continue to hinder reform implementation across the Gulf. Raising awareness on policies and compliance levels with existing laws and monitoring programs could support greater change in the region.

The TIP Office has never programmed in the Gulf directly, only tangentially with programs supporting returning victims of trafficking from Northern African countries such as Tunisia, Morocco, or Algeria. Although not uniform, visa sponsorship-based employment systems across the Gulf region give employers' full control over migrant workers' residency permits, movements in and out of the country, and ability to change employers. These systems' rules and limitations enable abusive employers to use unscrupulous employment practices that can constitute forced labor, including excessive work hours; retention of passports and travel documents by the employer; non-payment of wages; and physical, psychological, and sexual abuse or threats of abuse.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office seeks applications to: 1) Analyze available research on sponsorship-based employment systems prevalent in the region resulting in recommendations for governments to implement; 2) Build an advocacy plan with specific requests based on this research and TIP Report recommendations addressing both demand and supply concerns; 3) Raise awareness among migrant workers, including domestic workers, of existing laws and amendments and compliance levels with each; 4) Share best practices from other countries in the region in informing and empowering migrant workers, including domestic workers; 5) Collaborate with source country embassies in country; 6) Disseminate public awareness messaging across media platforms targeting corporations and other partners to affect positive change in laws and compliance. A successful project would work with multiple stakeholders, including major international institutions such as The World Bank, to lead public and private stakeholders in the campaign, similar in methodology to the Cotton Campaign in Uzbekistan. Any program proposal must include Kuwait. Selecting more than one programming initiative will not hinder or improve the applicant's chances of being selected for funding.

### **SOUTH and CENTRAL ASIA (SCA)**

The TIP Office currently supports projects in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Of note, the TIP Office has funded more than \$1 million over the past year to address the short-term, urgent needs arising from the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on efforts to combat human trafficking in South and Central Asia.

In the FY 2022 NOFO, the TIP Office’s three priority countries for the SCA region are Bangladesh, India, and Kazakhstan. These countries were selected based on a combination of demonstrated need for increased child protection, constructive political will on behalf of the national or local-level stakeholders, and potential for additional programming to build on current TIP Office efforts. While projects will be contextualized to the needs of their individual host countries, launching multiple long-term (4-5 year) projects simultaneously will enable the TIP Office to support a community of practice throughout South and Central Asia. One Applicant will be also selected to host a bi-annual summit focused on child protection in South and Central Asia. This event will serve as a platform for academics, experts, government officials, and practitioners to share best practices, discuss shared challenges, and improve partnerships throughout the region.

- 1. (Bilateral – Kazakhstan) – Protection** – After Russia, Kazakhstan hosts the largest number of migrant laborers from Central Asia, with the majority coming from Uzbekistan. Reporting from the region suggest that the economic impact of Russia’s war on Ukraine could cause the large-scale return of Central Asian migrants. Already, it is estimated that more than 130,000 labor migrants have returned to Uzbekistan due to the economic consequences of war. These workers will return to countries that have suffered increased economic uncertainty due to the peripheral impacts of sanctions on Moscow.

Despite their eligibility to attend schools, accompanying children of migrant laborers are often left outside of the formal education sector, leaving them vulnerable to forced labor or sex trafficking. In 2017, an international organization reported that more than 400 children from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan were in Kazakhstan’s Juvenile Adaptation Centres, where they are at heightened risk of trafficking.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office seeks proposals to protect child victims of trafficking and accompanying children of migrant laborers, with a focus on southern Kazakhstan. Applicants can include direct protection interventions to increase access to schooling and/or livelihood support for vulnerable children, victims, and survivors of trafficking. Proposals can include capacity-building support, such as training for Kazakhstani shelter workers, school and/or education officials, Juvenile Adaptation Centres, and government-run rehabilitation centers. These interventions must include training on trauma-informed

care to children. Applicants should specify their approach to this issue (i.e., referencing specific theory and/or applied approaches such as Trauma-Focused Integrated Play). Proposals referencing a “trauma-informed and victim-centered” approach without explanation will not be considered.

The TIP Office expects to support an annual summit focused on child protection in South and Central Asia. This event should serve as a platform for academics, experts, government officials, and practitioners to share best practices, discuss shared challenges, and improve partnerships throughout the region. Applicants are welcome to indicate interest in leading this initiative in their statement of interest.

- 2. (Regional – India) – Protection** – An international organization recently estimated that India is home to more than 10 million of the 150 million child victims of forced labor. Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha are major sources for child trafficking. Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Rajasthan, and Karnataka are major destination states. While most victims are from within India, data from a European NGO shows that cross-border trafficking occurs between India-Nepal and India-Bangladesh. Other victims in India are from as far as Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere to Indian states such as Goa.

According to the 2021 TIP Report, significant shortcomings in protections for victims, especially children, remain unaddressed. This project will aim to enhance the capacity of states or local stakeholders that have demonstrated political will to tackle child trafficking, while filling critical gaps in direct services left unaddressed.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office seeks proposals to protect child victims of trafficking in India. If applicable, applicants can propose a multi-country program; however, clear justification must be provided on the need for transnational interventions. Additionally, applicants should detail the capacity and political willingness of local, district, state, and/or national-level stakeholders to engage in cross-border collaboration. Applicants are encouraged to consider interventions that enhance the capacity of one or more government stakeholders to lead cooperation on regional and international child protection initiatives.

The TIP Office welcomes proposals, informed by previous research, to

expand existing high-performing initiatives to new regions of India or fill critical gaps in current programming. International organizations must outline plans to collaborate with India-based organizations to build national capacity to address child trafficking. Applicants should detail a multi-tiered approach to child protection that includes working with community, district, and state-level parties. Applicants should specify their approach to this issue (i.e., referencing specific theory and/or applied approaches such as Trauma-Focused Integrated Play). Proposals referencing a “trauma-informed and victim-centered” approach without explanation will not be considered. Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to consider proposing engagement with national level stakeholders. Proposals should identify potential partners that have a high degree of political will to protect children but lack the necessary resources to execute programming.

The TIP Office expects to support an annual summit focused on child protection in South and Central Asia. This event should serve as a platform for academics, experts, government officials, and practitioners to share best practices, discuss shared challenges, and improve partnerships throughout the region. Applicants are welcome to indicate interest in leading this initiative in their statement of interest.

- 3. (Bilateral – Bangladesh) – Protection** – According to the 2021 TIP Report, Bangladeshi officials continue to deny the existence of internal trafficking, especially child sex trafficking, despite observers recording multiple cases of child sex trafficking in licensed brothels each month. In fact, experts estimate 20,000 children are both growing up in and are exploited in commercial sex in Bangladeshi brothels. Bangladesh hosts a number of large-scale trafficking projects; however, the majority of these programs focus on cross-border trafficking between India and Bangladesh.

**Request for Applications:** The TIP Office seeks proposals to protect child victims of trafficking in Bangladesh. This funding opportunity is focused on internal trafficking; requests for support focused on cross-border, regional, or international trafficking issues will not be considered.

The TIP Office welcomes proposals, informed by previous research, to expand existing high-performing initiatives to new regions of Bangladesh

or fill critical gaps in current programming. International organizations must outline plans to collaborate with Bangladesh-based organizations to build national capacity and increase partner government will to address child trafficking. Applicants should detail a multi-tiered approach to child protection that includes working with community, district, state, and national-level parties. Applicants should specify their approach to this issue (i.e., referencing specific theory and/or applied approaches such as Trauma-Focused Integrated Play). Proposals referencing a “trauma-informed and victim-centered” approach without explanation will not be considered. Proposals should identify potential partners that have a high degree of political will to protect children but lack the necessary resources to execute programming.

The TIP Office expects to support an annual summit focused on child protection in South and Central Asia. This event should serve as a platform for academics, experts, government officials, and practitioners to share best practices, discuss shared challenges, and improve partnerships throughout the region. Applicants are welcome to indicate interest in leading this initiative in their statement of interest.

## **WESTERN HEMIPHERE (WHA)**

The TIP Office has significant investments and current programming throughout the Western Hemisphere, including active programming in Aruba, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago. In the FY 2022 NOFO, the key country-level priority is for Mexico to address the need to identify and protect trafficking victims, particularly among migrants at U.S.-Mexico borders. Over the last five years there has been a record-breaking surge of migrants traveling through Central America into Mexico, some of whom have traveled through unlawful and harmful conditions. As Mexico struggles to keep up with the influx of migrants, critical needs remain to enhance screening mechanisms to identify trafficking victims among migrants and vulnerable children; improve referral to care for vulnerable and at-risk populations; enhance the capacity of service providers and non-specialized shelters; and increase access to prevention and protection services for vulnerable and displaced populations, especially children and male adult victims.

- 1. (Bilateral – Mexico) – Protection** – The government of Mexico has increased efforts to address key trafficking concerns in-country; however, the vast flows of vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied children,

from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala to the U.S. southern border has affected the government's capacity to screen, identify, and support trafficking victims. Limited coordination between the government and NGOs has affected access to protection and assistance services for trafficking victims, including vulnerable migrants.

**Request for applications:** The TIP Office seeks applications for projects that aim to: 1) Develop SOPs and information guides to improve government and civil society coordination and increase access to protection services for trafficking victims in the states of Mexico, Chiapas, and Mexico City; 2) Create a coordination working group to ensure interagency and multi-sector collaboration; and 3) Enhance trafficking screening tools and mechanisms at the U.S.-Mexico border (including particularly the Tijuana-San Ysidro area) to increase victim identification and referrals among vulnerable and at-risk populations, including young boys and adult male victims. Applications should address all programming priorities and should garner buy-in from the government of Mexico and civil society organizations prior to the implementation of programming. Applicants are encouraged to partner with civil society organizations that work to support victims of trafficking and or anti-trafficking efforts in Mexico.

## **D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

### *1. Submitting the Application Package*

All applications must be fully submitted via **SAMS Domestic** (<https://mygrants.service-now.com/grants>) by **5:00p.m** Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on August 1, 2022. The TIP Office will **NOT** accept applications or updated documents submitted by any other method, including email, fax, the postal system, delivery companies, couriers, or U.S. embassies. Applicants may submit more than one application to address different priorities; however, each application should only be submitted once.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to initiate electronic applications **early** in the application development process and to the application in advance of the deadline. This will aid in addressing any problems with submissions prior to the application deadline. No exceptions will be made for organizations that have not completed the necessary steps to submit applications on SAMS Domestic.

If an organization has difficulty submitting an application near the deadline, their application may be considered if they open a ticket with the ILMS Support Desk to resolve the problem prior to the deadline.

**Applications Submitted Through SAMS Domestic** Organizations using **SAMS Domestic** for the first time must register on the SAMS Domestic site to create a New Applicant account as soon as possible. **This application step must be completed before an application can be submitted.**

To register with **SAMS Domestic**, follow the “*create an account*” link and complete the “*SAMS Domestic User Registration Request*” application form. Users will receive an email requesting account verification. This verification step must be completed before an application can be submitted. If the applicant has previously received funding from the Department of State, please contact [JTIPGrants@state.gov](mailto:JTIPGrants@state.gov) after the account has been created to ensure the account is associated with the correct organization. If an applicant has not previously received funding from the Department of State, the TIP Office cannot associate a new account in SAMS Domestic to an organization. Please note a new user account does not need to be associated with an organization in order to submit an application. Electronic applications submitted via **SAMS Domestic** must contain completed SF-424 online forms and documents specified in this funding opportunity.

To upload the application, go to **SAMS Domestic** (<https://mygrants.service-now.com/grants>), select “Apply, then Funding Opportunities,” and select the “Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Programs” funding opportunity. Select the “Apply Here” button, enter the applicant organization’s information, and click Save. Complete each section of the application in the corresponding section of the Additional Documents to Be Submitted Tab: Standard Form 424 Information (SF-424) and Project Narrative.

Please ensure that you select the box, “allow anyone in my organization to edit this application,” to ensure members of your organization have access to edit this application.

For assistance with SAMS Domestic, please contact the ILMS Support Desk at 1-888-313-4567 (toll free for international callers) or submit a ticket using the **ILMS Self Service Portal** (<https://afsitsm.service-now.com/ilms/home>). Customer Support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please note support hours may change on Federal holidays. Please direct questions regarding the process of

uploading applications to Customer Support. Technical difficulties not resolved by the Support Desk by the time of submission must be fully documented and reported to the TIP Office at [JTIPGrants@state.gov](mailto:JTIPGrants@state.gov) only. Please do not contact any other Department of State personnel.

## *2. Technical Requirements for SOI Application Package*

There have been significant changes to the requirements for this funding opportunity. Applicants are responsible for reviewing and incorporating the **Guidance for Submitting 2022 TIP Office Statements of Interest (SOI)** and **TIP Office Common Questions and Answers (SOI)** when preparing an application. Please place close attention to all font and formatting requirements. This guidance is available on the TIP Office website, SAMS Domestic, and [grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

All required documents must be written in the English language using documents with one-inch margins formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper. All documents should use text that is black-colored and no less than 12-point Times New Roman font.

Applicants pursuing multiple awards must submit separate SOI applications for each project.

Application packages must include the following documents. Failure to submit one or more of the following documents will result in automatic failure of the technical review:

- **Project Narrative:** Required template available on SAMS Domestic. The project narrative template is set to a 9,000-character limit (roughly three pages) in 12-point Times New Roman font. Applicants **MUST** type within the grey box. Spaces, footnotes, and charts are included within the 9,000-character limit. Any application that does not submit the required project narrative template in Microsoft Word with these font restrictions will automatically fail the technical review.
- **SF-424:** Required form available on SAMS Domestic. All budget figures must be in U.S. dollars.

## *3. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)— Required*

A valid Unique Entity Identifier [formerly the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)] is required for submission of an application on SAMS Domestic. Organizations should verify their UEI number or take the steps needed to obtain one as soon as possible. Instructions for obtaining a UEI number can be found at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

All applicants should register with the System for Award Management ([SAM.gov](http://SAM.gov)) when submitting applications. Active registration is not required prior to submitting an application via **SAMS Domestic**; however, an active registration is required for organizations selected for award. All applicants should register at SAM.gov as soon as possible to avoid future delays. Organizations that have SAM.gov accounts must log in **at least once every 13 months (395 days)** to maintain an active registration. Please reactivate any accounts that have become inactive when submitting applications.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that it has an active registration in **SAMS Domestic**. Applicants are required to document that the application has been received in its entirety by **SAMS Domestic**. The TIP Office bears no responsibility for disqualifications that result from applicants not being registered before the due date, for system errors in SAMS Domestic, or other errors in the application process.

#### *4. Submission Dates and Times*

All Applications must be submitted via SAMS Domestic (<https://mygrants.service-now.com/grants>) by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on August 1, 2022**, to be eligible for consideration. The TIP Office will not accept application materials submitted by any means other than uploading to SAMS Domestic. To be competitive under this funding opportunity, applicants must be fully responsive to all directions in this document and the guidance document.

The application process is not complete until the applicant receives notification from SAMS Domestic that its application has been validated and forwarded to the granting agency (TIP Office). Please allow sufficient time for entering the application into these systems and to troubleshoot any issues. It is the responsibility of the applicant to monitor its application to ensure that it is successfully received and validated.

#### *5. Funding Restrictions*

### Construction

The TIP Office restricts the use of Federal assistance for construction purposes. Construction costs are defined as non-major costs for rearrangement and alteration or reconversion or renovation of facilities. Construction would include ordinary or normal alterations, restoration, or rehabilitation such as any work that modifies buildings and/or grounds. This includes but is not limited to adding, replacing, modifying, relocating, removing, or painting doors, walls, windows, flooring, or the alterations of ceilings, adding on to or dividing existing space or work on any building utility system, electrical, plumbing, ventilation, air conditioning, controls systems, fire alarms, fire sprinklers, security systems and telecommunication equipment. Federal assistance funds cannot be used for capital improvements unless specifically approved in advance by the TIP Office.

### Equipment and Supplies

Equipment is herein defined as an article of non-expendable, tangible, personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost in excess of \$5,000. Please note that if equipment costs are included in an application, the organization must retain ownership of all equipment obtained throughout the lifetime of the federal award. This includes any equipment funded with cost sharing or matching funds. At the end of the award, you must complete federal SF-428 forms in order for the TIP Office Grants Officer to evaluate whether the item(s) be retained, sold, or disposed of without any further obligation to the Department of State.

Supplies are herein defined as all tangible personal property other than those described in Equipment. Note that if there is a residual inventory of unused supplies exceeding \$5,000 in total aggregate value upon completion of the project and the supplies are not needed for any other Federal award, your entity must retain the supplies for use on other activities or sell them, but must, in either case, compensate the Department of State for its share. The amount of compensation will be computed in the same manner as for Equipment.

Foreign assistance funds may not benefit countries or entities that are not eligible recipients of United States foreign assistance or for which there are applicable assistance restrictions. Applicants shall work with the Department of State to ensure that any applicable restrictions and requirements are addressed prior to awarding any sub-awards.

## **E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

## *1. Criteria*

The TIP Office will evaluate SOIs against their responsiveness to the instructions set forth in the “**Guidelines for Submitting 2022 TIP Office Statements of Interest (SOI)**”. Applicants are responsible for reviewing and incorporating the guidelines and instructions under this funding opportunity.

The TIP Office will evaluate SOIs against the following criteria:

### **Quality of Project Idea**

- The project addresses at least one of the 2022 programming priority areas within the selected country or region.
- The applicant has a clear understanding of the contextual factors, including but not limited to local and environmental conditions perpetuating or contributing to the problem.
- There is a clear justification for the selected locale and target population, and the project activities are relevant to the intended population/s.
- There is a clear linkage between the problem and how the project activities will address it.
- The project idea is feasible within the funds and time requested.
- There is a clear understanding of how the organization will meaningfully engage with individuals with lived experiences in human trafficking.
- The project is suitable and designed to operate in the environmental conditions in which it will operate.
- The rationale for the proposed project reflects the organization’s knowledge of the field, and target populations it intends to serve.
- There is a clear plan for implementation and the potential for short and long-term impact is clear and realistic.
- There is a clear understanding of how the project will improve or expand upon successful projects or existing anti-trafficking efforts in a new or complimentary way.

### **Institutional Record and Capacity**

- The application clearly establishes the applicant’s ability to implement the project in the selected country or region, and target population.
- The applicant has relevant experience in the subject matter, or clearly describes how it will bring subject matter expertise to the project.
- The applicant demonstrates experience administering successful projects of similar size and scope – preferably in human trafficking or related areas, and

experience administering successful projects in the applicant's selected country or region.

- The applicant demonstrates existing or the ability to develop active partnerships with thematic or in-country anti- trafficking actors.
- For prior recipients of both TIP Office and other U.S. government funding, the TIP Office will consider the past performance on awards.

## *2. Review and Selection Process*

Following the submission deadline, all SOIs will be screened by the TIP Office to determine whether they meet the technical requirements stated in this announcement. The TIP Office will only consider SOIs for the specific countries, regions, and 2022 programming priorities under this announcement.

SOIs will be deemed ineligible during the technical review process and will not be considered for funding if they (1) include projects in countries not listed in this NOFO; (2) do not address at least one priority programming area within the selected country or region; or (3) do not meet the technical review requirements.

Upon completion of a technical and programmatic review, the TIP Office will select a limited number of SOI applicants to participate in the second stage of competition. Selected applicants will receive feedback from the TIP Office and will be invited to submit full proposals, building on the concepts described in their three-page SOI. The applicants will have 45 days to develop and submit a full proposal and will be required to submit additional documentation, including but not limited to budget forms, resumes/CVs for key personnel, monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning plans, and Letters of Intent to cooperate with partners. Applicants will be expected to submit full proposals that reflect an understanding of victim-centered, trauma-informed, and survivor-informed approaches to anti-trafficking activities. In particular, should the applicant expect to work directly with victims of human trafficking, proposals must reflect an understanding of these approaches and apply them in victim identification efforts and the provision of comprehensive services. Full proposals will then be reviewed by members of the TIP Office and by an intra- and interagency review panel. Panel recommendations will be presented to the Ambassador-at-Large or the TIP Office Acting Director for consideration.

Please note, with the exception of technical submission questions during the competitive process, U.S. Department of State staff in Washington and overseas shall not discuss this competition with applicants until the entire SOI review

process has been completed and rejection and approval letters have been transmitted. All questions related to the funding process and content of this funding opportunity must be submitted via email to JTIPGrants@state.gov.

### *3. Pre-Award Risk Assessment*

Second-stage applicants selected for potential funding will be subject to a TIP Office risk assessment process that may include a pre-award site visit. The assessment may consider a variety of risk factors, including: (1) Financial stability of the applicant; (2) Quality of management systems and ability to meet prescribed management standards; (3) Past performance in managing previous federal awards, if applicable, including compliance with reporting requirements, conformance to the award's terms and conditions, and the extent to which previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; (4) Reports and findings from available audits; and (5) Applicant ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements applicable to non-Federal entities.

Any funds awarded under this funding opportunity will be provided through a grant or cooperative agreement. A cooperative agreement provides for “substantial involvement” between the agency — in this case the TIP Office — and the recipient during the award's period of performance. If awarded as a cooperative agreement, the TIP Office will undertake reasonable and programmatically necessary substantial involvement. Examples of substantial involvement by the TIP Office may include, but are not limited to, reviewing and approving project materials, training curricula, and reviewing evaluation plans produced by recipients and sub-recipients. Projects funded by resources leveraged from other donors are not subject to TIP Office approval.

### *4. Federal Awardee Performance & Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)*

For any Federal award under a notice of funding opportunity, if the Federal awarding agency anticipates that the total Federal share will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold on any Federal award under a notice of funding opportunity may include, over the period of performance (see §200.88 Simplified Acquisition Threshold), this section must also inform applicants:

i. That the Federal awarding agency, prior to making a federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the

designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313);

ii. That an applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM;

iii. That the Federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in §200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

#### *5. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates*

The TIP Office anticipates making a decision on SOIs submitted under this NOFO by the end of September and will notify all applicants of their application status at this time through [JTIPGrants@state.gov](mailto:JTIPGrants@state.gov). Applicants invited to submit full applications will receive further instructions on how to submit full proposal applications and will have approximately 45 days to submit their application. Shortly after full proposal applications are selected for potential funding, Program Analysts at the TIP Office will work with the selected organization(s) to clarify aspects of their application and award the funds. Pending the availability of funds and other contingencies, the TIP Office would expect projects selected for funding to commence during the winter / spring of 2023.

All funding decisions are conditional until a final award is signed.

## **F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### *1. Federal Award Notices*

Following the stage one (SOI stage) internal review process, applicants can expect to hear from the TIP Office via email regarding the status of their statements of interest within approximately 60 days of the application due date. However, a letter stating that an applicant is chosen for further consideration does not constitute authorization to begin performance on the proposed project. All selected

applications are conditional until the funds have officially been authorized and awarded by the grants officer.

## 2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements*

**Standard Terms and Conditions:** Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include: 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, Certifications and Assurances, and the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions, all of which are available at: <https://www.statebuy.state.gov/fa/pages/home.aspx>

Note the U.S Flag branding and marking requirements in the Standard Terms and Conditions.

**Anti-Prostitution Policy and Requirements:** Grantees are required to agree to the following conditions prior to a grant being awarded:

1. None of the funds made available herein may be used to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to preclude assistance designed to combat trafficking in persons, including projects for prevention, protection of victims, and prosecution of traffickers and others who profit from trafficking in persons, by ameliorating the suffering of, or health risks to, victims while they face exploitation or after they are out of such a situation .
2. The recipient shall insert this provision in all sub-agreements under this award.

**Training Certification:** All organizations receiving funds must agree to the following:

- *“This organization hereby certifies that, to the extent practicable, persons or entities providing legal services, social services, health services, or other assistance have completed, or will complete, training in connection with trafficking in persons.”* The recipient shall insert this provision in all sub-agreements under this award. TVPA sec. 107A(b)(1) (22 U.S.C. 7105A(b)(1)).

**Special Provision for Performance in a Designated Combat Area:** Each federal assistance award within areas of combat operations or future contingency operation, as designated by the Secretary of Defense, over \$150,000 or providing for performance over 30 days must be registered in the Department of Defense maintained Synchronized Pre-deployment and Operational Tracker (SPOT) system. Each federal assistance award shall be registered in SPOT before personnel deployment. Requirements are fully outlined in the award agreements for recipients.

**Leahy Vetting Requirement:** This requirement applies to training or other assistance to be furnished to any unit or individual member of the security forces of a foreign country. Leahy vetting is required when training or assistance is provided to foreign security forces, including when such assistance is provided under a grant or cooperative agreement. Department guidance provides the following information on the type of personnel who are considered security forces and thus must be vetted under Leahy:

- *“The Leahy amendment refers to the ‘security forces of a foreign country.’ It makes no distinction between military and civilian. The key is whether the individual is a member of a security force unit. In broad terms, any division or entity (to include an individual) authorized by a State or political subdivision (city, county, etc.) to use force (including but not limited to the power to search, detain, and arrest) to accomplish its mission would be considered a security force. ‘Security forces’ thus could be units of law enforcement or the military. Prison guards, customs police, border police, tax police, and the coast guard would be examples of the types of units included in the category of ‘security forces.’ Members of these types of units should be considered as subject to the Leahy Amendment and be vetted either as individuals or as part of the unit being trained. Examples of persons who are not considered ‘security forces’ include: government bureaucrats, prosecutors, judges, civilian members of NGOs, international organizations or task forces and forensic lab workers.”*

Leahy Vetting requirements will be fully outlined in the award agreements for recipients. The vetting process may take considerable time, and applicants should plan training activities with sufficient time for vetting to be completed. All successful applicants, including prior grantees, will be required to complete a new Leahy Vetting training module prior to the award of new projects.

**Executive Order Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts:** Any applicant’s hiring process must be consistent with the U.S. government’s regulations on preventing human trafficking among federal contractors and grantees, specifically:

- *U.S. law and regulations expressly prohibit federal contractors, subcontractors, grantees, subgrantees, and their agents/employees from engaging in certain trafficking-related practices, such as misleading or fraudulent recruitment practices; charging employees recruitment fees; and destroying or confiscating employees' identity documents, such as a passport or a driver's license.*

See 22 U.S.C. § 7104(g) (as amended); Federal Acquisition Regulation, 48 C.F.R. § 52.222-50 (Combating Trafficking in Persons); see also Federal Acquisition Regulation, 83 FR 65466 (Dec. 20, 2018) (Combating Trafficking in Persons—Definition of “Recruitment Fees”).

**U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security:** Applicants are encouraged to review the goals of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security for their relevance to applications. In particular, Outcome 3.3 of the Plan provides guidance on efforts to combat trafficking:

*“Engage with international and/or civil society organizations to ensure that standard operational procedures are in place to prevent human trafficking, especially among refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), including appropriate assistance and procedures for unaccompanied minors, to identify potential trafficking victims, and to refer survivors to appropriate service providers. As appropriate, provide support to international and civil society organizations to set up emergency care services for trafficking survivors”*

And:

- *“Promote establishment of local coalitions or taskforces comprised of relevant government authorities and civil society organizations to combat human trafficking as part of the justice reform measures in post-conflict areas.”*

**U.S. Department of State Policy on Disabilities:** The U.S. government has made a commitment to protect and advance human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people, including persons with disabilities. To that end, the Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) seeks to ensure that every person living with a disability can benefit from the same access and protections, in the United States and abroad.

**U.S. Department of State Policy on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Individuals:** In preparing applications, applicants are reminded that the Department's priorities for advancing LGBTQI+ equality abroad are to eliminate violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Advancing the human rights of LGBTQI+ people, as with our support for other marginalized or vulnerable people, complements and reinforces other U.S. foreign policy priorities, including strengthening civil society, promoting the rule of law, supporting gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls, protecting refugees and asylum seekers, and furthering anti-trafficking efforts, among others. Due to these intersections, violations or abuses of the human rights of LGBTQI+ people often also have negative implications for other U.S. foreign policy priorities.

Programs should seek to include groups, especially underserved communities, that can bring perspectives based on their lived experiences, religion, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, and/or sexual orientation and gender identity. Programs should be demand-driven, locally led, and designed with a participatory approach to the extent possible.

The TIP Office also requires all its programming be non-discriminatory and expects implementers to include strategies for integration of individuals / organizations regardless of religion, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, and/or sexual orientation and gender identity.

### *3. Grant Reporting and Monitoring Requirements*

Applicants whose applications are selected for funding will be required to submit financial reports and project reports. The award terms and conditions will specify how often these reports must be submitted.

- **Reporting Requirements:** Award recipients are required to submit quarterly narrative and financial reports at pre-determined intervals throughout the project period and final reports 120 days after the end of the project period. Access to funds may be suspended if reports are late or incomplete.

- **Grant Monitoring and Evaluation:** The TIP Office monitors all funded projects. Award recipients should expect the Grants Officer and Grants Officer Representative to conduct site visits during the performance period. On-site reviews include assessment of project and administrative effectiveness. In addition to planned project monitoring, some awards and sub-awards may be selected for independent evaluation.

If the federal share of any award issued under this funding opportunity exceeds \$500,000 over the period of performance, potential applicants should be aware of the post-award reporting requirements reflected in 2 CFR 200 Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

#### *4. Data Sharing Recommendation*

The TIP Office strongly encourages successful applicants to provide victim and survivor data collected from project(s) to the **IOM Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative** (<https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>) (CTDC), which publishes harmonized data from counter-trafficking organizations around the world. The goal of the CTDC is to break down information-sharing barriers and equip the counter-trafficking community with up to date, reliable data on human trafficking. Bringing together global data in one platform will strengthen and empower local, national, and international institutions to eradicate crimes of trafficking and exploitation. No personally identifying information is transferred to or hosted by CTDC, and organizations are asked to anonymize victim data in accordance with the standards set by IOM CTDC.

## **G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS**

If you have any questions about the funding process or the content of this funding opportunity, applicants may submit these questions via email to [JTIPGrants@state.gov](mailto:JTIPGrants@state.gov). The questions and answers will be published and updated frequently on the **TIP Office's Website** ([www.state.gov/j/tip](http://www.state.gov/j/tip)).

For assistance with **SAMS Domestic** (<https://mygrants.service-now.com/grants>) please contact Customer Support by calling 1 (888) 313-4567 or by creating an account on the **ILMS Self Service Portal** (<https://afsitsm.service-now.com/ilms/home>). The Support Desk is available 24/7. Please note the hours for Federal holidays may differ. **Please note, if an organization has issues submitting an application near the deadline, the only way their late application will be considered is if they open a ticket with the help desk to fix**

**their problem prior to the deadline.** A ticket with the help desk can be opened by submitting a ticket through the **ILMS Self Service Portal**.