

**U.S. Department of State  
Notice of Funding Opportunity**

**Program Office:** Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, International Programs Section  
**Opportunity Title:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 International Programs to Combat Trafficking in Persons  
**Announcement Type:** Request for Statements of Interest (SOI)  
**Funding Opportunity:** AT-ATC-16-001  
**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number(s):** 19.019  
**Deadline for Applications:** Monday, December 28, 2015, 5:00 pm EST

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) announces an open competition for FY 2016 projects to combat trafficking in persons outside of the United States. The first stage of competition begins with this Request for Statements of Interest (SOI) that summarize concepts for projects addressing the country and region-specific requirements identified in this solicitation. In the second stage of the competition, expected to begin in February 2016, the TIP Office will invite selected applicants to submit full proposals that expand upon the concepts described in the two-page SOI.

Organizations eligible to apply include U.S.-based and foreign non-profits, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), for-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and public international organizations (PIOs). For-profit organizations are not permitted to generate profits from grant-funded activities. U.S. government agencies are also eligible to apply in accordance with Presidential Policy Directive 23.

Subject to the availability of funds, the TIP Office typically awards grants to successful applicants not to exceed \$750,000 for project periods of up to 36 months. However, the TIP Office will consider strong proposals for larger projects based on U.S. government priorities, the scale of human trafficking challenges addressed, the potential to make a significant impact, and other factors. All SOIs must be submitted via [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) or

[www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on **Monday, December 28, 2015**, to be eligible for consideration.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Div. A, P.L. 106-386), 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, and multilateral organizations to combat modern slavery through the "3P" paradigm: **preventing** trafficking in persons, **protecting** trafficking victims, and **prosecuting** traffickers.

The TVPA requires that the Department of State submit an annual assessment of efforts by governments to address trafficking in persons. The annual *Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report)* is an important instrument for the Department's engagement with other governments, and it also informs the programming priorities in this SOI. The *2015 TIP Report* includes tier rankings and recommendations for 188 countries and territories and is available at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2015/index.htm>.

Since 2000, when the United Nations adopted the Palermo Protocol and the U.S. enacted the TVPA, 169 countries have become party to the Protocol. In addition, over 120 countries have passed anti-trafficking laws, and many countries have established specialized law enforcement units, set up trafficking victim assistance mechanisms, and launched public awareness campaigns. Nonetheless, the numbers of victims identified and assisted and the number traffickers convicted remain low relative to the size of the problem; and governments face continued challenges in effectively implementing new anti-trafficking in persons legal and policy frameworks.

The TIP Office works to address these challenges through its foreign assistance programs. TIP Office programs combat human trafficking, which is the act of obtaining or maintaining another person in compelled service—including forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, and the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers. Information on U.S. government anti-trafficking in persons efforts is available at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/response/index.htm>, and a

summary of international programs currently funded by the TIP Office is available at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/intprog/index.htm>.

## **2016 GRANT COMPETITION OVERVIEW**

This solicitation announces the first stage of the FY 2016 grant competition and the beginning of an open two-stage competitive process. Applicants must submit a SOI, which is a two-page summary of each proposed project. Applicants *must* submit separate SOI applications for each country or regional project identified in this solicitation if pursuing multiple grants. Following a technical review and a formal review of each SOI, selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals, which will be formally reviewed by the TIP Office and by an interagency panel for potential funding.

Second-stage applicants 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; (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 terms and conditions, and if applicable, 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 imposed on non-Federal entities.

## **FY 2016 PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES**

The global trends and country-specific recommendations found in the *2015 TIP Report* narratives guide TIP Office programming. The TIP Office generally prioritizes foreign assistance in countries ranked as Tier 3, Tier 2 Watch List, and Tier 2, and where governments demonstrate political will but lack the economic resources or anti-trafficking expertise to effectively address the problem. The FY 2016 priority programming objectives below are listed by country or region and outline specific project objectives. Priorities were developed by reviewing recent *TIP Report* tier rankings and trends; consulting with interagency and interdepartmental policy and programming stakeholders; and considering other programming from this office, other U.S. government agencies, and other donors.

## ***PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES FOR AFRICA***

### **1. Region: Lake Chad Basin**

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Assist Nigeria and governments regionally in developing shelter policies and procedures to ensure the well-being and appropriate care of adolescents escaping Boko Haram or the Civilian Joint Task Force or having been demobilized following recruitment or use by either group, as well as women and girls trafficked by combatants.
  - Assist Nigeria and governments regionally in developing projects for ensuring safe family reunification and reintegration of former child combatants and women and girls trafficked by combatants.
  - Provide training on psycho-social support to key social service stakeholders, particularly in northern Nigeria, for communities affected by violence.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
  - Provide forensic and evidence collection training to law enforcement.

### **2. Region: Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

- Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments
  - Build the capacity of INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Southern Africa to provide training workshops in victim identification, investigations and prosecutions, and support intelligence driven regional operations, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

### **3. Country: Mauritius (Tier 2 Watch List)**

- **Institutionalize National TIP Referral Mechanisms between state actors and civil society**
  - Establish a Coordinating Body to secure greater political commitment across government and promote national coordination. Identify departmental focal points from key ministries to be represented on the Coordinating Body.

- Establish guidelines to proactively identify victims of trafficking and refer them to care in a three-stage model: assessment of a range of indicators that can be evaluated; reflection period granted to person suspected of being a victim and referral for services; and identification interview to determine victim status and conduct early risk assessment. Tools would include a Screening Interview Form, an Assistance Interview Form, and a Referral and Risk Assessment.
- Develop SOPs/internal procedures for key ministries that set specific roles and provide instruction for implementing duties.
- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding between law enforcement agencies and the IO-NGO sector that ensures the transfer of victims of trafficking from police custody to support and protection services operated by NGOs.
- Develop a formal protocol/interagency agreement for police and prosecutors to coordinate their respective activities. (The agreement should address the need for prosecutors and investigators to collaborate on all phases of the investigation and prosecution).
- Train government officials on how to best utilize existing resources to address the exploitation of migrant workers.
- Review current relevant legislation that addresses deportation of exploited migrant workers and help draft a regulation that provides trafficking victims with a form of recourse.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
  - Develop a training curriculum and tools that address core elements of a victim-centered criminal justice response to combat human trafficking that is structured around national laws and case files.
  - Identify and train law enforcement, prosecutors, and magistrates/judges who will use the training to successfully identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate human trafficking cases.
  - Ensure training model addresses sustainability by incorporating a training-of-trainers component and identifies participants for the ‘training-of-trainers course,’ based on their suitability to conduct roll-on-trainings; and the institutionalization of training manuals and tools in police academies and or/institutional structures within governments such as specialized Task Forces.

- Provide case consultation to training participants.
- **Increase awareness of TIP issues among target populations**
  - Develop radio broadcasts that focus on the prevention of human trafficking as well as victim identification (to include internal trafficking) and how to report potential trafficking cases and seek protection and assistance.
- **Develop and strengthen TIP data collection and reporting mechanism**
  - Roll out a data collection and reporting system. This will include setting up a national data hub, linked to the UNODC-SADC regional data hub, as well as conducting training for users of the system.

#### 4. Country: Madagascar (Tier 2):

- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
  - Develop a training curriculum and tools that address core elements of a victim-centered criminal justice response to combat human trafficking that is structured around national laws and case files.
  - Identify and train law enforcement, prosecutors and magistrates/judges who will use the training to successfully identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate human trafficking cases.
  - Ensure training model addresses sustainability by incorporating a training-of-trainers component and identifies participants for the ‘training-of-trainers course,’ based on their suitability to conduct roll-on-trainings; and the institutionalization of training manuals and tools in police academies and or/institutional structures within governments such as specialized Task Forces.
  - Provide case consultation to training participants.
- **Institutionalize National TIP Referral Mechanisms between state actors and civil society**
  - Establish a Coordinating Body to secure greater political commitment across government and promote national coordination. Identify departmental focal points from key ministries to be represented on Coordinating Body.
  - Establish guidelines to proactively identify victims of trafficking and refer them to care in a three-stage model:

assessment of a range of indicators that can be evaluated; reflection period granted to person suspected of being a victim and referral for services; and identification interview to determine victim status and conduct early risk assessment. Tools would include a Screening Interview Form, an Assistance Interview Form, and a Referral and Risk Assessment.

- Develop SOPs/internal procedures for key ministries that set specific roles and provide instruction for implementing duties.
  - Develop a Memorandum of Understanding between law enforcement agencies and the IO-NGO sector that ensures the transfer of victims of trafficking from police custody to support and protection services operated by NGOs.
  - Develop a formal protocol/interagency agreement for police and prosecutors to coordinate their respective activities (agreement should address the need for prosecutors and investigators to collaborate on all phases of the investigation and prosecution).
- **Develop and strengthen TIP data collection and reporting mechanism**
    - Roll out a data collection and reporting system. This will include setting up a national data hub, linked to the UNODC-SADC regional data hub, as well as conducting training for users of the system.

## **5. Country: Mali (Tier 2 Watch List):**

- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
  - Develop a training curriculum and tools that address core elements of a victim-centered criminal justice response to combat human trafficking that is structured around national laws and case files.
  - Identify and train law enforcement, prosecutors and magistrates/judges who will use the training to successfully identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate human trafficking cases.
  - Ensure training model addresses sustainability by incorporating a training-of-trainers component and identifies participants for the training-of-trainers course, based on their suitability to

- conduct roll-on-trainings; and the institutionalization of training manuals and tools in police academies and or/institutional structures within governments such as specialized Task Forces.
- Provide case consultation to training participants.

#### **6. Country: South Africa (Tier 2):**

- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
- Develop a training curriculum and tools that address core elements of a victim-centered criminal justice response to combat human trafficking that is structured around national laws and case files for the South African Police Service (SAPS) Training Directorate, as well as members of the National and Regional Task Forces, with a particular focus on labor trafficking, victim identification and interviewing techniques.

#### **7. Country: Burkina Faso (Tier 2 Watch List):**

- **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
- Conduct a legal analysis and strengthen the existing anti-TIP legal framework.
- **Develop and strengthen TIP data collection and reporting mechanisms**
- Roll out a TIP data collection and reporting system and train users on the system.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
- Develop a training curriculum and tools that address core elements of a victim-centered criminal justice response to combat human trafficking that is structured around national laws and case files.
- Identify and train law enforcement, prosecutors, and magistrates/judges who will use the training to successfully identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate human trafficking cases.
- Ensure training model addresses sustainability by incorporating a training-of-trainers component and identifies participants for the ‘training-of-trainers course,’ based on their suitability to conduct roll-on-trainings; and the institutionalization of training

- manuals and tools in police academies and or/institutional structures within governments such as specialized Task Forces.
- Provide case consultation to training participants.

## ***PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC***

### **1. Region: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking.**
  - Base project in Jakarta, the seat of the ASEAN Secretariat, with activities in all 10 ASEAN member states.
  - Provide technical assistance to all ten ASEAN member states on setting up a compensation fund for victims of human trafficking following the provisions set forth in the ASEAN TIP Convention.
  - Work with host country governments to set up the fund one country at a time, as appropriate. Alternatively, focus on 3-4 countries per year with the goal to include all 10 ASEAN member countries.

### **2. Country: Thailand (Tier 3)**

- **Increase awareness of TIP issues among target populations.**
  - Focus on migrant communities, including in the commercial sex industry and fishing and aquaculture industry in Thailand.
  - Increase partnerships with private seafood supplier companies to raise awareness of human trafficking in the seafood and aquaculture industry among suppliers and encourage them to strengthen their supply chains.
  - Help link Thai and migrant workers in the fishing and aquaculture industry with safe jobs with fair wages.
  - Raise awareness among Thai and migrant workers of their rights.
  - Liaise with government ministries to provide education on TIP and prevention on being re-victimized, livelihood assistance, as well as psychosocial support and assistance to those identified as TIP victims in RTG care (shelters, IDCs, PODCs)
  - Provide emergency support to trafficking victims.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered approached, investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**

- Assist the Thai government in identifying labor trafficking victims and in investigating and prosecuting cases of labor trafficking, including in the fishing industry.
- Support victims of trafficking involved in investigations, to gain access to criminal justice, including labor and child sex trafficking victims.

### 3. Country: Indonesia (Tier 2)

- **Develop and strengthen TIP data collection and reporting mechanisms.**
  - Partner with relevant Indonesian government ministries to conduct a thorough mapping of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone.
  - Identify hot spots where there are suspected or confirmed cases of trafficking in the fishing industry.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
  - Assist the Indonesian government in investigating and prosecuting cases of labor trafficking in the fishing industry.
- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Assist the Indonesian government in providing comprehensive services for identified victims of trafficking in the fishing industry.
- **Increase awareness among vulnerable populations to TIP risk factors.**
  - Deliver training on safe migration in major source areas.
  - Assist the government in screening for victims of human trafficking.
  - Administer a victim assistance fund providing emergency reintegration assistance to trafficking victims in Indonesia.

### 4. Country: Vietnam (Tier 2)

- **Increase awareness among vulnerable populations of TIP risk factors.**
  - Raise awareness of human trafficking in vulnerable communities.
  - Provide livelihood assistance, as appropriate, to families to help them to keep their children in school.

- Train families, teachers, and community leaders on children's rights, labor rights, and safe migration.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments.**
  - Train police officers (including border police and immigration police) on identifying victims of trafficking and victim-centered interviewing techniques.
  - Provide joint trainings with law enforcement and the judiciary to enhance cooperation leading to more successful investigations, prosecutions, and convictions.
  - Assist prosecutors in making successful convictions using Vietnam's anti-trafficking law.

## 5. Country: Mongolia (Tier 2)

- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments.**
  - Train law enforcement (including border police and immigration police) on identifying victims of trafficking and victim-centered interviewing techniques.
  - Provide joint trainings with law enforcement and the judiciary to enhance cooperation leading to more successful investigations, prosecutions, and convictions. In particular, train these groups on how to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses using Article 113.
  - Assist the government in enacting the remaining regulations needed to fully implement the 2012 anti-trafficking law.
- **Improve comprehensive services for victims.**
  - Increase coordination between government entities, civil society and international organizations to develop and implement protocols and standard operating procedures for the identification and referral of victims to services. Pay special attention to guiding government officials in the understanding and implementation of these procedures.
  - Encourage persons witnessing or experiencing cases of exploitation to seek assistance.
  - Conduct outreach in communities surrounding extractive industries, factories, and near the borders; in rural schools, hospitals, hotels, on public transportation systems, and in the service sectors to disseminate information on worker rights as well as legal penalties for labor or sex trafficking.

## **6. Country: Palau (Tier 2)**

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking.**
  - Work with the government of Palau and civil society to identify a facility that could be converted into a shelter for victims of human trafficking. (Note: J/TIP funds can be used for renovation and rehabilitation but cannot be used for new construction).
  - Seek support from the government and business community, e.g. the Chamber of Commerce, to provide continued funding for the new shelter after the grant end date.
  - Train local shelter staff on Standard Operating Procedures for shelter management and victim care.
  
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments.**
  - Train front line police (including border and immigration officers) on victim-centered investigations. Conduct joint trainings with law enforcement and the judiciary to improve cooperation leading to more successful investigations, prosecutions, and convictions.
  - Hire full time staff based in Palau to manage this project.

## ***PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES FOR EUROPE AND EURASIA***

### **1. Region: Balkans (Anti-TIP Training and Capacity Building for Migration Crisis)**

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Increase training for proactive screening, victim identification, and services among vulnerable populations (e.g., Afghan, Eritrean, Iraqi, and Syrian migrants and refugees).
  - Enhance training for victim screening and identification among front line officials (e.g., law enforcement, border protection) who come into regular contact with this population at point of entry and beyond.
  
- **Increase awareness among vulnerable populations of TIP risk factors**
  - Support public awareness raising campaigns and services among refugee and migrant populations to reduce vulnerability to TIP, including long-term vulnerability beyond initial arrival.

## **2. Country: Ukraine (Tier 2 Watch List)**

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Increase training for proactive screening, victim identification, and services among vulnerable populations, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
  - Support efforts to protect and provide services for TIP victims in child institutions, and facilitate their transition to foster-care.

## ***PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES FOR NEAR EAST***

### **1. Region: Levant (Anti-TIP Training and Capacity Building for Refugee/Migration Crisis)**

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Increase training for proactive screening, victim identification, and services among vulnerable populations (e.g., Syrian and Iraqi migrants and refugees).
  - Enhance training for victim screening and identification among front line officials (e.g., law enforcement, border protection) who come into regular contact with this population.
- **Increase awareness among vulnerable populations of TIP risk factors**
  - Support public awareness raising campaigns and services among refugee and migrant populations to reduce vulnerability to TIP, including long-term vulnerability beyond initial arrival in refugee and IDP camps and other shelters).

### **2. Country: Jordan (Tier 2)**

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Build shelter and staff capacity for proactive screening, victim identification, and services among vulnerable populations.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations TIP cases by governments.**
  - Train law enforcement (including border police and immigration police) on identifying victims of trafficking and victim-centered interviewing techniques.

### **3. Country: Iraq (Tier 2) (Note: Dependent upon security situation)**

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**

- Provide support for safe houses protecting Yazidi women and girls and other trafficking victims rescued from the Islamic State and other traffickers.

#### **4. Country: Morocco (Tier 2)**

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Strengthen civil society actors working with vulnerable populations to better identify and to provide support for TIP victims and individuals vulnerable to being trafficked.

### ***PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES FOR SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA***

#### **1. Country: India (Tier 2)**

- **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
  - Increase prosecution and conviction for all forms of trafficking, including bonded labor, and report on these efforts
  - Increase prosecution and conviction of officials complicit in trafficking
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases**
  - Advocate for increased staffing of anti-human trafficking units and build capacity through training.
  - Work to cease the penalization of victims of trafficking, through awareness building, advocacy, and engagement with government offices and officials at the local, district, and state levels.
- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Work to identify and provide services to trafficking victims among vulnerable populations.

#### **2. Country: Sri Lanka (Tier 2 Watch List)**

- **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
  - Improve efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses.
  - Investigate and prosecute officials suspected of complicity in human trafficking.

- **Institutionalize National TIP Referral Mechanisms between state actors and civil society**
  - Train officials on identification and referral procedures.
  - Ensure that identified victims receive specialized care services.

### **3. Country: Pakistan (Tier 2 Watch List)**

- **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
  - Vigorously investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders and officials complicit in trafficking.
  - Enact anti-trafficking legislation that prohibits and penalizes all forms of human trafficking, including internal trafficking.
- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Work to identify and provide services to trafficking victims among vulnerable populations, including street children, people in prostitution, and laborers in brick kilns and agriculture.

### **4. Country: Uzbekistan (Tier 2 Watch List)**

- **Institutionalize National TIP Referral Mechanisms between state actors and civil society**
  - Improve procedures for victim identification and referral to protective services.
- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Work to identify and provide services to trafficking victims among vulnerable populations.

## ***PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE***

### **1. Region: South America Regional Project**

- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
  - Develop mechanisms for sharing best practices in TIP investigations, prosecutions, and convictions, such as by using mock trials, with required Action Plans for follow-up, to be led by experts from a successful Tier 1 country in the region with other South American Countries, including Colombia and Peru. The project should also address domestic servitude and other types of forced labor.

- **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
  - Develop sustainable national and regional mechanisms for enhanced investigations, prosecutions, and convictions.

## 2. Country: Guyana (Tier 2 WL)

- **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
  - Conduct training and technical assistance to improve implementation of anti-trafficking law.
  - Assist government and civil society stakeholders to coordinate efforts to implement law.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
  - Identify and train law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges who will use the training to successfully identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate human trafficking cases.
  - Develop and implement procedures to guide front-line officials to identify and protect victims of trafficking
  - Develop procedures for key ministries that set specific roles and guidance for investigations, prosecutions, and convictions.
- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Assist stakeholders in developing shelter and other services for victims of trafficking.
  - Train officials and civil society in providing victim protection services.

## 3. Country: Bolivia (Tier 2 WL)

- **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
  - Develop a more stringent policy for identifying trafficking cases as separate from other crimes.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases**
  - Strengthen efforts to prosecute trafficking offenses, and convict and punish traffickers and fraudulent labor recruiters.
- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**

- Implement formal procedures for officials to identify trafficking victims among vulnerable populations and refer victims to protection services.
- Increase resources for specialized assistance for trafficking victims across the country, including for child and adult victims forced labor and forced prostitution.

#### **4. Country: Honduras (Tier 2)**

- **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
  - Strengthen anti-TIP law to be further aligned with anti-trafficking international law.
- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
  - Train and implement the Procedures Manual for the Emergency Response Team and the development of the anti-TIP committee's Operations guidelines.
  - Increase efforts to prosecute trafficking offenses and to convict and sentence traffickers.
- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking.**
  - Increase awareness of hotline.
  - Improve victim referral mechanisms and provide specialized services and shelter to all victims, in conjunction with the anti-TIP committee guidelines.
  - Develop and implement formal procedures to identify victims among vulnerable populations, including child workers identified by labor inspectors.

### **APPLICANT/ORGANIZATION CRITERIA**

Organizations eligible to apply include U.S.-based and foreign non-profits, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), for-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and public international organizations (PIOs). For-profit organizations are not permitted to generate profits from grant-funded activities. U.S. government agencies are also eligible to apply in accordance with Presidential Policy Directive 23. Applicants should demonstrate experience administering successful projects—preferably in the identified country or region and in human trafficking or related areas.

The TIP Office will only consider SOIs for the specific country or regional priorities listed above. SOIs must also respond to the specific objectives listed with each priority. SOIs for projects in countries or regions not identified in this solicitation or that do not address at least one project objective will be rejected during the technical review process and will not be considered for funding. Additionally, SOIs that address more than one country or region programming priority in a single application will also be rejected during the technical review process. A single SOI may address multiple project objectives but *cannot* address more than one priority country or region.

The TIP Office encourages applicants to submit SOIs featuring strong local partnerships with civil society organizations that promote sustainable institutional development and capacity building. The office also welcomes innovative anti-trafficking in persons approaches and solutions. The TIP Office reminds applicants that the intended beneficiaries of our work are trafficked persons or persons at risk of being trafficked. The TIP Office encourages applicants to practice inclusivity in developing SOIs that assist vulnerable and underserved populations. Please review the Additional Information section at the end of the solicitation for further details about the Department of State's guidelines concerning vulnerable populations.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SOI SUBMISSIONS**

**All SOIs will be screened to determine whether they meet the technical requirements listed below. SOIs not meeting these technical requirements will not be considered for funding.**

**Technical Requirements: SOIs MUST include these two parts. Do not submit additional documents. No additional documents will be reviewed.**

1. The SF-424 and SF-424B forms
  2. A two-page document written in English in Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font with the funding amount requested in U.S. dollars.
- Note: The font-size requirement is designed to ensure that all applicants have an equal opportunity to present their ideas in the SOI. Thus, the entire SOI, including charts, must be in a 12-point font. Organization logos, headers, footnotes, and other wording in small fonts that do not*

*meet the 12 point font requirement should not be included. Please double check your submission to ensure the font size is correct.*

### **Instructions for completing the SF-424 and SF-424B forms**

Complete the SF-424 and SF-424B forms as described in the instructions provided through [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) or [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

The following guidance may be helpful when completing the SF-424:

1. Type of Submission: Application
2. Type of Application: New
3. Date Received: Leave blank. This will automatically be assigned.
4. Applicant Identifier: Leave blank
- 5a. Federal Entity Identifier: Leave blank
- 5b. Federal Award Identifier: Leave blank
6. Date Received by State: Leave blank. This will automatically be assigned.
7. State Application Identified: Leave blank. This will automatically be assigned.
- 8a. Enter the legal name of the applicant organization. Do NOT list abbreviations or acronyms unless they are part of the organization's legal name.
- 8b. Employer/Taxpayer ID Number: Non-U.S. organizations enter 44-4444444
- 8c. Enter organizational Unique Entity Identifier number (UEI). Organizations can request a UEI number at: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. If the organization does not have a UEI number yet, enter "0000000000."
- 8d. Enter the address of the applicant
- 8e. Enter the name of the primary organizational unit (and department or division, if applicable) that will undertake the assistance activity, if applicable
- 8f. Enter the name, title, and all contact information of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application
9. Select an applicant type (type of organization)
10. Enter: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
11. Select: 19.019
12. Enter the Funding Opportunity Number and title. This number will already be entered on electronic applications.

13. Enter the Competition Identification Number and title. This number will already be entered on electronic applications.
14. Areas Affected by Project: List the country or countries where project activities will take place in alphabetical order.
15. Enter the title of your proposed project (*if necessary, delete pre-printed wording*).
16. Congressional districts of Applicant and Program: If based in the U.S., applicant should enter congressional district; if unknown or a foreign applicant please enter “90.” In box 16(b) for congressional district of program please enter “90.”
17. Enter the start date of October 1, 2016 and your projected end date. J/TIP typically funds projects that are 24 months to 36 months in duration.
18. (18a) Enter the amount requested for the project described in the SOI under “Federal”; (18b) enter any cost-share under “Applicant”. Otherwise, use zeros.
19. Select “c. Program is not covered by E.O 12372.”
20. Select the appropriate box. If you answer “yes” to this question you will be required to provide an explanation.
21. Enter the name, title, and all contact information of the individual authorized to sign for the application on behalf of the applicant organization.

**SOI Content:**

The two-page SOI should include the following information:

1. Brief description of the applicant organization and partner(s), previous work in the country or region where project would be performed, and previous work to combat human trafficking. The SOI should clearly demonstrate the organization’s record and capacity, including previous grant management experience. A general organizational history is not required.
2. Description of how the project meets the TIP Office’s programming priorities described in this announcement.
3. Project description, including goals and objectives, intended beneficiaries, and duration.
4. Project outcomes, deliverables, and performance indicators.
5. Amount of funding requested in U.S. dollars. Include a brief overview of current and prospective funding for related projects in country or region,

if applicable. If cost sharing is proposed, include cost share amount in U.S. dollars. No other budget figures are requested or required.

## **THE REVIEW PROCESS**

All SOIs will be screened to determine whether they meet the technical requirements stated in this announcement. SOIs that do not meet the technical review requirements listed above **will not** be considered for funding.

**The TIP Office will use the following criteria when evaluating SOIs:**

***-- Organizational Capability and Record of Performance***

The TIP Office will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the potential of new applicants. Strong knowledge of human trafficking issues and the trafficking context in the country or region where the project would take place should be demonstrated.

***-- Program Goals/Objectives***

The SOI should be responsive to the specific programming goals and objectives in this solicitation. The SOI should demonstrate a logical approach and present project objectives that are measurable and achievable during the project period. Innovative projects that provide novel anti-trafficking in persons approaches are encouraged.

***-- Project Outcomes, Deliverables, and Performance Indicators***

Output and outcome indicators should be clearly linked to project goals and objectives. The SOI should clearly describe the potential impact of the project on the human trafficking situation in the target country.

***-- Sustainability and Partnerships***

Applicants should describe how their project plan will ensure sustainability and long-term impact; explain how their work will complement recent and ongoing efforts in-country or region; and highlight any key partnerships that will be employed to achieve proposed goals and objectives.

***-- Requested Amount and Cost Share***

The TIP Office will assess cost effectiveness as it relates to the scope of the proposed project. The SOI should include information about other projects

in the country or region that the applicant may be planning or implementing, including a description about how the new project would relate to them.

Following a review, the TIP Office will invite selected applicants to submit full proposals. Applicants invited to the second stage will have 30 days to submit a full proposal under a limited competitive announcement. Full proposals will then be reviewed by members of the TIP Office and by an interagency review panel, which will recommend projects to the Ambassador-at-Large for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons for funding.

The Ambassador will consider bilateral, regional, and global factors, as well as any policies, restrictions, or limitations on U.S. assistance that may apply to each country or region involved in making funding decisions. The Ambassador's recommendations will be forwarded to the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance. Following final approval, Congressional Notification must take place before each grant or cooperative agreement is awarded.

## **DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

All SOIs must be submitted via [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) **OR** [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Monday, December 28, 2015**. The TIP Office will **NOT** accept proposals submitted via email, fax, the postal system, delivery companies, couriers, or U.S. embassies. Applicants may submit more than one application; however, each application should be submitted only once.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to initiate electronic applications **early** in the application development process, and to submit before the due date or early on the due date. 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 [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) or [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

### **Applications Submitted Through [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov)**

Applicants are highly encouraged to submit applications via [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov).

Organizations using [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) for the first time must register on the [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) site to create a New Applicant account and should do this as soon as possible. This **application step must be completed** before an application can be submitted.

To register with [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov), follow the “*First Time Applicants*” link and complete the “*GrantSolutions.gov New Applicant Sign Up*” application form. Organizations that have previously used [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) do not need to register again. If an organization that has previously used grantsolutions.gov is not able to access the system, please contact Customer Support for help: [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) or call 1-866-577-0771.

A valid Unique Entity Identifier [formerly the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)] is not required for submission of an application on [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov); however, a valid UEI number is required should your application be selected for award. Organizations should verify that they have a 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>.

Please register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at the time you submit your Statement of Interest. *Prior to July 2012, this functionality was handled by the Central Contractor Registration (CCR).* Applicants who are selected for foreign assistance funding will be required to have an active registration in SAM.gov. Although registration is not required prior to submitting an application via [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov), we ask all interested applicants to register their organization at SAM.gov as soon as possible to avoid future delays. Organizations who have used SAM previously should note that in order to maintain an active registration, users must log into their SAM account at least once every 13 months (395 days). If your account has become inactive, please reactivate your account at the time of your SOI application.

Electronic applications submitted via [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) must contain the SF-424 online forms (completed) and the SOI document (Project Narrative) specified in the application kit. No additional documents should be uploaded. The preferred document formats for the uploaded SOI are .doc or .docx. Applicants should wait until the upload shows the status as “*Successful*” before moving to the next part of the application kit.

Upon completion of a successful electronic application submission, the Grant Solutions system will provide the applicant with a confirmation page indicating the date and time (Eastern Standard Time) of the electronic application submission as well as an official Application Number. This confirmation page will also provide a listing of all items that constitute the final application submission. **Please print this page for your records.**

For assistance with [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) please contact Customer Support at [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) or call 1-866-577-0771 (toll charges for international callers) or 1-202-401-5282. Customer Support is available 8 AM – 6 PM EST, Monday – Friday, except federal holidays. **Please note that November 26, 2015 and December 25, 2015 are federal holidays and the help desk will be closed.**

### **Applications Submitted Through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)**

**Application submission via [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) is highly encouraged. If applicants experience difficulty submitting an application via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), they should try [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov).**

Both a valid UEI number and a SAM registration are required prior to submitting an application via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

Organizations should verify that they have a 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>.

Please register with SAM as soon as possible. Applicants who are selected for foreign assistance funding will be required to have an active registration in sam.gov. Applicants are responsible to ensure their SAM accounts are active. Inactive accounts may be activated using steps stated above. Instructions on how to register with SAM are also available at: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/org\\_step2.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/org_step2.jsp).

Electronic applications submitted via the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) must contain the online SF-424 forms and the SOI (Project Narrative). Upon completion of a successful electronic application submission on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), the applicant will receive an email confirmation that the application has been

successfully submitted and is in the process of verification. The applicant will then receive another email confirming that the application has been verified. Both emails are provided by [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) to verify that an application was received. Please print these emails for your records.

For assistance with [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), please call the Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except federal holidays. **Please note that November 26, 2015 and December 25, 2015 are federal holidays and the help desk will be closed.**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This call for SOIs will appear on [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov), [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), and the TIP Office's website, [www.state.gov/j/tip](http://www.state.gov/j/tip), as well as websites of U.S. embassies.

**Anticipated Time of Award:** We anticipate awarding grant funds to successful applicants no later than September 30, 2016.

**Reporting and Monitoring Requirements:** Applicants selected for an award must meet the following reporting and policy requirements:

1. **Reporting Requirements:** Grantees are required to submit quarterly program progress and financial reports at pre-determined intervals throughout the project period and final reports 90 days after the end of the project period. Access to funds may be suspended if reports are late or incomplete.
2. **Grant Monitoring:** The TIP Office monitors and evaluates all funded projects. Grantees should expect to have their programs visited and reviewed by a Grants and/or Program Officer at least once during the project's performance period. On-site reviews include assessment of program and administrative effectiveness. In addition to planned program monitoring, some programs may be selected for independent evaluation.

**Standard Terms and Conditions:** Applicants selected for an award must follow Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions for Federal

Assistance Awards. The domestic or international terms and conditions applicable to recipients are available at:

<https://www.statebuy.state.gov/fa/Pages/TermsandConditions.aspx>.

**Anti-Prostitution Policy and Requirements:** The U.S. Government is opposed to prostitution and related activities, which are inherently harmful and dehumanizing, and contribute to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. 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 programs 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 are being trafficked or after they are out of the situation that resulted from such victims being trafficked.
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 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 by 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.

**TVPA Requirement for Training of Trafficking Victim Assistance Personnel:** Any applicant seeking funding under this solicitation must be prepared to make the following certification in its full proposal:

- *Applicant 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.*

**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 position on preventing human trafficking among federal contractors, specifically:

- *The Executive Order expressly prohibits federal contractors, subcontractors, and their employees from engaging in certain trafficking-related practices, such as misleading or fraudulent recruitment practices; charging employees’ recruitment fees; and destroying or confiscating an employee’s identity documents, such as a passport or a driver’s license.*

**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 trafficked persons, 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 United States Government has made a commitment to protect and advance human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people, including persons with disabilities. To that end, President Obama signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on July 30, 2009, 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, and Transgendered Individuals:** In preparing applications, applicants are reminded that the Department's priorities for advancing LGBT equality abroad are to eliminate violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Advancing the human rights of LGBT 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 LGBT people often also have negative implications for other U.S. foreign policy priorities.

## **SOLICITATION DISCUSSION**

Organizations may submit questions. 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)).

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

- A. Please direct questions about the requirements of this Request for SOIs to Torrie Higgins at [JTIPGrants@state.gov](mailto:JTIPGrants@state.gov).
- B. For assistance with [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) please contact Customer Support at [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) or call 1-866-577-0771 (toll charges for international callers) or 1-202-401-5282. Customer Support is available 8 AM – 6 PM EST, Monday – Friday, except federal holidays. **Please note that November 26, 2015 and December 25, 2015 are federal holidays and the help desk will be closed.**
- C. For assistance with Grants.gov, please call the Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except federal holidays. **Please note that November 26, 2015 and December 25, 2015 are federal holidays and the help desk will be closed.**