

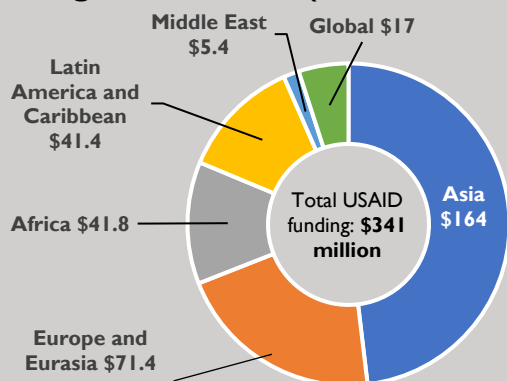


Counter-Trafficking in Persons: Improved Guidance and Training Can Strengthen USAID's C-TIP Efforts in Asia

Why We Did This Audit

Trafficking in persons (TIP) is a form of slavery and a crime that uses force, fraud, or coercion to profit from vulnerable populations. It is the second largest criminal industry worldwide and affects at least 25 million individuals. Asia has the largest number of trafficking victims. In response to the pervasiveness of human trafficking, Congress has enacted legislation and appropriations to help USAID combat TIP. USAID's resources and expertise position the Agency to play a key role in combating TIP across Asia. From FY 2001-2020, the Agency initiated counter-trafficking in persons (C-TIP) programs with roughly 50 percent of its funding obligated to Asia.

USAID Funding for C-TIP Programs by Region in Millions (FY 2001-2020)



Source: USAID's C-TIP Policy, January 2021 edition.

To determine whether USAID has effectively integrated C-TIP requirements into selected Asia missions' programming and awards, OIG initiated this audit to assess the extent that selected Asia missions (1) adhered to USAID's C-TIP programming objectives, (2) adhered to USAID's guidance to designate and use C-TIP coordinators, and (3) monitored and enforced implementer compliance with TIP requirements for selected awards.

What We Recommend

We made five recommendations to strengthen USAID's adherence to C-TIP Policy programming objectives, designation and use of C-TIP coordinators, and use of controls to monitor and enforce implementer compliance with TIP prevention and detection requirements. USAID agreed with all five recommendations.

What We Found

Selected Asia missions adhered to programming objectives for learning, consultation, and coordination but did not fully adhere to aspects of program design.

Although these missions took steps to adhere to some C-TIP Policy programming objectives, they did not consistently integrate C-TIP across development sectors or engage with trafficking survivors.

Selected Asia missions did not fully adhere to USAID's guidance to designate and use C-TIP coordinators, and C-TIP coordinator roles and responsibilities were unclear. Some missions did not fully use C-TIP coordinators to implement the C-TIP Policy. In addition, mission C-TIP coordinators did not receive training on their responsibilities, which were not listed in their position descriptions.

Selected Asia missions did not consistently monitor and enforce implementer compliance with trafficking in persons prevention and detection requirements for selected awards. We identified deficiencies in TIP prevention and detection in all 27 acquisition and assistance awards that we reviewed. Furthermore, USAID did not instruct all Contracting and Agreement Officers and Contracting and Agreement Officer Representatives on their roles and responsibilities to oversee implementer compliance with TIP requirements.