SPECIAL INITIATIVES



THE CHALLENGE

As a post-Soviet country that has witnessed dramatic economic decline, Ukraine faces several unique challenges.

Almost 30% of Ukraine's population lives below the poverty line and limited economic opportunities compel men and women to look for work abroad, which places them at high risk of exploitation.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Increase awareness of trafficking In persons (TIP); assist TIP victims and ensure their rehabilitation; advocate for and build national capacity for counter-trafficking action throughout Ukraine

OVERVIEW

Beyond its regular development support, USAID also works in partnership with Ukraine to fight trafficking in persons (TIP). An estimated 100,000 people have been trafficked in Ukraine since 1991, including men, women and children. USAID has supported efforts in Ukraine to counter trafficking in persons since 1998, including protection and prevention activities and appropriate legislation.

OUR PROGRAM

Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)

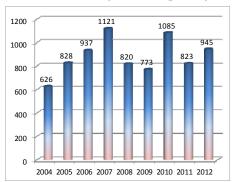
The Countering Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) initiative is a part of a broader U.S. Government effort to address the crime of human trafficking. The initiative aims to reduce trafficking in Ukraine by increasing awareness and mobilizing the government, community leaders and service providers to engage in CTIP interventions. USAID assistance also aims to increase expertise in addressing TIP, disseminate best international practices, inform and motivate risk groups on how to protect themselves, and assist victims with rehabilitation.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)

USAID support and advocacy resulted in a milestone in 2011 when the Government of Ukraine passed the Law on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and the subsequent National Action Plan for implementation of the law. Another milestone was achieved in 2012 when the Government of Ukraine passed the State Program on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, also known as the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM defines the roles and responsibilities of relevant State Agencies for providing assistance to victims of human trafficking. Through USAID support, civil society groups, expert

Victims of trafficking assisted by IOM through Ukrainian NGOs (in all regions)



Implementing Partners

Trafficking in Persons:

International Organization for Migration

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organizations and government stakeholders have been able to roll-out a functioning NRM in several oblasts of Ukraine with state assistance provided to victims of human trafficking.

USAID has supported more than 150 NGO projects that have engaged a wide range of CTIP stakeholders, including universities, religious-based groups and trade unions. These projects focus on the prevention of trafficking, advocacy for CTIP laws and reforms, capacity-building for CTIP organizations, and direct victim assistance. USAID has also supported the creation of CTIP curricula that was introduced into secondary schools and universities and has partnered with the U.S. Peace Corps to facilitate 25 awareness-raising projects.

USAID has also provided direct assistance – medical, psychological, legal and educational resources – to over 3,200 victims of trafficking. Sixty percent of those assisted were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 34 percent for labor exploitation and 6 percent for mixed forms of trafficking.

To reinforce the Government of Ukraine's commitment to CTIP initiatives, USAID has facilitated the creation of a national coalition of NGOs that engage in advocacy at regional and national levels. USAID also provides assistance to a network of 30 specialized NGOs that have developed expertise in providing reintegration assistance to trafficking survivors. In addition to medical, psychological and education support, over 150 businesses have been started by survivors of trafficking as a result of victim assistance through the microenterprise development program.

Through its partners, USAID has also published numerous CTIP materials, including public service announcements, booklets for government officials, pamphlets on the dangers of TIP, awareness pins, and educational DVDs.