

**Statement of Ambassador Cindy Dyer
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U.S. Department of State**

**Before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability**

“Money is Policy, Part II: Analyzing Select State Department Grant Awards”

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Chairman Mast, Ranking Member Crow, and distinguished members of this subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the work of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office). As a State Department *office*, not a *bureau*, we like to think of ourselves as small but mighty, with our policy, diplomacy, and the subject of today’s hearing—international programs—serving as force multipliers when it comes to global efforts to combat human trafficking.

Our office was created with the passage in 2000 of the bipartisan Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), in recognition that human trafficking is a heinous crime that exploits vulnerable children, women, and men for forced labor and commercial sex – and combating this crime is a U.S. government priority.

Before discussing our international programs, I want to take a step back to explain the broader work of our office and how that work guides our grants portfolio.

One of the core mandates of our office is producing the annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report), which assesses the anti-trafficking efforts of 188 countries and territories. This has been an invaluable resource in highlighting human trafficking as a global issue and galvanizing countries to action—and reflects the U.S. government’s commitment to global leadership on this key human rights, law enforcement, and national security issue.

The TIP Report assigns each country a tier ranking, from Tier 1 to Tier 3, reflecting their efforts to combat human trafficking. These rankings carry with them not just diplomatic leverage, but also the potential for foreign-assistance restrictions for countries ranked on the lowest tier, Tier 3.

The TIP Report has also served to highlight how human trafficking is linked to broader national security challenges – from state-sponsored forced labor in the People’s Republic of China, Cuba, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, to online scam operations that have defrauded Americans out of billions. In fact, just last week, the Treasury Department – drawing on information in the TIP Report – imposed sanctions on a Cambodian tycoon and companies he owns for serious human rights abuse related to forced labor in online scam operations. Galvanizing international action against human trafficking is also helping to level the playing field for American companies against foreign competitors who might gain an unfair advantage through the use of forced labor.

The TIP Report is central to our grantmaking. Our international programs are directly linked to recommendations in the Report, which focus on the 3Ps of anti-trafficking: **prosecuting** traffickers, **protecting** victims, and **preventing** this crime. And these three Ps are made possible with a fourth “P” – partnership: Partnership with foreign governments, civil society, the private sector, and survivors, including prioritizing new and innovative ways to incorporate survivor input into federal anti-trafficking policies and programs.

Our annual foreign assistance appropriation of nearly \$76 million is divided into three primary programming streams:

The first stream is our Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnerships program, to which Congress has appropriated \$12.5 million. These are multi-year, bilateral

partnerships with other governments to combat child sex trafficking and forced child labor. We have successfully concluded CPCs in Ghana, the Philippines, and Jamaica; have four currently underway, in Peru, Colombia, Mongolia, and Cote d'Ivoire; and we just launched our newest CPC, with Romania, earlier this week.

The second stream is our bilateral and regional program portfolio, representing \$38.5 million. These are multi-year projects in specific countries or regions.

The final stream is our Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS), to which Congress has allocated \$25 million. This program helps understand trafficking challenges through cutting-edge research, which is then used to target programming, making it more effective. The goal is to show a measurable reduction in human trafficking in specific countries, regions, industries, or populations.

All of our programs are selected through a rigorous review process – and in full accordance with relevant procurement regulations and processes. We do this in close coordination with others at State and our interagency colleagues. And we notify Congress before obligating funds for all of our grants and regularly brief authorizing and appropriations committee staff on ongoing or upcoming programs.

Each year we issue about 37 new awards. We currently have 118 active awards, all of which are listed on our public website (<https://www.state.gov/tip-office-project-descriptions/>).

Nearly three-quarters of our implementing partners are non-profit organizations like Save the Children and China Labor Watch. This includes faith-based organizations like International Justice Mission and World Vision, as well as academic institutions like the University of Georgia. The rest of our implementing

partners are international organizations, including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Labour Organization.

We seek to always be responsible stewards of taxpayer funds, and of course, we want our programs to be as successful as possible. Therefore, monitoring and evaluation is integral to all of our programming – from the initial funding decision through the final close-out assessments – as required by federal regulations. A Results Monitoring Plan, which lays out project goals, performance indicators, and data sources, is required of every proposal and is a critical consideration when making funding decisions.

After a project is awarded, we work closely with the implementing partner to ensure it stays on track, based on established performance indicators. Our program officers regularly conduct site visits. Our office also requires implementers to fund an external evaluation of the project.

As a result, we have a very strong track record. Only one program has been terminated over the past three years, and that was due to a U.S. policy change, not the project's performance, which was strong.

We take our fiduciary responsibility to the American people extremely seriously. Everyone in our office is here because we care deeply about these issues and are committed to the fight against trafficking in persons. And we want to ensure every single dollar we spend has the greatest impact possible – to **protect** victims, **prosecute** traffickers, and **prevent** this abhorrent crime.

I'm incredibly proud of the work our office does to combat human trafficking and protect vulnerable children, women, and men around the world from exploitation

and abuse – and to advance American interests and values. And I am grateful for Congress’ strong, bipartisan focus on this issue and support for our work.