



## **Submission No 65**

### **Inquiry into Slavery, Slavery-like conditions and People Trafficking**

**Organisation:** AusAID



**Australian Government**

**AusAID**

## **Inquiry into Slavery, Slavery-like conditions and People Trafficking AusAID Appearance at Public Hearing on 23 April 2013 Questions on Notice**

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### Question 1

**CHAIR:** That is right. Around the world, we would have some kind of relationship with and support for various NGOs working in countries that would be regarded as legitimate foreign aid effort. Are there any efforts with regard to NGOs working against trafficking in our region?

**Ms Niblett:** Yes. We have two specific programs. There is the AusAID-NGO Cooperation Program and also the Human Rights Grants Scheme, where we provide moneys to NGOs who work largely through community based organisations in a range of locations to support victims of human trafficking or to work within the local systems. So, yes, there are a number of initiatives that we fund through those two programs and I can provide you with a list of those if that would be helpful. (p. 22)

### Answer

The *AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)* supports accredited Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) to implement development programs that complement Australia's aid program. The ANCP supports programs that directly and tangibly alleviate poverty in developing countries, often by targeting the most vulnerable and marginalised communities. This includes programs that relate to trafficking, migrant rights, violence against women, the exploitation of children, and human rights. A list of relevant ANCP activities for 2012-13 is at **Attachment A**.

The *AusAID Human Rights Grants Scheme* provides grant funding to support non-government organisations and human rights institutions to implement projects to promote and protect human rights in direct and tangible ways. A list of relevant HRGS projects for 2012-13 is at **Attachment B**.

More information on both these schemes can be found on the AusAID website:

<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/ngos/ancp/Pages/home.aspx>

[http://www.ausaid.gov.au/business/other\\_opps/Pages/humanrights\\_scheme.aspx](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/business/other_opps/Pages/humanrights_scheme.aspx)

## Question 2

**Senator MOORE:** Ms Niblett, you may well have heard some of the evidence given by the Scarlet Alliance when you came in. They raised a couple of points about the whole philosophy of our program, and that is outside your area, but they were talking particularly about alliances with sex work organisations in other countries and also providing information in translation. They were talking specifically about sex work, but for anyone in other countries looking at coming to Australia, providing information to them about rights, responsibilities, visas and all those things—in their own language at their country of origin: are you aware whether we have that kind of process? I know it is through Immigration, but are you aware whether we do it and whether AusAID is working with sex worker agencies in those countries on the specific issue of sex work trafficking?

**Ms Niblett:** I would need to consider that question further. (p. 23)

## Answer

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is responsible for matters relating to migration to Australia.

AusAID is providing \$71,700 in 2012-13 through the Human Rights Grants Scheme to the Centre for Human Rights Education, Advice and Assistance in Malawi to empower sex workers to report, through the Centre's helpline, any police abuse that they have experienced (see **Attachment B** for more information).

### Question 3

**Ms Niblett:** It is generally to fund work to prevent people from being trafficked but also to assist victims. For example, I am aware that we currently fund World Vision through a project in Vietnam. It is a victim protection project and it is designed to better protect vulnerable people and support the victims of trafficking in Vietnam. I am not sure how much of that is related specifically to women trafficked into the sex industry.

We also support two particular projects in Myanmar through the International Women's Development Agency. One is a women's crisis and resource centre and also a youth and women's exchanges for the Palaung community. There are two projects that I am aware of: one is on the Myanmar-China border; and one is on the Thai-Myanmar border where women are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. I am also aware that we do support an organisation called International Needs Australia to prevent the commercial exploitation of children in a Accra in Ghana. We probably could find more information about a range of organisations, and I am happy to provide that to the committee.

**Senator MOORE:** That would be good, because your submission mentions some key areas but not in that kind of detail on the whole focus on prevention and then support. One of the questions we had was about support for people who had been trafficked—either trafficked in their region, and we know they are being looked after in Vietnam, or people who had been trafficked in Australia and for whatever reason had gone back—and whether AusAID was funding organisations that provided help in those areas. If we could get any detail on that it would be good. (pp. 23-24)

### Answer

AusAID focuses on strengthening criminal justice responses to trafficking (ARTIP and AAPTIP) and raising awareness about the dangers of trafficking among vulnerable people, including youth (MTV EXIT campaign). We focus on these areas because this is where we can make the most difference and because they align with Australia's aid priorities, as outlined in the Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework. Australia has been recognised internationally as a leader in combating trafficking in the region. Our new flagship program, AAPTIP, will have a stronger focus on supporting victims through the criminal justice system. It will promote approaches where the rights of trafficked persons are at the centre of all efforts, and where victims, victim support agencies and other key stakeholders have appropriate opportunities to contribute to the development of trafficking-related laws and justice responses.

AusAID recognises the valuable work that many NGOs are doing to support victims of trafficking in South East Asia. AusAID provides support to NGOs through the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program and Human Rights Grants Scheme. More information about the three programs listed by Ms Niblett on 23 April/above can be found at **Attachment A**. Through the Human Rights Grants Scheme, AusAID is also providing an estimated \$95,447.62 in 2012-13 to the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Organisation to prevent and combat human trafficking and abuses of migrant workers in Cambodia. This activity assists victims seeking access to justice. More information can be found at **Attachment B**.

#### Question 4

**CHAIR:** Taking the question more broadly, are you involved with any NGOs in any countries that do in-country work against exploitation of young people et cetera in their market place?

**Ms Wilson:** Certainly in a range of NGOs that we are involved with there would be examples of that.

**CHAIR:** Could you give me one, just for interest. Perhaps you could come to the committee with what you are doing on that front. Is that possible?

**Ms Wilson:** Are you interested, particularly, in children?

**CHAIR:** Yes, children or measures that counter slavery-like work practices and NGOs combatting those, and those types of things. Give us examples. Often covered is this question of sporting gear in India and Pakistan, the brick industry in India, and those kinds of things.

**Senator MOORE:** Textiles.

**CHAIR:** Yes, the textile industry. You could come back to us on whether there is any activity by AusAID overseas on these fronts. (pp. 25-26)

#### Answer

##### *Project Childhood*

AusAID's Project Childhood is a \$7.5 million program (2010–2014) that builds on over ten years of Australian Government efforts to combat exploitation of children (particularly sexual exploitation) in tourism in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam.

The implementing partners deliver two distinct but closely linked pillars of work. The UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Interpol implement the Protection Pillar. UNODC works with law enforcement agencies to strengthen their ability to protect children, and arrest and convict child sex tourists.

World Vision Australia implements the Prevention Pillar and works with partner countries to develop awareness of child sexual exploitation. This includes raising awareness about the conditions that make children more vulnerable to exploitation, such as children selling flowers or souvenirs to tourists.

##### *AusAID NGO Programs*

AusAID is also addressing child exploitation through the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program and the AusAID Human Rights Grants Scheme.

In 2012-13, AusAID's NGO Cooperation Program will provide an estimated:

- \$252,000 to Save the Children to strengthen child protection systems in Laos.
- \$115,500 to International Needs Australia to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Accra, Ghana.
- \$61,000 to ChildFund to strengthen child rights promotion and child protection in Tra Linh District, Cao Bang Province, Vietnam.
- \$29,930 to the International Women's Development Agency to support a Women's Crisis and Resource Centre and youth and women's exchanges in the Palaung community. The

project is based on the Myanmar-China border where women (including girls) are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.

- \$97,000 to Save the Children Australia to combat child marriage in North Gondar Zone of Amhara Region, Ethiopia.

In 2012-13, AusAID's Human Rights Grants Scheme will provide an estimated:

- \$99,837 to the Voluntary Service Overseas for the sustainable protection of marginalised youth and children against trafficking and exploitative labour in Burkina Faso.
- \$50,000 to BEOG NEERE (A Better Tomorrow) for children's rights protection in the mining areas of Burkina Faso.
- \$73,848 to Development Iraq to improve research about the nature of child labour in Iraq.
- \$100,000 to Save the Children Australia to inform national advocacy and prevention efforts.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**List of relevant AusAID NGO Cooperation Program Activities for 2012-13**

This information has been provided by ANCP NGOs as part of their 2012-13 Annual Development Plans, which detail the projects they intend to implement. Due to the unpredictable nature (e.g. natural disasters, internal conflict etc) of the areas NGOs work in projects are subject to change. 2012-13 Final Performance Reports, including financial acquittals will be submitted by 30 September 2013.

Country	Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Estimated ANCP Funding 2012-13 FY
Vietnam	World Vision	End Trafficking in Persons (ETIP) - Victim Protection Pillar - Vietnam	The End Trafficking in Persons (ETIP) - Victim Protection Project in Vietnam is part of the regional project covering Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The regional project aims to strengthen the protection services to vulnerable persons and victims of trafficking in Vietnam.	\$64,000.00
Laos	Save the Children Australia	Strengthening Child Protection Systems to Keep Children Safe	This is the second year of a five year program supporting the Lao Government to develop effective and functioning child protection systems at provincial, district and community levels, which at present do not exist under any formal social services mechanism.	\$252,000.00
Ghana	International Needs Australia (INA)	Preventing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Accra	International Needs Australia (INA) will work towards preventing the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Accra.	\$115,500.00
Vietnam	ChildFund	Strengthening Child Rights Promotion and Child Protection in Tra Linh District, Cao Bang Province, Vietnam	The aim of this project is to enhance the protection of children in 4 communes in Tra Linh District, Cao Bang province, bordering China.	\$61,000.00
Myanmar/China Border	International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)	Women's Crisis and Resource Centre (WCRC)	This project will support the Palaung Women's Organisation (PWO) in managing a Women's Crisis and Resource Centre, and conducting youth and women's exchanges in the Palaung community.	\$29,930.00
Thai/Myanmar Border	International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)	Women's Advanced Empowerment Training	This project supports the Palaung Women's Organisation (PWO) and their partners, in developing and implementing an intensive train the trainer course and peer education discussion workshop series on women's rights, child rights, gender-based violence (GBV) and community organising/mobilisation.	\$26,000.00
Ethiopia	Save the Children Australia	Combating Child Marriage in North Gondar Zone of Amhara Region	This project aims to prevent child marriage and contribute to the attainment of children's rights to education and protection in the North Gondar Zone of the Amhara Region.	\$97,000.00

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**List of relevant Human Rights Grants Schemes for 2012-13**

Country	Organisation	Project title	Project description	Funding amount
Burkina Faso	Voluntary Service Overseas	Sustainable protection of marginalised youth and children against trafficking and the worst forms of labour	This project will seek to address the commercial and sexual exploitation of children in Burkina Faso.	\$99,837.00
Burkina Faso	BEOG NEERE (A Better Tomorrow)	Children's rights protection in the context of natural resource exploitation in Burkina Faso	The project aims to better integrate child rights into the design and implementation of mining policies.	\$50,000.00
Cambodia	Cambodian Human Rights and Development Organisation	Preventing and combating human trafficking and abuses of migrant workers' rights through community-based initiatives	The project aims to assist victims in their quest for justice; empowering citizens, grassroots communities and local authorities; and monitor the general situation of Cambodian migrant workers' rights.	\$95,447.62
Iraq	Development Iraq	Rule of law in child labour issues in Iraq	This project seeks to collect data and research child labour issues across six governorates in Iraq.	\$73,848.00
Nepal	Pravasi Nepal	Promoting and protecting the human rights of migrant workers from Nepal and South Asia	This project aims to assist organisations in Nepal and South Asia to more effectively promote the application of international human rights standards and good practice in international labour migration.	\$54,000.00
Solomon Islands	Save the Children Australia	Taking action against child trafficking and commercial and sexual exploitation of children in the Solomon Islands	The project will collect and analyse data to develop national action plans, legislation and policy which will target trafficking and commercial and sexual exploitation of children.	\$100,000.00
Vietnam	The Asia Foundation (TAF)	Protecting migrant workers' rights in Vietnam	This project will work to improve the provision of legal rights information and legal counselling services to migrant workers in Ho Chi Minh City; increase civil society advocacy capacity on behalf of migrant workers; and, co-ordinate and advocate for positive policy change.	\$100,000.00
Malawi	Centre for Human Rights Education Advice and Assistance (CHREAA)	Protecting sex workers in Blantyre (Malawi) from police abuse	This project intends to empower sex workers to report any police abuse that they experience to CHREAA through its helpline.	\$71,700.00