

Modern-Day Slavery



Key Facts

- Over 40 million people are living in modern-day slavery today. (Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, a collaboration between Walk Free, ILO, IOM)
- Human trafficking generates about \$150 billion a year—two-thirds from commercial sexual exploitation. (ILO)
- 1 in 4 victims of modern-day slavery is a child. (Global Estimates of Modern Slavery)

The Challenge

Trafficking and forced labor enslaves men, women, girls, and boys in sexual exploitation and dozens of industries (e.g. agriculture, fishing, mining, and construction) all over the world. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on those most vulnerable to exploitation has been catastrophic. Tens of millions have lost work¹, while border closings and travel bans have stranded hundreds of thousands far from home².

The Opportunity

The good news is that it is possible to combat these crimes successfully. There are proven models that effectively deter trafficking and slavery by rescuing victims, bringing perpetrators to justice, restoring survivors, and reducing the prevalence of violence.

For example, child sex trafficking was flourishing in Southeast Asia in the early 2000s. Children as young as 5 years old were openly sold for sex in Cambodia, and studies estimated that 15–30% of individuals in brothels and bars were minors. After years of partnering with local authorities, a 2013 IJM study showed the number of minors available for sexual exploitation in Cambodia plummeted by at least 73% in our areas of operation.³

What the U.S. Government is doing:

The State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) leads the U.S. government's global engagement on human trafficking. In FY21, \$66M⁴ was appropriated for TIP Office grants by Congress, preceded by a mark of \$45M in the two previous two fiscal years (FY19⁵ and FY20⁶). These grants are irreplaceable as the U.S. Government's primary foreign assistance to combat trafficking. IJM requests **\$66M** in the FY22 Congressional appropriations bill to support grants to combat modern-day slavery. Within TIP grant funding, IJM requests Congress appropriate funds at or above the level of **\$25M** to the State Department's Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS). PEMS was authorized through the End Modern Slavery Initiative (EMSI) Act, which passed Congress as an inclusion to the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

¹ <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/risk/our-insights/covid-19-implications-for-business>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/covid-19-impact-stranded-migrants>

³ <https://www.ijm.org/studies/commercial-sexual-exploitation-of-children-in-cambodia>

⁴ <https://docs.house.gov/billssthisweek/20201221/BILLS-116RCP68-JES-DIVISION-K.pdf>, pg. 44

⁵ <https://docs.house.gov/billssthisweek/20190211/116hrpt9-JointExplanatoryStatement-u1.pdf>, p. 31

⁶ <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr1865/BILLS-116hr1865enr.pdf>, p. 390