

COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



Winrock counters the global scourge and crime of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) by undercutting the systems and people responsible for it, and providing hope and practical assistance to those affected by it.





Winrock's approach is grounded in 30 years of experience working with governments, civil society and businesses to achieve the inclusive agricultural and economic development and environmental and social sustainability that is necessary to reduce TIP. We work at a systemic level to strengthen regulations, establish common standards, and promote shared accountability to address TIP — a human rights violation, a crime, and an extremely complex challenge to address.

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Methodology

Winrock provides essential services and practical help for individuals who are at risk of TIP, due to lack of opportunity, power or resources. For companies seeking to meet increasingly stringent anti-trafficking requirements, Winrock goes beyond compliance and remediation to facilitate proactive, business-led strategies to tackle this challenging issue.

Human trafficking is a profitable criminal activity that includes the recruitment, transportation and transfer, and exploitation of individuals for the purposes of financial or other gain. Force, fraud, psychological coercion, debt bondage and threats of violence are used to control victims and prevent them from leaving abusive situations. Increasingly, companies sourcing agricultural products, fish and other consumer goods must ensure their supply chains and operations do not utilize trafficked or exploited labor.

Winrock's counter-TIP work contributes to the achievement of a number of the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty reduction, improved rule of law, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. Our work reduces the vulnerabilities that push people into the

sort of risky migration that can result in exploitation, enslavement, deplorable working conditions and even death. It also helps victims return to their families and their communities, and provides assistance as they pursue productive lives once home. Ours is a systemic approach that addresses both the supply and demand sides of the TIP problem.

Winrock's anti-trafficking efforts emerged from our gender work in agriculture and the realization that discrimination and family violence often push women to take immense risks in hopes of securing a better future. Starting in the 1990s, Winrock worked in the former countries of the Soviet Union to mobilize stakeholders and society to create economic opportunities for vulnerable women who might otherwise be subject to gender violence and sex trafficking. Winrock has since expanded its work to combat all forms of modern slavery, including forced labor, child labor and exploitation. Our success is based on deep expertise in promoting responsible and sustainable agricultural supply chains, and on our experience mobilizing diverse stakeholders to tackle related and complex challenges, such as TIP and climate change, simultaneously.

In our **Counter Trafficking in Persons** programs, Winrock follows the framework set out by the UN Palermo Protocol¹, which emphasizes prevention, protection, reintegration and partnerships. We supplement this approach with an emphasis on strengthening public policy and other systems that thwart TIP.

Winrock partners with communities, governments, NGOs and businesses to reduce the incidence of labor, sex and other forms of human trafficking. Our counter-TIP practice relies on wide-ranging technical expertise. Because TIP is complex, Winrock's work to fight it integrates expertise in policy analysis and advocacy, human and labor rights, gender-based violence, community development, safe migration, criminal justice, and behavior change. Winrock integrates work across multiple development sectors to achieve sustainable solutions by promoting:

- Increased awareness about the threat of trafficking and improved capacity of law enforcement agencies to disrupt and prosecute criminals;
- Sustainable systems that effectively mitigate trafficking risk, remove victims from harm, and help those affected access justice and the essential services needed to restart their lives.
- Enhanced mutual accountability through improved frameworks, shared standards and clear guidelines for stakeholders;
- Empowerment of vulnerable individuals through increased information on TIP risks, patterns and prevalence; safe and sustainable economic opportunities; access to essential support services; and an amplified voice in policy and community affairs.

¹The UN Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking-in-Persons Especially Women and Children supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.



CASE STUDIES

Bangladesh Counter Trafficking in Persons Program

In Bangladesh, Winrock's **Counter Trafficking in Persons** program has successfully empowered victims of trafficking to speak out about their experiences. By raising awareness about trafficking, victims help break the stigma that often hampers the ability of returned migrants, particularly women, to pursue productive lives. With Winrock's support, the survivor group ANIRBAN has established itself as a powerful advocate to persuade the government to improve policies and services for at-risk groups and victims.

Cambodia Counter Trafficking in Persons

Due to variable weather conditions that have been amplified by climate change, the availability of rice is no longer guaranteed year-round in parts of Cambodia that border Vietnam. Yet rice is critical for people's nourishment and livelihoods. As a result, in times of shortage, underprivileged families are forced to cross the border to work or beg. As part of the **Cambodia Counter Trafficking in Persons** program's Rice Bank Initiative, Winrock helped establish a rice bank in Svay Rieng Province to help prevent migration. Villagers came together to build and govern the bank, which allows community members to borrow rice in times of shortage.



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