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INNOVATIONS FOR
POVERTY ACTION

Human Trafficking Research Initiative (HTRI)

Request for Expressions of Interest: Full Research Funding

Jeni Sorensen and Sarah Consoli

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Agenda

1. HTRI overview: team members, initiative overview and activities, research funded to date
2. Competitive Fund overview: seed funding and full research project rounds, human trafficking definitions, geographic focus
3. Request for EOIs (round 2, full research funding): timeline, process, and eligibility/requirements
4. Resources

I. HTRI overview

HTRI Team



Jeni Sorensen

Director, HTRI



Sarah Consoli

Associate
Program
Manager, HTRI



Guy Grossman

HTRI Scientific
Advisor;
Professor,
University of
Pennsylvania



Cecilia Hyunjung Mo

HTRI Scientific
Advisor; Associate
Professor, University
of California,
Berkeley



HTRI Overview

- Initiated in 2020 as a collaboration between IPA and the U.S. Department of State to strengthen the evidence around “what works” to reduce human trafficking
- Goal to **rigorously study anti-trafficking interventions** and influence the design and implementation of future interventions
- 5-year program (2020-25), \$5.61 million total investment, including a \$2.8 million competitive research fund (re-granting program)



PHOTO: PUTUL GUPTA



HTRI Activities



1. [HTRI Competitive Fund](#) (re-granting program)
 - Seed funding for early-stage research; amount available: \$10-50k per study)
 - Full-scale randomized evaluations (full and partial funding); amount available: \$50-450k per study)



2. Research with academic leads ([Dr. Mo](#) and [Dr. Grossman](#))
3. [HTRI Research and Learning Agenda](#)



4. Compilation and distribution of research resources, policymaker outreach, dissemination of research results (webinars, brown bags, white papers, panel presentations, and other communications products)



Current Research Projects Funded by HTRI*

Targeted awareness and behavior change interventions

- Safe migration from Nigeria (Scacco et al.)
- Prevention education in schools in Brazil (Kiss et al.)
- Static and two-way information provision for refugees and asylum-seekers in Greece (Hartman et al.)
- Behavior change campaigns to address practice of *restavek* (child domestic servitude) in Haiti (Pocock et al.)

Technology interventions to reach migrants

- Use of social media to reduce exploitation of migrant workers in Hong Kong (Jordan et al.)

Reducing exploitation in supply chains

- *Information forthcoming*

School and job-based interventions

- Education and employment alternatives for young women in marginalized tribal communities in India (Dank and Zhang)
- Educational interventions to address child trafficking in Northern Thailand (Tianchainan et al.)

*RCTs in blue

Descriptions of funded projects can be found on HTRI's webpage [here](#)



II. HTRI Competitive Fund overview



HTRI Competitive Research Fund

Seed funding – 3 rounds

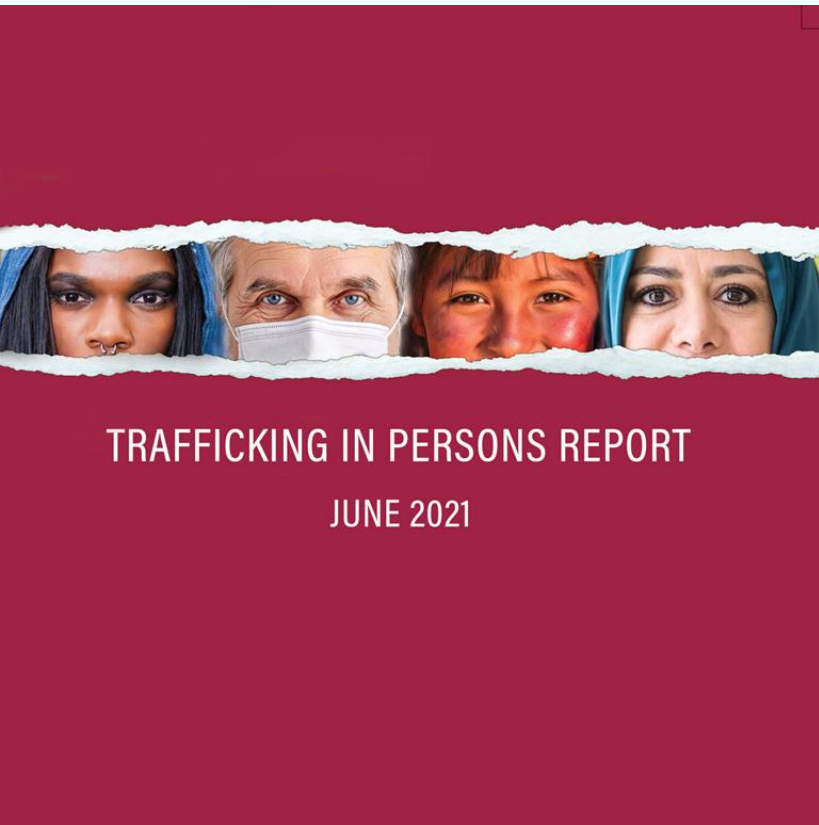
- Round 1: completed and awarded
- Round 2: awards in process
- Round 3: early 2023

Full-scale randomized evaluations (partial and full funding) – 2-3 rounds

- Round 1: completed (1 award still in process)
- **Round 2: EOIs due Aug. 5, 2022**
- Round 3: TBD



Human Trafficking Definitions



- **Sex Trafficking** – when a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person to engage in a commercial sex act or when a trafficker causes a child who has not attained 18 years of age to engage in a commercial sex act.
- **Forced Labor** – when a trafficker recruits, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains a person for labor or services by using force, fraud, or coercion.



HTRI Geographic Focus



- We can invest in any project that benefits people and communities in/from **low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**
- There are **fifteen J/TIP priority countries** (and growing): Brazil, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Vietnam



III. Request for EOs – timeline, process, and requirements

HTRI Full Research Project Funding Timeline (Round 2)

| Activity | Date |
|---|---|
| Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) released | Early June 2022 |
| EOI due | August 5, 2022 |
| Selected applicants invited to submit a full proposal | Late September/early October 2022 |
| Full proposals due | Late November 2022 |
| Winning grant applicants notified of award | January 2023 |
| Grantee activities (interventions) | Launch in early 2023, close before the end of Spring 2025 |



HTRI Full Research Project Funding (Round 2)

The Basics

- EOI submissions: follow the guidelines and use the online portal linked on the HTRI website
- Applications must be submitted in English
- Consortiums and multi-disciplinary groups of researchers are encouraged; however, one lead organization and Principal Investigator (PI) must be specified (for future awarding purposes)
- Due date: before midnight EDT August 5, 2022
- If you have challenges with the online portal, you **MUST** send an email to the team (ipa_htri@poverty-action.org) before the deadline or your proposal will **NOT** be considered for funding



HTRI Full Research Project Funding (Round 2)

Evaluation Criteria

- **Relevance to HTRI priorities** (use of causal inference methods to test countertrafficking strategies that can be used to design evidence-based programs and policies)
- **Project viability** (partnerships, policy credibility, dissemination plan, logistical and/or design constraints)
- **Academic contribution** (contribution toward advancing knowledge in the field, draws on underlying theories about human trafficking, likely to isolate causal mechanisms or contribute to research design for anti-trafficking work more broadly)
- **Policy and survivor relevance** (possibility for uptake, use of survivor-centered and survivor-informed principles in design and execution)
- **Research funding and value for money** (is the cost of the study commensurate with the value of expected contributions to science and policy)



HTRI Full Research Project Funding (Round 2)

Research Focus & Methodology

- 3 research types will be considered: full funding for experimental research/impact evaluations; partial funding for impact evaluations; funding for new arms of existing impact evaluations
- Quasi-experimental research, natural experiments, and other rigorous methods may be considered for funding; applicants should explain why an impact evaluation is not possible and why this other research methodology is necessary in the given context
- Research that is primarily or fully qualitative in nature will NOT be sent to the Selection Committee for consideration



HTRI Full Research Project Funding (Round 2)

Eligibility

- At least one PI must hold a PhD or be currently pursuing a PhD in a relevant social science discipline and have experience in field research and randomized evaluations
- Projects must benefit people and communities in/from LMICs. Interventions in high-income countries may be considered, but research projects in LMICs are strongly preferred
- Applications **must** use the TVPA definitions of sex and labor trafficking
- Funding can only be used for research and research-related programmatic costs; regular implementation costs must be covered through other sources
- Projects taking place in countries with current PEMS projects are encouraged (Brazil, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Vietnam). However, HTRI will consider strong applications from **all** LMICs



Human Trafficking Resources

- [HTRI Research and Learning Agenda](#) - Includes information on completed and ongoing human trafficking RCTs; outlines key research gaps under the [4P's](#); updated twice a year (most recently updated June 2022)
- [HTRI Competitive Fund FAQ](#) (will continue to be updated)
- [U.S. Department of State's Annual Trafficking in Persons Report](#) (released every year in late June/early July)
- Research to Action project's [Forced Labor Evidence Gap Map](#) and [Global Research Agenda](#)
- Walk Free's [Promising Practices Database](#)
- [Global Modern Slavery Directory](#) - list of organizations working on all forms of modern slavery, including human trafficking
- [Delta 8.7](#) - includes dashboards with country-level policies and data on human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery



Thank you



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ipa_htri@poverty-action.org