

Building Anti-Trafficking Resilience



Yangon, Myanmar



Combatting Trafficking

Total Budget

\$16,600

Project Timeline

JAN 21

DEC 21



Overview

Our partners work in the sprawling urban slum areas of Yangon, Myanmar's capital. Due to poverty, children from slums are vulnerable to being trafficked - young girls for sexual exploitation and boys for child labour in local tea-houses and restaurants. COVID-19 and the military coup have exacerbated trafficking risks due to increased financial pressures faced by families losing jobs. With nine community centres, our partner was well placed to deliver strong anti-trafficking awareness programs to these vulnerable communities and to engage in regular household visits. The project was also able to expand its combined vocational skills/trafficking prevention program for women.

Objectives

Impact



Community anti-trafficking events

850 people impacted by awareness events and support groups. 8 medium-sized awareness meetings were held and support groups met regularly to discuss issues faced and focus on mental wellbeing. Posters and pamphlets distributed.



Updating presence data and building volunteer base

The presence tracker has been updated with photos and records to streamline responses to trafficking cases. Our partner has also continued to build up local volunteers and leaders, many of whom began in the centre support groups.



50 in depth household visits per week

27,000 people in the community reached through home visits to provide essential supplies (food, medicine, masks and soap), invite them to relevant programs and community forums, and offer counselling and other relevant assistance.



Vocational training for 66 women

66 vulnerable women at risk of survival sex and prostitution supported with vocational training, business skills and start-up funds for income generation. Trafficking prevention education is also incorporated into the courses.



Life change

- Children educated in how to avoid traffickers and paedophiles.
- Some children rescued from situations of trafficking.
- Children able to access safe community centres and find adults to trust.
- Women empowered through vocational skills training and the knowledge to build family resilience to trafficking



Thu Thu's Story

Thu Thu's trauma began at 7, her separated parents either ignoring her or flatly rejecting her as a mistake and burden. Feeling unloved and vulnerable, at 13 she was convinced by a young man to run away and live with him. After a week, he too rejected her, and she was forced to live on the streets until our partner's staff found her. She was severely traumatised and at first very distrusting. But after some counselling, she mustered the courage to meet her mother and step dad. The family received counselling and have now reunited, with staff making regular visits to their home. As awareness grows, stories like this can be avoided.



Trafficking awareness training events (approx. 40 participants each meeting) discuss the dangers of trafficking as well as the trends and tricks of traffickers

Kha Mah's Story

Kha Mah's husband and teenage children lost their jobs due to the impact of COVID and the coup. Desperate for food, he turned to alcohol to the point of being hospitalised and on life support. Unable to pay the medical bills, he was thrown out and lay gravely ill in their slum shack. Kha Mah was reluctant to seek help because of the shame it would bring, but with family life crumbling around them, her children began to consider prostitution. Kha Mah heard about sewing training at our partner's centre, an opportunity she jumped at. She quickly caught on and with her business training, a new sewing machine provided and plenty of passion, she started a tailoring business. Her family now has enough money to live on.

