

From Despair to Hope

MMR-EDM-DTH-P02



Yangon, Myanmar



Combatting Trafficking

Total Budget \$81,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

MAR 21

FEB 23



Overview

This project supported 25 female victims per year -15 trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced marriage and 10 at high-risk of being trafficked. The 15 rescued girls also received living costs to reduce the risk of returning to trafficking for economic reasons. All girls received vocational/business training to gain income-generating skills. Trauma counselling, art, music and dance therapy, self-esteem building and education programs was provided as part of their rehabilitation. Accommodation for the 15 live-in girls will help them to recover and prepare to reintegrate into communities and find stable employment, thus restoring hope and dignity.

Objectives

Impact



30 trafficking victims supported

30 survivors were provided with stipends for accommodation and family support and were given vocational/empowerment training to reduce the risk of being re-trafficked. All survivors received Trauma Focused Cognitive Behaviour Therapy.



Vocational training for 50 women

Vocational training options for 50 young women (30 survivors, 20 at-risk) included jewellery, sewing/tailoring, hair & beauty, macrame, candle-making, clay modelling, permaculture, languages, maths, basic sales and marketing.



Empowerment programs to build resilience

Women were empowered through counselling, group art and music therapies, and learning social/key life skills that build self-esteem and confidence. Together with trafficking awareness, they become less vulnerable to being re-trafficked.



205 family beneficiaries

Employment in our partner's social enterprises provides financial security, increased resilience and supports family members. Financial training educates on avoiding debt bondage, financial management and dealing with loan sharks.



Life change

- 30 young girls and women rescued from situations of trafficking and provided a supportive living space that fosters healing from trauma.
- At-risk girls and women have stable employment - a positive alternative to the lure of 'jobs' through trafficking and leading to reduced anxiety.
- Women gain vocational and life skills, restoring dignity and building financial independence and a sense of community.



Unity's Story

Unity's aunt sold her to a pimp because she was unemployed and in need of money. She was only 15 and the pimp was one of the roughest in Yangon. Unity was sold to customers on a daily basis and suffered from complex trauma. She was held captive for several months until she learned about the drop-in centre, which she and another girl visited one day. She received trauma counselling and soon joined the residential and jewellery-making program. Unity is now safe in the shelter and feels secure there. She loves art therapy and is saving up money for her education and a business start-up.



Dance and art therapies facilitate healing and restoration

A whole family being restored

All the women in May Yun's family work in survival sex or street prostitution. As COVID-19 and the military coup crisis wore on, the family's debts increased and they forced May Yun, then 16, to work in survival sex. She was beaten and sexually abused for months, leaving her feeling dirty, ashamed and worthless. One day the outreach team met May Yun and took her aside to discuss the possibility of escape. After a few days, she made it to the centre, where she received counselling and creative therapies and is now working in the jewellery enterprise. She can smile now as she weaves bracelets and moulds intricate clay shapes, telling stories of transformation, hope and freedom. Her family is being counselled too.

