

Fighting Trafficking in Myanmar

MMR-NHM-FTM-P01



Yangon, Myanmar



Combatting Trafficking

Total Budget \$46,400

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JUN 23

MAY 24



Overview

Our partner operates in the expansive urban slum areas on the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar's capital. Due to extreme poverty, children and young teens from these slums are at high risk of being trafficked. The military coup that began on February 1, 2021, has exacerbated these trafficking risks. Families, facing increased financial pressure and job losses, are sinking deeper into debt bondage and are becoming increasingly desperate. With 12 community centres established in the poorest urban trafficking hotspots, our partner is strategically positioned to deliver robust anti-trafficking awareness programs to these vulnerable communities and to conduct regular household visits.

Objectives

Impact



Anti-trafficking training men's support groups

387 men are regularly attending the 10 men's support groups and anti-trafficking training. All of them are at HIGH RISK of being trafficked into the growing civil war. With many of the men being the primary income earners, this will have a catastrophic effect on families living in the slums of Yangon.



Training to build capacity of staff from 12 centres

42 staff trained in project management, anti-trafficking strategies, anti-domestic violence and substance abuse strategies. This also involved transforming whole communities by equipping local leaders, who in turn train volunteers, support groups and other key leaders.



30 survivors supported and trained

Thirty survivors of human trafficking or those working in survival sex were given awareness training, individual and group counselling, psycho-social support and business skills training in an effort to improve their sense of self-worth, identity and purpose and encourage them to leave exploitation.



Training in Women's support groups

Over 507 women have been regularly attending the 22 women's support groups. They have been educated around the dangers of trafficking and protecting their children as the number of abductions for the military and for human organ harvesting is spiking.



Life change

- Families equipped with knowledge to protect themselves from traffickers.
- Families have access to safe community hubs, reliable adult mentors, and channels to report trafficking risks.
- Women empowered through vocational training, gaining skills to enhance family resilience against trafficking.
- Families empowered to cultivate resilient communities.



Conscription Has Begun

A young man went missing, and despite his family's relentless search, he was nowhere to be found. Then, one day, they received an unexpected call from him. He recounted being abducted and forced into army trucks while on his way home from work. The trucks drove for hours, heading north towards a conflict zone. He was not alone; other young boys and men had also been taken. The young man explained that he had already started army training and pleaded for his family's help. Fortunately, our local partner was able to send teams to the camps and negotiate his release.



Support groups for women, men, teens and children enable the whole family to be restored.

Myo Myo's Story

At 16, Myo Myo was sold and married to an older man who soon moved them near the Thai border to earn more money. On arrival, her husband left her in a hotel. As she anxiously waited for him to return, two men arrived and claimed her husband was waiting for her, leading her to a restaurant which was an undercover brothel.

Myo Myo was trafficked into prostitution for over 6 months. Seizing a chance to escape one morning, she asked to go shopping and navigated her way back to Yangon. Our local partner's team met her during an outreach visit and learned of her ordeal. She received counselling and she is now a regular volunteer, spreading awareness about bridal trafficking and sexual exploitation.

