

Communities Fighting Trafficking

MMR-NHM-CFT-P01



Yangon, Myanmar



Combatting Trafficking

1 Year Project: Oct 2024 to Sept 2025

Total Budget: \$45,500



Overview

Our partner continued its work in the urban slum communities on the outskirts of Yangon, where deepening poverty, ongoing military rule since February 2021, and the lingering impacts of COVID-19 have heightened the risk of human trafficking. The collapse of essential services has driven many families into extreme poverty and debt bondage, leaving children, adolescents, and women increasingly exposed to exploitation. Through 12 community centres located in the highest-risk neighbourhoods, our partner was able to deliver targeted anti-trafficking awareness activities and maintain regular household visits. These initiatives were strengthened by support groups that helped reduce vulnerability, foster resilience, and equip families with practical knowledge and support to stay safe.

Objectives



Anti-trafficking training men's support groups

412 men regularly attend the 11 men's support groups and anti-trafficking sessions. All are at high risk of being abducted for military conscription due to the intensifying civil conflict. As primary income earners, their exploitation would have severe consequences for their families in Yangon's slums.



Training to build capacity of staff

44 staff were trained in project management, anti-trafficking, domestic violence, and substance abuse strategies. By equipping local leaders to train volunteers and support groups, these efforts helped achieve an 18% decline in domestic violence in the targeted communities.



34 survivors supported and trained

34 women enrolled in a one-year program offering counselling, awareness and business training, hygiene education, and seed funding. Participants gained dignity, self-worth, peer support, and sustainable livelihoods, with many successfully moving away from exploitation.



Training in women's support groups

Over 562 women regularly attended the women's support groups, receiving training on trafficking risks and how to protect their children amid rising threats, including organ trafficking. Child trafficking cases in the targeted areas declined by 21% during this period.



Life change

- Families and communities are empowered to prevent trafficking and protect members from exploitation.
- Survivors gain dignity, self-worth, peer support, and sustainable livelihoods.
- Children become confident, socially connected, and healthier.
- Local leaders provide trauma-informed care and lead rapid, effective community protection.



Daw Hnin's heartbreak

I am Daw Hnin, a mother of four living in the slums of Myanmar. When my youngest son, just 17, was taken during gang violence and forcibly conscripted by the military to a frontline conflict zone, I felt devastated and powerless. The project gave me hope and courage. I received food, a safe space, and trauma support that helped me process my grief alongside others who understand. While my son is still missing, I feel stronger to care for my family and to protect my other children. I hold on to the hope that he, and all the boys who have been taken, will one day return.



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

Khin Myo Wai's Story

I am Khin Myo Wai. I grew up in a struggling family in Myanmar, and when I was promised factory work in China, I trusted a broker and traveled there with friends. Upon arrival, I was separated, abused, and confined by my husband, and later gave birth to a disabled daughter. When I was forced to leave, I returned to Myanmar heartbroken and traumatised, having to leave my child behind. The project connected me to a support group for trafficked women, where I receive emotional support, practical guidance, and a safe network of peers. Through this, I am beginning to heal, regain independence, and plan for a safer future, while holding onto hope that I may one day be reunited with my daughter.

