



THA-IJM-TFT-P01

Reporting Period: October 2018 – March 2019

## Tackling Fishing Trafficking - Thailand

**Budget:** \$25,000 for Year One of a 3-year project. \$5,500 needed to complete Year One.

### The Project:

This three-year project assists vulnerable migrant workers and impoverished people who are trafficked for slave labour in the Thai fishing and seafood industry through deception, debt bondage, threats and violence. Thailand is a source, transit and destination country for traffickers making profits through slave labour. The overall aim of the project is to reduce the prevalence of forced labour in the industry through improved performance of the criminal justice systems and improved multilateral enforcement mechanisms in the destination country of Thailand and the source countries of Cambodia and Myanmar. Entrust is supporting the project through funding the equivalent of two local social workers who are engaged in the after-care of victims – providing services such as immediate care, helping survivors walk through the legal process, supporting them as they go back home to ensure they are safe, assessing cross-border issues and needs, and building relationships with local service providers. This is the project's first report.

### Update:

- Project Manager Jenny Cramer visited our partner's new Bangkok office in February. Still in its infancy, it is making excellent progress in combatting trafficking in the notorious fishing industry. There is nearly a full complement of around 35 staff who have been recruited in total. To build a team with the right skill set is difficult but critical, so this is a vital part of the new set-up.
- An experienced Aftercare Manager has been employed to focus on building relationships with stakeholders who play a key role in the rehabilitation and repatriation of trafficking victims.
- The Aftercare team provided group therapy to 71 survivors in a male shelter near Bangkok and has plans to replicate this to other shelters through establishing good relationships with local government authorities. The therapy was held over 3 days and was well received by the local authorities and the survivors.
- The team conducted a comprehensive assessment of survivor needs and government staff capacity across nine shelters of male victims. This will help the team to contextualize the trauma-informed care curriculum

Our partners said, *“Labour trafficking is wide-spread in Thailand’s multi-billion-dollar seafood industry. Our five-year study shows that 37.9% of migrant fishermen surveyed had been trafficked, and an additional 49.2% had experienced coercion or exploitation. We are here to help build the capacity of the local justice systems to protect the poor from labour trafficking. We anticipate the dismantling of key trafficking rings by effective law enforcement will protect thousands of victims from ever being trafficked in the first place.”* An important component of the program is aftercare.



Dom has returned home (pic left). He and his son were both exploited in Thailand’s massive seafood industry. Dom helped bring his traffickers to justice. He is now living in his home province growing rice and catching fish and his son is enrolled in a vocational training program.

*Thank you for standing with us to enable our partners to set up systems to protect the poor and care for those who are vulnerable to the cunning ways and greed of traffickers.*