



THA-ZOE-HTP-P01, Thailand
Reporting Period: June – November 2017

Educating for Trafficking Prevention - Thailand

Budget: \$15,350 fully funded!

Update:

This project sees the completion of anti-trafficking outreach activities along the Thai-Burma border, north of Chiang Mai. It involved targeting areas where trafficking is a problem and made connections with local leaders including principals of schools. One to three-day training sessions with the community about trafficking, including prevention, recognition and what to do were held across a number of locations. A tips hotline was successfully established so that people can phone in.

During this period, 13 educational outreaches were conducted in villages and schools and churches. Two were held at refugee camps which are dotted around the area due to the ongoing unrest on the Thai/Burma border. A total of 3082 people attended the meetings, including 2259 children – an amazing effort covering a lot of ground. Our partners have further solidified relationships with school officials, pastors, village leaders and prominent government officials and have empowered them with knowledge and practical help.



As our partners target villages along the Thai-Burma border it highlighted the language barriers sometimes encountered between local dialects and mainstream language. Local translators were engaged to help, not only with translation but also with local cultural aspects. As a result of this project, our partners realised that working with more schools in cities is increasingly important. As human traffickers change their techniques, our partners must adapt their prevention and awareness methodology. A recent trend is for traffickers to focus on vulnerable children who have left their villages to attend schools in cities.

One school-aged participant said, "After the team shared with us about trafficking, people were able to share about past kidnapping cases. This will help us to be better prepared and to protect ourselves." Thank you for your support of this project, the first with this partner. Richard Beaumont CEO and Jenny Crameri Project Manager visited our partners in September. This partner is one of the leaders in anti-trafficking in Thailand as recognised by the Thai government and police. We have undertaken a further 3-year project with them in light of this, called "Targeting Trafficking Hotspots", making a real difference to the lives of those at risk.





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Update:

This project undertakes different outreach activities in villages along the Thai-Burma border and schools, north of the Chiang Mai area. It involves targeting areas where trafficking is a problem and makes connections with local leaders including principals of schools. It then conducts one to three-day training sessions with the community about trafficking, including prevention, recognition and what to do. Part of the training is handing out the phone number with a tips hotline, so that people can phone in if they recognise trafficking activities or if they need advice.



There is a great deal of ignorance regarding trafficking in Thailand. Many of the at-risk areas are poor, uneducated and undocumented – prime target areas for traffickers. And it is not only sex traffickers, but slave labour, pornography and enforced begging. Without education and awareness, many poor communities remain vulnerable to trafficking. During this period, eight outreaches have been conducted in villages and schools near the border as well as two churches. A total of 1550 people attended the meetings, including 1167 children. Our partners have solidified relationships with school officials, pastors, village leaders and prominent government officials, and have empowered them with knowledge and practical help. This project has allowed greater depth and geographic spread.

As well as targeting villages, our partners have realised that working with more schools in cities is increasingly important. As human traffickers change their techniques, our partners must adapt their prevention and awareness methodology. A recent trend is for traffickers to focus on vulnerable children who have left their villages to attend schools in cities. Over the next six months our partners are planning 16 outreaches (800 people) to both rural communities and city schools to help address this trend.

In February our implementing partners undertook their largest trafficking awareness outreach to date in a school near the Burmese border. After months of preparation and two scouting trips, 743 children attended an all-day carnival-like outreach. Our partners report, *“Student feedback was very positive. Many children asked for further information and they had never experienced activities and games that taught them about trafficking. In addition, we received seven tips through our counsellors about possible cases of trafficking in their community.”*



Through projects such as this, communities are empowered to avoid traffickers and their snares. In addition, our partners continue to take part in northern Thailand’s Anti-Trafficking Multi-Disciplinary Task Force and are actively involved with government law enforcement agencies in investigating, apprehending and prosecuting traffickers. They also coordinate with non-government organisations to strategically and effectively fight the battle on all fronts. It is a battle worth fighting for and we thank you for your participation in this worthy project.