

Restoring Hope, Building a Future



Yangon, Myanmar



Trafficking

Total Budget

\$27,500

Project Timeline

JAN 20

DEC 20



Overview

This project followed a successful first project designed to reach, rescue and restore female trafficking victims, specifically those trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced marriage purposes. Entrust supported 15 rescued victims through a program that restores hope and dignity using trauma-informed care including art, music and dance therapy along with economic empowerment through a jewellery business. Accommodation provided a safe environment in which to recover and prepare to reintegrate into communities and find stable employment. An additional aim was to reach 10 young women/girls at high risk of being trafficked and support them with vocational training and empowerment and self-esteem training. The positive impact of this project changes lives!

Objectives

Impact



15 trafficking victims rescued & supported

15 survivors were provided with stipends for accommodation and family support during vocational/empowerment training: jewellery, sewing/tailoring, hair & beauty, photography, computers, languages, and basic sales and marketing.



Vocational training for 10 women at risk

10 women at-risk of being trafficked were provided vocational training in sewing and employment in our partner's social enterprise, which transitioned to mask production in response to COVID-19.



Empowerment programs to build resilience

Empowerment programs that improved social skills and built self-esteem, combined with trafficking awareness and key life-skills training all helped to decrease vulnerability to trafficking at a time of COVID-induced financial insecurity.



Tens of thousands of masks made

Mask production provided secure employment during lockdown as it was considered essential work. Our partners are supplying masks to government, NGOs, local factories and hotels, amounting to tens of 1000s of orders.



Life change

- 15 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.



Restarting life after 20 years

Mya Thida came from a loving family and enjoyed school. One day, aged 8, while coming home from class, she was pulled into a van, taken to China and sold as a child bride to an abusive husband who controlled, beat and raped her over 12 long, harsh years. Any hope of ever returning to her family soon faded. She had forgotten their names or where they lived and could barely remember her native language. Finally she saved enough for a bus ticket to take her far away and, through a series of events, was eventually repatriated to Myanmar some 20 years later. She received care from our partner and has since started a business.



Meeting with government officials to demonstrate the trafficking awareness, self-reporting and neighbourhood watch chatbot.

An innocent child in pink pyjamas

In a crowded street-work area, a teenage girl in pink pyjamas with Dumbo elephant print was spotted and given a number to call our partners for help. Having been betrayed countless times, she was hesitant to trust yet another stranger. Each time our partners tried to call her, it rang out, but a chance sighting of her running an errand in another part of town (a miracle in itself) gave them an opportunity to show her their program and reassure her again. She was given food and money to pay off debts to her captors. Within hours of being driven back, she had left in a taxi and was being showered with family affection, something she had not experienced since she was 7, before her life of trauma began.

