

## From Despair to Hope



Yangon, Myanmar



Anti-Trafficking

Year 2 Budget \$40,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

MAR 21

FEB 23

### Overview

This project reaches and restores 25 female victims per year, trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced marriage -15 trafficked and 10 at high-risk of being trafficked. The 15 rescued girls will also receive living costs to reduce the risk of returning to trafficking for economic reasons. All girls will receive vocational/business training to gain income-generating skills. Trauma counselling, art, music and dance therapy, self-esteem building and education programs form part of their rehabilitation. Accommodation for the 15 live-in girls will help them to recover, prepare to reintegrate into communities and find stable employment, thus restoring hope and dignity.

### Impact Mar - Aug 22

10

10 rescued women



have received stipends to support them during their rehabilitation and recovery stage. This allows them to receive trauma counselling, creative therapies and personalised vocational training.

18 girls received vocational training

and gained employment through the vocational training social enterprise program. On-the-job training in jewellery-making, tailoring and gardening, for example, provides the girls with skills to earn an income in the future. Sales from jewellery around the world provide a source of income for our partner.

18



18

18 girls received trauma counselling,



group therapies through art and music, drop-in centre programs and the like, finding a safe and supportive environment in which to recover and regain their physical and mental health.

2 more drop-in centres have been launched

in addition to the two in the red-light districts of Yangon. The two new centres are in Lashio and Tachileik, border cities into China. These provide safety for at-risk and trafficked girls and women with counselling, emergency support and training.



- The military coup and COVID-19 continues to severely impact this ravaged country. New laws in June have further eroded and reduced protections and support for trafficking victims. Myanmar's record in anti-trafficking is very poor. There has been an increase in trafficking due to the coup and COVID-19 lockdowns and loss of income.



### Phyo's Story

My father was very abusive and left when I was ten. I stopped going to school and tried to get small jobs but my mother was always angry with me. She had TB and we had many debts. She took me to an agent for a job interview. A man came in who told me he had bought my virginity and he raped me. My mother then sold me on the streets as a prostitute. I felt so dirty and worthless until a friend told me about the drop-in centre. I was loved immediately and they offered me a job in jewellery making and macrame. I have enough to support my family and we all receive counselling, love and support. I can't believe it!

100% GETS THERE

Thank you for making a difference