

Building Resilient Communities

MMR-NHM-BRC-P01



Yangon, Myanmar



Combatting Trafficking

Total Budget \$22,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

MAR 22

FEB 23



Overview

Our partner works in the sprawling urban slum areas on the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar's capital. Because of poverty, children and young teens from the slums are vulnerable to being trafficked. The military coup (began 1/2/21) together with COVID-19 has exacerbated the trafficking risks due to increased financial pressure faced by families who have lost jobs. Families fall deeper into debt bondage and are desperate. With 12 community centres operating in the poorest urban trafficking hubs, our partner has been well placed to deliver strong anti-trafficking awareness programs to these vulnerable communities and to engage in regular household visits.

Objectives

Impact



Anti-trafficking training for support groups

Equipping and training of support groups for men, women and children is a key strategy for combatting trafficking. These groups are positively impacting family dynamics, trafficking awareness and psychological and emotional wellbeing.



Training to build capacity of 12 centre staff

A core component is building capacity through equipping local leaders in community development, program management, & anti-trafficking strategies, transforming whole communities as they in turn train volunteers, support groups and key leaders.



In-depth household visits each week

Community liaison teams built ties and relationships with families, recording their needs and difficulties, and through ongoing home visits families learnt skills and values that will increase resilience and remain with them for years to come.



More print & video resources produced

Medium-sized events in the general community raised awareness through skits, films, flyers, presentations and follow-up visits with new families. All up, 71,718 people have been impacted through events, support groups and visits.



Life change

- Families educated in how to avoid traffickers and paedophiles.
- Families empowered to build strong communities.
- Families can access safe community centres, find adults to trust and can report trafficking risks.
- Women empowered through vocational skills training and the knowledge to build family resilience to trafficking.



Pa Pa's Story

"When I was 16 my mother remarried and told me to leave as they couldn't afford to feed me. So I left and got married and had a child. But my husband abused me terribly and would regularly cheat on me. A few months later he left me. I was devastated and had nowhere to go. I was offered a well-paid job in Lashio with childcare included, but that week a home visit from the community centre made me realise the dangers. What timing! Who knows what would have happened to me. I am now living in a teen-mother shelter, receiving counselling and group therapy with other girls. My life has hope now and I plan to learn to sew and start a small business."



Support groups for women, men, teens and children enable the whole family to be restored. Children are given education, food and support so that they are not vulnerable to the traps and schemes of traffickers.

Women's support group shown here.

Thu Aung's Story

Desperate for food and medical treatment after a severe car accident, Thu Aung's mother took out a high-interest loan but was unable to repay it. Her only way to prevent her family starving was for her eldest daughter, Thu Aung, to get a job. And so at 13, Thu Aung was sold to a local pimp. She experienced horrific violence, abuse and exploitation. On meeting the outreach team, Thu Aung was emotionally numb, traumatised and severely underweight. She was provided with debt relief and support to leave the pimp. The family is now debt-free and regularly attends the centre programs, receiving nutritional food daily and anti-trafficking training. Through the support group, the family has found healing and forgiveness within.

