

# Combating Human Trafficking

The Asia Foundation's sustained engagement across Asia and the Pacific for 65 years has positioned us to support effective, locally-driven, survivor-centered strategies to prevent human trafficking within and across borders. The Foundation also works to protect trafficking survivors and build capacity to prosecute traffickers.



## OUR APPROACH

The Asia Foundation partners with governments, law enforcement, justice officials, policymakers, service providers, community leaders, and survivors to effectively prevent and respond to trafficking. Our approach is informed by the ways in which women, men, girls, and boys are vulnerable to and experience different forms of trafficking and promotes policies that address the needs of vulnerable populations, including those who identify as LGBTQ and/or living with a disability. Recognizing that human trafficking is linked to the breakdown in the legal, economic, and social fabric of a society, we make long-term strategic investments that promote legal and structural reform and strengthen anti-trafficking leadership and coordination among all stakeholders, reduce vulnerability to trafficking, and comprehensively address the needs of trafficking survivors.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### PREVENTION

In **Myanmar**, the Foundation partnered with the

Myanmar Library Association to empower youth with a comprehensive package to build awareness and identify red flags of human trafficking, to decrease their risk of being trafficked, and enable them to make informed decisions about labor migration. Through this program, we provided training to 79 librarians using curriculum that builds life skills and self-confidence to reduce vulnerability to exploitation. The librarians then extended this training to over 783 youth.

In **Laos**, in partnership with the Lao Women's Union Vientiane, Sengsavang, and the Lao Women's Union Vientiane Youth Center, the Foundation supported awareness campaigns in secondary schools, technical schools, and universities as well as workers at garment factories with messages about safe migration. We raised awareness among 3,000 girls about the dangers of labor exploitation and launched a job and practical skills training program that included culinary, sewing, agriculture, and cosmetology classes for 187 women.

In **Cambodia**, the Foundation collaborated with the National Committee for Counter-Trafficking, the

Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, and the Khmer Youth Association to educate and empower communities to combat trafficking and promote the protection of women and girls. We distributed 13,000 booklets on safe migration, conducted 18 school campaigns on safe migration that reached 5,688 students and encouraged them to stay in school, held four career forums for a total of 1,748 attendees, and led campaigns through mobile devices reaching more than 5,000 people across 33 villages.

## PROTECTION

In **India**, the Foundation supported a local partner, Women Power Connect, to conduct research in Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, to map and build the capacity of existing services for trafficking survivors. The mapping activity also strengthened links among stakeholders in the three states and provided information on policies related to human trafficking, police contacts, NGOs, child welfare committees, anti-human trafficking units, shelters, and government and legal aid bodies who assist survivors. The Foundation is conducting research to identify promising practices in integrating or separating services for human trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, with the goal of improving the effectiveness of screening and service provision to victims and survivors of trafficking and GBV in diverse contexts.

## PROSECUTION

In **Mongolia**, in partnership with the Law Enforcement University of Mongolia and the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, the Foundation is implementing a project to support the Mongolian government's legislative and structural reforms to address trafficking, and supporting a comprehensive training program for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, immigration officials, and border protection officers on best practices to support survivor-centered prosecutions and protection. To date, 605 government officials and 1,718 LEU cadets have been trained to lead survivor-centered investigations and prosecutions.

In **Sri Lanka**, in partnership with the Nielsen Company and Women and Media Collective, the Foundation is working to build a reporting system with trafficking data to strengthen victim protection and increase trafficking prosecutions. This project is building the capacity of stakeholders to collect data and report, while supporting the dissemination of collected information to relevant stakeholders. We are also working with the International Labour Organization and Helvetas to tackle the challenges in responding to the multi-dimensional labor migration cum human trafficking nexus. The project is supporting research to inform policy and practice; capacity building of recruitment agents and government officers, counselors and legal advisors; adapting new technologies to inform the public on fair migration practices; and strengthening the prosecution and investigation systems.

## PARTNERSHIP

Since 2018, The Asia Foundation has been implementing the Australian Government's initiative to support the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children (ACTIP). The project supports ASEAN-led counter-trafficking efforts, with a focus on cross-sectoral initiatives that involve more than one ASEAN sectoral body. The project is designed to provide flexible, cross-sectoral support to the implementation of ACTIP and specific activities contained in the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Bohol TIP Work Plan 2017-2020. Anticipated outcomes include increased cross-sectoral engagement on counter-trafficking work, progressing ASEAN implementation of the Bohol Work Plan, and analytical work on improving the effectiveness of support to ASEAN sectoral bodies.

*The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.*



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