TRAFCORD

Anti-Trafficking Coordination Unit
Northern Thailand
Area of Operations:

Northern Thailand

9 Provinces along the Thai-Burmese and Thai-Laotian Borders
Objectives

1. To assist the victims of Human Trafficking in particular women and children from Thailand, neighboring and nearby countries (Burma, Laos, China) bought and sold, coerced or deceived into exploitative situations such as prostitution, slave labour or forced begging.

1.1 By rescuing them from exploitative situations

1.2 By providing care and shelter for the victims of trafficking through setting up a network of centres providing shelter and assistance as well as help-lines along trafficking routes.

1.3 By enabling recovery for the victims of trafficking through counseling, education and skills training services.
Objectives (cont’d)

1.3 To enable the victims of trafficking to reintegrate back into their home environment by providing “half-way houses”, safe avenues for return, job creation schemes and follow-up home visits.

2. To facilitate the arrest, successful prosecution and punishment of operators, agents and owners who buy, sell or otherwise traffic women & children against their will and/or for illegal acts.

3. To improve the capacity of government and non-government organizations to mount effective anti-trafficking operations in the Northern Thailand
Coordination Unit

Multi-Disciplinary Network
Government & Non-Government Stakeholders involved with Trafficking Issues

(Provincial Operation Center on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking-POCHT)
Key Partners

Multi-Disciplinary Team

Law Enforcement (Police, Immigration, DSI)
Legal (Public Prosecutors)
Social Welfare (GO/NGO, Shelter)
Medical (Forensic, Psychologist)

Community Network

Community Volunteers in High Risk Areas many from ethnic tribal minorities in border areas
Key Strategies

• Victim Sensitive Case Interviews & Case Conferences with Multi-Disciplinary Teams
• Capacity Building of Multi-Disciplinary Teams
• Policy/Protocol Development
Return & Reintegration

1. Return of Thais to Thailand from countries of destination
2. Return of non-Thais from Thailand to countries of origin
Trafficking routes in and out of Thailand

- Malaysia
- China
- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Cambodia
- Laos

- Bahrain
- South Africa
- Japan
Thai Women returned from trafficking situations abroad

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(Bureau Anti-Trafficking Women & Children
Ministry of Social Development & Human Security)
Procedures for Human Trafficking Cases
Thai-Malaysia Prior 2004

Police
Ant-Vice Raids

Immigration Operation
Illegal Immigrants

Arrest of Thai Cases

Police Station
Prison Cell
(maximum 14 days)

Court Process
Charge/Sentence

Womens
Prison

Immigration Detention Centre

Deportation
To Border Area
Process for Human Trafficking Cases
Thai-Malaysia 2004-2008

Thai Gov’t NGO → Trafficking Incident Report → D7 Police Anti-Vice Raids → Immigration Operation Illegal Immigrants

WORKING AGREEMENT

Rescue of Thai Victims → Thai Embassy Check Nationality

Acceptance Nationality → Refusal Nationality

Shelter (WAKE) CSWs, Victims? Travel Plan 2-7 days → Shelter (Tenaganita) Victims Police Investigation 30 days

Repatriation to Thailand → Immigration Detention Centre Minimum 3 months Up to One Year

Social Welfare Shelter → Deportation To Border Area

Return Home → Follow-Up Social Wkr/Community Guardian

Police Station Prison Cell (maximum 14 days) → Court Process Charged for Illegal Immigration
Procedures for Human Trafficking Cases
Thai-Myanmar 2008: N.Thailand

GO/NGO Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Rescue of Thai Victims
  - Social Welfare Shelter
    - Family Tracing
    - Skills Training
    - Legal Case/Witness Protection
    - Prepare for Return
  - IOM Travel
    - Transfer to Border w/Soc.Wkr
      - Thai Immigration Police
        - Cross Border
          - Reunification with Family w/Soc.Wkr
            - Return Home
              - Follow-Up if feasible and/or appropriate
  - Immigration Police
    - Arrest Illegal Immigrants
      - Immigration Detention Centre
        - Deportation To Border Area
  - Local Police
Steps in Return & Reintegration

- Tracing of Family & Assessment of Home Situation
- Vocational & Life Skills Training
- Determine that victim has recovered from physical and psychological trauma
- Determine safety of home situation
- Prepare victim for reintegration
- Contact organizations in country of origin
- Rendezvous at border crossing and transfer care for victim.
- Follow-up and Home Visits where feasible and appropriate
Case Study
Thai-Malaysia Human Trafficking

CASE SYNOPSIS
Young girls trafficked through Northern Thailand via Bangkok and Had Yai to Johor Bahru in Malaysia where they were confined and forced to provide sexual services to customers from Singapore.

KEY FACTORS FOR CONCERN
1. Very young age of the girls (13yrs -18yrs)
2. Drug use (methamphetamine)
3. Confinement
4. Low condom use in area with area high HIV/AIDS prevalence
5. Frequent physical abuse, beatings and other punishments

VICTIMS
• 7 Thais
• 2 Burmese
• 1 Chinese
Thailand Malaysia Human Trafficking Case Study

Map showing key locations:
- Johor Bahru, Malaysia
- Singapore
- Batam Island, Indonesia
- Chiangrai, Phayao, Lampang, Saraburi, Bangkok, Had Yai, Yunnan, Myanmar

Legend:
- Green: Origin
- Yellow: Transit
- Red: Destination

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Thailand Malaysia Human Trafficking Case Study

Operation

1. Multi-Disciplinary Team in N. Thailand request assistance from TRAFCORD
2. TRAFCORD negotiate release of one of the girls and she is returned to Thailand
3. Thai gov. agencies report case through Bangkok to Malaysia. Malaysian NGOs are contacted but after over a month no result.
4. TRAFCORD investigators sent to Johor Bahru to locate missing girls
5. TRAFCORD investigators maintain close contacts with Multi-Disciplinary Team and first victim in N. Thailand. Sketches and photos are exchanged leading to location of brothel and house where girls are confined.
6. Report is sent to D7 Special Unit, Royal Malaysian Police
7. D7 conduct raid at locations designated by TRAFCORD rescuing 6 girls. Victims are taken to Tenaganita shelter in Kuala Lumpur
8. D7 and Thai social workers interview victims
9. D7 conduct a second raid and rescue a further 3 girls
Diagrams drawn by Victim with help of Multi-Disciplinary Team
In Thailand

Diagram of Brothel

Diagram of house where girls are confined during day
Thailand Malaysia Human Trafficking Case Study
Thailand Malaysia Human Trafficking Case Study
Multidisciplinary Team Meetings in Thailand & Malaysia

**Thailand**
- Thai Police
- Min.Soc.Dev, Social Wkr
- TRAFCORD Social Wkr

**Malaysia**
- D7 Malaysian Police
- Women & Child Unit Thai Police
- Thai Embassy Consular Officer
- Tenaganita Social Wkr (Mal)
- TRAFCORD Social Wkr (Thai)
- FACE Social Wkr (Thai)
Thailand Malaysia Human Trafficking Case Study

Activities in KL Shelter organized by Thai & Malaysian Social Workers (Medical & Psychological Assistance, Family Tracing & Preparation for Return

D7 RMP interviewing victims in KL Shelter
1. Multi-Disciplinary Teams working with victims in shelter in KL send details of family tracing back to Multi-Disciplinary Teams in Thailand who locate the Thai families.

2. 6 Thai girls travel back to Thailand accompanied by Thai police and government social worker.

3. Upon return to Thailand they are taken to government shelter for witness protection while criminal case is investigated and arrests are made. Three escape and three are collected by parents.

4. Meanwhile the families of the girls remaining in the KL Shelter have been located in Burma and China. They are from ethnic minorities. Their families want to collect them at Thai-Burmese border in North Thailand.

5. The girls are adamant in not wishing to be reported to the Burmese Embassy; NGOs in Thailand and Malaysia also advise against this.

6. Thai and Malaysian Immigration police agree to deport them back to Thai-Malaysia border where they are met by Multi-Disciplinary Teams from N. Thailand.
7. They are taken to shelter in N. Thailand and families are notified to collect them at Thai-Burmese border.

8. Girls are accompanied by Thai social workers and Immigration police and returned to Myanmar where they are met by their families and Burmese NGO social workers
Return & Reintegration Issues

• Reintegration
  – Lack of reintegration activities in countries of origin needed to prevent repeat trafficking

• Stateless Persons from ethnic minorities
  – No country willing to accept them as nationals

• Labour Migration
  – Employers apply for and awaiting approval for 1,392,000 workers from Burma, Laos, Cambodia
  – Burmese, Lao, Cambodian workers registered awaiting approval 1,269,000
  – Registered workers: 135,000
Way Forward

• Bilateral cooperation between neighbouring countries
  – MOUs Prevention Trafficking
    • Thailand-Cambodia (2003)
    • COMMITT (Greater Mekong Sub-Region) 2004
    • Thailand-Laos (2005)
    • Thailand-Vietnam (2008)
    • Thailand-Myanmar
    • Thailand-Malaysia
  – MOUs Employment of Workers
    • Thailand-Cambodia (2002)
    • Thailand-Laos (2003)
    • Thailand-Myanmar (2003)
Way Forward

• Temporary Residence Permit
  – As incentive to victims of trafficking to cooperate with competent authorities.

• Harm Reduction
  – In situations where it may not be possible to discourage labour migration to Thailand to provide counselling to avoid or reduce the danger associated with irregular migration