

Exiting Exploitation, Vietnam

FY19 Semi-Annual Update

Project Profile

Project Location	Dien Bien Province
Project Goal	To remove adolescents (aged 12-18) from trafficking and exploitation and put in place a local child protection system
Programme Outcomes	<p>#1 Protection: Enhance protection of children/vulnerable youth from trafficking and exploitation</p> <p>#2 Prevention: Allow adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, to adopt self-protection skills to reduce trafficking and exploitation</p> <p>#3 Prevention: Educate caregivers and parents on how to prevent their children from being trafficked</p>
Project Beneficiaries	1,915 child beneficiaries and 6,080 community members

Overview

In the first 6 months of FY19, this project contributed to removing adolescents aged 12-18 from trafficking and exploitation. It also put in place a local child protection system which successfully rescued 7 victims of human trafficking and built capacity at district and commune levels, enhancing knowledge and skills on anti-human trafficking.

Project Outcome #1

Protection of children/vulnerable youth from trafficking and exploitation

Initial efforts revolved around the establishment of an effective information network from village, communal, district and provincial levels for dissemination of information on the victims. Then, establishment of an alliance with clear roles was put in place.

- During this period, there were **7 victims** rescued, with 6 of them from 6-16 years old
- **62** trafficking victims and trafficking-affected persons received rehabilitation
- Savings for Transformation (S4T) model and cow raising interest groups ensured the sustainability of interventions; all S4T members participated actively in the group activities. For cow raising interest group, there was 1 baby cow born from 12 cows provided

Project Outcome #2

Allow adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, to adopt self-protection skills to reduce trafficking and exploitation

- **1,477 youths** were reached with radio communications and school events

Project Outcome #3

Educate caregivers and parents on how to prevent their children from being trafficked

- **60 child protection committee members** from 5 target communes participated in advocacy event “2019 Tua Chua community – Together to End Human Trafficking Contest”
- **4,368 community members**, compared to 1,000 as targeted, and 1,477 youths were educated on preventing human trafficking and exploitation



Community members being educated on how to identify trafficking dangers and look out for one another

In order to achieve these targets, the project collaborated with the Women Union and Radio & Television of Tua Chua district to reach the villagers in Tua Chua with curriculum for building capacity of communication teams at the grassroots level. The project also supported commune-based communications teams to conduct communication events in all 12 communes of Tua Chua district, which includes 50 villages and 2 schools.

The project was also a collaboration with the Criminal Police Department and Ministry of Public Security to conduct the communication events on child abuse prevention and anti-trafficking in Tua Chua district.

“Now I am aware that everyone can be victims of human trafficking and everyone can be traffickers. The communications help me to know the tricks and forms of human trafficking as well the tips to protect my relatives who are children from human trafficking,” shares Lo Thi Thien, a villager.

Hope Restored



15-year-old Bau, lost and found, safe with World Vision

Bau and her friend So were 15 and 16 years old respectively. As Hmong girls they helped their farmer parents till the soil in the northern part of rural Vietnam on the border with China. They had innocently trusted their new found friends who promised a better life across the river. Initially it was just an exciting journey to the border town, but they allowed themselves to be persuaded to go across the river into China.

Harrowing Experience

That was when their nightmares began. Unknowingly, the teenagers were sold in China. For a month, they were locked up with three other women. They were raped; if they even tried to escape they were beaten.

The girls suffered from depression and were in constant fear of threats, beatings and daily abuse. Only after a year were they allowed to use a phone. Another Vietnamese victim who had been trapped in marriage in China for 8 years guided the girls in calling their parents who raised the issue with World Vision. Together with the police, the girls were brought safely back to Vietnam.

Long road to Rehabilitation

With proper psychological support and encouragement, the girls could face each day with hope and confidence. “Comprehensive support is more than just a care pack. These children have been through physical and emotional abuse. They face difficulty trusting people and face the guilt of allowing themselves to fall prey to traffickers. For them to be properly reintegrated, we work on reducing discrimination against them in the community and helping the children to get back to school system if possible. For those who need income, the programme also includes creating animal raising groups and savings programmes to equip them with vocational skills for an honest living. We don’t want more girls to go through this experience, that is why education and prevention are so important,” shared Mr Nguyen Xuan An, World Vision Area Programme Manager, Dien Bien, Vietnam.