



Prevention & Empowerment
Youth Action Against Trafficking (YAAT)

Objective: To reduce labor and sex trafficking in women and children in Lao PDR by engaging the youth and focusing on outreach and awareness at all levels.

Focuses:

1. Having an active role in anti-trafficking.
2. Encouraging at risk youth to become volunteers to build confidence, skills, and to raise awareness.
3. Youth leadership camps raise awareness through drama, radio, etc.
4. Empowerment through village schools, events, and Q&A sessions.
5. Watchdog institutions for trafficking through officials, teachers, and student representatives; these are called Child Protection Units.

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Social Enterprise: The Dream Weaver Shop

Through social enterprise components such as The Dream Weaver Shop we are able to create incomes for some girls and their families.

Many girls will begin by working in The Dream Weaver shop, utilizing the skills they have learned in the shelter then they will save up money to build their own enterprise closer to their families.

By doing this girls are given a better chance at creating a more stable future for them and be better able to support their families by being closer.

Many learn how to sew and weave, others learn how to process food, some become hairdressers. All the products they create are sold at The Dream Weaver Shop.

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Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children
For the prevention, protection, and rehabilitation of trafficking victims from communities in the Southern Province of Laos



The Situation of Human Trafficking in young Lao people

- Causes of human trafficking can be poverty, unemployment, family issues, peer pressure, unscrupulous labor recruiters, media, low education, absence of strict implementation of local and international laws. Specifically in Lao PDR due to its young and highly mobile population it creates an environment in rural villages prone to sex and labor trafficking.

- From 2008 to 2014 the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children was able to help 144 children through our shelter and 373 people through our Drop-in center and Social Workers; lastly we have helped 17 survivors through our Dream Weaver Shop.



Protection: The SHELTER & Drop-in Center

Southern Home Educating for Life Towards Edification and Regeneration

Benefits of the SHELTER:

- 1. A Safe Shelter**, which has been named “The Dream Home” by past survivors of domestic and international trafficking.
- 2. Health Services:** providing physical care and psychological counseling for victims.
- 3. Educational and Vocational Training:** including Lao language classes (reading, writing, math), weaving, sewing, cooking, hairdressing, fish rising, mushroom and vegetable growing. The girls may pick based on their interest.
- 4. Life Skills Training:** including knowledge of human rights, laws, human trafficking and safe migration, STDs, HIV protection, and other related issues.
- 5. Social Activities:** Therapeutic art activities like painting, papermaking, paper maché, theatre, and sculpture.

Benefits of the Drop-in Center & Social Workers

- 1. Influence at the Border:** At the boarder of Laos and Thailand there are social workers that review pushback cases and determine if they are cases of likely unidentified human trafficking victims, which then are sent to the VFI Drop-in Center.
- 2. The VFI Drop-In center:** A temporary facility where victims are initially sent to be interviewed, then we process the victim’s identification, and provide basic assistance for any immediate needs. The center is also an information center that aims to prevent further unsafe migration.
- 3. Providing Basic Assistance:** Sometimes girls haven’t received daily basic needs often like a toothbrush, a shower, food, etc. and the Drop-in center will provide that to girls who are in need of said things.

