



World Vision

# Patterns, borders, responses

World Vision's  
Mekong Delta Regional  
Trafficking Strategy  
Phase 2 Project



*This young girl living in a Lao border community is already learning about the dangers of migration through community awareness events organised by World Vision Laos*

### **The MDRTS-2 project aims to:**

- (1) improve community capacity to prevent trafficking;*
- (2) increase protection services to trafficking victims;*
- (3) establish cross-border collaborative mechanisms between World Vision National Offices; and*
- (4) manage anti-trafficking projects effectively.*

### **Approaches, based on best practice and the experiences of MDRTS-1, include:**

- (1) provision of common standards and tools;*
- (2) systematic documentation, research and reporting;*
- (3) regional interagency collaboration; and*
- (4) a focus on inter-country activities and identified gaps.*

*MDRTS-2 activities are based around themes detailed in the COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA) and part of the COMMIT process.*

*The project will run until June 2011.*

## A regional approach since 2004

The Asian countries surrounding the Mekong River (the five countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) have among the highest incidence of internal and transnational migration in the world.

Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children leave their homes to cross borders each year in search for new economic opportunities and a better life. In this search, families and individuals become especially vulnerable to human trafficking. Through manipulation, coercion, and force, human beings are reduced to objects, traded, trafficked and exploited.

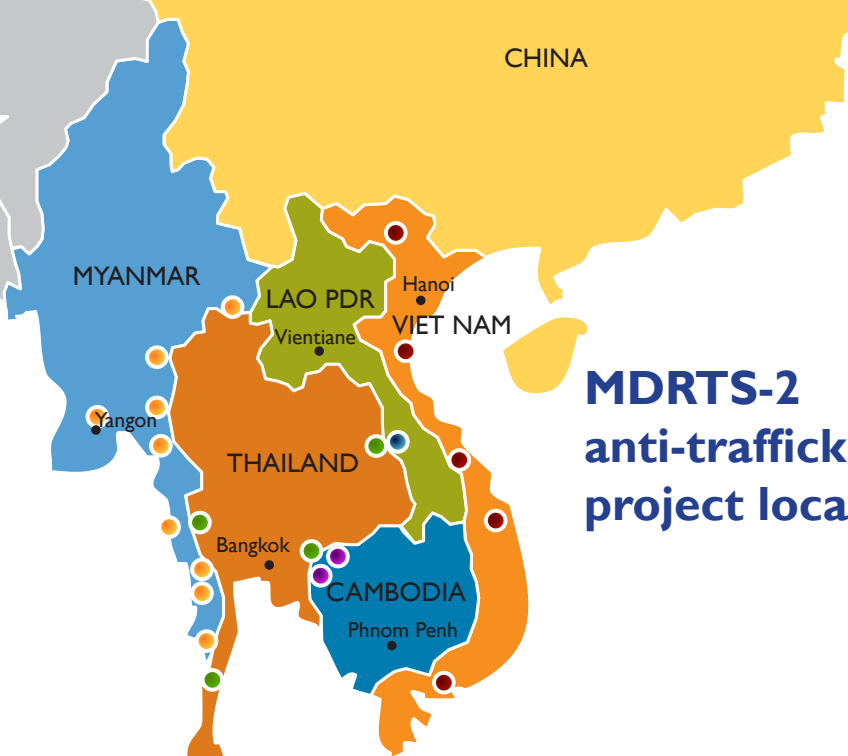
Human trafficking is a phenomenon that straddles many geographic locations and crosses country borders. As an organisation with extensive community-level engagement in all these countries and along key border locations, World Vision can play a major role in the fight against human trafficking.

In 2004, World Vision initiated its first regional anti-trafficking project in the five countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region

(GMS), Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Known as the Mekong Delta Regional Trafficking Strategy (MDRTS) project. It aimed to reduce the number of women and children trafficked for sex work or other forms of exploitative labor within and between the target countries.

The MDRTS project was successful in reducing the number of trafficking victims for sexual exploitation or forced labor through protection of trafficking victims throughout the recovery and reintegration process, direct contribution to better law enforcement and increased prosecution of traffickers; and increased collaboration among anti-trafficking partners and stakeholders.

The Mekong Delta Regional Trafficking Strategy Phase 2 project (MDRTS-2) is built on the successes and lessons of the MDRTS-1 project. Its goal is to reduce vulnerabilities to trafficking and help trafficking survivors to recover from the trafficking experience within and between the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.



## MDRTS-2 anti-trafficking project locations

**Source:** A country or region from which people migrate, or are recruited, to another location in search of better opportunities

**Transit:** A country or region through which people regularly travel, including in the hands of traffickers. Their journey is tolerated, even supported, by local residents along the way.

**Destination:** A country or region to which people migrate, or are transported, and end up in trafficked situations. Formal or informal labor sectors may demand or accept victims of trafficking, where forced labor, debt bondage, or other coercive arrangements will keep victims in a situation of severe exploitation.

**RACTP:** Regional Advocacy anti Child Trafficking Project

**MDRTS-2:** Mekong Delta Regional Trafficking Strategy Phase 2

# World Vision **GMS** anti-trafficking projects

**China**  
(source, transit, destination)  
• RACTP

**Vietnam**  
(source, transit, destination)  
• RACTP, MDRTS-2

**Myanmar**  
(source, transit)

- Action Against Trafficking (AAT)
- Children in Crisis (CIC)
- Laboratories of Learning
- Myanmar Trafficking in Persons Program
- RACTP, MDRTS-2

**Laos**  
(source, transit)

- Voices of Victims (VOV)
- RACTP, MDRTS-2

**Thailand**  
(source, transit, destination)

- Assistance Support and Protection Project (ASAP)
- Children in Need of Special Protection Project (CNSP)
- RACTP, MDRTS-2

**Cambodia**  
(source, transit, destination)

- Children at High Risk Prevention Project (CHRPP)
- Mobilizing Children for Child Participation project (MCCP)
- Children in Crisis, Laboratories of Learning
- Aftercare for Sexually Abused Children in Cambodia (ATSACC)
- Child Safe Tourism (CST) Project
- Child Sex Tourism Prevention (CSTP) Project
- Law Enforcement Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children (LEASETC)
- Neavear Thmey Trauma Center
- RACTP, MDRTS-2

## (I) Community capacity to prevent trafficking

### Safe migration information and assistance:

The MDRTS-2 is assisting vulnerable migrants in transit and destination areas by providing migrant assistance services. Potential migrants are provided with information on project offices and service available to them. They can maintain contact with their families back home through project offices in transit/destination areas.

### Community-based protection mechanisms:

Prevention efforts need to be linked and undertaken at all points of the migration process including source, transit, and destination areas in order to be successful. Through community capacity building to establish community-based protection mechanisms, MDRTS-2 is helping villages at the source to strengthen community action to protect vulnerable individuals from trafficking.

### Life skills education among target groups:

Trafficking in persons can be best prevented when families and community are actively involved in protecting children and young people. Children, youth, and adults are given the opportunity to participate in prevention efforts by acting as peer educators in their communities.



*Bic sets the mood to make learning fun at a life skills session for children in a slum community, Pattaya, Thailand. A former street child himself, he understands the empty promises that attract children to Pattaya's enormous and illegal sex tourism industry. Engaging the community to identify and share their own messages on trafficking risks means more accurate, targeted and sustainable information flow.*

## **(2) Increase protection services to trafficking victims**

### **Direct assistance provided to trafficking victims identified in project areas:**

The project will provide direct assistance to victims in project areas, ensuring their access to immediate protection services, such as emergency physical and psychological care, safe shelter, and referral to law enforcement authorities.

To do so, the project will regularly collaborate with law enforcement agencies. As well as funding and advising on shelters, World Vision will encourage governments and local partners to sustain their own compassionate, quality services.

### **Enhanced partnerships among stakeholders in providing (re)integration assistance:**

The project will work with repatriation and reintegration partners to provide assistance to trafficking survivors returning to project locations in Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Moreover, the project will also support interagency partnership in improving the language capacity in victim shelters by facilitating periodic visits of social workers from the source countries to shelters in destination countries.

### **Increased access to quality (re)integration services:**

MDRTS-2 will partner with local government counterparts to provide reintegration support to each individual client returning to WV areas. Furthermore, the project will document case data of returnees and enter into the case management system. Non-confidential data will be analyzed on annual basis to reveal trends in the trafficking phenomenon and track service provision.

### (3) Establish cross-border collaboration mechanisms between World Vision National Offices and initiatives

#### **Improved collaboration across the migration journey:**

MDRTS-2 will improve collaboration between project teams in different locations by organizing or conducting cross-border meetings, exchange visits for staff and local partners, and discussion between two countries on issues specific to their context.

For example, source areas might collaborate with transit and destination areas on an implementation of community-based protection mechanisms to promote safe migration, or source areas work with destination areas on the return and reintegration of trafficking survivors.

#### **Improved collaboration on project design and outcomes:**

Improved collaboration between World Vision anti-trafficking projects is another goal, especially the Regional Advocacy anti-Child Trafficking Project (RACTP). This combination of advocacy efforts and field work links in with broad efforts across the region to combat trafficking more effectively.

Learning and assessment events will be held jointly between the two regional initiatives to discuss and improve anti-trafficking interventions, in particular prevention and reintegration.

The project will set up a case management system to track reintegration support provided to returnees.



*In 2007, World Vision's RACTP contributed to the Mekong Youth Forum, a coalition initiative to include children's opinions and experiences in regional policy discussions on anti-trafficking, in collaboration with Save the Children UK and International Labor Organization (ILO). Children were brought together firstly at district level to learn about the trends and risks of migration in their own area. They elected spokespeople to represent their viewpoint at national level (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) then finally at regional level at the Mekong Youth Forum Bangkok. This structure of nominated youth delegates gave children across the region a voice to construct their own recommendations on the issue, which were presented to high level decision makers at December's Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the COMMIT process in Beijing.*

## (4) Managing programmes effectively

### Effective project management is crucial to the success of MDRTS-2 initiatives:

In particular, adequate staffing, training and resources will be provided to ensure project work demands do not exceed the project's capacity.

Monitoring of the project's implementation through field analysis, national and regional project review meetings, and regular narrative and financial reporting, will allow World Vision and its partners to understand more clearly the patterns of trafficking and the best and most innovative ways to work together against them.

For more information on MDRTS-2 project structure, funding and budget contact Mr John Whan Yoon, [JohnWYoon@wvi.org](mailto:JohnWYoon@wvi.org)

*Learning beautician skills is one of the most popular vocational training choices at Cambodia's Neavear Thmey Centre for formerly trafficked or sexually abused girls. Other options include weaving, tailoring and computer skills.*

*As well, these girls learn how to read and write. For many, it is their first time at school.*



*World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.*

*Motivated by our Christian faith, World Vision works with the world's most vulnerable people.*

*World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.*

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