



Alliance Anti Trafic (AAT)

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



**This report is a compilation of
all the work results of AAT in
2021:**

PROTECTION LEGAL ASSISTANCE EMPOWERMENT of women and children of risk or victims of sexual exploitation OTHERS



This report is the result of all the work of AAT in our main target areas which are Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar. It also includes working with our networks/volunteers in China, and other countries where women and children from Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar are sexually exploited and trafficked into countries such as the UAE, Bahrain, and Belgium. In addition, AAT has built working networks to provide assistance and protection to our target groups in different countries in Europe.

About Alliance Anti Traffic (AAT)

Over 20 years, we, Alliance Anti Traffic (AAT), have been fighting for a better life for women and girls affected by sexual violence. We have provided our services to more than 3,000 victims in and from Thailand, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. We believe in the power of empowerment. With our professional staff and strong networking partners, our women and children will be able to stand up for themselves and assist others. AAT began action in Thailand in 2003. We provide rescue, assistance, rehabilitation, legal support, repatriation, follow-up, empowerment, and career opportunities, and watchdog and prevention for at-risk women and children as well as our beneficiaries. AAT also conducts advocacy actions at policy level. Our methods of works are to collaborate with public and private agencies for the best benefit of our beneficiaries.

 www.aatthai.org

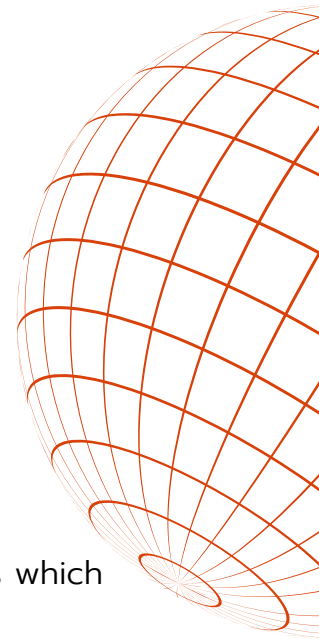
 www.facebook.com/aatthailandd

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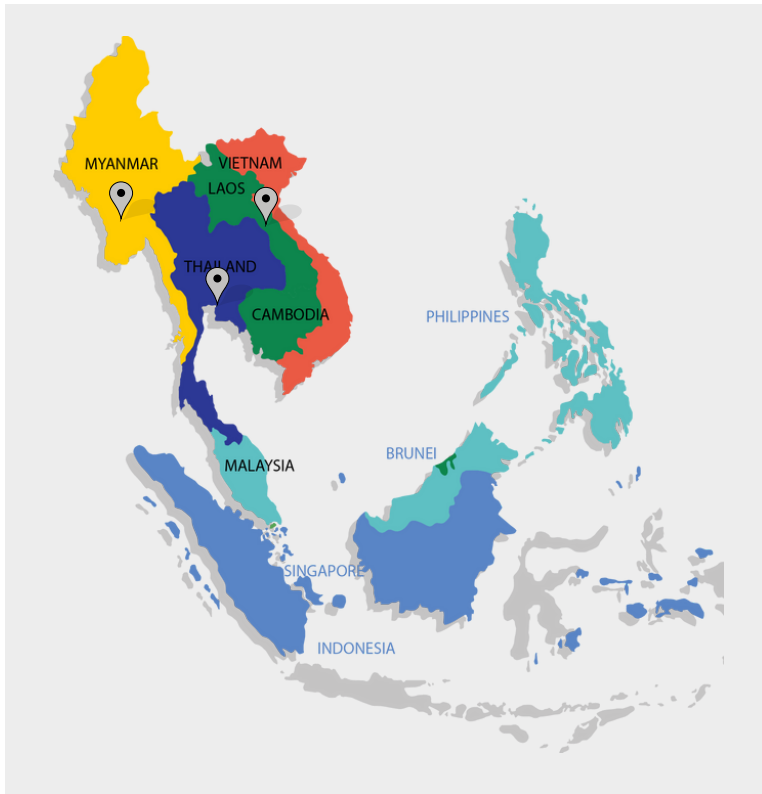




AAT'S WORKING PROCESS

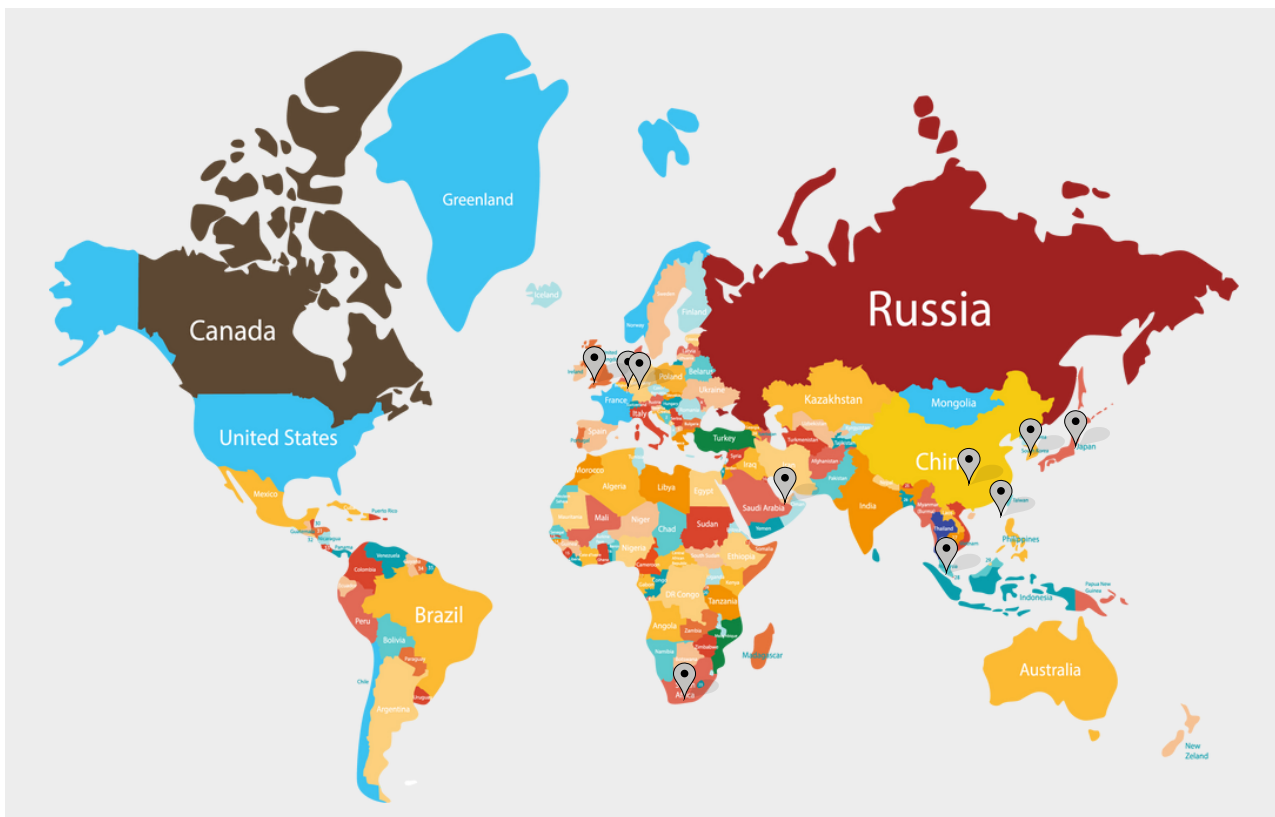


Working Locations



AAT's main working areas are Thailand, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. We assist and protect women and girls from sexual violence, regardless of their nationalities. This includes stateless people.

AAT also works with our partner organizations and volunteers who provide assistance and protection to Thai, Lao, and Burmese women and girls in other countries such as Bahrain, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and Europe.



VOICES FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES

I'm so happy that I got to know the AAT staff. They gave me advice. Since I joined AAT's program, I have learned a lot about human trafficking, safe migration, online dangers. These things were all new to me. Also, my parents understand me better than before. They don't force me to leave school to go and find a job in Vientiane anymore. I'm contented that I decided to continue my education. I feel that I made the right choice. It is my dream to finish school. As a girl from the countryside, the chances of finishing high school are very scarce.

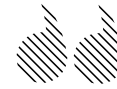
Message from a 17-year-old Lao girl whom AAT protected from sexual exploitation in Lao PDR



I did what I had promised the AAT staff. My daughter finished grade 10. She is currently in grade 11. We'd like to thank AAT for assisting and giving good and useful advice to her. If not, she would go back to the bad track as before. We didn't understand her then. We didn't know what she had to go through. Though, we will try our best to support her to continue her education.

**** AAT made an agreement with the parents that they should support their daughter to continue studying. The agreement with parents is part of the protection process.*

Message from the father of a 17-year-old Lao girl whom AAT protected from sexual exploitation in Lao



I was naughty for quite some time after I left the shelter. AAT helped me a lot. I can continue my studies as well as have a job to earn my income. Actually, I hope AAT staff can visit me once a month because I want their emotional support. They always give me advice which has made me feel that I'm valued.

When I work as AAT volunteer, it's like a real work to me. It's quite new as if we have another career. I received a lot of experience. I was trained to be more disciplined and organized.

I also learned how to live and work with other people. Life of each person is different. There are people that have more problems than we. If I did not have my own job, I'd help AAT as a volunteer. And I'm so proud that I can earn my own income without asking from my parents. So, they are not worried about me.

Message from a 19-year-old Thai young lady whom AAT protected from sexual exploitation in Thailand



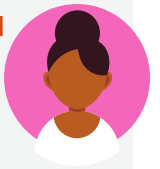
Before joining AAT's program, I had no job, no stable income. I only got 4,000 THB (approx. US\$111) after six months of growing vegetables. The income was not enough for our family so we had to sell our land. After receiving support from AAT, I'm so happy because AAT gave me hope and opportunities and made me feel more confident. I'm contented with what I chose which is farming. I have a clear goal for my life. Also, every time I talk to AAT staff, I have more energy and feel that I can overcome any obstacles

Message from a 22-year-old Shan woman (Myanmar) whom AAT protected from forced marriage in China



Due to COVID-19, I had no income. After having waited for 3 months, my mother gave me 2,000 THB (approx. 56 USD). She told me that she'd give me more because I had to take care of both my grandmother and my sister. Though, after AAT provided support, I had choices in my life. The support has been very useful for me. And I can see my future. I selected sewing which is my interest. Even though I had to start from the beginning, teachers are very helpful and nice. I understand the basics and have more sewing skills. I feel that I am more patient and have more confidence to take care of my family.

Message from a 22-year-old Shan woman (Myanmar) whom AAT protected from forced marriage in China



AAT program is very useful for us. We alone or even our families could not find ways to get us home. Thanks to AAT, we can go back home safely. Not only that, we also receive other services such as career orientation, educational support. It is very beneficial because after we were rescued and returned back home, we also can inform others and help those who face difficulties.

Opinion sharing of several Lao girls who participate during one of AAT activities.

I could become a nurse assistant because AAT staff gave me advice on career opportunities. They always listen to me and regularly visit me. I feel quite comforted, like I am not alone. For me, they are my parents. They keep giving me advice and taking care of me.

Since I joined as one of the volunteers, I am contented. It seems as if we are givers. We can help those who are in need and they are able to smile again.

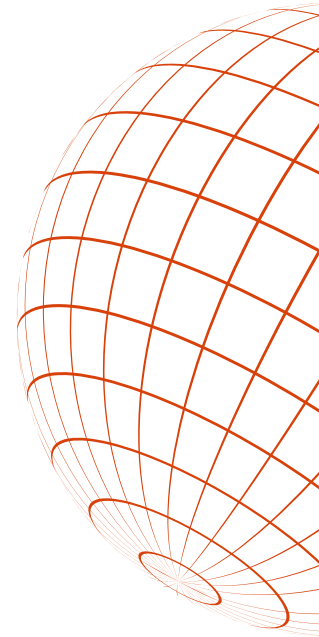
Message from a 19-year-old Thai young lady whom AAT protected from sexual exploitation in Thailand



INTRODUCTION



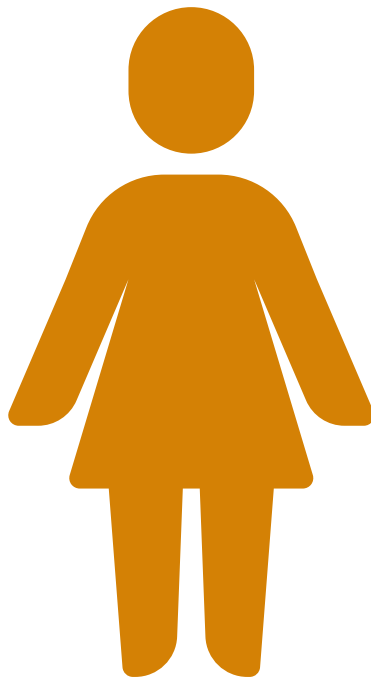
The pandemic hit us all throughout 2021. The disease and the restrictions of governments around the world affected both social and economic issues. Countries where Alliance Anti Traffic or AAT works were also impacted by the pandemic. For Thailand, the landscape of sexual exploitation was almost completely changed to online (sexual exploitation). As a result, it was difficult to search for women and girls who really needed help. In Laos, due to strict COVID-19 restrictions, it was difficult to directly conduct any work during the pandemic. As such, AAT had to work through our volunteers and network partners in the country. During this period, AAT also learned that online virtual nudity shows were taking place to compensate for the loss of in-person entertainment venues. For Myanmar, not only did the pandemic hit the country, the armed conflict and coup d'état in Myanmar also caused problems. People in Myanmar were restricted to remain in their own communities where strangers or outsiders could be arrested by soldiers of various troops. This affected the field work when we had plans to follow-up, provide consultation, and occupational support for our beneficiaries as well as conduct any campaigning and training activities in Thailand, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. Not only did it affect activities with our beneficiaries, it also affected collaboration with local government and non-governmental organizations. As a consequence, we transformed our actions into virtual activities and through volunteers. As we couldn't travel from one province to another, we called for the assistance of our volunteers and agents of change (former victims trained as volunteers). Being already placed in communities at risk (where we could conduct field visits), our volunteers conducted visits directly in their communities to people at risk/victims and provided them with emergency assistance.



Summary of AAT's results of 2021

Total protection: 83 people

Total legal assistance:
34 cases with
83 victims

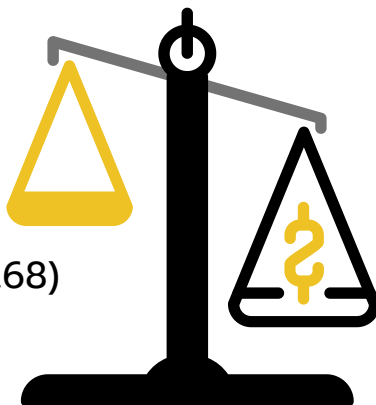


Total rehabilitation/
reintegration:
386 people

Total capacity building and raising awareness:
both offline and online 54,804 people



Total annual income:
19,789,676.83 THB
(approx. US\$554,332.68)



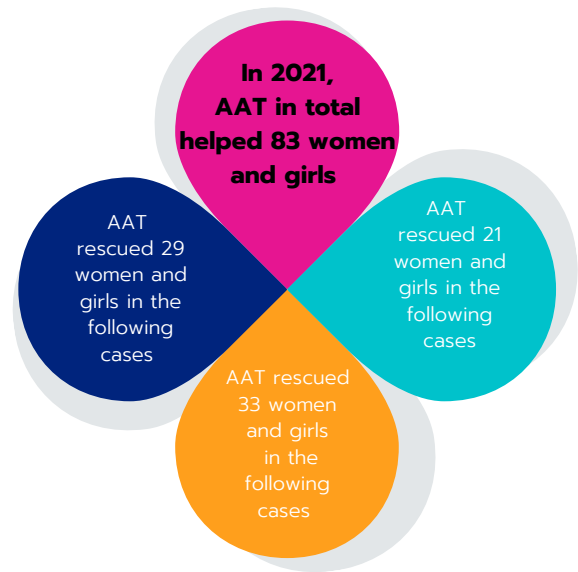
Total annual expenditures:
19,803,863.62 THB
(approx. US\$554,730.07)





Protection

Alliance Anti Traffic (AAT) protects women and children from sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, online sexual violence, sexual trafficking, forced marriage in China, and forced surrogacy. We work through direct field actions and through collaboration with network partners who are government and non-government organizations, and volunteers in our main target areas and other countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and countries in the Middle East and Europe.



AAT protected 29 women and girls in the following cases:

- Protection from online danger/threatened via online channel: 3 Thais
- Protection from sexual exploitation: 6 Thais and 1 Vietnamese
- Rescue operations from dangerous places: 19 Thais

AAT protected 21 women and girls in the following cases:

- Protection from sexual exploitation: 18 people
- Interception before reaching Thailand: 1 person
- Interception before reaching China for forced marriage: 1 person
- Consultation on migration to China: 1 person

Highlight

From regularly working with women's groups and volunteers, agents of change, we receive case notification, reports on situations, and information about their peers. This can lead to rescue and help women and children who are in need.



AAT protected 33 women and girls from overseas in the following cases:

- Forced marriage in China: We protected 27 Lao nationals and 2 Shan (Burmese) women and girls
- Protection from sexual exploitation in China: 1 Lao young woman.
- AAT also protected and returned 3 Thai women back to Thailand from the United Arab Emirates



After our coordination, the Lao police rescued a Lao woman before she crossed into Thailand.



After rescue operations, AAT staff accompanied victims to a government shelter in Thailand.



A Lao woman was taken to the Lao embassy in China.

Legal Assistance

In 2021, AAT provided legal assistance to 83 people

In Thailand: 72 people



In Laos: 11 people

With our lawyers, AAT provides legal assistance to women and children who are victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. AAT supports legal actions to both beneficiaries from our own cases and from the requests of our network partners, whether government or non-government agencies.

Apart from seeking justice for beneficiaries, we also work to suppress offenders and to work to provide compensation for victims.

Highlight

Government agencies such as Kredtrakarn Protection and Occupational Development Center and the Provincial Justice Department of Pattani province as well as non-government organizations such as Childline Foundation and Operation Under Railroad trust AAT and request AAT to help on matters related to legal actions.

In Thailand, AAT provided assistance into 29 legal cases:

- Continued from previous years (2017 – 2020): 13 cases with 35 victims
- Cases in 2021: 16 cases with 37 victims



AAT also assisted 11 victims from 9 cases to receive 340,253 THB compensation fee (approx. US\$ 9,500)

- Compensation fee from offender: 40,000 THB (approx. US\$1,120)
- Compensation fee from Anti-Human Trafficking Fund from Ministry of Social Development and Human Security: 36,640 THB (approx. US\$1,025)
- Compensation fee from Ministry of Justice: 263,613 THB (approx. US\$7,365)

49 offenders prosecuted

11 victims from **9 CASES** received 340,253 THB



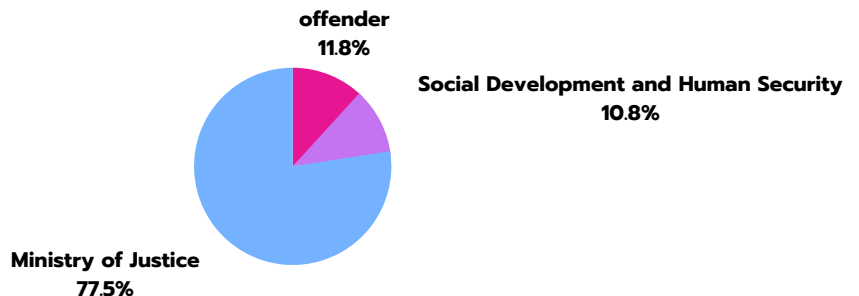
AAT lawyer worked with officials from the Ministry of Justice in Thailand in order to request monetary compensation for victims.



In Thailand: Meeting on arresting offenders



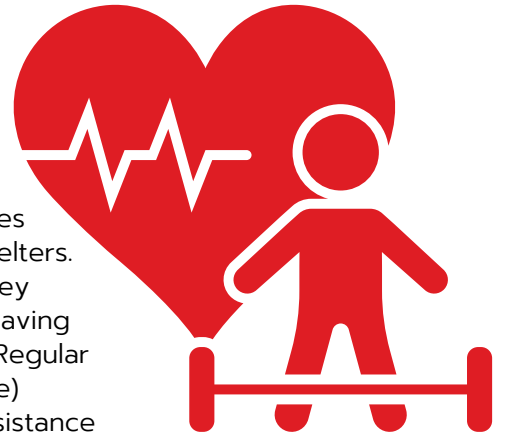
In Thailand: Staff prepared the beneficiaries for legal actions.



In Laos, AAT collaborated with Lao Development and Partnership (LDP) to provide legal assistance for 5 legal cases with 11 victims.

AAT and LDP had monthly meetings throughout the year in order to discuss and learn about case management. Also, AAT and LDP conducted a selection process of 15 lawyers in Laos to be part of intensive training for year 2022.

Empowerment



In Thailand, AAT delivers mental and physical rehabilitation services to beneficiaries who stay both inside and outside government shelters. AAT assists them to return to their hometown or safe places if they cannot reintegrate back to their communities and families after leaving the shelters, or Thai women and girls who return from overseas. Regular follow-up and visits are also provided. For Lao and Shan (Burmese) victims, after having been protected, AAT provides them with assistance and support to go home or safe places as well as conducting regular follow-up.

In the three countries, AAT organizes empowerment and life skills training to beneficiaries in order that they can gain confidence and self-esteem. We also organize education and career orientation programs to create choices in their lives. This program consists of consultation, field visits, word-of-mouth promotion from beneficiaries who are successful in their education and career. In addition, AAT supports vocational training, internships, and funding for both education and careers.

AAT intends to have volunteers who are former victims residing in Thailand, Laos, Myanmar. Not only former victims, we also want to have volunteers who are women, young generation as well as communities, in the mentioned countries and overseas. This is to provide prevention and protection by sharing and giving consultation to those who are in need or to report cases to AAT or relevant organizations.



Highlight

“Support and encouragement of family can make daughters strong”

Parents of one of our beneficiaries in Laos did not support their daughters to study as they thought that education was not important for girls. After AAT supported their eldest daughter to pursue her education, the parents changed their minds. They decided to send the younger daughter to further her studies as well.



In Thailand

- Rehabilitation: 82 Thais, 5 Lao nationals, 1 Burmese
- Follow-up after reintegration: 242 people and 113 families
- Scholarship and occupational support: 24 people
- Active volunteers (agents of change): 25 volunteers
- Training for watchdogs (human trafficking, online dangers, safe migration, case notification know-how) to women's network in Northeastern region of Thailand (92 people), 369 students from 19 schools in Northeastern region of Thailand, and knowledge/situation sharing on forced marriage (to China) to 25 university students of Chulalongkorn University.



AAT conducted virtual visits and rehab activities to beneficiaries in government shelters in Thailand



In Laos

- Follow-up after reintegration: 49 people
- Scholarship and occupational support: 30 people
- Active volunteers (agents of change): 3 people
- By working together with our network partners, training for watchdogs (human trafficking, situation of forced marriage in China, online dangers, safe migration, case notification know-how): 527 people



Volunteers/ Agents of change organized sharing info sessions on forced marriage in China, human trafficking, and safe migration to at-risk women and children in Laos.



In Shan state, Myanmar

- Follow-up after reintegration: 7 people
- Scholarship and occupational support: 3 people
- Training for watchdogs (human trafficking, situation of forced marriage in China, online dangers, safe migration, case notification know-how)
 - Through Tai Care Share Facebook, MAP, and Shan Radio Facebook: 53,455 people
 - Through discussion in target areas: 71 people
 - Through survival kit activity: 265 Shan/Burmese refugees in refugee camp in Thailand. They fled from Myanmar to Thailand because of severe armed conflict. AAT gave them the survival kits and shared information about safe migration and human trafficking so that they have a set of knowledge when they migrate to other area



Our beneficiaries in Myanmar received funding for sewing courses.



AAT staff gave away survival kits to refugees.



In other countries

We rescued and supported medical services and accommodation for Thai victims while they were in the United Arab Emirates as well as flight tickets to return to Thailand. AAT also visited Thai victims who returned from Belgium and the United Arab Emirates to their hometowns in Thailand.

Others

ADVOCACY

AAT also does advocacy work in order to encourage change or create more policies in order to protect children and women from sexual violence. AAT conducts research and surveys and presents to relevant government agencies. When there are issues concerning women and children in society as well as legal cases, AAT and/or partners/networks organize meetings and conferences with both government and non-governmental organizations to seek solutions.

Below are the examples of events AAT conducted in 2021 in Thailand:



The Road Home

On 30 June 2021, AAT conducted a virtual conference with Thai government officers from Ministry of Social Development and Human Security called “The Road Home” on reintegration works development after beneficiaries leave shelters. In the meeting, AAT presented the reintegration lessons learned from activities AAT did with beneficiaries who had already left government shelters.



Open letter to Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

On 27 October 2021, AAT along with Friends of Women Foundation, and Foundation for Child Development provided an open letter to Minister of Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand to propose policies on internet safety.

Development of Watchdogs and Volunteers

In 2021, we identified at-risk women and girls as well as victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking in communities and schools in Northeastern Thailand where we connected and developed networking such as Udonthani, Konkaen, Nongkhai, and Surin provinces. AAT also developed its networks of NGOs and volunteers in Laos, Myanmar, and other countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Europe to be our networks in being watchdogs, case referral, and to protect at-risk groups and victims. Besides, AAT received case notifications and situations of exploitation from our agents of change and women groups in countries where we work and have partners.

Message from a group of volunteers all over the world who helped AAT throughout 2021



I have volunteered with AAT for a number of years now, both in person, and online. It has been both a heart-warming and heart-breaking experience to visit other countries with them, speak to rescued victims, GOs and NGOs in order to attempt to improve the prevention, rescue, care-giving, protection, and career advisory opportunities for at-risk women and children. The work that AAT does is admirable, and absolutely necessary.

By Jane Olivier



I'm so happy that I can be a part of AAT. Every time that I help AAT is my happy time.

By Nannaphat Pornteparaks or Jayne



I became an AAT volunteer through people that I know.

I know that AAT is doing a great job helping women around the world and it's great being a part of it.

By Vasilisa Kirsanova



I'm always excited about what I learn. I'm impressed when I know about the works that can benefit a lot of people. So I give value in every volunteering works that I do. It feels like I'm be a part that push the organization forward. Working as a volunteer also help me become more mature and develop my skills when I helped out those who in need. It is a valuable experience for me.

By Penpichaya Suttimark



I'm proud to work as a volunteer for AAT. I can use my own skills and abilities to help AAT. I feel so happy that I can be a part of this good cause.

By Dhritsa Sudhirakuljai



I have volunteered as a consultant for AAT for over 5 years. During that time, we have focused on developing organizational infrastructure; evaluation methods and recording and demonstrating impact. I have worked with them in Bangkok and more recently remotely from a European base. Their approach has always been to listen and act. This is largely because they are organizationally aware and appreciate that there is always room for making things better for the people that they support. They welcome honest feedback and challenge themselves to find more effective and efficient ways. As a volunteer – I feel that the time I am able to give them is appreciated and I feel a valued part of their team.

By Juliette Green

Definition



Protection: The action to rescue a victim from sexual violence (sexual exploitation and sexual abuse) to ensure the victim is in a safe situation and will not be re-victimized

Agent of Change/Change Agent: A former victim who received AAT's empowerment, rehabilitation, and capacity-building training to become an Agent of Change. Agents of Change roles vary according to their interest and the needs. They can:

- act as an active watchdog to notify of cases that need assistance.
- raise the awareness of the population in their community to prevent others from becoming victims.
- identify and protect victims.
- facilitate in AAT's rehabilitation activities.
- follow up beneficiaries and support them in their career alternatives.

Beneficiary: A person who benefits from our services - either a victim or a group at risk.

Target groups (of AAT): The girls and women who are considered at risk of becoming victims (ex: working in massage parlours, entertainment venues, and other jobs that will lead to the risk of sexual exploitation). This includes the people who are at risk of falling victim to other forms of sexual exploitation such as forced marriage, forced surrogacy, and online sexual exploitation, as well as those who are or were victims of all these forms of sexual violence.

Victim: Persons who are sexually exploited including forced marriage, forced surrogacy, and sexual abuse.

Watchdog: Local people/CSOs/government agencies who have been trained to identify human trafficking, and on case notifications. They are the active group that reports the cases.

Women's group: The Thai, Lao, and Shan women's network, and the beneficiaries of AAT's services. Some of them are former victims who were rescued by AAT, or the at-risk groups that participate in reporting the cases but are not yet trained.



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