

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MYANMAR MUSLIM WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MAE SOT



Third Party Mechanism Activity Implemented by Foundation for Women

Project time frame: 1 June 2017 – 30 June 2018

Key Features

As part of IOM's "Promoting Stability, Well-being and Harmony for Myanmar Muslims and Host Communities in Thailand" project, funded by the European Union, a Third Party Mechanism provides sub-grants to selected third parties to implement projects to tackle challenges faced by Myanmar Muslim communities.

As a recipient of a sub-grant, Foundation for Women's project targets vulnerable groups in Myanmar Muslim communities in Mae Sot, including female victims of domestic violence as well as women and youths at risk of domestic and gender-based violence.

The project aims to improve the status of Muslim women in the community through empowerment activities which help women be more aware of their rights, better protect themselves and help bring change to their respective communities where legal and referral mechanisms have been put in place to support them.

Key activities include:

- Providing legal counselling, temporary shelter, emergency support and basic social support to women and children who were victims of violence.
- Developing evidence based standard operating procedures and guidelines for community based protection mechanisms that take into account relevant laws and religious principles with participation from women leaders, religious leaders, community leaders, and relevant government agencies.
- Conducting capacity building trainings and empowerment activities for Muslim women and teenage girls to elevate their status and skills to be able to become volunteers and advocates to support and assist the victims of violence in their respective communities.



Achievements

- 25 mobile community trainings on gender-based violence against women and existing protection and referral services for victims of gender-based violence under the Thai law, were organized and attended by 586 Myanmar Muslim women in the 5 violence-prone Muslim communities in Mae Sot.
- Community task force for protection of women victims of gender-based violence have been formed. Thai religious leaders, community leaders and volunteers have been sensitized and engaged in addressing 18 cases of gender-based violence from Myanmar Muslim households during three case conference meetings.
- Guidelines for the protection of female victims of gender-based violence in the Muslim community have been created. The guidelines reflect Islamic principles with regards to gender-based violence issues. They also provide information on the process involved to protect female victims of gender-based violence.
- As part of the community level protection mechanism, 15 female volunteers from five Myanmar Muslim communities were recruited and received training to assist the victims of gender-based violence in accessing protection services.
- 91 women and children who were victims of violence (41 Myanmar Muslim and 50 others) received legal counselling services and legal assistance from the project.
- 60 women and children (20 Myanmar Muslims and 40 others) were provided with temporary shelter.
- 19 women and children who were victims of violence (5 Myanmar Muslims and 14 others) received emergency support, such as coverage of hospital fees, daily subsistence, transportation for travel to court, and other necessities.
- 54 young Myanmar Muslim leaders (aged under 18) have received empowerment and capacity building activities that built their self confidence and self esteem. They will serve as change agents to educate and empower peers and younger Myanmar Muslim girls in their respective communities.
- 3,000 copies of handbook on sexual violence against girls and how to protect themselves entitled “Rue Chi Vit” (life boat) were produced with the information compiled and illustrated by girl leaders.



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