2021

Impact Report

Child Rescue
FREEDOM FROM EXPLOITATION

Destiny Rescue™
RESCUING CHILDREN

Freeing Trafficked Children Together

from OUR FOUNDER

TONY KIRWAN

Since 2001, we have been relentless in pursuing freedom for children. All children have inherent dignity, infinite worth and are entitled to their freedom. 2021 was our biggest and best year to date. We rescued more kids than ever before and helped many survivors take the first steps towards lasting freedom. We celebrate 2021's accomplishments because each number represents an actual person whose life has been impacted and forever changed. My hope for every child rescued is that he or she will never return to the sex trade.
I want them to be free, to play like children and to live out the destinies God intended for their lives.

Tony Kirwan

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A record year in rescue, reintegration enrollment, raids and arrests across our eight rescue nations.

70% OF THOSE RESCUED WERE CHILDREN

- children 70.7%
- young adults 21.5%
- adults 7.7%

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BIGGEST YEAR EVER

in rescue and reintegration

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Greatest number of rescues, reintegration enrolments, raids and arrests.

2386

SURVIVORS RESCUED

across eight nations

This can be broken down to an average of seven rescues a day.

1212

SURVIVORS ENR0LLED

in our reintegration programmes

1,116 survivors entered our community care programme and 96 came to live in our residential homes.

92
RAIDS

147
ARRESTS

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Covid-19's impact heightened food insecurity in vulnerable communities and drove more of the sex industry online.

Food drops

In some countries, food became a vital element in both our rescue efforts and reintegration services.

Agents found hundreds of children enduring sexual exploitation in order to feed themselves or their families.

Monthly food packs became a regular feature of our reintegration services in certain countries. In one country, these packs were distributed across 250 villages.

Food drops also enabled rescue agents to find and rescue even more children from exploitation within target communities. One food drop alone rescued 141 children.

Online and social media

In multiple rescue nations, we witnessed social media play a larger role in child sex trafficking.

In the Philippines, agents saw an increase in the use of social media to coordinate the sale of children.

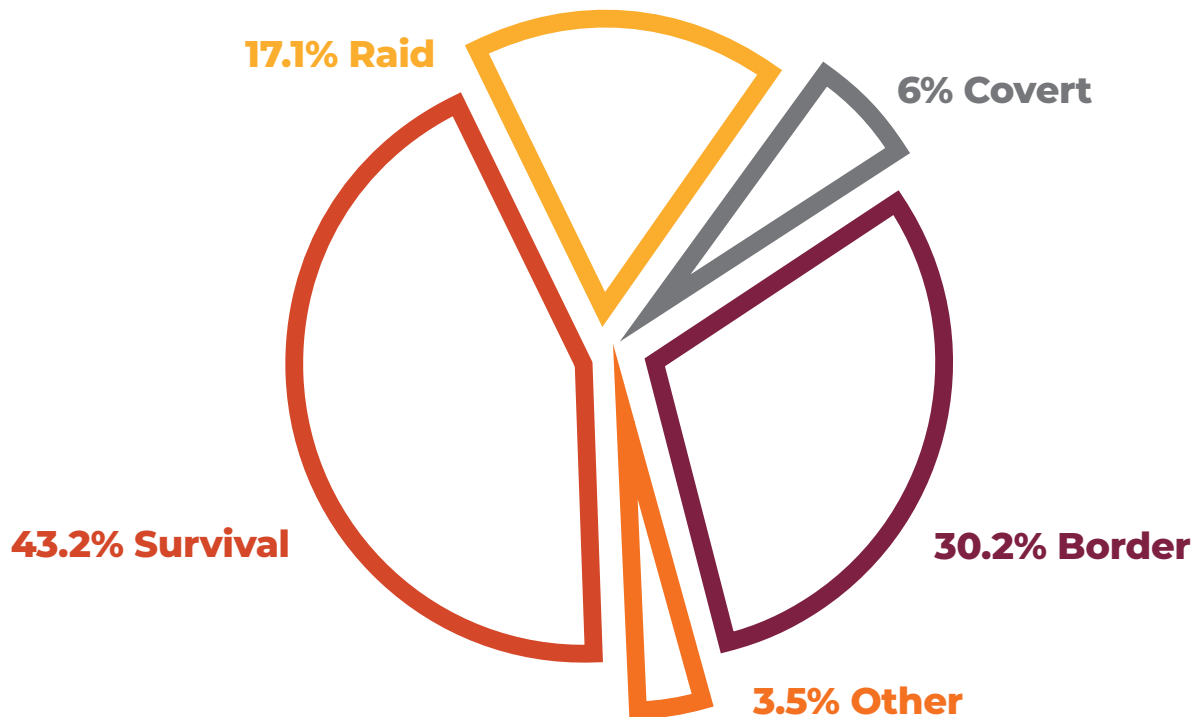In proactive response, specific teams of rescue agents focused their efforts online to find kids.

NEPAL
45% met their trafficker on social media

THAILAND
63% of survivors rescued via covert ops were initially found online

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Agents found and rescued over 1000 children being sexually abused to survive.

This year in rescue

Our teams employed various tactics to rescue children around the world and help them stay free.

17.1% Raid

6% Covert

43.2% Survival

30.2% Border

3.5% Other

Border rescue was spearheaded by our female Nepali agents monitoring key border checkpoints.

Agents performed over 21,000 interviews across 15 border stations. Their efforts rescued 721 people from human trafficking.

Covert rescues were facilitated by our agents going undercover to find and rescue children from the sex industry.

144 survivors were rescued via covert rescue, almost all of them were children.

Raid rescue missions were all in collaboration with law enforcement.

92 raids across five countries led to the rescue of 408 survivors and facilitated the arrest of 147 alleged perpetrators.

Survival rescues happened when agents found children being sexually exploited on the streets or within their communities, most of whom were selling themselves in order to survive. Agents then worked directly with families to secure the child's safety and freedom. 1,031 survivors, almost all children, were rescued in this way.

Other rescues include instances where we rescued children from child marriage, sexual abuse and rape.

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UGANDA

100%
OF SURVIVORS ENTERED REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES

Over 8% in residential care

Over 91% in community care

"For sure my future will be well."

Survivor
Uganda, age 16

Our first year in Uganda was a huge success!
••••••

By working closely with established, trauma-informed partners in Uganda, our rescue efforts were an immediate success. In our first full year of operation, we rescued over 400 Ugandan girls and enrolled each survivor in our reintegration programmes.

GROWTH

After a soft launch in November 2020, our pilot programme took off and rescue numbers increased each quarter in 2021. Soon after announcing the first project publically in April, our efforts expanded into another city.

SURVIVOR DEMOGRAPHICS

In Uganda, we rescued girls (typically around 15 years old) who lacked access to education, had volatile family backgrounds and liv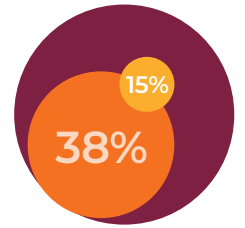ed under the oppression of poverty. Most children were living with single mothers, groups of friends or extended family.

More than 38% of survivors had lost one or both parents, 15% have children of their own.

15%
38%

••••••

96%

96% of survivors rescued in Uganda were selling sexual services in order to provide for their basic survival needs

REINTEGRATION

Both community care and our residential shelter utilized unique freedom plans for each survivor and provided her with services to help her stay free. After rescue, survivors received individual and group counselling in addition to an emotional health resilience course (Empower). Children could also attend discipleship classes and times of worship and prayer.

Education and skills training were also key aspects of freedom plans. Vocational training opportunities included hair braiding, tailoring and cooking classes.

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THE PHILIPPINES

RESCUE TOTAL
251

MAIN METHOD OF RESCUE: Raid

47%
OF SURVIVORS WERE CHILDREN

47 ARRESTS
30 RAIDS

> "We're giving the girls a legal *voice.*"

Rescue Agent
The Philippines

Rescue efforts adapted to the changing landscape of exploitation in the Philippines and utilized online tactics to find and rescue children. Pimps sold children in sex establishments or on the streets, but many used social media in 2021.

SURVIVOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Using exclusively raid missions, we rescued survivors, typically girls age 16 and 17, from sexual exploitation in the Philippines. Pimps would keep victims under their control and arrange for their sale to both individual and groups of sex buyers.

On average, each raid rescued eight survivors and facilitated the arrest of one to two alleged traffickers.

13%

13% OF SURVIVORS WERE MALE TYPICALLY AGES 17 AND 18

Rescuing male victims in the Philippines was especially dangerous because their pimps were known to carry knives, guns and travelled with bodyguards.

RESCUE STOPS AT NOTHING

Against all odds, two raids successfully rescued 12 people during lockdowns and a monsoon in August.

Teams battled flooded roads, high winds and understaffing in an operation with the Philippines NBI. Shifting lockdown restrictions also impacted logistics multiple times in the hours leading up to the raid.

At the last minute, a final location was secured and simultaneous sting operations took place.

In total, 12 individuals were rescued and four pimps were arrested for sex trafficking. Among those rescued were five children, girls ages 13-16.

NEPAL

RESCUE TOTAL
771

MAIN METHOD OF RESCUE: Border

Rescues grew 172% over the previous year despite Nepal completely closing its borders for eight weeks and extended travel restrictions.

Rescue agents performed over 21,000 interviews at their posts along the border resulting in 721 border rescues.

Five new border stations launched in early 2021, which brought our presence from 10 to 15 stations. Three of the new stations rescued a survivor during the first week of operation.

35%
of rescues were children

21,000
Interviews

"When the girls are happy, it makes me *happy*."

Border rescue agent, Nepal

SURVIVOR DEMOGRAPHICS

46% of those rescued at the border were females between the ages of 16 and 20. Most came from low income families, surviving on an average of $3 USD per day.

26% were also victims of child marriage prior to being trafficked. Typically, these marriages left them abused, abandoned or unhappy—increasing their vulnerability to being trafficked.

We rescued 12 mothers, alongside their young children, ages zero to six.

BORDER RESCUE

46% **42%** **4.5%**

- **46% of survivors** met their trafficker on social media
- **42% of survivors** met their trafficker in person
- **about 4.5% of survivors** met their trafficker answering a call from a wrong number

...

- **41% of survivors** were promised a false marriage if they crossed the border
- **32%** were promised jobs
- **9%** were promised both

Less than 10% of cases involved promises of tours, education, medical treatment and family reunification.

NEPAL RESCUES MOST ADULTS

We rescued 496 adults in Nepal. Most were between 18 to 23 years old. Although, we did rescue women up to age 50.

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CAMBODIA

RESCUE TOTAL
53

MAIN METHOD OF RESCUE: Covert

Children made up nearly
89%
OF SURVIVORS

Just over 10% of survivors were ages 18-21

73%
rescued before abuse could occur

"I am able to *see* my future now."

Survivor
Cambodia, age 17

100% of survivors enrolled in our reintegration programmes.

10 | **43**

COMMUNITY CARE: 43
RESIDENTIAL HOME: 10

SURVIVOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Each survivor was female and was, on average, 15 or 16 years old. Most lacked a full education and had difficulties finding a legitimate job able to match the salary at a bar.

73% were rescued from the sex industry before abuse could occur. Covert agents found and rescued teenagers in 'entry-level' jobs at bars who were being groomed for sexual exploitation.

Authorities placed three sisters, ages eight, 10 and 15, into the care of our reintegration team. The children were all survivors of rape and bravely testified against their abuser.

REINTEGRATION

About one quarter of those rescued took advantage of the flexibility offered by our individualized care and switched between either community care or residential care programmes to better achieve their education goals.

35 survivors enrolled in school or vocational training programmes, four of them progressing into jobs or internships during the year. 17 survivors are either just beginning their freedom plans or are waiting for specific training centres to re-open as covid-restrictions relax. One survivor started her own business.

The most common vocational training choice among survivors was beautician and salon training. Survivors also pursued their high school education or cafe, sewing or bakery training.

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THAILAND

RESCUE TOTAL
95

MAIN METHOD OF RESCUE: Covert

The sex trade migrated online after COVID-19 closed bars for an extended time in Thailand. Rescue agents started applying their skills in a new way, using social media to find and rescue children from sexual exploitation.

SURVIVOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Survivors were typically 16 or 17-year-old girls working in the sex industry in order to provide for their education or contribute to their family's income.

Many had fallen behind in their schooling and required non-formal education classes in order to catch up.

Nine survivors were male, including eight, nine and 11-year-old boys. Six boys were rescued from labour trafficking. Thailand's child welfare services managed the placement of these children after rescue.

74
SURVIVORS ENTERED COMMUNITY CARE

All survivors rescued via covert rescue signed up for community care

REINTEGRATION

Education remained a key component of our reintegration programme.

- **Highschool (5%)**
- **Non-formal education (41%)**
- **Vocational training (47%)**

Survivors pursued careers in sectors like engineering, tourism, accounting and nursing.

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Children made up 82% of survivors
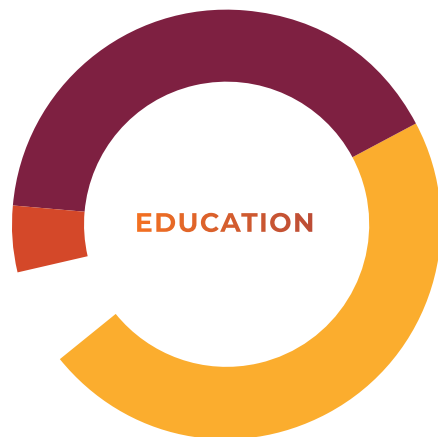
82%

51 survivors attended health week programmes

Our staff ran six health week programmes throughout the year. Classes focused on both the emotional and physical health of survivors.

10 RAIDS
13 ARRESTS

EDUCATION

63%
OF SURVIVORS RESCUED
via covert operations were found online by our rescue agents

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RESCUE TOTAL
94

MAIN METHOD OF RESCUE: Raid

62%
CHILDREN

18% Young Adults
19% Adults

34
RAID OPERATIONS

46
ARRESTS

"It is not only about rescuing the girl. It is about *changing* her life."

Rescue agent
The Dominican Republic

Collaborating with law enforcement, our rescue agents worked cases involving sex trafficking, labour trafficking, kidnapping and rape.
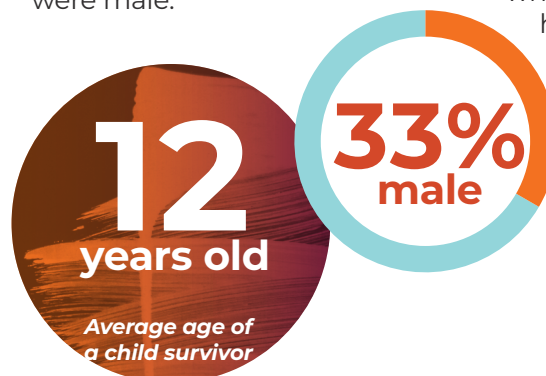
SURVIVOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Survivors ranged from children as young as seven who were sexually abused at the hands of relatives to adults being internationally trafficked for labour.

37%
freed from labour trafficking

The average age of a child survivor in the Dominican Republic was 12 years old. Some were being exploited in bars but most were being pimped out by friends or family members.

37% of survivors were freed from labour trafficking. Many were migrants from Haiti, seeking refuge in the Dominican Republic as their country is under political and civil instability.

Nearly 33% of survivors were male.

12
years old
Average age of a child survivor

33%
male

DANGEROUS STING OPERATION RESCUES FIVE CHILDREN

Operations in collaboration with multiple law enforcement agencies rescued three 17-year-old girls and their two babies from sex trafficking.

This operation was particularly dangerous as the location was also known for drug trafficking and gang violence. The bar owners were selling all three teenagers to customers for sex. The girls were abused in small back rooms or taken off-premises by customers for a higher fee.

The mission was successful thanks to multiple government agencies, a police SWAT team and child welfare services, in addition to the non-government collaboration of Destiny Rescue and International Justice Mission.

The children were placed in the care of CONANI, the government's child welfare services. The infants were not being abused but were present during their mothers' exploitation which put them at extremely high risk. Three individuals were arrested.

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LARGEST UNDISCLOSED RESCUE NATION

RESCUE TOTAL
661

MAIN METHOD OF RESCUE: Survival

642
SURVIVORS
entered reintegration programmes

99%

Children made up nearly 99% of our rescues

48

children entered our residential shelter

Our number of child survivors soared ten times over the previous year.

To protect staff and survivors, our work in certain countries must remain undisclosed in public media. One particular country in this category saw significant success in 2021!

SURVIVOR DEMOGRAPHICS

91 %

- 91% survival situations
- 9% other forms of abuse and exploitation

91% of survivors were selling themselves in order to survive. Girls, typically around 15 years old although some were as young as eight and nine, were found enduring sexual abuse in order to provide food for themselves and their families.

The remaining 9% of survivors were rescued from other forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

"They took care of me, they brought a smile onto my face, I have learned many things."

Survivor
Undisclosed nation, age 14

REINTEGRATION
594

children enrolled in our community care programme after rescue.

Our teams visited all survivors in our community care programme monthly for a full year. They distributed food, and medical staff performed health checks. Teachers used the opportunity to teach health and safety lessons. Survivors were also provided access to vocational training opportunities such as tailoring.

48 children entered our residential shelter. The shelter celebrated graduations for survivors after six months in our care. Girls in the home received counselling and pursued training in tailoring, computer studies and beautician courses.

FOOD DROPS

Our team delivered monthly food packs of vital grocery supplies to survivors and their families across 250 villages. Not only did these food distributions support children's continued freedom, but they enabled agents to find and rescue even more children from exploitation within their communities.

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OTHER UNDISCLOSED NATIONS & FUTURE GROWTH

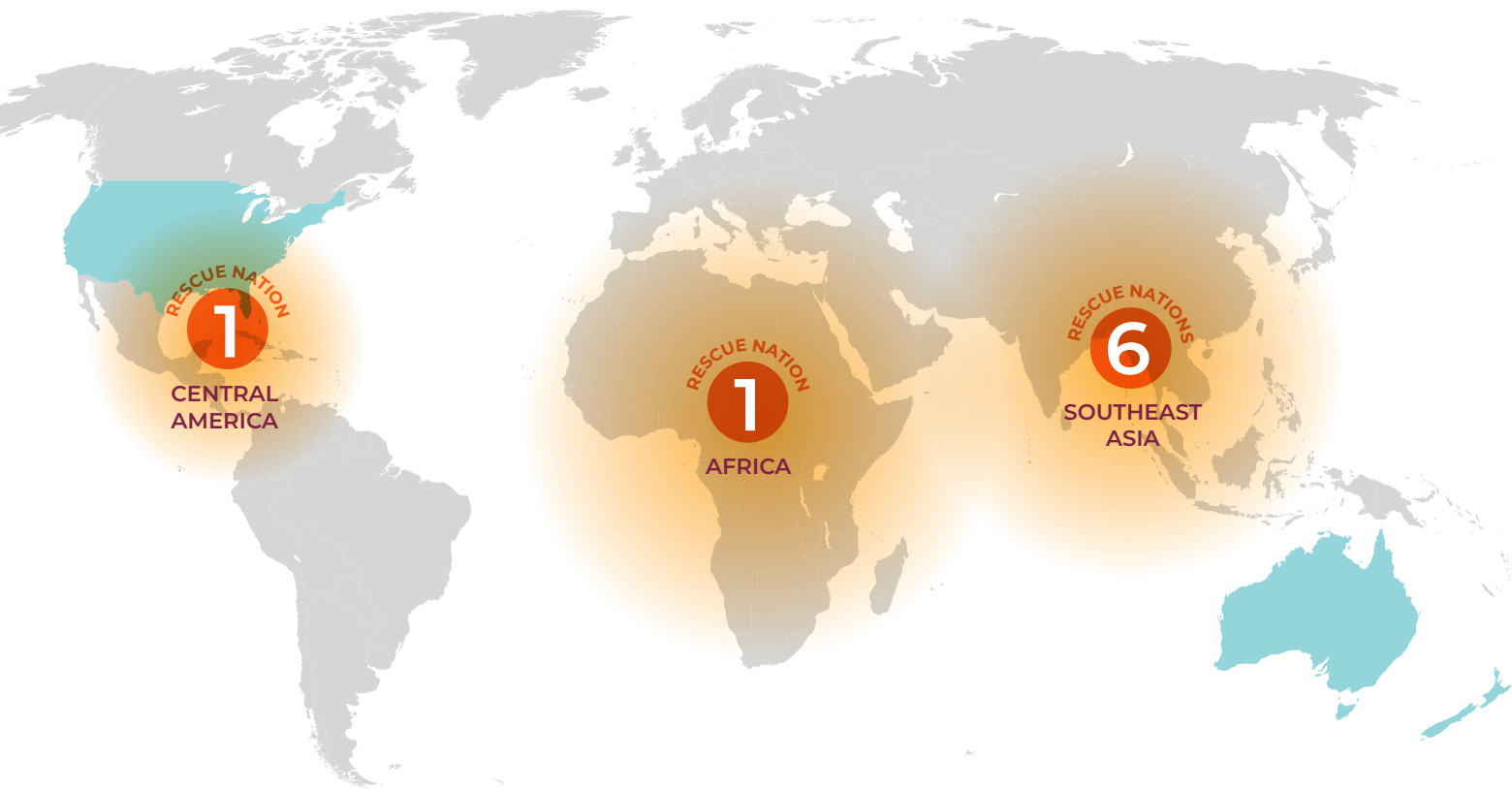**RESCUE TOTAL**
18

MAIN METHOD OF RESCUE: Covert

To protect staff and survivors, our work in certain countries must remain undisclosed in public media.

GRASSROOTS RESCUE

In an undisclosed country in southeast Asia, covert operations successfully rescued 18 girls ages 12 to 17. After accepting false job offers, most were being exploited in bars and were reunited with their families after rescue.

GROWING FORWARD

In two other undisclosed nations, agents were active on the ground formalizing partnerships with law enforcement as well as gathering intelligence on the issue of trafficking and exploitation.

RESCUE NATION
1
CENTRAL AMERICA

RESCUE NATION
1
AFRICA

RESCUE NATIONS
6
SOUTHEAST ASIA

Funding nations: The United States, New Zealand and Australia

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