



**GRANTS PROGRAM**

**9 GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT**

with a direct focus on:



creating multi-sectoral dialogue



promoting the rights of migrant workers



understanding the impacts of COVID-19

**4**

research-based projects supporting outcomes for trafficked victims and vulnerable groups

**Counter-trafficking efforts must respond to the needs of victims and groups vulnerable to trafficking in persons.**

**Policymakers have much to learn directly from trafficking victims and their advocates when formulating laws, policies, and procedures to combat trafficking.**

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) provide a range of critical services and referrals to trafficking victims in Southeast Asia, including working with vulnerable populations, identifying those at-risk, and coordinating with government agencies to support trafficked persons.

During COVID-19, the role of NGOs in providing frontline services and support to trafficking victims and groups vulnerable to trafficking has become even more essential.

NGOs have valuable knowledge and experience working directly with trafficked persons and at-risk groups, which can inform the evidence base for policy and practice reform in the counter-trafficking sector.

Working in partnership with government, NGOs can contribute to the effective implementation of the [ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In July 2021, ASEAN-ACT launched a [grants program](#), providing approximately AU\$100,000 to all nine organisations across the region, to strengthen advocacy for the rights of victims of trafficking and those at-risk, and contribute valuable evidence to inform policy reform.

ASEAN-ACT's nine NGO partners, spread across five ASEAN member states, have been selected based on their approach to counter-trafficking, their experience, expertise, and alignment to ASEAN-ACT's program principles and strategies.

Our partners are working to identify and support potential victims of trafficking and those vulnerable to trafficking, especially those vulnerable to labour trafficking who have been further disadvantaged by the pandemic.



## REGIONAL

### Migrant Forum Asia

Multi-country research and advocacy on wage theft as a possible indicator of trafficking in persons.



## THAILAND

### Human Rights and Development Foundation

Research, policy advocacy and assistance in cases of forced labour in agriculture and construction in Northern Thailand.

### Labour Protection Network

Capacity development, multi-stakeholder coordination and policy engagement addressing vulnerabilities of migrants in Eastern Thailand.

### Social Responsibility Law

Policy advocacy on lessons learned in victim identification and justice for cases of trafficking for forced labour in Thailand.

### Verité Southeast Asia

Research and policy advocacy on addressing vulnerabilities of migrant workers through in-country recruitment in Thailand.



## LAO PDR

### Village Focus International

Capacity development and coordination in victim identification and assistance, between government and NGOs in Southern Lao PDR.



## CAMBODIA

### Legal Support for Children and Women

Coordination and direct legal assistance for victims of trafficking, policy advocacy on victim identification and assistance in target provinces in Cambodia.



## VIETNAM

### Blue Dragon Children's Foundation

Policy advocacy on lessons learned in victim identification, capacity development and coordination in TIP cases in target provinces in Vietnam.



## PHILIPPINES

### Ople Center

Research and policy advocacy to address exploitation of Philippines' migrant workers, informing structure of a new government department.

## GRANT SELECTION

ASEAN-ACT has selected these partners for funding in this initial phase based on their approach to counter-trafficking and experience, and their alignment with our program principles and strategies.

The NGOs will be contributing to the evidence base on trafficking and counter-trafficking, through the implementation of these projects and their own experience and expertise working on these issues, to inform policy dialogue.

The grants program focuses on vulnerabilities of migrant workers to human trafficking, and developing related inclusive public policy processes and dialogue. We are working with frontline and research-based NGOs to promote the rights of migrant workers.

**For further information please contact [info@aseanact.org](mailto:info@aseanact.org).**

