Impact Report

2025

Destiny Rescue™
RESCUING CHILDREN

Our Mission

We rescue children from sexual exploitation and human trafficking and equip them to stay free

Our Reach

We run rescue and post-rescue operations in multiple countries throughout five regions across the world: East Africa, Southern Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Latin America, while raising funds, awareness and talent through Support Offices in the United States, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Our Work

We find and rescue children using three main methods:

- ***Raids and collaboration*** with law enforcement
- ***Border and transit monitoring*** interviews and intervention
- ***Covert*** and ***rapport-building*** rescue efforts

After rescue, survivors' next steps follow one of three paths:

- ***Enroll*** in a Destiny Rescue **Freedom Plan™**
- ***Reunify*** with family
- ***Entrusted*** to another organization or entity

Our focus

Our mission focuses on rescuing children, though we also have the privilege of bringing freedom to adults through our child-focused efforts.

- ***Child:*** a person under the age of 18 (0-17).
- ***Young adult:*** a person between the ages of 18 and 24.
- ***Adult:*** a person over the age of 24. If this term is not used in addition to "young adult," it simply indicates a person age 18 or older.

Table of Content

Letter from Founder Tony Kirwan	4
Global Overview	6
Rescue with Law Enforcement	10
Rescue at Nepal's Border	14
Rescue Via Covert and Rapport-Building Tactics	16
Freedom Plans™	20
Everlasting Hope	24
The Work Must Continue	26

From the Founder

Momentum: strength or force gained by motion or by a series of events.

The impact of 2025 was the result of incredible action—fueled by a worldwide team united in the fight against trafficking. Rescue and freedom were catalyzed. Lives changed: 5,738 survivors were rescued, and the impact on their communities is immeasurable.

The numbers in this report point to one thing: forward momentum that's been building for 25 years. But here's what matters—each data point represents someone's story.

In 2001, Destiny Rescue was founded to rescue children from sexual exploitation and human trafficking and equip them to stay free. Over the past quarter-century, a global network of courageous rescue agents, generous donors and innovative teams has worked relentlessly to offer freedom to over 24,000 individuals.

This work—counter-trafficking work—is complex, devastating and beautiful. We're pushing against a force that's hard to wrap your mind around: human trafficking generated an estimated $346.7 billion in a single year. Slaying the giant of child exploitation and trafficking is only possible through the power of God. His hand of provision is part of every rescue story.

I'm forever honored to be part of this global community, united against the horrors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The complexity doesn't deter us. The sheer magnitude doesn't stop us.

We will continue our rescue efforts relentlessly. We will work tirelessly to equip children for a life of sustainable freedom—every single day.

Tony Kirman
Founder & CEO,
Destiny Rescue International

That's an average of

10 children rescued every single day!

Rescue over the past 10 years

Children Total*

* Total of Children, Young Adults & Adults rescued

Global Overview

Exploitation is a terrible reality. Rescue is the answer.

Traffickers dismantle their victims' sense of self-worth, leveraging their vulnerabilities like a weapon and systematically cutting off every avenue of escape until there's no way out. ***But that worth is only suppressed, never lost.***

If every person opposed to human trafficking acted, every victim would have reason to hope. ***Our teams around the world work daily to restore hope to suffering children.***

Types of exploitation

Forced labor, or **labor trafficking**, includes all forms of non-sexual exploitative work, paid or unpaid, demanded without consent or under threat of penalty.

In-transit trafficking involves individuals found under the control of a trafficker while in transit to a final destination; generally, the specifics of the impending exploitation are unknown.

Sex trafficking is commercial sex acts obtained by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is under 18, either online or in person.

Sex crimes is a category we use to indicate ongoing sexual exploitation, incredibly similar to sex trafficking, but without a payment component, such as with rape or forced child marriage. Sex trafficking and sex crimes categories are sometimes combined and referred to collectively as **sexual exploitation**. All three categories of trafficking (sex, labor and in-transit) can be combined and referred to collectively as **human trafficking**.

21 additional children were rescued from dangerous situations that do not fall into any category above.

Figure: *Exploitation categories and child/adult age ranges of survivors rescued in 2025*

Light is breaking into the darkness!

Around the world, 5,738 survivors stepped into freedom

3,605 Children **1,396** Young adults **737** Adults

Our work began nearly 25 years ago, rescuing a few hundred survivors per year, and has since grown to rescuing thousands. These efforts will continue to increase each and every day. By working together, we can make rescue a reality for every victim of human trafficking and exploitation.

On average, each day...

10 children rescued

Five **per day in collaboration with law enforcement**
Three **per day via covert or rapport-building efforts**
Two **per day through border intervention**

3 enrolled in Freedom Plans™

On average, each week...

11 cases with law enforcement

Five **raids**
Six **other collaborations**
Six **perpetrators arrested**

165 Freedom Plan caseworker check-ins

Fourteen **survivors joined skills training courses**
Five **new businesses launched**

868 interviews at the Nepal border

Rooms like this are sometimes where girls like Rosa end up once they have been lured in by traffickers with the promise of a good paying job.

Eight years ago, a raid changed everything for Rosa

Rosa panicked at the thought of what awaited her as she was dragged deeper into the building. Her fears were well-founded: the human trafficker planned to sell Rosa for sex to foreign customers that night, along with other girls.

She'd thought she was coming to work at a food stall with friends, but that job offer was a lie. She'd seen news segments about what happened in places like this, and she was petrified that her future was about to be stolen away.

But then, everything changed.

Police rushed into the building. The trafficker was arrested, and Rosa and the other victims were ushered to safety by gentle caseworkers. The "*foreign customers*" the trafficker had met were actually undercover Destiny Rescue agents, working with police in the Philippines to take down the criminals who tried to exploit Rosa and other girls.

Now a young woman, Rosa took a moment to reconnect and reflect with us. She finished school and got a job, but hasn't forgotten what she escaped that day.

"If the rescue hadn't occurred, I might have been sexually exploited...."

— Rosa

Rosa, during her interview for the documentary "Operation Goldilocks"

Rescue with Law Enforcement

Figure: *Exploitation categories and child/adult age ranges of survivors rescued in 2025 in operations with law enforcement*

Traffickers profit off others' abuse

Using tactics such as deception, coercion and blackmail, traffickers gain control over and exploit people for a profit. They maintain the upper hand and use their position of power, intimidation, and, in some cases, brute force to get victims to comply. If these crimes are left unchecked, victims remain at the mercy of the merciless.

Our rescue agents worked closely with law enforcement teams to build cases and facilitate operations that rescued children and brought perpetrators to justice.

CASE EXAMPLES

Forced Labor Spotlight: Our teams relentlessly combated a well-organized crime syndicate in Asia that lured individuals out of their home country with lofty career promises then brutally imprisoned them in call centers, forcing them to meet scamming quotas and generate illegal income.

Sex Trafficking Spotlight: Almost half of those rescued from sex trafficking were exploited out of their own homes or other residential settings.

In-Transit Trafficking Spotlight: Hundreds of children from rural areas in East Africa were being transported by traffickers into larger cities to be exploited sexually and in forced labor including forced child begging.

"... When I finally met with a girl in the elevator, I tried asking her a question, and when I looked into her eyes, it was like the life had been drained from her ...."

— **Marcus**, *Rescue Agent, Cambodia*

2.6 weeks

Average case length

Many cases spanned less than a week while others required almost two years of case-building.

32%

of victims

were lured into exploitation through social media or online job postings.

147 children

were victims of online sexual exploitation (OSEC)

30% Male

30% of survivors rescued in efforts with law enforcement were male

Figure: *Survivors rescued since 2023 in operations with law enforcement*

574 operations with law enforcement secured freedom for 2,975 survivors

1,831 Children | **715** Young adults | **429** Adults

574 Cases — **317** Collaborations, **257** Raids*

* A ***Raid*** *is when officers use their authority to secure the scene during a rescue operation*

312 Perpetrators arrested

These perpetrators were responsible for the abuse or exploitation of over ***880 people, including 450 children.***

"He hurt me, but he no longer has power over me." – **Survivor**, *Age 17, Dominican Republic*

Eleven survivors, including six children, were rescued at the Nepal border in collaboration with law enforcement and are included in these totals, and they were also included in the "Rescue at Nepal's Border" figures on pg 15.

Figure: *Post-rescue paths of survivors rescued in operations with law enforcement in 2025*

Young girls are positioned out front of a local establishment in Thailand

Agents & law enforcement work non-stop to find and rescue children throughout the globe

Counter-OSEC analysts in Thailand, searching for children exploited online in August 2025

Agents and law enforcement in the Philippines meet for a pre-rescue briefing in June 2025

Operatives in the Dominican Republic conduct surveillance in July 2025

Agents in Cambodia prepare for a raid alongside law enforcement partners in August 2025

Rescue at Nepal's Border

The point of no return

Thousands of people cross the open Nepal border daily; most are running errands or visiting friends and will return safely home after their journey... but some are following a falsely-promised hope dangled just over the border by a "helpful" stranger pledging marriage, employment and sometimes shopping trips. If victims leave the country, they fall into the complete control of their trafficker, who could sell them into a brothel, force them to work for little or no pay or confine and sexually abuse them.

Our border agents monitored strategic border crossing locations, interviewed suspicious travelers and stopped traffickers in their tracks.

IN-TRANSIT TRAFFICKING
1,641

19 average age

96% female

99% told to lie if questioned

Figure: *Exploitation category and age range of survivors rescued at Nepal's border in 2025*

"Some girls don't trust us at first and try to convince us that the boy or the person they are traveling with is a good person. Some girls understand the situation quickly, while others take more time to realize that they are being trafficked." – **Esha**, *District Program Coordinator, Nepal*

3,760
Average interviews per month
at the Nepal border.

3-4%
of interviews
lead to a rescue (on average).

46% met their trafficker online
42% met in person
8% were introduced
4% not recorded

Increased rescue at the border

Figure: *Survivors rescued at Nepal's border since 2021*

1,641 survivors rescued at the border

700 Children | **631** Young adults | **310** Adults

95% were rescued before abuse could occur

21 traffickers were arrested at the border

"I believe it was God's plan to save me, and you were the ones who stopped me. I have been given another chance to return to my family and live with discipline. I am truly grateful to all of you."

– **Survivor**, *Age 15, Nepal*

CASE EXAMPLES

Arrest Spotlight: Community shame was the most common reason a survivor declined to press charges against their trafficker.

Trafficker Spotlight: Many traffickers sent victims across the border alone, then once they found out their target had been intercepted by our agents, they disconnected their number or deleted their social media profile and disappeared.

Figure:
Post-rescue path of survivors rescued at Nepal's border in 2025

Rescue via Covert and Rapport-Building Tactics

Trapped without hope

In some instances of trafficking and exploitation, a child is trapped in a situation where justice is not their quickest route to freedom. When children can't afford food and basic necessities, selling themselves might feel like the only way to survive. In other cases, simply providing the child with a way out can be more successful than raids.

In situations like these, rescue agents create a way to freedom that wasn't there before.

CASE EXAMPLES

Forced Labor Spotlight: Our team in Cambodia found and offered freedom to children being forced to beg on the streets.

Sex Trafficking Spotlight: About 80% of these sex trafficking cases we encountered were survival situations, in which children sell themselves to survive.

Sex Crimes Spotlight: In these cases, children are abused and exploited, but no money changes hands.

"I didn't like what I was doing, it was not easy, it was painful... I used to cry a lot."

– **Survivor**, *Age 19, Kenya*

Figure: *Exploitation categories and age ranges of survivors rescued via covert and rapport-building efforts in 2025*

Figure: *Prevalence of risk factors for survivors rescued via covert and rapport-building tactics*

73%
of cases came from leads brought to our teams,
7% were the result of our agents' undercover work and the remainder were discovered while our field agents canvassed high-risk areas.

29
children were rescued
because of leads brought to us by survivors.

97.5%
of survivors rescued via covert or rapport-building tactics
enrolled in a Destiny Rescue Freedom Plan™.

1,133
survivors rescued via covert and rapport-building operations

1,080 Children

53 Young adults

Rescue through rapport building:

When Destiny Rescue agents knocked on Samuel's door and asked if he knew of any children who needed help, he immediately thought of his young sister-in-law. Amara worked in her father's bar, where she not only waited tables but also sold herself for money. And her father did nothing to discourage the practice.

Beyond directing agents to rescue her, Samuel opened his home to the suffering child. Empowered by our small business program, his family is providing a stable home to support Amara's future in freedom.

Covert Rescue:

Reasmey took the job in the beer garden to provide for her family, only to later learn the extent of the "services" she was expected to render. One day, two men sat with her who seemed different. When they offered to help her leave her job, she hesitated, worried that the decision would be selfish and leave her family without income.

Once the rescue agents told her they could equip her to work somewhere else, her face lit up, and she gratefully and bravely accepted rescue. She now supports her family as a valued beauty technician at a local salon.

"I am ever so grateful for the chance I was given to change my life."

– **Survivor**, *Age 18, Zimbabwe*

Figure:
Post-rescue paths of survivors rescued via covert or rapport building efforts in 2025

Growing up in struggling communities can be a factor in exploitation for kids like Aanya

Courage renewed for 15-year-old survivor in South Asia

Aanya's story sounds like the beginning of a fairytale, but her suffering was all too real.

Her stepmother neglected her, forcing Aanya to fend for herself. With nowhere to turn, the 15-year-old was driven into exploitation to survive.

All that changed when Aanya was rescued.

Once she was physically safe in our residential home, our caseworkers helped her begin to move past the trauma she'd suffered and reclaim her self-belief. With renewed courage, Aanya entered our phlebotomy training program, studied diligently and earned her government certificate!

Today, she serves her community in a local clinic, where she assists with blood collection, diagnostics and patient care. Thanks to your gifts, our tireless caseworkers and her own dedication, Aanya has transitioned from a life of neglect and desperation to one of freedom and self-reliance.

Survivors graduating from Destiny Rescue programming in South Asia

Freedom Plans™ Empower Futures and Families

Freedom Plans were implemented post-rescue for 30% of the child survivors we rescued in 2025.

No choice

Almost all of these children, spread throughout six countries, were being exploited because of extreme financial distress, which brings cascading risks and vulnerabilities: no food, no education, no options, no choices. "Choosing" to sell themselves to survive from this place of desperation is hardly a "choice".

Only 14%

of survivors who enrolled in a Freedom Plan were on track in their education before rescue.

Survivors from Zimbabwe enjoying an event together

*Our program is specifically designed to combat vulnerabilities with opportunities — **opportunities for survivors to choose** what they want for their lives.*

Education before rescue

Figure: *Pre-rescue education status of survivors rescued and enrolled in Freedom Plans in 2025 (1,105)*

2,194

survivors served and supported by Freedom Plans in 2025

Active Services Spotlight | *Freedom Plan Phase 1:*

Most (96%) Freedom Plans began with group training sessions to help survivors begin to move past their trauma, as well as a health check (91%) to identify and address immediate health concerns. Caseworkers then worked with survivors and their guardians on an economic solution and education plan and checked in monthly to support their progress. This phase of the program lasts four to six months (avg. of 5.3 months).

Graduation Spotlight:

94% of survivors completed the first phase of their Freedom Plan before entering the second, Follow-Up phase. Teams often marked this incredible achievement with special ceremonies and celebrations for survivors.

Strengthening families

150+
survivors' babies supported

2,590+
additional children in survivors' households benefited

73%
Strong relationship with guardian*

** 73% of survivors reported their relationship with their guardian was "very good" in their latest follow-up (17% "average", 1% "poor", 8% no answer recorded)*

Education and economic impact

860+
Survivors participated in skills training

93% training course completion rate

380+
Small businesses supported

***290+** started this year*
***95%** of small businesses are run by guardians of survivors*

370+
Survivors returned to school

Freedom Plans™ Equip Survivors To Stay Free

"I am happy when you keep on checking on our girls, you keep them on track."

– **Mother of a survivor**, *Zimbabwe*

Survivors in Uganda pose together at a graduation celebration in June 2025

Relationship can change everything

The second phase of our program, the Follow-Up phase, is a crucial time in a survivor's life—a time where they spread their wings in independence and put their new skills into practice. During this time, our programs are no longer directly supporting them, but, relationally, our work is far from over. Caseworkers check in with survivors in the Follow-Up phase every three to six months to encourage them and monitor their status until two years after their rescue date.

While maintaining contact is a challenge for various reasons (e.g. moving, changing phone numbers and general teenage elusiveness), **caseworkers were able to stay in touch with 90% of survivors in the Follow-Up phase.**

Follow-Up Phase Spotlight | Freedom Plan Phase 2:

Survivors entered the Follow-Up phase once they were no longer participating in or receiving direct support from the program's first phase. About 6% of survivors discontinued the first phase early; they still receive check-ins from caseworkers unless they have specifically requested otherwise.

Two-year average

86.4% **free from exploitation 12 to 24 months after rescue and enrollment in a Freedom Plan™**

13.2% status unknown, and 0.4% were known to have returned to exploitation

- Free
- Unknown
- Returned to exploitation

Figure: *Results of 12-, 18- and 24- month post-rescue followups from 2024 - 2025.*

Two years after rescue, Nuru's life is different

"Now, life is good... now, I am happy."

– **Nuru**

Desperation forced Nuru to sacrifice both her body and her future.

The middle-schooler entered sex work because her mother and stepfather had no money to pay for even the most basic necessities. "I wanted to support (my family by) buying food for the house," Nuru said.

As a result, she could only attend school one or two days a month, darkening her prospects for the future with every absence.

Since she bravely accepted rescue, all that has changed. Thanks to our economic empowerment program, the aspiring doctor is back in school.

Over a year post-rescue, a caseworker checked in with the family and reported: "Business is blooming and (her mother) can pay the school fees."

Financial stability, combined with post-rescue training from our loving caseworkers, has given Nuru space to heal. ***"I used to feel lonely... I felt like there was no one to help us,"*** Nuru said.

Free From Exploitation Spotlight:

This statistic only includes survivors who enrolled in a Freedom Plan™ post-rescue (which accounts for 30% of all children rescued in these timeframes). Their status was assessed 12-24 months after their rescue date based on caseworker follow-up. Survivors were located throughout East and Southern Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

"Change their lives and show them how much they are loved."

- Thai agent's prayer the night before a raid

Who we are

We are a global, non-denominational Christian organization. We seek to follow where Christ leads, living out His example of love, justice and compassion. We serve children of any faith, or no faith, with the same fierce commitment. This is the cornerstone of our organizational decision-making: it's what drives us and our mission, but does not divide us from those we serve and their communities.

Gospel impact

Most of the gospel impact happening in our work around the world is not recorded in numbers that can be summed up: it's prayer behind the scenes, grace instead of judgment, indescribable peace in the midst of chaos or a young heart quietly experiencing the healing found in God's divine love. We might not know precisely how many seeds are being sown or exactly when they might take root, but we continue to serve faithfully and love generously.

Dignity Packs

given to survivors in the Dominican Republic and the Philippines often contained pamphlets about the gospel or Bibles.

Local church members

in Southern Africa take time to attend our events where they can share their testimonies and get to know survivors so they can be greeted by a familiar face if they decide to visit church.

Wordless bracelets

depicting the message of the gospel through colors are distributed by one of our teams in Kenya.

880+ survivors

heard the gospel message while enrolled in a Freedom Plan™.

"I always say it's a divine ministry that we are in to be working with children and spreading the gospel of Jesus. That's our ultimate aim, and to give girls in our community another chance at life."

– Jeremy, Project Leader, South Africa

"My life has greatly improved; I am confident, acquired a skill and above all, I know God."

– Survivor, Age 17, Uganda

The Work Must Continue

Rescue changed more lives than ever in 2025. But we can't slow down.

The cries of the oppressed draw us into action, propelling us to step out for more suffering kids in pursuit of our mission.

Open cases

need agents' attention across all regions

"Rescue is only the beginning. Her healing journey will take time, but she won't walk it alone."

– **Juan,** Rescue Agent, Dominican Republic

"My wish is for other girls like me out there [is for them] to have the opportunity I had in order to change their lives for better."

– **Survivor,** Age 17, Zimbabwe

Thousands of travelers

to be interviewed at strategic checkpoints

Brand-new partnerships

can be developed across regions and sectors to broaden our reach

"God is working through each of us in unique ways to carry out this mission. Whether you are on the front lines caring for rescued children, or supporting through prayer, giving or advocacy—your role is equally vital. Every act of faithfulness matters. Together, we reflect God's love and help rebuild what was broken."

– **Busaba,** OSEC Case Manager, Thailand

"I've seen change in many girls' lives, and we are planning to change many more in the future."

– **Jeremy,** Project Leader, South Africa

Join us in bringing more children to freedom in 2026!

Destiny Rescue™
RESCUING CHILDREN

www.destinyrescue.org