



OPERATION CHILD RESCUE EDITION

JOIN THE MOVEMENT THIS YEAR ON

JULY 30 **FOR**
THE

WORLD DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Only 1 out of 100
ever escape once
trafficked

1 in 4 victims of
modern-day slavery
are **children**

The average victim
of sex trafficking has a life
expectancy of **7 years**

51% of trafficking
victims are recruited
based on economic need

Today, a slave
costs about **\$90 on**
average worldwide.



GREETINGS FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters of Child Impact International,

Have you ever heard of resolution A/RES/68/192? In 2013, the United Nations officially designated July 30 as the World Day Against Human Trafficking in Persons. The stated purpose of this day is to "raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights."

When it comes to human trafficking, I have traversed through life uninformed and disengaged. The phrase "out of sight, out of mind" aptly applies in this case. This is the challenge with this horrible crime that has often been labeled "modern-day slavery." It is an underworld that goes unseen by most of us. At Child Impact, we feel compelled to shine a light into this dark place.

In this special edition newsletter, you will read about some of our current initiatives serving the most vulnerable. Imagine choosing between prostitution or your family starving. Girls as young as 12 are faced with such a dilemma near a project we support in Zambia. Most are unaware of other options. Children are recruited to illegitimate jobs that are a guise for human trafficking. In some cultures, child marriage is a cultural norm. Girls are being coerced to marry much older men for many reasons: they may be a financial burden to their family, they may not have education and see marriage as a viable plan for providing food and shelter for themselves, they have reached "womanhood" and their culture initiates them as preparation to take the next "logical" step.

Friends, I am no longer uninformed and disengaged. I have personally embraced the vision of Child Impact to...eradicate exploitation. Is this a vision that you would choose to become involved with? One child helped has a ripple impact to their extended family, community, and beyond; perpetrators' schemes are thwarted and the vulnerable are protected. Help us shine a light in this dark place through supporting "Operation Child Rescue." Join our special appeal for \$30 (or more) on the 30th of each month in alignment with July 30, World Day Against Human Trafficking. Your one time or monthly gift enables Child Impact to sustain and expand the fight against human trafficking and child exploitation.

You can become an advocate by visiting this site: www.OperationChildRescue.org, by mailing the enclosed envelope, or by calling (423) 910-0667. Thank you!

Informed and engaged!

Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO



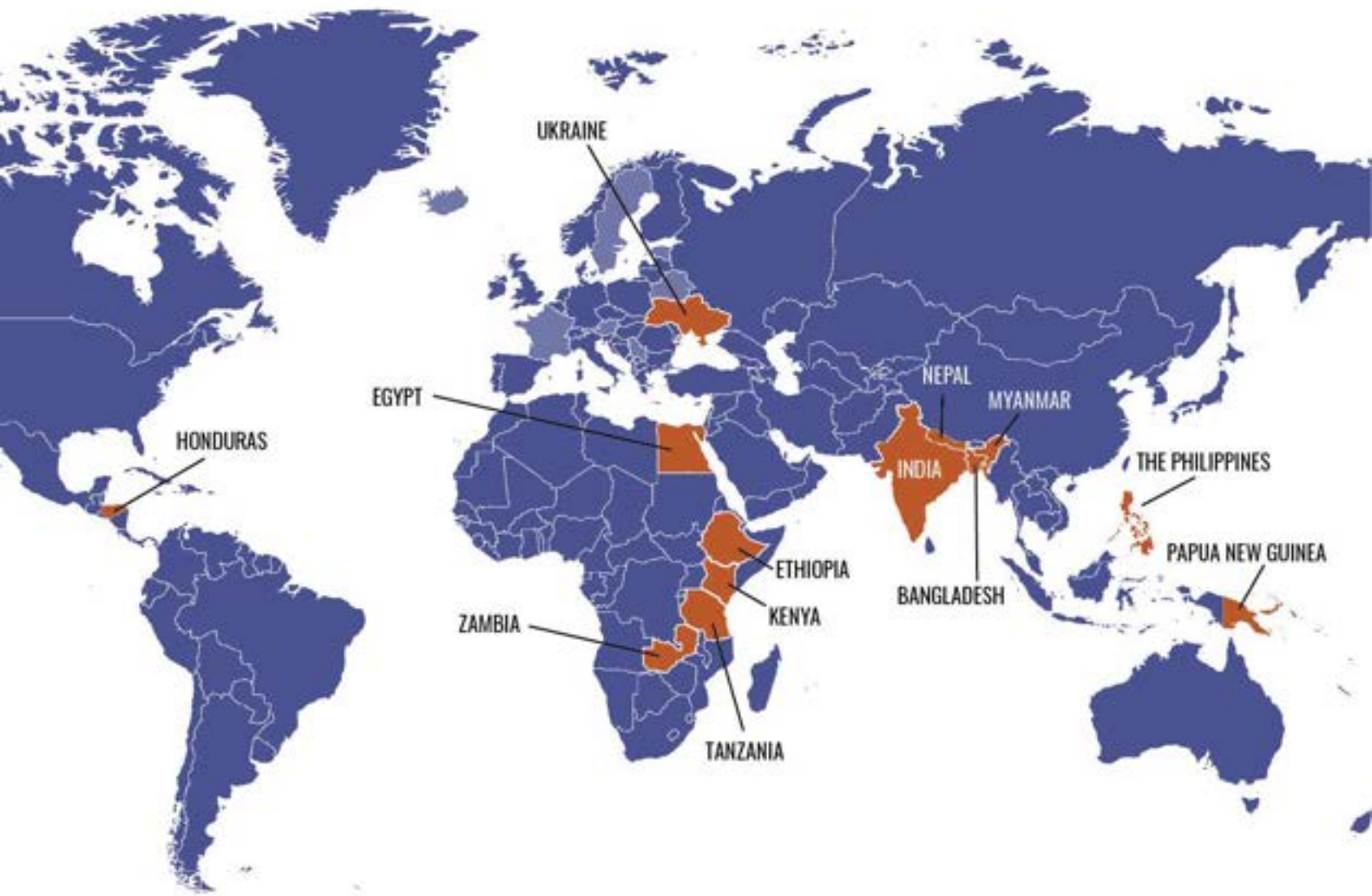
Photo: Tom at Cradle of Love
(see page 11)

FACTS:

Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing crime.

40.3 million people are trapped in modern-day slavery (equal to the population of California)

15.4 million victims of human trafficking are subjected to forced marriages



WHAT IS CHILD IMPACT?

Through our network of community partners and the vital support of our donors, we provide hope and a brighter future for thousands of children around the world.

Child Impact empowers children to pursue education as an avenue to break the cycle of generational poverty. Thousands of individuals have chosen to support these children through our global sponsorship program. After decades of sponsoring children, it is exciting to hear the stories of graduates who have accomplished their professional goals and returned to their local communities to inspire the next generation.

In many Child Impact locations publicly sharing the gospel is difficult. One of the most valuable outcomes of sponsoring a child at a Christian school is that they have the opportunity to be introduced to Jesus and His deep love for them. It is remarkable to show children who have experienced so much pain that there is a God who cares for them. These children will often share their new love for the Lord with their family, friends, and community. The hope that Jesus offers is extended beyond the one child who is sponsored!

A few years ago, Child Impact initiated a project called, "Operation Child Rescue." The goal is to develop solutions that give exploited children an opportunity to heal and chase their dreams. Our global rescue operations focus on solutions for abandoned babies, child marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation, forced begging, gang recruitment, orphans with disabilities, forced child labor, and child trauma.



HEALING THE DEEPEST OF WOUNDS

India is a beautiful country, rich with culture, history, and diversity. Although India has more than halved the percentage of those living in extreme poverty since 2011, poverty is still the reality of many. Poverty is a contributor to human trafficking, and it increases the vulnerability of young girls to exploitation. Every day, young girls in India — and around the world — are exploited by sex traffickers. However, this is not the complete picture. At Freedom Project, people such as Anita Kanaiya have stepped in to change the narrative.

More than a decade ago, Kanaiya started a safe house called Freedom Project. Here, young girls are rescued from difficult situations such as sex trafficking. Ten years ago, a young girl named Sapna, was brought into the safe house after being found begging on the streets, alone and abandoned. Sapna's family is not known, and it is likely that she was sold and trafficked as a baby. When she was brought to Freedom Project, Sapna's journey of healing and restoration began.

Kanaiya, as well as other women at Freedom Project, came alongside Sapna and started to gain her trust. Girls like Sapna often have an aversion to trust due to their previous experience of trafficking and exploitation. Someone they trusted, either a family member, friend, or stranger, took advantage of their trust and stripped them away from their previous lives. Human trafficking is a devastating crime that has a drastic toll on those victimized by it. Yet time and love have the power to heal the deepest of wounds. Through intentional love and care, Kanaiya won Sapna's trust. Sapna had never been able to attend school, so at age nine, she was enrolled in kindergarten. Now in grade 11, Sapna is excelling in school and has a powerful vision for the future: for children to not have to experience the suffering and trauma that she did. Sapna hopes to realize this goal by becoming a social worker to help women and children in similar situations and to protect them from trafficking.

Freedom Project continues to provide education, counseling, vocational training, and many other services to rescued girls. Freedom Project removes girls from their exploitative situation and reconnects them with their original interests and hopes for life. By working with organizations such as Freedom Project, Child Impact has been able to partner in the fight against sex trafficking and assist in providing survivors with healing and opportunities to pursue their dreams.

— John Kent, Child Impact Intern



Scan this QR Code
to learn more about
Freedom Project.



Info on the Issue:

Human trafficking is the exploitation of people through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Millions of people are trafficked for commercial sex each year, including women, men, girls, and boys. Typically, traffickers employ a method called the grooming process, in which they gain the trust of victims by providing for their needs and creating a dependency of the victim on themselves. Eventually, the trafficker isolates the victim from others and then exploits them. One often overlooked, but effective way to combat sex trafficking is to strengthen communities through healthy relationships. This includes being present in younger people's lives and encouraging healthy relationship boundaries. Another effective method is knowing and being aware of the signs of sex trafficking at all times. This is important for intervention, just as knowing CPR is crucial to saving a life during a heart attack.

*Sex trafficking is the most infamous form of human trafficking and generates **99 billion in "dirty money" every year.***



PROJECT SAFE PASSAGE

USA Today posted this headline, "Putin's war in Ukraine is driving a hidden horror: Sex trafficking of women and children." The warnings of the dangers of trafficking hit the headlines at the beginning of the war on February 24 and continued months into the conflict. Why is the risk so elevated? Eighty-three percent of women who cross the border bring children with them. Men between the ages of 18-60 are required to stay behind to defend their country. Once across the border, the danger from missiles and bombs may have been mitigated, but other risks are present. As refugees, they often do not speak the local language. Everything is unfamiliar. How will they survive? Some people offer to help but some disguise their true intentions of exploiting these desperate women and children.

Child Impact recognizes that at times of crisis, we must protect the vulnerable. Through partnerships in Austria and Germany a transportation system was established to bring refugee women and children to safety.

I made one of the trips to the Ukrainian border. A couple of experiences stood out. One was of a teenage girl who wanted to show me a video on her phone. The scenes that I saw of war atrocities will never be erased from my mind. Although I have a copy of the video on my phone, it is not one that I share with others. It is a reminder of the ugliness of war, the fragility of humanity, and the need to protect. This teenager was living in fear that those images could become her reality. Because of Project Safe Passage, she can begin the healing journey in a place where she is not afraid for her life.

The second experience brought tears to my eyes, quite unexpectedly. We had just arrived in Germany after 25+ hours on the road. A young mother and her baby, along with the mother's 21-year-old sister were being dropped off at their host home. As I toured the home, I was quite impressed. The young couple had lovingly prepared two bedrooms and a play pen for the baby. Then I observed something that I was not expecting. The fear that overcame the Ukrainian young mother was in stark contrast to the warm welcome the hosts provided. The tears began to flow as she held tightly to her baby. I translated these simple words to her sister, "I'm sorry for everything you are going through." The sister's tears began to flow. As I reflected on that experience as we drove away, I choked up. These young women had to leave everything behind, go where they did not know the language, to a place they had never been, and to stay for an unknown amount of time with people they did not know.

Thanks to generous donations, Child Impact has funded multiple trips to the border delivering desperately needed supplies inside Ukraine and returning with a bus filled with refugees. Hundreds of women and children have been helped through our Emergency Fund. Project Safe Passage is a direct response to counteract the risks of human trafficking and protect the vulnerable during a time of crisis.

– Tom Evans, Child Impact CEO



TRAUMA COUNSELING

Our partner in Austria identified that some mothers have been so traumatized by what they experienced with the war that they are unable to navigate the care of their own children. Child Impact has provided funding to employ a Ukrainian refugee who is a trauma specialist. She is coming alongside to professionally support these mothers in their healing journey. We appreciate the work of Dr. Kateryna Bozhko, who has been on her own journey of healing as well.

– Tom Evans, Child Impact CEO



SPECIAL APPEAL | BECOME A MONTHLY ADVOCATE

As Child Impact expands to help more children, having advocates to partner with us financially will increase the sustainability of our current projects (highlighted in this newsletter) and enable new initiatives to be launched. Our special appeal is for Operation Child Rescue...

\$30/month (or more) on the 30th of each month. – childimpact.org/donate

You can be a tangible partner in the fight to eradicate exploitation through our prevention, intervention, rescue and rehabilitation programs. Provide hope and a bright future to survivors of sex trafficking, child slave labor, baby abandonment, forced marriage, gang recruitment, female genital mutilation (FGM), trauma, and abuse.

SPONSOR AN AT-RISK TEEN TODAY!

Call our office at (423) 910-0667 to sponsor one of these students. The sponsorship rate is \$45/month.

More sponsorship opportunities are available on our website: **ChildImpact.org**
Click the "Sponsor" button.



AUDREN
ID: U62369



CHARITY
ID: U62360



BLESSINGS
ID: U62363



GAIKAI
ID: U62365



MARY
ID: U62368



MUKWENJE
ID: U62367



MAILES
ID: U62370



SARAH
ID: U62366



MEMORY
ID: U62362

CAN I BE A SACRIFICE?

There is a special love that big sisters have for their younger siblings. With five younger siblings stretching across 17 years, I know I would do anything to save them from pain. Near Riverside Farm's campus and across the globe, there are girls who feel an even greater burden to shield their little brothers and sisters from the effects of poverty, malnutrition, and limited accessibility to education. Ruth, the nursery supervisor at Riverside Farm shares, "I'm not feeling so good watching my young [siblings] not to eat... not going back to school because of not having enough money. So I'm like, can I be a sacrifice?"

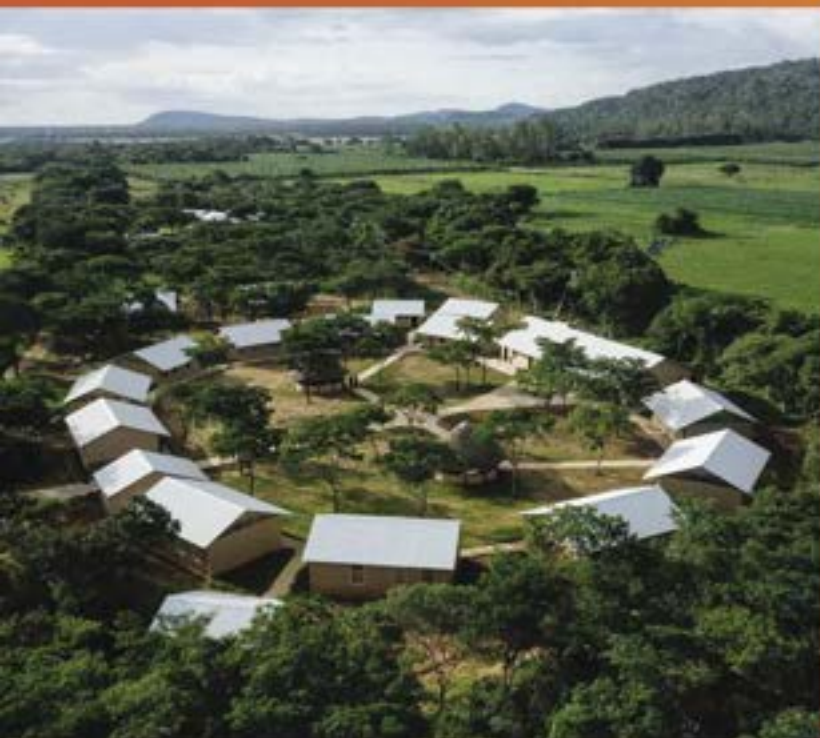
Orphans and street children are always highly vulnerable to trafficking; however, children of village families are also at risk. Sending children to the city for work can be a trap that inadvertently results in human trafficking. Truck drivers exploit Zambian boys and girls in sex trafficking in towns along the Zimbabwean and Tanzanian borders. It is common for family members or close family friends to facilitate trafficking. Some are innocent, having been tricked as well, but others intentionally exploit their connections for personal gain. The people who are supposed to protect these children are often a part of causing the greatest pain.

Do not be discouraged! We are working with Riverside Farm to build a girls' dormitory to offer safety and hope. You can support this project as part of our special appeal. Perhaps you would also like to sponsor one of the girls pictured above. Your financial sacrifice of \$45/month could save girls from having to sacrifice much more.

— Melissa Moore, Child Impact Marketing Manager



SPECIAL APPEAL | GIRLS' DORMITORY



Join our special appeal to build a girls' dormitory on the campus of Riverside Farm in Zambia. Just an hour from this oasis and place of safety, truck drivers crossing the border at Chirundu intentionally seek out young girls to exploit. Girls as young as 12 feel it is necessary to sacrifice themselves to help feed their younger siblings.

Plans are underway to construct a two-story dormitory with two staff apartments, a shower and bathroom facilities, and a living area. This new facility will house 100 girls. The recently completed high school will provide these young girls with an education in a safe environment where they can chase their dreams.

Consider a generous donation to the Child Impact **Building Fund**. \$200,000 is required to complete this life-transforming project. Each girl helped will have an impact on her immediate family and surrounding community.

childimpact.org/donate



Photo: Moses

A CRY FROM THE GRAVE

One of the most riveting and remarkable rescues we have encountered is "Miracle Moses" from Tanzania. Moses was buried alive at birth inside a plastic bag and gunny sack. It is estimated that he was in a shallow grave for 12 hours. A shepherd passing by stepped off the path and was startled to hear the crying of a baby. He started searching but had to solicit help to discover that the sounds were coming from a shallow grave. The timing was a miracle as the sun had already started melting the plastic bag to his skin. Upon removing the bags, they discovered Moses still had the placenta attached. He was rushed to the hospital. Ironically, the baby that was discarded became instantly sought after. It was thought that he must have special powers to survive being buried alive. A security guard was placed by his hospital crib so no one would steal him.

Today, Miracle Moses is a bright young man. His parents, Jerry and Valerie Backus have six additional adopted children and run Falco's Children Village, serving 90 orphans. Child Impact provides support for the operation of Falco's which is located near the Ngorongoro Crater, a popular tourist destination. The local area has many abandoned babies nine months after tourist high season due to prostitution.

— Tom Evans, Child Impact CEO



Photo: Moses and his adoptive father, Jerry



Photo: Moses and friends at Falco's Children Village

Info on the Issue:

Leading causes of children being orphaned are war, disease, natural disasters, abandonment, and accidents. Some other factors include cultural pressures, neglect, abuse, child slavery/child prostitution and religious inequity. Sadly, the average orphan child is left in a vulnerable state and often has to survive in ways that demean and criminalize themselves. Many orphaned children are at risk of dying due to issues related to malnutrition and other preventable diseases.



To watch Moses' story
scan this QR code.

Globally, there are more than 150 million orphans.

DONORS PROVIDE A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES

It is common for donors to wonder about the impact of their financial contributions. According to Staci Church, a daughter of the founders of Cradle of Love, \$100 gives so much more than just that value in baby food, building supplies, or staff compensation. The impact of \$100 is 100 years of memories. Donors are giving vulnerable babies the vital support they need, a chance to start school, fulfill their dreams, and make a lifetime of memories. This is the exponential impact of intervening in a child's life. This is the power donors can have when they bridge the widening gap between poverty and opportunity.

Cradle of Love has been rescuing abandoned, medically fragile babies in Tanzania for over 20 years. Davona Church, the founding director, had a burden for the most helpless babies who were desperate for care and life-saving nutrition. She shares her passion for serving "babies who have no one to feed and care for them; babies who have no one to hug and kiss them and tell them in a soft voice that they are loved." The staff provide 24-hour care to these young ones with the hopes of reuniting them with family whenever possible after they have transitioned to solid food and do not require special nutritional supplements. Their love and care gives these babies a fighting chance to survive.

Staci's birth mother died when she was approximately three months old. Her biological father tried his best to care for her and Staci's older birth sister, but formula is very expensive and he quickly became overwhelmed. A few months later, it was decided that Cradle of Love was Staci's best option for a better future.

When Staci arrived at the orphanage, Davona quickly assessed that out of dozens of other babies, Staci was the most at-risk. Davona chose to keep her in her home to personally provide care around the clock. Despite being extremely malnourished, Staci survived. When she was well enough to join the other babies at the orphanage, the Church family knew they couldn't let her go. They had forged a special bond and adopting her was just a formality. Staci was already a part of the family that loved her like she was always one of them.

Today, Staci is excited about the start of her senior year of high school. She has plans to study law or start her own business. Staci hopes to someday have a family of her own, modeling the love she experienced growing up, precious memories she holds to through even the hardest times.

Your gift to Operation Child Rescue provides 50% of the annual food budget for Cradle of Love. Give children like Staci a chance to experience a lifetime of memories.

– Melissa Moore, Child Impact Marketing Manager



Photo: Staci Church





BREAKING CYCLES OF GENERATIONAL TRAUMA

Picture this. You are walking down a path. You have exotic trees growing on either side of you. There are flowers and shrubs of various colors lining the path you walk. You have found yourself in the middle of a beautiful, lush garden. You see young girls running just ahead of you. They are laughing as they weave in and out of the shrubbery.

This wonderful mental picture is exactly how Olmalaika Trust has designed their facility. Located on the border of the Maasai Mara game reserve in Kenya, their mission is to rescue vulnerable girls subject to female genital mutilation (FGM) and abuse. By focusing on a holistic approach to healing, their goal is to rehabilitate each girl and safely reintegrate her into her family.

Olmalaika's goal is to break the generational cycle of following harmful traditions, to be an influence on their communities, families, and generations to come. This idea of breaking the generational cycle is one that many of us can relate to. In our own lives, we make the personal choice to continue the negative practices that have become tradition in our families and communities. Whatever those may be, we can choose to break the generational cycle in our own lives. Once this happens, we begin to heal from the generational trauma that accompanies these harmful practices. If you would like to support the efforts at Olmalaika Trust, please consider donating to Operation Child Rescue.

—Sarah Hendricksen, Child Impact Donor Relations Coordinator



Info on the Issue

The most common reasons for FGM are social traditions and religious practices. Misconceptions also exist about hygiene and preserving a girl or woman's virginity. In some cultures, FGM is considered a rite of passage into adulthood or a prerequisite for marriage. Very often FGM is performed against the will of an individual. Health care professionals around the globe classify it as a form of violence against women or child abuse if FGM is performed on a child.

AN ESCAPE FROM CHILD MARRIAGE

There are moral standards that transcend culture. Such is the case with child brides. The idea of an underage girl being forced to marry a man in his 50's or older defies the innate moral compass of most individuals. In January of 2022, the Philippines enacted a law to criminalize the practice of child marriage. This was a major step in the Philippines as one in six girls is married by the age of 18.

Child Impact is directly involved in helping to prevent child marriage through support of a jungle school in the Palawan highlands. Previously, the children of this village were left without viable education options due to the distance from the lowlands and the help required during the harvest season. Village children grew up illiterate and for survival most girls married at young ages, many times to much older men. Babies were soon on their way and the cycle continued.

The Palawan Literacy School was built through funds raised on social media by Jasper Iturriaga, Operation Child Rescue Field Coordinator. Twenty students were anticipated, but 100 registered. Education provides a path out of generational patterns that limit young girls from reaching their full potential. Through Operation Child Rescue, Child Impact funds a nutritious lunch each day for these children as well as a quarterly health check. It is anticipated that this school and others that will be constructed soon will become part of the Child Impact sponsorship program.



Child Impact recently supported the adoption of a newborn abandoned by the grave of his mother who died in childbirth. Baby James was left to die due to a superstition that he was bad luck. Today, James is a thriving toddler being showered with love by his adoptive mother. You can donate to Operation Child Rescue to help other abandoned babies like James. Child Impact supports several projects focused on rescuing abandoned babies.

– Tom Evans, Child Impact CEO



*The Philippines has an abandoned children problem. **About 1.8 million children** are abandoned or neglected.*



Photo above: Suleiman, as a teenager following his accident, and becoming an orphan.

Photo below: Student at New Hope School and Orphanage



DEEP PAIN MOTIVATES LIFE CALLING

Children are vulnerable. Many are required to fend for themselves and fight for their survival prematurely. The world is a dangerous place with many obstacles to navigate. All of this becomes more complicated for children with disabilities.

Suleiman Bayu grew up in the center of Ethiopia. A freak accident at the age of seven changed his life forever. A large tree was being cut down near his parents' property. Ropes were attached to pull the tree in the desired direction. However, the tree fell in the opposite direction, to where young Suleiman was sitting and watching. Startled onlookers rushed to pull away the debris. They found Suleiman pinned underneath the tree and unconscious. The trunk was too heavy to remove, so it had to be cut off before they could reach Suleiman. Initially, the onlookers thought he was dead as he did not immediately respond, but soon he began breathing. He survived with a broken leg, but his crushed right hand never regained use and became a reminder of that accident throughout his life.

Another tragedy took place at the age of ten, resulting in Suleiman becoming an orphan. A drought in Ethiopia from 1983-1985 resulted in eight million famine victims with one million individuals losing their lives. Suleiman and his two sisters were being raised by their mother. His mother tried her best to feed the children, while starving herself. One sister became sick and within a few days passed away. Soon his second sister was unable to move due to hunger. In desperation, Suleiman's mother asked him to run for food at a relief center some distance away. Feeling weak and famished himself, he wondered if he could even make the journey for help. Upon arrival, the lines were so long that Suleiman was unable to be seen the first day. On the second day, he fainted and was discovered by an aid worker. After six days of medication, he revived. The first thing on his mind was the rescue of his mom and sister. With a bag of cooked wheat in hand, he returned to the village only to discover they had already died. Suleiman now found himself placed in an orphanage. His disability created many challenges; however, he soon rose to the top of his class. Suleiman even went on to graduate from Addis Ababa University with a major in political science and international relations.

Where does this story intersect with Child Impact International? Suleiman determined his life's calling was to help children who encountered similar difficulties as he did growing up...those with disabilities and orphans. The school and orphanage he established is called "New Hope." Through Operation Child Rescue, funds are sent regularly to support the operations of this school. We desire to partner with this vision for the most vulnerable that has been inspired by a journey of pain.

– Tom Evans, Child Impact CEO

Info on the Issue:

Traffickers may target individuals with disabilities because of the social discrimination and prejudice they face. This can cause authorities and even their own family and friends to not believe victims when they report their abuse. This is especially true for victims with disabilities that affect intellectual, cognitive, communication functions, or those individuals with mental health diagnoses.

Statistics indicate that risks for human trafficking are 5x greater for those with disabilities.

Ethiopia is one of the largest hubs of trafficked persons in Africa.



NEW PROJECT!

FIRST PROJECT IN LATIN AMERICA

Child Impact is very excited to announce our most recent project! Through a partnership with VIDA Internacional in Honduras, at-risk children are able to pursue education. Located in Cedros, Honduras, this school provides bilingual education to underprivileged children, which is typically only available for the wealthiest families. This school is arguably the most affordable fully accredited bilingual school in the country offering subsidies to 100% of its student body and additional scholarships to up to 20% of its students. The school was established in 2010 in an area where poverty is rampant and extreme poverty affects 1 out of every 5 individuals.

In pursuit of better living conditions, many fathers attempt to find work in the United States. With no father to defend them, the children are at-risk of being abused, sometimes at the hands of extended family members. In order to find some sense of protection, some children join gangs. Through Operation Child Rescue, children that come from these backgrounds are being supported to attend the school.

Child Impact is proud to partner with such a holistic organization. VIDA endeavors to develop the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of all students, preparing them for eternity. Together, we can protect the most vulnerable.

— Sarah Hendricksen, Child Impact Donor Relations Coordinator



Child Impact has produced an 8-minute and a 23-minute video to be shown in local churches or other gatherings.

July 30 is the World Day Against Human Trafficking, but you can share this powerful video throughout the year.



To access videos when released, sign up here or call (423) 910-0667.



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EMPOWERING EDUCATION



ERADICATING EXPLOITATION

"Our kids have only worried about food and survival. Now they can chase their dreams."

- Parent of Sponsored Child



FIGHTING TO PREVENT:

- Sex Trafficking
- Extreme Poverty
- Baby Abandonment
- Forced Marriage
- Trauma & Abuse

"Set free those who are crushed. Break every evil chain." - Isaiah 58:6



Child Impact has produced an 8-minute and 23-minute video to be shown in local churches or other gatherings.

To access videos when released, scan the QR code to sign up here or call (423) 910-0667.

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