

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Proposed Project Name: *Safe Return for Trafficking Survivors*

Reporting Period: August 2025 – January 2026

1. Introduction

This report presents implementation results of the *Safe Return and Economic Reintegration for Trafficking Survivors (SRERTS)* project, which supported Tanzanian survivors of human trafficking repatriated from Thailand. The project focused on safe reception, psycho social healing, legal protection and family reunification to improve their reintegration and rehabilitation and prevent re-trafficking.

Implementation was carried out through collaboration between Night Light International from Thailand and ZUIA together with community protection stakeholders.

2. Project Goal and Objectives

Overall Goal

To restore safety, dignity, and support trafficking survivors as they reintegrate into their communities after being repatriated from Thailand to Tanzania.

Specific Objectives

1. Assess survivor and design reintegration plan.
2. Deliver psycho social counseling and emotional recovery support.
3. Provide legal counseling and human rights awareness.
4. Facilitate safe family reunification and community reintegration.

3. Target Beneficiaries

- Primary beneficiaries: Trafficking survivors repatriated from Thailand
- Total direct beneficiaries: **16 survivors**

4. Activities Implemented

4.1 Assessment

During this initial stage, professionals conducted safety and vulnerability assessments to determine each survivor's level of risk, urgent health concerns, psychological condition, and protection requirements. The information collected guided the development of individualized care and recovery plans.

4.2 Psycho social Support Services

After stabilization, survivors were enrolled in psycho social support programs aimed at restoring emotional well being and rebuilding self-confidence. Individual counseling sessions were conducted by counselors to help survivors process trauma, reduce anxiety, and develop coping strategies. As survivors progressed, they underwent trauma-healing preparation focused on strengthening resilience and preparing them psychologically for reintegration into their families and communities.

4.3 Legal Assistance

Legal assistance was provided to ensure survivors understood their rights and available protection mechanisms. Survivors were educated on national laws, reporting procedures, and legal processes related to human trafficking cases. They received confidential guidance on how to safely report traffickers and cooperate with investigations without compromising their safety. Where necessary, referrals were made to relevant authorities and legal institutions to facilitate justice processes, while ensuring that survivors' confidentiality and protection were maintained throughout.

4.4 Family Reunification and Follow-up

Prior to reunification, survivors received counseling and awareness sessions to help them decide whether and how to share their experiences with their families, enabling relatives to better understand their situation and support the reintegration process. Reunification was conducted voluntarily and under safe conditions, always prioritizing the survivor's best interests. After returning home, regular monitoring visits were carried out to assess their well being, family relationships, and economic stability. These follow-up activities helped ensure survivors remained protected, socially accepted, and able to maintain their recovery within the community. In one case, short term emergency assistance was needed to provide safe accommodation for the survivor.

5. Results and Achievements (With Numbers)

Indicator	Target	Achieved
Survivors repatriated from Thailand	16	16
Survivors reunited with families	16	16
Survivors receiving psychosocial support	16	7
Survivors receiving legal counselling	16	7

6. Outcomes

Survivor Level

- Increased confidence and emotional stability
- Improved decision-making capacity

Family Level

- Reduced stigma
- Increased acceptance
- Participation in protection

Community Level

- Increased awareness of trafficking risks
- Better reporting and vigilance
- Reduced vulnerability to re-trafficking

7. Program Budget and Expenditure

Resources were strategically allocated to prioritize reintegration and rehabilitation services.

Budget Category	Planned Budget (USD)	Actual Expenditure (USD)	Remarks
Family Reunification and Follow-up	300	140	Less transport funds were needed as families within close proximity
Survivor Shelter	195	195	As families within close proximity, only one beneficiary needed shelter assistance
Psychosocial Support Services: Psychological Support / Counseling	150	100	Beneficiaries needed less sessions with counselors
Legal Assistance	80	55	Government legal services supplemented support
Health & Medical Check Up	0	0	None of the survivors required medical treatment

Monitoring & Follow Up Support	80	40	In combining visits to Dar es Salaam reduced costs
TOTAL	805	530	

8. Challenges

- I. **Limited financial resources** – The project operated under constrained funding, which restricted the ability to expand services such as additional shelter space, extended counseling sessions, and long-term case monitoring.
- II. **Low trust among survivors** – Due to trauma, fear of retaliation, and previous deception by traffickers, many survivors were initially hesitant to participate in activities with other survivors and share information or cooperate with service providers and authorities. This slowed their healing and reintegration, case documentation, delayed legal processes, and required extended counseling to gradually build confidence and a sense of safety.
- III. **Family poverty** – Many families lived in severe economic hardship, increasing pressure on survivors to contribute income quickly. This created a heightened risk of unsafe migration or re-trafficking, especially when livelihood support was insufficient or delayed.
- IV. **Family conflicts** – In some cases, misunderstandings, stigma, or blame within households created tension during reintegration. These conflicts required mediation and continuous family counseling, which prolonged the reintegration process and demanded additional psycho social support to rebuild trust and acceptance.

9. Lessons Learned

- **Reintegration requires long-term follow-up** – Short-term assistance was not sufficient to ensure stability. Continuous monitoring visits, mentoring, and counseling over an extended period (1- 2 years) helped identify emerging risks early, strengthen coping mechanisms, and support survivors in maintaining social well being.
- **Family inclusion is critical to sustainability** – Survivors reintegrated more successfully when families were involved in counseling, awareness sessions, and planning. Family understanding reduced stigma, prevented conflict, and created a protective environment that lowered the likelihood of re-trafficking.
- **International partnerships improve rescue and recovery outcomes** – Collaboration with cross-border organizations strengthened victim identification, safe return procedures, and access to specialized services. Coordinated communication between partners improved case management and ensured survivors received consistent protection throughout the recovery process.

10. Recommendations

- I. Increase funding for long-term reintegration programs.
- II. Provide family economic strengthening programs.

- III. Create survivor savings groups.
- IV. Strengthen law enforcement collaboration against traffickers.
- V. Expand Safe Shelters: Increase capacity for both male and female survivors to ensure immediate and safe accommodation.
- VI. Strengthen Community Awareness: Educate families and communities about ethical service access and free support available to survivors.
- VII. Increase Funding: Secure additional resources to enhance follow-up, reintegration, and psycho social support.
- VIII. Continuous Training: Equip staff with skills to handle ethical dilemmas, survivor communication, and reintegration challenges.

11. Conclusion

The project successfully facilitated the safe return of 16 survivors, reunified them with their families, and initiated psycho social. Despite financial and social challenges, the intervention significantly reduced vulnerability to re-trafficking and strengthened survivor resilience. Continued long-term support remains essential to ensure sustainable reintegration.