

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is one of the oldest international evangelical organizations in the world. TSA was founded in 1865 by a minister named William Booth who emphasized the importance of providing direct material services to vulnerable populations. A visionary for his time, he established some of the first direct services, such as the feeding and shelter of the hungry and homeless and rehabilitation programs for alcoholics and sexually exploited girls. In particular, he was appalled by the rampant sexual exploitation of vulnerable poor young girls/women in the streets of London and throughout Europe. To stop the “trafficking” of young women out of England, Booth successfully helped to campaign for legal reform to raise the “age of consent” for girls. To “rehabilitate” victims of sexual trafficking, the young Salvation Army opened a series of homes of “refuge” and training. Within thirty years, TSA had established 117 rescue homes for women throughout England.¹

TSA International: A Worldwide Service Provider to Vulnerable Populations

The early efforts in battling human trafficking firmly established TSA’s tradition of providing compassionate, skilled, and comprehensive services to vulnerable and needy persons, including trafficking victims. In addition to those first basic services, new programs that address contemporary needs have been established. TSA continues to provide emergency, short-term and long-term assistance to individuals and communities; responds to disasters with material support and pastoral counseling, and offers extensive social services to vulnerable persons. Today’s Salvation Army is a major international presence with programs in 111 countries.

As evidence of this commitment against trafficking, TSA has emerged as a recognized leading champion of anti-trafficking programming globally. TSA has initiated programs specifically targeting trafficking victims in Ecuador, China, Mexico, Canada, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, India, and the United States.

Sri Lanka - TSA has provided shelter and care to Chinese children who were rescued from traffickers in Sri Lanka.

The Philippines - TSA uses its network of churches to raise awareness through campaigns and workshops with mothers; creates education materials; develops creative activities such as musical and drama presentations and song writing competitions; creates partnerships with schools, churches, NGOs, government agencies and other institutions; conducts research; and facilitates peer counseling among vulnerable groups.

India - TSA initiated the “Jeevan Asha Project: Drop-in Center for Women and Children in Prostitution,” located in the Kamathipura Red Light Area, the biggest sex trade area in Mumbai. The center offers counseling, vocational training, literacy programs, women’s meetings, spiritual meetings integrated with other activities, and activities for the children of the women.

¹ Green, R. (1996) Catherine Booth, A Biography of the Cofounder of The Salvation Army, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI.

USA - In the past three years, TSA has been granted three and a half million dollars from the US government to implement counter-trafficking capacity building and service programs. TSA continues to develop and expand anti-trafficking programs, develop staff expertise, provide expert training, and create innovative prevention and treatment programs to stop trafficking. TSA has developed state-of-the art anti-trafficking curriculum in collaboration with high ranking government departments, which has been used in training around the United States, as well as in the UK, Canada, India, Hong Kong, China, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. TSA anti-trafficking personnel have also testified before the U.S. Congress. In 2001 TSA assumed the leadership of the Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking (IAST), a partnership of faith-based human rights, child and women's advocacy organizations, united in seeking the abolition of sexual trafficking.

The Salvation Army World Service Office (SAWSO) was created in 1977 as an independent corporation to support and strengthen TSA's efforts to work hand in hand with communities to improve the health, economic, and spiritual condition of the poor throughout the world. SAWSO programs include community-based HIV/AIDS programs, maternal and child health, microfinance, water and food security, and anti-trafficking.

SAWSO has leveraged more than US\$ 110 million for TSA's development efforts worldwide. This includes USAID awards as well as private foundation support to implement sustainable community-based health and development activities. SAWSO has received USAID funds since the late 1970s for a variety of relief and development programs. SAWSO manages USAID-funded Child Survival Programs in South Africa and Zambia, and several PEPFAR-funded HIV/AIDS and OVC programs in Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria, Zambia and Haiti. In 2005 SAWSO was awarded grants to do Anti-Trafficking work in China, Indonesia, and Ecuador. SAWSO's efforts have impacted the lives of millions of people worldwide, including in Indonesia through a Community Health Matching Grant and ongoing multi-million dollar tsunami relief and reconstruction programs.

TSA/Indonesia - TSA has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to vulnerable populations in Indonesia for over 122 years. With 262 different institutions and programs strategically located throughout the region, TSA strives to comprehensively serve the spiritual, medical, physical, and emotional needs of Indonesians, especially the medically needy and children. TSA/Indonesia operates schools, hospitals, medical clinics, and children's homes. With its network of 324 churches and church satellites, TSA Indonesia is positioned well to be an influential collaborative partner in building the capacity of peer organizations to recognize, rescue and restore trafficking victims. At the same time, TSA Indonesia is well entrenched in communities and can work to effectively build "grassroots" capacity" to advocate for legislative change, to prevent trafficking and to provide care and/or referrals to victims of trafficking.