



THE FABRIC OF
freedom
2023 IMPACT REPORT



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This report presents Destiny Rescue data from events that occurred by way of our programming and rescue efforts in 2023.

from OUR FOUNDER
TONY KIRWAN



Hello Family,

2023 was a year of intentionality: intentional investment in our support teams to increase capacity for rescue, intentional relationship building to cultivate authentic connections with partner entities and intentional strategy to continually adapt and enhance rescue work.

While we reflected on the year and all it brought, what stood out most was how blessed we were to have the opportunity to collaborate with countless partners—both new and old—to make rescue possible in this ever-changing world.

Newly formed partnerships with government agencies created opportunities to train law enforcement officers on how to identify and rescue victims from online sexual exploitation. Signed MOUs further strengthened our relationships and deepened our engagement with front-line partners. Groundbreaking connections with our faithful donors increased our ability to offer more freedom.

Churches, companies and individuals worldwide are standing in the gap for the world's most vulnerable. All of this was possible because of our teams' dedication to innovation—constantly adapting to rescue as many as possible from the nightmare of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Throughout this report, you'll see example after example of the incredible collaboration we've seen this year: "Every thread strengthens the fabric of freedom."

As we sit in gratitude for the impact made possible this year, we anxiously await the next—our commitment to the countless children yearning for someone to extend a hand into the darkness of exploitation and offer them the light of freedom only grows.

Rescue makes safety possible. Together, we can offer even more children the chance to live a life free from harm, where their bed is a place of rest and not work.

Tony Kirwan

THE FABRIC OF

freedom



We've all heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Over our decades of experience, we've learned that oftentimes, **it takes a community to rescue one.**

A tapestry is woven of many threads, each of which plays a role in creating the beautiful pattern. In the same way, we've joined with law enforcement agencies, communities, governments and partners to weave a tapestry of rescue, where rescue isn't possible without each thread playing its unique and vital role. From identifying victims early to walking with them through the healing process, these partnerships have helped us create our most comprehensive global rescue plan to date.

2023 GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS
Strengthening ties to rescue more children.

3,352
SURVIVORS RESCUED
ACROSS FIVE GLOBAL REGIONS

That's an average of more than 64 rescued each week.

539
SURVIVORS ENROLLED
IN REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS

441 entered our Community Care programs and 98 joined our Residential Homes.

231 **241**
RAIDS ARRESTS

We've strengthened our bonds with local law enforcement with incredible results.



JOINING

TOGETHER TO *rescue* MORE KIDS

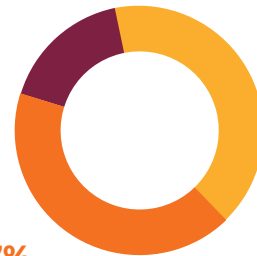
1,768

CHILDREN
& 1,584 ADULTS
STEPPE INTO

freedom!

SITUATIONS OF EXPLOITATION

18.8%
Labor
Trafficking



42.5%
Border
Trafficking

38.7%
Sex Trafficking &
Sexual Exploitation

15%
ADULTS
(25+)

32.3%
YOUNG ADULTS
(18-24)

52.7%
CHILDREN
(17 AND UNDER)



PARTNERING WITH POLICE

513
INDIVIDUALS
WERE RESCUED IN
COLLABORATION WITH
LAW ENFORCEMENT
LAST YEAR

70% CHILDREN



30% ADULTS



Rescue work alongside law enforcement this year

Record Cases Prosecuted in Latin America

208 RESCUED

On average, we collaborated on 13 cases a month! Relationships with local police and justice officials flourished this year, resulting in more rescue cases than ever before. In addition to that, we helped law enforcement facilitate the arrest of 164 dangerous perpetrators.

“We’ve learned how the different government agencies and law enforcement tick,” Lucas, our Dominican Republic rescue manager, said. “Because we meet their needs, they are willing to help meet ours.”

Stopping Traffickers in Asia

305 RESCUED

In the Philippines, our agents and local agencies are reaching peak efficiency. During one raid, the trafficker folded, revealing the location of his accomplice as well as more victims! Our agents and police made the snap decision to raid that day, arresting another trafficker and saving three additional kids.

In Nepal, we’ve seen an increasing number of raids in addition to border rescues, and more families are choosing to prosecute offenders.

And in a country in South Asia, once-cautious local police have started trusting our team more, with encouraging results. A recent raid rescued ten and led to the arrest of several traffickers!

New Weapons Take Aim at OSEC

45 RESCUED

The online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) has experienced alarming growth in the past few years, so we’ve developed some unique techniques to combat the problem.

Using a program of ours called Scientia, we’re helping police track down offenders and their victims through a sophisticated software suite paired with a team of elite investigators. We’ve had the opportunity to train police departments in this program and strategy in two countries with plans to train in a third.

This system is already saving kids and shedding light on the horrible reality of the dark underbelly of this ever-growing heinous crime against children.



2023 GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS
Community Connections



This past year,
we've been
amazed

by some **truly inspiring stories of local people** who
came together to help rescue victims and support
survivors.

Community Connections



A business owner and guardian of a child in our programming



*"I've... been able to empower other girls who were in a situation like mine."
- Abigail, survivor*

Civilian Freedom Fighters

Much of Destiny Rescue's legwork is carried out by ordinary citizens who choose to help us of their own volition.

All over the world, normal people call our agents to provide tips of suspected human trafficking cases. Volunteers open their hearts and homes to aid survivors as they heal. Families bravely press charges against traffickers so they won't hurt any more children.

One brave survivor in Kenya is a shining example to her peers. Abigail completed our hairdressing training, and is now a skilled professional in her field and training others. Her leadership gives hope to other suffering children.

Small Businesses

From pharmacies to candy stands to catering and tailoring, small businesses are helping survivors stay free.

We've seen encouraging growth in our small business programs, particularly in the African region; these businesses provide vital income for rescued kids and their guardians.

Aside from helping fund guardians' businesses or establish startups for older survivors, we also partner with local business owners who apprentice survivors. And these vetted, compassionate business owners are thrilled with the arrangement:

"If you give me another child like Nyasha, I will be very happy!"

– Nyasha's employer, a salon owner

Survivors form their own support communities

After rescue, many survivors choose to continue to help local churches who host post-rescue programs. These brave, selfless young men and women can be uniquely sympathetic to children who are still early in the healing process.

In Kenya, survivors of all ages joined with new graduates to celebrate the dawn of their new life of freedom, encouraging and laughing with the kids in a joyful ceremony.



Destiny Rescue staff and rescued children celebrate their graduation from Destiny Rescue programming



Building *trust* in countries around the globe

Gaining Governments' trust is hard work.

That's why we're proud to have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) in every nation in which we work, whether with credible partners or government entities. Over the years, we've proven time and again that we're an organization without

a hidden agenda.

Officials appreciate that we operate within their borders for one reason alone: to rescue kids.

The more we help their children, the more they team up with us as trusted partners. This year, we've solidified and expanded those relationships.



2023 GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Governments



Destiny Rescue agents (blue uniforms) at work in Nepal



Thailand is currently ranked second in the percentage of children exploited online

We signed new MOUs in Thailand and the Philippines to battle the growing problem of online child exploitation. In Thailand, our team also conducted anti-OSEC training for government agents, police and other non-

Partnership in Nepal has led to some of our most effective work to date. Officials treat us as a valued asset, working with us to conduct raids, follow up on tips and investigate traffickers, all while their border agents support our border stations.



Attendees of the MOU signing

247 Adults (25+) —

547 Children (17 and under)

631 Young Adults (18-24)

1,425 Rescued
at the border

governmental organizations (NGOs)!

The Makabata Helpline, a government-run anonymous hotline in the Philippines for reporting exploitation, abuse, neglect and other harms, collaborated with us to support the program and rescue exploited children



Life-Changing
Relationships

At the heart of rescue are people who care.

Ordinary people are making extraordinary
choices to rescue kids and help them stay free.



2023 GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Partners



Survivors gather during trauma resilience training

with shepherding a highly traumatized child toward a life of sustainable freedom.

Many are empowered by our small business programs to help shoulder the extra expenses and school fees that come with their new charges.

Churches

In several of our projects, local churches are the catalysts of rescue operations.

Church members boldly embody Christ's example by seeking out those most at risk where they are and offering freedom. Volunteers within a church often band together to support survivors as well, hosting *EMPOWER* trauma resilience training and providing a safe place for recovering children to experience love and support.



A Destiny Rescue team member in the Philippines leads a Community Education Program



Joyce, Destiny Rescue business manager and advisor, meets with survivors' guardians, who are running small businesses

Communities

We've partnered with the Filipino government to present Community Education Programs in schools, churches and city halls to raise awareness of the widespread issue of human trafficking. During these programs, community leaders and citizens alike learn about the various forms of human trafficking and how to spot them.

Far from just educational seminars, these programs equip participants with ways they can recognize and fight the problem in their particular areas as well as learn what to do and who to contact if they see signs of exploitation.

We've already conducted over a dozen of these programs so far, empowering more than 1,000 citizens to become Freedom Fighters in their local cities.

Families

In Africa, selfless families with big hearts have chosen to become foster parents or guardians of survivors who have no safe home to return to.

After an extensive vetting process, these compassionate local individuals welcome hurting, healing children into their own homes and bravely take on the responsibilities that come



At the *heart* of rescue

Rescue Snapshots

While far from comprehensive, these snapshots offer a small peek into the crucial work Destiny Rescue is doing around the globe.



2023 GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Rescue Snapshots

Collaboration with Law Enforcement

This year, we've pursued a record number of cases with law enforcement. While there have been incredible stories from all over the world this year, in the Dominican Republic, our efforts are changing the criminal landscape, which is particularly exciting.

Back in 2022, our team in the Dominican Republic helped police investigate and execute a massive raid that took down an entire trafficking ring and rescued 70 victims. That raid proved to be a catalyst for what has grown into a fruitful relationship.

Last year, we worked with the police on about five to six cases a month. **Now, we're averaging 13 cases a month.** Law enforcement agencies work closely with our team because they know they can trust us. Our agents' expertise in undercover work, analytics and each aspect of the investigative process are valuable resources to police. And because we've built such strong ties with law enforcement agencies, they feel comfortable integrating our team into their investigations.

Our work together has been so effective that we've seen traffickers begin to shift the way they carry out their despicable trade in the Dominican Republic.

New investigations indicate that international traffickers who bring in victims from neighboring countries are changing where they do business to try and avoid detection. Our team is already working with police to prosecute these criminals, no matter where they try to hide.

The rapport we've established with government agencies grants us the influence to suggest loving, Christ-centered organizations to help survivors heal post-rescue.

After being treated as a commodity for so long, the young survivors are learning to value themselves again. That type of knowledge changes lives.

Our local country manager has witnessed that change first-hand:

"We can see how life changes for those girls after being rescued... they become somebody they themselves could never imagine."



Destiny Rescue Dominican Republic agents work alongside the Dominican Republic National Police

2023 GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Rescue Snapshots

Community Partnerships

When we join with an entire community to fight trafficking, we make real strides toward ending the trade in that area. James's story illustrates this wide-ranging impact.

When James learned he could help his nephew, he jumped at the chance.

As a clinician for a small private practice in Kenya, he already had a heart for helping others. However, his practice was small and served a largely impoverished community, meaning that finances were always tight. Adding another family member who would need special care seemed out of reach, but Natori, his 12-year-old nephew, had recently been rescued from sexual exploitation and needed a safe place to live.

That's where our economic empowerment solutions came in.

To help his business grow, our small business program temporarily funded James's pharmacy to finally get the medicine stock he needed.

Once the pharmacy was fully stocked, James saw a difference immediately. The abundance of medicine boosted his practice's ability to serve the hurt and sick, and the small business began to take off. His family was able to take in and care for Natori and his needs. The business's success offered the opportunity not only to feed and clothe their new charge but to pay for his school fees as well.

James says that the positive changes in Natori are evident.

With access to three meals a day, Natori's health has improved noticeably. He can attend school again, and James is expecting to see an improvement in his grades as Natori settles into his more stable life.

James is also a member of the project's mentoring team and is helping Natori process the trauma he's endured.

Natori is one of many benefiting from the business expansion. James's clinic, now better equipped to help the community, is having an impact.

"We now get clients from outside who are able to buy medicine from here," James said. *"And we don't take it for granted."*



James, a clinician and guardian

2023 GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Rescue Snapshots

Government Partnerships

Building relational equity with governments streamlines rescue overseas. Here we're sharing one of two MOUs we signed this year.

Earlier this year, Destiny Rescue formalized its collaborative efforts with Thailand in the fight against the online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC).

The worldwide boom in OSEC offenses has hit Thailand particularly hard. The nation is currently ranked second in the percentage of children exploited online. Thailand's law enforcement leaders decided to firm up their long-standing relationship with Destiny Rescue to combat this growing evil.

On Feb. 9, 2023, our team signed an MOU with the government to streamline joint operations.

This agreement allows Destiny Rescue to legally investigate OSEC crimes with the full endorsement of the police, effectively combining and strengthening both entities' operations to rescue children from online predation.

In addition, the MOU signals Thai law enforcement's intent to incorporate Destiny Rescue into its strategic and developmental goals. This will allow Destiny Rescue, which already contributes to investigations with the Thai police, to bolster them from the inside.

Collaboration has already begun. Destiny Rescue's Global OSEC Rescue Director led a productive training workshop with Thailand's anti-trafficking division earlier this year. The unit commander was so pleased with the training that he directly requested further support from Destiny Rescue.



Attendees during the MOU signing between Destiny Rescue and the Thai government



Caleb, Global OSEC Rescue Director, accepts a recognition award from Thailand's Department of Special Investigations for Destiny Rescue's contribution to anti-trafficking efforts



Royal Thai Police officers during a Destiny Rescue OSEC training

Citizen Freedom Fighters

When Diya accepted our rescue offer several years ago, she promised the rescue agent who helped her that in the future, she'd do whatever she could to help other girls facing the same fate she'd endured. She's been making good on that promise.

While Diya waited at a bus station, a nearby group of young women caught her eye. The three teenage girls were traveling with a man who was obviously the leader of the small troupe. Diya noticed that the young women didn't speak the same language as their host, who was talking business on his phone while they waited.

But Diya was bilingual, and she knew exactly what he was saying. While the children sat mildly by, their monstrous host negotiated price points—selling them into sexual exploitation.



Diya stands with another group of rescued girls

When the passengers finally boarded the bus, she made a point of sitting near the young women. As she spoke to them in their native language, she learned that the three girls were all from the same village and were expecting to work good jobs in the city.

The offer, of course, was a lie. The trafficker was actually planning to sell the children, likely to brothel owners across the border who pay top dollar for Nepali girls. Diya wasn't about to let that happen, not when she could do something about it.

Keeping her voice low, she told the girls what she'd overheard their guide say on the phone, warning them that he wasn't who he seemed. Together, they quietly made a plan of escape. Then Diya made a phone call of her own.

She contacted one of our local rescue agents, revealing that she hoped to escape with three trafficked children soon. Once they decided on a location to meet up, there was nothing left to do but wait for the bus to stop.

When the bus finally arrived at the station in the city, Diya and the girls acted fast. As soon as the group was off the bus, they made a break for it, running into the city before their trafficker could catch up with them. Diya and the survivors met up with our rescue agent, who took the girls and hid them in safe houses while our team worked to contact their families.



A bus station in Nepal



Thank You

This has been a year of relationships for Destiny Rescue—a year of forging new partnerships and galvanizing existing bonds all with this focus in mind:

Rescuing children.

The work is paying off. Local governments trust our agents as valuable assets, making use of our expert teams more and more. Police regularly call on us for assistance with cases when our agents aren't already incorporated into their anti-trafficking units. Communities are coming together to support survivors even as our volunteer citizen rescuers help make the entire process run like a well-oiled machine.

At the center of it all, tireless rescue agents and caseworkers toil night and day to usher kids from the darkness of exploitation and prepare them to live free. They are supported by an army of logisticians, fundraisers, administrators and other supporters who help complete the tapestry of rescue. Every connection we forge empowers our front-line workers to help more children more efficiently. Every individual plays a vital role in weaving the fabric of freedom, and we couldn't be more grateful for them.

There's one more essential thread in that tapestry that this report has yet to mention. Without our incredible donors, the entire fabric unravels. Thanks to your gifts, children are rescued, businesses are started, criminals are arrested and Christ's love is shared with those who otherwise might go a lifetime without experiencing it.

The lion's share of our gratitude is reserved for the loving God who uses a group of imperfect people to rescue His children. God is the original Rescuer, and we strive to emulate Christ's work on earth by going where the need is to pull children out of the darkness. Every child was His before we ever met them, and every victory is by His blessing.

9,000+
CHILDREN
rescued

RESCUE TOTALS SINCE 2011

5,000+ ADULTS RESCUED