

A photograph of a forest at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. Several people are seen from behind, holding hands and reaching their arms up towards the trees. The trees are tall and thin, with sparse foliage. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

HAGAR

The whole journey

Hagar Vietnam

2023 Annual Report

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**All client names in this document have been changed to honour their privacy*

A Word From the Country Director

Dear Hagar supporters, stakeholders and partners,

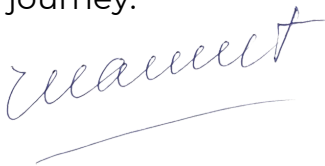
Last year presented both positive developments and ongoing challenges for Vietnam. Persistent issues like human trafficking and gender-based violence require sustained attention and action. In this landscape, Hagar Vietnam maintained an unwavering commitment to expand our impact and reach more individuals in need.

But through our collaboration with partners, the resilience of the individuals we serve, and our team's dedication, our efforts directly benefited 17,775 people and indirectly impacted 62,213.

We successfully assisted 861 survivors and vulnerable women and children through our Whole Journey program. Of these, 95 received specialised psychological treatment to aid in healing from severe trauma. We were also able to provide counselling for 8 serious child sexual abuse cases (twice as many as 2022), and equipped 301 female victims of gender-based violence and high-risk individuals with financial management skills, livelihood training, and education.

Hagar amplified its impact by reaching 236,956 individuals through extensive national and local prevention campaigns and training 348 social protection officers in trauma-informed care and on human trafficking and gender-based violence. Through our survivor empowerment programs, 50 survivor ambassadors were trained in leadership skills.

While 2023 was a year of promise and growth, there is much work still to be done. Your ongoing partnership is critical to driving lasting change and building a safer environment for all. Thank you for playing a vital role in Hagar Vietnam's journey.



Thuy Giangthithu
Country Director
Hagar International Vietnam

Highlights



861

Survivors and high-risk women and children were supported through Hagar Vietnam programs.



236,956

People were reached with prevention messages through community events and online campaigns on Hagar's media channels



49

Survivors successfully reintegrated home with dignity.



339

Clients achieved economic independence.



348

Government staff were trained in trauma-informed care and effectively applied it to their work.



333,600

Vulnerable people were reached through communication tools and social behavior change communication strategies.

Heal



Survivor Support

490 clients and their dependents received holistic care and support services from Hagar Vietnam.



Counselling

733 counselling and psychotherapy sessions were delivered to clients.



Empowerment

339 clients achieved financial independence through vocational skills development.



Repatriation

70 Vietnamese trafficking victims were identified in Cambodia and supported and repatriated home through Hagar Vietnam and Cambodia's collaboration.



Trafficking Hotline

560 call sessions on the 24/7 Hotline resulted in 90 clients being assessed and accepted into the Whole Journey program.

Prevent



Officials Trained

348 government officials were trained to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, and human trafficking in their communities.



Expanding Prevention

Two online contests invited the public to create prevention messaging against violence using their own stories. **200 messages** were produced and reached **234,185 people**.



Building Safe Communities

348 survivors trained to build positive relationships. **100%** of participants committed to build a safety network in their community after the training.



Reducing Violence in Northern Vietnam

1,600 residents in eight Northern Vietnamese communities joined gender-based violence awareness events about prevention, how to respond, and victims' rights. **90%** of attendees committed to sharing their learnings with family and friends.



Survivor Voice Raises Awareness

2 trafficking survivors bravely shared their stories of successful reintegration on video. The videos were broadcast on TV, at events and in publications to raise awareness on World Day Against Trafficking and International Migrants Day.

[Watch Thuy Anh's Story](#)

[Watch Mi's Story](#)

Increase Capacity



Partners Trained in Trauma-Informed Care

348 partner organizations participated in workshops and training about Trauma-Informed Care.



Trafficking Identification and Response

94 local partner representatives were trained to identify and respond to cases of domestic violence, abuse, and human trafficking.



Border Police Training

142 border police and staff trained on case management and psychological first aid when working with human trafficking survivors.



Trafficking and Abuse Risk Reduction

267 at-risk individuals participated in training and awareness programs about domestic abuse, gender equality, and financial management skills.



Coordination Model Launch

Hagar established its **Multiple Coordination Model**, bringing together Emergency Response Teams, Technical teams, and local support systems to better identify, respond to, and monitor cases of gender-based violence.



Promote Awareness

Equipping Government Officials

296 local officials participated in 14 workshops about policies and procedures to prevent violence, abuse and human trafficking.

Addressing Child Sexual Abuse

52 government officials, NGOs and private sector partners joined a seminar on supporting children who have experienced sexual abuse. Participants learned how to apply inter-agency coordination to protect and support victims.

Human Trafficking Awareness

In collaboration with IOM Vietnam, Hagar led awareness-raising campaigns about human trafficking. The campaign addressed victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants and used online social networks to spread the message. In total, **333,600** people were reached through the awareness campaign.



Empower & Equip

Survivor Ambassadors

50 alumni and survivor ambassadors were identified through Hagar’s empowerment and leadership training.

Survivor Voice

In collaboration with IOM, **3 returning human trafficking survivors became spokespersons** to raise awareness about human trafficking prevention and safe migration. Through an IOM-produced video, they shared their story of recovery to inspire the cause of human trafficking prevention.

Financial Empowerment

301 female survivors of (and at high risk for) GBV in 12 hotspot communities received training on household financial management and livelihoods.

Empowered Livelihoods

234 beneficiaries received business loans and relevant training to increase household income and savings. In a 6-month assessment, more than **94%** of participants shared they had started managing their household finance following trainer’s guidance.

Red Lotus Program

24 survivors were recipients of Hagar’s Red Lotus Program, an alumni network that provides training on life skills, emotional care, and resilience.

“Thanks to their support, I have become very strong and break my limit to gradually changing myself to live a more meaningful life.”

Nga's Story



“It was a long, painful, and haunting period. I wish no young girl would ever experience such a moment. But if it does happen, I hope you believe in yourself and know that it's not your fault and reach out for help as soon as possible.”

-Nga's

Throughout childhood, Nga's life was filled with confusion, and despair, haunted by what her father did to her.

When Nga was in elementary school, she would awake with vague memories of her clothes being removed and becoming dishevelled. Over time, she learned the culprit was her father.

As Nga grew older, she gradually came to understand her father's actions and realize the traumatic abuse she'd experienced.

When Nga finally mustered the courage to confide in her mother, her mother urged her to keep it a secret fearing the truth would jeopardise their family's honour.

Nga's pain continued to build.

She would cry herself to sleep at night, considered self-harm, and struggled to connect with others. **She had no one to trust with whom she could share her experiences.**

Nga finally escaped the deadlock of those days when she passed the university admission exam and left home to study in another city.

It was there that Nga found Hagar. Through Hagar's Whole Journey program, Nga came to understand the abuse that she'd suffered. She learned self-acceptance, to release blame, and to embrace love. Nga also learned how to express her emotions positively. These changes enabled her to gradually connect with and build relationships with her peers, and reconnect with her family.

Tam's Story

For years, Tam shouldered the immense responsibility of supporting her family alone. Neither she nor her husband received formal education. Both their son and daughter were born with cognitive disabilities, putting more strain on Tam and her husband. With few opportunities to earn a living wage, Tam's family fell deeper into poverty and violence.

Tam faced weekly episodes of severe physical and verbal abuse from her husband. Though many in her community urged her to leave, she could not face the thought of abandoning her vulnerable children. **She stayed captive in the cycle of violence.**

When their daughter became pregnant after being sexually assaulted in the fields near their home, Tam became her granddaughter's caregiver.

Tam saw a glimmer of hope when she was accepted into Hagar's livelihoods program. With a small business loan, Tam bought cinnamon seedlings and fertiliser. After her first successful crop, she was able to save money and invest in her granddaughter's education. And through Hagar's capacity-building training, *Tam gained business and relationship skills.*

As Tam and her husband participated in the program, his tirades slowly ceased. Today, Tam's family is financially stable and at peace. Because of the family's income, Tam is able to send her granddaughter to school. She is the only literate member of the family and has become a beacon of hope for their future.

“I am overflowing with gratitude for Hagar's support. When I arrived in Yen Bai as a bride from another province, I was isolated and had no support. I often retreated into a shell of low self-esteem and was unable to seek help from the community. **Now, my hope blooms again.** I look forward to my granddaughter's education flourishing, repairing my crumbling house, and my son being empowered and equipped to support the family.”

-Tam

Sao's Story

Driven by crushing poverty, Sao chose to work abroad to help her family.

But the reality she discovered was far from the "job description" she'd been promised. Sao quickly found herself trapped in a web of deceit and exploitation.

Her job caring for 12 elderly patients was demanding and the living conditions were horrible. Sao was often forced to work 24-hour shifts. For two long years, Sao endured. But her physical and mental health declined. Still, she held onto the belief that her sacrifice would pay off.

When Sao finally returned to Vietnam, her nightmare continued to unfold: **she was diagnosed with colon cancer.** Her doctors believed was linked to the stress of her previous job.

As Sao's health deteriorated, she wasn't able to work and the cost of her medical treatment put additional stress on her husband and two children.

She was relieved when she was accepted into Hagar and IOM's joint program for human trafficking survivors. The three-month program provided Sao with financial assistance. Medical exams and treatment, food, children's education, and essential items were all included. Sao's family also received a female cow to support their livelihood.

With her essential needs met, Sao found newfound strength to fight for her health.

Though her illness left her weakened, her spirit remained unbroken.

Today, Sao cares for their cow and helps her husband with small jobs while her children are in school.

Despite everything she has faced, Sao has persevered and is determined to reclaim her life and build a brighter future for her family.



“Receiving practical assistance when my family and I faced the most challenging situation made me feel relieved and truly blessed. Thanks to your help, my living conditions have improved.”

-Sao

San's Story



When San's husband walked out on their family, he left her with the full burden of financial responsibility and raising their two children.

With few opportunities in their small community in north-central Vietnam, San looked for job opportunities abroad to save her family.

San found a broker who helped her find employment as a nurse's aide at an assisted living facility for the elderly in Taiwan.

But San's workload was unmanageable and her shifts were long. She would leave a 12-hour shift exhausted from caring for patients all day, only to return to terrible living conditions provided by the company. San suffered food poisoning from the poor meals she was provided.

San asked to change jobs several times but was met with a dismissive attitude from the broker.

This nightmare continued until San suffered a serious injury and could no longer work. When her contract expired, she was forced to return home.

San learned about Hagar through her local Women's Union. She was welcomed into Hagar and IOMs joint partnership that supports women affected by human trafficking.

Tuition for her children, food and necessities, career networking, and psychosocial support were all part of San's healing journey.

Through the financial assistance of the project, San is rebuilding her life one step at a time.