



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Blue Dragon aims to end human trafficking in Vietnam by 2032. For 20 years, we have been collaborating with local authorities to combat human trafficking and rescue victims from their places of slavery. All the knowledge we have accumulated during these two decades has shaped our strategy to eradicate modern slavery. This expertise allows Blue Dragon to turn all systemic and major forms of human trafficking into rare occurrences that government authorities can respond to swiftly and effectively.**

## The Problem

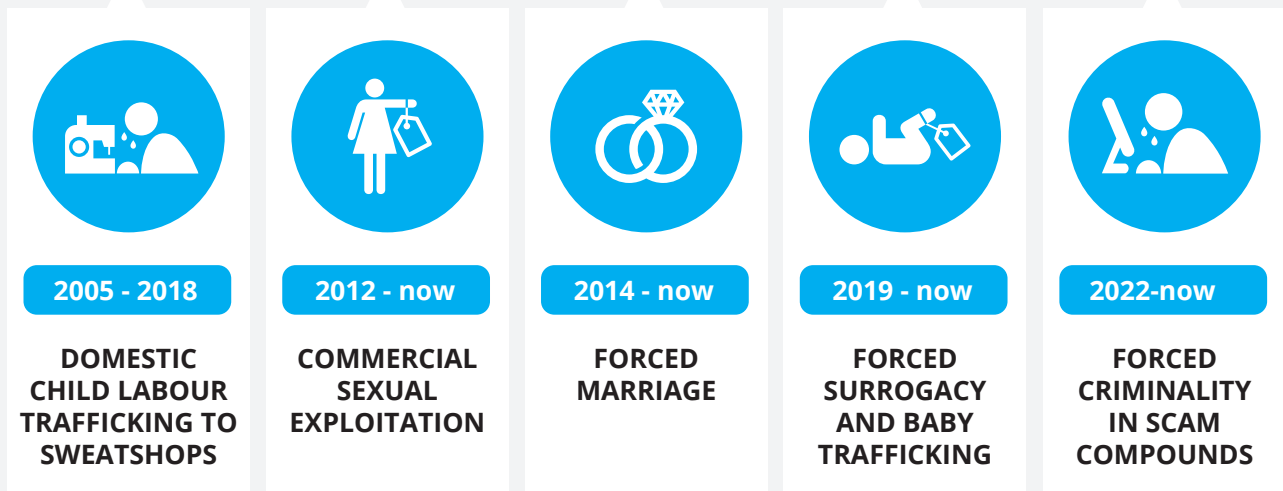
Human trafficking is a complex, multi-faceted crime that is estimated to affect around 50 million people worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Vietnam is primarily a “source” country – meaning Vietnamese people are trafficked to other countries where they are exploited. However, there is also some domestic trafficking, with Vietnamese citizens exploited inside Vietnam, and this trend seems to be on the rise.

By its nature, human trafficking is a hidden, ever-evolving crime. The first trafficking issue we faced in the early 2000’s was the exploitation of children forced to work in slavery conditions in garment sweatshops. Due to our sustained efforts and action by the police and labour authorities, this problem has been solved and we have received no evidence of any need to rescue a child from a sweatshop since 2019.

As domestic forced labour in sweatshops dwindled, the trafficking of women and girls into forced marriages in China increased. And since 2021, the trends of human trafficking have once more changed dramatically. Covid-19 restrictions and their economic impacts, as well as China’s construction of a fence along its entire southern border, forced traffickers and migrants to find different routes. This resulted in new human trafficking destination countries in the region (Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos) and new forms of exploitation of Vietnamese victims.

<sup>1</sup>Walk Free 2023, The Global Slavery Index 2023, Minderoo Foundation, <https://walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/>

## Main forms of exploitation encountered by Blue Dragon

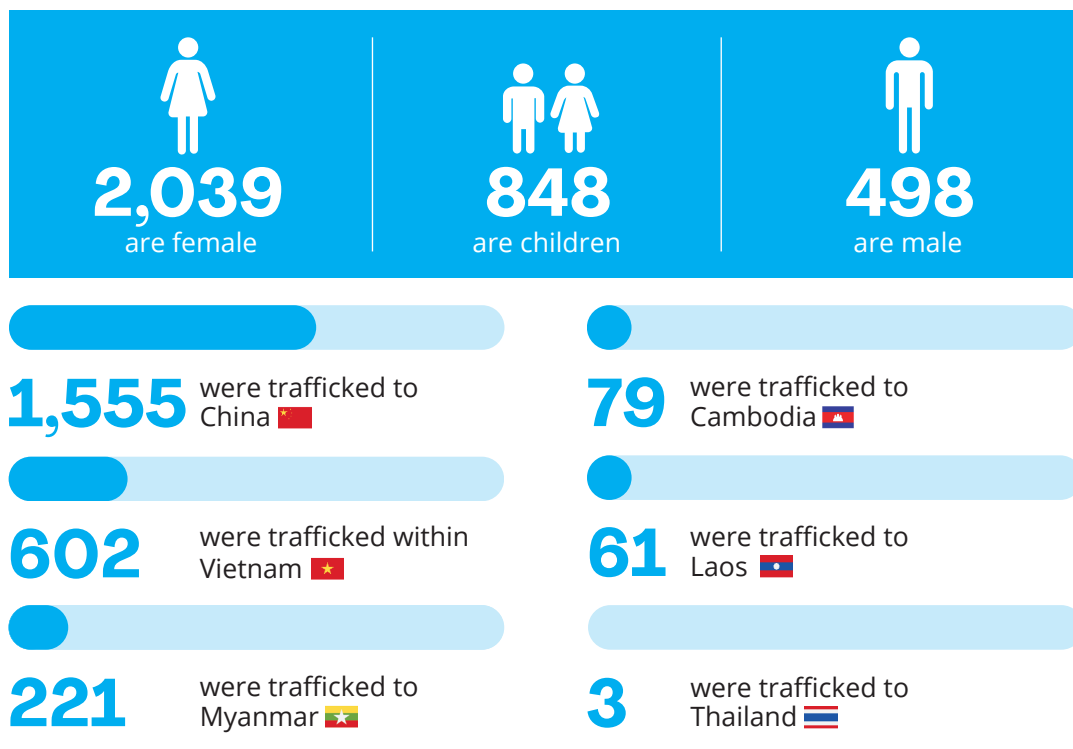


Vietnamese people are subject to many different forms of exploitation, however their prevalence varies at different times. The infographic shows when different forms of trafficking emerged and were significant threats, based on Blue Dragon's rescue data.

## The solution: Blue Dragon's *Whole Stream* strategy

Blue Dragon combats human trafficking on all fronts. Our work encompasses grassroots direct assistance, large-scale prevention interventions, policy advocacy, and everything in between.

**In 20 years combatting human trafficking, Blue Dragon has assisted 2,500+ victims of this crime.**



Blue Dragon rescues people from slavery and provides them with all they need to heal and recover. We work in remote rural areas and underprivileged urban communities to eradicate poverty and prevent exploitation. We represent survivors of slavery and abuse in court. And everything we learn informs our advocacy for law and policy reform to enhance the protection for all children and adults in Vietnam.

## Rescue

Blue Dragon rescues children and adults trapped in slavery and kids living on the streets.

## Recover

Once safe, we help survivors overcome trauma through counselling, legal representation and psychosocial support.

## Reform

All we learn from our grassroots work informs our advocacy for law and policy reform, and for training police and officials.



## Rebuild

Our support doesn't end with rescue. We provide ongoing opportunities for education, training and employment.

This all-encompassing philosophy to anti-trafficking permeates all our day-to-day work and our strategy to end human trafficking for good. We call this the *Whole Stream* approach.

*Downstream*, we work at the grassroots level with individuals and communities affected by trafficking and exploitation. *Upstream*, we work with local, provincial and national government agencies. Because everything Blue Dragon does is informed by the experiences of the survivors we assist and is rooted in strong local partnerships aligned with local priorities, when we work upstream we aren't swimming against the current.

In addition, our work builds durable, sustainable intervention models to counter human trafficking over the long term. Blue Dragon's models are developed with the communities affected by the problems we address. These models are tested and tailored to prevent all types of exploitation and support all victims. The affected communities and governments then implement the models with our support. When they are ready, they take over and operate these models independently, using local resources.

By working up and down stream with the individuals and institutions affected by the problems we aim to solve and building the skills and systems of communities and local governments, Blue Dragon builds bridges that encompass the *Whole Stream*. This approach leverages the power of partnerships to create a trafficking-free ecosystem.



**CONTACT US**

Website: [bluedragon.org](http://bluedragon.org)

Email: [info@bdcf.org](mailto:info@bdcf.org)