

Opening the “black box” of protection and reintegration interventions for trafficking survivors in Myanmar: A realist focused evaluation of World Vision’s Anti-trafficking in Persons (A/TIP) program 28, June 2022

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Rationale & Aim



RATIONALE

- 40.3 million people in forced labour and forced marriage, globally.
- Estimates for East Asia and the Pacific: 25 million people
- The number of child victims, among whom the majority are girls, is considerably higher in the Mekong countries.
- Few evaluated anti-trafficking interventions
- Poor quality evaluation and weak intervention evidence

STUDY AIM:

Explore World Vision's anti-trafficking in Persons (A/TIP) programming to strengthen protection and reintegration services for survivors of trafficking in Myanmar.

Research context: World Vision's program in Myanmar



- **Six-year project: Phase I and Phase II (2015 to 2022)** *Military coup in Myanmar (1st February 2021)*
 - Partnered with two Local organizations.
Karen Baptist Convention (KBC),
Yangon Kayin Baptist Women's Association (YKBWA)

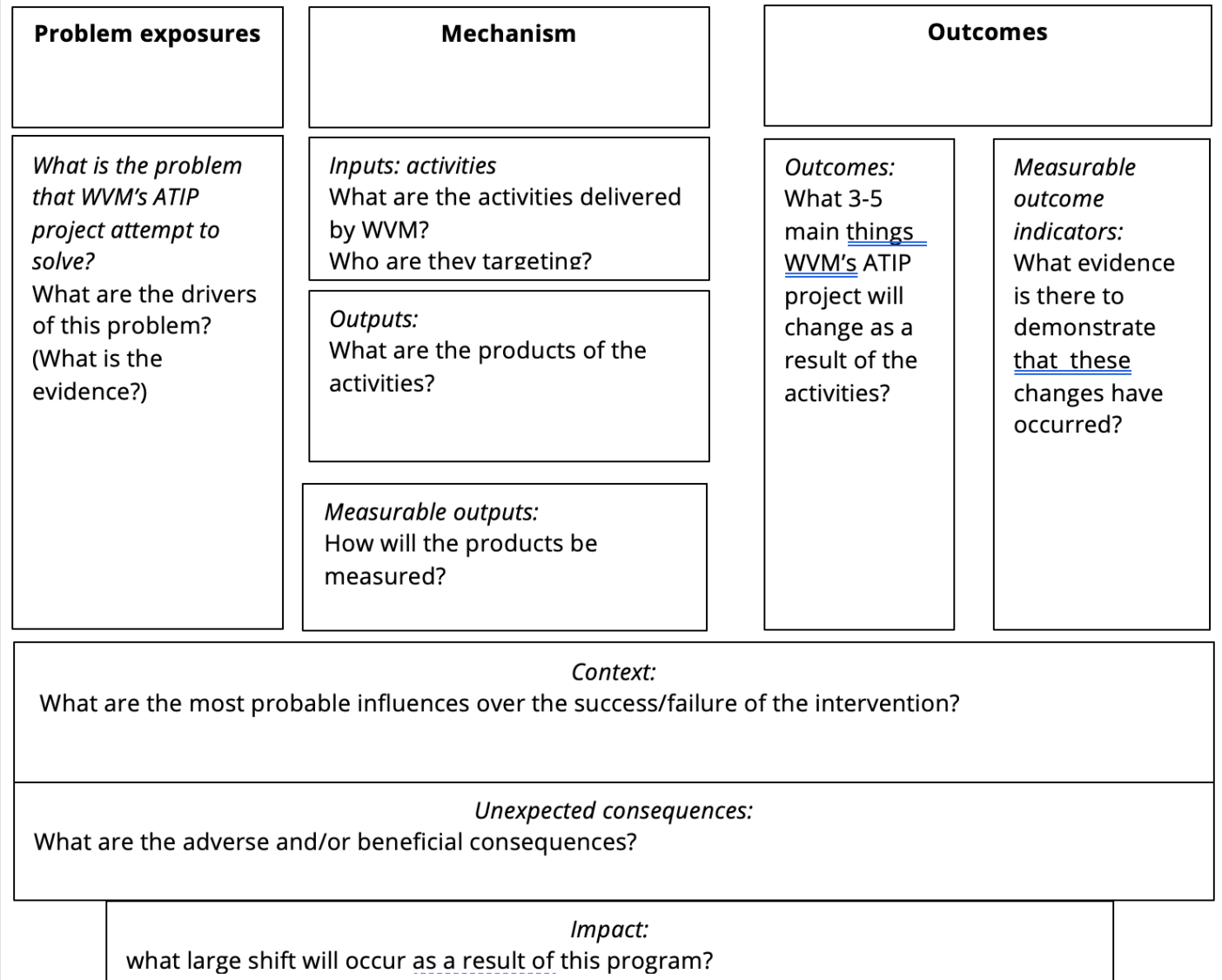
Two main objectives :

- improve victim-centered investigations and prosecutions
- enhance victim protection through comprehensive victim services

Phase II evaluation - Two focus areas

- Organizational and/or technical capacity of service providers to provide appropriate services.
- Quality comprehensive services for Survivors of Trafficking (SoTs)

Conceptual framework (Realist informed)



Why realist evaluation?

- A realist evaluation - what works, for whom, and under what circumstances
 - Explaining the rationale of the program theory of change;
 - Testing the program assumptions;
 - Testing the program hypotheses; and
 - Interpreting and refining the program intervention model.
- The Realist Evaluation's Context-Mechanism-Outcome (CMO) configurations provide
 - causal pathways
 - how, why, and under which circumstances an intervention works (or does not)
 - transferrable guidance

Methodology

- Used multiple sources of data
 - World's Vision's administrative data
 - A total of 12 qualitative in-depth interviews with SoTs.
 - A total of 9 In-depth interviews with case managers from World Vision, YKBWA and KBC
- Purposive sampling
 - SoTs – recently enrolled youth victims who received world vision services
 - SoTs Age -17 or 18 years old when they enrolled.
 - Case managers from (3= WVM, 3=YKBWA and 3= KBC)
- Dates
 - March 2, 2022- ethics approval
 - March 10- 20, 2022 – interviews with case managers and Survivors of trafficking.

Findings

Realist Evaluation Framework: Context-Mechanism-Outcome (CMO)

- MECHANISMS: how were the activities or mechanisms delivered by the program?
- OUTCOMES: what were the main outcomes?
- CONTEXT: how did the context influence intervention delivery and effects?



Mechanisms

CASE MANAGERS

Capacity building trainings (Eg)

- Awareness on human trafficking legal procedures
- Case management training
- Psycho-social counselling training

Capacity building support

Mentoring support

SURVIVORS

Support offered to SoTs:

- Housing and accommodation
- Physical well-being (Medical)
- education/training
- psycho-social counselling (most used by SoTs)
- legal counselling
- legal support such as escorting survivors to court (Most used by SoTs)
- social inclusion
- economic and livelihood support (Most used by SoTs)

Mechanisms (cont'd)

Case Managers

- Trainings were helpful, relevant and useful.
- It would have been more helpful if some trainings were scheduled earlier.
- Mentoring help case managers in case of challenging situations.

SoTs

- Beneficial support
 - psycho-social counselling
 - Legal counselling (such escorting survivors to the court)
- Support with challenges
 - Livelihood support (with mixed results)
 - Accommodation

Survivor gathering was praised.

Outcomes

Capacity building trainings to Case managers

Capacity of case manager

- capability grew significantly
- needs are reflected in the types of training received.
- counselling and interpersonal skills are well-received.
- Mentorship from senior employees are well-received.

Reintegration services for SoTs- support with Positive outcome

Psycho-social counselling support

- Improved psychological well-being
 - Gained motivation and confidence
 - Increased self-esteem
- Legal support (eg attending the court with)

Reintegration services for SoTs - support with Mixed results

Livelihood support

- It meets the immediate needs but not sustainable
- Younger SoTs struggled as they are inexperienced and lack the necessary skills.
- case managers are not equipped with skills to help SoTs

Context that influenced outcomes (positively or negatively)

Individual agencies and characteristics

- greater agency, worked hard and maintained good communication with case managers.
- debts, age, and skillset
- Being young - limited experience, lack of maturity

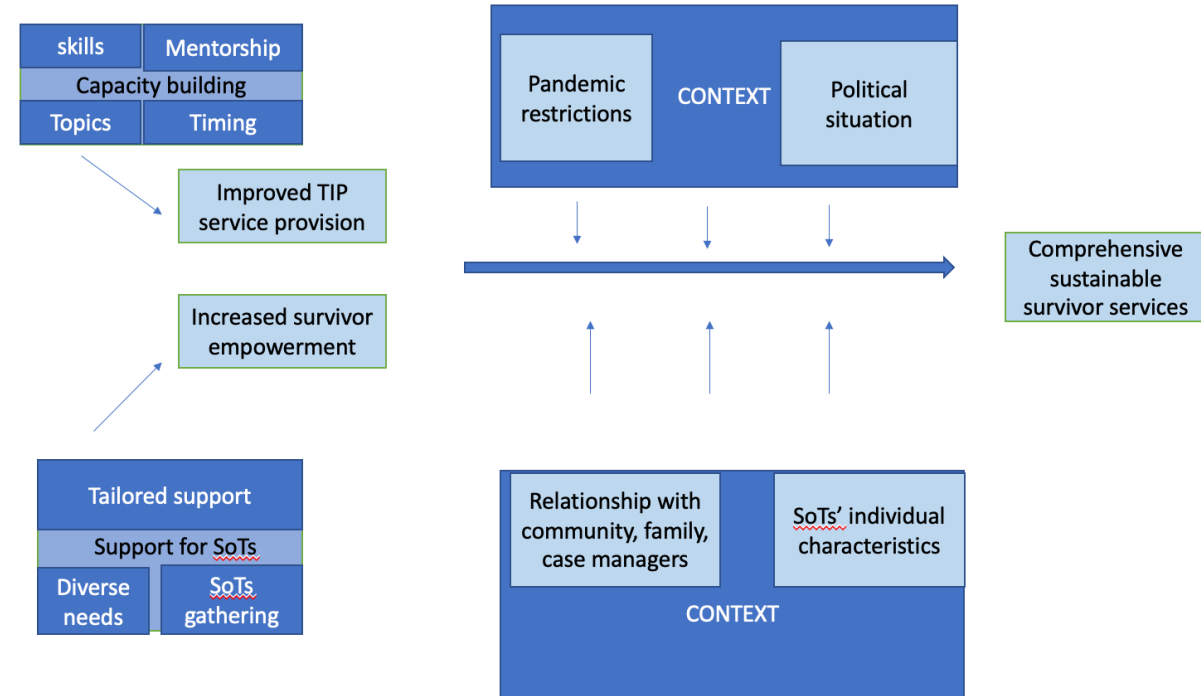
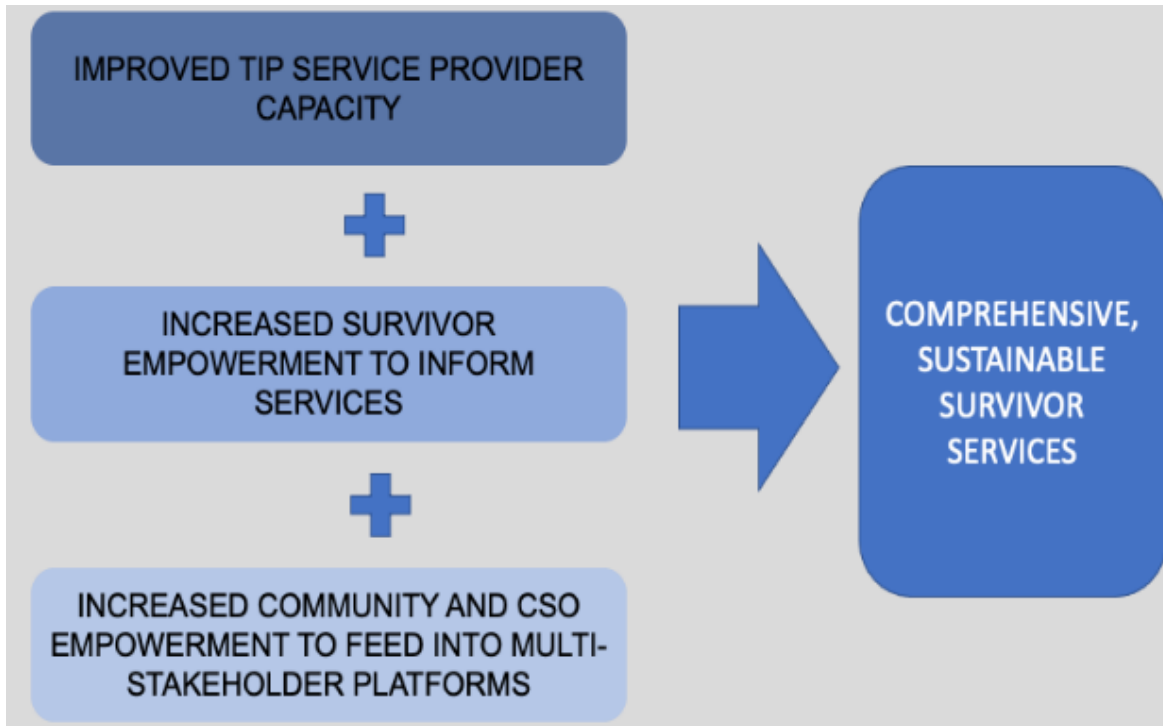
Relationships with community, family and case managers

- disrespectful towards case managers
- Unequal distribution of caseloads
- Cold relationship with family members
- Community unwilling to accept

The combined political and pandemic context

- In person support unavailable during Covid-19 (except Psycho-social counselling session)
- Livelihood support was hugely impacted due to movement restrictions, unemployment
- Civil unrest exacerbates the existing vulnerabilities.

Refining the WVM's Theory of Change (Before and After)





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