



## SUCCESS STORY

# Agencies Cooperate to End Trafficking

### Inter-agency cooperation improves prosecution of human traffickers



Photo: USAID/Suzanne Ross

Role playing increases awareness of trafficking among local authorities.

***“Now the attorney general’s office has begun to take comprehensive view of the many complex issues involved,” said veteran criminal prosecutor Sakchai Assvinarnand.***

Since Asia’s 1997 economic crisis, trafficking in women and children has steadily increased throughout the greater Mekong region. But in Thailand, judicial processes that lead to the conviction of traffickers can be derailed by decentralized, ineffective evidence collection and the lengthy amount of time it takes to bring cases to trial — sometimes as long as two or three years.

USAID is addressing these challenges by training police, civil society, local governments and organizations to cooperate in anti-trafficking efforts. Increasing awareness among key partners, such as police and prosecutors, with the support of social workers and local organizations, encourages a collaborative approach that is more effective at putting human traffickers in jail. Through activities like role-playing, the curriculum teaches participants about the agencies’ organizational structures to improve their ability to work together in and across bureaucracies. Attendees also develop new approaches, such as creating multi-agency teams to conduct evidentiary interviews and examinations, that reduce stress on victims and stimulate information sharing. USAID-funded victim protection shelters encourage visits with family members to support the witnesses as they await trial.

By September 2006, 540 people, including 300 prosecutors, will have been comprehensively trained in laws and techniques to combat trafficking and ensure the rights of victims. “Now the attorney general’s office has begun to take comprehensive view of the many complex issues involved,” said veteran criminal prosecutor Sakchai Assvinarnand.

#### Telling Our Story

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