



# **Combating Human Trafficking of Ethnic Minorities in Rural Vietnam**

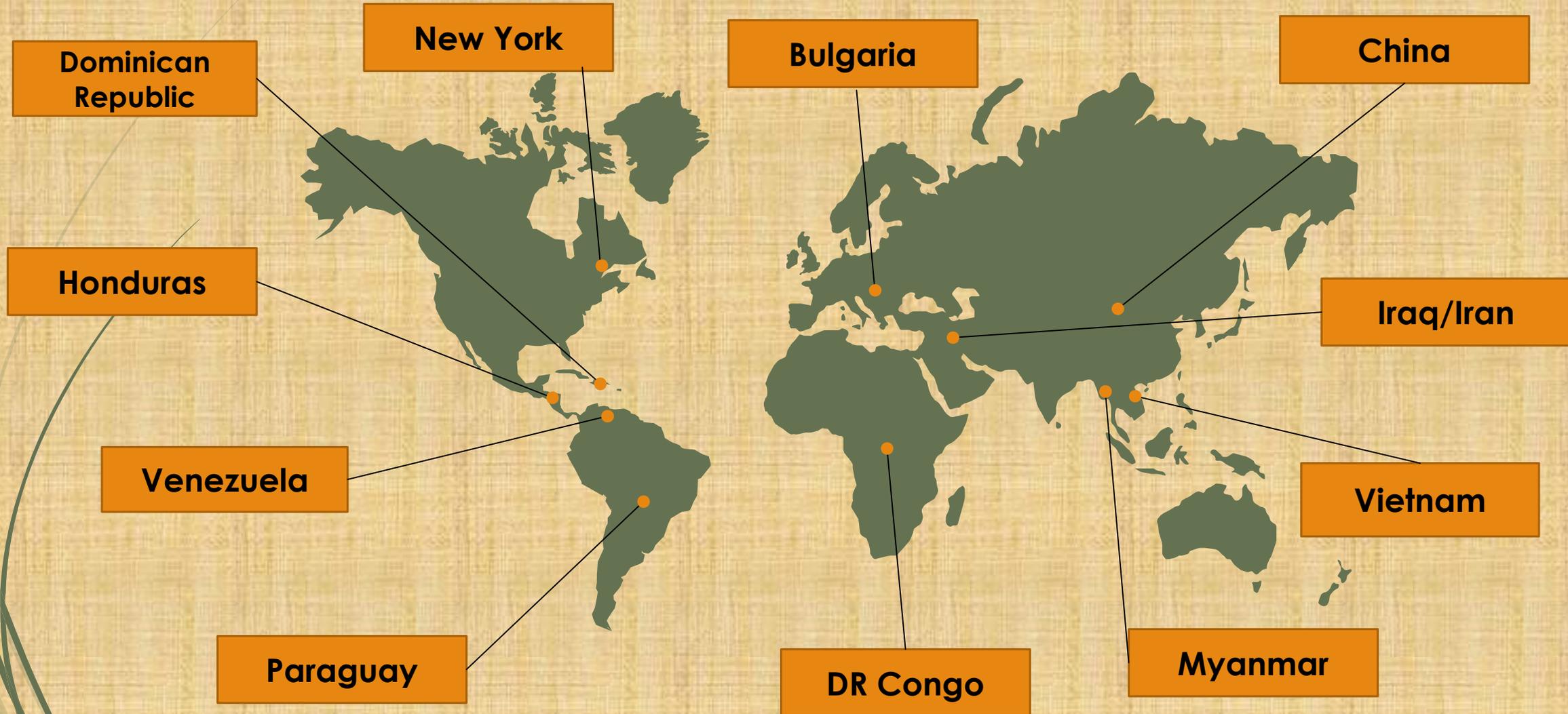
**A Global Collaboration**



# Worldwide Issue

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- ▶ **Human trafficking permeates every region of the world**
  - ▶ **Fastest growing criminal industry worldwide**
  - ▶ **Persists despite government efforts for eradication**

# Worldwide Issue



# Incidence



- Southeast Asia - largest hub for trafficking
- Estimated 225,000 women and children trafficked in Southeast Asia every year
- Southeast Asia accounts for 1/3 of global trafficking trade



# Profitability

Human trafficking is extremely profitable

## The cost of human trafficking

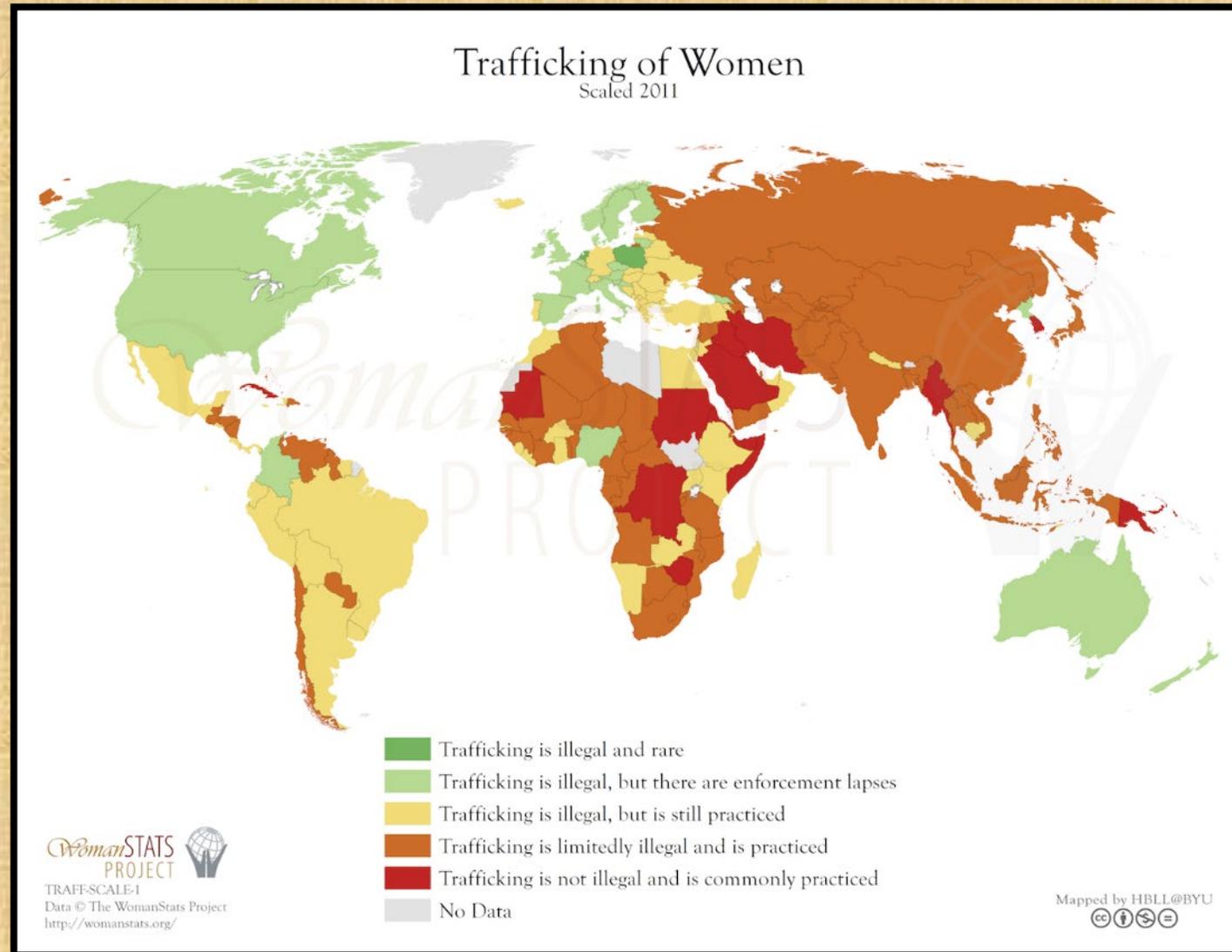
Every year, human traffickers make profit from the trade **\$150bn**



Source: UN Office on Drugs and Crime, International Labour Organization  
Icons: Kid A - The Noun Project



# Victims



# Northern Vietnam

- **Geographic Area**
- **Mountainous region**
- **Close to border of China**



# Prevalence in Vietnam

- ▶ **Vietnam is a large source of women and girls trafficked**
- ▶ **Northern Vietnam is targeted due to close proximity to China and easy border crossings**



# Ethnic Minorities - Hilltribes

- Hmong, Red Zao, Gia, Tay
- Each minority group has distinct culture and traditions



# Why Vietnam?



- Increasingly common for young 14-17 year old ethnic minority girls to disappear

# Why Vietnam?

- **Easy targets of young, uneducated girls from ethnic minority rural villages**
- **Destination country frequently is China**



# Social Determinants

**Social determinants that increase risk for trafficking of ethnic minorities:**

- ▶ **Poverty – promises of jobs, jewelry, cell phones, wealthy husbands**
- ▶ **Social Exclusion – not part of mainstream Vietnamese, subculture, social inequality**
- ▶ **Cultural practices**



# Social Determinants, cont.

## ► Harsh Living - Subsistence farming



# Social Determinants, cont.

- ▶ **Lack of or limited education**
- ▶ **Undocumented children**
- ▶ **Cultural Practices – child brides, early marriage, bride kidnapping**



# Global Health Study Abroad

- Undergraduate nursing students – 3 week immersive program in Vietnam
- Study global issues and area challenges
- Learn cultural aspects of Vietnam
- Teach health topics in various settings



# Global Collaboration



- **Global collaboration with Ethos – Spirit of the Community Social Enterprise**
- **Organization was in country, well established**
- **Faculty had on-going relationship with organization for several years**
- **Organization had in-depth knowledge of local culture and surrounding communities**

# Teach the Teacher

- **Social enterprise and trek guides identified areas for health teaching**
- **Nursing students taught health education to female trek guides**
- **Teaching was in a seminar format**



# Teach the Teacher



- ▶ **Guides and students divided into small teaching groups**
- ▶ **Participation and questions encouraged**
- ▶ **Trek guides learned new information about various health topics**

# Teaching Needs Assessment

- ▶ **Trek guides determined the health teaching needs of their communities**
- ▶ **Human trafficking was identified as a key area for education in the communities**



# Health Teaching



- ▶ **Students trekked with guides to outlying and remote villages**
- ▶ **Supported trek guides in conducting health teaching to villagers**
- ▶ **Teaching was done in native language**

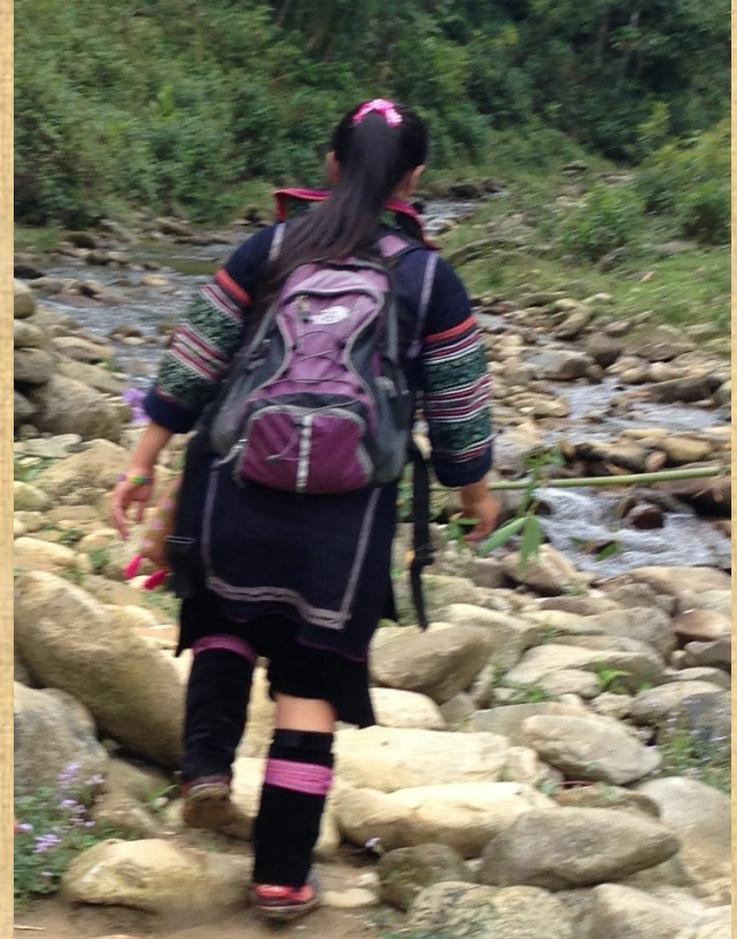
# Trafficking Discussion Groups

- Discussion groups held with village women
- Trafficking plays discussed
- Strategies to prevent trafficking
- Shared stories and ideas to deter trafficking of village girls



# Outcomes

- ▶ **Increased awareness among village women**
- ▶ **Village women became interested in sharing information with other family members**



# Future Endeavors



- Raising awareness of widespread issue
- Education of individuals
- Strategy modification as trafficking schemes and ploys change

# Questions?



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