

# STRENGTH FOR REFUGEES

## MALAYSIA



In Malaysia, over 35,000 Burmese refugee women live without rights or recognition. Though fleeing an oppressive government, many refugees struggle to gain stability in Malaysia. Yet our partners provide a safe place for these undocumented women facing the risks of an unfamiliar land. At Strength for Refugees, vulnerable refugee women can seek shelter, health care, employment, and many other resources. Here they weave

beautiful products reminiscent of their culture and use their traditional tribal recipes to craft organic soaps and spa products. With this income, they can survive, protecting and providing for their families. But with the education and leadership training available, these women truly thrive in their new environment, independent and empowered against all odds.

# STORIES OF RESCUE & EMPOWERMENT

COUNTRY: MALAYSIA • PROGRAM: VOCATIONAL TRAINING



## Mi Mama

Mi Mama's heart fell as she read the military summons. She knew her infirm, elderly father might not survive the forced labor. Bravely, she volunteered to take his place. Yet after days of backbreaking work and sexual harassment, Mi Mama feared for her safety. Fleeing to Malaysia, Mi Mama finally escaped the emotional and physical trauma. Here she attempted to build a new life, marrying a loving husband and starting a family. But one day her husband didn't come home from work, and Mi Mama discovered that soldiers had arrested him for improper documentation. Suddenly, she found herself alone with no legal protection, no income, and a four month old. As she desperately searched for someone to help her, she heard of an organization searching for someone to help them as they built a refugee women's center. As a project coordinator for Strength for Refugees, Mi Mama found hope, community, financial stability, and meaningful employment helping other Burmese women just like her. Then, when her husband returned from prison, Mi Mama finally began to dream again. Determined to make her dreams a reality, Strength for Refugees helped her apply for immigration to America, where Mi Mama will pursue a permanent home for her family, an education, and the safety of citizenship.

*For more stories of rescue & empowerment, please visit our story gallery at [www.warinternational.org/story-gallery](http://www.warinternational.org/story-gallery)  
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