

Combating Trafficking in Persons Program

The Asia Foundation's five-year Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) program in Nepal, implemented with support from the United States Agency for International Development, aims to prevent trafficking in persons, protect survivors, and prosecute traffickers. The program is operational in six districts of Nepal: Banke, Kanchanpur, Kathmandu, Kavre, Makwanpur, and Sindhupalchowk.



The Asia Foundation's CTIP program emphasizes coordination and collaboration between government, civil society organizations, and relevant international development partners. The program works with government stakeholders at the national and local levels to create an enabling policy and structural environment to combat trafficking and works with civil society partners to provide direct services to survivors of human trafficking and gender based violence (GBV).

The major objectives of the CTIP program are:

- Support the government to create policies and guidelines that promote the rights of a survivor;
- Train relevant government and civil society stakeholders on different aspects of trafficking in persons (TIP) and gender issues;
- Improve protection services for TIP survivors by enhancing the capacity of care givers to respond to the needs of the survivors by applying a rights-based approach;
- Build the capacity of the judiciary and law enforcement officials to promote victim-centric jurisprudence in application of laws;
- Empower local communities to play a key role in preventing trafficking, promote safe labor migration, and support survivor reintegration and rehabilitation.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Coordination and collaboration with government agencies: The CTIP program has played a key role in strengthening the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) and the National Committee on Controlling Human Trafficking by providing technical and operational support. The CTIP program is also collaborating with the Office of the Attorney General and the Nepal Police to enhance their capacity to address TIP and other forms of GBV, and to ensure effective investigation and prosecution.

At the district level, the CTIP program has been instrumental in activating the District Committees on Controlling Human Trafficking in the six program districts to take the lead in providing an integrated response mechanism to address TIP and GBV. By linking programmatic interventions with existing local level government structures, the CTIP program promotes a culture of good governance—vital to combating TIP and GBV in a sustainable manner.

Protection: The protection component focuses on strengthening and institutionalizing concepts of inclusive development that acknowledges and promotes the rights of the survivors to progress from victimhood to personhood. The CTIP program engages with multiple community-level



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The Foundation's Community Mediation Program maintains a success rate of 85% for resolution of over 22,400 registered cases.

The Foundation supported town hall meetings on "Investment Climate of Nepal" across 45 urban locations.

The Foundation works to reduce trafficking in persons and protect the rights of trafficking and gender-based violence victims in Nepal.

stakeholders to create a resilient environment for survivors of TIP and GBV, and support inclusive and non-exploitative reintegration and rehabilitation.

The CTIP program supported the MoWCSW to develop key national anti-TIP policies like the National Minimum Standards for Victim Care and Protection for Victims of Trafficking and the Standard Operating Procedures for Rehabilitation Homes. These have been endorsed by the government of Nepal, and has led to the establishment of comprehensive and standardized norms on victim protection and care for survivors of TIP.

In coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population and the District Public Health Offices, the CTIP program has tapped into an existing network of Female Health Care Volunteers and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives to provide trainings on personhood approaches to rehabilitation and reintegration by applying principles of equity, identity, and access. The objective is to promote non-discriminatory access to resources, provide non-judgmental support, and mitigate the stigma faced by TIP and GBV survivors. The CTIP program has provided legal counseling, legal aid, and psychosocial counseling to 400 trafficking survivors as of September 2013.

Prosecution: The CTIP program plays a vital role in promoting a rights-based legal service delivery system by working closely with judicial and law enforcement officials and agencies. The program aims to provide a contextual understanding of social, cultural, and economic constructs of gender and human rights to law enforcement officers

and the judiciary with the aim of promoting engendered jurisprudence on human trafficking and GBV cases. As of September 2013, 477 representatives of the judiciary and the Nepal Police have been trained on effective investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of TIP cases using a victim-centered approach. The judicial training and interactions have translated into landmark decisions made on TIP cases which reflected the application of victim-centered jurisprudence.

The legal counselling and legal aid service provided to TIP and GBV victims has led to 44 convictions of TIP cases.

Prevention: One of the major foundations of the prevention component is the formation and mobilization of 250 Safe Migration Networks (SMN) in the six program districts. These networks act as frontline information and support units at the local level, and work to prevent human trafficking and promote safe labor migration. The involvement of community members and local leaders in the SMN provides a platform to promote a resilient society at the grassroots level that can effectively address the issues of stigma and discrimination for TIP and GBV survivors.

The CTIP program collaborated with the Ministry of Education and Sports to integrate information on safe labor migration and career counseling into the vocational education curriculum of 82 public schools in Nepal in 2013. This will help create a more informed and aware workforce in the coming years with a much reduced risk to trafficking.

In Nepal, The Asia Foundation's programs are also funded by the Australian, British, Danish, and Swiss governments.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.



HEADQUARTERS

465 California Street,
9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104 USA
Tel: (415) 982-4640
Fax: (415) 392-8863
info@asiafound.org

WASHINGTON, DC

1779 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Suite 815
Washington, D.C. 20036 USA
Tel: (202) 588-9420
Fax: (202) 588-9409
info@asiafound-dc.org

NEPAL

G.P.O. Box 935
Bhat Bhateni
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: + 977 (1) 441-8345
Fax: +977 (1) 441-5881
Email: info@taf.org.np

www.asiafoundation.org