

## FACT SHEET

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# Democracy and Governance Program Combating Trafficking in Persons Project

USAID's Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) project addresses the prevention of trafficking, the protection of victims, and the prosecution of human traffickers.

Trafficking in persons (TIP) is a serious problem in Nepal, characterized by cross-border, international and internal trafficking of women, men, and children. Non-governmental organizations in Nepal estimate that as many as 15,000 Nepali women and girls are trafficked annually to India, while 7,500 are trafficked domestically for commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 Nepali women become involuntary domestic workers each year within Nepal. While most attention is focused on the exploitation of women and children, cross-border labor trafficking of men and women is a growing concern. Returning migrants, who are survivors of human trafficking as defined per the international and national legal framework, more often file complaints under the Foreign Employment Act rather than identifying themselves as a TIP victim.

The Government of Nepal (GON) took an important step toward addressing this abuse of human rights by passing the Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act of 2007 (TIP Act), which establishes a comprehensive legal framework to combat TIP. However, a persistently low rate of prosecutions reflects inadequate understanding and coordination on the part of law enforcement and judicial officials regarding their responsibilities under the law. While awareness is increasing, most rural populations remain largely unaware of the TIP Act and the risk factors that lead to human trafficking.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The \$6.79 million Combating Trafficking in Persons project works closely with government and civil society organizations to address human trafficking and promote safe labor migration. It takes a holistic approach to address protection, prosecution, and prevention of trafficking in persons. The project is implemented in six TIP-prone districts identified by the GON as source, transit, and destination districts. The project aims to:

- Strengthen protection services for TIP survivors
- Build capacity of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies to promote victim-centric jurisprudence in application of laws for increase prosecution
- Prevent trafficking by building awareness among groups that are vulnerable to various forms of human trafficking
- Support the government to create policies and guidelines that promote the rights of survivors



NCCHT/Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

## SNAPSHOT

**Life of Project:** August 2010 to August 2015

**Goal:** Reduce Trafficking in Persons and protect the rights of victims

**Key Implementing Partner:** The Asia Foundation

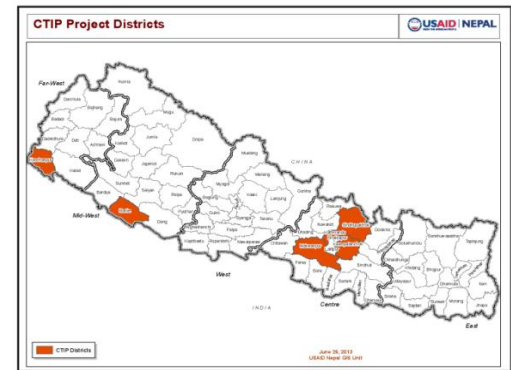
**Geographic Focus:** Six Districts of Nepal (Banke, Kathmandu, Kavre, Kanchanpur, Makwanpur, Sindhupalchowk)

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**PROTECTION** - The CTIP project works to improve Nepal's anti-trafficking guidelines that establish the national policies and standard procedures for services provided to trafficking victims by shelters, counselors, and the justice sector. In line with these standards, the project develops curricula and provides training to national and district level judicial and law enforcement sectors on victim protection. The project engages with multiple community-level stakeholders to create a resilient environment for survivors of TIP and supports inclusive and non-exploitative reintegration and rehabilitation.

**PROSECUTION** - The CTIP project trains on the GON's standard operating procedures for judicial and law enforcement sectors to improve enforcement, prosecution, and coordination between law enforcement and victim-care services. The project develops training modules and resources on topics such as victim confidentiality, victim-sensitive cross-examination techniques, and victim and witness protection. It provides legal aid—including legal counseling and court representation—to trafficking victims and survivors. It also trains judicial and law enforcement officials on effective application and enforcement of the TIP Act.

**PREVENTION** - The CTIP project builds linkages and collaboration between local government and civil society networks to effectively prevent TIP, with a focus on the changing trends of trafficking. The project created Safe Migration Networks (SMNs) to strengthen referral systems from local to national levels, as well as to upgrade and distribute career counseling and safe migration materials, including pre-departure information. The project trains the Networks on use of these materials and engages communities in discussions for their safe migration. CTIP also empowers local communities to play a key role in preventing trafficking, promoting safe labor migration, and supporting survivors' reintegration and rehabilitation. It further provides financial advice and vocational skills training and encourages public-private partnerships to strengthen the livelihoods of the disadvantaged communities most vulnerable to trafficking.



## KEY RESULTS

- Created over 250 Safe Migration Networks at the grass-root level consisting of almost 3,000 women and men representatives working as frontline resources and information pools, accessible at any time to provide services like information on safe migration, prevention of trafficking, referral, protection support, and link to local government funds. As a part of the sustainable strategy, the CTIP program has facilitated mainstreaming of the SMN members into the newly formed local government entity- the Village Development Committee to Control Human Trafficking.
- Provided legal counseling, legal aid, and psychosocial counseling services to 400 trafficked survivors, improving their reintegration into their communities.
- Developed and implemented a training curriculum on communication skills and advocacy for the Safe Migration Network members to increase their ability and commitment to promote safe migration and prevent TIP in all six project districts. The trainings also facilitated their role as leaders who can identify and advocate for prominent issues such as TIP within their communities.
- Trained 508 judicial and law enforcement officials on rights-based framework for effectively investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating human trafficking cases using a victim-centered approach. This training directly contributed to 48 convictions including 3 landmark cases.
- Supported the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare to develop key national anti-TIP policies like the National Minimum Standards for Victim Care and Protection and the Standard Operation Procedures for Rehabilitation Centers, now being implemented by the National Committee on Controlling Human Trafficking.
- 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.

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