

The Asia Foundation
Gainful Employment Opportunities for
Girls at Risk of Trafficking and Trafficking Survivors
CA No. 367-A-00-03-00148-00

PROGRESS REPORT
January - March 2004

Summary of Program Activities in Current Reporting Period:

- **ABC Nepal**
- **Nepal Rugmark Foundation**
- **WEAN/SAATHI**
- **Monitoring**

ABC Nepal

By the end of this reporting period, ABC Nepal had trained 52 girls in vocations including cooking (4), bakery (9), driving (2), community health work (15), embroidery (10), and paper bag production (12). An additional 28 girls are scheduled for training in paper bag making and tempo driving in April. The training will take place in Hetauda and Kathmandu, and will include at-risk girls from the seven districts covered under TAF/USAID's "Combating Trafficking of Women and Girls" project. ABC Nepal is following up on the placement of vocational graduates in nursing homes, the hospitality industry, and *safa* tempo driving.

Some of the trained girls have been supported as entrepreneurs through provision of seed money. The enterprises include bakery shops in Koteshwor, Narephant, and Biratnagar, and an embroidery shop in Biratnagar. During April, the paper bag production facility located in Bhairahwa will begin independent operation. ABC Nepal is housing the unit at present, and taking the lead in marketing the paper bags in Bhairahwa and India.

Nepal Rugmark Foundation

By the end of this reporting period, 79 girls had been removed from different Rugmark licensees' carpet factories and are residing at the UCEP center in Sano Thimi. They are enrolled in different groups based on their educational level. Seven girls completed training in sewing and cutting and were successfully placed in jobs at the Nakarmi Garment Industry, Patan. In addition, at the trainees' request, Rugmark issued sewing machines to groups of the girls to provide them an opportunity to hone their skills and earn supplementary income from private business.

In January, 24 girls were enrolled in a six-month course at A. R. Sewing and Cutting Institute, Patan. Rugmark is negotiating with Hitesh Garment Industry, Patan for the girls' placement after completion of the training. Similarly, within the month of April ten girls will begin their apprenticeship program in Nakarmi Garment Factory, Patan.

Beginning in March, ten girls are undergoing training as beauticians in a Baneshwor beauty parlor. The apprenticeship program is of six-months duration and NRF is doing the groundwork for the girls' placement following this period.

WEAN/SAATHI

Under the WEAN program, 60 girls (divided into four groups of 15 each) have completed the social empowerment package, including legal awareness for 15 days and entrepreneurship awareness for three days. WEAN conducted the entrepreneurship awareness training in coordination with IEDI (Industrial Enterprise Development Institute). They also provided three groups with training and counseling in personality development. The remaining groups will complete their training by the end of April.

WEAN provided skills training on *kurkure* and *papad* making to two groups, and is leading efforts to market the products locally as well as in India before increasing production. WEAN also provided participants training in packaging and marketing. With hired machines and other production materials, the trainees have begun low-key marketing of *Tasty Papad* and *Tasty Chamalko Kurkure*, which is being well accepted at this stage. Their current profit is Rs. 5 per packet.

Other training, such as domestic helper, banana chip production, and liquid detergent production were determined by WEAN to be unfeasible due to a lack of trainee interest and their assessment that the products could not compete with advanced and cheaper products from India. WEAN is considering replacing these skills/products with *tika* making, and nail polish and *kurkure/bhujia* production after studying the local market situation.

Monitoring

In addition to regular monitoring visits by the Program Officer, the TAF Representative visited Nepal Rugmark Foundation and UCEP's Sano Thimi office on February 13th. On February 24th, he and the Program Officer addressed a graduation ceremony conducted by ABC Nepal for 32 girls who had completed vocational training in community health, hotel services, and tempo driving. On this occasion, the organizations that provided training to these girls spoke highly about their trainees' hard work and dedication, and reiterated their commitment to finding them appropriate job placements. TAF hosted a Steering Committee meeting on March 23rd, attended by partners and USAID, to discuss project achievement against targets.