

The Asia Foundation
Combating Trafficking of Women and Children
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PROGRESS REPORT
July - September 2005

Summary of Program Activities in Current Reporting Period:

- **Task force activities**
- **Transport workers' program**
- **District- and VDC-level orientations**
- **School Teachers' linkage program**
- **Safe migration counseling**
- **Monitoring**

Task Force Activities

On July 18, ABC Nepal coordinated a linkage meeting for the District Task Forces on behalf of the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare. Approximately 40 members of the task forces in the Foundation's nine program districts participated in the meeting, which also included Women Development Officers and Local Development Officers. Members of the National Task Force, and the Joint Secretary and Under Secretaries of the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare attended as well. The Minister of Women, Children, and Social Welfare and the Secretary of the Ministry were present at the closing session. The District Task Force members gave a brief review of anti-trafficking programs conducted in the districts and the role of the task forces. Following the presentation, they discussed and developed future program strategies to combat trafficking and strengthen the task force mechanism. Senior officials of the Ministry expressed their commitment to incorporate these recommendations into their future plans.

On August 18, WOREC co-organized a meeting with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare to conduct a similar exercise for Women Development Officers and Local Development Officers. Participants included government officials from 26 high-risk districts, the Minister and Secretary for Women, Children, and Social Welfare, and the Secretary of the Ministry of Labor. The objective of the meeting was to support the task forces to develop action plans on trafficking and safe migration in their districts. WOREC also used the meeting to advocate for activation of all task forces. Government officials cited resource constraints in funding programs through the task forces, but expressed a commitment to seek donor funds to support work in the future. This meeting was partially funded by the Foundation.

In this quarter, ABC Nepal coordinated a monitoring visit for senior officials of the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare to six program districts: Dhading, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Nawalparasi, Dhanusha, and Banke. They held joint meetings with the District and VDC Task Forces of the program district to review progress against the National Plan of Action. (A copy of the monitoring report with a cover letter in Nepali appreciating this GO/NGO effort is attached to the hard copy of this report). The District Development Committee (DDC) Chairpersons, who are the official heads of the District Task Forces, chaired the meetings in most districts. In their absence, either the Chief District Officer as

Vice Chairperson of the District Task Force or the Local Development Officer chaired. The Ministry officials discussed the challenges they encountered, ways to address them, and possible strategies to more effectively carry forward anti-trafficking activities as they review the policies of the National Plan of Action.

Transport workers' program

As previously reported, transport workers' vigilance groups have been formed in 14 districts with support from CeLRRd. In this quarter, these vigilance groups conducted one-day linkage meetings with different line agencies of the districts to apprise them of the groups' prevention and advocacy activities. As a result, the groups established good working relationships with the local police and other government line agencies in their work against trafficking. These vigilance groups also carried out a one-day campaign to educate their co-workers on trafficking and methods to account for related incidents. During this quarter, the vigilance groups reported 20 interception cases.

District and VDC level community orientations

Partner NGOs conducted regular community-level orientation meetings among different stakeholders including school teachers, students, and adolescents. They also provided technical support to these groups to spread the message to vulnerable communities

School Teachers' linkage program

ABC Nepal organized a linkage meeting for senior school teachers of the secondary schools in seven program districts in order for them to discuss past achievements in their efforts to combat trafficking and plan for future activities beyond the project period. The teachers came from Chitwan, Makwanpur, Nawalparasi, Dhading, Kabre, Jhapa, and Dhanusha. These teachers were previously trained by lead partners in all districts and conducted orientation classes for their senior students on trafficking and safe migration. In addition, they actively participated in advocacy programs for the communities in the vicinity of the schools. The 60 teachers (46 men and 14 women) developed a Plan of Action to incorporate anti-trafficking prevention activities into their regular school curriculum. This plan also described efforts to coordinate programs with mothers' groups, saving groups, and other local community-based organizations.

Safe-migration counseling

This year, the NGO Federation counseled approximately 11,475 youth (5,786 males and 5,689 females), of which approximately 2,570 (1,748 males and 822 females) were reached through individual counseling in CDO offices and safe migration booths housed in NGO Federation offices across seven districts. The mobile outreach program for diverse, vulnerable groups reached 1,800 youth in seven districts. These included students and hotel and restaurant workers. A total of 1,681 persons were reached through the WOREC booth located at the Dhanusha CDO office premises.

Monitoring

In this quarter, the Foundation conducted two steering committee meetings to coordinate task force activities and to review progress against targets. The Foundation's Program Officer made monitoring visits to Chitwan, Kabre, and Makwanpur Districts. In September, the Foundation's Program Officer and Ms. Madhuri Singh, CTO, USAID, attended a joint District and VDC Task Force meeting held in Dhading as part of the Ministry's monitoring visit. In the same month, the Foundation's Program Officer attended an inter-district teachers' program in Chitwan organized by ABC Nepal.