

**The Asia Foundation**  
**Combating Trafficking of Women and Children**  
**CA No. 367-A-00-01-00130-00**

**PROGRESS REPORT**  
**April - June 2005**

**Summary of Program Activities in Current Reporting Period:**

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

**Task force activities**

NGO Federation conducted a joint VDC Task Force (VTF) and District Task Force (DTF) meeting in Kavre on June 28, 2005. Forty-five participants interacted in the meeting to discuss future programming in the district and to prepare for the National and District Task Force linkage meeting. In Dhading, NGO Federation conducted anti-trafficking orientation for four newly formed anti-trafficking VTFs in the month of June.

CeLRRd conducted a joint consultative meeting between old and newly formed VTF members and the DTF in Chitwan district. Twenty-four VTF members and 11 DTF members participated in the meeting. The participants reviewed the current anti-trafficking program and discussed future directions. CeLRRd also conducted anti-trafficking training for mid level officials of line agencies in order to make them more sensitive and effective in providing prompt services to survivors and communities, and to support effective NGO-government relations within their district.

WOREC conducted conceptual clarity training for the VTFs from the four new program VDCs added this year in Dhanusha district. They also provided a two-day training to VTF representatives from all 14 VDCs on advocacy-related programming. These VTFs in turn conducted awareness programs in their communities in coordination with other stakeholders. Six of the VTFs met during this period to discuss issues related to gender and trafficking, and to chalk out grassroots activities in coordination with women and youth groups. In the other four areas, the current instability and lack of secure access for the VTF chairpersons proved hurdles in conducting meetings.

ABC Nepal provided technical support to VTFs and ward-level committees in Nawalparasi district to conduct regular meetings, plan programs, and conduct sensitization activities.

The Maiti Nepal-assisted VTFs in Banke district meet on a monthly basis to plan and discuss strategies to combat trafficking. As a result, more and more missing cases are being reported to the concerned authorities (including VTFs) by the community. During this quarter, Karkado, Jaispur, and Piparhawa VTFs organized special anti-trafficking training sessions for mixed groups of girls and boys, reaching around 175 in total. Community members from the VDC showed increased interest in the introduction of safe migration support services in their area given the large scale of temporary and permanent migration taking place in recent years.

NCDC organized a three-day training for 25 members of Arjundhara VTF. In addition ten regular VTF meetings were conducted in the five program VDCs.

In Sindhuli district, HERDS conducted conceptual clarity training for 60 VTF members of all five program VDCs in the last two weeks of June. HERDS also conducted a three-day DTF training during June 25-27 for 16 members, including the Acting Chief District Officer.

### **Transport workers program**

CeLRRd has formed 14 transport workers vigilance groups along the major transportation routes in 14 districts. During this quarter, these vigilance groups conducted linkage meetings with district-level stakeholders in order to establish better information sharing and coordination mechanisms among them. The Morang district vigilance group successfully established a network with a transport workers organization called Bhumika Bihar in a bordering Indian city.

On June 2, 2005, CeLRRd conducted a daylong consultation meeting at the central level with representatives of two major transport unions, DECONT and GEFONT, and vigilance committee members representing 14 districts. Participants discussed ways to sustain the work of the vigilance groups and mechanisms to coordinate between vigilance groups and transport workers unions. A Steering Committee was formed comprising representatives of CeLRRd and transport workers unions, with the mandate to coordinate with district-level vigilance groups and collate information related to prevention activities of these organizations at the central level. Also during this quarter, the vigilance groups of Dhading and Morang districts intercepted five girls in three separate incidents. Bhumika Bihar (the Indian transport workers organization mentioned above) acting on information from the Siraha vigilance group rescued two girls belonging to Udaipur district of Nepal.

### **District and VDC-level community orientations**

NGO Federation conducted four, three-day conceptual clarity training sessions for 104 out-of-school adolescent girls from four VDCs in Kavre district. The girls were trained on issues related to gender, trafficking, and safe migration. Of these, 67 belonged to disadvantaged groups. Following this training, NGO Federation organized a coordination meeting in Dhulikhel for the TFs and these trained girls. In Dhading district, four user groups were oriented on trafficking and gender issues, and encouraged to mainstream this issue into their anti-trafficking programs.

Maiti Nepal conducted four anti trafficking orientations for 100 school students. Trained schoolteachers took 11 extra classes for 219 senior students, orienting them on gender and trafficking issues.

CeLRRd conducted eight, three-day sensitization training sessions on anti trafficking for 300 community user group members. The names of participants were finalized in consultation with Chitwan VTFs. A special anti trafficking social group was formed in 10 schools of Chitwan where prior orientation had been conducted. The members are students in grades eight, nine, and ten, and have planned extracurricular activities on spreading awareness in their areas in coordination with their trained schoolteachers. In the eight new VDCs added this year, 40 schoolteachers from as many schools were trained on conceptual issues related to trafficking and their role in combating trafficking.

**Success story: Prosecution**

*CeLRRd has been conducting a victim's legal aid program through trained lawyers in Chitwan and Makwanpur districts. These lawyers have provided legal support for 81 cases this year on women's issues including trafficking and violence. With their support, two trafficking cases were prosecuted and one person awarded ten years' imprisonment in Chitwan. In Makwanpur, there were four trafficking prosecutions and three persons were convicted. In two of those cases five-year imprisonment terms were handed out.*

WOREC conducted two separate conceptual clarity trainings for 40 schoolteachers and 31 school youth group members. Their school education program reached 189 children. Three interactions were conducted to sensitize 101 community user group members on trafficking in order to encourage them to mainstream this issue in their regular meetings and spread the message to members.

ABC Nepal staff coordinated debate competitions among school students to discuss the dimensions and nature of trafficking. More than 5,000 children in Nawalparasi benefited from the debates. ABC conducted a two-day training session for schoolteachers to develop them as sensitized stakeholders in reaching out to more students. All teachers agreed to hold special one-hour classes on Fridays for senior students. Two review sessions on progress to date were conducted with mid-level government officials and VTFs during this quarter.

NCDC organized a three-day anti-trafficking training for more than 100 out-of-school adolescents from four program VDCs in Jhapa district. Following the meeting, these adolescents formed a 9 to 13-member committee in each VDC to carry out massive awareness programs. Subsequently, many programs like ward-level interaction programs, rallies, poster distribution and appeals to the community were conducted. House visit programs were also organized in Surunga and Garamani VDCs (especially for the Bhutanese refugee camp), which reached around 90 houses. Similarly, four training sessions were organized for 200 school students from 14 schools. The students formed a 15-member committee to work together to combat trafficking. Trained teachers from 15 schools provided further anti trafficking orientation to more than 2500 students through extra classes.

HERDS-supported youth groups continue to spread community awareness through anti-trafficking street dramas at various locations like schools, public gatherings, and traffic junctions. Four youth groups are conducting community-based prevention and advocacy programs quite actively.

**Safe migration counseling**

During this reporting period, NGO Federation counselors counseled approximately 2,400 youths. Around 600 of them 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 1800 youths in seven districts. These vulnerable groups included students and hotel and restaurant workers. Similarly 1,411 people were reached through the WOREC booth located in Dhanusha CDO office premises.

**Monitoring**

The Asia Foundation program officer visited Chitwan and Makwanpur districts during this quarter. On May 4, a USAID Nepal team comprised of Mr. Von Millard, Mr. Chanmugam, and Ms. Singh, together with Foundation staff interacted with VTF members, schoolteachers, students, transport workers, and representatives of local NGOs in Makwanpur district. They

also met with the Chief District Officer, Women's Development Officer, and a representative from the Local Development Office to discuss the anti trafficking program and the larger picture of trafficking in the district. On June 22, the Foundation chaired a regular Steering Committee meeting for all partners to discuss progress.