

The Asia Foundation
Combating Trafficking of Women and Children
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PROGRESS REPORT
October - December 2003

Summary of Program Activities in Current Reporting Period:

- **Year 3 subagreements**
- **District-based prevention**
- **Task Force activities**
- **Trafficking film**
- **Networking activities**
- **SAARC convention**
- **Rehabilitation and reintegration**

Year 3 subagreements

During this reporting period, the partners completed their second year of the project and the Foundation negotiated subagreements for Year 3. The subgrantees for district-based activities include ABC Nepal, CeLRRd, Maiti Nepal, NGO Federation of Nepal, and WOREC. The Foundation also negotiated a subagreement with NNAGT for modest support to maintain its networking activities through bulletins and talk forums. In Year 3, the Foundation is also supporting Maiti Nepal to develop strategies, mechanisms, and procedures for reintegration. (See rehabilitation and reintegration below.)

District-based prevention

All partner NGOs conducted regular orientation and training programs for target groups, including transport workers, students and teachers, adolescent girls and women, employment agencies, and youth. On October 19-23, WOREC conducted a migration training course in Banepa for 23 senior staff of partner NGOs. The course provided participants an in-depth understanding of migration and its various forms, along with conceptual clarity on the subject with particular emphasis on human rights of migrants. On November 10-11, WOREC also conducted a two-day regional assembly in Biratnagar on conflict displacement and migration, with a separate panel on safe migration.

Task Force activities

On November 5-6, ABC Nepal, in coordination with CeLRRd, Maiti Nepal, the NGO Federation, and WOREC, conducted a workshop in Bhairahwa for the District and VDC Task Forces of all seven target districts. The participants and keynote speakers included Mr. Shyam Sundar Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare; Ms. Durga Ghimire, President, ABC Nepal; and representatives from USAID, The Asia Foundation, partner NGOs, and District and VDC Task Force members, including Women Development Officers. The CDO from Bhairahwa and other officials were also present on the occasion, making a total of 125 participants. The participants from the task forces were divided into four groups to discuss

different aspects of their work and ways to make the task forces more flexible and effective.

All partner NGOs conducted regular orientation programs and coordination meetings with the VDC and District Task Forces in their target areas during this reporting period. VDC Task Forces conducted numerous workshops, rallies, and mass campaigns, completed wall paintings, and conducted song, essay and debate competitions. They also installed notice boards at intersections. District-wise details, including Task Force establishment dates, are provided on pages 17-27 of the Bhairahwa workshop report (attached).

Trafficking film

ASMITA completed a seven-minute anti-trafficking film to be shown as a preview in cinema halls around the country. Twenty-five copies of the film are currently being produced in Mumbai, and ASMITA is conducting orientation for cinema hall owners in 13 districts: Morang, Jhapa, Kathmandu, Parsa, Rupandehi, Kanchanpur, Dhanusha, Dhading, Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Banke, Makwanpur, and Kabre. The orientations are being conducted in coordination with the Foundation's existing partners to ensure broadest possible use of the film.

Networking activities

NNAGT conducted two programs in the reporting period. The first was held on October 22nd on the topic "Sharing the Output on Trafficked/Returnees" using findings from a study conducted in Morang and Jhapa Districts. Held in the NNAGT Secretariat, the program was attended by 50 participants. NNAGT also organized a fundraising program by screening an anti-trafficking film "Chelibeti" in the Russian Cultural Center on December 6th, with 400 persons attending.

SAARC convention

On December 31-January 4, following on the Forum for Women, Law, and Development's (FWLD) comments on the SAARC anti-trafficking convention, Dr. Gopal Siwakoti, Ms. Anjana Shakya, and Dr. Renu Rajbhandari traveled to Pakistan as a part of a South Asian citizen's delegation to advocate for amendment of the convention. They held a series of meetings with government representatives, members of civil society, and the media from SAARC countries.

Rehabilitation and reintegration

WOREC completed a research study on "Coping Strategies for Trafficking Survivors" scheduled to be published in early February. The study highlighted the lack of an NGO strategy on reintegration, resulting in incomplete reintegration efforts or outright failures. WOREC could not identify any replicable best practices in this area.

With Foundation support and assisted by consultant John Frederick, Maiti Nepal is preparing procedures and policies for reintegration. Activities include developing outreach support for those returning to their family/community of origin; developing mechanisms for independent living situations; outreach mechanisms and protection for those who wish to marry or who enter foster families; and development of a logistical system for outreach support. Maiti Nepal also will pilot test an independent living situation for a select number of girls. These activities are expected to help in developing best practices in rehabilitation and reintegration.