

PREVENTING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND MODERN DAY SLAVERY IN NEPAL



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Context

[Human trafficking](#) is a global threat to vulnerable women, children and men worldwide. It is an injustice that affects millions of people every year on every continent. Trafficking is a highly-organised and lucrative business, generating 150 billion US dollars per year, 99 billion of which is generated by

sex trafficking within the prostitution industry. The latest global estimate according to the International Labour Organisation calculates that nearly 21 million people are victims of human trafficking worldwide. Roughly 4.5 million of those victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The problem

A quarter of all Nepalese live below the poverty line (UN Human Development Index). Years of political instability had already restricted Nepal's economic growth but the 2015 earthquake left millions without [homes](#), livelihoods or schools and threw them into extreme poverty. UNICEF estimated 24,000 classrooms across Nepal were destroyed during the earthquake, leaving close to a million children out of education and vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

Support for reconstruction has been limited and many people have been forced into debt to rebuild their houses and livelihoods. Some parents have even resorted to selling their children and many women have also been tempted overseas by the promise of lucrative salaries. The National Human Rights Commission of Nepal (Trafficking in Person Report 2013-15) reported a 15% increase in human trafficking after the earthquake. NGOs estimate that 10,000 to 15,000 Nepali women and girls are trafficked to India annually, while 7,500 children are trafficked domestically for commercial sexual exploitation. The country is ranked 13th on the Global Slavery Index.

In Sindhupalchowk district, 90% of houses and 557 government schools were destroyed. There was similar devastation in Nuwakot district. These districts were already prone to modern day slavery but the problem is escalating. The Office of the District Coordination Committee requested that our partner Shakti Samuha lead a programme of work in the affected areas and we are delivering this work alongside Voice of Children. We are the only NGOs working on this issue in these districts of Nepal.



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Project objectives

Community Led Action against Modern-slavery and Poverty (CLAMP) is focused on ending forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking and supporting those who have been victims. This is a new project but over the next three years we will be:

- Working to ensure children stay in school and complete their education.
- Supporting young people and families to work their way out of poverty so children and women are at less risk of being trafficked.
- Providing survivors of slavery and trafficking with support to reintegrate and rebuild their lives.
- Working with the government and civil society organisations to help develop policies and systems that will protect vulnerable children and women.

Our local partners

Shakti Samuha is the world's first organisation to be set up and run by survivors of trafficking and slavery. It now has more than twenty years' experience and its co-founder was recently recognised by the US Government for her work in preventing trafficking and supporting survivors. Shakti Samuha have been working in Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot since 2006 and have an in-depth understanding of the situation in both districts. They are leading the community-based part of this project.

Voice of Children works with children living and working on the street and families living in urban slums. They raise awareness of child abuse and provide legal, social and psychological support to children and their families. They have been a ChildHope partner since 2018 and for this project will be leading on the child protection and safeguarding activities.

Our donor

Our donor is DFID, the [UK Department for International Development \(UKAID\)](#). Our project supports the UK Government's strategy on modern day slavery. DFID has provided funding of £750,000 and we have committed to securing match funding of £250,000 to create a total project budget of £1,000,000. We are seeking match funding for this project so if you are interested in partnering with us, please [get in touch](#).

Our activities

We will raise awareness of modern day slavery in schools and train teachers and school management committees on how to identify and support children at risk of dropping out and becoming vulnerable to trafficking. We will raise community awareness on the importance of keeping children in school and work with education department officials and community organisations to monitor attendance and improve retention. All of these advocacy activities will be led by a team of Youth Change Agents who we will be training to work within their own communities.

We know the biggest driver of trafficking is extreme poverty so we will work with the most vulnerable young people and their families on finding ways to earn a living. They will be provided with skills opportunities, training, advice and resources and we will create links between them and the market, employers and government programmes to ensure their business initiatives are productive enough to overcome poverty.

We will be working with the Government of Nepal to support and reintegrate survivors of trafficking and slavery. We will do this by providing short-term shelter and other rehabilitation services including psychological counselling, social, skill development and legal support. We will also train Government of Nepal staff in good practice in tackling modern day slavery and collaborate with them to influence

strategies, plans and budgets that support this.

People with disabilities have been particularly affected by the earthquake so ChildHope will be supporting Shakti Samuha to become a more disability inclusive organisation. We will help it to develop its disability inclusion activities with emphasis on providing assistive devices and education and livelihood support that will enable them to be more independent and included within their community.

WATCH ME 

in numbers

This project began in spring 2018. Over the next three years we intend to:

- Work with **20** Wards Village Development Committees, each of which is made up of representatives from nine villages.
- Directly reach **12,530** orphans and vulnerable children, survivors of violence, people with disabilities and other vulnerable people.
- Recruit and train **180** volunteer Youth Change Agents to lead our community-based advocacy activities.
- Indirectly reach a further **104,600** people through advocacy activities.





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In their words

Tukaram's story

Tukaram is 13 years old and lives with his grandfather. His father is no longer in contact and his mother has remarried. His grandfather did not have enough money to send Tukaram to school, so he left when he was 11 and instead helped his grandfather with household tasks. The project team visited and talked about the importance of education with Tukaram and his grandfather and convinced them to re-enroll Tukaram.

Tukaram's confidence has been slowly growing since then. He is regularly attending school and plans to

continue his studies into the future. Ultimately Tukaram wants to become a social worker.

Our partner in Nepal, Shakti Samuha, focuses on encouraging children to continue with education and re-enrolling dropouts. Their value has not gone unnoticed, with the school in Tukaram's area giving a letter to the project team referring and recommending names of other students who have dropped out and seeking the project team's assistance to encourage them to return to school.

You can read more stories from ChildHope [here](#).