

Beauty from Ashes

Stopping Human Trafficking in Nepal

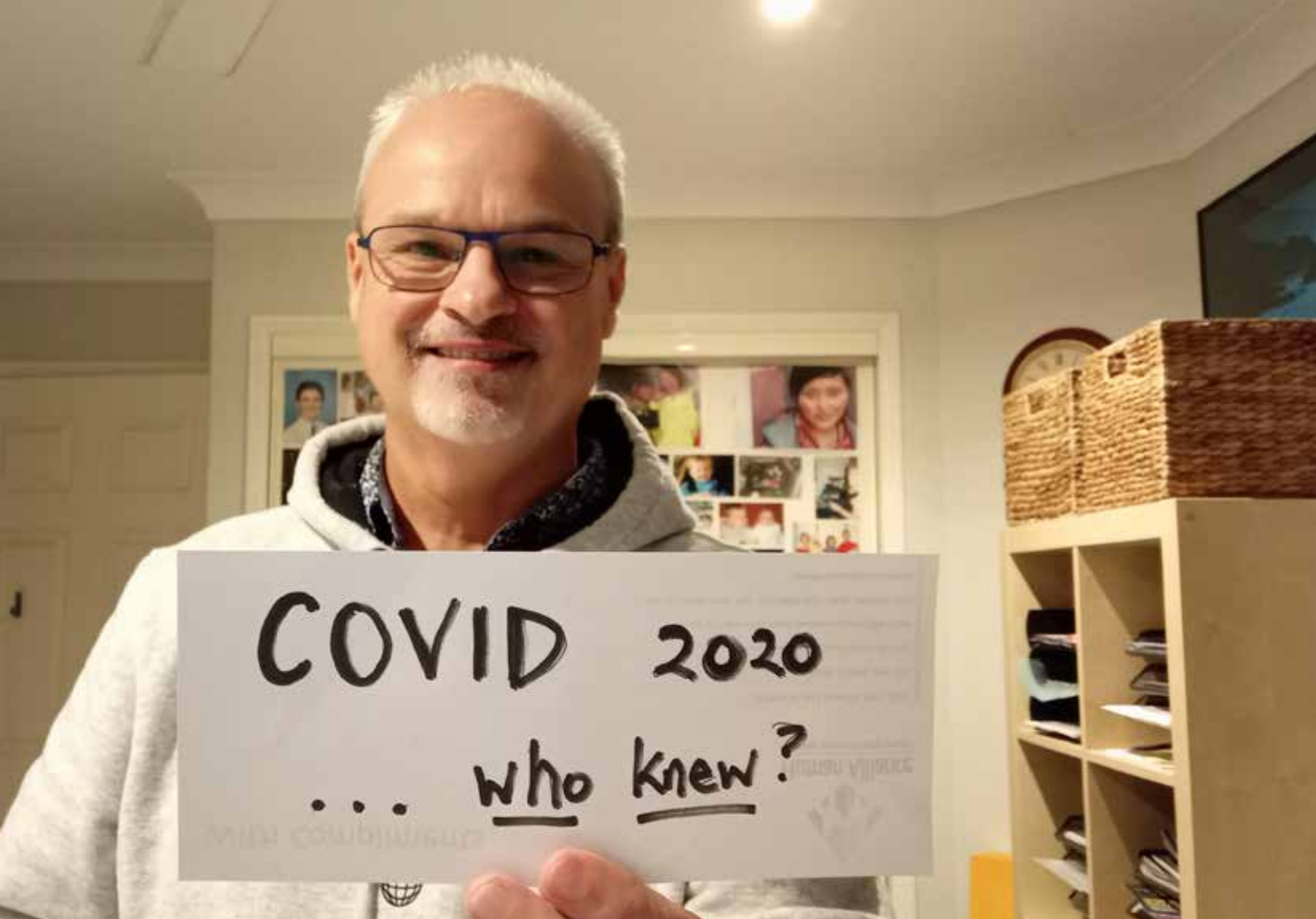


JULY TO DECEMBER 2020

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Message from the CEO

Dear Nepal Supporters and Followers,

Welcome to another 6 monthly update on the work of Captivating in Nepal. And, let's just get it out there right up front - "So long and farewell 2020. Glad you're not part of our lives anymore. Onwards and upwards".

2020 was a tough year for everyone. No-one was exempt from the reach of COVID-19. We hope you survived with scars not too deep. Certainly, with regard to our work in Nepal, we can say exactly that - we survived. It wasn't pretty, and certainly wasn't record breaking, but we and our partners have lived to fight another day, and still impacted a lot of lives in the process. This was possible because of a simply incredible support team and Board at Captivating, and AMAZING can-do partners on the ground in Nepal. Let's face it, "charity" is not the business you want to be in when there is a world-wide crisis. Donations are usually the first things to be cut as the world gets cautious, and generally the last to come back. But, amazingly, this was not the case for us. Throughout 2020, we were overwhelmed by people's desire to continue support, even when things were becoming tougher for them. If you are reading this as a financial supporter of Captivating Nepal, we say a massive "thank you".

For us, the real heroes have been those on the ground in Nepal. Where we have jobkeeper schemes and other assistance packages, Nepal has nothing.



Our staff and partners took significant pay cuts for 6 months across the board without complaint - focused on surviving to fight another day. And they did. We did. Thank you so much for helping us through.

You will read in this 6 monthly report about the personal toll this year has taken on Nepal. It's been brutal, and will continue to do so as people come out of the trenches. The desperate have become even more desperate, and we know our work in the anti-human trafficking space will hit new levels of challenge and adversity in the year ahead. We are on the ground where it's needed most, and ready to impact lives again. As Nepal starts opening up, so does our work. Monitoring stations are back to being 100% operational. Schools are starting up again and with them our education and awareness programs to at-risk students. The radio program we fund has never stopped - being a beacon of light, hope to everyone listening in - and joining needs with resources. And, our My Business My Freedom microfinance program has once again started adding more women to new community groups - opening businesses to break the cycle of poverty and desperation. It's great to be moving forward again, and we are ready to push hard.

Captivating is stronger, leaner, and hungrier than ever to bring freedom to women who see nothing but dark skies. We believe 2021 will be a year of transformation and growth. We can only do it with your support. Thanks for journeying with us.


Andrew Colquhoun
CEO & CO-FOUNDER | Captivating

OUR PARTNERS



Intercepting Girls

**STOPPING GIRLS BEFORE THEY ARE
TRAFFICKED AND LOST FOREVER**



INTERCEPTIONS take place when a girl is taken aside and interviewed about her travel plans. Monitoring station staff can stop her from progressing with her travel plans if they have too many concerns about the risk factors surrounding her travel. Trained staff know what to look for and can quickly identify 'red flags' to identify suspected victims.

She is intercepted BEFORE she reaches her destination because of fears that she is in the process of or at a high risk of being trafficked. She is informed on what is likely happening, counselled as necessary. If home is a safe place, she is returned or picked up by her family. If not, safe houses and transit houses are used until a safe alternative is found for her.

Often, cases are presented to the local police who become involved. The best outcome for us is when the trafficker is found, arrested and put in prison.

Made possible thanks to our key donors:

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JULY TO DECEMBER 2020 IMPACT - 3 ANGELS NEPAL

Captivating fully funds the anti-human trafficking work of **3 Angels Nepal**. This includes 6 monitoring stations throughout Nepal.

- **4,565 women were taken aside** across 6 monitoring stations and interviewed by trained staff about their travel plans.
- **271 girls were referred to the police** because substantial, hard evidence was able to be given to police to confirm a trafficker was involved.
- **1,085 girls and women were intercepted.** Monitoring station staff stopped these girls from progressing across the border due to staff having too many concerns about the risk factors surrounding the girl's desire to migrate.
- Each intercepted girl was informed on what was likely happening, counselled as necessary, and either returned home or picked up by their families.

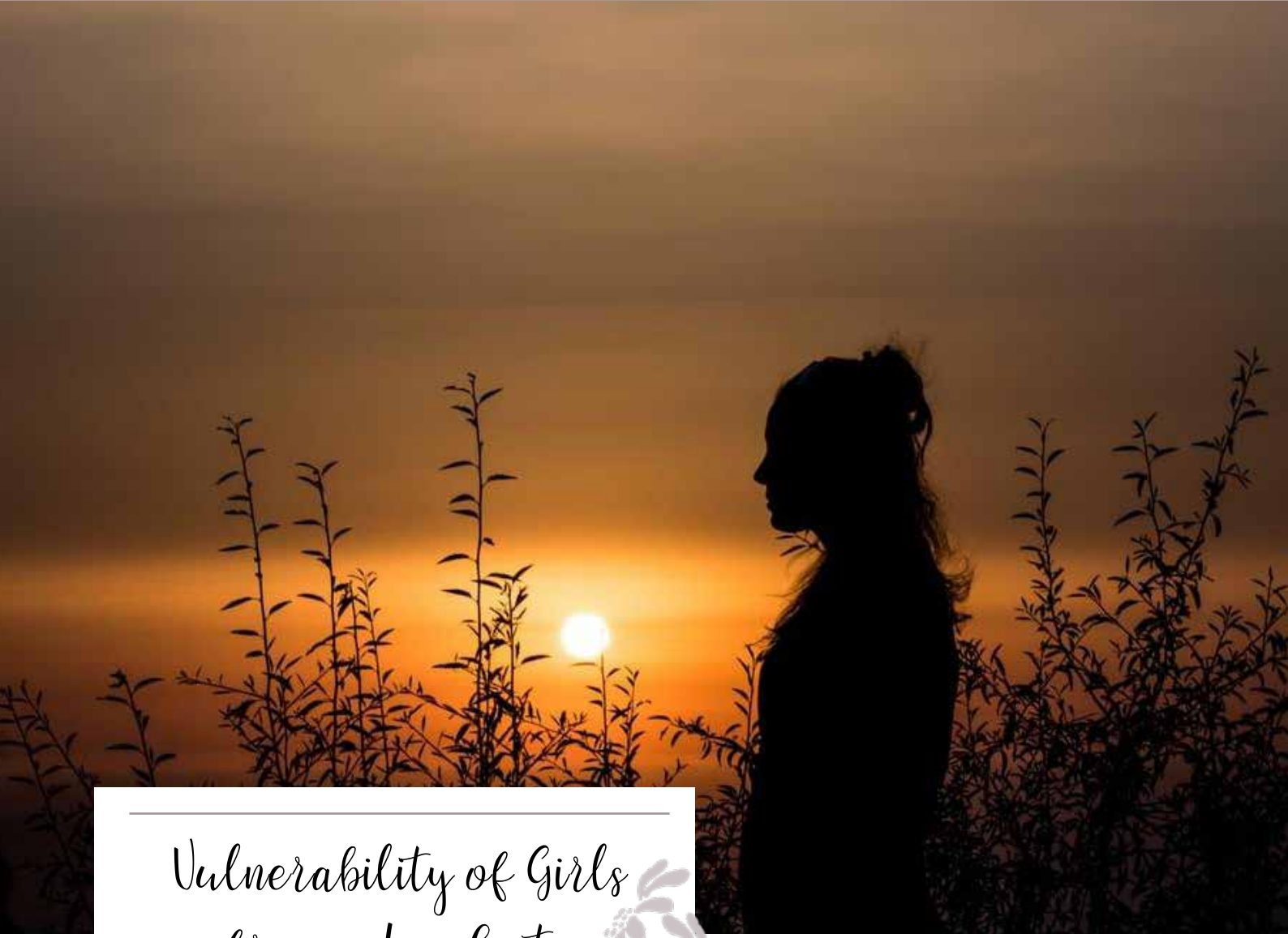
Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, borders were closed and lockdown was implemented across Nepal in March. This prevented our partners (3 Angels Nepal and Tiny Hands Nepal/Love Justice) from doing what they usually do for quite some time. From July, some borders slowly started to open again for short periods and people were allowed to move from region to region.

CHANGE OF SUPPORT - TINY HANDS NEPAL

Captivating, for the past 5 years, have had an ongoing partnership with **Tiny Hands Nepal**. Following recent discussions, we are changing the direction of our support, taking a more strategic approach by underwriting their Nepal administration, management and support costs.

This enables Tiny Hands Nepal to engage donors with a motivating message that 100% of their donation supports the direct cost of intercepting girls and not their administrative work.

The work of Tiny Hands Nepal impacts the lives of hundreds of girls intercepted, believed to be in the process of being trafficked. For the June to December 2020 period, over 300 girls were likely saved from becoming victims of human trafficking.



Vulnerability of Girls from a low Caste

Bimala* has a family of seven siblings. Despite a legal ban on caste-based prejudice, she has always been discriminated against as she was born into a low caste. She was treated like an animal. People from her caste rarely get jobs and those who do, rarely get paid because their employers deem them unworthy of being paid.

She studied at school till grade 8 and dropped out to provide her siblings an opportunity to study. Her father would beat her mother, blaming her for giving birth only to girls. When her mother finally gave birth to a baby boy, all attention shifted to her brother. Her father brought gifts for her baby brother but not for her and her sisters.

She was so fed up with this discrimination and wanted to run away but due to lockdown caused by COVID-19, she was stuck at home. Then she met a guy from her neighborhood possessing an Indian citizenship card who promised to take her to India for a better life. They planned a secret trip to India.

When the borders opened up, they decided to leave. They were stopped by the border security officer and, because things seemed suspicious, they were brought to our monitoring station office for further enquiry.

After hearing her story, the team shared with Bimala that traffickers often lure girls into India with false hopes of a better life. When girls arrive in India, they are often sold into the sex slave industry where they are often never seen again.

Although a direct link to trafficking could not be connected to the man, the 'red flags' were too many for the team to allow Bimala to cross the border. Her parents were contacted and she was safely returned home.

**Name changed for privacy and protection*

Found on a Bus to India

Alisha's* husband filed a missing persons report stating his wife had been missing for five days.

With coordination from police and 3 Angels Nepal, Alisha was found on a bus headed for India. She referred to the man she was with as her cousin. A background check was done on him and it was discovered that there was a warrant out for his arrest. He was immediately apprehended by police.

Alisha spent time with the 3 Angels Nepal staff who counselled her regarding human trafficking and how traffickers lure women with lies of employment opportunities.

During the interview, Alisha said she was forced to go with the man. Alisha and her husband are grateful that there are people who care about them and their safety and searched for Alisha when she most needed help.

**Name changed for privacy and protection*



Image by Terry Boynton on Unsplash

Two Sisters Drugged

Sidha* and Sishila*, like most teenage sisters, enjoy having fun and hanging out with friends. At a get together spot near a river, the girls met up with some friends for a swim. Two males arrived in a car and offered the sisters food and drink and invited them to go with them. After eating and drinking, the girls fell unconscious. It's easier to transport their victims when they are drugged and unconscious.

Thankfully, the girls were found by locals, the police were called and the two men were arrested. The girls were brought to the 3 Angels Nepal Help Desk where they were given counselling and support. Human trafficking and the different methods traffickers use to lure and trap girls were all explained to the sisters.

**Names changed for privacy and protection*





Image by Alekon on Unsplash

Lies and False Job Opportunity

Kumari is 26 and from a middle class, hardworking family. All the family's savings were used up during the COVID-19 lockdown. When lockdown started lifting, she started searching for work, desperate to help rebuild her and her family's lives. She applied for many jobs, but was unsuccessful.

She received a phone call from a stranger who called her for an interview in another area. The condition however, was that she was not to tell her parents about the interview. She agreed and boarded a bus for the interview. During her trip, she was so happy that she would finally get a job. Her parents would be so happy when she told them her surprise.

Her parents searched everywhere but couldn't find her. In their heartbreak and desperation, they went to their local 3 Angels Nepal Help Desk for help. The manager there called Kumari's phone and when she answered she explained who she was and the reason for her call.

Kumari told the manager that she had still not met the man for her interview. She tried to call him but when she started to ask questions, he ended the phone call. With consent from her parents, Kumari was asked to immediately get in a taxi and go to the Help Desk near where she was. It was explained to her how traffickers recruit innocent girls like her and trick them in the name of employment, only to be a victim of trafficking and sexual abuse. Kumari is now a lot wiser about how to find employment and who to trust.

The police arrested the man involved and after investigation, admitted that he had been involved in such activities for a long time. A case was filed against him and he is now in police custody.





Melina and Her Baby Now Safe

Melina* got married at 14 years old and not long after, had a baby. After the baby was born, her husband was accused of theft and murder and was arrested by police. This left Melina and her baby alone. She struggled to take care of her baby on her own. She met a woman who promised to take care of her baby. With the hope of a better future for her baby, she gave her child to the woman. The woman offered Melina some money and then took the baby.

After some time, Melina missed her baby and wanted to see her again. She was denied permission and told to leave. She was also told to bring proof that she was indeed the child's mother. With her husband in jail and no other help, she went to the local 3 Angels Nepal Help Desk. After listening to her story, the local police were called. With the help of police, Melina's baby was returned to her. After further investigation, it was discovered that the woman was involved in other human trafficking cases. The case was handed over to local authorities and Melina and her baby are now safe and back together.

Desperate and Vulnerable

Alima* is 17 years old and is from a large family. It's been 5 years since her father left home one day and never returned. Her mother does her best to care for all the children but the added hardship created by the COVID-19 pandemic made it almost impossible for one daily meal. One of the neighbors often invited Alima to her home for a little extra food, because she looked so malnourished.

One day, the neighbor told Alima's mother that she would like to take her to India so that she could earn some money. Her brother disapproved however, because of desperation and hopelessness, her mother agreed.

Along the way, the neighbor told Alima to refer to her as sister and that she would wait for her on the other side of the border. While making routine checks, our border monitoring staff noticed things didn't look right with Alima so they stopped her to ask questions. She was reluctant to answer but then explained that her sister is waiting for her on the other side of the border. The team searched for the 'sister' but she was nowhere to be found. Alima's mother was called and her daughters' situation was explained. The whole family is grateful that there was someone who was watching out for Alima and stopped her before she became a potential victim of human trafficking.

A case has been filed with police and local authorities for further investigation against the neighbor.



**Names changed for privacy and protection*

Rescuing Girls

Rescuing a girl who has already been trafficked is a combined effort of our local partners, local government agencies and the Nepali and Indian police. It is an expensive difficult exercise. Being able to restore hope, dignity and value is always our goal. Girls are either returned home to their parents who have been desperately trying to find them, or they are referred to the safety of our partner's Safe Haven.

Interception VS Rescue

Interception is when a girl is stopped BEFORE she is potentially trafficked.

Rescue is when a girl is freed AFTER she has been sold and trafficked.

JULY TO DECEMBER 2020 IMPACT

- 36 girls and young women were rescued from hotels and brothels in Nepal and India

Made possible thanks to our key donors:



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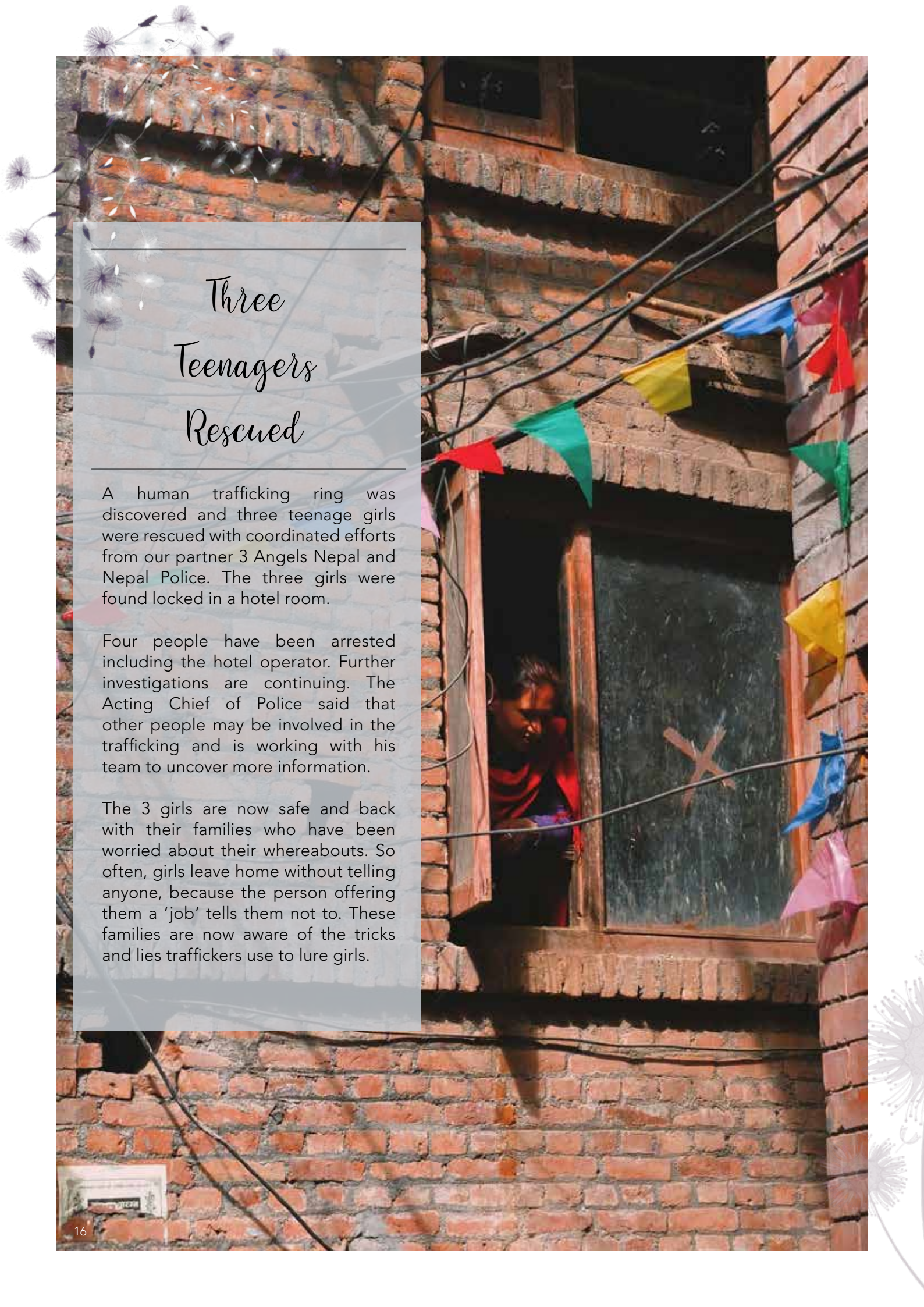
Rescued from India

28 Nepali women were stranded in India following attempts to travel to Persian Gulf countries for employment. These women were headed to Oman, Kuwait, and Iraq, the countries the government of Nepal has banned as destinations for female domestic workers because of the high number cases of sex trafficking and unpaid labour.

Our partner, 3 Angels Nepal, in coordination with the Nepal Embassy in India rescued these 28 Nepali women.

After the tremendous effort that took a few months to work through, 14 of the 28 women were brought to Nepal through the coordination of one of our border stations.

After their arrival back in Nepal, their families were contacted and the rescued women were reunited. The team are staying in contact with them to ensure their continued safety and wellbeing, both mentally and psychologically.



Three Teenagers Rescued

A human trafficking ring was discovered and three teenage girls were rescued with coordinated efforts from our partner 3 Angels Nepal and Nepal Police. The three girls were found locked in a hotel room.

Four people have been arrested including the hotel operator. Further investigations are continuing. The Acting Chief of Police said that other people may be involved in the trafficking and is working with his team to uncover more information.

The 3 girls are now safe and back with their families who have been worried about their whereabouts. So often, girls leave home without telling anyone, because the person offering them a 'job' tells them not to. These families are now aware of the tricks and lies traffickers use to lure girls.

One Girl's Rescue Leads to Two More Rescues

Rita's* story begins when her parents bought her a new smartphone. It was the beginning of a series of events that would turn her life upside down.

After joining social media, she met Viktor*, and in no time at all, they became close and talked every day. Viktor invited her to meet with him but she knew her parents wouldn't allow it so she made up an excuse and left the house to meet him. He proposed to her and after some convincing, she agreed. He decided that they would go to India and have a wonderful wedding and a good life.



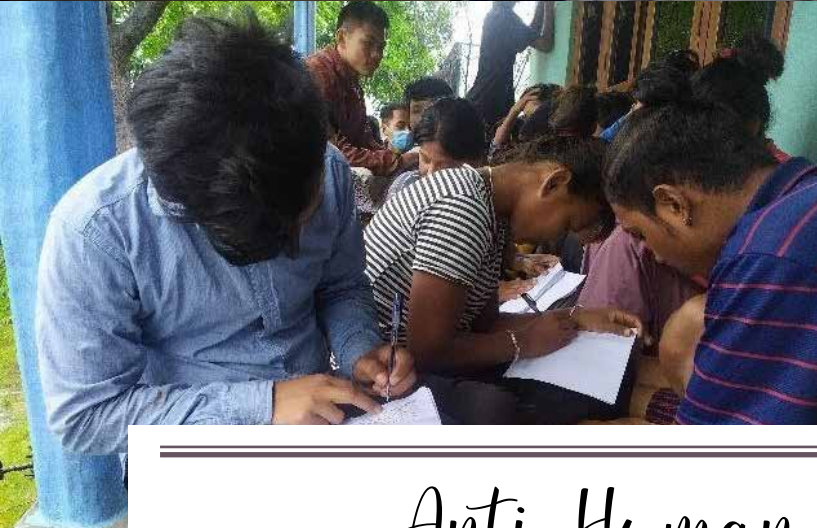
After arriving in India, she received news that Viktor had an accident and was in hospital. She wanted to visit him but was not allowed. Viktor's friend moved in and started abusing Rita. She found out that Viktor sold her to this man for 2 years for Rs.100,000 (US\$860). All her rights and privileges were taken away and she lived a life of daily abuse.

She managed, one day, to contact her family and told them what was happening. They immediately contacted the local 3 Angels Nepal help desk. They were able to locate her position and with the help of a small team of police, rescued her and brought her home.

During the counselling and support sessions when she arrived back in Nepal, Rita shared that she suspected two more girls were tricked by Viktor. With coordinated efforts with India authorities, the other two girls were also rescued and brought safely home to Nepal.

Life is cheap. Women and children are bought and sold every day. These young women's story could have had a very different ending. We're honoured that we can be part of changing their story.

**Names changed for privacy and protection*



Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Programs

Prevention through education has, and always will be, an important part of our fight to end human trafficking.

In Nepal, our partner 3 Angels Nepal runs a program called "Hamro Abhiyan" targeting students from schools considered more at-risk than others. We had aggressive plan to reach 7,500 students this year.

COVID has changed all that. Public gatherings and high-volume activities were restricted. Schools were closed.

While some activity has still been possible, our key work is still ahead of us as schools start getting back to normal operations. We have a busy 6 months of catch-up ahead of us.

Thank you to our key donors:



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Reaching Women and the Youth in their Communities

As the COVID-19 lockdown prohibits many people from going to work, they look for various alternatives to sustain family income. Going online to sell sexually explicit materials is among the options to earn much needed money. The cases of online sexual exploitation among girls and children is skyrocketing in Nepal.

Community awareness programs were run to explain to communities what is happening and how dangerous this practice is. As this is quite a new concept of earning money to Nepali people, early warning among the community is hoped to prevent high numbers of women and children falling prey to this form of trafficking and abuse.

70 WOMEN from an outcast village were reached with one of our awareness programs

The village is where majority of the Chepang caste (an isolated tribal group) resides. These vulnerable women are seen as not having any rights and are looked down on by others, easily deceived and forced into situations where they often have no choices.

200 YOUTH had the opportunity to take part in awareness activities and conversations.





My Business My Freedom

MICROFINANCE LOANS FOR WOMEN AT RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

My Business My Freedom offers small business solutions for women to help them support their families more sustainably.

- **519 women** are currently part of the My Business My Freedom women's groups. Of these women, **376 have received loans and have started their own business.** The remaining women are still progressing in their training and look forward to starting their businesses in due course.
- **36 women** received their very first microloan through this program during July to December 2020. They have completed their training and are ready for the next step with support from the MBMF team.
- There are currently **38 women's groups** located throughout 3 regions of Nepal. There are around 11 to 15 women in each group. They are accountable to each other to keep on top of their loan repayments. They encourage and support each other through the tough times and celebrate with each other during the happy times like when a baby is born or when loans are repaid.

This program has taken a hit since March 22, 2020 when COVID-lockdown occurred. Many women who were running their small businesses were unable to operate. Some women were struggling to provide for their families during this time, but we were able to provide help to those who needed it most through providing a month's supply of food to their family.



Most businesses were able to open again from September 2020. This has been a huge relief for these women as they can once again operate.

The My Business My Freedom Project is made possible thanks to our key donors:

The Kenneth Whalen
Family Foundation



Jamoca Foundation



For Her Precious little One

Out of her first loan from My Business My Freedom, Mina was able to create a small goat-raising business. This helps her earn enough income to provide for her and her little daughter, as well as save up for when her daughter is ready to start school.

This small business helped reduce the attraction of finding other employment and possibly with it the risk of human trafficking both for Mina and her daughter.

A woman, Raju, is sitting on a bed in a small room, holding a baby. A young girl is sitting next to her, looking at a book. The room has shelves in the background filled with various goods, including boxes and bags of food. The shelves are made of wood and are filled with items like instant noodle cups, bags of rice, and other packaged goods. The woman is wearing a green and red patterned shirt and a pink skirt. The girl is wearing a red and blue shirt and a pink skirt. The bed has a red and white patterned coverlet.

Safe life for Raju and Her Children

Raju runs a small convenience store thanks to the My Business My Freedom program. She is now able to earn a steady income while slowly repaying her microloan.

This is helping keep her and her children away from the lures of traffickers plus she has the added support of her group of women who meet regularly.

A woman, Dil, is working in a rural area. She is wearing a green and white striped shirt and a red necklace. She is looking up at a wooden structure, possibly a chicken coop. The background shows a rural setting with a dirt ground and some trees.

Small Poultry Business for Dil

Dil lives with her daughter in a rural area 25 kilometers away from the city. They live in two rented rooms with a roof made up of zinc sheets. She works as a farm laborer to provide for her and her daughter.

She joined the My Business My Freedom Program in June 2020 and after training, she received her first microloan. She bought 165 quails and kept them in a coop she made. She is expecting the quails to start laying eggs within the first quarter of 2021. She added that chicken eggs sell for Rs10 (USD 0.08) while a quail egg sells for at least double that. She expects to have a good income and prosper from this small business she started.

Thankful to be Part of a Women's Group

Due to her family's poor financial conditions, Maiya could not continue her education after tenth level. She got married and soon had children.

They struggled to have sufficient income to support their little family. She wanted to open a small business but needed help to get it started.

Maiya joined the My Business My Freedom Program and became a member of one of the women's groups. After training in small business management and budgeting, she received her first loan and opened her small shop in June 2019. She was starting to feel confident in her business until COVID-19 lockdown occurred. She faced financial difficulties as did everyone else.

All loan repayments were put on-hold during the lockdown to give people like Maiya the chance to get through.

Now that she is able to open her business again (since September 2020), she has repaid her microloan and was able to take out a second microloan that she has used to build her small business further.

"If I had not been a part of the women's group, I would not have reached this far".

2020 was a very challenging year, and the women who were part of the My Business My Freedom program found value and worth in supporting and being supported through these small groups.

Maiya is confident her business will continue to grow and she is proud that she can afford to send her children to school and receive a good education.





Safe Haven for Women

The primary scope and purpose of the Safe Haven is to provide shelter, support and ongoing personal empowerment and control to victims of trafficking.

However, the program has also progressively (and quite organically) widened its scope to provide support to severe cases of gender-based violence until their safety and right to live a dignified life is stabilized. Victims of rape (especially minors) are also referred to the Safe Haven by police and hospitals.

Although the primary purpose of the Safe Haven remains to be support to victims of trafficking, we are pleased to be able to offer this support to women considered most desperate for assistance.

JULY TO DECEMBER 2020 IMPACT

- **6 women / girls are currently at the Safe Haven.** Here, they receive much needed counselling and a safe place to stay. Various forms of training and skill building is provided for these women who need to build their confidence and ability to be able to provide for themselves and not rely on others and fall for the lies and false promises of traffickers.
- **14 women** in total were supported in the Safe Haven during July to December 2020.

Made possible thanks to our key donors:

Velez Family

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My Whole life has Transformed

One of the Safe Haven's goals is to provide opportunities that will help women be more sustainable long-term.

In line with this, they have established a partnership and offer a Basic Nursing course for the women. Ten women have enrolled and graduated since early 2020. One of them is Susmita.

Susmita is 22 years old and belongs to a good family. After completing school, she enrolled in further education in a vocation of her choice. She was addicted to social media and one of her new male Facebook friends asked to meet up with her. This is where her story begins.

"I met up with a male friend at a party with a number of my other friends. We booked rooms in a nearby hotel and stayed the night. After a while, I noticed a change in my belly but continued to ignore it. One day, my mother noticed and asked me if I have any health issues and took me to see a doctor."

"I was totally devastated because the doctor told me I was 7 months pregnant. My parents scolded and disowned me. They told me to abort the child but it was too late for the process. The One Stop Crisis Management Centre, referred me to a women's safe haven where the team took me in and I received counselling and support. I gave birth to my baby boy but my parents wouldn't accept me or the baby. It was not easy for me but I knew I had to give up my baby for adoption. After the adoption process, I went back to my family but it was not easy for me. I felt like someone robbed my heart and I kept having flashback memories which would kill me inside."

"One day, I received a call from the counsellor at the Safe Haven and they asked if I was interested in a Basic Nursing Training course. I enrolled and stayed at the safe house while doing my training. My learning and living environments were happy and supportive. I finally graduated my training with an employment opportunity already. My whole life has transformed. I am so grateful for the help and support I received when I needed it most."





The long Road to Recovery for Raia

Raia* and her 10-year-old daughter Nashi*, had been at the Safe Haven for almost 2 years. When they were rescued it was discovered that her mother was pimping her out at her hotel. Raia had a baby girl because of her 'work' and still her mother kept her in the hotel to earn money. Raia's health seriously declined over the years and when our partner's team found her, they were gravely concerned for the health of Raia and the safety of her now 10-year-old daughter.

They both received the caring support and rehabilitation they needed at the Safe Haven during their stay. Raia was transferred in September 2020 to a local, long-term rehabilitation and care facility and her daughter now lives in a government approved children's home where she is safe and can go to school.

Because of the many years of abuse and neglect, Raia has a long journey ahead of her. The scars, both physically and psychologically, will always be there. And although she may never fully recover, she is receiving all the help and support she needs while staying in contact with her daughter.

**Names and photo changed for privacy and protection*



Image by Sippakorn Yamkasikorn on Unsplash

Assistance for Sashi

Sashi* was referred to the Safe Haven by local residents in her village for her safety and shelter after finding out that she was raped by a co-worker on a construction site. She had no family she could go to for support and safety.

After receiving the report, our partner's team (3AN) went to her rescue and brought her to the shelter. The man's location is still unknown but the police have not stopped searching. Legal help was provided to Sashi and a case was filed with the local police and court system. Now, Sashi is in a safe place and undertaking Assistant Nursing training to help provide her with employable skills for a better future.

Changes in Savitra

Savitra* was studying hard but due to the nationwide lockdown, all schools and educational institutions were closed so she decided to go to her sister's home. While at her sisters' home, she met a guy and soon they became close. They got married and he took her to his home. It wasn't long before she suspected that she was pregnant. While at the hospital to confirm the pregnancy, her husband accused her of adultery. When they got home he started beating her. Savitra decided to leave him and return to her sister but she was no longer welcome there.

Savitra has previously had contact with our partners and when they called her to check in on her, they noticed significant changes. She now attends sessions with the counsellor. She is more cheerful and looks forward to the day when she can hold her head high with confidence again.

**Names changed for privacy and protection*



Bringing Justice and legal Aid

Justice is not fully served until perpetrators of abuse are arrested and dealt with accordingly. Achieving a sense of justice also helps survivors of abuse in their healing and recovery. Moreover, we want to prevent these traffickers from victimizing more women and children.

15 court cases were filed in the court system during July to December 2020. This was done with the assistance of local police.

- **5 were rape cases** with one being a 5-year-old girl and another a 10-year old girl (story on page 30)
- **1** was against a woman who **sold her step-daughter** (story on page 28)
- **9** were for **trafficking offenses**

286 women received legal assistance

- This service provides help and advice for those who are abused or victimized;
- Women are informed of their rights and how to pursue legal matters;
- Some cases are referred to local lawyers for follow up; others are referred to the legal team at our partner's head office.

**all names changed for privacy and protection of those involved*

Sold by Her Stepmother

Kamala* is 32. Her parents got divorced when she was young and started living separately. Then her father married again and she started staying with her father and her stepmother.

After sometime, they shifted to India for work. As her father would stay away from home for work, her stepmother forced Kamala to work. She told her that she had arranged work for her at a nearby hotel. She started working at a hotel where she was sexually exploited. She had to endure this because she needed the money and was afraid of her stepmother if she left the job.

Her stepmother forced Kamala to marry a guy from her workplace. At first, she was treated well but his behavior towards her started to change after their daughter was born. He would beat and torture her. He told her that her stepmother had sold her to him.



Finally, she had had enough and found an opportunity to run away with her daughter.

While crossing the border, she was stopped and interviewed by our partners because she was behaving suspiciously and was drunk. When she sobered up, she told her story. The team told her about human trafficking and the dangers of traveling to India with no plan or safe place to go. She hadn't heard that before but now knows more about how to keep herself and her daughter safe. A trafficking case has been filed against her stepmother in the court system.

Court Hearing for Hasina

Hasina*, 32, was crossing the border [before lockdown earlier this year] for foreign employment illegally and without informing her parents. At that time, our partner's staff were monitoring the border and found her suspicious. The staff interviewed her and came to know about the truth during the investigation.

She stayed in the transit home for a few days and received counselling and the help she needed to understand the right way to go about seeking employment. The staff explained how many pimps use employment to lure girls and then sell them in India for trafficking.

After the counseling, she realized that the person she had applied employment through was a pimp/trafficker. She decided to register a court case with the help of 3 Angels Nepal.

The staff contacted Hasina's father who came to pick her up. It was a happy reunion. Hasina has kept in contact with the 3AN team as the court hearing came closer.

On August 7, 2020 the District Court called our partner's team to come as witnesses in Hasina's court hearing and to add to the paperwork. This is now a registered human trafficking case and running in the District Court.





Legal Help for 10-year-old Rape Victim

In October 2020, Radhika* was approached by a male who attempted to molest her. She managed to run away to her father's store, but he was not there. The male followed her and raped her. When her father returned home, he found his daughter shaking and crying. She told him what happened and who did it. When her father went to the male's house, he denied the allegations. The father went to our partner, Tiny Hands Nepal, for help and advice on what to do. With help from the local police, the male was arrested and is now in jail.

Three Traffickers Arrested

An anonymous phone call was received by our partners about 3 people who were suspected traffickers. The police were called to confirm the suspicion. Police tracked the two women and one man down and arrested them. It was discovered that they were luring girls and women with fake job offers. The trio would lock them in motel rooms and abused them and starved them until they finally sold them. The trio will be tried in the Nepali courts while they remain in police custody.



Image by Felipe Vallin on Pexels



Suspected Trafficker in Police Custody

Sapna* is 16 and is from a large family. Her family is poor. Both of her parents work hard as daily laborers. Due to the poor economic background of her family, she had to quit her studies after the 10th grade and start working. She worked hard to help her family but due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and the nationwide lockdown implemented by the government, they started having a hard time surviving.

She received a call from an unknown number. The person calling was a man named Bista*. At first, she was reluctant to talk but after no time at all, they started a good conversation. He revealed himself as a man with dual citizenship and if she married him, she no longer would have a hard time.

They made plans to go to India but didn't inform her parents about their plan. As they were on their way to India, they were stopped at the border. During the interview with our partners, they started to behave strangely so they were brought to the Help Desk.

After listening to her story, the team explained to Sapna how traffickers tell false stories of a future free from poverty. They explained the possible consequences of leaving home with a person whom she just met on the phone. Her parents were contacted and she returned home.

The man was arrested by police and is currently in police custody pending further investigation.



3 Angels Community Radio

3 Angels Community Radio (3ACR) continues to broadcast for 17 hours every day, covering 72 districts and is linked with 42 relay stations, reaching an **estimated audience of over 21 million Nepali people**. We believe education is the key and this is a means to reach far more people than we could in person, especially in such remote locations.

JULY TO DECEMBER 2020 IMPACT

- During the pandemic lockdown, the team at 3ACR has been working at full capacity with government using them to communicate important COVID-19 information and also connecting desperate people with the help they need. 3ACR has been a beacon of hope to the 96% of Nepal who have access to the station.
- Since the beginning of Covid-19, people have been affected psychologically as well as physically. In Nepal, the number of suicide cases has jumped by a whopping 25%. The uncertainty of the economy has caused fear. According to the news and police reports, an average of 18 people killed themselves every day since the enforcement of the lockdown. In an attempt to help address this issue, 5 psychiatric doctors and 4 counselors were invited into the “Health is Wealth” program.
- Another aspect of the “Health is Wealth” program is including information on preventive measures as Nepal heads into winter [November to February]. The most vulnerable in the communities are the elderly and the children, so the program focused on keeping them safe from COVID-19, colds and coughs, and asthma.

- Many women were not able to get to hospitals during the lockdown, so the 3ACR team broadcasted important information about pregnancy and delivering babies in their homes.
- Due to schools being closed during the country-wide lockdown, the "Children's Garden" program started to include teaching segments to students focusing particularly on those who live in rural areas and have no access to TV and the internet. This program has become most popular to the villagers. Students would call the radio station and were excited to participate in the program.



- Through the Covid-19-based program "Corona Pandemic" a number of families who were on the verge of hunger called in for help. Due to the lockdown, they had lost their job and asked for help to feed their families. After listening to their crying voices, some of the local listeners wanted to help. The local donors gave food supplies and gas cylinders. 3ACR coordinated the delivery of these supplies.

Made possible thanks to our key donors:



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Desperate Cry for Help

Maya, 35, is married and has two kids. Her husband, who works in Dubai, lost his job and is now stranded due to the pandemic. He can't support his family and doesn't even have the money to come home.

Maya is also troubled as she cannot provide enough for their children. Knowing about 3ACR's program, Corona Disaster, she mustered her courage to call and seek help. She burst into tears while she shared her problems.

"I am exhausted. We have nothing to eat. My husband is abroad. He has been fired from his job because of the pandemic. He also has no money. He wants to come home. Please save him."

Although the team didn't have plans for relief distribution yet at the time, they immediately reached out to 3AN Chief Executive Director Dr. Rajendra, who then helped provide relief for Maya and her family.

Arriving at Maya's home with the food supplies, the team was more than satisfied to see the joy and gratitude in Maya and her children's faces.

Reliable People in Times of Need

In coordination with generous women in the community, 3 Angels Community Radio has distributed winter clothes to families in need around the Pokhara valley. Through the program "Corona Disaster", which airs for 1.5 hours daily in the morning, they appealed to the program listeners to provide clothes for the winter season. In their list of people to help were widows, single moms, and families, many of whom are also regular listeners to the program, who couldn't afford even second-hand clothes to protect themselves for the coming cold. After the program, some local women anonymously donated winter clothes for the needy.

The 3ACR team first visited a remote slum area, where they also previously provided food supplies during the lockdown. They met and distributed clothes to women and children according to their needs and sizes.

On the way, they were also joined by the chief of one of the communities who helped them locate and coordinate distribution to more people who have been waiting for the donations since morning.

3ACR has helped a lot of women and families since the lockdown - distributing whatever was needed from food to clothing.





Voice for the Voiceless

Prema* (38) is a regular listener of 'Nepali Daughter' program by 3ACR. She got married at the age of 14. Her first husband left her because she was unable to have babies. Her second marriage was no happier than her first marriage. She became a victim of domestic violence, caste discrimination, and physical torture. Then she faced social humiliation, abuse and discrimination from her community.

She went to the concerned bodies for her rights but no initiatives were taken for her justice. The Nepali constitution has given rights to Nepali women but when a woman raises her voice for her rights, she is often not heard and no action is taken. Society also blames women for raising their voices about their rights and resents women who take that stand.

Prema was well aware that 3 Angels Radio speaks out against human trafficking and for women's rights.

She came to the station one day with a teenage girl. She wanted to share her story.

"I was once a victim and voiceless. Now I am empowered to be a voice for the voiceless. During my low times of abuse and being outcast in my community, I found strength from the Nepali Daughter program by 3ACR."

When I was at my lowest, I met Chitra who was also a victim of abuse and rejected by her community. We established a close relationship and Chitra is now my daughter. I adopted her and now we have each other."*

At the end of the program, Chitra sang a song about women's rights. The station received a lot of good feedback after the program was aired.

**names changed for privacy and protection*



An Avid Listener and Advocate

Arjun, 55, is a local farmer and an avid listener of 3 Angels Radio. He says he never misses to listen to his favorite station. One day in the middle of November, he came to the 3ACR station.

During the interview, he shared that he listens to almost all the programs broadcasted on 3ACR, with "Nepali Daughter" as his favorite. He encouraged the staff to produce more awareness programs like it.

He also shared that there was a time when he could not hold back his tears when he heard one woman share her experiences of abuse on the program. When given the chance to speak to the audience, he talked about how important it is for men to also take action and do their part in improving the status of women in the Nepali society.

We believe Arjun is not just a fan of the radio programs but an advocate himself for women's rights. We hope that he inspires more men as well.





Other Activities

- **86 missing persons reports were filed.** When this occurs, staff will work with the family to try and contact the missing person. If that is unsuccessful, they will help the family file the report with the police. The staff then informs monitoring stations and various government and police departments. Everyday, girls go missing in Nepal. Some are found while many are never seen again.
- **21 missing persons were found** with the help of police, government departments and other NGOs.



3ACR Staff visiting some local farmers

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