

July to dec 2023



Beauty from Ashes

STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEPAL

in this *edition*

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impact numbers

JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

9,004 women were taken aside and interviewed by trained staff about their travel plans due to signs of suspicious behavior

3,025 girls and women were intercepted showing too many warning signs they might be at risk of trafficking. All cases were reported to the police.

77 girls and women were later confirmed by police to be in the actual process of being trafficked because hard evidence was found enough to start efforts to convict the traffickers. All other cases were treated with caution, with girls having to report to their local police station upon return to their village.

interception & rescue

28 schools and 2 community groups hosted our education and awareness program

2,430 students participated

173 army and police participated

awareness programs

2 traffickers were arrested

1 court case was filed

348 women received legal assistance

justice & legal aid

616 women currently have loans in the My Business My Freedom Microfinance Program

930 women have been impacted by MBMF since it started in 2017

38 women received their very first microloan these past six months

75 women's groups are located throughout Nepal comprising of 10 to 25 members for each group

microfinance

44 women / girls were supported at the Safe Haven through this period

15 new women joined the program following rescue / intervention

5 women participated in tailoring skills training

18 women received counselling

10 women received medical check-up

safe haven

321,700 estimated listeners

164,800 active listeners on the 3ACR Channel in a Nepali radio app

1,428 callers to the radio station

3,400 followers on 3AN Community Radio Facebook page

52,159 total views on 3AN TikTok account since the launch

On November 13, 2023—The Nepali government announced the ban of TikTok as it was known to interfere with "social harmony." Please note that the Tiktok-related data below was recorded prior to this date.

community radio

720 girls back in school

18 village programs currently being implemented, with another 3 village programs about to start

Captivating Nepal organized two health camps targeting women's reproductive and child health across three remote locations - **1,530 students and 898 women** were assisted

A women's group was officially established, comprising of women from marginalized families. They will be trained and guided to start their own chicken farming businesses.

village program

message from the founders

To our amazing supporters of Captivating's work in Nepal,

It's been another fantastic six-month period for our work in Nepal for July to December 2023. We are so proud to be able to present this ***Beauty from Ashes*** Nepal country update to you, and can't thank you enough for making all of this possible thanks to your generosity.

We are so proud of this update pulled together by our amazing communications team based in Nepal and the Philippines. Such motivational stories from our program partners and on-the-ground staff. Congratulations to all of you for helping us to travel close in this journey together.

It's easy to get overwhelmed by all of the stories and updates. However, we encourage everyone to take some time to read so many stories of lives being impacted and changed. Make it personal, and read each story as if the girl or young woman were your very own child. We often say that, as parents, we would do anything to see our own children succeed and be all they can be. Sadly, no matter how willing, many parents of the world are unable to do this for their child or children. But, through our excess, we can step in the gap for them - one girl, young woman, or struggling mom at a time. Together, we've been able to do this for hundreds of lives again this past six months. Let's celebrate that, but let's not stop. There is so much need out there, and we can make a significant difference to so many lives together.





We have big dreams for 2024, and our theme for this year is **“Standing With You”**. We see this from two perspectives. Together, we are standing with hundreds of struggling girls, young women, and moms focused on bringing them genuine hope for a better tomorrow. But also, together, we are standing with you. Without your support, we can do nothing. If you are willing and able to “do more in 2024”, then please contact Andrew directly at andrewc@captivating.org. Let’s bring genuine hope to the lives of so many.

We hope that as you read these pages that follow, you see that (1) we are serious about the work we do, (2) we work hard to reach the most desperate we can find in Nepal, and (3) our solutions bring results. It all happens because we have financial partners like you.

Thanks for journeying with us and creating so many ***Beauty from Ashes*** stories to share with the world.

Andrew and Julie Colquhoun
FOUNDERS | CAPTIVATING





interception and rescue

STOPPING GIRLS BEFORE THEY ARE TRAFFICKED AND LOST FOREVER

Every seventeen minutes, an innocent girl is trafficked in Nepal.*

Human traffickers are skilled enough to detect desperation and vulnerability among Nepali girls. In seventeen minutes, a girl can be helplessly sent to an unfamiliar place and be exploited forever.

With the help of our partners, we have stationed six monitoring station teams that work closely with local authorities. Our staff are trained to spot the warning signs that a girl may be trafficked. We do this by:

- Stopping those who show red flags;
- Interviewing with the right questions and picking up on the tiniest details that mess with the coherence of their answers;
- Investigating cases of those who seem to be at risk; and
- Engaging the police as next steps, including a safe return to their home.

Most women we find at the monitoring stations need to be made aware of what lies ahead. They are typically lured by social media friends, fellow villagers, or the worst—their own families. This is why we do our best to be on the lookout for the red flags. Interception is the last line of defense for a Nepali girl before she disappears forever.

**Data from our on-the-ground partner, 3 Angels Nepal*

JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

impact

Captivating fully funds the anti-human trafficking work of 3 Angels Nepal. In total, this includes six monitoring stations/help desk operations in areas considered as trafficking hot spots.

- **9,004 women were taken aside and interviewed** by trained staff about their travel plans.
- **3,025 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. Staff were concerned that they were in the process of being trafficked.
- **77 girls and women were later confirmed by police** to be in the actual process of being trafficked because substantial, hard evidence could be provided to confirm the involvement of a trafficker.

Each intercepted girl was informed of what was likely happening, counseled as necessary, and either returned home or picked up by their family. Some were referred to safe houses as they couldn't return home due to safety concerns. In all cases, the police record the details of "intercepted" girls/women and they are required to report to their local police office to confirm that they have safely returned home.

All names in the stories that follow have been changed for privacy and protection.

OUR INTERCEPTION & RESCUE, EDUCATION & AWARENESS, AND LEGAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN UNDERWRITTEN BY OUR AMAZING KEY DONORS:

Jamoca Foundation



Kenneth Whalen
FAMILY FOUNDATION



BE CAPTIVATING



DAVID & LIZ T. BOB & KELLY S.

PENMAN & JOHNSON
FAMILIES

EDWARD & SUE

BOB & EV

LET'S DO THIS
FROM CACHE VALLEY



LIVINGSTON CHURCH
& ATONE VG TEAM

BINITA'S QUEST FOR A

Safe Space

Binita already lived a very difficult life at 16 years old. A few months back, her stepmother suggested she go to Kathmandu with her elder sister to find a job. Her sister lived with her husband in a rented apartment, and they gladly received her. Not long after, Binita got employed waiting tables at a small restaurant.

It may have seemed like everything was going well for Binita: she had a humble yet decent job and a place to stay—but that was not the case. Every time Binita was alone with her brother-in-law, he would always find a way to touch her, forcefully make her undress, and eventually rape her. She was intimidated to tell the truth, so it happened multiple times. When she finally built up the courage to tell her sister about his molestation, she expected her to take her side. Instead, her sister did not believe her and even accused her of attracting him. Binita felt completely alone and desperate to leave her sister's house.

While working at the restaurant, she met a woman who told her that there was a job opening at a guest house with food and accommodation included. To her, moving out and living with strangers was a better option than living with her victim-blaming sister and rapist brother-in-law.

She agreed to the guest house job offer, and the horrors did not even take a while before they revealed themselves. Binita was forced to sleep with the guests, and when she refused, they would force her and insist that they had already paid for her. It was just one trap after another, and Binita was broken.

Binita managed to escape the guest house and lived in a small rented space with her friends. It was supposed to be a safe space from abuse, but instead, it was just another brothel in disguise. Her friends would bring men to their place and have sex with them for money, and they encouraged Binita to do the same.

Our monitoring team intercepted her, and she begged them to help her get out of the situation. Everywhere Binita went, she was abused so much that a safe space was a concept that did not mean anything anymore. Right now, the least harmful place for Binita is her village. We contacted her mother about what happened to her and the more risks she may encounter when she stays in Kathmandu. She understood the situation and supported the idea of bringing her back to their village.

Binita is still too young to experience all of this, and it's a terrifying thought she could have gone through worse. The least we could do is bring her back to her home, find more ways to help her recuperate, and prevent this from happening again.





FROM ONE TRAP TO ANOTHER

Eleven months ago, Alisha (19) ran away from home due to the nasty treatment of her stepmother while her father worked abroad. The thought of living independently appealed to Alisha despite living a comfortable middle-class lifestyle. To her, independence and hard work are better than living with her stepmother's abuse. She came to the country's capital, Kathmandu, and worked at a guesthouse as a dishwasher.

While working there, she met a man who insisted she call him "Uncle." Uncle offered her a job at a guest house with the promise of better pay, accommodation, and good food. The offer seemed like a great opportunity, so she went with him. When she arrived, she immediately knew that Uncle's promise was a ruse, and she was bound to experience more sinister things. Every night, men would come, and Alisha was forced to have sex with them. Every night, she would be traumatized until it seemed like there was no more hope left for her.

Alisha found a friend amid these monstrous treatments. Her name is Smita, and she also did not expect the abuse when she agreed to work there months ago. Both girls found a way to escape the guest house by talking to a woman who claimed could help them. Little did they know, the woman was also taking advantage of their desperate attempts to escape. The woman brought them to the border, and our team intercepted them.

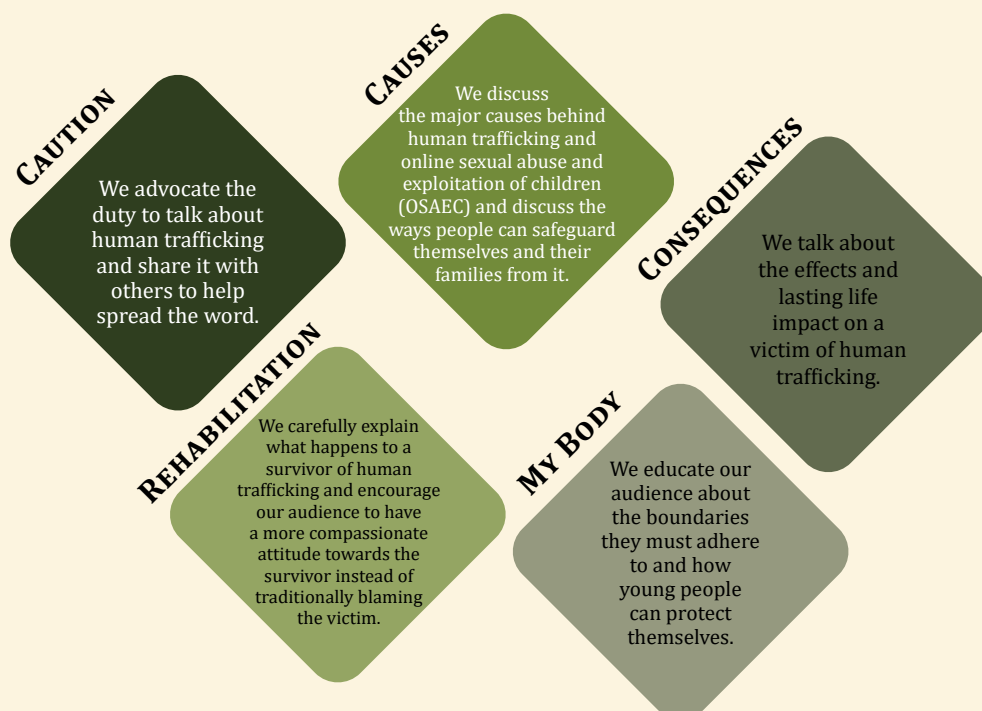
Alisha and Smita were already trafficked since "Uncle" lured them into the guest house. Upon interview, it was revealed that the two girls were on the way to being trafficked again to another place by the woman who pretended to help them. Authorities immediately took over, and the two girls' families were contacted. Alisha's close relatives came to pick her up, and Smita was reunited with her brother. We educated the two girls about human trafficking and how to spot it next time. We wish nothing but healing and peace for both girls.

hamro abhiyan

ANTI-TRAFFICKING AWARENESS PROGRAM

Most trafficked girls are unaware of human trafficking until it happens to them. To spread awareness, we implement our award-winning Hamro Abhiyan Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Program across schools, community groups, and army/police forces. We tackle our topics with the delivery of thoughtfully designed content that is meant to impact and retain every participant's mind.

The main areas of focus are as follows:





JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

impact

- 28 schools and 2 community groups hosted the program
- 2,430 students participated
- 173 army and police participated



Feedback from Principals

A FIRST FOR THEIR SCHOOL

Social organizations had hardly visited L Angels School because of its location, says their principal. When outsiders would come and visit, it's because of job and education opportunities for the students, but never for activities like Hamro Abhiyan.

Most visitors will stay in their area for a month to earn their trust and then invite the children to work in the hotel and garments industry. The student participants are typically unaware of human trafficking schemes, which make them more vulnerable when they are desperate for employment. The principal thanked our team for bringing a selfless cause to their school, where the children can learn without being taken advantage of.



APPRECIATING THE VALUE OF AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

The principal of Shree Yuva Varsa Madhyamika School said that their student participants come from five different villages that are exposed to farming, poultry, animal husbandry, and manning of commercial stalls. This context makes the program more valuable to the students because they have been engaged in some industries at such a young age, and it would be helpful to spot human trafficking in the future.

More than that, the principal mentioned that the students have been neglecting some important cultural issues that have an immense impact on society, like gender discrimination, caste systems, and superstitions. These issues only create barriers and shame for those who are marginalized and may further human trafficking. Now that these issues have been tackled, he is confident that our program has helped change these youngsters' perspectives about cultural issues.



HAMRO ABHIYAN

in photos



justice and legal aid

We don't just conduct awareness efforts and intercept girls. We also help those who have been victimized, trafficked, and abused access legal advice and justice. Our work is closely connected to the local authorities and court systems, and many women come to our help desks to report maltreatment they have experienced, whether from their traffickers, family members, or fellow villagers.

The mission is to amplify the voices of those who are silenced, and help empower them by advocating for justice through knowledge.

JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

impact

- **2 traffickers were arrested.** Our partner's teams assisted in these arrests and helped track down the perpetrator.
- **1 court case was filed.**
- **348 women received legal assistance.** This service provides help and advice for those who are abused or victimized. Women were informed of their rights and how to pursue legal matters. Some cases were referred to local lawyers for follow-up; others were referred to the legal team at our partner's head office.

All names in the stories that follow have been changed for privacy and protection.

Samundra SEEKS JUSTICE

Samundra (18) is one of the girls whose economic status made her vulnerable to internal trafficking and rape.

Samundra's family is destitute. Her father is a drunkard who neglects his responsibilities, and her mother tries her best to look after her and her handicapped younger brother. They live in a public conference hall because they cannot afford rent. In exchange for a roof over their head, her mother manned the hall and cleaned after public events.

A long-time acquaintance and neighbor knew about their family condition. He started luring Samundra the same way she had lured her elder sister.

A few years ago, her elder sister was lured by the woman by offering marriage to her son. She painted a picture of how her elder sister's life and their family's life would be better when they married—when it's the exact opposite now.

While Samundra's mother was away for work, the woman used to approach her often after she came home from school. She would offer her to work at her house in exchange for pay. One day, Samundra gave in because she wanted to help her mother.

When she reached the woman's house, she diligently did the tasks assigned to her. She finished the housework and was about to leave when the woman lied by saying that Samundra's mother asked her to stay the night there and work some more for the lady. Poor Samundra believed her and did as she was told, whereas her mother was worried and searched for her.

Later that night, the woman's son raped her. Samundra was locked in and couldn't escape. It had been a day and a half since Samundra went missing, and her mother searched for her desperately. She even saw the lady and asked for her daughter's whereabouts, but she lied by saying Samundra left after finishing the chores.



Her mother felt in her gut that Samundra must have been kidnapped by the woman. One late night, she went to the woman's house and heard faint and strange noises. She saw two men in the house who had paid the lady as Samundra was raped.

The case was immediately reported to the District Police Office of Pokhara, and Samundra was rescued. Samundra's mother filed a lawsuit against the woman and her son.

Samundra was traumatized, weak, and needed immediate safety. She was immediately transferred to Women's Safe Haven and attended for medical checkup. Samundra also received regular counseling during the duration of her stay.

No one deserves abuse just because they are poor. Through your help and our efforts, we were able to help fight for the justice Samundra rightfully deserves.

MY BUSINESS, *my freedom*



MICROFINANCE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AT-RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A woman's chances of human trafficking are increased when she is destitute. One of our programs aims to help Nepali women address their extreme poverty by helping them build and manage their own businesses.

The ability to financially provide for oneself is truly an empowering act, hence the name of this project: My Business, My Freedom. Here's how we help our beneficiaries establish her own business to ensure her continued freedom:

Training. She undergoes basic entrepreneurship training to learn how to build her business and receives advice on how to make her venture successful.

Mentorship. She will receive a more personal approach to money management, savings, budgeting, and other entrepreneurial skills.

Community. Connecting her with other women in similar circumstances can help build a supportive community where they can share their challenges and successes for years to come.

Lending. She can take out micro-loans to help her get started. Once she repays this, she will be eligible to take out more loans to scale up her business.

Support and Guidance. It doesn't stop with loans and training. Our loan officers and her community will look out for her and watch her grow into an independent and empowered female entrepreneur.

JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

impact

- **616 women currently have loans** in the MBMF Microfinance Program.
- **930 women have been impacted** by MBMF since it started in 2017.
- **38 women received their very first microloan** through this program from July to December 2023. They completed their training and are ready for the next step with support from the MBMF team.
- **75 women's groups are located throughout Nepal.** There are around 10 to 25 women in each group. They meet monthly and are accountable to each other to keep on top of their loan repayments. They encourage and support each other through tough times and celebrate with each other during happy times, like when a baby is born or when loans are repaid.

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS



**ADD-CARE OP SHOP -
GOLD COAST**



FROM A DREAM OF A HUNDRED RUPEES TO EARNING THOUSANDS DAILY

Puja joined an MBMF women's group in Chitwan. With a loaned starting capital of NPR 50,000 (USD 376.04), she started raising livestock like pigs and goats. Her livestock business is going well, so she took out three more loans to expand her business: NPR 70,000 (USD 327), NPR 80,000 (USD 600,) and NPR 60,000 (USD 451.)

With these loans combined, she invested in three milking cows, one wild pig, six goats, and a few chickens. She sells milk, curd, butter, and fresh cheese from these animals, and her daily income ranges from NPR 2400 (USD 18) to NPR 4000 (USD 30.08.)

Puja is not alone in running her business. Her husband helps her by delivering her daily products to households.

To Puja, her livelihood is not just work but also a form of therapy. It makes her forget about her other problems while generating income.

Back then, she could not even afford to buy a single goat to raise. To her, a hundred rupees was too difficult to earn. But now, she earns thousands of rupees daily to provide for her family.

She can't thank those who helped her enough for this fantastic opportunity to improve her life. She did not only improve her own but also her children's future.



AMRITA'S SUCCESSFUL MUSHROOM AND GOAT FARM

Amrita (49) always dreamed of making farming her business. She only relied on her labor work income, which didn't make much. When her family faced a financial crisis and couldn't find another job that paid better than her labor work, she thought of making her farming business come true. She started a small mushroom tunnel but lacked funding to maintain it.

Through MBMF, she acquired an initial loan of NPR 35,000 (USD 263) to maintain her mushroom tunnel and buy goats. She took very good care of the goats and paid off her loan. When she was confident about caring for livestock, she took out another loan of NPR 70,000 (USD 526) to buy more goats. With seven goats in total, her farm now has a sustainable source of income.

Amrita didn't stop there. She took a third loan of NPR 60,000 (USD 452), and it helped her complete her mushroom tunnel. She could purchase all the equipment necessary to run and maintain it fully. Currently, she has NPR 40,000 (USD 300) worth of mushrooms in the tunnel.

Because of your help, a woman's dream of financial stability through agriculture came true. Amrita cannot believe she lived a seemingly impossible life a few years ago.



SHITAL'S PERSISTENCE LEADS TO A

Successful Venture

Shital attributes the good life of her and her family to MBMF.

Just four years ago, Shital's family was going through some financial hardships. A lot of women who take microloans from MBMF are successful in goat farming, so she thought she could give it a shot. She loaned NPR 30,000 (USD 226) to buy two goats and used the remaining loan to fix their family bicycle to help with goat farming.

Months passed, and there was still no return on her investment. The goats were taking too long to mature, and her financial problems were piling up. She knew she needed to act fast. Shital reflected and realized that goat farming wasn't for her.

Shital is a charismatic woman who is quite a skilled salesperson. Instead of thinking that she was not cut out for entrepreneurship, she thought of something different, a business with which she could resonate. She sold the goats to repay her loan and then took out another loan worth NPR 60,000 (USD 451) to start her new business venture: a cosmetic shop.



Shital was clearly meant for this line of work because her customer base grew exponentially in such a short period of time. Her regular monthly income is about NPR 15,000 (USD 113), and this amount has helped a great deal in elevating their quality of life.

If Shital stopped at her first failure, she wouldn't have succeeded in helping her family thrive. Our MBMF program aims to help hardworking women like her find opportunities to better their lives. We know that failures are parts of successes and through your help, we were able to guide them along the way.

safe haven FOR WOMEN



For girls who underwent major trauma, domestic abuse, human trafficking, and other forms of violence—a safe haven is just what they need to heal. Women's Safe Haven (WSH) provides a safe space for women and girls, and it might look different depending on their needs.

WSH provides some key support to women and girls through:

COUNSELING. We have competently-trained and compassionate counselors to help her process what she went through and help her realize that what happened to her was not her fault. Our counselors also provide practical strategies to regain her confidence and zest for life.

SAFETY. Safety is not just ensured security, it is also a feeling. The girl must not only be safe, but she must also feel safe.

REST AND RECOVERY. The quality of the environment is of paramount importance for those who heal. WSH provides comfortable accommodation for girls for increased recuperation.

SKILLS BUILDING. We value growth and sustainability. The haven is not only a place where they rest, but it is also a place where she can learn valuable skills to provide for herself financially. This way, she won't need to resort to unsafe and dangerous means of income.

Our haven is just a place that could help a girl get back on her feet, and our main mission is to help her cultivate a safe space within herself by the time she leaves.

JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

Impact

- **44 women/girls were supported** at the Safe Haven through this period
- **15 new women** joined the program following rescue/intervention. They received much-needed counselling, medical checkups, and a safe place to stay. Skills-based training was provided to develop their confidence and ability to provide for themselves, not rely on others, and fall for the lies and false promises of traffickers.
 - **5 women participated** in tailoring skills training
 - **18 received counselling**
 - **10 received medical checkup**

All names in the stories that follow have been changed for privacy and protection.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE
SUPPORT OF OUR KEY DONORS
WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE

Kenneth Whalen
FAMILY FOUNDATION

SUE & ED



TONY & SHERRON

MANIPULATIVE BOYFRIEND DRIVES SRITISHMA INSANE

Sritishma (19), made several suicide attempts and tried to poison her father and sister using a sanitizer. This despicable behavior is more complicated than one might think, but one thing is for sure: Sritishma suffers from serious psychological issues.

Sritishma used to be a rational person who was studying optometry, and everything was fine for her until a few months ago. Multiple occasions caused her to lose her sanity.

It started when she fell in love with a boy her age. He used to call her to his friend's rented room, and they spent their time together. Sritishma agreed to have a sexual relationship with him to prove her devotion to him. However, the boy recorded their sexual encounters several times without her knowledge or consent.

He then used those videos to blackmail her for money. Sritishma feared that she would have many problems if those videos were made public, so she started stealing from her father to meet his demands.

Stealing from her father wasn't enough, so she started stealing from the hospital's counter as well. Soon after, she was caught.

Sritishma was suspended from school for a few days because of disciplinary actions, but the boyfriend wasn't going to stop asking Sritishma for money. He told her that he would delete the videos if she slept with his friends, who were willing to pay her. She had no choice but to engage in sexual activities with his friends in exchange for money that her boyfriend asked for.

Her sister found out about the sexual abuse so they reported the case to police. She was referred to the Women's Safe Haven to ensure her safety because she was mentally unstable, attempted suicide, and attacked her father and sister.



Her father and sister were given legal advice to file the court case and followed through. Counseling sessions were conducted, and she visited a psychiatrist who prescribed medication. She started feeling better after all the efforts because she felt safe and was no longer threatened by her terrible boyfriend.

She now continues attending regular classes while seeking justice for the abuses she suffered.

Regaining Faith in Humanity

AFTER AN ATTEMPTED TRAFFICKING INCIDENT

Alija (19) dropped out of school during 10th grade to work at a garment factory in Kathmandu. Her family is destitute, and her parents do not prioritize her education. To them, a brighter future for Alija means marrying a relatively more financially stable man and becoming his housewife.

The garment factory she's working at treated her like a slave. She had been tirelessly working for two months at that point, but she never received her salary. They only got accommodation in a crowded room and free meals twice daily. When she asked about her pay, her employer told her that her unpaid salary would be given in India and that her first two months at the factory were just the training period. Now that Alija has "passed," she can move to India.

It's fortunate that Alija told her mother everything. Her mother immediately knew the offer was a human trafficking attempt because she attended one of our awareness programs. She pleaded with her daughter to come back home, but Alija was persistent and desperate for a source of income. To her, it might take ages for another job opportunity like this to come, so she went against her mother's wishes.

Alija's mother couldn't explain to her the harms of human trafficking because she thought she was too young to grasp this kind of information. She immediately rushed to our help desk to inform our staff about her daughter's case. During this time, Alija was already on her way to Kakarbhita in Jhapa with her trafficker. Our team immediately found her, and was put in a transit home. We informed her about human trafficking: the risks, causes, and stories—in a way that her mother wished she had told her. When we informed her about the danger she might have faced, she was in shock and pure devastation. She couldn't believe how evils like this persist in the world, and she had almost experienced it. She told our staff she wanted to go to the safe haven to process this incident.

In the safe haven, Alija listened to stories shared by other women. We teach her that there should be no shame in wanting to improve her and her family's lives—and that her story should help warn others before it's too late. Presently, Alija is still healing, but we are confident that a gentle environment will help her restore her faith in humanity again.



3 ANGELS

community radio

Radio broadcast is still a very prominent platform in Nepali villages. Our partner organization, 3 Angels Nepal, broadcasts 17 hours of daily news, stories, music, studio, and field-based programs through the radio station 3 Angels Community Radio (3ACR).

3ACR hosts various development-oriented programs that tackle various subjects, but mainly human trafficking, business and career, mental health awareness, and other uplifting content.

This mass media platform has helped us disseminate information and promote our advocacies on a wider scale—and it has been making a profound impact despite the ephemeral nature of radio.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR
THE SUPPORT OF OUR KEY
DONORS WHO MADE THIS
POSSIBLE

 Kenneth Whalen
FAMILY FOUNDATION

TIM & MICHELLE S.

 AMROSIA
global sourcing and inspection

PENMAN &
JOHNSON FAMILIES

JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

impact

- **321,700 estimated listeners** based on independent research conducted in 2018 assessing the % of the population tuning in
- **164,800 active listeners** in our 3ACR App (up from 134,100 last December 2022)
- **1,428 callers** to the radio station engaging in various conversations and competitions.
- **52,159 total views** on the 3AN TikTok account since the launch (although Nepal recently banned TikTok in the country)
- **3,400 followers** on the 3 Angels Community Radio Facebook page

WOMAN BEATEN UP FOR REFUSING SEXUAL FAVORS

Our radio platform not only broadcasts valuable programs about our advocacies but also serves as an avenue for women to achieve justice.

Last quarter, a woman working at Dohori Sanjh (a bar and entertainment area) encountered a customer who asked her to engage in sexual activities with him. When she refused, the man started beating her up until she was severely hurt.

She reported this incident to our radio station and immediately received medical assistance and legal aid. The man who assaulted her was held legally accountable, and this made her feel safer. She now knows we are looking out for women like her and is willing to provide assistance whenever needed.

RADIO PLATFORM GATHERED DONATIONS FOR STARVING MOM AND INFANT

Sushma's family lives in a small rented room with her drunk husband. Her husband does not care for her or their child, and would not even lift a finger to help them. It also wasn't the first time this happened. She has already lost one baby due to a similar circumstance in the past, and she doesn't want another unfathomable maternal heartbreak.

Her call for help incited a fundraising event to help her obtain a sack of rice, packets of cooking oil, eggs, cereal, chicken, and enough cash for her and her baby's medical needs. Sushma was delighted to receive our team with all these supplies in her home. She said, "I was deeply worried and couldn't even leave my bed with my sick baby. Your kind gesture in stocking up my kitchen in this cold winter means more to me than words can express. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

No mother deserves to lose her child due to poverty. With your donation and our collaborative efforts, Sushma and her child can now eat and get the medical attention they need.

captivating village program

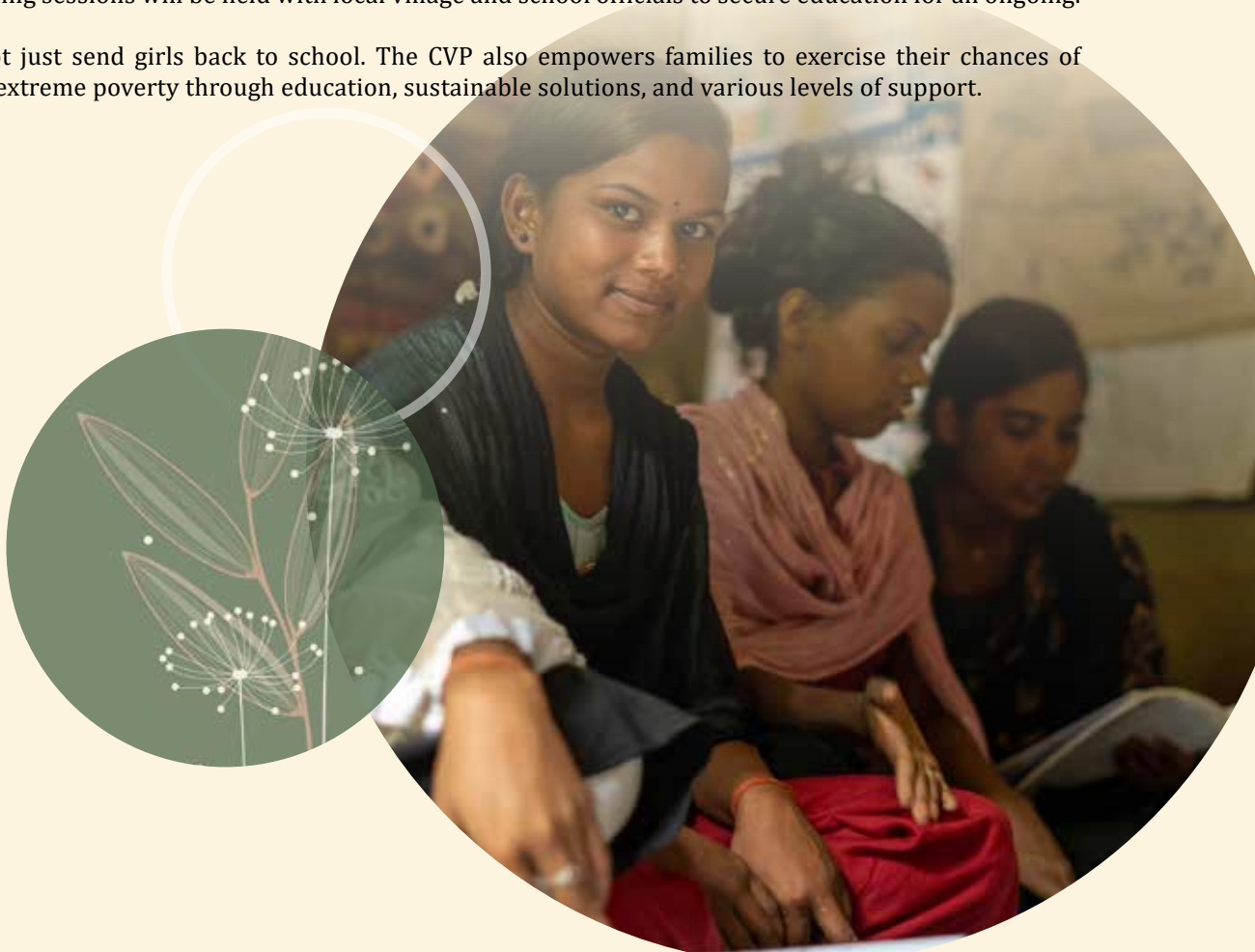
Poverty will be a recurring theme for the uneducated. Unfortunately, education is still a privilege in Nepal despite the presence of public schools. Many girls cannot attend school because they cannot afford school materials or do not have food to eat in school. Some of them would rather stay at home and help their parents work or take care of their younger siblings.

On top of these hindrances, there is a ceaseless cultural notion that women are less deserving of proper education. This mindset only hurts girls more, making them more vulnerable to human trafficking, child marriage, and other forms of abuse.

The Captivating Village Program (CVP) helps address this issue by working with schools and the local government to help girls stay in school, both immediately and ongoing. Here's how we do it:

1. We offer scholarships to out-of-school girls and guide them until they get fully equipped back to school. Our program coordinators aim to find those girls most desperate and give them ALL a chance to get back to school.
2. The girls will receive training on life skills, personal safety, their rights, personal hygiene, and increased confidence.
3. A staff member will be assigned in every village to look after the girls' enrollment, human trafficking risks, and potential child marriage issues.
4. Parents and local officials will be encouraged to attend awareness sessions about the importance of their daughters, laws regarding child marriage, and how to address their poverty.
5. If necessary, local school improvements will be made to enhance the quality of educational resources and facilities.
6. In some cases, some select women/girls will join our My Business, My Freedom Program to help provide them with sustainable financial resources for their families.
7. Planning sessions will be held with local village and school officials to secure education for all ongoing.

We do not just send girls back to school. The CVP also empowers families to exercise their chances of escaping extreme poverty through education, sustainable solutions, and various levels of support.



THE CAPTIVATING VILLAGE PROJECT SO FAR			
Village	Girls Back in School	Funded by	Matched by
CVP 01	51	Greg & Sue	Lightstream Foundation
CVP 02	59	Andrew & Tania	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 03	42	Brad	Lightstream Foundation
CVP 04	57	Julie & Karyn	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 05	62	Julie E.	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 06	58	The Surabaya Supporters	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 07	61	Leigh & Donna	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 08	59	Kingscliff SDA Church	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 09	26	Jan, Mark & Vicki, Jacob & Wendy	Midnight Charity Run
CVP 10	20	Lindsay	Midnight Charity Run
CVP 11	17	Belton, Hamish, and Claudia; ST5K 2023 Let's Do This from Cache Valley	Midnight Charity Run
CVP 12	19	David & Darralyn, Felix & Tenelle, Jennifer, Ray	Midnight Charity Run
CVP 13	27	Nic, Lorinda, Wendy & David, Brad & Roslyn	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 14	23	Justin	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 15	17	The French Beauty Academy	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 16	74	Nic V.	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 17 (more girls joining soon)	7	Paul & Sonya and Friends	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 18	41	Paul & Sonya and Friends	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 19	New Village Starting Soon	QSI Haiphong ST5K 2023	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 20	New Village Starting Soon	Kingscliff SDA Church	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 21	New Village Starting Soon	Julie E.	Jamoca Foundation
Total Girls Back in School		720	



One Less Child Bride

IN ANU BOT'S COMMUNITY

In Anu Bot's community, child marriage is seen not only as a norm but also as an economic activity. It may alleviate them a little from their current financial standing, but the potential harms outweigh this one potential benefit. A child bride doesn't know what she's entering, which makes them more susceptible to multiple forms of abuse from their husbands. Most child brides are school dropouts, which has become a recurring theme for the young girls in their village.

Anu is on the verge of dropping out of school due to her family's financial situation. Her family is involved in their community's common manual labor activities like quarrying, fishing, and forest work. These jobs have innately unsafe working environments, and oftentimes, children from impoverished communities take part in these kinds of jobs to help their parents. Anu is one of them.

Anu is still enrolled in school; however, she already missed lots of her school days because she had to help her family. It might not take a while before she drops out like her brother, and becomes a child bride.

Our staff recognized Anu's situation and stepped in to provide educational support. Her school needs are now provided for so as to not add to the additional financial burden on her family. We also explained to their parents the importance of a young girl's education and the risks that come with it.

Right now, Anu regularly attends school and focuses on her bright future. She extends her thanks to all those who made this life-changing opportunity possible for her.



From Dreams to Reality

Sanu and Sushila, two Grade 12 graduates, are shining examples of what Captivating Village Program's dream is for Nepali girls. Both hailing from low-income families, Sanu found herself working in a hotel situated in a high-risk area, while Sushila was married off at a young age. However, their lives took a transformative turn when they became beneficiaries of the Captivating Village Program, which enabled them to resume their education and complete their secondary schooling.

Determined to create a better future, Sanu and Sushila embarked on a life-changing journey by enrolling in a two-year Hotel Management course. Through dedication and hard work, they completed a three-month on-the-job training, earning them a monthly stipend of NPR 8,000 (US\$60).

Here's an exciting update to their story—both Sanu and Sushila are now employed in a prestigious five-star hotel in Nepal! Their journey from being beneficiaries to becoming professionals showcases their unwavering determination and the positive impact of the Captivating Village Program.

Sanu and Sushila express profound gratitude for the program that not only provided them with educational opportunities but also saved them from the threatening prospect of human trafficking that loomed over their lives. Their inspiring journey is a testament to the power of education and the invaluable support offered by initiatives like the Captivating Village Program.



BREAKING INTERGENERATIONAL STRUGGLES:

A Mother's Perspective

In addition to offering scholarship support, the Captivating Village Program hosts workshops and awareness sessions to empower community members and ensure sustainability. These sessions tackle topics often deemed taboo, including the risks of early marriage, menstrual hygiene, and the importance of female education.

One touching story shared during these sessions is that of Shanta Maya. Her journey unveils the struggles many face when financial constraints force them to halt their education. This decision shaped her life, leading to early motherhood and the hardships that followed. Becoming a young mother without marriage added complexity to her journey, exposing the societal and personal challenges she bravely confronted. The lack of awareness at that time may have influenced her decisions, and now she grapples with regrets.



Facing the consequences of having limited education, Shanta Maya grappled with the difficulty of affording her daughter's education, recognizing the intergenerational impact of her own unfulfilled aspirations. Despite her hardships, she held onto the belief in education's transformative power.

Driven by a deep-seated desire to break the cycle of limited opportunities, Shanta Maya committed herself to providing a conducive educational environment for her daughter. Her determination serves as a beacon of hope, illuminating the possibility of a brighter future free from the barriers she once faced.

In her story, we are reminded of the interconnectedness of education, financial constraints, and societal expectations, emphasizing the urgent need to address these challenges to foster a more supportive environment for individuals and their families.



BUILDING FUTURES THROUGH CVP AND MBMF

As of December 2023, 25 mothers from the Captivating Village Program have joined the My Business My Freedom (MBMF) Microfinance Program, with 9 of them having already obtained loans to kickstart their own businesses. To ensure holistic empowerment, financial literacy seminars were conducted, not only for MBMF members but also for others eager to enhance their financial management skills.

Among these inspiring mothers is Minakumari. Her husband's disability confines him at home, making Minakumari the sole provider. Despite her efforts, the weight of limited income and supporting a large family burdens their daily lives.

Amidst these trials, their daughter Sunita had to leave school, joining her mother in forest work to supplement the family's income. When our team learned of Sunita's situation, she was immediately given a scholarship under CVP, allowing Sunita to resume her studies.

Taking a step further, the family also joined the MBMF program, igniting their entrepreneurial spirit. Minakumari, driven by her dreams, secured a loan to start a goat business. Her perseverance bears fruit as one of her goats is now pregnant, symbolizing future growth for her business. Minakumari attributes her family's well-being to the CVP and MBMF's steadfast support, expressing gratitude for their significant contribution.

Our initiatives not only uplifted Minakumari's family but also served as a beacon of empowerment for others. Their family's journey illustrates the resilience and transformative power of community-driven programs, inspiring all facing challenges to persevere and thrive.





Captivating Nepal, an extension of the Captivating Village Program, has started rolling out activities in Gaurishankar Rural Municipality, Dolakha District. Focused on the hard-to-reach hills districts around the base of the Himalayas, our primary goals include improving the stability and quality of education for girls, implementing health initiatives, and creating livelihood opportunities for marginalized families. Our aim is to address significant barriers hindering the progress of these communities.

In the education sector, we've started an initiative across ten schools, tackling issues like absenteeism and dropout rates. Our program aims to reinstate students who have dropped out and enhance education quality by providing better teaching equipment and infrastructure.

Regarding health, our Captivating Nepal team organized health camps targeting women's reproductive and child health across three locations. These camps offer free screenings, diagnoses, and consultations, addressing various health issues such as Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP), cervical cancer, and Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID).

For livelihood improvement, we're designing skill development training for individuals, focusing on poultry farming and topics such as chicken, pig, and goat farming.

Through our holistic approach encompassing education, health, and livelihood initiatives, we strive to foster positive change and empower marginalized families for a brighter future.

**CAPTIVATING NEPAL (HIMALAYA'S PROJECT) IS MADE POSSIBLE
THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS:**

**DEAN & CHRIS
BEVERIDGE**

Jamoca Foundation

Kenneth Whalen
FAMILY FOUNDATION

LEIGH & DONNA M.

JUSTIN G.

**ST5K 2023 TEAM
HEAR BY CHOICE**

EMPOWERING THE CHHARESHWORI MOTHER'S GROUP

For 16 years, the “Chhareshwori Mothers’ Group” stood as a pillar of support within the community, yet it lacked legal recognition. With the support from Captivating Nepal, this group is now officially registered in the Gaurishankar Rural Municipality, aligning with government procedures. Their mission remains steadfast: to uplift and empower members through sustainable livelihood initiatives. Over the years, this group has provided vital financial support during emergencies, including medical expenses and funeral arrangements, showcasing their unwavering commitment to community welfare.

In November, a momentous occasion unfolded as a Tri-Party agreement was forged between Captivating Nepal, the office of Gaurishankar Rural Municipality’s Ward Number 1, and the Chhareshwori Mothers’ Group, under the umbrella of the Captivating Village Program. The agreement was done in the presence of Dean Beveridge (Captivating International Board Member), Angela Basnet (Chairperson of Captivating Nepal), Mahadev Baniya (Country Director of Captivating Nepal), and other members of the community.

The agreement outlined clear roles and responsibilities of all the parties involved in the agreement. The Chhareshwori Mothers’ Group’s primary focus is to support its members and local individuals in livelihood and financial assistance for business startups with minimal interest.

Looking ahead, the Chhareshwori Mothers’ Group embarks on a journey of skill enhancement, with plans to undergo training in poultry farming and explore other avenues for sustainable livelihoods. This partnership amplifies the group’s impact within the community and embodies the spirit of collaboration and empowerment championed by Captivating Nepal.



IN PHOTO (from left to right): Kedar Khadka (Captivating Nepal Treasurer), Dean Beveridge (Board Member, Captivating Australia), Angela Basnet (Chairperson, Captivating Nepal), Rachana Rijal (Chhareshwori Mothers’ Group Secretary), Prakash Bahadur Khadka (Ward 1 President), and Mahadev Baniya (General Manager, Captivating Nepal).

FIVE-DAY HEALTH CAMP

Over five days, our child health camp successfully attended to the medical needs of 1,530 students across three different locations, with 696 males and 834 females receiving general check-ups, cardio consultations, eye check-ups, and complementary medicine services.

Simultaneously, a women's reproductive health camp catered to 898 women, offering gynecology consultations, VIA (visual inspection with acetic acid) services, eye checks, and surgical procedures.

Individuals requiring additional medical attention were referred to Scheer Memorial Hospital or Cheers Hospital, with Captivating Nepal covering initial consultation and treatment costs.

During this five-day endeavor, Captivating Nepal not only provided vital medical services to thousands of individuals but also exemplified the transformative power of community-driven healthcare initiatives. By repurposing schools into clinics and collaborating with local hospitals, Captivating Nepal ensured that individuals received comprehensive care regardless of their circumstances.



Dean Beveridge and daughter, Sarae, being honored during the health camp.



Restoring Dignity



Ambika (50) quietly battled the relentless pain of uterine prolapse for years, and her daily life was taken over by this struggle. She was enduring stomach pains and the constant need for urination. Still, Ambika's impoverished circumstances and the lack of accessible healthcare kept her trapped in a cycle of suffering.

Then came the free health camp organized by Captivating Nepal in Ambika's village. It was a lifeline for Ambika, offering a chance to break free from her ailment. Together with her son, Ambika went to the camp and underwent a thorough reproductive health screening - revealing the true extent of her condition. The attending gynecologist recommended surgery, an option previously out of reach for her.

Initially nervous and hesitant about the surgery, Ambika was reassured by the health professional team, including the gynecologist, who carefully explained the procedure to her. Eventually, she agreed.

A month after the procedure, our team visited Ambika and we witnessed how her life had been transformed. Ambika radiated with a newfound hope. ***"I cannot express my gratitude enough to Captivating Nepal. Thanks to your support and the surgery you provided, I am finally free from the pain and limitations that once held me back. No longer burdened by embarrassment, I can confidently face the world and live my life to the fullest."***

YOU CAN BE INVOLVED today

Contact andrewc@captivating.org

Donate to this project through our website www.captivating.org and receive tax deductible receipts for Australia, US, NZ, or Hong Kong donations.

Speak up and spread the word about these projects to your family, friends, and business networks.

If you have any query regarding this report, please contact kayla@captivating.org

