



PROJECT OVERVIEW

NEPAL

The Regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children for Labour and Sexual Exploitation TICSA II operates in Nepal as a part of ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC).

Child trafficking in Nepal

By far the majority of victims of cross-border trafficking end up in neighbouring India. Researchers conducting an ILO-sponsored rapid assessment in 2001 estimated that around 12,000 girls are trafficked annually from Nepal to India for prostitution.¹ However, the figure is only a rough estimate and does not include the trafficking of boys or those girls trafficked for other purposes and to other countries. An ILO study (2002) on the cross-border trafficking of Nepali boys found that frequently they are moved into various jobs in India and that this problem has been largely ignored.

Many children have migrated, either with or without parents, from impoverished and armed conflict-affected rural areas to larger cities and have turned up some of the worst forms of child labour,² which is an indicator of much internal trafficking.

An ILO report on internal trafficking among children and youth engaged in prostitution shows that close to 20 per cent of sex workers in Kathmandu are younger than 17 and that the majority of them are migrants from rural areas.³ Another ILO study found that of some 55,000 children working as domestic labourers within Nepal, the majority had migrated and many worked under slavery-like conditions.⁴ An ILO study⁵ of children working in the carpet sector, which is considered a hazardous form of labour, also showed an overwhelming predominance of



Child domestic worker, Nepal (Photo: ILO/Maillard)

ILO-TICSA Regional Project overview

Development objective: To contribute to the reduction of trafficking in children for exploitive labour in south and south-east Asia

Coverage: Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand.

Main areas of work:

- ▶ Prevention of child trafficking through direct assistance to children, families and communities;
- ▶ Protection of child survivors of trafficking through rehabilitation & reintegration assistance, including development of child-friendly guidelines for caregivers;
- ▶ Policy development and capacity building of within governments, employers' and workers' organizations and NGO partners;
- ▶ Improvement of the knowledge base on trafficking (research and documentation).

Duration: TICSA phase II (2003–2006)

Budget: US\$ 3.0 million (+1.5 million under the ILO Time-Bound Programme in Nepal)

Donor: US Department of Labour

¹ Other organizations report between 5,000 and 11,000 girls annually are trafficked (Stop/Maiti, 2002)

² The Movement of Women, Save the Children, 2005 and Oxfam, 2004

³ Internal Trafficking Among Children and Youth Engaged in Prostitution, ILO, 2003

⁴ ILO rapid assessment, 2001 and baseline survey, 2003

⁵ Child Labour in the Nepalese Carpet Sector, ILO, 2002

migrant children; and there have been several reports of agents supplying these child workers.

More research is needed on the possible trafficking of children into situations that absorb large numbers of children, such as brick making, agriculture and armed conflict.

Factors that increase the vulnerability of children to traffickers differ between areas, ethnic groups, families and individuals. Generally, though, it is attributed to poverty, lack of education and awareness, lack of local employment activities, dysfunctional families, increasing consumerism, lack of safe migration opportunities, a patriarchal society that perpetuates a low perceived status of girls and women and the widespread position of girl children as a “family commodity”. Other major vulnerability factors are the highly discriminating caste system and the ongoing conflict between Maoist rebels and the Royal Nepalese Army, which has displaced thousands of people. However, vulnerability is a complex issue.

An ILO mapping of child vulnerability to trafficking showed that, children who migrated on their own did not lack education opportunities, compared to those who stayed at home. And while poverty is a vulnerability factor, it is not only the poor who become victims of trafficking. On the demand side it is employers' motives to maximize profits by engaging cheap labour and a general lack of concern for children's well-being that causes trafficking to occur. Corruption within government and the lack of adequate implementation of laws and policies facilitate the problem.

Common end purposes of child trafficking

- ▶ Domestic work
- ▶ Carpet and garment factories (including embroidery)
- ▶ Restaurants as waitress/waiters (Dohori, cabin and dance restaurants)
- ▶ Massage parlours (that double as prostitution sources)
- ▶ Brothel prostitution
- ▶ Roadside restaurants (highway dhabas)
- ▶ Circus performances
- ▶ Agricultural labour
- ▶ Armed conflict (child soldiers)
- ▶ Brick making and stone quarrying
- ▶ Construction work

National responses and commitments

A National Plan of Action against Trafficking of Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation was developed with the support of ILO TICSA in 1999 and revised in 2001. The Cabinet of His Majesty's Government endorsed the revised NPA in February 2003.

Nepalese law in general and the Children's Act (1992) in particular prohibit employment of any child younger than 14. The Anti-trafficking Act (1987) prohibits trafficking in children and women. Other relevant laws are the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (2000) and the Labour Act (1992). After a review, civil society organizations, such as ILO partners, and the MWCSW proposed amendments to the Children's Act and the Labour Act to bring them into accordance with ILO Convention No. 182 principles. The proposed amendment will be considered in Parliament.

Nepal has ratified a number of relevant international instruments, including:

- ▶ UN CRC: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- ▶ ILO C. No. 182: Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999)
- ▶ ILO C. No. 29: Forced Labour Convention (1930)
- ▶ ILO C. No. 138: Minimum Age convention (1973)
- ▶ SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution (2002)
- ▶ SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia (2002)



The ILO TICSA Project Response

In 2000, ILO-IPEC began the TICSA regional project in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The project expanded in 2003 to include Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand. As part of the ILO Nepal Time-Bound Programme Against the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the TICSA Phase II (2003–2006) has been integrated into the Government's national development, education, anti-poverty and child protection policies. Large-scale interventions target child trafficking and children working in six hazardous forms of labour.

The TICSA Phase II project (2003–2006) continues to strengthen the capacity of partner organizations and to support the implementation of the Government's national plan of action to combat child trafficking. It is working to apply improved methods (developed in both Phase I and Phase II) for rehabilitation and reintegration services for trafficking victims.

Prevention programmes are focusing on sending and intermediary urban areas and target both children and their parents with several interventions. Both TICSA Phases I and II have concentrated on expanding the knowledge base of the trafficking situation within the country; building the capacity of government, workers' and employers' organizations and NGOs in the design of anti-trafficking programmes, policy and programme advocacy, and providing direct services to vulnerable children and child victims of trafficking. More specifically the ILO TICSA project in Nepal entails the following:

Prevention of child trafficking

TICSA has aimed to prevent child trafficking through a multi-pronged approach that integrates the following elements:

- Provision of non-formal and formal education classes
- Income-generation activities and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable children and/or their caretakers
- Awareness and advocacy campaigns at the grassroots level.
- Para-legal training
- Border monitoring (phase 1)
- Social mobilization
- Women's empowerment, especially the empowerment of single women



Girls in rural Nepal (Photo: ILO/Lisborg)

Partner organizations: Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MWCSW), Women for Human Rights (WHR), World Education and ABC Nepal

Rehabilitation and reintegration

TICSA has focused on improving rehabilitation and reintegration services for survivors through a comprehensive individualized approach that includes:

- Psychosocial counselling to child survivors and parent / community counselling
- Education (formal and non-formal) and demand-driven skills development
- Rehabilitation and reintegration activities include piloting a child-friendly rehabilitation system, particularly in the areas of case management systems
- Skills-building workshops for partners focusing on institutional and community-based child care and reintegration
- Social awareness raising
- Monitoring of survivors and tracer studies

Partner organizations: Maiti Nepal, SAATHI, Change NEPAL, HELPLINE

Policy development and capacity building of partners

- ▶ Support to the National Plan of Action Against Child Trafficking
- ▶ Training of relevant government staff, officials and related NGOs
- ▶ Training of psychosocial counsellors in rehabilitation centres (both para-counsellors and university graduates in psychosocial counselling)
- ▶ Piloting of a case management system in shelters for victims of trafficking
- ▶ Support to strengthen the juvenile justice system
- ▶ An joint ILO/UNICEF programme to develop comprehensive minimum standards for the care of children in need of special protection

Partner organizations: Central Child Welfare Board, (CCWB), District Child Labour Coordination Committees, District Task Forces to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women, District Women Development Offices, UN agencies and NGOs: UNICEF, MAITI Nepal, Centre for Victims of Torture, Nepal (CVICT), Women for Human Rights (WHR) and Center to Assist and Protect Child Rights in Nepal (CAP-CRON)

Improvement of the knowledge base on child trafficking (research)

A number of studies have been conducted to broaden the knowledge base on trafficking and to help support interventions:

- ▶ Trafficking in girls, with special reference to prostitution, 2001
- ▶ Trafficking and sexual abuse among street children, 2002.
- ▶ Cross-border trafficking of boys, 2002
- ▶ Internal trafficking among children and youth engaged in prostitution, 2002
- ▶ Girls and young women employed in the entertainment sector in Nepal, 2005
- ▶ Mapping survey on child trafficking in and children's vulnerability, 2005
- ▶ The demand side of trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation as part of the regional research on the demand-side of trafficking, 2005

Partner organizations: Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), Central Department on Population Studies, National Human Rights Commission, AC Nielsen, NEW ERA

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