

ECPAT Luxembourg

partnered with 3 NGOs selected for their long experience in child protection to implement an 11-month action project involving national, district and local actors in protecting highly vulnerable children and adolescents in 5 most severely affected districts from risks of trafficking



Districts



 Sindhupalchowk: 3,417 deaths, highest among
22 districts, has high incidence of women and child trafficking

- Nuwakot: where 1,060 deaths took place
- Kavrepalanchowk: saw 318 dead
- Gorkha: with 412 deaths, epicentre of 25 April earthquake
- Dolakha: with 169 deaths, epicentre of 12 May quake

Child protection desks

CWIN (Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre) maintained child protection desks in two strategic locations of Sindhupalchowk and Kavrepalanchowk districts that see a lot of mobility with out-bound buses leaving the districts. Run in coordination with Nepal Police, 4,943 children and 9,827 adults were served and surveillance in district border areas improved. Children and youth at risk of being trafficked out of districts were identified and rescued in liaison with humanitarian organisations serving children and fulfilling their needs while prosecuting traffickers. The desks also raised awareness and advocated action against violence against children and youth focusing on trafficking.



Awareness generation

Simple and child friendly IEC material provided information on trafficking after the earthquake. More than 10,000 girls and boys learned about child protection, vigilance and where to report incidence. Anti-trafficking stickers were pasted on 1843 local buses and 3144 private vehicles in Kavre. 4500 more stickers were distributed through 250 public vehicles with 1100 stickers distributed through schools in Sindhupalchowk. 100 mirrors with messages, emergency phone numbers (such as 1098 and 100) were placed in restaurants, tea shops, and rest rooms close to bus stations.

4668 passengers (1153 children) of public vehicles passing through 15 strategic routes of Kavrepalanchowk and Sidhupalchowk received flyers. Stickers with 1098 child



Temporary protection shelters

Shakti Samuha and Biswas Nepal served 882 children (target 600) through eight temporary protection shelters in Nuwakot, Dolakha and Gorkha. The shelters accommodated displaced children and young people vulnerable to trafficking and served as safe places for children and adolescents during the day while schools and homes were rebuilt. Services included family tracing and reunification; psychosocial counselling; educational and recreational activities; awareness generation on risks related to trafficking as well as sexual abuse; awareness generation on basic health and hygiene; and basic medical aid.

helpline, 1177 anti-trafficking toll free, Nepal Police hotline and 1113 were provided. Formal and non-formal classes took place for 884 adolescents and women on human trafficking, child sexual abuse, and child marriage.

5 community radio outlets of Sindhupalchowk and Kavre and 2 TV channels focused on child trafficking and earthquake response broadcasts involving key stakeholders. Two closed circuit cameras at strategic points of Dhulikhel and Khadichaur monitored out-bound traffic in coordination with Nepal Police, they monitored strategic sites and decreased crimes at bus stops and bazaars.

Child involvement

12 meetings by existing adolescent girls' groups in communities involved 91 young people. Therapeutic comic-making training for child clubs were conducted and 22 children (11 girls) illustrated natural disaster, child trafficking and other issues. Their creations were used to raise awarenes among the general public. Recreational, sports, and musical instruments were provided to child clubs and schools: 415 girls and 376 boys received such material through child clubs and schools. Psychosocial counseling services were provided to children most affected by the earthquake.



POST DISASTER CHILD PROTECTION

RE-CONSTRUCTION. After major disasters such as earthquakes and return to normalcy takes time. In Nepal's case, normalcy even after 2 years is a distant dream for most. Acute poverty, loan burdens and migration have increased. Precursors and vulnerabilities that result in trafficking remain relevant. Child protection shouldn't be taken as a post disaster' 'quick fix', nor as a short-term program.



INITIAL, MID-TERM AND EXIT INTERACTIONS

with key stakeholders bring concerned entities on the same page as regards the project. Flow of information among stakeholders is critical in post-disaster situations that are often mired in disinformation and unfulfilled hopes and promises.

COMPETENT FRONTLINE staff is crucial. Emergency

REVIVING OR STRENGTHENING local child-focused networks such as village child protection committees; child and adolescent clubs; and peer groups can be more efficient and strategicthan investing in creating new parallels. Existing child-protection mechanisms already work with local governments and gain easier approval and acceptance from community gatekeepers.

and training staff is necessary. Safety and security of frontline staff and project assets, guidelines and open communication channels are and project assets, guidelines and open communication channels are critical. The project must be equipped to help children overcome loss and psychological scars associated with trauma.



response needs early staff deployment, therefore, early mentoring

THE PUBLIC wants tangible relief material when homes and livelihoods are lost. Provision of emergency material such as hygiene kits, educational supplies, food and other items built into child protection programs proved useful and increased community participation.

TEAMING UP with varied disaster response organizations (in areas of health, drinking water, education, shelter, livelihood, and others) to strategically reach hard to access communities is key – resources and logistical concerns can be shared. Organizations complement each other and the public benefits from multiple services built into associated visits.





COLLABORATION with law enforcement and media is key. These entities are deployed early and have mass outreach, especially in hard to reach areas. Communities relied on them for security and information. Media, especially the radio, is widely accessed using mobile phones and other devices

YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS are change agents and can rally communities with their enthusiasm. They can organize community activities and bring hope and smiles into communities that are damaged and in chaos.





DISTRICT "CHILD-PROTECTION CLUSTER" meetings set up by the government was useful in sharing project plans and activities and learning about the work of other organizations and state-led initiatives. They helped coordinate activities and set up referral mechanisms based on specialties of relevant actors.

2 Days Training On