

# Beauty from Ashes

STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEPAL



CAPTIVATING

JANUARY TO JUNE 2021

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# Message from the Founders

Dear Nepal Supporters and Friends,

We are so happy to share with you our latest 6 monthly update on the work Captivating and its partners in Nepal are doing to create life-changing hope. We are so appreciative and thankful for all the support you have given over what has been a very difficult and challenging time with COVID-19 lingering on and impacting so many.

For the first quarter, our work with our partners continued intercepting and rescuing girls that were likely in the process of being trafficked. Unfortunately, in the second quarter, COVID-19 numbers again impacted Nepal, causing a lockdown; however even during this time our partners, 3 Angels Nepal and Tiny Hands Nepal, continued to work during this time offering support and assistance to those that were struggling to survive. A number of our staff have contracted the virus, which has meant isolating and quarantining, however, we are pleased to share that they have fully recovered and are now back at work. As we write this update, Nepal is coming out of lockdown.





Through the ups and downs during January to June we are still pleased to share the following highlights:

- 1,872 women and girls were intercepted
- 23 women and girls were rescued
- 1,715 students participated in anti-human trafficking programs
- 27 women/girls were supported at our safe house
- 26 traffickers were arrested and 8 lawsuits were filed in the court system
- 562 women are part of our My Business My Freedom women's microfinance program

Stories of lives being transformed because of the dedication of staff and partners is a true testament to the will to never give up no matter how hard things get as precious lives are needing us to continue. They are waiting for hope!

You will see through the update many stories of girls/women being impacted and what we have been able to do thanks to your generous support.

- Fighting to intercept and rescue those subject to human trafficking (see pages 6, 7 and 14)
- Speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves by raising awareness through education workshops at schools through the "Hamro Abhiyan" training on the dangers of human trafficking (see page 18)
- Taking action to support those who are in poverty by providing women loans through micro-finance initiatives (see page 22)
- Supporting those who have been broken by providing a safe and nurturing safe place" (see page 28)
- Standing up for the victims by bringing perpetrators to justice (see page 32)



Our theme this year is “Together, We Are One” and the goal this year is to impact thousands of women and children who are being trafficked out of Nepal or being the subject of untold pain. Because of poverty, dreams of a better life, and being lied to, the women and children are too frequently being tricked into false beliefs that there is a better life when it’s the exact opposite: a life of servitude, rape, abuse and being used as a commodity with no regard to them being a girl, sister, daughter, mother and a loved one. They need us to continue to join forces “together – as one” to speak up and stand in the gap to stop this from happening to them. Together, we can do that.

Thank you for all your support and may you continue to know that you are making a real and lasting change in so many women’s and children’s lives.

With heartfelt thanks,



**Andrew and Julie Colquhoun**  
FOUNDERS | Captivating

#### OUR PARTNERS



# Intercepting Girls

## STOPPING GIRLS BEFORE THEY ARE TRAFFICKED AND LOST FOREVER

It is estimated\* that over 54 Nepali young girls and women are trafficked every day. Because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, people are even more vulnerable than before - the perfect targets for traffickers. Girls are lied to, tricked, drugged and kidnapped, all in the name of making money. Girls from impoverished homes, who have little education and who are looking for some form of income to provide for themselves and their families have targets on their backs. They are valuable, they are worth money in the trafficking industry.

But what if we could change that? What if we could stop them from being trafficked? What if we could tell them that they are valued, worth more than money, and that they deserve freedom and the chance to live in safety?

That's exactly what happened between January and June 2021. Although there were lockdowns in April/May, our teams on the ground were able to impact lives, bring back dignity and true worth, and prevent many girls from becoming victims of human trafficking.

*\*Our partner 3 Angels Nepal*

### MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS:



Jamoca Foundation

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The Kenneth Whalen  
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Mike & Sheryl

## JANUARY TO JUNE 2021 IMPACT

Captivating fully funds the anti-human trafficking work of 3 Angels Nepal and underwrites the administration, management and support costs for Tiny Hands Nepal/Love Justice Nepal. In total, this includes 31 monitoring stations throughout Nepal. The impact has been significant:

- **5,058** WOMEN WERE TAKEN ASIDE AND INTERVIEWED by trained staff about their travel plans.
- **230** GIRLS WERE REFERRED TO THE POLICE because substantial, hard evidence was able to be given to police to confirm a trafficker was involved.
- **1,872** 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. Some were referred to safe houses as they couldn't return home due to safety concerns.

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



**ON 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021**, all Nepal/India borders were once again shut. All schools and communities were also in lockdown. The situation in India was horrific and it spread into Nepal. Hospitals were not able to cope with this kind of health crisis. There was not enough oxygen and medical supplies to deal with such a large-scale outbreak.

We are glad to share that by the end of June, the outbreak was starting to show signs of being under control and life is starting to get back to normal. Nepal is now in a 'loose lockdown'. We will very soon be able to once again open monitoring stations and monitor borders providing a strong presence in the regions.





## *False Job Promises*

Savita is 17 and is the eldest in her family. As her father is paralyzed, she was compelled to go to work four days a week. Nonetheless, she was fortunate enough to attend school three times a week. She was often mistreated in her job by both the owner and other male co-workers.

Savita was active on Facebook and would chat with an Indian woman. The woman expressed that she would like to visit Nepal. Two months later, the woman visited her in her village, brought her new clothes, and took her on a tour in Nepal.

Later she asked her if she was willing to go to India and work at her house in New Delhi. She asked Savita to keep their conversations a secret. When she agreed, the woman taught her how to fool the border checker and get past them.

Everything was going as planned by the lady, but at the border, Savita was stopped by our border staff and was questioned for half an hour. The lady lost her patience and came to rescue Savita from the members of 3 Angels Nepal. Her lies were caught as Savita stated that she was travelling alone.

When the lady was asked to stay for further questioning, she ran away before the police were called for help and got lost amongst the crowd.

Savita's mother was called. She had been searching for her daughter and had filed a missing report with the local police. Her mother came to receive her and both of them were given counselling regarding human trafficking and foreign employment before they safely departed.



## Trafficker Caught and Arrested

Mina is 18 and left school at grade 9. She fell in love with a man from the village, got married and had a son. The husband went abroad to find work and provide for his wife and son.

One day, Mina received a call from a stranger, pretending to be her husband's friend, asking her family details. After the first call, their conversation continued for some weeks. The friendly conversations turned into more and they wanted to get married.

While they were trying to cross the border to India, they were stopped by our staff. The team wanted to ask Mina questions however, the man would not allow it. This made our staff more suspicious.

With the help of police, the man was held separately for further investigation.

Both of them were taken to the district police station from the border police office. It was found that the man was on the police search list for trafficking two young girls in 2016 with fake marriages.

The team was extremely happy that this trafficker is now in police custody. The local police are relieved to finally have the man and will proceed with outstanding plus new trafficking charges.

Mina went back to her home with her son.





## Poverty leads to Desperate Choices

**WHEN RUSHI WAS 9**, her mother suffered from intestine disease and had to undergo surgery. Her sister had to go to work to earn a living for the family while Rushi had to look after her mother.

When Rushi was seventeen, her sister got married and left home, and so she had to help her father at work. Their financial status did not improve over the years. While working with her father, she met a man who was well aware of the family's conditions.

One day, the man approached and promised her a good job in India where she could get good pay. She agreed with him and went to convince her father, but her father rejected the idea. She ran away from her house and contacted the man. He asked her to meet in the bus park, and he told her to cross the border 20 minutes after him.

At the border, she was stopped by our border team and was inquired about her travel plans. The man was already out of contact and escaped. Because she was unable to satisfy the concerns of our team, she was taken to the area police station and then referred to the transit home where she could wait until her parents came for her. She was given counselling regarding human trafficking and the lure of foreign employment. Her parents were called, and she returned home with her parents.

**A YOUNG GIRL WHO WAS TRYING TO CROSS THE BORDER ALONE** was stopped by our Tiny Hands border monitoring team. During the interview, they discovered that she was only 17 years old and had run away from her home to go to India to work as a domestic helper.

Upon further questioning, it was clear that she did not have enough specific information about her future job, including the address of her final destination or even any contact information for her employer. Her family was unaware of her travel plans, and when contacted, they requested our staff to stop her. Recognizing a high risk of trafficking in this case, our team intercepted the minor female and sent her back to her family.





## Married to a Trafficker

Sunita has 6 members in her poor family. Her parents worked as labourers at a construction site but still couldn't provide for their children's schooling. As such, Sunita and her brother had to drop out of school to work.

Because of Sunita's good performance, she got promoted and was transferred to a different location and had a pay increase. She made lots of friends and also fell in love. After five months, they got married but her father was very angry about it mostly because her husband was from a lower caste than she.

She gave birth to their first child at 17, and to their second baby when she was 22. After the birth of their second child, her husband became abusive. She decided to leave him and move back to her parents' house.

She started working in a plywood factory where she met an Indian man. They became close friends. He comforted her, proposed to her, and persuaded her to get married. A week after they married, he disappeared and was out of contact. She met his brother who told her that her husband was near the Indo-Nepal border.

On her way to the Indo-Nepal border, Sunita and her brother-in-law were intercepted. When her brother-in-law was told that the staff will go along with them to meet her husband, he protested against it. Sunita then became suspicious of him. Police help was sought for further investigation.

It was found that Sunita's husband has been on the police list as a trafficker and the man who claimed to be her brother-in-law was an accomplice. Sunita was shocked when all this information was revealed. Her so-called brother-in-law is now under police custody while Sunita is back with her parents.



## No Other Options



In January, Anu, a 14-year-old girl, was being taken across the border by a man but was intercepted by our Tiny Hands team. When our monitors stopped them and started questioning them separately, they identified multiple contradictions in their stories. Upon further questioning, they uncovered that the suspect had been sexually abusing Anu and using threats and coercion to keep her silent.

During the interview, it was learned that Anu had lost her father at a young age, and her mother was living in poverty, struggling with the burden of debt. To support her family, Anu started working at a nearby hotel where she was sexually abused by the owner. Later, she went to live in Dharan with her 17-year-old sister who was earning a living through prostitution.

Anu's sister introduced her to the suspect, Dipesh, who took advantage of her vulnerable situation. He took Anu to a hotel where he fed her food mixed with drugs to make her drowsy, and then he took her to a room and raped her. After this initial assault, Dipesh forced Anu into prostitution, locking her inside the hotel room and sending men in to sexually abuse her in exchange for money.

Dipesh told Anu to travel with him to Jogbani so that he could buy her some new clothes. After they were intercepted by our team at the border, Dipesh was taken into police custody, and Anu was escorted to our shelter for additional counseling and care. There is a high risk that Dipesh could have been in the process of trafficking Anu because his reason of buying clothes for her was suspicious as there are plenty of clothing stores where they live, and they didn't need to travel almost 50 kilometers away. The police are continuing to investigate this matter, and a legal case has been filed against the suspect. In the meantime, Anu is remaining under the care of the staff in our shelter.

## Lies, Tricks, and False Promises

Twelve Nepali girls were being trafficked to India with false promise of jobs. When all of these girls were intercepted and investigated about their travel plans, it was found that they were all tricked for fake job offers.

They were falsely told that they would be performing dances in events and programs of rich people in India for which they would be receiving money. They were told they would be earning Rs. 2,000 (USD 17) per day.

After the COVID-19 crisis and the pandemic, many families have been facing economic challenges. The trafficker used fake job offers to lure these young girls.

In coordination with local police, five girls were intercepted before they crossed the border, while seven of them were rescued from the Indian side of the Indo-Nepal border.

It was found that until a certain location, they were travelling in groups of 12. After reaching one of the nearest cities from the Nepal-India border, they were divided into groups.

The girls have been reunited with their families after a court case has been filed against the trafficker.



# Rescuing Girls

When a girl is trafficked, she is often never seen again. Her freedom is taken away and her life becomes one of daily pain, shame, and humiliation.

Rescuing a girl who has already been sold and is held captive against her will is dangerous work. She is the source of income to the trafficker and they will do whatever it takes to retain her. It is difficult to find her exact location and takes careful planning and coordination with police and local authorities, and sometimes even embassies, to rescue her.

## JANUARY TO JUNE 2021 IMPACT

- **23** GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN WERE RESCUED from hotels and brothels in Nepal and India

**MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS:**



The Kenneth Whalen  
Family Foundation

Mike & Sheryl

Johnson Family &  
Penman Family

***Please note that although names have been changed for privacy and protection, the stories following are true.***

***Due to the nature and content of these stories, reader discretion is advised.***



# Rescued from India

**IN COORDINATION WITH NEPAL POLICE**, our on-the-ground partner involved in both apprehending people involved in human trafficking and rescuing women in the process, rescued three teenagers (aged 17, 18, and 19) found in a captive situation in a Nepali hotel. The girls were brought to the hotel as part of preparations to take them to India for trafficking.

Police have arrested four people, including the hotel operator for further investigation. "Four people have been arrested," police said, adding that an investigation is in progress into how they were brought there. Acting Chief of the Far Western Provincial Police Office, Senior Police Superintendent Mukesh Kumar Singh, said that other people may have been involved in the trafficking. "It is understood that various people from Nepal to India are involved in this," he said.

The Nepal-India border is only about three kilometers from the place where the three girls were rescued. "If they were not rescued, they would have been sold to India in a few days", police said. After police processing and our team providing them counseling regarding human trafficking, they were safely returned to their respective homes.

*Content Warning// rape, paedophilia*

**A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS RAPED** and taken to India by a 35-year-old man. Her situation was unknown for months while her family was searching for her. When our partner came to know about the incident, in coordination with Nepalese and Indian police, their location was found and they were both brought back to Nepal. It was discovered that she was pregnant. The man pimped her out to his friends.

The girl was brought to the Women's Safe Haven while she was still pregnant. Due to the stigma in her local village community, it wasn't safe for her to return home. She was taken care of by the team until she gave birth to a baby boy.

The man is under police custody while the girl along with her baby have been safely reunited with her parents. The girl and her baby are closely monitored by our team to ensure their reintegration into the community remains safe.

## The Fight for Justice

Monika is 15 years old and lives with her parents. Her father is often drunk and quarrels with the family, while her mother works hard as a daily laborer to provide for her family.

One day, after consuming a lot of alcohol, her father beat her heartlessly and tried to molest her. Fortunately, her nearby neighbor saved Monika from being raped by her father. But the incident was kept secret because the neighbour thought that Monika herself could be victimized and stigmatized by the community for reporting her father.

While coming back from the market one day, one of her neighbors (who was like a brother to her) driving the public bus offered to drop her at her destination. Monika gratefully accepted the help. After dropping all passengers off, he told Monika that he had to put fuel in the bus so she had to wait for a while.

While Monika's family was searching for her until evening, she was raped by the driver. As the events took place near one of our monitoring stations, our staff were informed by the locals and reached the destination even before the police arrived.

Monika's family is reluctant to file a case in the court because they doubt the law of Nepal and think that the Nepalese justice system does not work for the poor. Her family does not want to report the case to police due to fear and intimidation. They think that if the case appears in the media and becomes public, no one will marry Monika in the future. She will be looked down upon by society.

She, at present, is traumatized, has very low self-esteem, and has been hit hard by suicidal thoughts. She was taken to our Women's Safe Haven where she receives necessary treatment and counselling. A lawyer is investigating and working on her case so that she gets the justice she deserves.

## *Sold by Her Uncle*

Sachi is 16 and lives with her uncle and aunt. She started living with them after her parents passed away when she was still a young child. As the financial difficulties increased, Sachi started joining her uncle and aunt in daily labour work. The work was physically difficult for her to do but she worked hard.

Sachi's uncle was looking for an easier job for her. One of his friends told him that he could find an easier job for her in a hotel as a cleaner with better pay than what she was currently doing. Sachi started working in the hotel. After a month, she was asked by the owner of the hotel to "treat a customer well". In the beginning, she did not understand what he meant. She refused when she realized what was being asked of her. However, that wasn't enough and she was abused without her consent.

Sachi asked the owner of the hotel to let her go. But he refused. He told her that he bought her with money and now he owns her. He will not let her go until he recovers the amount he paid for her.

Through an informant, our partners became aware of Sachi's situation and went to rescue her from the hotel along with the local police team. She was rescued, and the perpetrators were arrested by police.



# Hamro Abhiyan

## ANTI-TRAFFICKING AWARENESS PROGRAM

Prevention is one of the aims in our fight against human trafficking. Education is the key and when we have these conversations with families, mothers, young people, police officers and community leaders, we start to see a ripple effect. It starts with a change of attitude, perception and tradition, and then it ripples out through the communities and villages, bringing value and respect to human lives.



### WHAT IS THE HAMRO ABHIYAN PROGRAM?

Great question! We are proud of this program and the direct impact it has with students in grades 10 to 12. Around 75 students from a school are selected to take part in this hands-on, interactive program. The students divide into five groups that tackle five key areas:

**CAUSES** - What are the major causes behind human trafficking and what they can do to safeguard themselves and their families from the likelihood of being trafficked.

**CONSEQUENCES** - What happens to a person when they are trafficked and how is their life impacted.

**REHABILITATION** - What happens to a survivor of trafficking. This station talks about creating a positive attitude towards the survivor rather than the traditional view of being shunned and cast out of the community.

**MY BODY** - What boundaries need to be adhered to and how can young people protect themselves.

**CAUTION** - When there is an awareness of the dangers of trafficking, there is a duty to talk about it and share it with others. This station discusses how a young person can do that.

**SCHOOLS ARE IDENTIFIED** in hot-spot trafficking regions of Nepal. These vulnerable students are from poor, lower class families and are considered easier targets by traffickers. We have **500 SCHOOLS** we are focused on.

A dedicated team of trained anti-trafficking experts facilitate the Hamro Abhiyan program which includes games and lots of interaction.

### JANUARY TO JUNE 2021 IMPACT

Due to COVID resulting in schools being in lockdown for much of this period, our program rollout has been significantly limited. The program only ran in March. During this time:

- **22 SCHOOLS** hosted the program
- **1,715 STUDENTS** participated in the program



MADE POSSIBLE  
THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS:



Johnson Family &  
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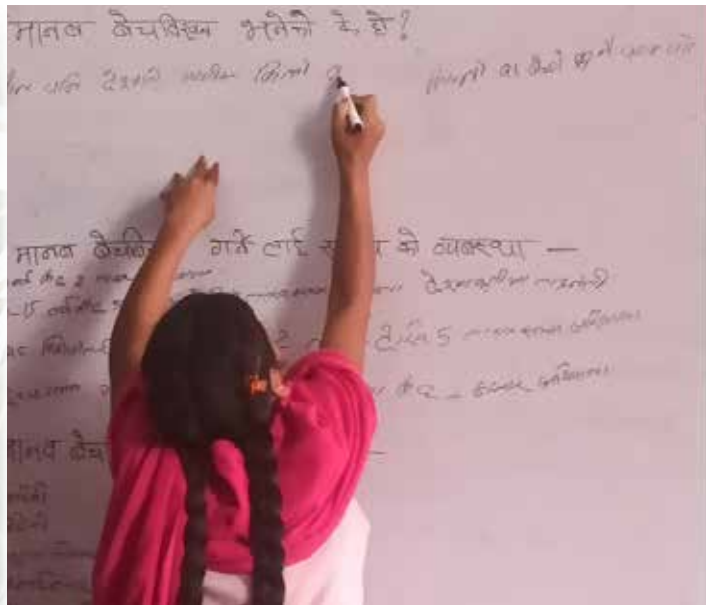
The Kenneth Whalen  
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## Hamro Abhiyan Training

Thirty-two young people attended a three-day training session to learn how to facilitate the Hamro Abhiyan Program in schools. Some of these young people are 3 Angels Nepal school graduates, others are 3AN staff, while others are college-level students who are passionate about equipping other young people with knowledge about human trafficking.

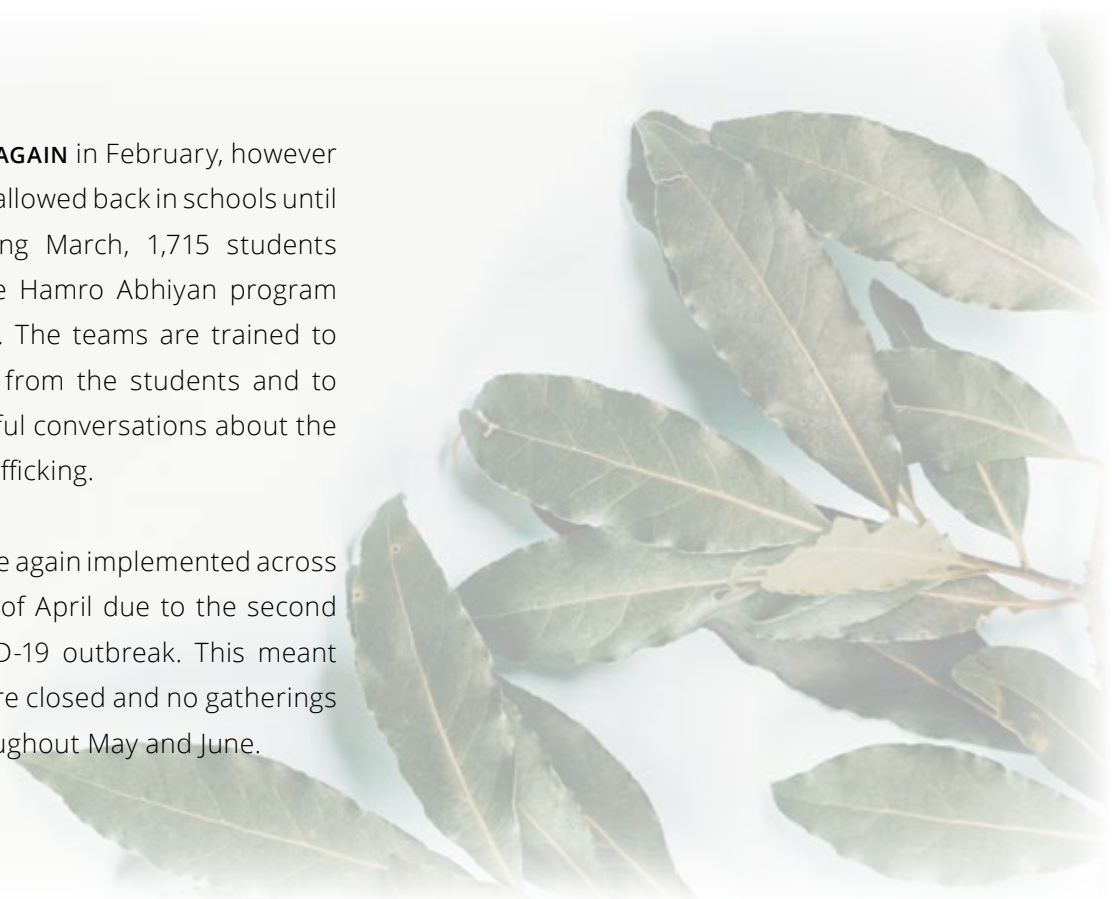
We want to grow capacity in this program to be able to reach more students in more schools when lockdown is lifted again. We are anticipating that schools will open by the end of July so our teams can once again facilitate this impactful program in schools.





**SCHOOLS OPENED AGAIN** in February, however our teams weren't allowed back in schools until March 2021. During March, 1,715 students participated in the Hamro Abhyan program across 22 schools. The teams are trained to answer questions from the students and to generate meaningful conversations about the issue of human trafficking.

Lockdown was once again implemented across Nepal on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April due to the second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak. This meant that all schools were closed and no gatherings were allowed throughout May and June.



# My Business My Freedom

## MICROFINANCE LOANS FOR WOMEN AT RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The **MY BUSINESS MY FREEDOM** program aims to help women trapped in poverty. This program provides opportunities that will change her life. And, it's all controlled by **HER**. We'll help to establish **HER** own business, focused on ensuring continued freedom. The My Business My Freedom program will generate increased sustainable income for her and her children. This changes everything.

- **385 WOMEN HAVE A LOAN** supporting their small business
- **562 WOMEN ARE PART OF THE PROGRAM'S WOMEN'S GROUPS** receiving regular training and mentoring. **406 HAVE RECEIVED LOANS** and **20 ARE NOW NO LONGER NEEDING** financial help.
- **10 WOMEN RECEIVED THEIR VERY FIRST MICROLOAN** through this program during January to June 2021. They have completed their training and are ready for the next step with support from the MBMF team.
- **39 WOMEN'S GROUPS ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THREE 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.

**THE MY BUSINESS MY FREEDOM PROJECT IS  
MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS:**

The Kenneth Whalen  
Family Foundation



Jamoca Foundation





**THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHALLENGES** for both our team and the women in the program throughout the pandemic. Unfortunately, we are sad to share that one of the women contracted the virus and was unable to recover. This was an extremely difficult time for both the family and the team. However, we are also pleased to share that through this crisis, positive attitudes and determination to keep going has prevailed.

Due to COVID, our program has not been able to grow as quickly as planned. We are hopeful things will progressively improve.

The My Business My Freedom program is operating at a sustainable level currently which is great news. This means that interest income coming in each quarter is meeting or exceeding quarterly operating expenses. We are very excited about this.



*In photo: A women's group meeting together*

## Keeping Connected

Our dedicated team keep in contact with the women in the My Business My Freedom program as often as they can. When they meet with the women's groups, they check up on how their small businesses are tracking and receive the loan repayments that are due.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns have stopped many of the women from working in their businesses and earning an income. Loan repayments and interest accrual stopped during these times to limit the stress that is already on these women. As soon as they were up and running their small businesses again and earning income, they were excited to continue making their loan repayments.



## Anita's Veggies

I am Anita and I am a member of one of the women's groups near Chitwan. The My Business My Freedom program has brought me opportunities to learn about how to generate income for my family. I have always wanted to give my children a better future but I never knew how to do that.

My greenhouse is usually filled with lots of different vegetables that I sell at the markets. I find tomatoes grow the best and I can always sell them and make money.

As a mum, I am so excited that I can do this. I feel so empowered and I know my children are watching how I work hard and earn money. I know they appreciate what I do for them.





A woman in a pink patterned dress stands in a lush green field. In the foreground, a brown goat is eating from a blue plastic bowl. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees.

## Dila's Goats

Dila Kumari is 26 years old. Her husband, who is working in the Gulf country, is out of contact. She joined the My Business My Freedom program at the beginning of 2020 and received her first loan. With her microloan, she purchased five kid goats. With the income generated from rearing the goats, she was able to repay the first loan. She then again took a second loan to add additional goats.

Goat rearing has been unaffected by the pandemic whereas most other sectors are highly affected. The breeding of goats with boars has helped her to increase the productivity of goat meat. As goats are bought in the local community for meat consumption, she has no trouble finding buyers.

In the span of a year, she has been able to earn Rs. 100,000 (US\$850) through her small business. This is a big deal for her and has changed her world. Besides goat rearing, she is also engaged in a small-scale seasonal vegetable farm.





## *Sarita's Chickens*

Every day, Sarita beams as she goes out to her chicken coop to feed and check on her chickens. She is so proud of her small business and her healthy chickens are in high demand.





## *Nina's Mushroom Farm*

Nina is 24 years old and joined the My Business My Freedom program 12 months ago. With her first loan, she purchased goats and started her goat rearing business. She quickly managed to repay her loan and took out another microloan. This time, she wanted to expand her small business to include mushroom farming.

She has been able to generate Rs. 100,000 (US\$850) revenue from mushroom farming in one year. She plans to increase her mushroom farming as soon as the latest lockdown is lifted. She is very thankful to receive the loans from the My Business My Freedom program.



# Safe Haven for Women

The primary scope and purpose of the **WOMEN'S SAFE HAVEN (WSH)** is to provide shelter, support, and ongoing personal empowerment and control to victims of trafficking. However, the program has progressively (and quite organically) widened its scope to provide support to severe cases of violence against women until their safety and right to live a dignified life is stabilized. This includes victims of rape (especially minors) who are referred to WSH by police and hospitals.

We are glad to be able to offer this support to women considered most desperate for assistance. There is simply no other option for them.

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

## **JANUARY TO JUNE 2021 IMPACT**

- 27 WOMEN / GIRLS WERE SUPPORTED AT THE SAFE HAVEN between January to June 2021. They received much needed counselling and a safe place to stay. Various forms of training and skill building is provided for these women who need to develop 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.

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

Velez Family

The Kenneth Whalen  
Family Foundation



## *Her Circumstances Don't Define Her*

Pallavi came to the Women's Safe Haven in June 2019 when she was 12 years old, pregnant, and with nowhere else to go. She gave birth at WSH just after turning 13 years old.

Through counselling and rehabilitation, Pallavi has learned to be a wonderful mum and also learned skills and confidence so she can support her little boy.

Pallavi completed Montessori training (3 months), basic nursing training (3 months) and also completed a diploma in computer operation (3 months). She also took her grade 12 exams during this time. Pallavi started working with our My Business My Freedom microfinance team as a trainee. Her baby will be enrolled at 3AN Kindergarten.

We are so proud of Pallavi and how she has not allowed her circumstances to define her or determine her future.





## *A Day to Celebrate*

Jala and Radha were both brought to the Women's Safe Haven after being intercepted from being trafficked. During their time at WSH, they were able to be part of the Nursing training in a local hospital. They have now completed a year of employment at the hospital. This was a day of celebration for everyone as these women are proving that they are survivors and that nothing is going to stop them from moving forward and daily making a difference to their community in the hospital.



## Pregnant at Thirteen

Raghu was born in India but has been living in Nepal for the past 20 years, working as a carpenter in a furniture factory. He says that though he was born in India, he has developed a deep connection with Nepal and its people. He has been living happily with his family and friends.

When the nationwide lockdown was implemented by the government to combat COVID-19, his children were stuck at home as all the educational institutions were shut down. His 13-year-old daughter would play with friends and cut grass for herds. While she was playing with her friends, a 35-year-old man was looking at her. One day he raped her and threatened that if she informed anyone, then he would kill her. In fear, she didn't speak about that incident.

It had been a long time since Raghu had gone back to his birthplace; he took his family and went to India. They stayed in India for around four to five months.

After they returned, physical changes started to show in his daughter's body. She was pregnant.

Her parents were shocked when they heard this news. They asked her how it happened. At first, she was reluctant but then she told them about the incident.

After hearing about it, the parents filed a case against that man but he had fled the area. She was having trouble with the pregnancy and started suffering from a mental and psychological breakdown.

The family didn't know what to do to help their daughter through this trauma so, with the recommendation from local police, they brought her to the Women's Safe Haven. At present, she is safe and receiving the help she needs.

## Making a Difference in Her World

Kaala was being targeted by traffickers who were following her every move. Local police were increasingly concerned for her safety and referred her to the Women's Safe Haven for protection as there was nowhere else for her to go where she would be safe.

She knows what it's like to be targeted and to live in fear. After a month in WSH, Kaala asked to be engaged in the fight against human trafficking and upon her request, was placed as a trainee at one of our monitoring branches. After completing orientation and training, she is now with a team of committed people who will continue to support her while she grows into a woman who can help protect others from human trafficking.

This young lady has a passion to work hard to be part of making a difference in her world.

# Bringing Justice and Legal Aid

One of the steps to restoration and rehabilitation is knowing that the perpetrator is in jail. Our partner's teams work with police to arrest traffickers and those who have victimized the innocent. Sometimes, there are threats against her and her family for pressing charges which creates further trauma and distress. They are there each step of the way, supporting, encouraging, and protecting them.

## JANUARY TO JUNE 2021 IMPACT

- **8 COURT CASES WERE FILED** in the court system. This was done with the help of the girl and local police.
- **26 TRAFFICKERS WERE ARRESTED.** Our partner's teams assisted in these arrests and helped in tracking down the perpetrator. (22 from Tiny Hands, two from 3AN)
- **202 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.

*Please note that all names in the following stories have been changed for privacy and protection.*





## A Mother's Desperate Search for Her Daughter

Sachita went missing on January 25, 2021. She did not return after leaving home for school. According to her mother, as usual, she had left home for school at 9 in the morning. But when she did not return as she used to, and her mother not being able to get in touch with her daughter, she started to worry and started desperately searching for her.

After a month, Sachita's mother received a call from an unknown number. Fortunately, it was her daughter. Sachita had a shivering voice and told her mother that she is in a bondage situation.

Sachita's mother came to our partners' head office for help. The team took the mother to the District Police Office and officially registered the case.

In March, Sachita called her mother from a different number. But this time she was being told what to say by someone in the background. It was an angry man's voice and the man was threatening her and her mother. She was told not to go to the police or NGOs or else the consequence would be harmful.

Our team noted the number and provided it to the Nepal police. Through strong coordination with the police, we are hopeful that Sachita will be found.

Our team has been working closely with her mother and Nepal police to help find her. Incidences of young girls being missing, raped, or killed are significantly on the rise recently in Nepal.

## No Hope

Bageshri is 8 years old and was seen crying on the bridge near one of our helpdesks. Suspecting that something was wrong with her, one of our team went over and asked what had happened to her. Initially, she was reluctant to respond.

Slowly, she explained in tears the horror that she had been through. She explained that she was trying to end her life by jumping off the bridge. She showed bruises all over her body. Her step mother beat her every day. Her father made her sleep with men. Bageshri was unable to tolerate this any longer and was attempting to end her life.

She was taken to the police station and a case was filed against her parents for abuse, violence and trafficking. While the case is ongoing, Bageshri is being taken care of in a safe home. She will be provided residential care and quality education.



Image by Sam Pineda on Pexels

## Missing Girl's Body Found

Her parents filed a missing report at one of our help-desks. It was reported that kidnappers were attempting to traffick her to another region. Our team members were involved in the search mission along with police. When the whole community and social media was talking about the case, her traffickers decided to kill her rather than risk being found and reporting them to authorities. Nine days later, her body was found in the forest.

This tragic story is not uncommon. Many girls who are kidnapped and trafficked are never seen again. It's a race against time to find them before it's too late. We continue to fight against this.





## Home to Family Living in the Streets

One of our staff found a poor family living on the streets with their young son and daughter. Various authorities were approached to help provide support to this vulnerable family, especially the young girl of around 6 years of age who was highly vulnerable to several kinds of abuse. Because of these efforts, authorities promised to build a home for this family and the community have come on board and helped by donating funds to help with the construction.



## Charged with "Intent to Traffick"

During the latest lockdown in Nepal, an 11-year-old girl was in the process of being trafficked by a 32-year-old man in the far-west part of Nepal. His attempt was unsuccessful but the people in the community were offering the girl's family money and compelling them to not file a case against the pimp. There is an age-old stigma attached to trafficking and people don't want to talk about it. Pretending it never happened and doing whatever it takes to stop legal action is the way it is often handled.

Unable to bear the pressure, one of the members of the girl's family called one of our staff members. The legal officer at our partner's head office was able to provide the needed support and advice to this family.

As a result, the pimp's intention to take the girl was proven as an 'intent to traffick'. The trafficker has been imprisoned.





# 3 Angels Community Radio

**3 ANGELS COMMUNITY RADIO** broadcasts 17 hours every day. Five core programs intersperse music and news reports to engage as wide an audience as possible. They are a mix of studio-based programs and field-based interviews and stories. The core programs cover key educational interest areas:

## NEPALI CHELI

This program talks about human trafficking issues, explains how to keep safe, and breaks down the different tactics that traffickers use to lure and exploit girls and women.

## BALBAGAICHA (CHILDREN'S GARDEN)

This is a child-focused program helping to educate children about child labor, children's rights, and child protection. It also includes quiz competitions, visits to schools, and live interviews with students.

## SWASTHANAIIDHAN (HEALTH IS WEALTH)

This health-focused program educates on general hygiene, mental health issues, sexually transmitted diseases, and how to care for the children/family. Included in this is advice on child safety measures and how parents can educate their children (especially girls) about exploitation issues.

## VOX POP (VOICE OF THE PEOPLE)

The team head out into communities and interview local people, giving them the opportunity to share their story. Some are stories of hope and perseverance, while others are stories of desperation and struggle. Sharing these stories is bringing encouragement to those who are isolated as they can always identify or learn from what is being shared.

## LEGAL COUNSELING

More like a civic program, these sessions invite listeners behind the scenes and unpack core legal matters while helping to bring understanding and clarity to their legal rights and privileges.

IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR DAILY PROGRAMS, the team at 3ACR have been involved in many other programs and activities.

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

T & M Shelton

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Johnson Family &  
Penman Family

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## Helping Those in Need

The newest program called “Corona Disaster” airs each morning for 1.5 hours. This gives people the opportunity to phone in to the station and talk about their issues and share their needs.

Because of this, listeners have dropped off donated clothes for distribution. This has been a huge success by giving opportunities for local people to help their fellow Nepalis in desperate need.



## Social Media Influence

All the core programs are livestreamed on social media through the 3ACR official Facebook page.

Around 2,000 people are now reached daily through this method which is showing huge growth from its start of 300 people.







## *The Voices of Children*

Sixteen children were interviewed in the “Children’s Garden Program”. This radio program has been popular among students for learning, entertaining, and getting the latest news and information on a range of relevant topics.

This program also allows children to come into the studio and be part of the conversation. This is empowering children to have a voice and showing them that their voice matters. Not only does it help with their confidence in speaking but also brings the added sense of value and belonging.

Children love to listen to each other tell their stories, and share their gifts. This program is reaching vulnerable children in remote locations and having an impact that we might never even know about.





## Messages of Hope

During the pandemic lockdown, the team at 3ACR have been working at full capacity, serving as a medium that the government was able to use to communicate important information. They have also played a crucial role in connecting desperate people with the help they need.

3ACR has been a beacon of hope to 96% of Nepal (estimated 21 million people) who have access to the station.





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