

Beauty from Ashes

STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEPAL



CAPTIVATING

JANUARY TO JUNE 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE

Founders

To our dear supporters of our work in Nepal,

January to June has been an action-packed six months, and this update aims to bring you all up to speed on the work of Captivating. If you've been a financial partner of our work these past six months, our thanks and acknowledgement to all of you. It's because of you that stories of impact can be written. Thanks for making all of this possible.

This period has had "expansion" as a key focus for us. We are excited about the programs being implemented through our Nepal-based partners - programs that continue to evolve year on year to improve their sustainable impact on the lives of desperate girls, women and their children. And, although the impact numbers are progressively increasing year on year, important for us is to always remember behind every statistic sits a young woman or child who is hoping we'll step in a gap for her. This is our responsibility, and we're pushing as hard as we dare. We are also incredibly indebted to the amazing team at the Global Development Group, who independently ensure our work in Nepal complies with international development standards and best practices. Our thanks to outgoing founder and Executive Director, Geoff Armstrong. Thanks for making us the organization we are today.

Big news for this past reporting period has been the formation of CAPTIVATING NEPAL (CN) as a registered NGO of Nepal. This charity was established by Angela Basnet, Mahadev Baniya and a motivated board of Nepali directors. The focus of CN will be primarily on working in remote village locations at the base of the Himalayas, addressing specific issues around health, education, and livelihood issues holding these villages back from progressing. This means that moving forward, Captivating now works with three implementing partners in Nepal - 3 Angels Nepal (our largest partner), Aasaman Nepal, and now Captivating Nepal. We are excited about the large range of different expertise this brings to our work.

Finally, we were extremely happy to be able to get back to Nepal for four weeks in February/March. As we visited project locations and met with our amazing implementing partners, it confirmed for us how blessed we are to be involved in this work. It revived for us personally how critical the work we're all engaged in is. The lives of precious girls are absolutely at risk, and as parents, we need to step into a gap that is not able to be filled by their own parents. This work matters, and we are passionate to do more.

Thanks for being part of this journey with us.



A.J. Colquhoun *Julie Colquhoun*

Andrew and Julie Colquhoun
FOUNDERS | CAPTIVATING



JANUARY TO JUNE 2023 *Impact*

INTERCEPTION

- **6,737 women** were taken aside and interviewed by trained staff about their travel plans due to signs of suspicious behavior
- **2,446 girls and women** were intercepted showing too many warning signs they might be at risk of trafficking
- **76 girls and women** were interviewed by police because hard evidence was found enough to convict the traffickers

AWARENESS PROGRAMS

- **29 schools** and **4 community groups** hosted our education and awareness program
- **2,700 students** participated
- **318 army and police** participated

MICROFINANCE PROGRAM

- **605 women** currently have loans in the My Business My Freedom Microfinance Program
- **960 women** have been impacted by MBMF since it started in 2017
- **54 women** received their very first microloan these past six months
- **71 women's groups** are located throughout Nepal comprising of 10 to 25 members for each group



SAFE HAVEN

- 58 women / girls were supported at the Safe Haven
- 34 women participated in skills training
- 2 beneficiaries were enrolled in school and 8 are continuing with their studies

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- 2 traffickers were arrested
- 1 court case was filed
- 348 women received legal assistance

3 ANGELS COMMUNITY RADIO

- 385,000 estimated listeners
- 151,300 active listeners on 3ACR App
- 2,700 callers to the radio station
- 33,250 total views on 3AN TikTok account since the launch
- 3,300 followers on 3AN Community Radio Facebook page

CAPTIVATING VILLAGE PROGRAM

- 442 girls back in school
- 18 village programs currently being implemented, with approval for another 6 CVPs subject to funding
- Captivating Nepal receives formal approval to launch its first village development project at the foothills of the Himalayas





intercepting girls

Intercepting Girls

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS



Jamoca Foundation

Johnson Family & Penman Family



CRAIG & MEL H.

JENNIFER B.

DAVID & LIZ T.

SUE & ED W.

BOB & EV M.

STOPPING GIRLS BEFORE THEY ARE TRAFFICKED AND LOST FOREVER

Seventeen minutes. It only takes 17 minutes for 1 girl to be trafficked in Nepal*. A lot can happen in those moments, and our monitoring stations staff are trained to immediately notice the warning signs that a girl is on the brink of being trafficked. They STOP, INTERVIEW, and INVESTIGATE people who show these red flags. Our team knows the right questions to ask and can pick up on the smallest detail that seems out of place in their stories.

Traffickers use false promises to lure vulnerable girls. Our seven monitoring station teams work closely with police and local government bodies to help intercept and stop girls before they are taken across the border. Most of these girls are unaware of the danger and the fate that befalls them on the other side. This is a girl's last line of defense before she is trafficked.

*estimated by our field partner 3 Angels Nepal

JANUARY TO JUNE 2023 IMPACT

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

- **6,737 women were taken aside and interviewed** by trained staff about their travel plans.
- **2,446 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.
- **76 girls and women were referred to the police** 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.



Lalit's

HEARTBREAKING STORY

Lalit, a 10-year-old girl, was found trying to cross the border without any idea of her whereabouts or destination. Since she had no phone and her mother's phone number was unreachable, she was taken to the police station to find out whether somebody had filed a missing person report.

In a brief interview, Lalit shared her heartbreaking story. Her father died, and her single mother looked after five family members. Because of this, she stopped going to school when she was only in the second grade and started working as a housemaid. While working, she was molested by a man, and the lady owner was very unkind to her. So, she decided to leave that house and cross the border without knowing where to go. The team coordinated with the police to find her mother based on the information given by Lalit, and was eventually reunited.

It was heartbreaking to see such a young girl travelling alone with no idea about her whereabouts and ending up in the red-light area of trafficking.

Small children can be easily manipulated by simply offering sweets, snacks, and toys, and parents should be more careful. Her mother promised to watch over her daughter and teach her about human trafficking, so she never ends up in the same situation again.

THE DANGERS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Puja, 19, was stopped at the border when our monitoring team discovered she was travelling to India alone without a clear destination.

She mentioned in the interview that she married shortly after finishing 10th grade. But after a rocky marriage, she returned to her parents. She had plenty of time to devote to social media since she was unemployed and stuck at home.

At this time, Puja began chatting with a stranger after receiving a message from him. They hit it off, she opened up to him about her life, and they became close friends. When her older siblings found out, they cautioned her against interacting with him and other strangers.

When Puja told the stranger what her siblings had said, he asked her to cross the border and meet him in India. Without telling anyone, Puja left their house.



Puja's family was contacted by the team and requested that Puja be stopped at the border. She was given human trafficking counselling to ensure she won't be found in the same position again. Puja shared that she had never considered the possibility of human trafficking or manipulation by an unknown person leading to trafficking or other forms of abuse. She assured her father and the team that she would be more cautious in the future and avoid contacting strangers. Her father expressed gratitude to the Kanchanpur team for intercepting his daughter.

Sisters IN STRUGGLE

Laksmi (27) and her friend Sita (19) were intercepted at the border. Laksmi explained they would meet a friend who awaited them across the border. During questioning, she divulged the truth: she had connected with a man on TikTok, and they were headed to meet him in person.

Life had been far from kind to Laksmi. At the age of thirteen, she lost her family and became an orphan. She got married but was divorced a few years later due to marriage failure. To make a living, Laksmi worked in hotels and discovered the world of TikTok. Her content resonated with many, earning her a significant following and catching a man's attention from India.

The Indian man travelled to Laksmi's hometown to meet her and stayed with her for a few days before returning home. He invited Laksmi and her friend to visit him in India, promising to provide accommodations and meals at upscale restaurants. Laksmi shared this invitation with her neighbour, Sita, and together they were set to meet this man in India, undeterred by the age gap between them.



Sita's life mirrored Laksmi's in many ways. She had eloped with a man from another region whom she met on Facebook, only to suffer from domestic violence due to her lack of dowry. The man she married belonged to a community with a very rigid culture and believed in the caste system. Neither was Sita a part of the community nor was her caste a match for the man. Dowry custom may not be very prevalent in the hilly region of Nepal, but it is significantly high in other regions. Because of these, Sita was left without a place in his world. She sought refuge in her parents' home, where she found solace in her friendship with Laksmi. Their shared experiences forged a strong bond of trust between the two women.

The Indian man's visit built Laksmi's trust, and Sita's friendship made her trust Laksmi. Their trusted man didn't appear at the Nepali border to receive them, so it could be a trafficker who was afraid of being caught and didn't come.

Thankfully, Laksmi and Sita were intercepted and provided with counselling at the transit home, as they were previously unaware of human trafficking. Laksmi's brother-in-law came and coordinated with the mothers of both girls to reunite the families. Grateful for their rescue, Laksmi and Sita tearfully expressed their appreciation to those who had saved them from falling into a trap.



Sita and Laksmi reunited with Laksmi's brother-in-law

Content Warning // sexual abuse, violence

NITA'S *Story*

Nita, 16, became a social media addict due to her family's chaotic environment. Her father left her mom and three siblings behind almost fourteen years ago and never returned.

Her addiction to social media formed when she started talking to boys. Her mother and elder sister started beating her for it, which continued for a long time. Her mother's behaviour made her sick, and she felt that no one in her family understood what she was going through. She ran out on her family and travelled from one region to another. Since she had been missing for a few days, her mother had filed a missing case in her hometown.

The police found Nita when they traced her number, and she was transferred to a shelter for her safety. In counselling, it was disclosed that she had communicated with a man who had arranged for her to meet his friend, who could offer her employment. Young and vulnerable Nita followed the man's instructions and fell into a trap. Upon arriving, the man's friend forced her to have sexual relations with him, saying he had paid for her.

The team conducted family counselling, and the mother was taught about mental health, cultivating a child-friendly environment, and protecting her family from being trafficked.



Nita and her mother during family counselling

“I knew I was sold when I was taken to a brothel in India.”

Rati, 22, is the eldest daughter of a family of five. At a young age, she began working in the hotel industry. They were never able to send her to school because of their low income.

On Facebook, she had a friend who promised to help her find a high-paying job making clothes in India. She needed to travel to India for work, and he told her it would cost Rs 300,000 [US\$ 2,256]. Because she had no money, she borrowed a small sum from her relatives. She promised to repay them once she began earning a steady income. Rati, with two other girls, was then taken to India.

“It was quite strange; we were taught to dance instead of working in the garment factory. But later, I learned we had been sold to the brothel for Rs 100,000 [US\$ 752]. We had to sleep with people, dance and entertain them.”

She saw a lot of Nepali girls being abused in that brothel, forced to engage in sexual activity with men. Though she escaped and returned to Nepal, many of her Nepali female friends were still trapped there.

She had no contact with her relatives for long and was terrified to return to her society. To avoid rejection from her family, she went to look for work in the nation’s capital. Eventually, she started working as a cleaner in a guest house.



The Kathmandu team discovered her situation while monitoring guest houses, and with the help of the police, her relative was contacted, and a family counselling session was provided.

The police and the village administration were notified to ensure her safety, and she was finally reunited with her loved ones.

IN PHOTOS:

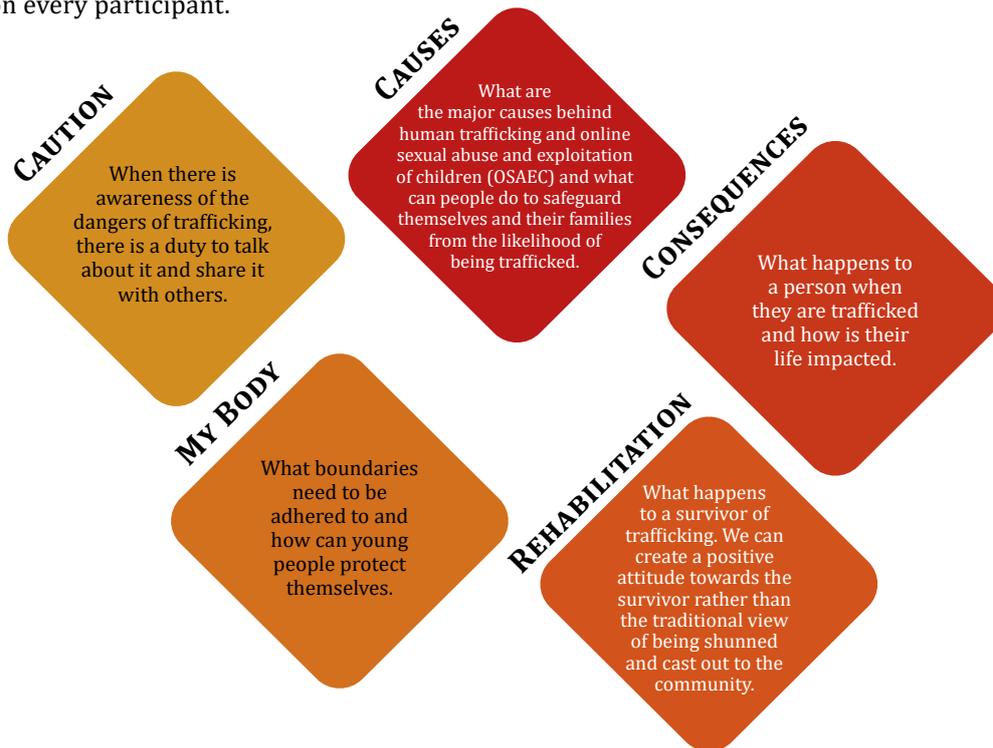
(above) Rati during her counselling session

(lef) Rati reunited with her relative

Hamro Abhiyan

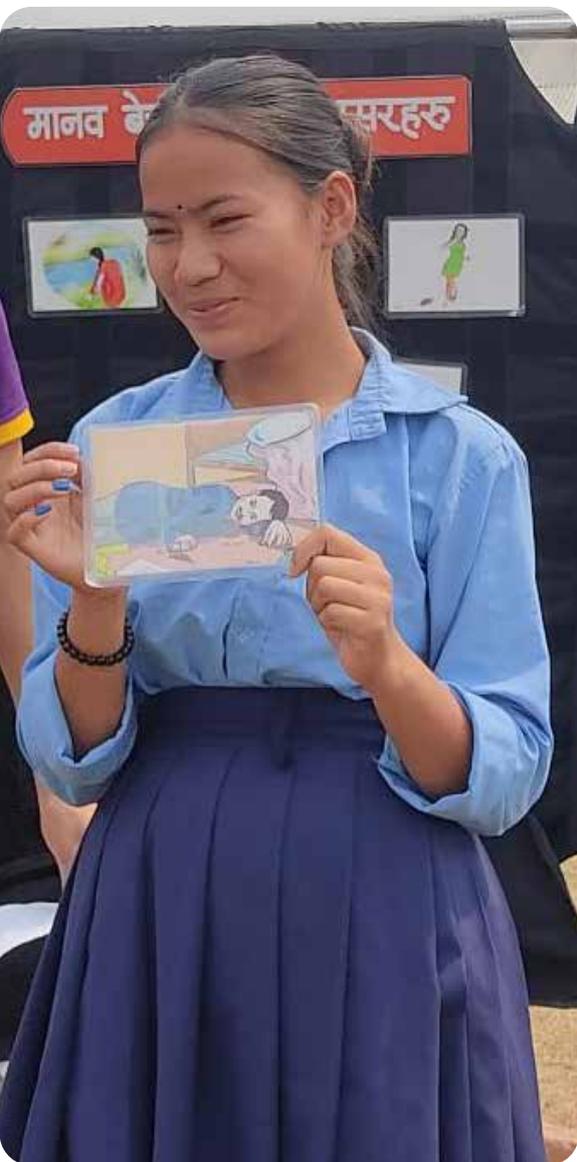
ANTI-TRAFFICKING AWARENESS PROGRAM

Prevention through education will always be a critical part of our fight to end human trafficking. The award-winning Hamro Abhiyan Anti-Human Trafficking Program is being implemented across schools, community groups, and the army/police force. This program is very specific and intentional in content to have maximum retention of impact on every participant.



hamro abhiyan





JANUARY TO JUNE 2023 IMPACT

- 29 schools and 4 community groups hosted the program
- 2,700 students participated
- 318 army and police participated

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS



Jamoca Foundation

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Kenneth Whalen FAMILY FOUNDATION

AMROSIA
global sourcing and inspection



FEEDBACK FROM

Women's Groups



After completing the event, one woman expressed her gratitude to the team because this was the first time an organization had ever entered their village and taught them about human trafficking.

Another woman shared what her own son and other young villagers experienced, "They were taken advantage of by people who promised them a good job, but they weren't paid for a year and were constantly exploited, harassed, and forced to do hazardous work. This program gave me the courage to speak out against it and fight against injustice. Thank you for enlightening us."

Hamro Abhiyan

IN PHOTOS





FEEDBACK FROM

Schools

One school coordinator expressed his admiration for the program and said, *"This is a good preventive measure against human trafficking. Because of this event, our students even decided to organize an awareness program in their own communities."*

One student shared that he used to believe everyone, but after the program, he now has a clear understanding of the causes of human trafficking and also knows how to avoid it.

A young girl also expressed her concern for trafficking victims, *"It is sad that even rescued people can be trafficked again because their families, communities, and society do not give them love or empathy and refuse to accept them just because of the circumstances they were put in."*

Feedback

FROM THE ARMY AND POLICE

After one of our events, a Unit Commander thanked the team for sharing practical ways to address human trafficking.

"I discovered that this program is highly beneficial to our operations. Only senior officers are deployed and involved in human trafficking investigations. Most soldiers had studied up to the 10th grade and had little knowledge about trafficking. But by participating in this event, all of our soldiers can now understand the current situation of trafficking and how vulnerable Nepali girls are."



My Business, My Freedom



MICROFINANCE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AT-RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Until a vulnerable woman is helped to address her poverty, she (or her children or grandchildren) will still be attracted to the prospect of migration from her/their home village. This increases the likelihood of human trafficking. **My Business My Freedom** aims to help her address her extreme poverty. This program will change her life. And it's all controlled by **her**. We'll help her establish **HER** own business, ensuring **HER** continued freedom. Here's how we are making it happen:

- » A woman receives training on how to run her own business, including advice on successful business opportunities.
- » She is mentored through the process of money management, savings, how to budget, and basic business skills.
- » She is connected to other women in similar circumstances, forming a loan collective that supports and looks out for each other through the years to follow.
- » She is given a loan to get her started. Once she has successfully repaid this, she will be eligible to take out future loans at higher values until she no longer requires support.
- » Throughout this process, she will have the support and guidance of her loan officer and her new community group.

JANUARY TO JUNE 2023 IMPACT

- **605 women currently have loans** in the MBMF Microfinance Program.
- **960 women have been impacted** by MBMF since it started in 2017.
- **54 women received their very first microloan** through this program from January to June 2023. They completed their training and are ready for the next step with support from the MBMF team.
- **71 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.



Women during the MBMF three-day training

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS



THE SURABAYA SUPPORTERS
ST5K 2022

KINGSCLIFF SDA
ST5K 2022

ADD-CARE OP SHOP -
GOLD COAST

JENNIFER B.

SHANE & KATHY B.

An Inspiration

FOR OTHER WOMEN

Devi Thapa's day typically starts at 4 a.m. She travels to nearby villages to collect fresh vegetables to sell in the city. She sells her products in an open space on the street rather than in a store. She has been doing this for over a decade, and her perseverance and dedication serve as an example to others. Her husband is a mason, and they both work very hard to provide for their family of four.

When she had a daughter at the age of 42, it was financially difficult for her. She is already responsible for a 13-year-old son; her eldest daughter is already married. Even though her newborn child was only a year old, Devi still needed to work. Her husband could not find work on some days and remained at home, making life difficult for them regarding basic necessities; however, she was more concerned about the child she had given birth to.

She was well aware that her profits depended entirely on the number of vegetables she could sell, but she could not purchase more due to a lack of funds. Aside from her limited hearing ability, no one was available to lend her money. As she faced numerous financial difficulties, MBMF intervened at precisely the right time and lifted her burden. Her entire loan of Rs 30,000 [US\$ 225] was invested in the purchase of vegetables.

"I am so happy to share that I now earn a daily profit of Rs 700 [US\$ 5] to Rs 800 [US\$ 6]. I will be forever grateful to this program for helping me, and I promise to do my best to provide for my family."





NO MORE WORRIES FOR *Sushila*

Sushila found it challenging to maintain a simple standard of living while caring for three children, keeping them safe in school, and keeping all the bills paid. Since her husband works as a labourer, his income depends highly on labour demand, and sometimes he stays idly at home, making all expenses difficult to afford.

She knew that life would not simply change by wishing for it, and some things needed to be done. Sushila wanted to start her own chicken farm, and the rented place she currently resides had some space. However, she needed financial support to start making her dream a reality.

MBMF came to her at the right time and gave her a loan of Rs 30,000 [US\$ 225] to start her small chicken farm. Along with chickens, she used the land and started cultivating seasonal vegetables.

Within a few months, she generated enough income to pay her first loan and immediately took an additional loan to expand her business. Now her garden is filled with maize, and she has even more small chickens in the coop.



“Having a stable source of income has relieved me of my biggest concern - the educational need of my children. Thanks to the MBMF program, I now earn at least Rs 10,000 [US\$75] monthly, and my family can go to bed without worrying about tomorrow.”

FOLLOW UP: A BUSINESS OWNER AND A TRAINER

Sabita Tamang, 32, is from Chitwan District. She used to work in a fabric shop, sewing clothes, but the income wasn't great, and she struggled financially.

Four years ago, the MBMF Program reached her village, and she got a loan of Rs 20,000 [US\$ 150] to start her own tailoring business. After purchasing a sewing machine, she began sewing clothes for her neighbours in her living room.

After a while, she took out an additional loan of Rs 50,000 [US\$ 375] to open her very own tailoring shop in the market. The excellent service she provided helped her earn recognition in her community. She has now opened two outlets, trained five other women, and hired them. The freedom she has gained through her business has been truly valuable to her and her family and the other women she's helping.

"MBMF has given me and my family the freedom we never knew was possible. I am extremely happy that I am also able to extend help and train other women who can now live a better life!" - Sabita





Andrew & Julie's

MBMF GROUPS VISIT

Andrew, Julie, and the 3 Angels Nepal team conducted group visits in two different groups of My Business My Freedom on 24th February.

Unnati Mahila Samuha

It took about 40 minutes to get to the group in a village called Khudikhola, located on the outskirts of Pokhara, away from all the hustle and bustle. Andrew and Julie had a wonderful chance to interact with the group members and chat about their businesses. Most of the members were doing chicken farming, some goats, and a few buffalo. The group was formed two years ago, and one of the members has already paid off her loan and is doing very well in her business. Others are on their way as well!



Krishnatol Mahila Samuha

The second group visit was made in a group in the city of Pokhara. Most of the women in the group are involved in selling vegetables in *Doko* (Nepali bamboo basket), some grow vegetables on their own land and the land of others, and some sell snacks. Three of the members were single mothers who shared their struggles and success. All the women believe their hard work and Captivating's support will make a better tomorrow for their family. They appreciated the work of Captivating and 3 Angels Nepal for recognizing their need and providing support.

Safe Haven for Women



When a girl comes to the Women's Safe Haven, she needs a lot of care and support. This looks different for each girl. She has experienced major trauma from family violence, rape and human trafficking. Some of the key support offered to each girl are:

- » **Counselling** – Trained counsellors help her process what happened to her and create strategies for her to use to rebuild her life, build confidence, resilience, and a safe place to talk about the things she is struggling with.
- » **Safety** – Security for these girls is paramount. It is crucial that she not only is safe but feels safe.
- » **Rest and Recovery** – The Women's Safe Haven provides comfortable accommodation for girls with nowhere else to go and who need space and time to rest and recover.
- » **Skills Building** – Being able to provide for herself and not rely on others is one of the biggest keys to her continued growth and rehabilitation. Having the skills to earn a living builds her confidence and sets her on the path to independence while also showing other girls in her community that they don't have to resort to unsafe and dangerous means to earn an income.

JANUARY TO JUNE 2023 IMPACT

- **58 women/girls were supported** at the Safe Haven between January and June 2023. 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.
 - **24 participated** in the three-month Tailoring Training
 - **10 participated** in the Beauty Parlor Training
- **2 beneficiaries were enrolled** in school and are 8 are continuing with their studies.

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



JENNIFER B.

SUE & ED W.

TONY & SHERRON A.

Content Warning // sexual abuse

PROTECTED LAJJA FROM FURTHER ABUSE

Lajja, 12, was found sexually abused by people who hired her to work at their houses. Since she is noticeably young, the villagers used to pay her less than Rs 100 [US\$ 0.75] to work for them at their homes while molesting and abusing her. Lajja accepted her fate all because she felt obligated to earn for herself. After all, her whole family worked to support their needs.

When a child is exposed to these situations, one thing leads to another; molestation turns into sexual abuse, leading to trafficking. Lajja was informed of her situation, but since she was still young, she needed a comprehensive guide and counselling regarding sexual abuse, trafficking, and other people's intentions. She was transferred to the Women's Safe Haven, where she will learn all these things while also receiving skills training to help her become financially independent.



LURED BY A CRIMINAL

Saved by Her Village

Nima, 21, is the eldest of three siblings. Her village is close to Kanchanpur's wildlife reserve, and she had to cycle for one hour to school. Her parents couldn't repair her bike regularly, and the route was too dangerous. Her parents stopped sending her to school because she used to encounter wild animals, and taking a ride from strangers was too dangerous.

Following her parents' footsteps, she began working on other people's farms to earn money. Then she became ill, which increased her family's expenses. When she was taken to the doctor, her medications did not help her, and she did not feel better. Her parents eventually stopped caring for her and saw her as a financial burden. She could not work in the field during challenging weather and thus stopped earning.

After finding herself in an unfortunate situation, she began contacting other villagers searching for work. Then she met a man who said he would take her to India for work and invited her to meet him.

Some villagers witnessed Nima's meeting with the man, and they knew that the man had previously been involved in transporting girls and drugs from the border. As a result, they warned her parents and reported it to the village's local government authorities.

Unfortunately, Nima didn't stop meeting him because she was drawn to him. Due to her parents' lack of attention to her because of her illness and inability to work, the local government referred her to 3 Angels Nepal for safety.

Nima was transferred to the Women's Safe Haven, where the counsellor discovered that she had been suffering from mental health problems. She is now receiving regular counselling and has participated in tailoring training now that she is in the right hands.

We are thrilled to see Nima feeling better about herself now that she's in a safe environment.



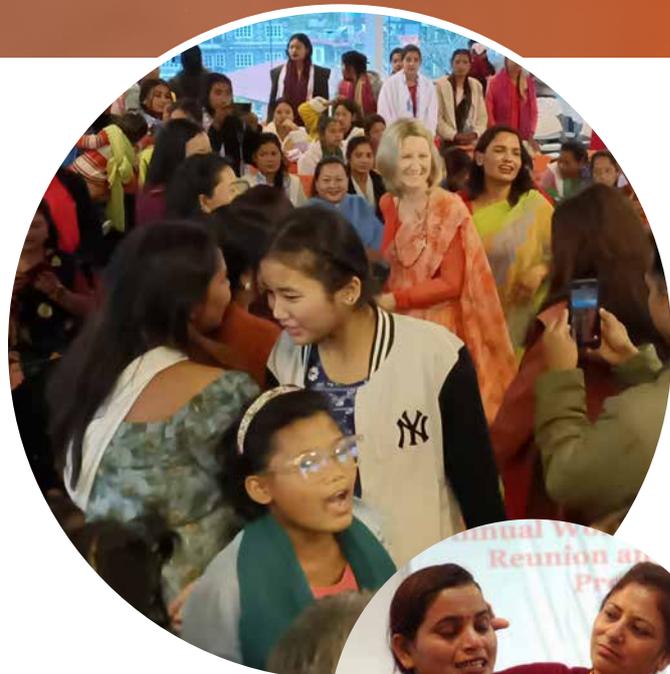
Mina's Story

16-year-old Mina's mother became addicted to drugs, and her father left their family for a second marriage. Because her mother had a daily drug habit and stayed high throughout the day, her uncle took her in, and she began working as a labourer to support herself.

Mina faced verbal abuse from the main contractor, who used vulgar words to address her. Worse, her male coworkers sexually abused her by offering to sleep with her during work hours.

She was frustrated with daily abuses and decided to meet a man who offered her a job in another region. In her eyes, moving to another place would solve her problems. She could finally escape the daily torture without realizing she could become a victim again since she had already experienced it and pimps would take advantage of it.

After her interception, the help desk in charge inspected her family's condition and discovered the need and urgency to rescue her from her situation and prevent further abuse.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR WSH REHABILITATED WOMEN

149 girls and women and their children attended the 2023 annual conference in February at Pokhara. During this time together, the women who spent time in the Women's Safe Haven and are now safely back in the community shared their new lives and children. Those who have started successful businesses also proudly shared how they can now sustainably support their families.

We are so pleased for these young ladies, who have overcome so much to get where they are today. Seeing the happy, self-assured faces of the rehabilitated women was a massive boost of confidence for the women just starting out on the road to recovery. Everyone there felt the love and encouragement that was shared.



Justice and Legal Aid

Working closely with police and the court system, our team works hard to bring justice to those who have been victimized, trafficked, and abused. Many women come to our help desks and monitoring stations looking for help. They don't have a voice and feel lost and forgotten. Our team offers assurance that they are certainly not forgotten.

Our team aims to be a voice for those who do not have one and to empower them with the necessary knowledge to stand up for themselves.

JANUARY TO JUNE 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.

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS



Jamoca Foundation

Johnson Family & Penman Family

 BE CAPTIVATING



justice & legal aid

A NEW START *for Dhana*

Dhana was only 11 years old when she was left to live with her aunt while her parents worked in Dubai. Despite her parents' financial support, she lacked proper guidance and love. She became acquainted with older kids in her neighbourhood who influenced her to use drugs and become addicted to them.

When her aunt found out, she stopped giving her money. Because the drugs she was using blinded her to what was wrong, she began stealing money and engaging in sexual activity for money. She was oblivious to the fact that her situation was deteriorating as a result of her drug addiction. Her aunt couldn't stop her from engaging in those activities, and her bad societal reputation also affected her aunt.

Dhana stayed at the home of a 14-year-old boy for a few days before he kicked her out because he had achieved his goal. She then went out with another boy and didn't come home. Her aunt tried to find her for a few days but was unsuccessful, so she filed a missing person report with the District Police Office.

She was found by the police and contacted by her aunt for a reunion, but she refused because of all the problems she had caused. As a result, the police referred her to 3 Angels Nepal.

The District Police Office immediately transferred her to Safe Haven. She was counselled and taught about her situation to help her understand it and to teach her about human trafficking and sexual abuse. She is receiving counselling regularly and has recently enrolled in school to further her education under the careful supervision of the team.



Kanchi AND HER FAKE BROTHER-IN-LAW



Kanchi, 15, is from a rural district in Nepal. She and the man she introduced as her brother-in-law were stopped at the border as they attempted to import wholesale goods from India. When questioned, they had a plausible story but couldn't back it up with evidence of why they needed items from wholesalers or how much cash they had on them.

Kanchi's mother was contacted for confirmation but had given the wrong phone number, raising more suspicions. According to initial investigations, the man was not her brother-in-law, and her mother had never met him.

She said her mother wouldn't let her go to India to work, so she contacted the man to take her there. She lied at the border to get across because she had been promised work as a house cleaner and babysitter for a wealthy family. The man was reported to the authorities because he took her somewhere without informing her parents.

Her uncle came to pick her up, and they attended a counselling session about human trafficking. They learned about how victims are exploited for sexual slavery, organ trafficking, forced labour, and other forms of human trafficking. Her loved ones thanked the team for intervening and protecting Kanchi.

3 Angels Community Radio

3 Angels Community Radio broadcasts 17 hours daily, mixing news, stories, music, studio- and field-based programs.

The platforms these programs can engage with are changing and growing to meet the new generation and technology.

JANUARY TO JUNE 2023 REACH

- **385,000 estimated listeners** based on independent research conducted in 2018 assessing the % of the population tuning in
- **151,300 active listeners** in our 3ACR App (up from 134,100 last December 2022)
- **2,700 callers** to the radio station engaging in various conversations and competitions.
- **33,250 total views** on the 3AN TikTok account since the launch
- **3,300 followers** on the 3Angels Community Radio Facebook page

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

 Kenneth Whalen
FAMILY FOUNDATION

 PENMAN &
JOHNSON FAMILIES

 AMROSIA
global sourcing and inspection

 TIM & MICHELLE S.



3ACR *Regular Programs*

NEPALI CHELI (NEPALI DAUGHTER)

This program talks about human trafficking and how Nepali women are being exploited and trafficked, as well as local businesswomen sharing their successes and encouraging women to do anything if they have the opportunity.

KANUNI PARAMARSA (LEGAL AID)

The legal aid offered encourages people to know about due process and understand the legal procedures.

VOICE OF PEOPLE

The 3ACR team hit the streets and interview community members, where they share their views on human trafficking, domestic violence, and other social issues.

CHILDREN GARDEN PROGRAM

This program is for children and includes interesting facts on various topics, awareness through interviews, quiz contests, and educational content to attract and educate children.

APANGATA SAWAL (DISABILITY QUESTION)

Interviews are conducted with disabled people and various disabled people working for the welfare of other disabled people and organizations.

SANGHARSA KO PAILA (STEPS OF STRUGGLE)

This is an interview program where guests from different fields come and share their struggles and talk about what they have achieved through persistence and hard work. It also talks about human trafficking and the goals Nepal needs to meet to stop this from happening.

3 ANGELS HEARING

This is a talk show where experts from different fields, such as teachers, business people, doctors, nurses, medical disease specialists, counsellors, finance experts, and actors, are invited to talk and share. This is a very popular show.

HAMRO SANSTHA (OUR ORGANIZATION)

This show conducts interviews with people from different NGOs and INGOs, youth clubs, women's clubs, children's clubs, and government organizations. In this interview, they discuss their goals and achievements and provide information about 3 Angels Nepal and its work all over Nepal.

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING

This program aims to raise awareness about mental health among the general public and answer individual questions.

HAMRO UDDHAM (OUR AMBITION)

Information about pursuing one's own ambitions is provided in this program.

HAMRO VIDYALAYA (OUR SCHOOL)

School-related episodes and awareness episodes are included in this program.

HIJO RA AAJA (YESTERDAY AND TODAY)

This program's episodes discuss our beneficiaries' backgrounds, their experiences with 3 Angels Nepal, and their current situation after rehabilitation.

HAMRO GHAR AANGAN (OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD)

Interviews with 3AN staff and other guests, stories about victims and their rehabilitation stories, and reports from all branches of the Anti-Human Trafficking Stations are discussed in this program.

LIFE SKILLS COUNSELLING

Episodes in this program are dedicated to the art of living, which focuses on how victims of various incidents can regain their self-worth and self-growth.

BUSINESS TALK

Interviews with various people doing different businesses.

HAMRO BAHAS (OUR DEBATE)

The episodes are based on discussions with experts in their respective fields about different current issues (political, social, economic, and financial, for example).

CAREER TIME

Each episode of this program specializes in different career paths one can take according to ability, interest, skills, and education.

SAHAKARI AAWAJ (VOICE OF COOPERATIVE)

Episodes inform about the benefits of cooperative organizations and how to obtain financial help from them.

HAMRO ABHIYAN (OUR CAMPAIGN)

A compilation of episodes related to 3 Angels Nepal's overall activities, as well as dramas and awareness programs (e.g. political, social, economic, and financial).

113TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On the occasion of the 113th International Women's Day, the social condition of all Nepali women, the political situation, as well as the positive effect that education can have on the family and society were discussed. It was also mentioned how women can actively work in various fields like education, health, finance, business, politics, and technology if given education and opportunity.

Nepali women still face various problems due to illiteracy, poverty, culture, and inequality. Despite the visible participation of women, they are still not given leadership roles and lack technological expertise.



A key objective of the program was to expand access to technology for women through the International Slogan, Digit All: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality.

The 3ACR team coordinated the program with special guests Indra Poudel, President of Women's Associations, and Saraswati Adhikari, a health worker.

Children's GARDEN PROGRAM

The Children's Garden Program helps raise young people's awareness of the consequences of misguided use of social media. Children were interviewed about their schoolwork, aspirations, and social media use to spread information on how to properly and safely use social media.



BHIMA'S DISABILITY IS

Her Strength



Bhima successfully runs a business selling locally produced herbal medicines. She regularly listens to the *Apangata Sawal (Disability Question) Program* and thanks 3 Angels Community Radio for directing an exclusive program encouraging people with disabilities.

Since people with disabilities are still stigmatized and looked down on due to society's ignorance, she thanks the radio team for bringing this issue to the public's attention and addressing it.

Because many disabled people are vulnerable to sexual abuse, workplace exploitation, and hatred, this program serves as a voice against these atrocities and provides a platform for sharing.

Captivating Village Program

EDUCATING GIRLS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Girls from remote poor communities in Nepal are in real trouble, and access to education is still challenging for too many. Not only are they and their families impoverished, but issues still exist regarding their social acceptance and recognition of their value as women. Our program aims to change this.

The Captivating Village Project is making a difference in impoverished villages to stop girls from becoming victims of human trafficking, child marriage, and child labour. Our team works with school principals and communities to help bring about change in society.

1. Out-of-school girls are offered a scholarship and mentored back into the school system (15-30 girls);
2. All scholarship girls receive regular training on life skills, keeping safe, their rights, personal hygiene, and increased confidence;
3. A staff member is specifically assigned as liaison and official overseer of ALL girls in this village to ensure regular school enrollment, look out for child marriage issues and human trafficking risks;
4. Village parents and leaders attend awareness sessions on the value of girls, laws regarding child marriage, and how to address their poverty;
5. Improvements will be made to the local school, improving the quality of educational resources and addressing facility upgrades if needed; and
6. Where possible, select women/girls will join the Captivating MY BUSINESS - MY FREEDOM Microfinance program to address their poverty.

This program transforms the circumstances for out-of-school girls in these villages and empowers the community with knowledge, sustainable solutions, and various levels of support.



captivating

THE CAPTIVATING VILLAGE PROJECT SO FAR

Village	Girls Back in School	Funded by	Matched by
CVP 01	45	G&S.H.	Lightstream Foundation
CVP 02	53	A&T.T.	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 03	37	B.G.	Lightstream Foundation
CVP 04	10 <i>(more girls joining July)</i>	J.E & K.N.	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 05	18 <i>(more girls joining July)</i>	J.E.	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 06	9 <i>(more girls joining July)</i>	The Surabaya Supporters	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 07	13 <i>(more girls joining July)</i>	L&D.M.	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 08	7 <i>(more girls joining July)</i>	Kingscliff SDA	Whalen Family Foundation
CVP 09	19	J.S., M&V.J., J&W.D.	Midnight Charity Run
CVP 10	25	L.T.	Midnight Charity Run
CVP 11	17	H&C.L.	Midnight Charity Run
CVP 12	24	D&D.C., F&T.S., J.B., R.K.	Midnight Charity Run
CVP 13	17	N.V., L.F., W.VDV., B&R.M.	The French Beauty Academy
CVP 14	25	J.G.	The French Beauty Academy
CVP 15	21	T&S.A.	The French Beauty Academy
CVP 16	67	N.V.	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 17	2 <i>(more girls joining soon)</i>	Add-Care Op Shop Gold Coast	Jamoca Foundation
CVP 18	33	E.K.	Jamoca Foundation
TOTAL	442		
GIRLS BACK			
IN SCHOOL			

village program

Following a successful first year of the new Captivating Village Program, approval has been given to expand this program subject to additional funding partners being secured. Over the July to December 2023 period, we are hopeful of launching an additional 6 village programs. For this to happen, we need to find six donors each willing to provide A\$5,000 / US\$3,500. We are excited for the impact this will make in the lives of these village girls and their families.



Ritu's STORY

Ritu, a 12-year-old girl, had completed her education up to the 6th grade. However, when she approached her father for the admission fees, he responded angrily, scolding her and even attempting to physically harm her. He insisted that she find work and earn the money herself.

Faced with such despair and contemplating drastic measures, Ritu turned to the CVP staff for help. Understanding the urgency of her situation, our CVP team intervened and coordinated with the school administration to secure her enrollment without any financial obligation. This crucial support allowed Ritu to continue her education. Furthermore, the CVP team informed her family about the scholarship program available, and Ritu's parents agreed to support her return to school.

Beaming with happiness, Ritu expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the CVP team for their counselling and the timely information that enabled her to regain hope and continue pursuing her education.



KUSHMI'S

Desire to Learn



Kushmi, a 17-year-old girl, faced the harsh reality of early marriage when she was wedded at the age of 15. With six family members to support and limited financial resources, the family's sustenance relied heavily on daily wage labour. She was a good student who dropped out in 7th grade due to being forced to marry at such a young age. She began doing housework, such as grass cutting and goat grazing.

She wanted to continue her studies and receive at least a basic education, so when she learned about the Captivating Village Program in her village, she persuaded her family to allow her to join. Thankfully, Kushmi succeeded.

Kushmi has resumed her education and is aware of reproductive health, menstruation, hygiene, and family planning. Similarly, she can perform basic calculations that are useful in her daily life. Kushmi says she was eager to learn about reproductive health and can now educate those who, like her, were forced into early marriage. She will be aware of family planning and personal hygiene. She is knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and grateful to the team for fulfilling her wishes.

FOLLOWING UP ON

Suna

Suna (*wearing blue in photo*) is the third child among five siblings. She lost her father at an early age leaving all his responsibility to her mother. Life became miserable for the family, leading to financial hardships. Suna's mother works in a carpet factory; although she works hard, managing all her family's expenses is challenging.

Suna skipped going to school because her mother could not provide educational materials on time. The school principal referred her case to our Captivating Village Program. She was highly willing to continue her education, and she was selected for the program.

During a follow-up visit, it was found that she was regularly attending school. She participated in the school's dance competition at the Parents' Day celebration program with a cheerful face in cultural attire.



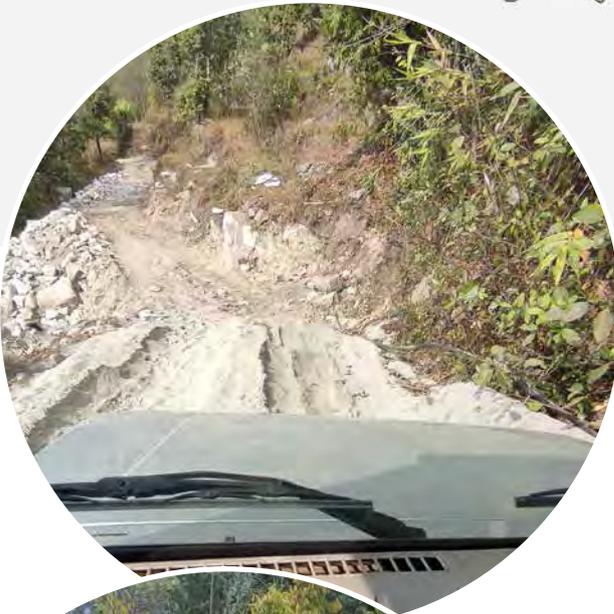
MICROFINANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 25 WOMEN

Three *My Business My Freedom* microfinance groups were formed to help the beneficiaries' family improve their living situation and ensure sustainability for each family. This group currently has 25 members, 6 of them have already received their first loan and have started their business.

These women will learn skills in small business management, budgeting, and growing their small businesses. They will become a fantastic support network for each other, provide encouragement for each other when things get tough, and keep them accountable for repaying their microloans.

When they are ready, the loan officer will provide them with their first microloan and support them in their new business venture. We are excited to see these women become financially stable and break the cycle of poverty in their families.

Captivating Nepal



As an extension of the Captivating Village Programs, we are excited to announce the first pilot program of our new charity partner, Captivating Nepal. As mentioned on page 3 of this update, Captivating Nepal (CN) was recently incorporated as a new NGO of Nepal and we are excited for all that lies ahead. The focus of CN will be predominately in the hills districts around the base of the Himalayas - villages hard to reach where we expect that needs to be significant. Our projects aim to address what are considered to be the major barriers holding these remotely located village communities from progressing.

Our initial pilot program is based in Gaurinshankar Rural Municipality, Dolakha District as shown on the map, and our focus will be on (1) health initiatives, (2) a more stable and better quality education for girls, and (3) livelihood opportunities for marginalized families.

IN PHOTOS: Our pilot village in Dolakha, the spine rattling drive to the village, and Julie inspecting a typical house that was rebuilt after the 2015 earthquake that decimated this region



Julie and Andrew with Mahadev at the Captivating Nepal Office

These past six months have been predominantly about formalizing arrangements with local authorities so we can legally operate, with final approval having been recently provided by the Social Welfare Office to commence work. With this approval now secured, work now begins to clearly identify needs and gaps, and working with local community leaders, schools and health workers to put in place strategies to progress.

Health screenings and camps, and general health & awareness sessions will be the first area we address in partnership with volunteer teams from the Scheer Memorial Hospital in Kathmandu. From this we will devise a health strategy for the three years of involvement with this district.

IN PHOTOS

(right) Scheer Memorial Hospital in Kathmandu

(below) Captivating Nepal team meeting with Community leaders to commence planning discussions



150 families have already been identified as the most marginalized across Wards 1 and 2 of this district, and will be the focus of our livelihood initiatives. Our initial survey of these families indicated that almost all families were not producing enough food to feed their families (with an average of 3 to 5 months inadequate supply), and have minimal (some nil) access to additional cash incomes.

Regarding education, our initial assessment showed that most girls were enrolled in school, however, school principals reported attendance was a major issue with the key cause being the need for girls to work their family's farm land to produce food, combined with a lack of interest or appreciation for schooling. Our next steps will be to more clearly define existing schooling challenges for girls in this district, and work with school principals to devise plans to progress education.



Julie with a girl soon to be part of our Captivating Village Program



Two female villagers carrying firewood

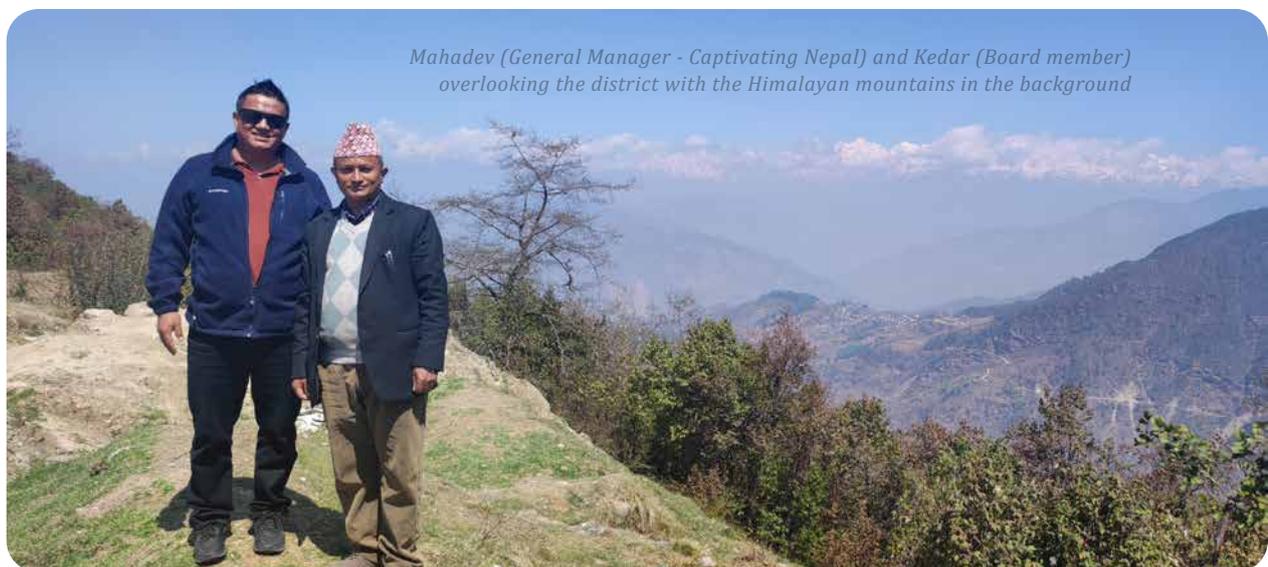


Apsara, our village coordinator, and Kedar, Captivating Nepal board member, interviewing one of the 150 families

Finally, experts will be brought into the district to help assess best livelihood improvement opportunities for families assessed as being most in need.

We have given ourselves three years to progress this village and hope that over this time period, we continually refine a village improvement model that can be further replicated across neighboring districts. We are excited for all that lies ahead and the many lives this program will assist.

Our thanks to those who have rallied behind this latest Captivating initiative, and we look forward to updating you every six months with our specific “donor-only” updates. Our thanks to Dean & Chris, Justin G, Leigh & Donna, Edward & Sue, and GPA Global.



Mahadev (General Manager - Captivating Nepal) and Kedar (Board member) overlooking the district with the Himalayan mountains in the background

You Can Be Involved **TODAY**

Contact info@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

