Nepal has long been a country of origin for labor migration and trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, for the purposes of sexual, labor and other forms of exploitation. Trafficking often takes place as part of undocumented migration and is a serious violation of human rights. In the aftermath of the April and May 2015 earthquakes, Nepal faces a heightened risk of human trafficking and unsafe migration. Natural disasters heighten the risk and create the right environment for traffickers to exploit the vulnerabilities of the affected population. The loss of livelihoods and assets, displacement and poor living conditions, disrupted law enforcement and justice systems and loss of family protection contribute to an increased risk of violence, abuse and exploitation as well as negative coping strategies.

Some of the districts most affected by the earthquakes are historically known for high rates of trafficking of women and children and may thus face elevated levels of human trafficking. Many of these districts also have higher than average rates of female external migration, as well as ones where large numbers of men have left for employment elsewhere, leaving behind female-headed households at economic and social disadvantage with limited protection.

The Government of Nepal has made a commitment to combat human trafficking with a comprehensive approach that includes policy reform, enforcement and programs that meet the practical needs of women at risk and provides alternatives to unsafe migration. However, despite policies, plans and programs in place to counter trafficking and promote safe migration, there is a lack of synergy at the operational level. Trafficking and migration are generally dealt with as separate issues through stand-alone approaches that fail to address the nexus between trafficking and migration.

**Goals and Objectives**

*Goal:* Create sustainable foundations for addressing the nexus between human trafficking and foreign labor migration of women and girls in Nepal.

**Specific objectives:**

1. Create an enabling environment in homes and communities to address structural barriers, gender-based discrimination and stereotypical intergenerational socialization patterns.

2. Strengthen individual competencies of women migrant workers and survivors of trafficking to become independent economic actors using vocational training and public private partnerships.

3. Enhance coherence/synergy between institutions and policies on the issues of foreign employment and human trafficking.

**The Future We Want: Creating sustainable foundations for addressing human trafficking and unsafe migration of women and girls in Nepal**

**2016-2018 Funding:** US$1,000,000 to UN Women

**Background**

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In the aftermath of the April and May 2015 earthquakes, Nepal faces a heightened risk of human trafficking and unsafe migration. Natural disasters heighten the risk and create the right environment for traffickers to exploit the vulnerabilities of the affected population. The loss of livelihoods and assets, displacement and poor living conditions, disrupted law enforcement and justice systems and loss of family protection contribute to an increased risk of violence, abuse and exploitation as well as negative coping strategies.

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**Project Beneficiaries**

**Direct beneficiaries** include 600 survivors of trafficking and vulnerable women migrants. **Indirect beneficiaries** include 100,000 young people, community leaders, local authorities, camp coordinators, schools, families of migrants and members of networks from earthquake-affected districts.
Strategies and Activities

The project will focus on both prevention of and response to trafficking.

- Enhance evidence base through mapping report of underlying risk factors for women in the selected districts.
- Engage in public awareness campaigns to challenge gender-based discriminations, mobilizing partners, young people, community leaders as well as transport sector personnel.
- Leverage partnerships to strengthen information dissemination on reconstruction and livelihoods post-earthquakes.
- Enhance technical skills, including financial literacy, of trafficking survivors and returnee women migrant workers for job placement and/or entrepreneurship development.
- Review corporate social responsibility policies and practices of corporations and advocate on the Women's Empowerment Principles to promote women's economic empowerment.
- Build pool of trainers to provide quality psychosocial counseling services in select districts.
- Strengthen coherence in national policies on labor migration and anti-trafficking.
- Strengthen understanding of relevant senior government officials on the convergence of the issues of foreign employment and human trafficking.
- Enhance understanding of local authorities and camp coordinators in the earthquake affected districts on the nexus of human trafficking and foreign employment.

Expected Outcomes

A legislative and policy framework that addresses the nexus between trafficking and migration in line with Nepal's international and national commitments is in place and effectively implemented.

Favorable social norms, attitudes and behaviors are promoted in homes and communities to address structural barriers, gender-based discrimination and intergenerational stereotypes and information is made available on safe migration and trafficking.

Women at risk of trafficking and unsafe migration are equipped with livelihoods and economic empowerment opportunities, supported by psychosocial counselling.

A reduction in incidents of trafficking linked to foreign labor migration of women.

Nepal by the numbers (from The World Bank’s World DataBank)

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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>28.1 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Human Development Index Rank</td>
<td>144 (Scale 1-188, where 1 is highest)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Inequality Index (GII)</td>
<td>.489 (higher the GII, greater disparity between men and women)</td>
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<td>Population below $1.25 (PPP) per day</td>
<td>23.7 percent</td>
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<td>Maternal Mortality Ratio</td>
<td>190 deaths per 100,000 births</td>
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<td>Infant Mortality Rate</td>
<td>32.2 deaths per 1,000 live births</td>
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<tr>
<td>Births attended by skilled health workers</td>
<td>36 percent</td>
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<td>Contraceptive prevalence rate</td>
<td>49.7 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female enrollment in primary education</td>
<td>1.03 ratio girls to boys (National Preliminary Report)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violence against Women (ever experienced)</td>
<td>26 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seats held by women in Parliament</td>
<td>29.5 percent</td>
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<td>Internet Users</td>
<td>15.4 percent of population</td>
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