Zonta International has committed US$1 million to UN Women during the 2016-2018 Biennium to support the Future We Want project.

**GOAL**
Create sustainable foundations for addressing the link between human trafficking and foreign labor migration of women and girls in Nepal

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**
The project focuses on prevention and response to trafficking through improved evidence base, awareness raising, advocacy, information dissemination, capacity development and coordination support. Its objectives are to:

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

2. Strengthen individual competencies of returnee 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 labor migration and human trafficking.
ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Objective 1

- Gained a better understanding of underlying risk factors for women in the selected districts.
  - An ongoing mapping survey on underlying risk factors and barriers for women’s leadership and participation in economic activities will provide the project with the baselines to monitor progress toward results and contribute to a strategy for an awareness-raising advocacy campaign.

- Mobilized young people, members and leaders of communities and families of women and girls to address gender-based discrimination and violence against women in project districts.
  - A comprehensive and action-oriented advocacy campaign was designed to raise awareness on gender-based discrimination and structural barriers hindering women’s leadership and participation in economic activities in households, communities and the labor market. Specific focus will be given to people working in the public transportation sector, as women’s lack of safety and security on public transportation limits their mobility and access to information, services and job opportunities. The campaign will roll out in the second quarter of 2017.

Objective 2

- Enhanced technical skills for job placement and/or entrepreneurship development for trafficking survivors and returnee women migrant workers.
  - A package of combined support has been planned to enhance vocational and entrepreneurial capacity of returnee women migrant workers and survivors of human trafficking. It will also focus on the psychosocial support during the training and follow-ups after the training for business start-up or job placement by leveraging learnings, depending on needs and interests of each training participant. The activities will be rolled out in the second quarter of 2017.

Objective 3

- Generated evidence base to strengthen coherence in national policies on labor migration and anti-trafficking.
  - Initiated preparation for a policy assessment to identify operational gaps in the existing legislations, policies and programs on gender equality and women’s empowerment and their implementation with a specific focus on foreign labor migration and human trafficking.

- Enhanced senior government officials’ understanding of the value of joint convergence on the issue of foreign employment and human trafficking.
  - Attained enhanced interest for more synergistic coordination among actors working on labor migration and human trafficking was through a policy discussion.
  - In this discussion, common understanding of issues and challenges to address the nexus between labor migration and human trafficking was reached among senior officials of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders.
  - While recognizing the Government’s ongoing efforts to address unsafe labor migration and human trafficking, interaction between the panelists and participants focused on the need for a functional mechanism of coordination among ministries and government offices to fill the gaps in laws and policies, programs and implementation.

NEXT STEPS

In the coming period, the project will work on the following priorities:

- Completion of a mapping survey to analyze risk factors for unsafe migration, trafficking and violence against women and prevailing structural discrimination in the project districts.

- Commencement of a gap assessment to identify operational gaps, linkages with various stakeholders and recommendations between the policies/plans and programs related to labor migration and trafficking.

- Establishment of linkages and partnership with networks of returnee women migrant workers and survivors of human trafficking to design and roll-out the vocational skills and entrepreneurship development training.

- Selection of a partner to implement awareness campaigns to create an enabling environment for women’s leadership as well as women’s active participation in economic activities.

- Follow-ups on the implementation of recommendations of the policy discussion held in February 2017 and further coordination of dialogues among the MoWCSW, MoLE, other key line ministries, CSOs and other stakeholders.

All photos courtesy of UN Women.