




COUNTERING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE ADULT ENTERTAINMENT SECTOR – NEPAL

COUNTRY	Nepal
CONTEXT	<p>In Nepal, the term ‘adult entertainment sector’ generally refers to venues such as ‘cabin restaurants’ offering privacy of small rooms, <i>dohoris</i> (traditional folk-dance bars), dance bars, massage parlors, guest houses and small hotels. The sector is growing as an informal sector with many unregistered businesses. A study conducted by Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare in 2008 estimated 30,000 to 40,000 women working in this sector. According to estimates of a 2009 study conducted by Terre des Hommes (Tdh) about 13,000 women and girls were working in this sector. Along with these research studies, case studies from NGOs, reports the research institute New Era, from the national Monitoring and Action Committee (MAC) and the National Human Rights Council as well as data from trade union reports and the Nepal Police indicate an expanding adult entertainment sector and increasing internal trafficking to this sector with practically no laws or policies to regulate businesses except for the existence of the Supreme Court Directive of 2008, whose relevance is questioned in light of recent changes in the government structure.</p> <p>The adult entertainment sector is a highly sexually-exploitative place. A Freedom Fund study in 2019 points out that 80% of workers have engaged in sexual intercourse with customers. Moreover, according to the same study, almost all of the workers (99 %) aged 17 and under working in the adult entertainment sector are considered to be working in the worst forms of child labour, according to the International Labour Organization convention. However, workers are unaware of their rights and of provisions declared by Nepal’s Labor Act 2018. In this highly unregulated sector, risks of internal trafficking to this sector are also very high.</p> <p>In this context, civil society organizations can play a very important and major role in monitoring and enforcement of existing laws, policies and regulations to ensure protection of vulnerable workers in the entertainment sector and prevent sexual exploitation. Biswas Nepal, founded in 2007 by survivors from the adult entertainment sector, works to secure the rights and dignity of workers. It is engaged in providing daily outreach and case management services as well as in lobbying and advocacy to pressurize province and central governments for increased commitment to regulate and monitor this sector.</p>

PROJECT GOAL	Contribute to eliminating sexual exploitation of children and girls in the adult entertainment sector
PROJECT OBJECTIVE	Significantly reduce involvement and sexual exploitation of children and girls in the adult entertainment sector in Kathmandu Valley
PROJECT AREA	Province 3 – Kathmandu valley 
OPERATIONAL PARTNER	Biswas Nepal www.biswasnepal.org Biswas Nepal is a survivor-led non-profit organization committed to securing the rights of children and women working in the adult entertainment sector. The organization is a core member of the National Coordination Committee and Controlling for Human Trafficking formed by Ministry of Women, Children and Old Citizens.
INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS/PRIVATE DONORS	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg The Fondation Junclair
LOCAL PARTNERS	The project develops and prioritizes partnerships with government authorities, the private sector and trade unions to improve regulations and monitoring in the sector. Some of our local partners include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chief District Office, Kathmandu – Nepal Police and Child Helpline Agency – Province-level government – Local level government authorities – Monitoring and Action Committee (MAC) – District Coordination Committees

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Village or Ward Child Protection Committees (source district) – District and Sub District Health Posts – Hotel Association Nepal – Restaurant and Bar association Nepal – Nepal Trade Union – Survivor group – Women and Child Networks – Women and Child Office – Municipality/ Rural Municipality, Ward Offices – Savings and Credit Organizations – Vocational Training centers – Civil society organizations
PROJECT PERIOD	January 2020 to December 2022 (3 years)
BUDGET	125 000€
BENEFICIARIES	<p>Children and girls working in adult entertainment sector are mostly from the peripheral districts of Kathmandu valley to where they migrate for better economic opportunities. This internal and uninformed migration is thus largely a result of poverty and employment needs.</p> <p>Direct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Children withdrawn from the adult entertainment sector – Children and girls involved in the adult entertainment sector – Survivor groups <p>Indirect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Vulnerable children, families and communities – Children and parents of survivors – Child protection actors, particularly organizations working in similar programmes – Business owners in the adult entertainment sector
STRATEGIES (Intervention focus)	<p>Provide comprehensive services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide comprehensive services including prevention, rescue, reintegration and recovery which address the specific needs of survivors and vulnerable children and girls – Improve access to alternative livelihood <p>Mobilize key stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mobilize and strengthen children, family, teachers, community resources and capabilities to prevent children entering into the adult entertainment sector – Collaborate with local government authorities and communities restaurant owners, hotel associations, trade unions and the media to strengthen their engagement to prevent sexual exploitation in the adult entertainment sector

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mobilize civil society organizations and rights holders to strengthen existing structure, systems and activities for protection against sexual exploitation in the adult entertainment sector <p>Empower survivors/Build capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop programmes to raise awareness on available services, rights, decision making – Develop life skills and enhance resilience of survivors – Develop and/or strengthen mechanisms to collect data, information and evidence on the practice <p>Lobby for stronger laws and policies and their implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advocate for implementation of mechanisms at local government level for reporting and ensuring rights of children and workers – Strengthen federal, provincial, local government mechanisms to address problems linked to the adult entertainment sector – Enforce regular monitoring, code of conduct and enforcement of new laws and policies in line with regulation of hospitality sector
<p>OUTCOMES</p>	<p>Comprehensive services provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased access to comprehensive support services (access to drop-in centre, psychosocial support, awareness raising sessions on health and legal issues) – Improved economic security for girls through livelihood or income generation support. – Increased access to vocational training <p>Key stakeholders mobilized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased awareness of public about existing problems and issues linked to the adult entertainment sector, sexual exploitation of children, human trafficking – Adult entertainment sector systematically monitored by a strengthened Monitoring Task Force Committee and local authorities – Improved action by local authorities on registration, renewal, use of minors, etc. – Stronger regulation policies concerning the adult entertainment sector drafted by local bodies – Strengthened coordination and collaboration between Nepal Police and Community Police for rescue and rehabilitation <p>Survivors empowered/capacity built</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Survivors increasingly aware of their rights. – Increased livelihood skills among survivors (on communication, problem-solving, decision-making, stress-management, empathy and solidarity) – Organizational capacity built to strengthen collection and analysis of data and reporting

	<p>Stronger laws and policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Government develops supportive policies and mechanisms to address problems linked to the adult entertainment sector – Strengthened monitoring, code of conduct and enforcement of new laws and policies in line with regulation of hospitality sector – Increased commitment of business owners to respect employment rights of workers
<p>INDICATORS</p>	<p>150. Number of children withdrawn from the adult entertainment sector</p> <p>30. Number of reintegrated children with income generation support</p> <p>20. Number of girls able to continue their education through project support</p> <p>300. Number of girls equipped with critical information on legal issues pertaining to their rights, existing legislations, safe migration and legal rights through legal orientation, training and counselling</p> <p>70. Number of girls with enhanced social skills and resiliency through lifeskill trainings.</p> <p>120. Number of girls with improved health outcomes through health-related orientation and counseling</p> <p>500. Number of stakeholders in highly vulnerable areas aware of sexual exploitation in the adult entertainment sector</p> <p>3. Number of memorandums that will be handed over to Ministries, Provinces and Courts.</p> <p>10. Number of restaurants that will issue work contracts and appointment letters to workers.</p> <p>5. Number of cases registered for sexual abuse and exploitation in court</p> <p>TBD (to be defined after baseline). Number of employers who have improved knowledge or understanding of the concepts of child rights and child protection issues, including gender issues</p> <p>TBD. Number of employers who develop codes of conduct re: children and work</p> <p>TBD. Number of employers who adopt policies and guidelines re: children and work</p> <p>90%. Children who can list 3 things that their employer must provide to meet their rights</p> <p>80%. Target groups who can identify or describe campaign message on internal trafficking, and on vulnerability in the adult entertainment sector and how to protect themselves from possible abuses</p>



Life skill training for young girls in the drop-in centre supported by ECPAT Luxembourg



Girls working in the adult entertainment sector are encouraged to spend time in the drop-in centre where counsellors spend time with them to get to know them better and propose services



Orientation sessions on health are crucial to young girls vulnerable to sexual exploitation



Tailoring training is often requested by girls as alternative work options



The project provides seed money to start small businesses for young girls who choose this alternative option