



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Alliance Against Trafficking in
Women and Children in Nepal

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CONTENTS

- ABBREVIATION4**
- ABOUT AATWIN5**
- MAJOR PROGRAMS OF AATWIN6**
 - ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING6*
 - NETWORK BUILDING6*
 - CONCEPTUAL CLARITY INITIATIVES6*
 - INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE OF AATWIN6*
- MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF AATWIN.....7**
 - AATWIN's Regular Quarterly Meeting7
 - World Social Forum7
 - Dimensions and Trends of Human Trafficking: Identification and Response7
 - 18th National Day Against Human Trafficking8
 - 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence9
 - Social Audit9
 - AATWIN’s 21st Annual General Meeting.....9
 - Beijing+30 Review Workshop and Women’s Conference10
 - AATWIN's Reach in 202411
- ONGOING PROJECTS12**
- OUR PARTNERS13**
- Major Activities of Project14**
 - 1. Amplifying Voices for Dignified Life and Decent Work.....14
 - Collecting Voices of Survivors and Right-holders for Advocacy.....14*
 - Interaction Session with Stakeholders14
 - Closed Session Workshop with Female Workers in the Entertainment Sector14
 - Closed Session Interaction with Female Human Trafficking Survivors15
 - Sharing Program on Closed Session Findings15
 - Meeting with the National Network of HT Survivors16
 - Meeting with the National Network of Female Workers of ES16
 - Developing a Case Stories Booklet17

<i>Capacity Building of Human Trafficking Victims/Survivors, Right-holders and Stakeholders</i>	<i>17</i>
Legal Orientation on Children's Rights, Human Trafficking, VAW and Labour Rights.....	17
Leadership Skill Training for Raising Voices	18
Mobilization of Resource Centre.....	18
Publication of Informative Leaflet	18
Publication of Calendar with Advocacy Messages.....	18
Annual Planning and Review Meeting	19
<i>Advocacy for Exploitation-Free Workplaces and Sensitization of Stakeholders</i>	<i>19</i>
Delegation and Lobby Meetings with Related Authorities	19
Advocacy and Consultation for UPR, SDGs and CEDAW.....	20
Meeting with Stakeholders at Darjeeling, India	21
Publication of the Annual Bulletin: Osarpasar	21
Enhancing Coordination	21
Dialogue with Government Agencies	22
Dialogue with Media	23
Dialogue with the Private Sector	24
Advocacy for Allocation of Budget on Government Women and Human Trafficking Issues.....	24
TV Programs.....	24
Mid-Term Review of AATWIN's Strategy Plan	25
Formulation of Position Paper on Various Issues Related to Human Trafficking	26
.....	26
2. Preventing Child Labour Exploitation: Strengthening Capacity and Surveillance on Migration and Trafficking (PCLE: MT) Phase – II.....	27
<i>Output 1: Increased protection of Youth at risks and children rescued from child labour, trafficking and exploitation.</i>	<i>27</i>
Interception at Border Checkpoints.....	27
Reintegration of Rescued Individuals	27
Cross-Border Repatriation of Trafficked Children.....	27
Livelihood Support for Intercepted and Vulnerable Individuals	27
Skills Training for Economic Sustainability	28
<i>Output 2: Increased capacity of anti-trafficking border monitoring mechanisms at key entry/border crossing points through training.</i>	<i>28</i>

Strengthening the Capacity of Security Personnel	28
Collaboration with APF Headquarters for Training	29
Local Committee Meetings on HT and CLE.....	29
Cross-Border Interaction Events on Human Trafficking and Child Labour Exploitation	29
Surveillance Group Meetings and Sensitization Programs	30
Sensitization of Transport Workers	30
Awareness Sessions in Schools	30
<i>Output 3: Enhanced capacity of local governments for prevention and response services to vulnerable children and families.</i>	31
Enhancing Local Government Capacity for Prevention and Response to Vulnerable Children and Families	31
Delegation Visit to the Armed Police Force Headquarters	31
Sensitization of Government and Non-Government Stakeholders	32
Monitoring Visits Conducted During the Project Period.....	32
3. Enhancing Engagement in Policy-Level Interventions through Evidence-Based Advocacy on Human Trafficking.....	34
Orientation Program on the UN Palermo Protocol	34
Interaction Program with Policy makers for the effective implementation of UN Palermo Protocol	34
Delegation to the Anti Human Trafficking Bureau, Nepal Police	35
Meetings with Government Agencies, NHRIs and Experts	35
Delegation to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	36
Review and Publication of Leaflet, Booklet and Palermo Protocol Materials.....	36
AATWIN IN MEDIA	37
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	38
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT	39
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AATWIN	40
AATWIN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (2024)	41

ABBREVIATION

AHTB	Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau
APF	Armed Police Force
AWID	Association for Women's Rights in Development
BBC	Beyond Beijing Committee
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CLE	Child Labour Exploitation
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTIP	Counter Trafficking in Person
CWIN	Child Workers Concern in Nepal
EC	Executive Committee
ED	Executive Director
ES	Entertainment Sector
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteer
GAATW	Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
GESI	Gender and Social Inclusion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GMSP	Gramin Mahila Srijansil Parivar
GSIF	Good Shepherd International Foundation
HT	Human Trafficking
HTTC	Human Trafficking and Transportation Control
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
INSEC	Informal Sector Service Centre
JMMS	Jagriti Mahila Maha Sangha
KMC	Kathmandu Metropolitan City
LCCHT	Local Committee for Controlling Human Trafficking
LGBTIQ	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersexed Queer/Questioning
MANK	Mahila Atma Nirvarta Kendra
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
MOLESS	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security
NACG	National Action and Coordinating Group
NCCHT	National Committee for Controlling Human Trafficking
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NCRC	National Child Rights Council
NWC	National Women Commission
OCMC	One-stop Crisis Management Centre
OVN	Opportunity Village Nepal
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SWC	Social Welfare Council
RCM	Regional Coordination Mechanism
SAIEVAC	South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SP	Superintendent Police
SWASA	Sex workers and Allies South Asia.
TIP	Trafficking in Person
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAW	Violence Against Women
WOFOWON	Women Forum for Women in Nepal
WCCHT	Ward Level Committee for Controlling Human Trafficking

ABOUT AATWIN

Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN), a national-level network of non-governmental organizations, was formally formed on 6 June 1997, to strengthen the campaign against human trafficking and for human rights; focused on women's and children's human rights.

AATWIN has adopted the Human Rights-Based Approach in all its endeavours. It has been focusing, since its establishment, on policy changes to tackle human trafficking at the local, national and international levels. It has undertaken tireless efforts to bring conceptual clarity on issues of human trafficking not only amongst its member organizations but also in wider populations. AATWIN recognizes that human trafficking is a global phenomenon and strongly believes that the national laws, policies, regulations and functional service guidelines including campaigns should reflect the international standards and practices. AATWIN aims to mobilize campaigns by joining hands together with as many possible local, national and international organizations to fight against the issues pertaining to human trafficking.

Vision

To establish a society of justice and equity, free of human trafficking.

Mission

To launch a strong campaign against human trafficking all over the country, organize and empower the organizations working in women's rights, human rights and child rights, coordinating with international networks, advocacy and lobby to reduce the heinous crime like human trafficking.

Goal

To reduce human trafficking through changes in policy and awareness campaigns

Major Objectives

- To influence and support the law- and policy-makers to formulate, amend and implement laws and policies against human trafficking;
- To generate evidence on human trafficking to inform right-holders and stakeholders;
- To strengthen the network and capacities of the civil society organizations working against human trafficking and on human rights, particularly women's and children's rights;
- To develop AATWIN as a national level Resource Centre against human trafficking;
- To build capabilities of AATWIN members and staff on the ever-changing scenarios of human trafficking.

MAJOR PROGRAMS OF AATWIN



ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

AATWIN has been executing awareness and advocacy campaigns targeted at the formulation, effective implementation, improvement and reform of existing laws and policies based on due analyses of human rights issues from human trafficking perspective. Its main activities include lobbying, consultations, interactions, workshops, memorandum, press conferences, press releases, demonstrations, sit-in-protests and rallies.



NETWORK BUILDING

AATWIN, realizing the significance of networks in the fight against human trafficking, has been building networks at local, national and international levels. It is expanding its networks in the districts through its member organizations. Likewise, it has been building linkages with regional and international networks by becoming a member of GAATW, RCM/SDG, SAIEVAC/NACG, AWID



CONCEPTUAL CLARITY INITIATIVES

Conceptual clarity on right based approach, changing trends and dimensions of human trafficking are important for AATWIN member organizations and stakeholders. It carries out a variety of activities such as research, workshops, interactions, orientations, training and trainer's training including publications of different information, education and communication materials on different aspects to create awareness among stakeholders.



INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE OF AATWIN

The Information and Resource Centre was established in 2004 with the objective of systematic collection and dissemination of information relating to human trafficking and human rights at the national and international levels. It has a collection of books, journals, magazines, reports, research findings, bulletins, newspaper compilations, audio/ visuals, posters, booklets, pamphlets, photographs, articles, flyers and others. It also produces 'Osarpasar', a bi-annual publication, on various issues against human trafficking.

MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF AATWIN

AATWIN's Regular Quarterly Meeting

AATWIN conducted four quarterly meetings in the year 2024 at different intervals to review progress, discuss plans and strengthen coordination among stakeholders. The quarterly meetings were held on 11 January at Bakhundole, on 9 May and 29 July at Buddhanagar and on 20 December at Tarkeshwar. Each meeting was presided over by AATWIN Chairperson Ms. Tara Bhandari and moderated by key executive members. These meetings were attended by AATWIN's Executive Committee members, representatives from member organizations and secretariat. The meetings served as a platform to share updates, review institutional progress and discuss strategies for combating human trafficking.



Throughout the sessions, progress reports on AATWIN's programs and financial status were presented and discussed in detail. Ms. Benu Maya Gurung, ED provided insights into upcoming plans, including AATWIN's

30th-anniversary celebration and advocacy efforts towards combating human trafficking. Each meeting also featured presentations from two member-organizations, that included: Kumudini, WOFOWON, Shakti Samuha, Asha Nepal, MANK, GMSP, Chhori and Nari Utthan Kendra. These sessions fostered knowledge-sharing and strengthened collaboration among members.

Additionally, discussions were held on partnerships with KMC wards and engagement in national reporting mechanisms. The meetings facilitated exchange of updates and progress among member organizations, advocacy planning to combat human trafficking, strengthening of partnerships with local government units and engagement of member organizations. Through these meetings, AATWIN reaffirmed its commitment to leading the fight against human trafficking and enhancing the effectiveness of its interventions.



World Social Forum

The World Social Forum 2024 was held in Nepal from February 15 to 19. The forum began in 2001 with the philosophy of "Another World is Possible." AATWIN contributed as a member of the National Organizing Committee and various program and thematic committees. As a member of the forum, a global solidarity grand rally was held as the inaugural event, where AATWIN participated and extended its solidarity. AATWIN also set up an information stall at the event to disseminate awareness materials.

Dimensions and Trends of Human Trafficking: Identification and Response

AATWIN organized panel discussion on 16 February at the World Social Forum 2024 to understand the global context of human trafficking and identify more effective approaches to address its evolving dimensions and forms.



The discussion aimed to shed light on current trends, identification challenges and effective responses to combat this global issue. The panellists included Dr. Meena Poudel, an expert in migration and anti-human trafficking; Ms. Tara Bhandari, Chairperson of AATWIN and Biwas Nepal; and Ms. Charimaya Tamang, a survivor activist and founding member of Shakti Samuha. The event was supported by KIN Nepal and GSIF.

This discussion highlighted the need for conceptual clarity among stakeholders on issues related to human trafficking, migration, smuggling, the entertainment sector and sex work. The discussion also focused on policy recommendations to

strengthen the legal framework, improve enforcement mechanisms and enhance victim assistance services for a more effective response to human trafficking.

The program raised awareness about the evolving nature of human trafficking, its root causes, trends and its impact on at-risk populations. It also provided a platform for experts and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to share perspectives, experiences and best practices to combat human trafficking, fostering collaboration and networking among civil society organizations across different countries. Participants from India, Bangladesh, Canada and other countries attended the event.

Presentation at Parliamentary Committee on Women and Social Affair

On the occasion of World Day against Trafficking in Persons, AATWIN handed over a memorandum on controlling human trafficking to the Women and Social Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives on 31 July at its Secretariat, Singha Durbar. In response to that memorandum, a meeting was called by the Committee, including representatives from AATWIN and officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, including the Acting Secretary and Joint Secretary to discuss on the issue.



AATWIN delivered a presentation on the proposed amendments to the HTTC Act 2007. The presentation was based on an amendment document prepared by AATWIN in consultation with stakeholders, CSOs working against human trafficking and incorporating recommendations from survivors who shared the challenges they have faced. This amendment document has also been submitted to the MoWCSC.

The parliamentary committee meeting, with the participation of AATWIN, focused on addressing the pressing issue of human trafficking in Nepal. The discussions highlighted multiple challenges, including the need for stronger laws, better implementation and comprehensive strategies that tackle economic, societal and legal factors. The meeting concluded with a shared understanding of the complex nature of human trafficking and a commitment to adopting a holistic approach, including law reform, societal change and international cooperation.

18th National Day Against Human Trafficking

In 2006, the Nepalese government declared September 5 (20 Bhadra) as the National Day Against Human Trafficking after ratifying the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution (2002). This year, the day was observed under the theme "Commitment of Three-Tier Governments: Everyone's Solidarity Against Human Trafficking."

AATWIN, along with other organizations working against human trafficking, students and human rights activists, participated in a rally organized by SWASA Nepal. The rally, starting from Bhrikuti Mandap, passed through Putalisadak, Bagbazar and other major areas of Kathmandu, spreading messages of vigilance, awareness and collective action. Participants carried banners and chanted slogans emphasizing the need to eliminate human trafficking and protect at-risk populations.

The rally concluded at Shanti Batika, Ratnapark, where several speakers reiterated the importance of continuous efforts to combat this heinous crime. Speaking on the occasion, AATWIN's ED, Ms. Benu Maya Gurung, emphasized the critical distinction between sex work and human trafficking. She explained that sex work involves consensual exchange of sexual services between adults. She clarified AATWIN's stance in favour of decriminalizing sex work from the outset.



On the same day, AATWIN participated in the main ceremony organized by MoWCSC at Jamal. The event was chaired by Honourable Minister Nawal Kishor Sah Sudi and attended by key government officials, law enforcement agencies, CSOs and media representatives. AATWIN was given the opportunity to give speech and represent all civil society organizations in the event. Chairperson Tara Bhandari emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts between government agencies and civil society organizations.

AATWIN also set up an information stall at the main venue in Jamal, displaying and distributing various publications, including pamphlets, booklets, bulletins and posters to raise awareness. The stall actively engaged participants by providing valuable information on human trafficking and related issues.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against GBV is an annual international campaign observed from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to December 10, International Human Rights Day. The campaign aims to raise awareness about all forms of GBV and advocates for a world where everyone, regardless of gender, can live free from violence and discrimination.



To mark the campaign, the MoWCSC organized a rally in Kathmandu. The rally started from Maitighar, passed through Bhadrakali and Exhibition Road and concluded at Bhrikuti Mandap. AATWIN and other participating organizations actively engaged in the rally and the subsequent ceremony.

Similarly, on 10 December, AATWIN also participated in the rally organized by the NGO Federation of Nepal to commemorate International Human Rights Day. Participants from various governmental and non-governmental organizations carried banners and messages promoting human rights. The rally started from

Bhrikuti Mandap and concluded at Shanti Batika, Ratnapark.

Social Audit

AATWIN conducted its annual social audit on 20 September to review and reflect on the organization's activities, financial transparency and overall impact over the past year. The audit provided an opportunity for key stakeholders—including EC members, staff, advisors, government bodies, member organizations, other institutions and beneficiaries—to engage in an open dialogue about the organization's performance and future direction.

During the social audit, the programmatic and financial reports were presented which provided a comprehensive overview of AATWIN's activities, outreach and financial management for the past fiscal year. Auditor Ramesh Paudel emphasized the importance of social auditing in enhancing institutional transparency and accountability. He explained the methodology used in social audits and presented an in-depth analysis of AATWIN's institutional and organizational status.

The recommendations gathered for future actions highlighted the need for enhanced communication and coordination with stakeholders, along with the establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. By addressing these areas, AATWIN can further strengthen its leadership role in the fight against human trafficking and ensure that its programs remain responsive to the rights and needs of the affected individuals and the communities it serves.



AATWIN's 21st Annual General Meeting

The 21st AGM of AATWIN was conducted on 20 September at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu. The meeting brought together representatives from member organizations, former chairperson, advisors and the executive committee to

review past activities, approve financial statements and discuss future plans for the organization. The session was formally chaired by Ms. Tara Bhandari, Chairperson of AATWIN.

Ms. Hira Dahal, Secretary of AATWIN, presented the programmatic progress report of the past year. The report detailed the activities undertaken by the organization, achievements and challenges. The report was then discussed and approved by the members. Ms. Sony Piya, Treasurer of AATWIN, presented the financial progress report, which outlined the financial transactions, funding sources and expenditures for the fiscal year. The report was

discussed and approved. Participants raised queries and discussed various aspects of the programmatic and financial reports before giving their final approval.



Ms. Benu Maya Gurung presented the proposed annual plan and budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Following a discussion, the plan was approved by the members. Mr. Pramod Acharya, EC Member, facilitated the discussion on appointing an auditor for

the fiscal year 2080/81. The members approved the appointment of the auditor.

During this AGM, the following organizations were approved as new members of AATWIN:

- Nari Bikash Sangh, Morang
- Rural Oriented Youth Movement (ROYM) Nepal, Kathmandu
- Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN), Nawalparasi

The following organizations had their memberships terminated:

- Nari Utthan Kendra, Kanchanpur
- Centre for Victims of Torture Nepal (CVICT), Kathmandu

Ms. Tara Bhandari delivered the closing remarks, expressing gratitude to all participants for their active involvement in the AGM. The 21st AGM provided a platform for members to reflect on the achievements of the past year and strategize for the future. The discussions and approvals made during the meeting will guide AATWIN's activities and efforts in combating human trafficking and ensuring the rights of women and children in Nepal. The AGM concluded successfully with a commitment to continued collaboration and enhanced advocacy efforts in the coming year.

Beijing+30 Review Workshop and Women's Conference

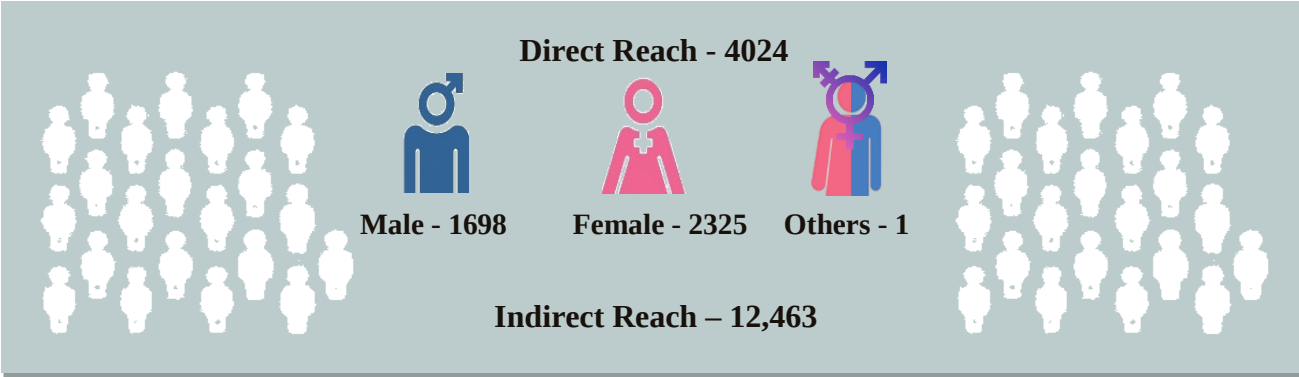
On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, a review workshop and women's conference were organized. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which addresses 12 critical areas of concern, has been a milestone achievement in the global women's movement.

As part of Nepal's commitment to the Beijing+30 review process, periodic national reports must be submitted every five years to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. These reports assess progress, identify challenges and highlight gaps in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration. To align with the global Beijing+30 review process, BBC Nepal (a national network of women-led NGOs) organized a parallel session and a national women's conference. The conference aimed to validate the outcomes of regional reviews and expert documents while issuing the 'Kathmandu Declaration.' The conference also reviewed the programs conducted over the past five years to prepare a parallel civil society report



AATWIN was a member of the steering committee for this review and actively participated as a note-taker in the parallel sessions. This role involved documenting key discussions, observations and recommendations shared during the sessions, ensuring that important insights were accurately recorded for further analysis and follow-up. Through its involvement, AATWIN contributed to shaping the review process and facilitating meaningful dialogue among stakeholders.

AATWIN's Reach in 2024



ONGOING PROJECTS

Project: Amplifying Voices for Dignified Life and Decent Work **Partner: Women Fund Asia**

Amplifying Voices for Dignified Life and Decent Work is a three-year project supported by Women Fund Asia to amplify the voices of victims/survivors of human trafficking and female workers (right-holders) of entertainment sector and strengthen their capacity to advocate for decent work and dignified life.

The objectives of the project are:

- To integrate and empower the voices and issues of the victims/survivors of human trafficking and right-holders of entertainment sector for the advocacy,
- To enhance the capacity of victims/survivors of human trafficking, right-holders of the entertainment sector, AATWIN member organizations and
- To advocate for human trafficking victim/survivors and entertainment sectors' right-holders friendly mechanism and laws

Project: Preventing Child Labour Exploitation: Strengthening Capacity and Surveillance on Migration and Trafficking **Partner: UNICEF**

AATWIN is under implementation of project Preventing Child Labour Exploitation: Strengthening Capacity and Surveillance on Migration and Trafficking (PCLE: MT) in support of UNICEF since 15 Sep 2022. The project activities are implemented in local levels of Madhesh, Lumbini and Sudurpaschim provinces in partnership of, AATWIN members and implementing partners, Protection Nepal, Shakti Samuha and KIN (Aafanta) Nepal respectively. Activities have been conducted and outcome have been achieved in capacitating local level representatives and officials, establishing coordination mechanisms in local levels and community, improving coordination among counterparts and stakeholders of India and Nepal, strengthening capacities of different CSO members and community members etc.

Implementing partners and sites- 3 provinces (10 districts): 12 local levels

Madhesh province -	Protection Nepal (Malangwaa, Gaur, Kalaiya and Birgunj)
Lumbini province -	Shakti Samuha (Siddarthanagar, Krishnanagar, Palhinandan and Nepalgunj)
Sudurpaschim province -	Aafanta Nepal (Dhangadi, Krishnapur and Bhimdutta)

Output 1: Protections services to youth at risks of, rescued from child labour, trafficking and exploitation including livelihood support will be given to 11 local Govts. of 3 provinces.

Output 2: Capacity building and Support anti-trafficking border monitoring mechanisms at key entry/ border crossing points in Nepal 11 local Govts. of 3 provinces

Output 3: Advocacy and engagement with local governments for prevention and response services to vulnerable children and families.

Project: Enhancing Engagement in Policy-Level Interventions through Evidence-Based Advocacy on Human Trafficking
Partner: GSIF and OVN

The project "Enhancing Engagement in Policy-Level Interventions through Evidence-Based Advocacy on Human Trafficking", implemented by AATWIN with support from Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) and Good Shepherd International Foundation (GSIF), aims to strengthen Nepal's response to human trafficking through awareness, sensitization and policy advocacy. Following Nepal's ratification of the UN Palermo Protocol in 2020, the project focuses on its domestication and effective implementation by engaging key stakeholders, including government agencies, legal professionals, law enforcement and civil society organizations. Activities include stakeholder orientations, consultations with experts and publication of IEC materials to raise awareness and enhance multi-sectoral coordination in combating trafficking.

The project seeks to address gaps in law enforcement, policy alignment and inter-agency coordination by advocating for necessary legal reforms and ensuring compliance with international standards. By facilitating policy dialogues, mobilizing experts and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, AATWIN aims to bridge the gap between policy commitments and practical implementation. Ultimately, the project contributes to a more effective, survivor-centered approach to combating human trafficking in Nepal, ensuring stronger protection, prevention and prosecution mechanisms.

Project Objective:

To develop and submit recommendations for amendments to the Human Trafficking and Transportation Control (HTTC) Act that align with the provisions of the Palermo Protocol and address issues arising from decentralization, with the objective of securing approval and adoption by the relevant Ministry.

OUR PARTNERS

- Women's Fund Asia
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) / Good Shepherd International Foundation

Major Activities of Project

1. Amplifying Voices for Dignified Life and Decent Work

The strategies taken by AATWIN to achieve the objective of the project are: i) Collecting voices of survivors and right holders for advocacy, ii) Capacity building of human trafficking victims/survivors, right-holders and stakeholders and iii) Advocacy for exploitation free work place and sensitization of stakeholders

Collecting Voices of Survivors and Right-holders for Advocacy

Interaction Session with Stakeholders

To mark the 18th National Day Against Human Trafficking, AATWIN, in collaboration with Shakti Samuha and Change Action Nepal (CAN), organized an interaction program on September 1 at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu. The event brought together representatives, members of LCCHT and WCCHT from almost all 32 wards of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, along with officials from Lalitpur, Godavari, Kirtipur and Mahalaxmi municipalities, under the theme "*Commitment of All Three Levels of Government: United Against Human Trafficking.*"



Advocate Kapil Aryal from Kathmandu School of Law served as the resource person, highlighting the role LCCHT in prevention and response. Discussions identified challenges such as lack of awareness, weak law enforcement and poor coordination among government levels. Participants emphasized monitoring, rehabilitation services and stronger legal frameworks as key areas for improvement. Through candid discussions, various challenges were raised, such as the lack of awareness, the need for better implementation of existing laws and the gap in coordination between local, provincial and federal levels.

Despite these challenges, the session reinforced a shared commitment among local governments, CSOs and community leaders to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts. The program underscored the need for continued collaboration, legal clarity and strategic action to ensure effective survivor protection and support.

Closed Session Workshop with Female Workers in the Entertainment Sector

A closed-session workshop from June 3-5 was organized in Godavari, Lalitpur, to understand the challenges faced by female workers in the entertainment sector and explore ways to empower them. The workshop aimed to identify key issues for advocacy at the provincial and national levels.

Since 2011, AATWIN has conducted such sessions to gather first-hand insights on commercial sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and trafficking, using these discussions to drive evidence-based advocacy. This session included workers from *dohori* restaurants, dance bars, spas, cabin restaurants, *khaja ghars* and cafés, many of whom were beneficiaries of AATWIN's member organizations, including Biswas Nepal, WOFOWON, Chhori, OVN, Shakti Samuha and Raksha Nepal. Social activist and theatre artist Loonibha Tuladhar facilitated the workshop.

Over two days, interactive activities fostered self-awareness, trust and solidarity among participants working in difficult conditions. Key issues raised included exploitation, societal stigma, inadequate legal protections and workplace safety concerns. Participants proposed solutions such as stronger legal frameworks, better organization among workers and greater employer and societal support.



The workshop reinforced the importance of self-care, community support and collective action. It concluded with a renewed commitment to ongoing advocacy and collaboration to ensure dignity and security for entertainment sector workers.

Closed Session Interaction with Female Human Trafficking Survivors

A two-day the closed session interaction with the female survivors of human trafficking was organized on 5-7 June to understand the challenges faced by female survivors of human trafficking, explore solutions for their empowerment and identify key advocacy issues.

Participants included survivors, primarily from Shakti Samuha, as well as members of Shakti Milan Samaj, Kumudini, Sunita Foundation, Change Action Nepal and OVN. Through participatory discussions and reflective exercises, survivors shared their experiences, identified challenges and strategized on solutions. Key issues discussed included the root causes of trafficking, difficulties in rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as legal and social barriers. The workshop emphasized the need for legal support, psychosocial counselling, vocational training and economic empowerment to reduce stigma and support reintegration.



A self-care session reinforced the importance of well-being in personal and collective growth. The workshop fostered solidarity among survivors, equipping them with tools to advocate for their rights and contribute to anti-trafficking efforts. The active involvement and resilience of the participants were commendable and their collective insights and experiences will inform future advocacy and support efforts by AATWIN and its member organizations.

Sharing Program on Closed Session Findings

Recognizing the importance of presenting and effectively addressing the key issues raised in the recent closed session workshops, a discussion program titled "*Sharing of Close sessions findings with human trafficking survivors and women workers of Entertainment Sector*" was organized on 9 July at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu. This program aimed to inform stakeholders about the identified issues and challenges and their roles in addressing them.

Ms. Loonibha Tuladhar, facilitator of the both workshops in support of Ms. Karuna Maharjan, Program Officer of AATWIN presented the findings and insights gathered from two closed sessions with female workers of entertainment sector and survivors of human trafficking. The presentation covered key issues, challenges and potential solutions. The discussion highlighted the persistent challenges faced by workers in the entertainment sector and survivors of human trafficking, emphasizing the need for stronger labour law enforcement, improved coordination among government agencies and civil society and comprehensive support services.

The program underscored the importance of sustained advocacy for legislative and policy changes, collaboration with trade unions, NGOs and government bodies and rigorous monitoring of labour rights. Strengthening engagement with local governments was highlighted as crucial for effective policy implementation and immediate grassroots support. Participants also stressed the need for sustainable, long-term strategies beyond project-based approaches to ensure continued support for workers and survivors.



Meeting with the National Network of HT Survivors

AATWIN organized meetings with the National and Provincial Network of Human Trafficking Survivors on April 19 in Kathmandu and June 13 in Birtamode, Jhapa, Koshi Province respectively. The primary objective of these meetings was to identify the key issues, problems and challenges faced by human trafficking survivors at both national and provincial levels. The discussions aimed to collect agendas for future advocacy efforts and determine areas where AATWIN can provide support in strengthening the survivors' network.



During the meetings, several pressing issues were highlighted, including legal and bureaucratic challenges, livelihood and economic empowerment, health concerns, social stigma and discrimination, access to services, psychological trauma and the need for support, advocacy and representation, various forms of violence from family and the community, lack of education and skills and the challenges faced by returnee migrant women. These discussions emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive support systems that address these concerns

through improved access to accurate information, effective rehabilitation services, legal protections and addressing the root causes of migration and trafficking.

Survivors expressed the significance of sharing their experiences, underscoring the need for platforms where they can voice their challenges and advocate for their rights, fostering a sense of agency and empowerment. Many also noted a lack of information about safe migration and available support services, stressing the necessity for comprehensive educational programs that inform individuals about their rights and options. The resilience displayed by survivors in overcoming obstacles was a key takeaway, reinforcing the importance of harnessing and supporting this strength through appropriate resources and opportunities.

Meeting with the National Network of Female Workers of ES

On 19 April in Kathmandu and 11 June in Itahari, Sunsari, Koshi Province, AATWIN facilitated meetings with the National and Provincial Network of female workers in the entertainment sector. The primary aim was to understand the challenges faced by female workers at both national and provincial levels, identify key agendas for advocacy to improve their working conditions and review and update the network's activities.

Key issues raised during the discussions included the need for a clear definition of the entertainment sector, the demand for respect and dignity in all types of work within the sector, monitoring practices, the importance of strengthening self-led organizations and networks, the current situation of the entertainment sector in Kathmandu and Koshi Province, workplace professionalism and concerns related to trafficking and irregular migration.

The meeting resulted in several significant outcomes. The discussions helped identify and prioritize critical issues such as labour rights, safety and social stigma, forming the basis for targeted advocacy efforts. Actionable recommendations were developed to improve monitoring mechanisms, legal protections and support systems for workers. Furthermore, the meeting laid the foundation for developing advocacy agendas to be presented to local and national policymakers to push for changes in labour laws and protections.



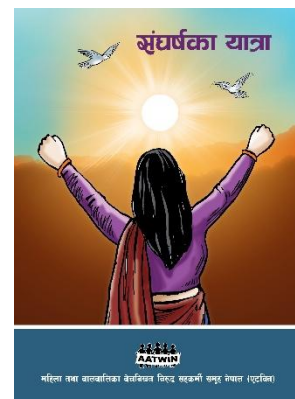
Another key achievement was the strengthening of network members' capacities through knowledge-sharing on governance, structure and the role of networks in achieving collective goals. The meeting also provided a platform for participants to network, share experiences and explore potential collaborations, fostering a stronger sense of solidarity among workers. The issues identified during the meeting will be presented in various forums involving

government agencies, trade unions, media and the private sector to advocate for improved conditions for female workers in the entertainment sector.

Developing a Case Stories Booklet

As part of its advocacy efforts, AATWIN developed a booklet containing case stories of human trafficking survivors and female workers in the entertainment sector. These total of 15 case stories provide valuable insights into their lived experiences, highlighting the underlying causes of trafficking and exploitation, the challenges they face and the resilience they display in overcoming adversity. The booklet serves as a powerful tool in advocating for the rights of human trafficking survivors and female workers in the entertainment sector by raising awareness, humanizing the issue and influencing policy and legislation.

By sharing real-life narratives, the booklet helps illustrate the impact of trafficking and exploitation on individuals while emphasizing the need for victim-centred approaches in policy and support mechanisms. These stories offer tangible evidence of the problem, inspire action towards prevention, protection and rehabilitation and serve as a call to policymakers, stakeholders and the general public to work towards a safer and more just society for survivors.



Capacity Building of Human Trafficking Victims/Survivors, Right-holders and Stakeholders

Legal Orientation on Children's Rights, Human Trafficking, VAW and Labour Rights

A legal orientation program titled “*New Legal Provisions Related to Human Trafficking: Provisions and Implementation*” was organized on 9 July at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu. The primary objective of the program was to bridge the knowledge gap and enhance the legal capacity of professionals working in this field. By providing a detailed understanding of recent amendments and provisions, particularly focusing on Acts and Regulations related to human trafficking and children's rights, the session aimed to empower stakeholders to effectively combat trafficking and protect victims' rights.



The resource persons for the program included advocates Mr. Kapil Aryal, Associate Professor at Kathmandu School of Law and Mr. Sagar Bhandari, Program Manager of the Child Helpline operated by CWIN. Mr. Aryal provided insights into key legal frameworks, covering amendments to the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2072 and Regulation, 2077, relevant provisions in the Criminal Code, laws related to money laundering and their connection to human trafficking (2080)

and the Crime Victim Protection Act, 2075. Mr. Bhandari focused on child protection laws, including the Children Act, 2075 and Regulation, 2078, as well as the National Children Policy, 2080.

The program underscored the importance of understanding and upholding victims' rights within the justice system. Participants gained valuable insights into constitutional provisions, legal frameworks and practical measures necessary to create a supportive environment for victims, particularly children. The discussion reinforced the need for ongoing collaboration among legal professionals, social services and community organizations to ensure a coordinated response for victim support. Additionally, the program emphasized the necessity of continuous training to enhance sensitivity and improve the handling of cases involving victims of trafficking and violence.

Leadership Skill Training for Raising Voices

From 6 to 8 August, AATWIN conducted a *Leadership Skill Development Training* in Tarkeshwor, Kathmandu, aimed at empowering female workers in the entertainment sector and survivors of human trafficking. The training focused on enhancing leadership skills, advocacy and communication abilities to strengthen the voices of participants in their communities. Spanning two and a half days, the program featured interactive sessions, group activities and personal reflections designed to foster personal growth and collective empowerment.

The training successfully equipped participants with essential leadership skills, boosting their self-confidence and fostering a sense of solidarity among female workers and trafficking survivors. Through sessions on effective communication and public speaking, participants enhanced their ability to advocate for their rights and lead within their communities. The program also encouraged personal growth by helping participants overcome shyness, build courage and strengthen their belief in their leadership potential.



By the end of the training, participants felt more empowered to take on leadership roles, reinforcing a sense of collective responsibility and trust within the group. The sessions promoted collaboration, self-awareness and the identification of actionable goals for future leadership roles. AATWIN reaffirmed its commitment to empowering female workers in the entertainment sector and survivors of human trafficking by providing continuous leadership development opportunities.

Mobilization of Resource Centre



Since its establishment in 2004, AATWIN's Information and Resource Centre has played a crucial role in systematically collecting and disseminating information related to human trafficking and human rights at both national and international levels. The centre also contributes to capacity building by providing access to key resources for stakeholders.

During this reporting period, the Resource Centre collected 430 IEC materials, disseminated 12,463 IEC materials and recorded 76 visitors. These efforts have strengthened knowledge-sharing and awareness-building among stakeholders, reinforcing the Centre's role as an essential hub for information and advocacy in the fight against human trafficking.

Publication of Informative Leaflet

AATWIN published an informational leaflet aimed at raising awareness about human trafficking and promoting safe migration. The leaflet provides a comprehensive overview of human trafficking, detailing its types, objectives and impact. It also offers guidelines on maintaining safe migration practices, including steps to follow for regular foreign employment procedures and key considerations for ensuring personal safety. Additionally, the leaflet includes practical advice on handling problematic situations, along with contact information for seeking assistance. To further support individuals at risk, the publication highlights major stakeholders working against human trafficking and lists essential helpline numbers operated by government and non-governmental agencies. This resource serves as a valuable tool for the general public, equipping them with critical knowledge for prevention and protection.



Publication of Calendar with Advocacy Messages

As part of its ongoing advocacy efforts, AATWIN annually produces calendars featuring messages against human trafficking and gender-based violence. These calendars emphasize the protection and promotion of human rights,

particularly for marginalized groups, including trafficking survivors and workers in the entertainment sector. Distributed to government agencies, ministries, member organizations and other stakeholders, the calendars serve as a visible and constant reminder of the importance of combatting trafficking and safeguarding human rights. By being prominently displayed on desks and office walls, they help to spread awareness, encourage dialogue and inspire collective action against human trafficking and exploitation.

Annual Planning and Review Meeting

The Annual Review and Planning Meeting for the *"Amplifying Voices for Dignified Life and Decent Work"* project, supported by Women's Fund Asia, was held on April 26-27 at Sukute, Sindhupalchowk. The meeting brought together the executive committee and all staff of AATWIN.



The primary objective of the meeting was to review the activities, accomplishments and progress made in the previous year. Additionally, discussions focused on identifying challenges faced, lessons learned and areas for improvement. Participants also engaged in planning for the upcoming year, formulating strategies to enhance coordination with member organizations, especially those working directly with survivors and right-holders, to ensure the effective implementation of the WFA project. In addition to the Amplifying Voices project, the meeting also reviewed another project supported by UNICEF, PCLE: MT. The program

coordinator provided an overview of the second phase of this project, which began in September 2023, sharing insights into its activities, achievements, learnings and challenges.

Following the project-specific review and planning sessions, the organization-wide review and planning were conducted. A dedicated session on **"Organization Dream Building"** encouraged participants to envision AATWIN's future growth and strategic direction. The final session of the meeting focused on organizational policies, including a reorientation on Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy and Safeguarding Policy. This sharing and reinforcement of policies aim to foster a more inclusive, safe and respectful organizational culture.



Advocacy for Exploitation-Free Workplaces and Sensitization of Stakeholders

Delegation and Lobby Meetings with Related Authorities

On 31 July, in commemoration of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, AATWIN submitted a memorandum to Honorable Nawal Kishor Sah Sudi, Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizens at the Ministry, Singha Durbar. The memorandum emphasized the ongoing challenges in combating human trafficking, particularly the trafficking of women and children for sexual and labour exploitation. AATWIN called for amendments to existing laws, the formulation of new policies and increased resource allocation to effectively address these issues.



On the same day, AATWIN also engaged in advocacy meetings with various parliamentary bodies. A memorandum was submitted to Honourable Kiran Kumar Shah, Chairperson of the Women and Social Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, highlighting key human trafficking concerns. Chairperson Kiran expressed his commitment to addressing these issues with urgency.

Additionally, the AATWIN delegation met with Honourable Sonam Geljen Sherpa, Chairperson of the Federalism Enablement and National Concerns Committee in the National Assembly and Honourable Rishikesh Pokharel, Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee in the House of Representatives. These discussions reinforced the importance of addressing human trafficking through policy interventions and inter-agency coordination.



These engagements resulted in a strong commitment from parliamentary leaders to prioritize human trafficking concerns. The meetings established a collaborative framework and strengthened dialogue between AATWIN and government bodies, paving the way for future initiatives aimed at effectively combating human trafficking.

Advocacy and Consultation for UPR, SDGs and CEDAW

A consultation workshop was organized on 28 October at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu, to consolidate critical issues and recommendations related to human trafficking in preparation for Nepal's upcoming CEDAW (February 2025) and UPR (January 2026) reviews. The workshop included representatives from civil society organizations, legal experts and media personnel, fostering a comprehensive discussion on anti-trafficking efforts.



Key objectives included analysing human trafficking issues within the context of CEDAW and UPR, identifying gaps in Nepal's anti-trafficking framework and formulating actionable recommendations for international advocacy. Participants discussed legal inadequacies, particularly in informal sectors and the entertainment industry, which are highly vulnerable to exploitation. The workshop also underscored the importance of international human rights frameworks in strengthening Nepal's anti-trafficking response.

The event concluded with practical recommendations to guide AATWIN's advocacy efforts. It reinforced the necessity of legal reforms, enhanced victim support mechanisms and cross-sectoral collaboration to address human trafficking comprehensively. The discussions highlighted the need for continuous capacity-building among law enforcement, legal professionals and civil society organizations to ensure more effective interventions.

AATWIN's Engagement in the 68th Session of the CSW68

The 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA, from 11-22 March, 2024. As one of the largest global gatherings dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, the session focused on the priority theme: "Accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective."



Representing AATWIN, a delegation comprising Chairperson Ms. Tara Bhandari, Immediate Past Chairperson Ms. Sita Poudyal and ED Ms. Benu Maya Gurung attended the session from 11-15 March, 2024. The team actively engaged in official plenary discussions, high-level ministerial dialogues, expert panels and various parallel sessions addressing issues of human trafficking, GBV, labour rights and economic justice for women and marginalized communities.

A significant highlight of AATWIN's participation was an interactive discussion hosted by the Consulate General of Nepal in New York, where Nepali delegates were invited to exchange views on emerging trends in human trafficking, labour exploitation and the role of international cooperation in tackling these challenges. The

engagement provided a platform to connect with diplomats, policymakers and fellow civil society representatives, further amplifying Nepal's position in global anti-trafficking advocacy.

AATWIN's presence at CSW68 reinforced its commitment to promoting gender justice, strengthening anti-trafficking measures and ensuring that survivors' voices remain central in policy dialogues. The insights gained from this global forum will inform AATWIN's ongoing efforts to push for systemic reforms, policy coherence and sustained financial commitments to combat human trafficking and empower vulnerable women and girls in Nepal and beyond.

Meeting with Stakeholders at Darjeeling, India

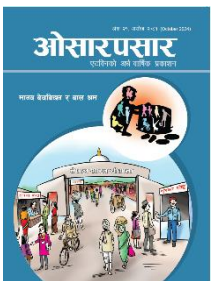
AATWIN team visited Darjeeling and Siliguri in West Bengal, India, 14-15 from June to discuss cross-border human trafficking with cross-border stakeholders. The meeting with Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG), an NGO based in Darjeeling highlighted their extensive anti-trafficking efforts, public awareness campaigns and collaborations, despite funding challenges. A subsequent meeting in Siliguri with the Anti-Trafficking Network addressed the need for better coordination and communication between Indian and Nepali NGOs, especially in repatriation and legal processes. In an interaction with representative from Pratham, an org based in Mumbai at Siliguri, the gaps in child labour mechanisms and repatriation practices were discussed, emphasizing the need for formal guidelines and improved follow-up mechanisms.

The meetings held with stakeholders in Darjeeling and Siliguri emphasized the critical need for improved coordination, communication and formal guidelines between Indian and Nepali NGOs to combat cross-border human trafficking effectively. Despite notable works done by NGOs in both sides of the borders, significant challenges remain, including funding issues, legal and bureaucratic barriers and gaps in repatriation and follow-up processes. The discussions highlighted the importance of structured support systems, comprehensive awareness programs and survivor-centred approaches to enhance the safety, recovery and reintegration of trafficking survivors. The meetings concluded with recommendations for developing formal SOPs for repatriation, strengthening legal frameworks, fostering cross-border collaboration and addressing the evolving tactics of traffickers through innovative prevention methods.



Publication of the Annual Bulletin: Osarpasar

AATWIN has been publishing its bulletin, *Osarpasar*, since 2000, enhancing its visibility and influence among stakeholders. The bulletin serves as a key advocacy tool, providing insights into human trafficking trends, policy gaps and recommendations.



In the past year, AATWIN published two editions—Issue 21 and Issue 22—focusing on child labor and child trafficking, as well as the role of technology in human trafficking. A total of 1,000 copies of each issue were distributed to government and non-government organizations, trafficking survivors and entertainment sector workers. The bulletins were also shared during AATWIN programs and training sessions, serving as critical resources for awareness and advocacy.

Enhancing Coordination

Since its inception, AATWIN has conducted various conceptual clarity programs on human trafficking. These initiatives play a crucial role in equipping government officials and stakeholders with a deeper understanding of the evolving nature of human trafficking. One pressing issue that emerged in recent discussions is the intersection of human trafficking and sex work, necessitating stakeholder coordination and clarity from a human rights perspective. In this context, AATWIN organized a *coordination meeting* on 9 May at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu, to discuss human trafficking and sex work. The sex workers' right group, SWASA did a presentation during the program highlighting the human rights of sex workers.

The discussions identified five major challenges faced by sex workers:

- **Violence Exposure:** Lack of legal protection exposes sex workers to violence and abuse.
- **Stigma and Discrimination:** Systemic discrimination limits their access to fundamental rights, including healthcare and labor protections.
- **Criminalization of Sex Work:** Despite de facto decriminalization, sex workers face legal and systemic barriers to justice.
- **Exploitation and Human Trafficking:** The misconception that all sex work equates to trafficking complicates legal and policy responses.
- **Barriers to Government Services:** Discrimination restricts access to essential services, further marginalizing sex workers.



The discussion underscored the urgent need for legal reforms, social acceptance and strengthened human rights protections for sex workers. Participants emphasized that clear legal frameworks and better coordination between the state, civil society and advocacy groups are necessary to create a safe and just environment.

Additionally, on 13 November, AATWIN and the AHTB of Nepal Police jointly organized a coordination meeting titled *Enhancing Access to Justice for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking*. The meeting gathered representatives from the judiciary, prosecutors, law enforcement, CSOs and government stakeholders to discuss barriers to justice and develop solutions for survivor protection and legal support.

Key issues addressed included:

- Challenges in filing complaints related to human trafficking.
- Difficulties in addressing both internal and cross-border trafficking cases.
- The importance of multi-stakeholder coordination to ensure justice for victims.
- The meeting concluded with a commitment from participants to expedite amendments to the Human Trafficking Act, finalize the National Policy against Human Trafficking and allocate better resources for victim support mechanisms.



The discussions reinforced the necessity of inter-agency collaboration to streamline legal and rehabilitation services for survivors.

The AHTB reaffirmed its dedication to continuing dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders. The event ended on a determined note, with all participants pledging to work collectively towards strengthening Nepal's anti-trafficking response and ensuring justice for victims.

Dialogue with Government Agencies

A dialogue program titled *"Role of Government Agencies in Reducing Human Trafficking"* was held on 26 November in Kathmandu as part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign. The event aimed to foster constructive dialogue among government agencies, civil society, human trafficking survivors and female workers from the entertainment sector. Policymakers, entertainment sector workers, survivors and representatives from anti-trafficking organizations participated in the event.



This dialogue provided a vital platform for stakeholders to engage in discussions on the urgent issue of human trafficking, particularly the challenges faced by workers in vulnerable sectors such as the entertainment industry. The conversation revealed gaps in existing policies, highlighted the need for stronger coordination and emphasized the importance of implementing survivor-centred strategies.

Key takeaways from the program included:

- Strengthening collaboration between government agencies and civil society organizations to combat trafficking effectively.
- Enhancing local awareness programs to prevent irregular migration and trafficking.
- Actively involving local governments in creating employment opportunities and regulating high-risk sectors.
- Establishing robust data collection and monitoring mechanisms to inform policy decisions.
- The participants committed to taking action in areas of prevention, prosecution and survivor protection. The event concluded with a shared commitment to address human trafficking with renewed urgency and collaborative efforts.

Dialogue with Media

AATWIN organized an interaction program on 12 September at Sinamangal, Kathmandu, discussing the media's role in combating human trafficking and presenting a media monitoring analysis. AATWIN has been compiling news related to human trafficking since 1996, providing insights into societal issues and trafficking trends. To make these insights more accessible, AATWIN has been conducting annual media monitoring analyses for the past decade. These analyses, though not exhaustive, offer valuable reflections on trafficking trends and vulnerable sectors.

For the years 2079 and 2080 BS, reports were presented by Mr. Bijay Paudel and Ms. Rupa Sharma (Neha), respectively. These reports provide crucial insights for stakeholders, including organizations and government bodies, to better understand trafficking issues and guide interventions. The analysis aims to document and examine human trafficking's various dimensions as reflected in media coverage. It provides quantitative and qualitative insights into trafficking prevalence, its societal impact and adherence to journalistic ethics.

Key takeaways included:

- *The Role and Impact of Media:* The importance of media in raising awareness and shaping public policy on human trafficking was emphasized.
- *Challenges Identified:* Issues such as gaps in media coverage, the need for investigative journalism and ethical reporting were discussed.
- *Recommendations for Improvement:* Suggestions included increasing media sensitivity toward trafficking victims, improving collaboration with anti-trafficking organizations and adhering to ethical standards.
- *Future Actions:* A call for enhanced collaboration between media professionals and anti-trafficking organizations, alongside continuous research to address emerging trafficking trends.

The program concluded with a comprehensive discussion on the media's role in combating human trafficking and the need for ongoing collaboration and research.



Dialogue with the Private Sector

An interaction program titled "*Dialogue with the Private Sector*" was organized on 23 August in Kathmandu to discuss how the private sector can play a role in reducing human trafficking and regulating the entertainment sector. The program aimed to raise awareness among entertainment sector business owners about issues such as human trafficking, exploitation and harassment and to discuss ways to make the sector a safe and regulated workplace.



The private sector has a significant role to play in preventing trafficking. Businesses have a corporate responsibility to respect human rights, which is a global standard. This dialogue aimed to improve coordination with the private sector and identify ways to collaborate in making the entertainment sector a decent and regulated work environment.

Key issues discussed included lack of comprehensive monitoring and education; safe work environments and sector-specific regulations; coordination between government, civil society and the private sector. Recommendations included the implementation of enhanced monitoring, regulatory measures and public awareness campaigns. Continued dialogue and

collaboration among all stakeholders are crucial to ensure sustained progress in reducing human trafficking. The program concluded with a commitment from participants to work towards a safer, more regulated entertainment sector.

Advocacy for Allocation of Budget on Government Women and Human Trafficking Issues

AATWIN has been actively analysing the government's policies, programs and budgets related to women's issues and human trafficking, addressing concerns about the adequacy of Nepal's anti-trafficking frameworks. As part of this advocacy, AATWIN presented findings from its analysis of the federal and provincial governments' policies, programs and budgets for the last fiscal year. The findings were shared at an interaction program held on 31 December at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu.

The program aimed to critically assess Nepal's anti-trafficking efforts at both federal and provincial levels, focusing on the effectiveness of policy implementation. Despite legislative progress, challenges remain, including inadequate budget allocation, weak inter-agency coordination and gaps in survivor-centred approaches.

Key insights included:

- The need for stronger budget allocations and better coordination between government bodies
- The importance of aligning policies with international standards, such as the Palermo Protocol
- Ensuring survivor-centred approaches in the implementation of anti-trafficking programs
- The interaction program provided a platform for stakeholders to offer recommendations for strengthening Nepal's anti-trafficking efforts, emphasizing the need for improved collaboration and resource allocation.



TV Programs

In its ongoing commitment to combat human trafficking and promote the rights of trafficking survivors, AATWIN produced and broadcast three impactful television episodes this year. These episodes were aired under the title *Agenda Plus* on *Kantipur Television*, one of Nepal's leading national broadcasters. To further enhance outreach and accessibility, all episodes were also disseminated through YouTube. The primary objective of this television initiative was to advocate for stronger national responses to human trafficking by raising public awareness and facilitating informed discussions on some of the most pressing and complex issues in the field. The content focused

on the intersection of human trafficking, labour migration and irregular migration, particularly the increasing trend of labour migration through visit visas — a route often exploited by traffickers. A strong emphasis was placed on the urgent need for timely rescue and safe repatriation of trafficking survivors, while upholding and protecting their fundamental human rights throughout the process.



Each episode of the *Agenda Plus* series featured 2–3 expert panellists, including government officials, legal and subject experts, human rights activists and representatives from CSOs. These panellists provided in-depth insights on specific themes, helping to foster rich, evidence-based discussions and promote collaboration among key stakeholders, including policymakers, enforcement agencies, international partners and grassroots organizations.

The thematic focus of the three episodes was as follows:

1. **Domestication of the Palermo Protocol:** This episode explored Nepal's progress in integrating the provisions of the Palermo Protocol, into national legislation and policies. Discussions highlighted legal reforms undertaken to date, persisting implementation gaps and institutional challenges. Experts provided strategic recommendations for advancing policy coherence and strengthening institutional mechanisms to ensure compliance with international anti-trafficking standards.
2. **Trafficking through Foreign Employment and Visit Visas:** This episode focused on the growing vulnerability of Nepali migrant workers who travel abroad under visit visas — a route increasingly exploited by traffickers to circumvent legal migration channels. The program examined the complex dynamics of this issue, including deceptive recruitment practices, inadequate oversight of recruitment agencies and weak enforcement of existing regulations. Experts proposed concrete policy and regulatory reforms aimed at enhancing safe migration, improving inter-agency coordination and expanding public awareness on the risks of irregular migration.



3. **Rescue and Repatriation of Trafficking Survivors:** The final episode in the series addressed the multifaceted challenges involved in the rescue, repatriation and reintegration of survivors of human trafficking. Discussions included legal and diplomatic hurdles, lack of resources and coordination gaps among stakeholders, as well as the critical importance of adopting a survivor-centred and rights-based approach. The episode also underscored the need for regional and international cooperation to ensure timely interventions and long-term support systems for survivors.



term support systems for survivors.

Mid-Term Review of AATWIN's Strategy Plan

A one-day workshop was organized to conduct a mid-term review of its three-year strategic plan (2023–2025) of AATWIN. The workshop aimed to assess the progress, challenges and gaps in the implementation of the strategy and to gather input for refining the plan to ensure its alignment with AATWIN's goals and objectives. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for AATWIN to assess the progress made toward achieving the objectives outlined in its 2023–2025 strategy plan. The workshop brought together member organizations to critically examine the activities conducted, identify challenges faced and highlight gaps in implementation.



Overall, the review highlighted the significant achievements made in areas such as workshops, publications and meetings, while also identifying several areas requiring attention and improvement. The discussions led to the recognition of the need for more precise, measurable indicators, a more comprehensive review process and better integration of activities to avoid redundancy. Insights from the workshop will guide AATWIN's next steps,

ensuring its efforts remain focused, responsive and impactful. The discussions and recommendations will enhance planning and execution, strengthening the final phase of the strategic plan.

Formulation of Position Paper on Various Issues Related to Human Trafficking

AATWIN organized workshop and meetings to develop a position paper on interrelated issues of human trafficking, including the entertainment sector, migration, human smuggling and sex work. This initiative aimed to clarify AATWIN's stance for consistent advocacy and representation at national and international forums. The development process included consultations with subject experts, stakeholders and rights holders to ensure inclusivity and relevance.

Despite their interconnected nature, these issues are often addressed separately, leading to fragmented interventions. AATWIN identified the need for a comprehensive approach to enhance policy engagement and advocacy. The discussions highlighted gaps in Nepal's legal, policy and institutional frameworks, emphasizing the need for stronger protections and response mechanisms.

The discussions underscored the need for a unified, rights-based and survivor-centric approach in policy advocacy to ensure a more comprehensive response to human trafficking. Participants recognized the overlaps and complexities between labour migration, human smuggling, sex work and the entertainment sector, highlighting the importance of addressing these issues within an integrated migration framework. Additionally, there was a consensus on leveraging international commitments, such as the Palermo Protocol, to guide national reforms and align Nepal's legal and policy frameworks with global standards.

Importantly, the meetings fostered internal alignment and clarity, which will help AATWIN maintain a consistent voice when participating in multi-stakeholder forums, policy dialogues and advocacy campaigns. The recommendation and decision to use the term “धारणा पत्र” reinforced the organization's intent to frame the paper not as a situational analysis but as a clear articulation of its values, principles and demands for systemic change. This position paper will strengthen AATWIN's leadership in combating human trafficking and provide member organizations with a clear framework for action.



2. Preventing Child Labour Exploitation: Strengthening Capacity and Surveillance on Migration and Trafficking (PCLE: MT) Phase – II

Output 1: Increased protection of Youth at risks and children rescued from child labour, trafficking and exploitation.

Interception at Border Checkpoints

As part of the project's implementation, interception activities were carried out at various local levels and border checkpoints across Madhesh, Lumbini and Sudurpaschim provinces to identify and assist individuals at risk of trafficking, exploitation and child labour. The Social Mobilizers deployed at these checkpoints played a crucial role in intercepting and providing immediate support to vulnerable individuals. They worked closely with law enforcement agencies, including Nepal Police and the APF, as well as other CSOs operating at the border. This joint effort facilitated the timely identification of individuals who were at risk of being trafficked or exploited and provided them with the necessary interventions.

Reintegration of Rescued Individuals

Following successful interception, a comprehensive reintegration process was carried out, by implementing partners Protection Nepal in Madhesh Pradesh, Shakti Samuha in Lumbini Province and KIN Nepal in Sudurpaschim Province to ensure the safety and well-being of affected individuals. Among the intercepted cases, many individuals were successfully reintegrated with their families across multiple districts including Mahottari, Inarwa, Rautahat, Chitwan, Bhimdutta, Birgunj, Gaur, Godavari, Kalaiya, Krishnanagar, Krishnapur, Malangwa, Nepalgunj and Siddharthanagar. Reintegration efforts were undertaken in close coordination with local authorities, community leaders and family members to provide long-term support and prevent re-victimization.

Cross-Border Repatriation of Trafficked Children

In addition to local interventions, the project played a vital role in the repatriation of trafficked children from India. These children, who were engaged in child labour, were rescued by Indian police and referred to Nepalese authorities for safe return. The repatriation process was facilitated through strong coordination with Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) of India in Nalanda, Madhubani and Mumbai, ensuring safe passage through key border points, including Raxaul (Birgunj), Bairginiya (Gaur) and Matiarwa (Kalaiya).

A crucial partner in this process was Protection Nepal, the provincial partner of AATWIN for PCLE: MT project. Some children were directly brought to Nepal's border checkpoints by Indian counterparts, while in one particular case, PN officials travelled to Mumbai to facilitate the safe return of children. Upon repatriation, the rescued children were provided with educational support and successfully re-enrolled in schools, ensuring their continued protection and rehabilitation.

This enhanced cross-border coordination was a result of previous bilateral discussions where Nepali and Indian stakeholders exchanged insights on trafficking trends, challenges and solutions. These discussions contributed to a more streamlined repatriation process and strengthened partnerships between anti-trafficking organizations in both countries.

Livelihood Support for Intercepted and Vulnerable Individuals

To ensure the long-term protection and economic empowerment of individuals intercepted at border checkpoints, the project conducted livelihood assessments for their families. Based on the assessment, beneficiaries—who were either directly intercepted or identified as vulnerable to child labour and trafficking—were selected for livelihood support. The support provided included:

- Livestock assistance – Goat support for income generation
- Vocational tools – Tailoring machines for individuals interested in sewing

- Small business support – Providing groceries and utensils for existing fast-food stalls
- New business establishment – Assistance in setting up fast-food stalls and general stores

The impact of these livelihood interventions has been highly positive. Families who received support reported an improvement in their economic conditions, allowing them to provide a safer and more secure environment for their children. As a result, children who were previously at risk of dropping out of school due to financial constraints have been able to continue their education. Some families have even managed to expand their businesses, further strengthening their financial stability and reducing the likelihood of their children being pushed into hazardous labour or trafficking situations.



Skills Training for Economic Sustainability

In addition to livelihood support, the project also identified and trained beneficiaries in skill-based professions to enhance their economic independence and reduce their vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. The training programs included:

- Beauty Parlour Training – Covering facial treatments, threading, *mehendi* art, manicure and pedicure
- Basic Sewing Training – A three-month course on tailoring and garment production
- Fast Food Preparation Training – Equipping beneficiaries with culinary skills for small-scale businesses



These training programs have had a significant impact on the confidence and self-reliance of the participants, who were previously in extreme vulnerability due to trafficking risks or exploitative labour conditions. Many of the beneficiaries have now started earning independently, contributing to their families' financial security. This has led to a reduced risk of re-exploitation and has empowered them to build a more sustainable future for themselves.

The project's multi-faceted approach—combining interception, reintegration, repatriation and economic empowerment—has contributed to the protection of at-risk youth and rescued children from trafficking and exploitation. The strengthened coordination among government agencies, CSOs, law enforcement and international partners has played a crucial role in ensuring timely interventions and sustainable rehabilitation for vulnerable individuals. Moving forward, continued efforts in policy advocacy, cross-border collaboration and livelihood support will be essential in building long-term resilience against human trafficking and child labour exploitation in Nepal.

Output 2: Increased capacity of anti-trafficking border monitoring mechanisms at key entry/border crossing points through training.

Strengthening the Capacity of Security Personnel

To enhance the capacity of security personnel in responding to cases of human trafficking and child labour exploitation with a victim-centric approach, numerous orientation sessions were conducted for Nepal Police and APF personnel. The primary objective of these sessions was to sensitize security personnel about human trafficking and child labour and equip them with knowledge of legal provisions, psychosocial counselling and improved response mechanisms.



The training emphasized the importance of victim-centric approaches, ensuring that security personnel handle cases with empathy and efficiency. Case story sharing was incorporated into the sessions to enhance the effectiveness of knowledge transfer. Participants reported increased clarity on the technical aspects of human trafficking and child labour, which is expected to improve their ability to identify, intercept and support victims effectively.

Collaboration with APF Headquarters for Training



Orientation training to enhance the surveillance against human trafficking at border of Nepal for APF of Karnali Province was organized on 7 March with the collaboration of APF. AATWIN received a request from APF Headquarters to facilitate a session on human trafficking during its Annual Province-Level Training in Karnali Province.

AATWIN contributed as a training partner, delivering sessions on: conceptual clarity on human trafficking and child labour, key terminologies, strengthening response mechanisms and role of APF in combating trafficking and child labour. Similarly, AATWIN was also invited to facilitate sessions during an APF-organized training in Sudurpaschim Province and Madhesh Province in March.

Local Committee Meetings on HT and CLE

A total of 22 Local Level Committee meetings were conducted across 11 municipalities in Madhesh, Lumbini and Sudurpaschim Provinces. These committees were initially established or reactivated during Phase I of the project and function under the leadership of the municipal chairpersons or vice-chairpersons. They serve as essential mechanisms for addressing human trafficking and child labour at the local level. These meetings played a critical role in bringing overlooked issues to the attention of local representatives and government officials.

Several key outcomes emerged from these discussions:

- Passive Local Committees for Controlling Human Trafficking (LCCHT) were reactivated, increasing accountability among local representatives.
- Participation of CSOs, government officials and community members increased significantly, strengthening the response mechanism.
- Recommendations from these meetings were forwarded to municipal executive committees for policy interventions on human trafficking and child labour.

Cross-Border Interaction Events on Human Trafficking and Child Labour Exploitation

A cross-border interaction event was conducted in Bhairahawa on 7 February with an aim to strengthen coordination between Nepali and Indian authorities in addressing human trafficking and child labour exploitation, fostering commitments for joint action and enhancing cross-border collaboration. The participants included representatives from Nepal Police's Women's Cell and Manav Sewa Sansthaan from India, Child Protection Units and Nepal-based organizations such as CWIN, Three Angels, OVN, Peace Rehabilitation Nepal (PRC), Ashish Sewa Samaj, Nepal Auto Tempo and E-Rickshaw Drivers' Association and FCHV.

During the interaction, stakeholders from both sides of the border were sensitized on the importance of improved collaboration. A critical gap identified was the lack of information exchange regarding available services across the border. For instance, Indian CSOs were unaware that CWIN provided shelter services for boys. The Siddharthanagar local government's proactive approach to monitoring the entertainment sector, which is emerging as a hub for human trafficking and child labour exploitation, was also



acknowledged. Participants committed to stronger collaboration and prompt responses to trafficking cases. The discussion also addressed reintegration and rehabilitation challenges, with an emphasis on strengthening coordination mechanisms.

One of the significant outcomes of these cross-border interactions was the identification and reintegration of 53 trafficking victims. Child Welfare Committees and the Border Security Force of India communicated these cases to implementing partners, ensuring their safe reintegration. The discussions also revealed that government agencies, particularly Nepal Police, seek greater support from CSOs in responding to trafficking cases.

Surveillance Group Meetings and Sensitization Programs

Periodic meetings of previously formed surveillance groups were conducted across Madhesh, Lumbini and Sudurpaschim provinces. These meetings served as preparatory discussions ahead of the delegation events of partner organizations, focusing on advocating for budget allocation and program development to address human trafficking, child labour exploitation and gender-based violence. Committee members actively participated in these sessions, emphasizing the urgent need for more training opportunities for survivors.



Key challenges were identified, including a lack of coordination among government and non-government stakeholders at border areas and inadequate focus on the vulnerabilities of male victims. During a session in Siddharthanagar, a representative from PRC highlighted that transport workers, including drivers and assistants, often unknowingly aid traffickers due to a lack of awareness. The need for targeted awareness programs for transport workers was strongly emphasized.

A positive aspect of these meetings was the active participation of community-level groups, including mothers' groups, child clubs and youth clubs, in discussions on issues. As a direct outcome of these efforts, 18 cases related to child labor, human trafficking and GBV were reported to implementing partners by Community Surveillance Groups.

Sensitization of Transport Workers

To enhance awareness and accountability among transportation workers, 11 sensitization events were conducted across the three provinces. These events aimed to educate transport workers about their role in preventing human trafficking and child labour exploitation, receiving positive responses as participants openly discussed their concerns and challenges.

During an event in Bhairahawa, participants expressed frustration over the perceived negligence of local authorities and called for greater governmental commitment. In Birgunj, participants stressed the need for increased monitoring of small and informal checkpoints. Suggestions included placing informative banners and boards in border areas. At Kalaiya event highlighted that most border crossings occur in the early morning and evening, necessitating heightened surveillance during these times.

As an outcome, transport workers in Madhesh Province established an informal communication mechanism with security personnel and CSO representatives at border checkpoints. A unique alert system was developed where rickshaw drivers would honk their horns and use the code word "AA" in case of suspicious activity, signalling the need for investigation. Local media covered these events, further amplifying awareness.

Awareness Sessions in Schools

Before conducting awareness sessions, an initial mapping of schools with children vulnerable to human trafficking and child labour exploitation was carried out. Awareness programs educated students on reporting mechanisms, relevant government and non-government authorities and the safe use of social media. These sessions were conducted in working areas of the project.

The sessions provided both students and teachers with a comprehensive understanding of human trafficking and child labour exploitation. Participants expressed their commitment to proactively supporting survivors, with school students in Madhesh Province already reporting one case to an implementing partner.

Trainers from the Critical Mass Training (Phase I), consisting of teachers and CSO staff, were mobilized as resource persons for these orientations. In Nepalgunj, the District Police Office's Women's Cell facilitated one of the sessions. These efforts were widely covered by local media, ensuring broader outreach and community sensitization.



Output 3: Enhanced capacity of local governments for prevention and response services to vulnerable children and families.

Enhancing Local Government Capacity for Prevention and Response to Vulnerable Children and Families

Efforts were made to strengthen the capacity of local governments to address human trafficking, child labor exploitation, gender-based violence and other cross-cutting issues. Advocacy meetings were conducted in Gaur, Malangwaa, Kalaiya, Birgunj, Siddharthanagar, Palhinandan, Krishnanagar, Nepalgunj, Krishnapur, Godavari and Bhimdatta, urging local governments to allocate budget and develop targeted programs. As a result, the Women and Children Sections at these local levels were sensitized and committed to advocating for these issues in their municipal executive meetings.

The impact of these efforts is being monitored, with implementing partners planning to conduct regular follow-ups. The outcomes will be assessed after the Nepal Government's budget statement is released. Since local governments have the authority to allocate budgets and design programs, the advocacy process aligns with the annual planning cycle, which begins in Poush (December-January) and requires lobbying efforts to be completed by Falgun (February-March). In line with this schedule, memorandums were submitted to respective local governments, reinforcing the call for necessary budget allocations and program development.

Delegation Visit to the Armed Police Force Headquarters

High level Delegation to the APF for boarder level surveillance to control human trafficking and other related issues of human trafficking at APF headquarter, Halchwok on 1 Feb. AATWIN's delegation team submitted a memorandum to IGP Raju Aryal and the APF team. The memorandum included key recommendations, such as:

- Integrating human trafficking and child labour exploitation related issues into the APF training syllabus
- Strengthening the capacity of APF personnel to identify and respond to cases
- Allocating female officers at border checkpoints to enhance victim identification and protection



As a result of this engagement, APF requested AATWIN to facilitate human trafficking-related training sessions in its provincial training programs across Nepal. While APF had requested training in 10 locations, due to budget constraints, AATWIN was able to facilitate a session only at the provincial training in Surkhet, Karnali Province. Additionally, utilizing surplus project funds—after receiving approval from UNICEF—AATWIN conducted a one-day training in Puluwa, Bara, Madhesh Province.

Sensitization of Government and Non-Government Stakeholders

Evidence based Advocacy Program to address the Human Trafficking for child labour with Govt. agencies, CSOs, Trade Unions and Media by sharing of experience of three provinces Madhesh, Lumbini and Sudurpaschim. In line with AATWIN's strategy to inform and engage key stakeholders, a half-day consultation event was organized in Kathmandu on 11 January.

The event was based on findings from AATWIN and its partners' work, recommendations from survivors and civil society organizations and qualitative and quantitative data collected during Phase I and II of the PCLE: MT project. Key participants included representatives from Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA), AHTB, Nepal Police, AFP, NCRC, KMC, trade unions and civil society organizations, including survivor-led groups. These agencies are directly involved in policy and mechanism reforms and service provision for survivors.

The event focused on amendments needed in key laws, including: HTTC Act, 2064 (2008), Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2056 (1999). The discussions highlighted ground-level realities that are often overlooked by central-level authorities. Stakeholder suggestions were collected to shape future strategies for policy advocacy, legal reform and survivor support mechanisms.



Monitoring Visits Conducted During the Project Period

A total of eight monitoring visits were conducted throughout the project period, involving key stakeholders such as the Social Welfare Council (SWC), UNICEF, AATWIN and partner organizations. These visits aimed to assess project activities, observe the situation on the ground and enhance coordination among various agencies working on human trafficking (HT), child labour exploitation (CLE) and gender-based violence (GBV).

In addition to the above visits, Protection Nepal, Shakti Samuha and KIN Nepal conducted three independent monitoring visits to their respective project catchment areas to assess the impact of project activities and overall field situation.

AATWIN at the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) – UN ESCAP

The 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) from 20-23 February, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand. Themed “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific,” the forum brought together representatives from member states, UN bodies, international institutions, civil society organizations and other key stakeholders to assess regional progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discuss strategies to accelerate implementation.



The APFSD serves as a critical regional preparatory platform for the 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and aims to generate momentum toward the Summit of the Future by identifying priorities, challenges and solutions for achieving the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region. The discussions focused on key SDGs under review for 2024, emphasizing themes such as poverty eradication, gender equality, economic resilience, environmental sustainability and social inclusion in the face of ongoing global crises.

AATWIN’s Chairperson, Ms. Tara Bhandari and ED, Ms. Benu Maya Gurung, actively participated in the Forum, representing Nepal’s civil society engagement in anti-human trafficking efforts and advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations. They attended plenary discussions, parallel sessions, networking events and thematic sessions, where they highlighted the interlinkages between human trafficking, gender inequality, labour migration and economic vulnerabilities—urgent issues that hinder the achievement of SDGs in Nepal and the broader Asia-Pacific region. The Forum provided AATWIN with a valuable opportunity to build alliances with international stakeholders, strengthen advocacy efforts and amplify voices from grassroots movements working on anti-trafficking initiatives.



3. Enhancing Engagement in Policy-Level Interventions through Evidence-Based Advocacy on Human Trafficking

Orientation Program on the UN Palermo Protocol

On 24 May, AATWIN hosted an orientation program on the UN Palermo Protocol at Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The primary goal of the program was to deepen the understanding of the Palermo Protocol and explore its relevance in shaping Nepal's legal and policy framework for addressing human trafficking. The participants represented a diverse range of sectors, including legal professionals, survivor-led groups, NGOs, alliances and government institutions, all of whom play a crucial role in Nepal's anti-trafficking efforts. These stakeholders engaged in insightful discussions, sharing valuable perspectives on the importance of the Palermo Protocol in reinforcing Nepal's legal structure and combating trafficking more effectively.



One of the central themes of the orientation was the integration of the Palermo Protocol into Nepal's existing legal framework. Despite significant progress, there remain challenges in policy implementation and gaps persist in law enforcement practices. In particular, the necessity for a multi-sectoral approach—incorporating various stakeholders, including law enforcement, legal institutions and civil society—was underscored as essential for the effectiveness of anti-trafficking measures.

The key takeaways and recommendations from the orientation session were carefully documented. A formal memorandum will be drafted and submitted to relevant government agencies to advocate for necessary policy reforms. This initiative aims to ensure that Nepal's legal framework fully incorporates the provisions of the Palermo Protocol, thus enhancing the country's ability to prevent human trafficking and protect victims.

Interaction Program with Policy makers for the effective implementation of UN Palermo Protocol

An interaction program was held on 25 May at Babarmahal, Kathmandu, bringing together 66 participants, including parliamentarians, legal experts and representatives from CSOs. The program aimed to raise awareness among policymakers about the urgency of domesticating the UN Palermo Protocol and to advocate for its integration into Nepal's legal framework.

Experts and advocates emphasized that despite Nepal being a signatory to the Palermo Protocol, its provisions have not been effectively incorporated into national laws, limiting the country's ability to combat human trafficking comprehensively. Parliamentarians acknowledged the significance of the issue, recognizing that it had been previously overlooked in legislative discussions. They expressed their commitment to engaging in the policy reform process, pledging to advocate for necessary legal amendments and push for stronger enforcement mechanisms. Their willingness to prioritize this issue in the legislative agenda was viewed as a positive step forward, as their involvement is crucial in driving policy changes and ensuring the protocol's effective implementation.

The event fostered a meaningful dialogue between lawmakers and anti-trafficking advocates, paving the way for future collaborations. The key recommendations and commitments from the discussion will be documented and pursued through continuous engagement with policymakers to ensure concrete legislative action toward strengthening Nepal's anti-trafficking framework.



Delegation to the Anti Human Trafficking Bureau, Nepal Police

On 18 June, a delegation team of AATWIN visited the AHTB office at Babarmahal, Kathmandu, to discuss key challenges in combating human trafficking and strengthening legal and institutional responses. The meeting provided an opportunity to deliberate on gaps in Nepal's current anti-trafficking framework and explore strategies for enhancing law enforcement and victim support mechanisms.

The major concern raised during the meeting was the need for improved victim-centred approaches in the justice system. AATWIN member organizations stressed the importance of confidentiality, trauma-sensitive investigations

and ensuring that survivors receive adequate legal and psychological support. They pointed out that survivors often face barriers in accessing justice due to lengthy legal procedures, inadequate witness protection and social stigma. They further emphasized the importance of training law enforcement officers in trauma-informed handling of cases to prevent re-traumatization of victims.



The discussion also highlighted gaps in inter-agency coordination, particularly between the police, judiciary and

social service providers. Participants called for stronger collaboration to improve case management, enhance intelligence sharing and streamline victim rehabilitation efforts. The AHTB officials acknowledged these challenges and committed to strengthening cooperation with relevant agencies, advocating for legal reforms and expanding their operational capacity to better address human trafficking cases.

Meetings with Government Agencies, NHRIs and Experts

A critical interaction program was organized on 30 June at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu, gathering participants from a variety of key sectors. The participants included high-ranking government officials, representatives from NHRIs and subject matter experts. The focus of the discussion was the domestication of the Palermo Protocol, with an emphasis on the urgent need for strategic direction to ensure its effective incorporation into Nepal's legal and policy framework. The program provided a valuable platform for meaningful dialogue, where participants examined how to align Nepal's national anti-trafficking laws with international standards and commitments.

Prominent speakers featured during the session included Mr. Sanjeev Raj Regmi, Deputy Attorney General from the OAG; Ms. Meena Poudel, Under Secretary at the MoWCSC and SP Gautam Mishra, Spokesperson for the AHTB of Nepal Police. Each of these distinguished speakers highlighted the critical need for adopting the Palermo Protocol into Nepal's legal system. They discussed both the challenges and opportunities that would arise in the process of integrating the Protocol, stressing the importance of effective legal and institutional frameworks to address trafficking more efficiently.



The event concluded with a firm commitment from all stakeholders to continue their advocacy efforts and maintain close collaboration in pushing for necessary policy reforms. A shared vision emerged from the discussions, with the recognition that collective action is essential to overcoming the challenges in trafficking prevention. AATWIN and its partners are now poised to leverage these insights to advocate for the domestication of the Palermo Protocol and to guide the stakeholders toward more robust legal and policy frameworks that can protect victims and prevent trafficking more effectively.

Delegation to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

AATWIN team led by Ms. Tara Bhandari, Chairperson of AATWIN met with Hon. Tap Bahadur Magar, the Chairperson and Hon. Lily Thapa, the member of NHRC on 5 July at the NHRC Office in Lalitpur to advocate for the domestication and effective implementation of the UN Palermo Protocol in Nepal. The delegation formally handed over a memorandum emphasizing the need for Nepal to align its anti-trafficking laws with international standards and strengthen mechanisms to combat human trafficking.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted key challenges in Nepal's current legal and policy framework, pointing out that the absence of explicit provisions on labour trafficking, human smuggling and cross-border collaboration has created gaps in law enforcement and victim protection. The discussion also focused on NHRC's role in advocating for the necessary legislative amendments and ensuring accountability in the implementation of anti-trafficking measures. The delegation urged NHRC for timely publication of TIP National Report to take an active stance in monitoring Nepal's progress in fulfilling its international commitments and in pushing for comprehensive policy reforms that align with global human rights standards.

In response, NHRC Chairperson Hon. Top Bahadur Magar reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to supporting efforts for the protocol's domestication. He informed the delegation that NHRC is planning to conduct a study on the status of the Palermo Protocol's implementation in Nepal. This study will assess existing legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and enforcement challenges, providing valuable insights to guide future policy recommendations. Commissioner Hon. Lily Thapa also emphasized NHRC's role in ensuring that human trafficking survivors receive justice and adequate support, reinforcing the need for a survivor-centered approach in legal and institutional reforms.



Review and Publication of Leaflet, Booklet and Palermo Protocol Materials

As part of efforts to raise awareness and strengthen advocacy for the domestication of the UN Palermo Protocol, AATWIN undertook the review and publication of various informational materials in both Nepali and English. These materials were designed to provide key stakeholders, policymakers, CSOs and the general public with a comprehensive understanding of the Protocol and its significance in Nepal's legal and policy framework.

A total of 2,500 copies of an informative Nepali brochure and 1,000 copies of a detailed Nepali booklet on the Palermo Protocol and its domestication were published. These materials outlined the core principles of the Protocol, its provisions on prevention, protection and prosecution and the urgent need for Nepal to incorporate its standards into national laws. The brochures and booklets were distributed among relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, law enforcement officials, civil society organizations, human trafficking survivors and advocacy groups, ensuring that critical information reached those directly involved in anti-trafficking efforts.

Additionally, an English-language booklet was developed and published in September 2024, with a total of 1,000 copies printed. The English booklet was tailored to cater to international organizations, diplomatic missions, researchers and policymakers engaged in global anti-trafficking initiatives.

These publications serve as essential tools for advocacy, awareness and policy engagement, equipping stakeholders with the knowledge required to push for legislative amendments and enhanced implementation of anti-trafficking measures. The distribution of these materials will continue through AATWIN's networks and partner organizations, ensuring sustained efforts toward strengthening Nepal's response to human trafficking in line with international standards.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN)				
Babarmahal, Kathmandu				
<u>Annual Income and Expenditure Summary</u>				
Period: January to December 2024				
S.N	Particular	Year-2024 Amount	Previous Yr- 2023 Amount	Increase / Decrease %
A. Opening Balance				
1	Opening Fund Balance of 1 Jan 2024	6,364,987.64	8,021,264.38	126%
B. Income:				
S.N	Source			
1	Grant from Donor	11,176,504.99	13,391,544.23	120%
2	Income for AATWIN Core	1,363,489.24	81,051.33	6%
	Total Income	12,539,994.23	13,472,595.56	107%
C. Expenditure:				
S.N	Particular			
C.1 Donor Expenditure				
1	Program Expenditure	10,778,047.95	10,471,770.53	97%
2	Administrative Expenditure	6,562,211.92	4,279,492.77	65%
	Sub Total of Donor Expenditure	17,340,259.87	14,751,263.30	85%
C.2 AATWIN Core Expenditure				
1	Program Expenditure	306,222.00	190,651.00	62%
2	Salary and Administrative Expenditure	478,399.07	186,958.00	39%
	Sub Total of AATWIN Core	784,621.07	377,609.00	48%
	Total Expenditure	8,124,880.94	15,128,872.30	83%

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Alliance Against Trafficking in Women & Children in Nepal (AATWIN)

Babarmahal, Kathmandu

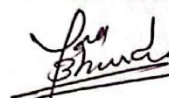
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

For the Year Ended 31st Ashadh 2081

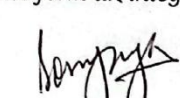
Figures in NPR

Particulars	Notes	Current Year	Previous Year
INCOME			
Incoming Resources	4.22	24,972,323.05	19,712,432.88
Financial Income	4.23	146,226.19	186,357.00
Other Income	4.22	928,618.22	21,580.93
Total Income		26,047,167.46	19,920,370.81
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Cost/Expenses	4.25	4,794,975.75	4,529,953.62
Program Expenses	4.26	18,333,096.03	14,422,044.21
General Administrative Expenditure	4.27	2,414,130.37	940,699.97
Depreciation	4.1.1	149.94	200.25
Other Expenditure	4.28	-	22,623.00
Total Expenditure		25,542,352.09	19,915,521.05
Net surplus/(deficit) before Taxation		504,815.37	4,849.76
Income Tax Expenses	4.29	-	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		504,815.37	4,849.76
APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			
Allocation to Reserves		504,815.37	4,849.76
Allocation to Endowment Fund		-	-

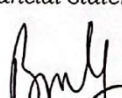
The Notes on accounts form an integral part of the financial statements.



Tara Bhandari
Chairperson
AATWIN



Sony Piya
Treasurer
AATWIN



Benu Maya Gurung
Executive Director
AATWIN



CA Mahesh Kumar Guragain
Chartered Accountant
M.G.S & Associates





Bishnu Prasad Acharya
Admin & Finance Officer
AATWIN

Place: Kathmandu
Date: 19 Sept 2024.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AATWIN



Ms. Tara Bhandari
Chairperson
Biswas Nepal, Kathmandu



Ms. Charimaya Tamang
Vice-Chairperson
Shakti Samuha, Kathmandu



Ms. Sumitra Adhikari
General Secretary
GMSP, Sindhupalchowk



Ms. Hira Dahal
Secretary
Chhori, Lalitpur



Ms. Sony Piya
Treasurer
CWIN, Kathmandu



Ms. Srijana Pun
Member
WOFOWON, Kathmandu



Ms. Anuradha Acharya
Member
Kumudini, Kathmandu



Ms. Parbata Shrestha
Member
WATCH, Kathmandu



Mr. Pramod Acharya
Member
CWISH, Kathmandu



Ms. Sita Poudyal
Immediate Past President
Bal Samaj Nepal, Morang



Ms. Benu Maya Gurung
Executive Director
AATWIN

AATWIN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (2024)

1. Women Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), Lalitpur
2. Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN), Kathmandu
3. Mahila Atma Nirvarta Kendra (MANK), Sindhupalchowk
4. Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), Kathmandu
5. Women Skill Creation Centre (WOSCC), Makwanpur
6. Shakti Samuha, Kathmandu
7. Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), Kathmandu
8. Women Acting Together for change (WATCH), Kathmandu
9. Himalayan Human Rights Monitors (HimRights), Lalitpur
10. Navajyoti Women Training Centre, Kathmandu
11. Child Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH), Kathmandu
12. Women Development Self Employment Training Centre (WDSETC), Kathmandu
13. Women Welfare Society (WWS), Kathmandu
14. Gramin Mahila Sirjansheel Pariwar (GMSP), Sindhupalchowk
15. Teka Samuha Nepal, Kathmandu
16. Jagaran Nepal, Kathmandu
17. Makawanpur Mahila Samuha, Makawanpur
18. Aawaaj, Surkhet
19. Nari Utthan Kendra, Kavre
20. Child Protection Centre, Bara
21. Education Training and Service for Community Nepal (ETSC-N), Makwanpur
22. Child Society Nepal, Morang
23. Shakti Milan Samaj, Kathmandu
24. Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON), Kathmandu
25. Biswas Nepal, Kathmandu
26. Asha Nepal, Kathmandu
27. Common Platform for Common Goal (COCON), Kathmandu
28. KIN Nepal, Lalitpur
29. Change Nepal, Kathmandu
30. Chhuri, Lalitpur
31. Sahavagi, Chitwan
32. Child Nepal, Kathmandu
33. Social Service Centre (SOSEC) Nepal, Dailekh
34. Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN), Kathmandu
35. Janjyoti Yuwa Samaj, Sarlahi
36. Women Protection Centre, Makwanpur
37. Centre for Awareness Promotion (CAP) Nepal, Kathmandu
38. Kumudini, Kathmandu
39. 3 Angels Nepal, Kaski
40. Shanti Foundation, Kathmandu
41. Change Action Nepal, Lalitpur
42. Nari Sewa Kendra, Kaski
43. Rural Oriented Youth Movement (ROYM) Nepal, Kathmandu
44. Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN), Nawalparasi
45. Nari Bikash Sangh, Morang



Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN)

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