

Adolescent girls, trafficking and HIV/AIDS: Strengthening responses in South Asia



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Afghanistan; Bangladesh; India; Nepal; Pakistan

Duration: February 2003 to June 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP; UNIFEM

Other Implementing Partners: SAARC; national Governments; community-based organizations

Budget: \$1,030,000

Key Words: Human trafficking; access to health care; women; HIV/AIDS

BACKGROUND

At the outset of this project, human trafficking and its growth in South Asia sparked major concern in the region with approximately 150,000 to 200,000 women and girls trafficked annually according to UNDP. At the same time, the region was also becoming the epicentre of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The underlying root causes to human trafficking included persistent

poverty, lack of economic opportunities for women and gender inequalities. These factors, along with the spread of HIV/AIDS, demanded a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach that could simultaneously address the interlinkages between the growing threat of human trafficking and the increasing spread of HIV/AIDS.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project was to reduce the dual vulnerabilities of human trafficking and HIV/AIDS facing women and girls in South Asia. Accordingly, project activities included: (i) the provision of care and support to those who were affected by human trafficking and HIV/AIDS; (ii) establishment of cross-border, rehabilitation and

support networks among Governments, civil society groups and communities; (iii) improvement in the capacity of women and girls to mitigate and better respond to the threat of human trafficking and HIV/AIDS; and (iv) promotion of alternative livelihoods for vulnerable women and girls.

BENEFICIARIES

The project supported over 600,000 women and girls in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan by raising awareness and improving their capacities to make informed choices. In addition, as part of the income-generation activities, more than 8,700 women

and girls established micro-credit groups, while peer educators, law-enforcement officers and Government officials were sensitized on the threat of human trafficking and the spread of HIV/AIDS.