

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Our Voice: A Society Free From Trafficking Of Children & Women



## Message from the Founder/Chairperson and the Executive Director

As we reflect on the journey of 2025, we are filled with deep gratitude for the unwavering support of our partners, well-wishers, and communities. Your continued trust and solidarity have been the foundation of our efforts to protect, empower, and restore the lives of vulnerable individuals across Nepal.

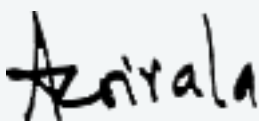
The landscape of human trafficking continues to evolve, presenting new and complex challenges. The growing risks associated with online platforms, alongside persistent issues of exploitation and abuse, remind us that our mission is more urgent than ever. These challenges call for strengthened vigilance, greater awareness, and collective responsibility at every level of society.

Throughout the year, we have remained committed to prevention, rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration. By investing in education and community awareness, we are helping individuals recognize risks and take informed action. At the same time, our support services continue to provide survivors with care, dignity, and opportunities to rebuild their lives with confidence and hope.

We firmly believe that lasting change is only possible through collaboration. By working closely with government agencies, civil society, and local communities, we strive to address the root causes of trafficking and create safer, more resilient environments for all. Together, we are building a future where every individual can live free from fear, exploitation, and injustice.

At Maiti Nepal, our commitment remains steadfast. We stand alongside survivors, amplify their voices, and continue to advocate for a just and compassionate society. As we move forward, we do so with renewed determination, guided by our shared vision of dignity, freedom, and equality for all.

With heartfelt appreciation and solidarity,



Anuradha Koirala  
Founder/Chairperson  
Maiti Nepal



Bishwo Ram Khadka  
Executive Director  
Maiti Nepal

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Maiti Nepal began its journey in 1993 with a simple yet powerful hope: to create a world where women and children can live with dignity, safety, and freedom from exploitation. What started as a small shelter for survivors has grown into a nationwide movement, standing beside those who have been harmed and walking with them toward healing, independence, and renewed hope. Beyond rescue, we focus on rebuilding lives through education, skills training, and pathways to sustainable livelihoods.

Every year, we listen closely to voices that have too often gone unheard, and we work to transform hardship into strength and trauma into possibility. Our efforts have been recognised globally, including the CNN Hero of the Year Award and the Padma Shri, bestowed upon our founder, Ms Anuradha Koirala, honours that reflect not just individual achievements but also the collective courage of survivors and the dedication of all who stand with them.

Our work is guided by an integrated approach: the 6 Ps — Prevention, Protection, Participation, Prosecution, Partnership, and Policy; the 5 Rs — Rescue, Repatriation, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Referral; and Advocacy and Awareness. Together, these frameworks allow us to respond holistically to trafficking while addressing its root causes.

This year, we renew our commitment to collaboration, working hand in hand with government bodies, communities, and partners across Nepal and beyond, to build safer spaces, stronger systems, and brighter futures for those most at risk.

## Maiti Nepal’s Operation Strategy:





## **vision:**

A society free from human trafficking, violence, and all forms of exploitation, ensuring dignity.



## **MISSION**

Reaching out to all exploited and high-risk children, adolescent girls, and women, adopting the rights-based approach, creating the critical mass, empowering survivors, and securing livelihood opportunities.



## **GOALS**

Prevention and mitigation of human trafficking, violence, and exploitation, reaching out to 60% of the high-risk population by 2025.

## **OBJECTIVES: by the end of 2025**

- Reach 60% of the high-risk population (girls/women) and raise through mass awareness and evidence-based advocacy programs.
- Collaborate, coordinate, and network with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the public, and private sectors, and relevant key stakeholders for policy advocacy and for ensuring the rights and dignity of survivors.
- Promote safer migration among high-risk adolescent girls and women engaging multi-stakeholders to address issues of nexus between migration and human trafficking.
- Support the target groups to empower them with skills to enable them secure employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and successful reintegration into the community.
- Prevent and mitigate human trafficking by implementing various projects in line with national and international practices.

# MAITI NEPAL ORGANIZATION DETAILS

**Date of Registration:**

**1993**

**Registration No.:**

**413/049/050** under Article 4 of the Institution Registration Act of 2034

**Place of registration:**

**Kathmandu District Administrative Office**

## **Affiliations:**

- **Social Welfare Council, Government of Nepal;** affiliate No. 1137
- **ECPAT International,** A Global Network against the Sexual Exploitation of Children
- **ATSEC Nepal Chapter** (Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children)
- **Special Consultative Status** with the **UN-ECOSOC** (United Nations Economic and Social Council)
- **Member of CAP International** (United for a world free from sexual exploitation!)

## **Infrastructure:**

**1** Prevention Home  
**14** Transit Homes  
**2** Women Rehabilitation Homes  
**2** Hospice, **3** Information and Surveillance Centers  
**1** Child Protection Home  
**1** Clinic,  
**1** formal school.

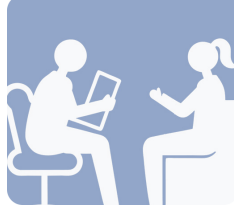


# NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES WE SERVED AS PER CASES IN 2025



## Domestic Violence

Reported to Maiti Nepal: **794**  
Mediated by Maiti Nepal: **377**  
Referred to the National Women's Commission, Concerned Police Stations, Ward offices, and others: **417**



## Counselling

Psycho-social counseling provided by Maiti's Counsellors: **4675**  
Legal Counselling provided by Maiti's lawyers: **3428**



## Missing Case

Registered at Maiti Nepal: **1980**  
Found by Maiti Nepal in coordination with the Police and other partner organizations: **924**



## Sexual Assault Case

Registered at Maiti Nepal: **84**  
Number of Perpetrators: **93**  
Number of Convicted Offenders: **40** (38 from Bardiya where 5 were cases from 2025, 15 were cases from 2024 and 18 were cases from 2023; 1 from Kavre and 1 from Ilam)



## Rescue

Rescued from India: **124**  
Rescued from Overseas: **19**  
Internally Rescued: **520**



## Interception

Number brought to Transit Homes: **2352**  
Number directly returned from the border: **2786**



## Human Trafficking

Reported at Maiti Nepal: **29**  
Case Prosecution: **29**  
Number of Convicted Offenders: **1**



## Shelter Support

Shelter provided to Minor females: **1678**  
Shelter provided to adult females: **1589**  
Long-term Shelter Support (more than 3 months) to Minor females: **186**  
Long-term Shelter Support (more than 3 months) to Adult females: **107**



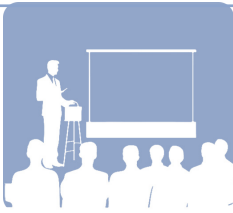
## Family Reunion

**3,163**



## Door-to-Door Visit

**3,565**



Training/Orientations/Education/Health Facilities Provided to Women and Girls  
**24,863**



IEC Materials Distribution/ Information Sharing on Anti-Trafficking Issues, Unsafe Migration and Foreign Employment  
**1,57,824**



No. of Vehicles Inspected  
**3,34,061**

# KEY PROGRAM AREAS

- **ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS**

- **PREVENTION AND PROTECTION**

- **RESCUE AND REPATRIATION**

- **REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION**

- **PROSECUTION**

- **PARTICIPATION**



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# ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

## Strengthening Communities to Stand Against Trafficking

Advocacy and awareness remain central to Maiti Nepal’s efforts to prevent human trafficking and address the conditions that allow it to persist. In 2025, our work continued to focus on confronting deep-rooted challenges such as limited access to education, gender inequality, and violence against women, factors that place women and children at greater risk. Through community-based action, we strive to strengthen protective systems, influence policies, and build local resilience.

Our approach centers on learning, empowerment, and shared responsibility. We work closely with adolescent girls, students, educators, local governments, and community members, providing practical knowledge and tools to recognize risks and resist exploitation. Awareness sessions, orientations, and skill-building trainings form the foundation of this program, encouraging communities to come together by forming local groups, establishing support hubs, launching outreach activities, and collaborating with partner organizations.

Throughout 2025, Maiti Nepal organized multiple large-scale awareness initiatives, using creative platforms such as street theatre and community performances to bring attention to the realities of trafficking, gender-based violence, and child marriage. Alongside our digital outreach, these efforts reached tens of thousands of people across municipalities and districts, sharing vital messages on safe migration, trafficking prevention, and personal safety.

Through sustained engagement, we are nurturing community-led early warning systems and promoting a culture of care and accountability. By equipping individuals with knowledge and practical strategies, Maiti Nepal continues to spark meaningful change, helping protect those most at risk and laying the groundwork for a safer, more just future.





## Strengthening Safety Nets and Building Community Resilience

Prevention lies at the heart of Maiti Nepal’s anti-trafficking work. Our focus is on empowering vulnerable communities with the knowledge, confidence, and resources they need to protect themselves and one another. Through a range of programs, we raise awareness about trafficking risks while promoting practical approaches to personal safety and safe migration.

Community engagement is central to this effort. Working alongside local leaders, schools, and partner organizations, we support communities in recognizing early warning signs and responding to potential threats. Our trainings and outreach initiatives help individuals understand how to report concerns and seek support, nurturing a culture of shared responsibility and grassroots vigilance.

For girls and women facing immediate risk, our shelters provide a vital refuge. Beyond safe accommodation, survivors receive holistic care, including counseling, education, healthcare, legal support, and vocational training, designed to support recovery and long-term independence. At the borders, our monitoring program, implemented in coordination with local authorities, plays a critical role in identifying trafficking cases early and ensuring timely assistance, including medical care, legal aid, and rehabilitation services.

By addressing underlying vulnerabilities like poverty, limited access to education, and social exclusion, Maiti Nepal works to break the cycle of exploitation. Together with communities, we are building stronger protection systems that uphold dignity, restore hope, and create safer futures for women and children.



# Maiti Nepal Prevention Home: Creating Safe Pathways for Vulnerable Lives

## Supporting Project: Consolidated Actions Against Human Trafficking 2025

In Makawanpur District, Maiti Nepal operates a Prevention Home dedicated to protecting girls and children who are most at risk of human trafficking. Rooted in our commitment to dignity and safety for all, this initiative brings together prevention, protection, prosecution, advocacy, and empowerment to offer a comprehensive response to exploitation. The Prevention Home places strong emphasis on awareness-raising, livelihood support, and life-skills development, helping reduce vulnerability while nurturing confidence and independence. Our work reaches far beyond the shelter itself. Through close collaboration with local governments, schools, civil society, and community groups, we strengthen community networks and promote collective action against trafficking.

Since 1997, our Prevention Home in Hetauda has been a steady source of hope for at-risk girls and women, providing a safe environment, holistic care, and guidance. From community awareness to reintegration support, we remain deeply committed to walking alongside survivors, ensuring they gain the skills, opportunities, and encouragement needed to rebuild their lives with confidence and security.



# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

## Livelihood & Skills Development

- Completed 2-month advanced tailoring training for 10 survivors and at-risk women/girls (9 now running their own tailoring businesses).
- Conducted 4-month residential basic tailoring training for 40 survivors.
- Provided vocational training to 50 individuals in total this year.
- Top 3 advanced trainees received sewing machines and materials worth NPR 70,000 each through OCMC support.

## Life Skills & Economic Empowerment

- Delivered 3-day life skills training (leadership, communication, group dynamics) for 40 survivors.
- Conducted 2-day financial literacy training and 1-day exposure visit to enhance motivation and self-reliance.

## Coordination, Advocacy & Stakeholder Engagement

- Maiti Nepal held an MPAC meeting with 18 municipal advisory members.
- Organized an interaction program with hotel and transport entrepreneurs (34 participants).
- Celebrated key advocacy days including International Women's Day, Maiti Nepal's Annual Day, World Day against Trafficking in Persons, National Anti-Human Trafficking Day, and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.



## Awareness & Prevention

- Conducted school orientations on human trafficking and safe migration in Makwanpur, reaching 201 participants.
- Organized mass awareness programs in Sindhupalchok, Makwanpur, and Chitwan through street dramas, school sessions, and survivor livelihood activities.
- Reached 1,303 individuals through orientations on trafficking, GBV, sexual violence, and safe migration.
- Distributed 17,702 IEC/BCC materials and completed 285 household visits.

## Rescue, Protection & Reintegration

- Rescued 2 survivors from Kuwait through coordinated efforts.
- Internally rescued 18 minor girls from hotels/restaurants in Hetauda.
- Provided short-term shelter and family reintegration to 31 women and girls.
- Delivered psychosocial counselling to 99 individuals.
- Legal Support & Case Management
- Registered 29 rape cases (all under process).
- Registered 85 domestic violence cases (47 mediated, 38 referred).
- Filed 28 missing cases (10 resolved, 18 ongoing).
- Provided legal counselling to 28 individuals.



## Protection: Caring for Children, Cultivating Hope

At Maiti Nepal, we take immense pride in our Child Protection Home, where we care for At Maiti Nepal, protection means creating spaces where children feel safe, valued, and supported to dream again. Through our Child Protection Home, we care for children from marginalised and underserved communities, including those impacted by commercial sexual exploitation and other forms of violence. Our commitment is simple yet profound: to ensure every child grows up in a nurturing environment with the opportunity to live a healthy, joyful, and fulfilling life.

Since 1993, our Child Protection Home, designed to accommodate up to 250 children, has provided far more than shelter. We offer holistic care that supports children's safety, development, participation, and emotional healing. Alongside meeting basic needs, we focus on restoring confidence, building life skills, and preparing young people for independent futures grounded in dignity and possibility.

Our care model is shaped by the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 with leadership from UNICEF. These values, non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to survival and development, and the right to protection, guide every aspect of our work. They inform how we create inclusive, supportive environments where children are encouraged to heal, grow, and thrive.

Alongside formal schooling, including education at Teresa Academy, children receive legal assistance, medical care, and opportunities to explore life beyond the shelter. Daily activities such as yoga, music, dance, and taekwondo for self-defence are complemented by sports, cultural programs, and psychosocial support, helping nurture both body and spirit.

We also encourage young people to pursue higher education after completing secondary school, and many have gone on to achieve inspiring success. From careers in healthcare and technology to the arts and beyond, their journeys reflect the lasting impact of our protection programs—and our unwavering belief in every child's potential.



# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

**From January to December 2025,**

Maiti Nepal rescued **16 children** and provided them with shelter and essential care. Among them, **11 children** were reunified with their families, while **four children remain at Maiti Nepal's Child Protection Home and are enrolled in formal education**. **One rescued child** is an infant and is currently receiving care in the baby room.

**By December 2025,**

A total of **175 children** benefited from Maiti Nepal's Child Protection Home (CPH), receiving shelter, medical assistance, legal aid, education, food, and clothing. To support their well-being and future development, the following services were provided:

- 146 children are currently residing at the Child Protection Centre
- 29 children were successfully reintegrated with their families and communities

**Among the 146 children staying at the centre:**

- **3 infants** are cared for in the baby room
- **129 children** are attending school
- **6 children** are enrolled in higher secondary education
- 6 girls are attending college
- **1 child** is enrolled in a school for the deaf
- **1 boy** is receiving medical support at a sober rehabilitation centre

## INFORMATION DESK FOR PROMOTING SAFE MIGRATION

### Guiding Safer Journeys, Protecting Migrant Rights

At Maiti Nepal, we recognize that many people seek foreign employment in hopes of building better lives, often driven by poverty, limited local opportunities, gender inequality, and experiences of domestic violence. Yet for many, especially women, migration can carry serious risks, including sexual and labor exploitation at every stage of the journey. Nepali women migrant workers remain particularly vulnerable to abuse once abroad.

To respond to these challenges, we operate three Information Desks in strategic locations: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Passport Department, Nepal, Thankot, Kathmandu District, and Dhulikhel. Through these desks, we provide reliable information, raise awareness about unsafe migration practices, and equip individuals with practical guidance to help them make informed decisions.

These Information Desks serve as vital touchpoints for aspiring migrants by offering accessible support and timely advice. Our goal is to help people travel more safely, understand their rights, and avoid deceptive recruitment, reinforcing our broader commitment to protecting vulnerable migrants and promoting dignified, secure migration pathways.

# Maiti Nepal's Information Desk at the Department of Passport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

## Supporting Safer Choices at a Critical Moment

Our Information Desk at the Department of Passport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal serves as an important point of connection for aspiring migrant workers, especially young women. Our purpose is to share clear, practical information about the risks linked to unsafe migration and human trafficking, while guiding individuals toward safe and legal employment pathways. Rather than discouraging foreign work, we focus on helping people make informed and secure decisions.

Throughout the year, our team reached 21,196 individuals with guidance on safe migration practices and potential risks associated with overseas employment. Among them were 1,105 young people between the ages of 16 and 18, a group of particular concern, as the rising number of youth passport applicants reflects increasing vulnerability to exploitation.

By placing this service directly within the passport office, we can engage girls and women at a crucial stage of their migration journey. Through timely awareness and personalized support, we aim to equip them with the knowledge and confidence needed to move forward safely, reinforcing our commitment to protecting rights, preventing trafficking, and promoting dignified migration.





# RESCUE AND REPATRIATION

At Maiti Nepal, rescue and repatriation are about more than bringing survivors out of harm; they are about walking alongside them on the path to recovery. Through this program, we work to identify individuals trapped in exploitative situations, support their rescue, and ensure they receive immediate care, including safe shelter, medical attention, and holistic support services. In close coordination with relevant authorities, we also help survivors access legal assistance and pursue justice.

After rescue, survivors are offered counselling and rehabilitation to support healing from trauma, stigma, and discrimination. Whenever possible, we prioritise family reunification, while also providing reintegration support to help individuals regain confidence, reconnect with their communities, and rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

Our efforts extend beyond emergency response. We actively work to prevent trafficking by raising awareness, promoting safe migration, and encouraging livelihood opportunities that reduce vulnerability and strengthen long-term resilience.

In addition, our contact office in Delhi collaborates closely with Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC) member organisations, local NGOs, law enforcement, and the Child Welfare Committee India to rescue and repatriate Nepali women and girls trafficked to India, ensuring their safe return and access to essential care and services.

## CROSS-BORDER RESCUE AND REPATRIATION

Rescuing and safely returning survivors is at the heart of Maiti Nepal's mission. We reach out to girls and women trapped in high-risk environments, including Nepal's adult entertainment sector, Indian brothels, orchestras, and other exploitative settings.

Following rescue, survivors receive immediate care and shelter at our transit homes and rehabilitation centers across multiple districts, including Ilam, Jhapa, Morang, Kavre, Kathmandu, Rasuwa, Parsa, Rupan-dehi, Chitwan, Banke, Bardiya, Kanchanpur, Birgunj, Kailali Dhangadhi, Kailali Tikapur, and Sunsari. For survivors requiring longer-term support, our Rehabilitation Homes in Kathmandu and Sunsari provide ongoing care and guidance.

Survivors receive medical attention, counseling, life skills education, and legal assistance, helping them heal and regain independence. Vocational training programs further empower them to achieve economic self-sufficiency and rebuild their lives with confidence.

To recover Nepali girls and women trafficked to India, we collaborate closely with Indian rescue teams, conducting investigations and coordinated operations. Since 2021, our Delhi office has served as a key hub, coordinating rescues, providing temporary shelter, and accelerating repatriation efforts. This strategic presence has significantly strengthened our capacity to save lives and ensure that survivors can safely return home.

# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

During the cross-border rescue initiative in 2025, a total of 124 successful cross-border rescue operations took place. The survivors of human trafficking were rescued by Maiti Nepal Transit Homes in different districts, and the details are systematically outlined below

- 1. Banke:**  
**5 survivors in total**
- 3 from Himanchl State- Shimla - Theu
  - 1 from Rajasthan
  - 1 Uttarakhand

- 3. Ilam:**  
**3 survivors in total**
- 1 from Hyderabad
  - 1 from Cherrapunji
  - 1 from Sikkim

- 5. Dhangadhi:**  
**3 survivors in total**
- 1 from Chandigarh
  - 1 from Lucknow
  - 1 from Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh State

- 7. Morang:**  
**2 survivors in total from Jogbani, Araria District, Bihar**

- 8. Parsa:**  
**21 survivors in total**
- 9 from Raxaul
  - 1 from Mumbai
  - 3 from Chauradano
  - 1 from Motihari
  - 5 from Shiwan
  - 2 from Chhapara, Jalalpur

- 10. Shelter Head Office:**  
**55 survivors in total**
- 1 from Mumbai
  - 1 from Pune
  - 2 from Kolkata
  - 3 from Motihari
  - 47 from Delhi

- 2. Bardiya:**  
**3 survivors in total**
- 1 from Hyderabad
  - 2 from Dehli
  - 1 from Mumbai

- 4. Jhapa:**  
**10 survivors in total**
- 6 from Khori Bari
  - 1 from Kaling Pong
  - 1 from Naxalbari
  - 1 from Delhi
  - 1 from Mumbai

- 6. Kanchanpur:**  
**9 survivors in total**
- 1 from Bihar
  - 1 from Chandigarh
  - 1 from Chamuli
  - 1 from Haryana
  - 1 from Mumbai
  - 1 from Delhi
  - 1 from Hyderabad
  - 2 from Gajiyabad

- 9. Rupandehi:**  
**1 survivor from Chandigarh**

- 11. Legal Head Office:**  
**12 survivors in total**
- 1 from Delhi
  - 1 from

# OVERSEAS RESCUE AND REPATRIATION

We are deeply committed to rescuing and repatriating Nepali women and children trafficked to countries in the Gulf region and Africa. Cross-border trafficking poses unique challenges, yet our focus remains unwavering: to ensure survivors return safely and with dignity.

Through a coordinated approach combining prevention, targeted rescue missions, and rehabilitation support, we collaborate closely with government authorities, diplomats, and international partners. Our work extends beyond rescue, providing survivors with counselling, medical care, and life skills training, empowering them to recover, regain independence, and rebuild their lives with confidence and hope.

## Rescue Efforts in 2025

In 2025 we rescued **19 survivors** from human trafficking in Gulf countries, including Oman, Dubai, Kuwait, Jordan, and Malaysia. These women had been lured with false job opportunities but were instead forced into exploitation.

With the Nepal government's support, we successfully freed:

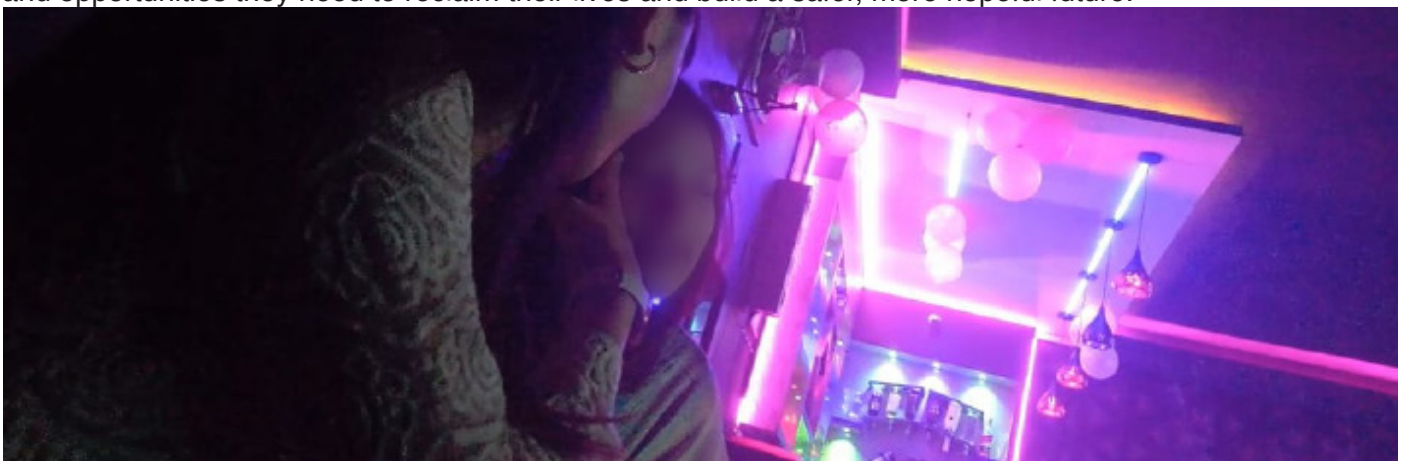
- » **17 survivors through Maiti Nepal's Head Office**
  - **11** from Kuwait
  - **2** from Dubai
  - **2** from Oman
  - **1** from Lebanon
  - **1** from Thailand
- » **2 survivors** from Kuwait through our Makawanpur unit

Many of these women were deceived by human resource companies and coerced into the sex trade. After their rescue, we provided them shelter, care, and support, ensuring their safe reintegration into their families and communities.

## INTERNAL RESCUE OF TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

We recognize that human trafficking is not only a cross-border issue, it also occurs within Nepal, often hidden in plain sight. Through our Internal Rescue Initiative, we work to protect children and women exploited in massage parlors, dance bars, cabin restaurants, factories, clubs, private apartments, and other high-risk settings.

Many victims are lured by false promises and trapped in exploitative conditions, making internal trafficking a complex challenge. By collaborating closely with law enforcement, government agencies, and local communities, we focus on preventing exploitation, rescuing survivors, and providing comprehensive rehabilitation. Our goal is not only to dismantle trafficking networks but also to ensure survivors receive the care, guidance, and opportunities they need to reclaim their lives and build a safer, more hopeful future.



# Key achievements in 2025

This year, we intercepted 520 individuals at risk of trafficking, preventing them from falling into exploitative situations. Among them, 183 were identified at border checkpoints operated by Maiti Nepal. Our internal rescue operations freed another 520 survivors from various locations across Nepal, primarily within the Adult Entertainment sector. These rescues were carried out in close collaboration with district police.

Rescue Breakdown by District:

- Banke: **9**
- Chitwan: **11**
- Kanchanpur: **4**
- Kavre: **3**
- Makawanpur: **18**
- Nagdhunga: **12**
- Parsa: **125**
- Rasuwa: **1**
- Maiti Nepal Head Office: **337**

Before returning home, each survivor received counseling and emotional support to help them heal and regain control over their future. Our counseling services were vital in guiding them toward new opportunities and a safer, more empowered life.



# TRANSIT HOMES

*Protecting Lives at the Border*

## A Safe Haven for At-Risk Individuals

Nepal shares an open border of 1,850 kilometers with India, where gaps in identification and monitoring often allow traffickers to exploit women and children. Many victims are lured abroad, to India, China, or Gulf countries, under false promises of employment, marriage, or a better life. Some traffickers even misuse the 24-hour travel permit available to border residents to traffic girls into China.

To address these risks, Maiti Nepal operates 14 Transit Homes: 11 at strategic Nepal-India border points, one near the Nepal-China border, and one each in Kathmandu and Kavre. These homes work hand in hand with border police, deploying surveillance and monitoring efforts to intercept traffickers and safeguard those at risk.

Survivors receive immediate shelter, protection, counseling, and medical care. They also benefit from anti-trafficking awareness sessions and guidance on safe migration. Those needing longer-term support are connected to our central offices, where vocational training and education help them rebuild their lives with confidence.

Beyond direct rescue, our Transit Homes actively engage with local governments, civil society, and communities to run awareness programs on trafficking, sexual violence, and domestic abuse. By combining protection with empowerment, we aim not just to save lives but to help survivors reclaim their dignity, independence, and hope for the future.

## Objectives

- Intercept the girls and women at risk of trafficking from the border.
- Provide the victims/survivors with comprehensive services including legal support, counseling, and better life options.
- Organize awareness, advocacy, and networking activities in the district
- Facilitate and support legal prosecution against criminals
- Support the police at the border to inspect the vehicles and identify girls and women at risk of trafficking



## 1. Transit home Pashupatinagar, Ilam

Established Date: 2001

Location: Suryodaya Municipality, Pashupatinagar, Ward No.2

District: Ilam

Border: Darjeeling District of the state of West Bengal, India in the North

Project: Strengthening Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Rebuild the Lives of Survivors through Life Skills Development

## 2. Transit home Kakarvitta, Jhapa

Established Date: 1999

Location: Purano Bhansar, Suryaodayamarg, Mechi Nagar Municipality, Ward no.10

District: Jhapa

Border: The Indian state of Bihar to the South and East, and the Indian state of West Bengal to the East.

Project: Rescue and Aftercare 2025 Project

## 3. Transit Home Morang, Biratnagar

Established Date: 1998

Location: Sainik Tole Metropolitan City, Ward no. 19

District: Morang

Indian Border: The Indian state of Bihar

Project: Down To Zero-Alliance (SUFASEC)

## 4. Transit Home Birgunj, Parsa

Established Date: 1997

Location: Chhapkaiya, ward no. 2, in Birgunj Metropolitan City

District and Province: Parsa, Madhesh Pradesh

Indian Border: the Indian town of Raxual in the South and Makwanpur in the North, part of the Indian state of Bihar.

Project: Transit Home Project of Maiti Nepal

## 5. Transit Home Bhairahwa, Rupandehi

Established Date: 1997

Location: Suryaodayamarg, Siddharth Nagar Municipality

District and Province: Rupandehi, Lumbini Province

Indian Border: Uttar Pradesh (India) to the West and South

Project: Down To Zero-Alliance (SUFASEC)

## 6. Transit home at Nepalgunj, Banke

Established Date: 2000

Location: Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City, Ward No. 15

District and Province: Banke, Lumbini Province

Indian Border: The Indian state of Uttar Pradesh

Project: Human Trafficking Prevention and Rescue Program

## 7. Transit Home Bardiya, Gulariya

Established Date: July 16, 2016

Location: Srijan Tol, ward no. 6 of Gulariya Municipality  
District and Province: Bardiya, Lumbini Province  
Indian Border: the Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh state of India  
Project: Down To Zero-Alliance (SUFASEC)

## 8. Transit Home at Kailali, Dhangadhi

Established Date: 2001

Location: Ward No.2 of Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan  
District and Province: Kailali, Sudurpashchim Province  
Indian Border: The Lakhimpur district of Uttar Pradesh, India  
Project: Transit Home Project of Maiti Nepal

## 9. Transit Home at Kanchanpur

Established Date: 2003

Location: Bhimdatta Municipality, Janaki tole, Ward No. 18  
District and Province: Kanchanpur, Sudurpashchim Province  
Indian Border: the Indian states of Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh to the West and South  
Project: Down To Zero-Alliance (SUFASEC)

## 10. Transit Home at Rasuwa, Dhunche

Established Date: 2015

Location: Timure, Gosaikunda Rural Municipality, Ward-02  
District and Province: Rasuwa, Bagmati  
China Border: Kerung, China  
Project: Consolidated Actions Against Human Trafficking 2024

## 11. Transit Home/ Border Surveillance/ Information Desk at Kavre

Established Date: May 15, 2015

Location: Ward No. 9 of Dhulikhel Municipality  
District and Province: Kavrepalanchok District, Bagmati Province  
Border Focus: inspect vehicles heading towards Sindhuli and Bardiwas  
Project: Strengthening Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Rebuild the Lives of Survivors through Life Skills Development

## 12. Transit Home/ Border Surveillance/ Information Desk at Thankot/ Nagdhunga

Established Date: 2001

Location: Nagdhunga  
District and Province: Kathmandu District, Bagmati Province  
Border Focus: inspect vehicles heading the districts outside Kathmandu valley  
Project: Human Trafficking Prevention Program

# 13. Transit Home at Chitwan

Established Date: 1998

Location: Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Ward No. 2, Kshetrapur, Swastik Marga of Narayangarh District and Province: Chitwan District, Bagmati Province  
 Indian Border: Chitwan National Park along the southern edge towards the Indian border  
 Project: Rescue and Aftercare Project

# 14. Transit Home at Tikapur

Established Date: September, 2022

Location: Tikapur Municipality-9, Jhunga District and Province: Kailali District, Sudurpaschim Province  
 Indian Border: The Khagraula border on the Southern side adjoining India  
 Project: Transit Home Project of Maiti Nepal



# Transit Homes in Statistics 2025

## NUMBER OF BENEFECIARIES WE SERVED AS PER CASES IN 2025

Transit Homes	Rescued from India	Internally Rescued	Interception at the Border	Brought to Transit Homes	Family Reintegration	No. of Vehicles Inspected
Illam	3	0	1063	311	326	22131
Jhapa	10	0	39	172	182	16396
Biratnagar	2	0	10	108	108	2425
Parsa	21	125	33	132	276	21041
Rupandehi	1	0	48	204	204	3280
Banke	5	0	473	545	554	2607
Bardiya	3	0	80	284	309	1300
Dhangadhi Kailai	3	0	37	165	169	17747
Tikapur Kailai	0	0	9	28	36	406
Kanchanpur	9	0	33	169	218	13078
Rasuwa	0	1	0	38	38	0
Kavre	0	3	716	16	19	47500
Kathmandu	0	12	141	137	139	186022
Chitwan	0	11	114	43	122	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1,52</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>3,34,061</b>

# Transit Homes in Statistics 2025

## NUMBER OF BENEFEICIARIES WE SERVED AS PER CASES IN 2025

Transit Homes	Missing Case Registered	Missing Case Found	Sexual Assault Case Registered	Sexual Assault Case Prosecution	Domestic Violence Reported	Domestic Violence Mediated
Illam	12	4	4	4	4	4
Jhapa	57	25	2	2	9	8
Biratnagar	47	14	0	0	54	29
Parsa	28	9	8	8	9	9
Rupandehi	25	13	0	0	10	3
Banke	919	589	0	0	6	3
Bardiya	66	16	19	22	39	38
Dhangadhi Kailai	345	50	0	0	9	9
Tikapur Kailai	3	2	2	3	2	3
Kanchanpur	191	83	4	4	12	10
Rasuwa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kavre	12	7	4	4	18	8
Kathmandu	51	31	4	4	4	1
Chitwan	49	31	2	2	26	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1870</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>150</b>

# Transit Homes in Statistics 2025

## NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES WE SERVED AS PER CASES IN 2025

Transit Homes	Referred to National Women Commission, Concerned Police Stations and Ward offices	Legal counseling	Shelter Provided to Minor Females	Shelter Provided to adult Females	Long-Term Shelter Support to minor females (more than 3 Months)	Long-Term Shelter Support to adult females (more than 3 Months)
Illam	0	333	139	167	0	0
Jhapa	0	12	56	78	1	3
Biratnagar	0	108	32	76	0	0
Parsa	0	14	161	128	0	1
Rupandehi	0	10	73	110	0	0
Banke	0	944	262	288	0	0
Bardiya	0	20	230	79	0	1
Dhangadhi Kailai	0	10	108	61	0	0
Tikapur Kailai	0	3	10	18	0	0
Kanchanpur	0	228	96	96	2	0
Rasuwa	0	0	38	0	0	0
Kavre	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kathmandu	0	4	47	103	1	0
Chitwan	0	7	46	72	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2657</b>	<b>1298</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

# Transit Homes in Statistics 2025

## NUMBER OF BENEFECIARIES WE SERVED AS PER CASES IN 2025

Transit Homes	Psycho-social counseling	Human Trafficking Reported	Human Trafficking Case Prosecution	Door-to-door Visit	IEC Materials Distribution/ Information Sharing on Anti-Trafficking Issues, Unsafe Migration and Foreign Employment	Training/ Orientation/ Education/ Health Facilities Provided to Women and Girls
Illam	1264	0	0	0	1206	620
Jhapa	176	0	0	151	5159	242
Biratnagar	178	0	0	0	641	316
Parsa	286	6	6	2751	2578	2751
Rupandehi	183	0	0	0	12000	663
Banke	559	5	5	0	2636	2325
Bardiya	413	1	1	0	17000	9830
Dhangadhi Kailai	169	0	0	175	11680	202
Tikapur Kailai	26	0	0	0	0	0
Kanchanpur	228	1	1	100	45250	521
Rasuwa	38	0	0	0	297	690
Kavre	0	3	3	0	3252	556
Kathmandu	149	0	0	0	28030	2131
Chitwan	227	2	2	137	803	334
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,718</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>130,532</b>	<b>21,181</b>

# REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

*Healing, Learning, and Rebuilding Lives*



Our Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program is dedicated to supporting survivors of trafficking, sexual abuse, domestic violence, and exploitation as they rebuild their lives with safety and dignity. Through this program, survivors receive safe shelter, medical care, counselling, education, and vocational training, equipping them with the tools to heal and regain independence.

During rehabilitation, survivors benefit from healthcare, psychological support, and skill-building in a secure, nurturing environment. We work closely with families and communities to foster understanding, strengthen support networks, and prevent re-victimization.

Our reintegration efforts help survivors fully reclaim their lives. We assist with employment opportunities, housing, legal support, and family reconnection. Vocational training spans diverse fields, including beautician courses, cooking, housekeeping, barista skills, stitching, weaving, and arts and crafts. Many of their creations are showcased through digital platforms and exhibitions, providing a pathway toward economic independence and personal empowerment.

Even after survivors secure jobs, our support continues, offering counseling, guidance, and ongoing family reintegration services to ensure long-term well-being. With Rehabilitation Homes in Kathmandu and Sunsari, Maiti Nepal provides safe spaces where survivors can heal, grow, and thrive toward a hopeful future.

## Our Rehabilitation Services:

- ◇ Safe shelter with nutritious meals
- ◇ Crisis intervention and psychosocial counseling
- ◇ Legal aid and social support
- ◇ Healthcare services and psychotherapy
- ◇ Vocational training for economic empowerment
- ◇ Formal and non-formal education on anti-trafficking and safe migration
- ◇ Life skills development for sustainable independence



# Rehabilitation home in Sunsari

Established in March 2002 in Bargachhi, Sunsari District, the Itahari Rehabilitation Home provides a secure and supportive environment for children and women vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. Serving communities in Morang and Jhapa, this home is a vital resource in preventing human rights violations and helping survivors rebuild their lives with confidence and dignity.

The program emphasizes empowerment through income-generating training, leadership development, and life skills education. Survivors also participate in awareness sessions on human trafficking and safe migration, equipping them with knowledge to make informed choices about their futures.

After completing training, many survivors reintegrate with their families, applying new skills to contribute to household income. For those without family support, we facilitate job placements or connect them with Maiti Nepal Women Rehabilitation Center in Kathmandu, ensuring they have continued access to opportunities for stability, growth, and independence.

## Major Achievements:

- 16 missing cases were reported to the rehabilitation center, of which eleven were successfully resolved, resulting in the reintegration of the missing girls and women with their families and relatives.
- 10 girls/women received shelter and holistic care at Sunsari rehabilitation center
- 22 girls/women were given vocational training.
- 679 girls/women Orientation on Anti-Trafficking, Domestic and Sexual Violence and Safe Migration
- Provided basic tailoring training to 7 women, and advance tailoring training to 7 women for livelihood earning
- Handed over sewing machines to 5 women.
- Provided Beautician training to 5 girls for their livelihood earning
- Provided Erickshaw driving training along with Erikshaws to 3 survivors of human and addition batteries for 2 women Erickshaw drivers of the previous batches.
- Successfully completed MPAC meeting with 25 project advisory committee of Municipality and discussed the overall activities conducted by Maiti Nepal.
- Successfully celebrated 115th International Women's Day, Maiti Nepal's, 33rd annual day program, 19th National day against trafficking in persons, 11th World Day against Trafficking in Persons, along with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.



# Rehabilitation home in Kathmandu

Maiti Nepal’s Rehabilitation Home in Kathmandu provides a safe and nurturing environment for over 400 women and children, offering the care, guidance, and opportunities they need to rebuild their lives. The home serves a diverse group, including survivors of trafficking, victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, abandoned children, and individuals intercepted at borders.

Our comprehensive rehabilitation services cover safe shelter, formal and non-formal education, vocational and life skills training, medical care, psychological counseling, and legal assistance. We also encourage entrepreneurial ventures and provide employment opportunities within our programs, supporting survivors in achieving long-term self-reliance and financial stability.

More than just a shelter, the Rehabilitation Home is a place of healing and transformation. Through counseling, therapy, and skill development, we empower survivors to regain control of their lives, restore confidence, and reintegrate into society with dignity, resilience, and hope for the future.



As of December 2025,

a total of 640 children and women were receiving direct support at Maiti Nepal’s Rehabilitation Home. Shelter 01 (girls’ section) housed 465 adolescent girls and women, while Shelter 02 accommodated 175 younger children.

**Empowering Survivors Through Employment & Training**

# Among the 465 girls and women in Shelter 01

2	working as Beauticians at Nil David Beauty Salon, Kathmandu
2	working as Clinic Helpers at Maiti Nepal's clinic, Kathmandu
5	working as Child Caretakers at Maiti Nepal's Children's Protection Centre
2	working as Kitchen Helpers at Maiti Nepal's kitchen
1	working as Canteen Helper at Maiti Nepal's canteen
3	assisting as School Helpers at Teresa Academy, Kathmandu
8	attending as Workshop Participants, beadwork and income-generating skill sessions
1	as Beauty Parlor Trainee at Nil David Beauty Salon
3	attending College studying BSW at Brooklyn College
1	as Barista Trainee at Himalayan Java, Kamalpokhari
14	attending Non-Formal & Life Skills Education classes at Maiti Rehabilitation Home
423	girls and women have been successfully reintegrated with their families.

**Between January and December 2025, 447 new individuals arrived at the rehabilitation home (431 girls/women and 16 children).**

## Trafficking Survivors (58 cases)

- 55 rescued from India (Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, Bihar, Delhi)
- 3 rescued from the Middle East (Lebanon, Kuwait, Oman)
- Reintegration: 54 reunited with families
- Others: 2 working as BST & office helper, 2 enrolled in formal education at Child Protection Centre

## Intercepted Cases (10 cases)

- Reintegration: 8 returned to families
- Others: 1 joined Maiti Nepal workshop, 1 working in kitchen at WRC

## Trafficking Survivors (58 cases)

- Reintegration: 14 returned to families
- Others: 1 working as child caretaker at Rehab Home, 2 shifted to Child Protection Centre for formal education, 1 attending BSW at Brooklyn College

## Rape & Sexual Assault Survivors (8 cases)

- Reintegration: 2 returned to families
- Others: 3 shifted to Child Protection Centre for education, 1 attending BBS at Brooklyn College, 1 in clinic for postnatal care, 1 working as infant room caretaker

## Women Rescued from Vulnerable Restaurant Work (337 cases)

- Reintegration: 299 returned to families
- Others: 11 shifted to Child Protection Centre for education
- 1 taking advanced tailoring training
- 1 attending college (BSW) and working as data operator
- 1 working as clinic helper
- 6 attending beauty parlor training at Nil David Beauty Salon
- 4 engaged in Maiti Nepal workshop (handicrafts & beadwork)
- 14 remaining in Rehab Home for life skills & leadership training

# FAMILY REUNION AND REINTEGRATION

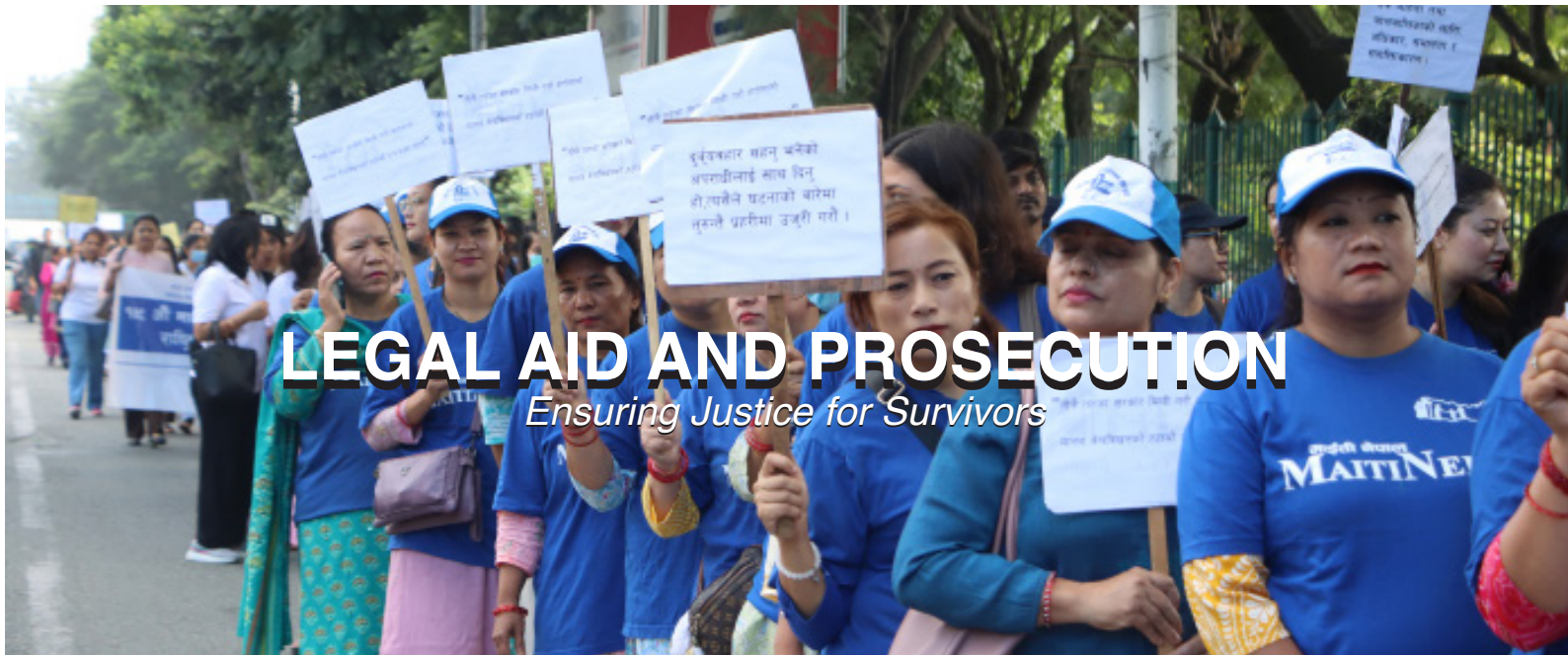
## Restoring Connections, Rebuilding Lives

At Maiti Nepal, the safe reintegration of trafficking survivors into their families and communities is a cornerstone of our work. In partnership with law enforcement and local organizations, we identify survivors and carefully facilitate reunions, ensuring that each return is safe and supportive.

Survivors receive comprehensive care, including shelter, counseling, healthcare, and skill training, to help them heal, regain independence, and rebuild their lives. Community outreach and education programs complement these efforts by raising awareness about trafficking risks and promoting safe migration practices, helping prevent future exploitation.

In 2025, 422 survivors from Kathmandu were successfully reunited with their families or guardians following detailed investigations, including 151 minors and 271 adults. Across all Maiti Nepal districts, a total of 2,741 survivors were reintegrated, including 1,434 minors and 1,307 adults. These reunions not only restore family bonds but also play a critical role in safeguarding survivors against re-exploitation and supporting their long-term well-being.





# LEGAL AID AND PROSECUTION

*Ensuring Justice for Survivors*

## Ensuring Justice for Survivors

At Maiti Nepal, we are committed to safeguarding the rights of women and children through free legal aid and counseling. Our specialized legal aid division works tirelessly to support survivors of violence, abuse, and discrimination, handling cases related to human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, psychological abuse, and harassment, both within Nepal and for those seeking employment abroad. On average, the team manages 6 to 8 domestic violence cases and 3 to 4 cases of missing persons each day.

### Key Support Services Include

Legal counseling for trafficking survivors seeking justice and protection.

Assistance for survivors of domestic violence, including spousal abuse, verbal or physical mistreatment, polygamy, sexual assault, substance abuse, or deprivation of basic needs.

Guidance and legal support for survivors of sexual assault to ensure access to justice.

Assistance for families of missing persons, whether they approach Maiti Nepal directly or are referred by partner organizations.

Legal advice for participants in awareness programs, empowering communities with knowledge of their rights and legal options.

Through this work, Maiti Nepal not only helps survivors navigate the justice system but also strengthens their confidence, restores agency, and ensures that their voices are heard and rights upheld.

## Summary of the legal report:

*In 2025, a total of 6,315 people received legal support. Among them:*

- **29** human trafficking cases were registered in district courts across the country. Among them, **1** case resulted in a conviction, while **28** cases are still pending in various courts.
- **84** rape cases were filed in district courts nationwide, and several of them have already received verdicts.
- **1,980** cases of missing girls, women, and boys were reported, out of which **924** individuals were traced and reunited with their families.
- **794** domestic violence cases were reported. Of these, **377** were settled through out-of-court mediation, while the remaining cases were referred to the National Women Commission, the Nepal Police Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Directorate, the Nepal Bar Association, local governments, and other relevant agencies.
- A total of 3,428 individuals received legal counseling services through phone consultations, in-person sessions, and email support.
- **84** rape cases were filed in district courts nationwide, and several of them have already received verdicts.





# PARTICIPATION

## Empowering Women and Children to Lead and Thrive

At Maiti Nepal, we believe that true empowerment comes when women and children have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to shape their own futures. Our participation program focuses on equipping girls and women, especially those at risk of trafficking or survivors, with literacy, vocational training, and business support, helping them achieve independence and resilience.

Beyond skill-building, the program encourages women and children to engage in decision-making, understand their rights, and take active roles in their communities. Partnerships with local leaders and organizations strengthen advocacy for gender equality, highlighting the essential contributions of women to society.



To ensure holistic growth, children and beneficiaries participate in a range of activities within a child rights framework, including:

## Key Support Services Include

**Education Support & Vocational Training** to foster long-term self-sufficiency

**Job Placement opportunities** to promote financial independence

**Recreational Therapy** through music, dance, and yoga to nurture emotional well-being

**Self-Defense Training** such as Taekwondo to enhance personal safety

**Excursions & Sports Tournaments** (football, basketball) for social and physical development

**Peer Group Involvement & Clubs** to cultivate leadership, teamwork, and confidence

**Intellectually Stimulating Activities** like essay competitions, science fairs, and quizzes to encourage creativity and critical thinking

Through these initiatives, Maiti Nepal empowers women and children not just to survive, but to thrive, equipped with the skills, support, and agency to actively participate in shaping their own lives and communities.



## Sonja Jeevan Kendra: Providing Essential Healthcare Services



At Sonja Jeevan Kendra, we provide a safe, compassionate space for women and children who have survived trafficking, abuse, and violence. Established in 2001, the clinic is more than a healthcare facility, it is a place where survivors regain strength, find comfort, and begin their journey toward healing.

Our services include general health checkups, laboratory testing, medications, and referrals for specialized care. Visiting doctors provide expert attention, while a dedicated medical team, comprising a doctor, three nurses, and three clinic assistants, ensures every patient receives personalized care. Each year, we serve over 400 survivors, including women and children residing in Maiti Nepal's homes.

As one of Nepal's recognized Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centers, Maiti Nepal also provides critical HIV treatment and care. Through this program, individuals living with HIV receive medical support, counseling, and regular follow-ups, helping them lead healthier, more dignified lives.

Equipped with 38 beds, a laboratory, pharmacy, patient care areas, and an entertainment room for relaxation, the clinic addresses both medical needs and emotional well-being. For us, healthcare is not just about treatment, it is about restoring dignity, rebuilding confidence, and empowering survivors to move forward with strength, resilience, and hope.

### Hospital Care and Clinical Services

In 2025, a total of **248** inpatients were admitted to the clinic for treatment and care. Additionally, 362 rescued outpatients received medical services and follow-up support at the clinic.

### Vaccination and Preventive Health Programs

Preventive healthcare remained a priority throughout the year:

- ◇ Albendazole was administered twice a year (every six months) to children and beneficiaries in the CPC, WRC, baby room, and Halfway Home as part of the deworming program.
- ◇ Immunization for children under five was conducted according to the Government's EPI schedule in coordination with Ramghat PHC.
- ◇ Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccines were provided to patients suffering from cut injuries caused by metal or sharp objects.
- ◇ On December 5, an eye camp was organized where 179 patients, including beneficiaries from Hospice, CPC, WRC, and Halfway Home, received eye examinations.

## Mother & Child Support

- ◇ Mother-baby care services were provided to seven mothers and their babies in 2025.
- ◇ Speech therapy sessions were conducted for a male child who had undergone surgery for hearing impairment.

## Daily Health Monitoring & Support

The clinic ensures continuous monitoring and support through the following routine activities:

- ◇ **Vital Signs Monitoring:** Regular checks of blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration.
- ◇ **Growth Monitoring:**  
Monthly measurements for all babies.  
Height and weight assessments every three months for children in CPC and WRC.  
Height and weight measurements every three months in the baby room.
- ◇ **Psychiatric & General Follow-ups:** Hospice patients receive general health check-ups and psychiatric follow-ups every three months as advised by doctors.
- ◇ **Health Education:** Customized health awareness sessions for both inpatients and outpatients.
- ◇ **Medication Distribution:** Daily distribution of prescribed medicines as per doctors' instructions.
- ◇ **HIV Medication Support:** Active medication is provided daily for HIV-positive inpatients and monthly for outpatient clients.
- ◇ **First Aid & Symptomatic Care:** Immediate treatment and symptom-based care are provided as required.
- ◇ **Training & Capacity Building:** Participation in various HIV/AIDS-related trainings and programs organized by NCASC and EPIC Nepal.



## HIV/AIDS & ARV Services

The clinic provides continued support to clients receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART):

- ◇ Regular ARV services and counseling are provided to clients taking medication from the organization.
- ◇ Monthly reports are submitted to the National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC).
- ◇ Bi-monthly reports are sent to the logistics department.
- ◇ Viral load testing is conducted annually according to government protocols.
- ◇ Daily recording and reporting of ART clients are maintained as per NCASC and HMIS guidelines.

Through these services, Sonja Jeevan Clinic remains committed to delivering holistic, compassionate, and quality healthcare to all beneficiaries.

# HOSPICE, GOKARNA

*Providing Care, Comfort, and Dignity*



**The Sonja Kill Memorial Hospice**, established on January 19, 2006, in northern Kathmandu, is a place of care and compassion for survivors of trafficking who face serious health challenges, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and other conditions. The hospice also supports women affected by mental health issues resulting from violence, abuse, and other difficult life circumstances.

Created to bring peace and dignity to those in poor health, the hospice provides comprehensive care, including shelter, meals, clothing, and medical attention, while offering companionship and emotional support so residents can live their remaining days with comfort and serenity. Relocated from Sattighatta, the hospice now sits on an open area of nearly 3,690 square meters, with close access to skilled medical professionals and emergency hospital care in Kathmandu. Modern facilities include 24-hour medical support, balanced nutrition, and anti-retroviral treatment with regular viral load and CD4 cell testing.

Currently, **29** residents call the hospice home: **9** are living with HIV/AIDS, while **20** receive care for mental health conditions. In addition to medical care, residents participate in vocational training and handicraft classes, grow seasonal vegetables for self-consumption, and engage in recreational activities such as singing, dancing, painting, sports, yoga, and meditation. Exposure visits and psychosocial counseling further help improve self-esteem, reduce stress, and foster greater independence and self-confidence among the women.

At Gokarna Hospice, every effort is centered on restoring dignity, nurturing well-being, and providing survivors with a peaceful and supportive environment to live their lives with care and respect.

## Special Celebrations & Visits at the Hospice:

- ◇ January 15: Maghe Sankranti was celebrated with Teel Ladoos, Chaku, Ghee, and sweet potatoes.
- ◇ January 19: Hospice's Annual Day featured a cultural program by hospice women, followed by a feast.
- ◇ March 8: International Women's Day was celebrated with cultural programs.
- ◇ March 13: Holi was celebrated with colors and festive food.
- ◇ May 25: Hospice women and staff planted pumpkins and vegetables.
- ◇ June 29: Asar 15 was marked with curd, beaten rice, and bananas (Dahi-Chiura).
- ◇ July 31: Shrawan 15 was marked with rice pudding (Khir).
- ◇ August 9: Rakshya Bandhan was celebrated with mixed bean soup.
- ◇ August 26: Women at the hospice celebrated Teej.
- ◇ October 2: Hospice women received blessings and tika for Vijaya Dashami.
- ◇ October 20: Deepawali was celebrated with lights and joy.
- ◇ December 1: Head office staff, along with hospice members, celebrated World AIDS Day with a cultural program and a special meal.

# TERESA ACADEMY

*Empowering Vulnerable Children Through Education*

## School Overview

Established on April 2, 1998, Teresa Academy began with Nursery, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 classes, welcoming 45 students. From the start, our mission has been to support orphans, semi-orphans, and children at risk, with a particular focus on economically disadvantaged girls who are often most vulnerable to exploitation.



## Current Status

- ◆ **Total Students:** 362, with 96% girls and 4% boys
- ◆ **Regular Students:** 362, including 15 in the Chhahari class, a bridging program helping out-of-school girls rejoin formal education
- ◆ **Living Arrangements:** Most students reside in Maiti Nepal's Child Protection Center, while others come from nearby communities

Many of our students come from difficult circumstances and uncertain futures. Access to quality education provides a vital pathway to break the cycle of poverty and vulnerability. Through a dedicated team of qualified teachers, Teresa Academy fosters an intellectually stimulating and nurturing environment, empowering students, especially girls, to overcome challenges, develop their potential, and work toward brighter, more secure futures.

## Major Achievements of 2025

### SEE Graduates:

- Teresa Academy has maintained a 100% pass rate in the SEE exams. Students consistently achieve grades A, B+, and B. Graduates of 2023 are continuing their education, with many progressing to grade XI in the school's second batch of Higher Secondary.

### Alumni Success:

- Graduates are excelling in various fields, such as Medicine, Hospitality, Accountancy, Engineering, and Arts.

### Basketball:

- Basketball is a key focus at Teresa Academy, with both girls' and boys' teams performing exceptionally well.

### Taekwondo Success:

- Our Taekwondo team has proven to be one of the best in the country, with students securing top positions in competitions

### Inspiration and Resilience:

- Students demonstrate great enthusiasm for learning, despite their challenging pasts. Their resilience inspires teachers and contributes to positive change, aiding their healing process.

### Chhahari Class:

- Since 2013, Chhahari Class has helped reintegrate young girls who had dropped out or never attended school, providing them with a chance to return to formal education.

### Holistic Development:

- The school offers a nurturing environment where students enhance their problem-solving, leadership, and teamwork skills, reducing the likelihood of negative behaviors.

### Community Engagement:

- Students took part in a cleaning campaign on Environment Day and senior students conducted an orientation on Recycling, Reuse, and Reduce. They were also involved in raising awareness against social and domestic violence.

### Excursions:

- Educational excursions organized to Godawari Botanical Garden, Swayambhu Museum, Kirtipur, and Chovar, providing exposure and learning beyond the classroom.

### Celebrations:

- The school celebrated Children's Day, Teacher's Day, Dashain, Tihar, Christmas, and Saraswati Puja.



# Awards and Recognitions

## Inter-School Competitions:

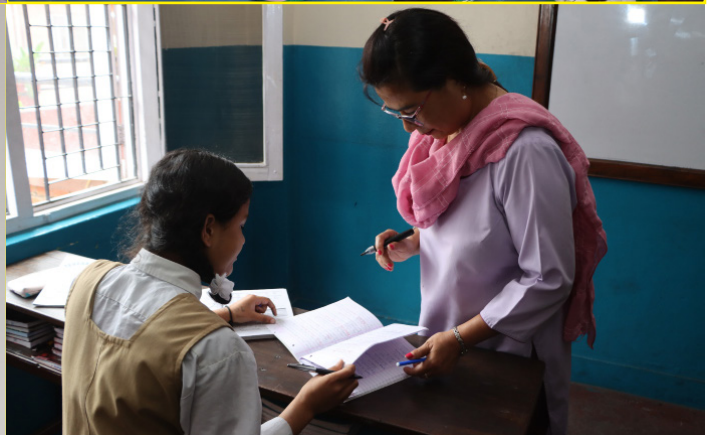
- ❖ **Basketball:** Girls' team won a tournament at Oligapuri Orphanage; reached semi-finals in Maha Manjushree HSS and Wilson School tournaments.
- ❖ **Taekwondo:** Teresa Academy hosted an Inter-School Championship and won 6 out of 10 gold medals; 5 students also participated in a match organized by Jyapu Samaj, Lalitpur.
- ❖ **Chess, Essay, Talent & Arts Competitions:** Sara secured first place in Talent Hub at the 6th Winter Event 2025; students participated in inter-school quiz, essay, handwriting, and drawing competitions.
- ❖ **Debate & Recitation:** Inter-house debates, poem recitations, and speech competitions conducted throughout the year.

## Academic Achievements:

- ❖ Mathematics and Science Olympiads conducted on 21 February; active participation across grades.
- ❖ Consistent student engagement in class board decoration, handwriting, drawing, and Rangoli competitions.
- ❖ Annual Prize Distribution held on 27 June 2025 recognizing academic and co-curricular excellence.

## Special Initiatives:

- ❖ Winter vacation workshops included creative writing, MUN simulation, extempore speech, time & stress management, and psychiatric awareness. Students created booklets displayed at the closing ceremony and preserved in the library.
- ❖ Students actively engaged in skill-building, leadership, and environmental awareness, strengthening holistic development and community participation.



# EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

We believe in helping children spread their wings and reach for their dreams, guiding them toward brighter futures. As Maiti Nepal continues to fight human trafficking and exploitation, providing education for children remains at the heart of our mission. Education unlocks opportunities, empowering children to build fulfilling lives.

Our Education Sponsorship Program plays a crucial role in steering these young individuals toward better paths. With the generous support from our donors and sponsors, we provide educational scholarships that allow beneficiaries and underprivileged children to continue their studies. From school education to bachelor's degree programs, we've supported over 200 students in fields such as Hotel Management, Computer Science, Journalism, Medicine, and Engineering, studying at institutions in Nepal and India.

## Major Achievements

In 2025, we proudly supported **194** beneficiaries in continuing their educational journey under Maiti Nepal's care and guidance.

### Higher Education (Bachelor's Level) – 45 Students

- Bachelor in Business Studies – 18
- Bachelor in Social Work – 22
- Bachelor in Information Technology – 1
- Bachelor in Physiotherapy – 1
- Bachelor in Fashion Design – 1
- Bachelor in Hotel Management – 1
- Bachelor in Fine Arts – 1

### Diploma Level – 1 Student

- Diploma in Physiotherapy – 1 (Completed and currently working as Head of Physiotherapy)

### Intermediate Level – 20 Students

- Business Studies – 13 (including students from Teresa Academy)
- Hotel Management – 2
- Computer Science – 2
- Science – 1
- Information Technology – 1
- Social Work – 1

### School Level – 128 Students

- **128** students are currently pursuing their education at Teresa Academy.

Through this continued educational support, we remain committed to empowering beneficiaries with knowledge, skills, and opportunities for a brighter future.



# BOYS' INITIATIVE PROJECT

## (Youth-Led Gender Justice Initiative)

### *Addressing Boys' Vulnerabilities*

- ◇ **Implementation Period:** May 2025 – January 2026
- ◇ **Geographic Coverage:** Kathmandu Valley (Wards 9, 5, and 3)

The Boys' Initiative was implemented to address the emotional, social, and protection-related challenges faced by adolescent boys due to rigid gender norms and harmful expectations of masculinity. The program created safe, youth-led spaces where boys and girls could openly discuss vulnerability, mental health, violence, peer pressure, and healthy relationships. It promoted positive masculinity, shared responsibility for gender equality, and improved help-seeking behavior.

### Youth Facilitators

A total of 9 trained youth facilitators (aged 16–18), both male and female, led the sessions. They had prior training in child protection, gender equality, safeguarding, and peer education. Facilitators conducted interactive sessions, encouraged peer dialogue, ensured safe participation, and referred participants to support services when required.

### Target Participants Reached

- ◇ Boys: **500**
- ◇ Girls: **400**
- ◇ Parents/Caregivers: **85**
- ◇ Teachers: **150** (Teachers participated in student sessions; no separate orientation was conducted.)
- ◇ Government Stakeholders: **35**



## Major Achievements

- ◇ Engaged adolescent boys from Nepal, Bangladesh, and India in cross-country dialogue and advocacy initiatives.
- ◇ Conducted two cross-country youth exchange programs in Nepal and one regional learning visit to Kolkata, strengthening regional collaboration.
- ◇ Developed and finalized a Youth Position Paper highlighting boys' vulnerabilities, harmful gender norms, and protection concerns.
- ◇ Officially submitted the Position Paper to local government authorities, police representatives, and community stakeholders to advocate for gender-responsive policies and inclusion of boys in protection programs.
- ◇ Strengthened boys' leadership, advocacy, and public speaking skills through workshops and dialogue platforms.
- ◇ Participated in a regional sharing platform in Bangkok, where Nepal's focal person presented key issues affecting boys.
- ◇ Promoted learning exchange with youth-led initiatives in Kolkata, including engagement with youth from red-light areas supporting vulnerable children.
- ◇ Increased awareness among schools, families, and communities on harmful gender norms and the importance of engaging boys in prevention efforts.
- ◇ Strengthened coordination among schools, youth clubs, and local stakeholders for sustained engagement.
- ◇ Created safe spaces for boys to openly discuss masculinity, violence, emotional well-being, and peer pressure.
- ◇ Enhanced cross-border solidarity among youth advocates working in child protection and gender equality.

### Key Training Topics Conducted

- ◇ Gender Equality
- ◇ Know Yourself (Self-awareness and Emotional Understanding)

The program contributed to empowering adolescent boys as advocates for gender justice while fostering inclusive dialogue and stronger community engagement.

# CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY (CDU) SPONSORSHIP PROJECT

In 2023, we partnered with Charles Darwin University (CDU) from Australia to create brighter futures for survivors and orphaned children at Maiti Nepal. CDU's support has opened doors to better educational and vocational opportunities for women and children facing limited options. Through this partnership, we've empowered individuals with skills in tailoring, beauty parlors, food and beverages, and computer courses, fostering independence and stability.

CDU also supported higher education, granting full scholarships to two of our beneficiaries pursuing master's degrees in Australia and to five of our beneficiaries pursuing higher education in Nepal each year. This initiative promotes cultural exchange and knowledge sharing, enriching the lives of our children and aligning with Maiti Nepal's mission to empower survivors. The CDU Sponsorship Project aims to develop future leaders who are committed to Maiti Nepal's cause, setting a strong example for others.



## Major Achievements

- ◇ 2 student Completed their Master's degrees at CDU.
- ◇ 1 Student Joined Master in Business Studies at Texas International College.
- ◇ 1 student Joined Bachlor in Fine Arts at Lalitkala Campus.
- ◇ 1 student joined Bachlor in Business studies at Brooklyn College
- ◇ 9 students are currently studying at different levels in Kathmandu- two students in Nepal completed their master's and are preparing for the thesis, 4 are pursuing their Bachelor's Degree, 1 is pursuing their high school degree, and one student joined +2 at Sikshyantar College. One student is doing a master's in Business Studies at Lincoln College.
- ◇ 5 students completed their Barista Training at Himalaya Java
- ◇ 8 Women from Maiti Nepal completed their Tailoring Training.
- ◇ 18 students learned Fine Arts
- ◇ 9 Girls from Marginalized group learned beauty parlor training at Hetauda, and two got jobs in the same Parlor.
- ◇ 5 women in Kailai got Florist Training
- ◇ 8 women from Itahari got Training on shoe-making and one joined the shoes factory, 2 women are making their own shoes at their homes.
- ◇ Women from Hopice are learning agriculture Training.

# » MOTHER BABY PROJECT

## Services to Mothers and Babies at risk

In Nepal, women, especially in rural areas, face significant challenges due to economic hardship, making them vulnerable to crimes like trafficking, rape, and gender-based violence. Survivors often experience stigmatization and discrimination, leading many to keep their traumatic experiences hidden out of fear for their dignity and social standing.

To address these challenges, Maiti Nepal launched a project that offers comprehensive care to mothers and babies at risk, particularly focusing on survivors of trafficking, rape, and gender-based violence. We provide shelter, medical care, counseling, and healing therapies to ensure that young mothers can lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

Pregnant women are initially housed at Maiti Nepal's primary health center, where they receive medical and emotional support. After delivery and recovery, they are transferred to the Women's Rehabilitation Center for continued care.

Many of these young women come from difficult circumstances, early marriage, cohabitation at a young age, sexual assault, or abandonment by their families. Some are destitute or forced to leave home, with nowhere to go.

We provide shelter and care to those who are more than four to five months pregnant and unable to access safe abortion services. They are supported through their pregnancy in a safe, compassionate environment.

Once they give birth, we work to reunite them with their families. When families are willing to accept them, we ensure the safe reintegration of both mother and child.

This project also empowers survivors with life skills, leadership training, and support to help them build independent, sustainable lives.

## Major Activities

- ◇ Shelter and holistic care for mothers and babies (medical, nutritional)
- ◇ Psychosocial counseling for mothers
- ◇ Reintegration support for mothers back into the community
- ◇ Training for caregivers



## Major Achievements

- ◇ Maiti Nepal has provided shelter support and specialized holistic care for **7** new mothers along with their babies, **1** orphan baby and **4** pregnant women in 2025
- ◇ Under the services to mother and baby in risk project, Maiti Nepal has provided shelter, support and specialised holistic care for **15** mothers and **15** babies from 2020 - 2025.
- ◇ Maiti Nepal has provided psychosocial counselling for **15** mothers in 2025.
- ◇ Maiti Nepal has successfully reintegrated seven mothers along with their babies (including two cases from 2024) and provided support to four pregnant girls/women. Additionally, two mothers temporarily entrusted the care of their babies to the Maiti Nepal shelter to ensure access to quality care and educational opportunities, while they resumed employment at a reputable five-star hotel, working diligently to support their children and build a more secure future.
- ◇ **22** participants attended the training to caregivers' program at Pashupati Boutique Hotel, Kathmandu.

## » Down To Zero-Alliance (SUFASEC) Project

### Down To Zero-Alliance (SUFASEC) Project

A three-year initiative funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, implemented in Morang, Rupandehi, Bardiya, Kanchanpur, and Kathmandu, focusing on preventing human trafficking and child sexual exploitation while ensuring survivor aftercare.

### Project Objectives:

- ❖ Children, youth and their communities successfully challenge social norms and harmful practices related to SEC.
- ❖ Children and civil society meaningfully participate in holding duty bearers, including government and local authorities, accountable to their obligations towards improved (implementation of) laws, policies and systems.
- ❖ Children and youth have access to and are supported by strengthened assets and protective environments.



## Major Activities:

### Investigations & Rescues

- ◇ Rescued **4** minor girls through timely intelligence and in-depth investigations.
- ◇ **2** cross-border rescues were carried out from Mumbai and Hyderabad, while **2** girls were rescued from internal trafficking within Nepal.
- ◇ Operations were conducted in close coordination with civil society actors, local police, community partners, and other stakeholders.
- ◇ Most survivors came from economically vulnerable families and had dropped out of school; several were trafficked through fake-love tactics and deceptive promises before being sexually exploited.
- ◇ Despite growing risks linked to internal trafficking and informal entertainment sectors, strengthened coordination and information sharing enabled timely response and successful rescues.

### Aftercare & Reintegration

- ◇ Provided shelter and aftercare services to **393** minors in 2025 (**389** intercepted at border points and 4 rescued through investigations).
- ◇ Support included safe accommodation, nutritious food, psychosocial care, individual counseling, and legal assistance.
- ◇ Where safe and appropriate, intercepted women and girls were reunited directly with their families following case-by-case assessments.
- ◇ Conducted family counseling to raise awareness on trafficking risks and promote protective caregiving practices.
- ◇ Completed detailed safety and risk assessments prior to reintegration, with coordination from local authorities and police where risks were identified.
- ◇ Carried out regular follow-up visits post-reintegration to ensure long-term safety and dignity.

### Access to Justice

- ◇ Provided legal assistance to **2** minor survivors—one rescued from Mumbai and one intercepted at Gad-dachowki.
- ◇ Both cases were registered under Nepal's Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2064.
- ◇ **Two alleged traffickers** (a 55-year-old woman and a 32-year-old man) were arrested and are currently in judicial custody awaiting trial.
- ◇ Ongoing legal guidance ensured survivors remained informed, protected, and able to participate safely in the justice process, with continued accompaniment through court procedures.

### Stakeholder Engagement and Prevention

- ◇ National-level consultations on survivor access to justice held in February 14-15 and November 28-29, 2025, in Kathmandu and Kavre, respectively, led by Maiti Nepal with the Office of the Attorney General, engaging judges, prosecutors, police, and civil society to address gaps in victim identification, prosecution, compensation, and survivor-friendly practices.
- ◇ MDIT meeting (29 July 2025, Kathmandu) strengthened coordination on child trafficking in informal and entertainment sectors.
- ◇ Collaborated with local governments, CBOs, schools, and police for mass awareness during International Women's Day, World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, and 16 Days of Activism, including rallies and door-to-door campaigns in high-risk districts such as Sindhuli District, Udaypur District, and Ramechhap District.
- ◇ Organized a public hearing on internal trafficking (14 June 2025) with community members and youth clubs.
- ◇ Worked closely with police and DCCHTs to strengthen coordination, develop district action plans, and monitor high-risk sectors.
- ◇ Conducted GBV discussions with local women and girls; distributed safe-migration pamphlets to Nepal–India travelers.
- ◇ Engaged transport workers and journalists to support trafficking prevention and media advocacy

## » RESCUE AND AFTERCARE 2025 PROJECT

This initiative combats human trafficking and sexual exploitation by providing rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration services. Survivors receive care, protection, education, and life skills to rebuild their lives and achieve independence.

Operation Location: **Kathmandu**

### Key Objectives

- ◇ **Rescue & Safety:** Identify and rescue victims in collaboration with law enforcement.
- ◇ **Holistic Aftercare:** Provide safe shelter, medical care, trauma counseling, and psychosocial support.
- ◇ **Education & Skills:** Support formal/non-formal education and vocational training for self-sufficiency.
- ◇ **Family Reintegration:** Ensure safe reintegration into families or alternative care options.
- ◇ **Awareness & Advocacy:** Conduct outreach programs to prevent trafficking and exploitation.
- ◇ **Empowerment:** Enable survivors to break the cycle of exploitation and build a secure future.

### Investigations & Rescues (Apr–Dec 2025)

- ◇ Conducted **289** undercover investigations in high-risk adult entertainment areas (New Buspark, Thamel, Imadol, Koteshwor, Balkumari, Boudha, Gaushala, Chabahil, Jorpati).
- ◇ **20** rescue operations conducted with Nepal Police and Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau; **14** successful operations rescued **73** individuals (44 minors, 29 adults).
- ◇ Average age of rescued minors: 16 years; average exploitation duration: ~5 weeks.
- ◇ **Aftercare & Reintegration**
- ◇ **10** minors and 2 adults currently receiving shelter-based care.
- ◇ **34** minors and 24 adults successfully reintegrated with families.
- ◇ Services include safe accommodation, food, clothing, medical care, psychosocial first aid, legal support, trauma counseling, education, and vocational training.
- ◇ **Education & Skills:**
  - 5 minors attending Teresa Academy; some minors in flexible skills-based training.
  - 3 minors and 2 adults enrolled in basic beauty parlor training.
  - 5 minors learning guitar; 1 minor enrolled in hip-hop dance class.
  - Structured daily routines with prayer, physical exercise, and group dance sessions for well-being.
- ◇ **Exposure & Recreational Activities:** Pokhara visit (Dec 3–5) for **7** minors and **2** adults to promote social integration, confidence, and trust.
- ◇ **Reintegration:** Family tracing, counseling, safety assessments, and community-based alternatives for long-term care where necessary.
- ◇ **Access to Justice**
- ◇ Legal counseling and support provided to survivors and families to navigate the legal process safely.
- ◇ Two FIRs registered, leading to the arrest of perpetrators (owners of establishments involved).
- ◇ Efforts included repeated counseling to overcome socio-cultural stigma and trauma, ensuring informed survivor participation.
- ◇ **Awareness & Prevention**
- ◇ Mass awareness initiatives conducted on internal trafficking risks, survivor rights, and support systems.
- ◇ Activities aimed at reducing stigma, challenging harmful norms, and fostering safer community environments.



## » RESCUE AND INTERCEPTION 2025 PROJECT

This initiative combats human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Chitwan and Jhapa by providing **rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration services**. Survivors receive protection, psychosocial support, education, and vocational skills to rebuild their lives

Operation Locations: **Chitwan and Jhapa**

### Key Objectives

- ◇ Rescue & Safety: Identify and rescue victims in collaboration with law enforcement.
- ◇ Holistic Aftercare: Provide safe shelter, medical care, trauma counseling, and psychosocial support.
- ◇ Education & Skills: Support formal/non-formal education and vocational training for self-sufficiency.
- ◇ Family Reintegration: Ensure safe reintegration into families or alternative care options.
- ◇ Awareness & Advocacy: Conduct outreach programs to prevent trafficking and exploitation.
- ◇ Empowerment: Enable survivors to break the cycle of exploitation and build a secure future.

## Summary of Key Activities

*Interceptions & Rescues (Jan–Dec 2025)*

### Interceptions & Rescues (Jan–Dec 2025)

#### Chitwan:

- ◇ Intercepted **73** individuals (53 minor girls, 20 adults).
- ◇ **1** internal rescue operation rescued **5** individuals (1 minor girl, 4 adult women).

#### Jhapa:

- ◇ Intercepted **152** individuals (41 minor girls, 16 minor boys, 95 adults).

#### Cross-Border Rescues:

- ◇ Conducted **3** operations in India, rescuing **7** survivors (3 minor girls, 1 minor boy, 3 adults) and repatriating them to Nepal.

### Aftercare & Reintegration

- ◇ **237** survivors received shelter, psychosocial support, nutrition, and legal assistance (98 minor girls, 17 minor boys, 122 adults).
- ◇ **236** individuals successfully reintegrated into families or communities; **1** minor girl remains in shelter for ongoing care.
- ◇ Family counseling and safety assessments conducted to prevent re-trafficking.
- ◇ Close coordination with local authorities ensured protection and follow-up post-reintegration.

### Education & Skills Development

- ◇ Minors supported in formal and non-formal education.
- ◇ Vocational training provided, including beauty parlor, life skills, and creative classes (guitar, dance).
- ◇ Structured routines with physical activity, group sessions, and recreational exposure visits promoted emotional well-being (e.g., Pokhara visit, Dec 3–5).

### Access to Justice

- ◇ • Legal counseling and support provided to survivors and families.
- ◇ • **1** FIR registered under Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act; perpetrator arrested.
- ◇ • Survivors guided throughout legal processes to ensure safety, protection, and empowerment.

### Awareness & Community Outreach

- ◇ Conducted community outreach in remote Chepang community, Rapti Municipality–**13** during the **16** Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (Dec 10).
- ◇ Activities included street drama, awareness sessions, IEC material distribution, and winter clothing support for school children.
- ◇ Engaged community leaders, students, and parents to address child marriage, school dropouts, child labor, and trafficking risks.
- ◇ Strengthened community-based protection networks in vulnerable areas of Chitwan and Jhapa.

## » COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES OF MAITI NEPAL PROJECT

This year-long initiative aims to prevent and combat human trafficking through awareness, protection, and empowerment of vulnerable groups, especially women and children. Activities include community sensitization, legal aid, shelter support, and psychosocial counseling.

Operation Locations: **Sunsari, Kavre, Ilam, and Kathmandu**

### Major Objectives:

1. **Operate a Transit Home in Ilam, Pashupatinagar**, to provide direct support and therapeutic services for children and women who have been rescued or prevented from trafficking.
2. **Empower Vulnerable Girls** by offering empowerment training at the Maiti Rehabilitation Home in Itahari, Sunsari.
3. **Provide Comprehensive Care in Kathmandu, Gaushala**, for survivors of trafficking, rape, and gender-based violence, including their newborn babies, who face stigma and discrimination from their communities.
4. **Prevent Trafficking** by ensuring at-risk individuals have access to vital information through the Information and Surveillance Centers (Safe Migration Centers) located in Kavre – Kavrepalanchok, Dhulikhel.



## » HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION PROGRAM

This program focuses on combating human trafficking and gender-based violence through rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration support. Survivors receive shelter, healthcare, psychosocial counseling, legal aid, and essential services for recovery.

Operation Locations: **Kathmandu, Makwanpur, and Rasuwa**

### Summary of Key Activities

- **Rescue Operations:** Conducted at internal, cross-border, and international levels.
- **Rehabilitation Support:** Includes shelter, food, healthcare, and trauma counseling.
- **Reintegration Efforts:** Leadership, livelihood, and skills training (e.g., food & beverage), along with family reunification.
- **Awareness & Capacity Building:** Community campaigns and stakeholder engagement to promote safe migration and prevent trafficking.

## » INTEGRATED PROGRAM AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROJECT

**Funded by: Friends of Maiti Nepal (FOMN)**

The Integrated Program Against Human Trafficking is a crucial initiative supported by Friends of Maiti Nepal (FOMN) to combat human trafficking in Kathmandu district. This project provides comprehensive rehabilitation services, including shelter, food, healthcare, psychosocial support, and legal assistance to survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence. Additionally, the program focuses on rescue operations, public awareness campaigns, and skill development training to empower survivors. Through these efforts, we aim to prevent exploitation, support rescued individuals, and enhance community resilience against human trafficking.

### » DREAM FUND PROJECT 2025

The Dream Fund Project, a collaboration between **Maiti Nepal** and **Free a Girl USA**, empowers survivors of child sexual exploitation in Kathmandu. It provides a holistic, survivor-centered approach that combines shelter, education, skills-building, psychosocial support, mentorship, and livelihood opportunities, helping survivors regain confidence, dignity, and independence. From April to October 2025, the project supported **12 survivors**, guiding them toward recovery, social reintegration, and self-reliance.

#### Objectives:

- ◇ Facilitate **Dream Workshops** for survivors to express aspirations.
- ◇ Provide **vocational training** tailored to individual interests (music, cooking, photography, barista skills).
- ◇ Strengthen **support networks** including families and communities for safe reintegration.
- ◇ Equip survivors to become **role models and agents of change**.

#### Major Achievements (Apr–Oct 2025):

- ◇ 10 survivors actively engaged in skill development and vocational training.
- ◇ 3 survivors progressed to internships or job placements, gaining work experience and independence.
- ◇ Significant improvements in emotional stability, self-esteem, and communication through counseling, mentorship, and exposure visits.
- ◇ Several survivors successfully reintegrated into families and communities, with stigma reduction achieved through counseling and follow-up.
- ◇ Formation of peer support networks fostering motivation, resilience, and ongoing personal and professional growth.



## » RESCUE AT TRANSIT HOMES: Birgunj and Dhangadhi

**Funded by: Fundacion Heres (FH)**

With the generous support of Fundacion Heres (FH), the Rescue at Transit Homes project operates in Birgunj (Parsa District) and Dhangadi (Kailali District) to provide immediate protection and rehabilitation to vulnerable women and children. This project focuses on rescuing and preventing human trafficking, offering short-term shelter, legal aid, medical assistance, and psychosocial counseling. Additionally, community outreach programs, awareness campaigns, and family reunification efforts strengthen local prevention mechanisms. Through this initiative, we strive to ensure safety, dignity, and long-term well-being for affected individuals

### » EMPOWERING CHILDREN/WOMEN FOR SELF-SUSTAINABILITY AND HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Maiti Nepal is implementing the “**Empowering Children/Women for Self-Sustainability and Holistic Development**” project with support from The Edinburgh Trust No2 Account. The initiative supports rescued children and women in Kathmandu through education, vocational skills, life-skills training, and basic care, helping them rebuild confidence and work toward independent, dignified lives.

The project (July–December 2025) focuses on survivors currently in Maiti Nepal’s care, many of whom have experienced trauma and disrupted education. A holistic approach combines skills training, exposure visits, recreational activities, and essential support to promote long-term self-reliance.

#### Key Objectives

1. **Livelihood Skills:** Expand access to vocational training and income-generating opportunities.
2. **Education & Development:** Strengthen educational support and practical skills.
3. **Holistic Well-being:** Build confidence, creativity, and social engagement.
4. **Basic Needs:** Improve shelter living conditions through essential provisions.
5. **Exposure & Recreation:** Provide learning visits and activities for overall development.

#### Major Achievements (Jul–Dec 2025)

- ◇ Most beneficiaries participated in **vocational and handicraft training** (beadwork, jewelry making, crafting).
- ◇ **150+ school-going children** at Teresa Academy and Child Protection Home received educational materials.
- ◇ **60 participants** joined recreational and educational exposure visits.
- ◇ **Clothing and slippers** distributed to residents of two shelters during Dashain, improving comfort and dignity.
- ◇ Beneficiaries showed **notable increases in confidence, engagement, and motivation** across activities.



## » TRANSFORMING SOCIAL NORMS & ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

Implemented by Maiti Nepal with funding support from UN Women

This project aims to challenge harmful social norms and advance gender equality through community mobilization, youth engagement, men's involvement, and institutional strengthening across selected districts of Nepal.

Project Location: **Bara, Dhanusha and Kathmandu Districts**

### Major Activities

- ◇ Conducted **street dramas, school awareness sessions, and community dialogues** on child marriage, GBV, dowry, legal rights, and positive masculinity, directly reaching **791 community members** and **293 students** across Dhanusha and Bara.
- ◇ Facilitated **men and boys engagement workshops**, reaching **32 participants**, to challenge harmful gender norms and promote respectful relationships.
- ◇ Led **youth creative advocacy initiatives** (Mithila art and street drama), engaging **20 youth** to amplify messages on gender equality, GBV, and child marriage.
- ◇ Delivered **capacity-building trainings** for **69 organizational staff and leaders** on GESI, safeguarding, leadership, data security, and strategic communication to strengthen institutional systems.
- ◇ Supported **municipal policy mapping and SIMS data system trainings**, reaching **37 municipal and policy actors**, to enhance evidence-based planning and local governance.

### Key Outcomes

- ◇ Increased community awareness and collective action, including formation of local task groups and commitments to report harmful practices.
- ◇ Men and boys demonstrated readiness to adopt positive behaviors and act as change agents within their communities.
- ◇ Students and youth showed improved confidence and began advocating for gender equality and social justice.
- ◇ Organizational capacity significantly strengthened, with staff knowledge rising from 68% to 97%, improving safeguarding, leadership, and advocacy practices.
- ◇ Municipal stakeholders improved data management and policy engagement, contributing to stronger survivor-centered and gender-responsive local systems.



## » PRAYATNA-CHILDREN LEADING CHANGE

The first implementation year of the *Prayatna – Children Leading Change* project focused on establishing strong ground-work for long-term protection systems and direct support mechanisms for vulnerable women and children  
 Project Implementation location: Jhapa (Mechinagar Municipality) and Sindhupalchok (Helambu and Pachpokhari Thangpal Municipalities)

### Key achievements include:

- ❖ **Strengthening local child protection systems:** Maiti Nepal worked closely with local governments in both Jhapa and Sindhupalchok to activate and strengthen the **Local Child Protection and Coordination Committees (LCCHTs)**.
- ❖ **Institutional commitment:** Pachpokhari Thangpal Municipality passed a formal decision to establish **Ward-level Child Protection Committees (WCCHTs)** across all eight wards, with allocated municipal funding for sustainability.
- ❖ **Frontline protection at Kakarvitta:** The Jhapa Transit Home successfully intercepted **180 vulnerable individuals** (89 under 18 and 91 above 18), providing them psychosocial counseling, legal aid, and awareness on safe migration.
- ❖ **Community awareness:** Over **1,190 individuals** were informed on safe migration, and **14,894 vehicles** were checked as part of surveillance and prevention measures.

Overall, **92% of planned annual targets** were achieved. These accomplishments demonstrate Maiti Nepal’s ability to translate strategic planning into tangible grassroots impact, linking protection, rehabilitation, and advocacy.



## » MAITI NEPAL FOUNDATION

### *Empowering Survivors Through Skills and Opportunity*

Established in 2011, Maiti Nepal Foundation (MNF) supports Maiti Nepal's mission by creating sustainable employment for survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence. We equip women with practical skills like tailoring, cooking, handi-crafts, and agriculture, helping them build self-reliance and financial independence.

Our training programs provide a safe space for learning, healing, and growth, along with counseling and mentorship to guide them toward a dignified future. By fostering entrepreneurship and ethical employment, we break cycles of poverty and exploitation, empowering women to shape their futures with confidence.

## MAITI'S WORKSHOP by Maiti Foundation

### Crafting Hope and Independence

At Maiti Nepal's workshop, skilled artisans create beautiful handcrafted products, turning resilience into art. This initiative empowers survivors of trafficking and violence by equipping them with skills in beadwork, accessory-making, and other crafts.

Through this workshop, women gain financial independence while contributing to Maiti Nepal's sustainability. The handcrafted bags, scarves, and accessories are sold locally and internationally, with proceeds directly supporting anti-trafficking programs. Every piece tells a story of strength, transformation, and hope for a brighter future.

## Maiti Nepal Workshop: 2025 Activities & Achievements

### Activities and Achievements

- ◇ Participated in the Teej Mela at Amrapali Banquet, showcasing beneficiary-made products to boost visibility and market connections.
- ◇ Organized and managed a Teej Mela stall at the Maiti Nepal office, enabling beneficiaries to display and sell handmade items for income generation.
- ◇ Joined the Winter Carnival at Sumdima Silk Palace, expanding product promotion and market exposure.
- ◇ Regularly engaged beneficiaries in the Bottle Top Project, promoting recycling, environmental awareness, and livelihood opportunities aligned with the SDGs.
- ◇ Implemented the Empowering Survivors of Internal Trafficking Through Skill Development Project (June–December 2025), delivering vocational trainings to survivors:
  - 24 beneficiaries completed beads crafting
  - 18 completed pickle making
  - 8 completed sewing and tailoring
- ◇ Successfully delivered workshop products to international buyers in Spain and Germany, strengthening global partnerships and sustainable income streams.
- ◇ Produced 125 tote bags in support of the Access to Justice Program.
- ◇ Conducted a five-day mass awareness campaign in Ramechhap, Sindhuli, and Gaighat using street drama to raise awareness on trafficking prevention and social issues.
- ◇ Prepared baby sets and aprons for infants in shelter care and selected staff, supporting internal institutional needs.
- ◇ Strengthened technical capacity through tailoring trainings:
  - 4 workshop staff completed Advanced Tailoring Training
  - 4 beneficiary girls completed a three-month Basic Tailoring Training to build employable skills.

**TESTIMONIALS OF**

**THE SURVIVORS**

## Case 1

### Lost Childhood: Nepal's Minor Girls at Risk

*They arrived at Maiti Nepal dazed, their bodies trembling, eyes unfocused, trapped in the haze of drugs.*

Kathmandu's streets conceal the silent struggles of many young girls lured by the city's promises but trapped in cycles of addiction and vulnerability. Rescued by Nepal Police from the *Dewals of Pashu-patinath* (small temples within its periphery) on March 14, five minor girls, including Riya and Sajina (name changed), had been living on the streets, lost in addiction. Their stories, though unique, share a painful thread, broken homes, shattered dreams, and a desperate search for belonging.

Riya, 15, was abandoned by her father and raised by a struggling mother. Feeling like an outsider in her own home, she sought solace in the city's chaos, falling into the wrong crowd in Basantapur and becoming addicted to tramadol. Her mother tried to help, enrolling her in school, but Riya had already lost interest in education. Instead, she moved in with a man she barely knew, chasing an illusion of love and stability.

Sajina, also 15, came to Kathmandu from Sunsari with dreams of a better life. But with her stepfather in jail and her mother battling depression, she was left to fend for herself. Dropping out in grade five, she worked at a flower stall, then a bag factory, where she found friends who introduced her to cigarettes, alcohol, and eventually, narcotic pills. What started as a way to escape reality soon became her prison.

As the drugs wore off at Maiti Nepal, so did the illusions they had clung to. Vulnerable and exploited, they realized the harsh reality of their choices. Yet, amidst their pain, a spark remained, all five girls expressed a deep desire to rebuild their lives and complete their education. Their rescue is just the beginning; countless others remain trapped in addiction and the looming threat of internal trafficking. With urgent intervention and rehabilitation, these girls have a chance at a future beyond the streets, a future where they are more than just lost daughters of Nepal.

## Case 2

### A Lesson of Trust: Ashmi's Story

20-year-old Ashmi (name changed) grew up in a humble family with her loving mother and stepfather, who raised her with care despite their fragile financial condition. Independent and determined, she worked tirelessly in Kathmandu, balancing her salon job, continuing her studies, and selling tea late at night to make ends meet.

During those quiet nights, she met a man named Anish. His sweet words and promises of love made her believe she had finally found someone who truly cared. Within just a few days, they performed a symbolic marriage with *sindoor* and *potey* (vermillion powder and beads necklace). Ashmi thought it was the beginning of a beautiful life, but that illusion soon shattered.

Within months, affection turned into violence, addiction, and emotional torture. Pregnant and heartbroken, she endured his abuse in silence, fearing rejection from her family and society. During her difficult labor, her husband offered no support, and her C-section delivery was funded by her mother-in-law working in Kuwait. The abuse worsened after childbirth, escalating when he revealed he had a six-year-old son from a previous marriage. Caring for that child became yet another excuse for brutal beatings that left her injured and helpless. Eventually, Ashmi was thrown out of her husband's house.

With the help of her sister-in-law, she reached Maiti Nepal, still bleeding and traumatized. There, she finally received safety, medical care, and emotional support. Today, both Ashmi and her baby are recovering and healthy.

Ashmi's story is a powerful reminder of how quickly trust can be misplaced, especially when love hides behind urgency and false promises. Her experience urges young girls to pause and reflect before trusting someone too soon. In a world where manipulation often wears the mask of affection, awareness, and self-worth are the strongest shields. Let her story remind us all, true love uplifts; it never destroys.

## Case 3

### Rescued from Orchestrated Exploitation: A Growing Trafficking Trend

In a recent cross-border rescue, Maiti Nepal, in collaboration with the Nepali Embassy in New Delhi, The Rescue Foundation India, and the District Police Office, Parsa, successfully brought home three young women and one man who were held against their will in *Janaki Musical Orchestra* in Chauradano, Motihari, Bihar, India.

The survivors, including Puja, Ankita, and Aasha (all names changed), had been lured by promises of short-term, well-paid dance performances. Instead, they were forced into degrading shows, denied payment, and subjected to threats and psychological abuse. Their mobility was restricted, phones confiscated, and escape nearly impossible, until one managed to send a distress message.

Following the rescue by The Rescue Foundation India, Maiti Nepal coordinated the safe return of all four Nepalis. The women received counseling on safe migration and trafficking prevention, while the alleged trafficker, Janaki Chaudhary, now faces potential legal action.

This is not an isolated case. Just days earlier, 35 Nepalis were rescued from Uttarakhand, where traffickers operated under the guise of employment, using a ‘chain business’ model. Victims were made to pay hefty fees for training, Aadhaar registration, and bank accounts. Once trapped, victims are pressured to recruit friends or relatives, repeating the cycle. Many were youths aged 16–41, with minimal education. Authorities fear over 200 Nepalis may still be trapped in similar schemes.

Speaking to the **BBC**, Maiti Nepal’s Executive Director, Mr. Bishwo Ram Khadka, called this a “new form of human trafficking”, a fraud-based, network-style operation requiring urgent state intervention, public awareness, and cross-border cooperation.

Whether in Uttarakhand’s industrial centers or Bihar’s musical troupes, these evolving tactics show why timely rescue and prevention efforts are more crucial than ever.

## Case 4

### Drawn into Deception: Sita's Journey and Rescue

Sita (name changed), a 16-year-old girl from Ilam District, was the only child of her loving parents. Raised in a nurturing environment, her parents did everything to ensure she had a good education and a happy upbringing. Her father had been working abroad for many years to support the family and secure a brighter future for Sita. Like many teenagers, Sita was gifted a mobile phone, fulfilling one of her wishes.

With the new phone, she joined Facebook, where she began exploring social circles beyond her village. It was through this platform that she met Rabi Sunar, a man originally from the Far West of Nepal but residing in Mumbai, India. Their online friendship blossomed over time, and after four to five months of daily conversations, Rabi began expressing his affection. Sita, flattered and emotionally engaged, gradually reciprocated his feelings. Though they never met in person, their connection continued for nearly four years.

In Falgun 2081, Rabi informed Sita that he would be visiting Kathmandu to process his passport. They planned to meet for the first time. On Falgun 27, Sita left her home without informing her parents and traveled to Kathmandu to meet Rabi. When her mother realized she was missing, she frantically called Sita, only to learn she was in Kathmandu. A heated exchange followed, and feeling ashamed and unwilling to return home, Sita chose to stay with Rabi.

Rabi then took her to his home in Dhangadhi, Kailali, where she stayed for a week. He soon convinced her to accompany him to India, telling her that there were job opportunities and his parents also lived there. At the border, Rabi instructed her to cross alone, saying she was only going to Banguan to buy goods. Once she crossed, Rabi met her, and together they traveled to Mumbai. Upon arrival in Mumbai, Sita called her mother to inform her she was now in India with Rabi. Alarmed and distressed, her parents immediately reached out to Maiti Nepal's Kakarbhitta office to seek help. Responding swiftly, Maiti Nepal, in coordination with Indian police, successfully rescued Sita on March 29, 2025. She was first placed in the care of the Rescue Foundation in Mumbai through the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

Eventually, Sita was transferred to Delhi and later brought under the protection of Maiti Nepal's temporary shelter in Kanchanpur on June 24, 2025. Her story stands as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities of young girls in the digital age and the vital role of vigilant guardianship and timely intervention.

## Case 5

### A Journey from Trust to Survival

Shanti (name changed), 17 years old, was born into a humble, loving family in Baitadi District. As the eldest of three siblings, she was dearly cared for by her parents, who worked as daily wage laborers to provide for the family. Though life was simple, her childhood was filled with warmth and dreams for a better future.

Two years ago, Shanti met a man named Keshar (name changed) through Facebook. What began as casual conversations soon turned into frequent chats. Over time, Keshar proposed to her. At first, Shanti refused, but his constant attention and persuasion eventually gained her trust. After months of talking, she agreed to meet him in person. Their first meeting was in a nearby forest, followed by several others.

Later, Shanti discovered that Keshav was already married. Shocked, she tried to distance herself, but Keshar began threatening to show her family photos and videos of them together. Fearing humiliation and distress for her family, she felt trapped and helpless. Under this pressure, Keshar lured her to Hyderabad, India, where he kept her hidden.

When Shanti did not return home, her worried parents searched for her and filed a missing person's report with the District Police Office in Baitadi and Maiti Nepal Kanchanpur. With the coordination of the Indian Police and NCPCR, Maiti Nepal helped rescue her from a hotel in Vikarabad, Hyderabad.

After her rescue, Shanti was placed under protection at different safe homes before finally being brought to Maiti Nepal's Transit Home in Kanchanpur. There, she received counseling, care, and awareness sessions on safe migration and anti-human trafficking.

Shanti fell victim to emotional manipulation and was sexually exploited without fully understanding the abuse she was enduring. Though she remains unsure about returning home, she continues to receive emotional and psychological support under the care of Maiti Nepal. Her parents are in regular contact, and Maiti Nepal stands beside her with compassion and guidance, helping her heal, regain her confidence, and rebuild hope for a safer and brighter future.

## Case 6

### A Journey Back to Love and Safety

Nine-year-old Vivi (name changed), a little girl from Kathmandu, disappeared without a trace, leaving her grandfather and family in deep worry. For six long months, her whereabouts remained a mystery.

She was later found in India under the care of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), where she spent her days in art, crafts, and dance, finding comfort amid uncertainty. The CWC, with concerned authorities, worked diligently by publishing her photograph, updating the missing child portal, and tracing her family.

During counseling, Vivi shared her only wish: to return to her father. She revealed she had traveled with him from Nepal to Chandigarh, but got lost in the crowded bus stand. Thankfully, she was rescued before harm could reach her. All she could remember was the name of her school in Kaski District of Nepal, a small yet powerful clue that helped unlock her way home.

Once her school was identified, the Nepalese Embassy and Maiti Nepal were alerted. Without delay, Maiti Nepal coordinated with Annapurna Rural Municipality, Ward 08 Chairperson, mobilized its team in Delhi and Rupandehi, who traveled to Chandigarh with the necessary documents to bring her back safely.

It was later discovered that Vivi's father was struggling with a mental health condition, which had led to the tragic separation. He remains missing, but Vivi is now back in Nepal, where she has been welcomed by the warmth and care of her grandparents, having been safely reintegrated through her uncle with the help of Maiti Nepal Bhairahawa.

Many children who go missing are not as fortunate; some fall prey to traffickers who take advantage of their innocence. Vivi's story is a reminder of both the vulnerabilities children face when lost or separated and the hope that collective effort and compassion can restore. Every child deserves to grow in love, safety, and dignity.

## Case 7

### A Life Stolen, A Hope Rekindled

Srijana (name changed) has no family to rely on and has been surviving in Kathmandu with a friend from Ramechhap. Both worked at a hotel to make ends meet, as her friend also lacked family support. Her father, from a different caste, had a son from a previous relationship. Despite being half-siblings, their father enrolled them in the same school.

However, after passing grade 7, she was forced to drop out as she lacked a birth certificate. Her brother later moved out, pressing their mother for citizenship documents. Their father passed away from cancer, and their mother, devastated, died two years later. Left alone, Srijana found shelter with her mother's acquaintance, Asmita (name changed).

She and her brother stayed in touch, but he later moved to Dubai for work. While living with Asmita, she was offered a hotel job, earning NPR 10,000 per month. One day, a guest at the hotel promised her and her friend better-paying jobs in his hometown in Parsa District. Desperate for a way out, they trusted him.

But instead of a new opportunity, they were trapped in a nightmare, forced into prostitution, expected to entertain multiple clients daily for NPR 1,000 per encounter. With no family, no documents, and nowhere to turn, she felt helpless. Ending her life often crossed her mind, but she held on, hoping for a way out.

Then came the police raid. Rescued and brought to Maiti Nepal, she is now trying to rebuild her life. Though returning to school is no longer an option, she dreams of learning new skills and standing on her own with dignity.

## Case 8

### A Journey Home: Sima's Story of Courage and Reintegration

Sima (name changed), now 25, carries with her a story of resilience, hope, and rediscovery. Eleven years ago, when she was just 14, she left her home with a friend, chasing dreams that sparkled in the distant lights of Kathmandu. Growing up in a large, low-income family, the weight of daily struggles felt too heavy for her young shoulders. She longed for a life of freedom and opportunity, one that she believed awaited her in the city.

For a brief moment, that dream seemed real. She arrived in Kathmandu and stayed with her friend. The very next day, eager to explore the city she had only seen in her imagination, she stepped out with her friend. But fate took a sharp turn. When her friend left her alone to run an errand, Sima lost her way. Unable to find her way back, she turned to the police for help. But confusion and fear clouded her memory. She couldn't remember the address where she had stayed or even her hometown. When the police couldn't trace her origins, they brought her to Maiti Nepal for shelter and support.

At Maiti Nepal, Sima found more than a roof over her head, she found compassion, care, and a new beginning. However, the trauma of being lost and alone at such a young age had deeply affected her memory. Despite repeated counselling sessions, she struggled to recall anything about her home, her family, or even the friend she had come with.

Over time, Sima began to rebuild her life. With a spark of determination, she pursued a beautician course at Neel David's, one of Nepal's leading salons. She not only completed her training but was also offered a full-time job. Each day, she commuted to her workplace from Maiti Nepal, slowly gaining confidence and purpose.

But one crucial piece of her life was still missing, her identity. When the need for citizenship documentation arose, Maiti Nepal's team gently revisited the search for her origins. In one of her counselling sessions, Sima finally remembered her father's name. It was a small breakthrough, but a significant one. The team contacted the Red Cross, hoping it might lead to her family. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic, halting the progress of her reintegration.

After the pandemic, Sima returned to Maiti Nepal seeking support after a dispute at her workplace left her feeling lost once again. During a counselling session, another memory surfaced, she recalled the name of her school. That was the missing puzzle piece.

Our team quickly sprang into action, tracing the school, contacting the principal, and finally reaching out to the ward office. And then, the moment we had all hoped for: her family was found. Her brother and sister, who had mourned her absence for over a decade, immediately recognized their long-lost little sister.

What followed was a tearful, heartwarming reunion at Maiti Nepal, a moment of joy, healing, and closure. After 11 long years, Sima was finally reunited with her family.

Today, her journey stands as a powerful reminder: no matter how lost someone may seem, with compassion, patience, and relentless hope, the path home can always be found.

## Case 9

### Not Her Debt to Carry

Rita (name changed) had never imagined leaving the green hills of western Nepal. But the crushing weight of her husband's debt and the needs of her seven children, two sons, three married daughters, and two little girls still playing in the yard, left her with little choice. When an agent arrived promising work in Kuwait, Rita saw a glimmer of hope: a chance to free her family from the constant knock of creditors.

In Kathmandu, she was kept in a stranger's home for a month while documents she couldn't read were prepared. When everything was set, she boarded a plane with borrowed courage, whispering a promise of a better life to her youngest child.

In Kuwait, the first job offered her a roof but only one meal a day. After two months, the employer sent her back. At the second placement, another Nepali woman warned her of abuse and no pay, so Rita walked away before the nightmare could begin. The third house had five children. She was given food, but soon after eating, she collapsed. The owners took her photo, claiming she was sick, and returned her to the agent.

Back at the agency, a Kuwaiti man assaulted her in a blind spot where CCTV couldn't reach. She was then locked in a dark room alone for 17 days. Eventually handed a phone, and she called her daughter. Her son-in-law paid NPR 35,000 for a return ticket, but the agency delayed her release. Only after a brave Nepali woman helped share Rita's details in a video did the local authorities intervene.

Rita returned home after a month and 14 days. At the airport, a compassionate policewoman found her weak and unwell and contacted Maiti Nepal. Since then, Rita has been recovering at the shelter.

Today, she will be safely reintegrated with her family. Stronger and wiser, Rita has decided to stay in Nepal, living for her daughters, not for a man who never once asked about her well-being. Her journey is a reminder that no woman should ever have to risk her life for a debt that was never hers to carry.

## Case 10

### A Heart That Refused to Break

In the crowded lanes of Sonagachi, where the lights never dim, and the noise never rests, a 16-year-old girl, Nina (name changed), waited quietly for a miracle she could barely imagine. Far from home, frightened and surrounded by strangers, she held on to the smallest thread of hope.

That hope began to take shape when information reached Maiti Nepal. What followed was a determined journey of courage across cities, police stations, and the dimly lit corridors of Kolkata's red-light area.

The first attempt failed when the brothel was emptied before the team arrived, but they refused to give up. With careful planning, the help of a brave decoy informant, and support from the Kolkata Police, they traced Nina to a cramped ground-floor room. When the door finally opened, and the officers stepped inside, Nina's eyes filled with both fear and relief. She hesitated, uncertain and overwhelmed, but the gentle assurance from the rescue team helped her take the first step toward safety.

The team shielded her, refusing to let anything stand in the way of her freedom. Moments later, Nina was finally lifted out of the place that had stolen her childhood, her laughter, and her dreams.

What followed were days of paperwork, coordination, and care, each moment bringing her closer to home. And on December 4, 2025, after weeks of relentless effort, Nina was repatriated to Maiti Nepal in Kathmandu, where warm hands and comforting smiles welcomed her back.

Her rescue is more than a mission; it is a reminder that every child deserves dignity, safety, and a chance to rebuild.

## Case 11

### Meet Vidushi: A Story of Hope, Love, and New Beginnings

At 8:20 PM on May 22, 2025, a call from Nepal Police in Gaushala reached Maiti Nepal, a quiet appeal for help enfolded in hope and urgency, with an unexpected guest, an infant girl, tenderly wrapped in clean clothes, cradled with care, and in need of shelter.

She had been found by kind-hearted locals, lying quietly on a pavement in Gaushala, believed to have been born in a hospital, properly discharged, and then left behind. Only about a week old, this little soul had already weathered the harshness of abandonment. But her story was about to change.

When she arrived at Maiti Nepal, she was met not just with medical attention but with warmth, compassion, and an outpouring of love. Our nurses and caretakers have been feeding her well and watching over her with tireless care. Her health is stable, she has a normal weight, normal reflexes, a pulse rate of 142, and breathes steadily with 38 breaths per minute. She has even received her first BCG vaccine, marking her first steps into a future filled with hope.

In a moment of heartfelt significance, our founder lovingly named her **Vidushi**, a name that means “a wise and learned one”, symbolizing the strength, potential, and grace we see in her.

For now, Vidushi is in a safe haven, wrapped not just in clothes but in the collective affection and guardianship of everyone at Maiti Nepal. We remain committed to providing her with the protection she deserves, strictly adhering to the Government of Nepal’s guidelines to ensure her safety, well-being, and a bright, secure future.

Welcome to the world, dear Vidushi. You are already so loved.

## Case 12

### The Story of Two Sisters Lost and Rescued

Rimaya (name changed) was a bright and joyful Grade 6 student in Ghyangphedi, Nuwakot, until one day she suddenly disappeared. Her teachers and friends were worried, and her parents kept saying she had gone to stay with relatives, but the truth was far more tragic and terrifying.

Two long years later, in March 2025, she was found in the Shanti Brothel of Sonagachi, Kolkata, one of Asia's largest red-light districts. Fear, pain, and heartbreak had filled those lost years. A rescue team from Maiti Nepal brought her trembling, traumatized, and scarred back home.

Her elder sister had been taken to the same brothel months earlier. Rescue attempts had failed as traffickers cunningly hid the girls and erased their identities. In the brothel, Rimaya endured constant sexual exploitation from the very first day. She lived in fear, forced to endure unimaginable abuse, and even sickness could not spare her from suffering.

Poverty and betrayal had lured her away. Trusted female relatives had persuaded her that going to India for work would help her struggling family. Instead, she was trapped, her innocence stolen. Only after her rescue did she realize that other girls from her village had been taken as well, and the perpetrators remain unpunished.

Though Rimaya survived, the emotional scars and the absence of her sister haunt her. Her story is a painful reminder of how the traffickers prey on trust, desperation, and vulnerability, and how vital it is for families and communities to protect children from such horrors.



*our Executive Director, Mr. Bishwo Ram Khadka, has been honored with the SchlussStrich-Preis by Schluss Strich e.V., on 7th November, for his outstanding contribution in the fight against child prostitution.*

## Maiti Nepal

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