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Project Proposal for addressing the various aspects of Child Trafficking

Project Statement

The trafficking of children has been internationally recognized as a serious crime that exists in every region of the world and which often has human rights implications. According to the UN, child trafficking involves any “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation.”

For many of us, this definition primarily takes two forms: child labor and sexual exploitation. By nature, these crimes tend to affect school-age children and teens, but they rarely impact infants and toddlers. As a result, we often overlook the fact that children under 5 can also be trafficked when they are targeted for illegal adoption or false institutionalization. In these cases, traffickers play on impoverished parents' desires to give their children a better life by painting visions of wealthy adoptive families or well-funded orphanages, nutritious meals, education and a chance to break the cycle of poverty.

However, the prevalence and consequences of this practise have only recently come to the attention of the world community as a result of a sharp rise in research and public outcry. Although little study has been done, it indicates that poverty, humanitarian crises, and a lack of education are factors in high incidence of child trafficking. As a result, several potential remedies have been put into place and are divided into four categories: general protection, prevention, law enforcement, and victim aid.

From its past experience the project implementing NGO had observed the survivors of trafficking, after being rescued and reunified to their houses and families suffering from three primary challenges (a) poverty, (b) lack of gainful occupation and (c) threats and intimidation by local traffickers, to prevent her from cooperating with the state in prosecution. In most cases, the families are either dysfunctional or they are apathetic towards the victim and look for earliest opportunities to marry her off. Thus, accused persons are proved not guilty before the court. Actually, those survivors cannot exercise their choices, for the protection of victims the survivor should be psychosocially empowered and for the same the first priority is livelihood support. Apart from this project envisages building up a survivors' support group in xxxxxxxx. The members of this group would have survived poverty, corruption,

stigma and adverse situations. For doing so xx number survivors had been financially supported and xx number survivors of trafficking had started micro-business for their livelihood option. Thus become social entrepreneurs, would successfully fight social stigma and would become a strong witness before the court against their traffickers

Overall Objectives

Thousands of girls, affected by poverty and lack of opportunities, get trafficked from villages and small places to metros and other cities.

Overall objectives of the project are to address the overall trafficking from project area:

- poor investigation and rescue of missing and trafficked persons.
- stigmatization of victim in their families and communities and
- regular intimidation made by the traffickers.
- lack of prosecution and conviction of traffickers, and the impunity they enjoy due to corruption and undermining of the crime (of trafficking) by local authorities

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives that govern the project are:

Networking:

An efficient coordination system will be built among implementing NGO in remote villages /project area from where adolescent girls are being lured and trafficked) and destination points (other cities where trafficked girls/child are sold and are forced to do the work of commercial sex worker/child labour) of trafficking on rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims.

Prosecution:

Joint prosecution of traffickers in source and destination points, sharing of evidence between cases for greater impact. Helping, the survivors in taking legal action against the traffickers, providing legal support towards the survivors so that they can prosecute the traffickers, convicts them.

Socio-Economic rehabilitation and trauma management of victims of trafficking:

While victims of trafficking turn hostile towards prosecution owing to fear, intimidation and discouragement and lack of support, punishment of traffickers go a long way in ensuring restorative justice for her, which facilitates her healing from the trauma.

The specific objective of this project is to ensure her participation in the prosecution, aiding and supporting her through the process, building her motivation and protecting her from threats and intimidation by traffickers.

The project aims to build peer support between victims as another way of motivating them to tide through phases of discouragement, disappointment- especially when they are faced with stigma, lack of empathy or cooperation in her family or community.

The specific objective of this project is to address economic rehabilitation of girls and women who are survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation, poverty alleviation and prevention of re-trafficking.

Protection for the witness of trafficking:

Survivors of trafficking, after being rescued and returned to their homes and families, suffer from three primary challenges:

- poverty
- lack of gainful occupation (education or training) and
- threats and intimidation by local traffickers to prevent her from cooperating with the State in prosecution.

In most cases, the families are either dysfunctional (no dependable earning member in the family, lack of employment of parent/s, broken marriages) or they are apathetic towards the victim and look for earliest opportunities to marry her off. The specific objectives are built in keeping with the principle of her best interests in focus. As seen in past, supporting her to set up her income generating program, which is entrepreneurial, works much better than investing in a long term plan that involves vocational training and then employment. Therefore, the first and foremost

priority is kept towards motivating, encouraging victims to initiate their income generating projects, using other success stories of girls and women. The organization has worked with earlier, as role models. So, protection of the witness of trafficking can be ensured if the following problems are addressed.

The problems are:

- High levels of poverty in the families of survivors and complete absence of any economic contribution by the survivors themselves.
- Poor self-esteem and resilience to shame and other forms of discrimination against them in their families and communities.
- Fear and disinterest amongst survivors to follow through with legal/prosecution processes, lack of community opinion against traffickers and delayed state justice systems- hence low conviction rates.

Duration of the Project: 36 months

Target Groups

The primary target groups are trafficked children or children subjected to unsafe migration. Trafficked girls from project area trafficked in their adolescence for prostitution in other metro cities. The movement of trafficking in proposed project area is high. In the areas of depressed socio-economic conditions, the children (primarily girls) grow up in patriarchal societies where their participation in their lives is to the bare minimum. Their vulnerability to being trafficked in many cases is family dysfunction and poverty.

Project Methodology/Methods of Implementation

The strategic approach for implementing the project is based on the following plans:

(a) The project area (all the villages of proposed area) will be visited by the social workers. Those social workers will identify families from where children and young women have gone missing and are suspected to have been trafficked and support them to register cases with local police and lobby with the police to register those cases using appropriate laws.

(b) Network with other NGOs in destination points (especially in those cases where there are leads) for investigation and rescue, with its past experience the

organization has developed a partnership with several NGOs and governmental organization working for the missing/trafficked girls/boys in cities and probable areas, apart from this the organization is having partnership with NGOs working in the destination points named xyz foundation, abc Trust etc. Thus through linkages between different geographical areas of civil society organizations and state actors responsible for prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of trafficked victims, specific objectives are obtained.

(c) Facilitate their return to their families, in coordination with NGOs in destination points of trafficking.

(d) Offer rehabilitation services to the survivors, post family reunification, till they are found to have integrated with their families and communities-NGO to build on an economic rehabilitation program with survivors on micro-business.

(e) The implementing NGO to advocate with the state for victim protection from traffickers and their allies (including corrupt police officers and politicians) and prevent forced out of court settlements.

Project Approach

A multi-pronged approach has been designed to achieve the project objectives. The approach aims that protecting rights of trafficked survivors by preventing systematic abused in custodial care and minimalizing the gestation period in case management-from rescue to reintegration of survivors with her family. The approach also focuses on joint prosecution of traffickers both at destination and source point, an advantage of which is also making the crime visible in source points, thereby creating deterrents to others traffickers.

For sustained impact of increased capacity in source areas in reintegration of survivors, the project values primary involvement of source point community-based organization in the process of family integration. Provide economic rehabilitation towards xx girls and women who are survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation, knowledge building of social workers of NGO on operational methods and process of the program. Regular follow up and advocacy with the state actors for victim protection from traffickers and prevent forced out of court settlements, resulting more conviction towards traffickers.

The funds would be used for:

- Salaries of service providers in NGO - social workers who will identify trafficking cases, help victim families in registering cases, network with the NGOs working in the destination place for rescue and reintegration, work with the survivors, their families and stake holders in the communities, their travel and communication costs.
- Startup capital for 50 micro-businesses to be developed and run by survivors.
- Support towards communication and travel for investigation and rescue of missing and trafficked children and young women.
- A center for the support group to meet and where implementing NGO could conduct meetings and workshops with survivors, costs for travel and workshops for the support group.
- Research and documentation necessary for evidence gathering for campaigns, lobbying and advocacy.
- Project monitoring and evolution costs
- Costs of training and capacity building of NGO staff.

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