



CHILDREN



HELP US BUILD VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S HOMES IN NEPAL.





# The Gift of Freedom

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Thank you for considering this life-changing partnership opportunity with Give Freedom International.

Once complete, the new facilities will provide boys and girls with a safe place to call home, where they can live, learn, laugh and thrive.

Construction of the new homes will begin once funding targets have been reached—and your generosity will take us a critical step towards achieving this important goal.

**“Our most important task as a nation is to make sure all our young people can achieve their dreams.”**

— Barack Obama

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# The Cause

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All children have the right to be protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Nepal has made great strides to improve outcomes for children, but there are still a number of major challenges which continue to impact child rights. Each and every one of these issues plays into the hands of sophisticated traffickers who in turn prey on vulnerable children.

Here we take a look at the factors affecting children in Nepal, and what potentially leads them to seek help from our Field Partner. As you would expect, they are multifaceted and by no means straightforward.

Girls continue to be disproportionately affected and are particularly vulnerable to **child marriage**, with nearly 40% of young women marrying before the age of 18. This practice, despite being outlawed, binds girls to the home, takes them away from an education and decreases their employment opportunities.

All these child marriages are forced and arranged, and many come with violence and sexual exploitation.

**Schooling** is something that remains out of reach for many children in Nepal, a country with 770,000 children aged 5-12 years not in education<sup>1</sup>. This is a heartbreaking statistic that puts each and every one of their futures at risk.

Key barriers to enrolment and attendance include poverty, social exclusion, disability, migration, child labour, social norms and gender bias.

For children who are able to attend school, the dropout rate can be high and influenced mainly by poverty, which remains not only the most significant barrier to education, but also the highest risk factor in child trafficking

Nepal has made considerable progress in improving outcomes for its population, but it still has almost five million people<sup>2</sup>—17% of its population—living in poverty. Children are the poorest age group, with 2.2 million living below the poverty line.

**Poverty** is forcing these children away from the safety of their family and into child labour. It is also making them highly exposed to the tactics of traffickers, who prey on the poor and vulnerable.

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<sup>1</sup>Source: <https://unicef.org>

<sup>2</sup>Source: <https://unicef.org>

<sup>3</sup>Source: <https://ilo.org> Nepal Child Labour Report 2021



**Child labour** is defined by the International Labour Organisation as “work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity”. It can take many different forms, including domestic labour, agricultural work and slavery. In Nepal, the numbers are declining, but 1.1 million children aged between five and 17 remained engaged in labour in 201<sup>3</sup>.

Statistically, the prevalence of child labour is highest for children from the poorest families, living in rural areas and for those whose mothers do not have an education. Girls are disproportionately more affected than boys, as are children from the lowest castes.

On top of all these factors, the naivety of youth makes children even more vulnerable to **trafficking**. Be it a lack of understanding about what it is, or a blind belief in a promised world, children are more likely to fall prey to the tactics used by traffickers who use false promises and dangle the hope of a better life before them.

Protecting children forms the foundation for building a peaceful society. By supporting The Pokhara Project you will be improving the outcomes for hundreds of children living in Nepal.



1.1 million

children are forced to work



40%

of girls are married  
before the age of 18



2.2 million

children are living below  
the poverty line



# Help Children Like Monorohi

*[Content trigger warning: child trafficking]*

**Every child deserves to be cherished, protected and loved. And yet tragically, children are among those most likely to be trafficked, sold into forced labour or sexually exploited. At a time of life when they should be free to play and learn, these children are thrust into situations of unimaginable fear, abuse and deprivation.**

So many of the youngsters at the vulnerable children's homes share these tragic tales, including Monorohi\*, who was abandoned by her parents on the streets of Pokhara at just five years old

Left to fend for herself, to find shelter and food, she was scared and hungry

It wasn't long before her vulnerabilities were exploited by a local businessman, who took her to a hotel and made her wash dishes all day in return for a few morsels of food.

But Monorohi didn't want to accept this fate. Her childhood innocence and love for her parents made her run away from the hotel in search of the mother who had just months previously abandoned her.

Sadly, instead of running into the loving arms of her mother and father, Monorohi once again found herself captured by a man with ulterior motives.

This time, the now six year old was kept as a house servant by a local family and became another victim of child labour.

"They said they would provide me with an education but instead they made me do work," she explained.

She was forced to cook, wash clothes, care for the goats and buffalo as well as look after the family's small baby boy.



My prayers were answered and I got a new family—3 Angels Nepal.

"I could only go to school if I had finished all my work, but there was so much work," she said. "They would scold me and shout if I did not do everything. Sometimes I went to school for a few hours then had to run off to finish my jobs

"Every morning at 4am I would go to the temple and pray for God to provide me with parents. I hated my parents for leaving me, for not loving me. I felt so sad."

Neighbours of the family noticed the small girl who was being forced to work every hour of the day and eventually reported the case to the police.

She was rescued by 3 Angels Nepal and taken into their care, where she has been living in the vulnerable children's home for the last 10 years.



Monorohi is now a confident 17 year old who loves going to school every day. She is fluent in English, loves design and has aspirations to become an architect and a social worker.

“My prayers were answered and I got a new family—3 Angels Nepal,” she said.

“I have sisters, I have a home, I have an education.”

**Your support today will give more girls like Monorohi a safe place to call home.**

*\*Name changed and representational image used to protect Monorohi's identity.*









# Child Rights

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Worldwide, almost one-third of trafficking victims are children and out of them, two out of every three are girls.

In 2015, the leaders of all the United Nations Member States agreed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—a set of universally applicable commitments to be achieved by 2030. It is a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for global action. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth.



Children feature in, and are affected by, every single one of these SDGs, whether it be **poverty** (Goal 1), **hunger** (Goal 2), **health** (Goal 3), **education** (Goal 4), **gender equality** (Goal 5), **climate change** (Goal 13) or **violence against children** (Goal 16.2).

Each and every one of these goals is crucial for creating a bright future for the world's children. A future where children survive, learn and thrive. Where they are protected from violence, live in a safe and clean environment and have a fair chance in life.

By choosing to partner with us today you will be contributing towards these important global goals and helping trafficked and at-risk children reach their full potential.













# Vulnerable Children's Homes

Vulnerable children's homes will be built in collaboration with our Field Partner, 3 Angels Nepal, as part of The Pokhara Project.

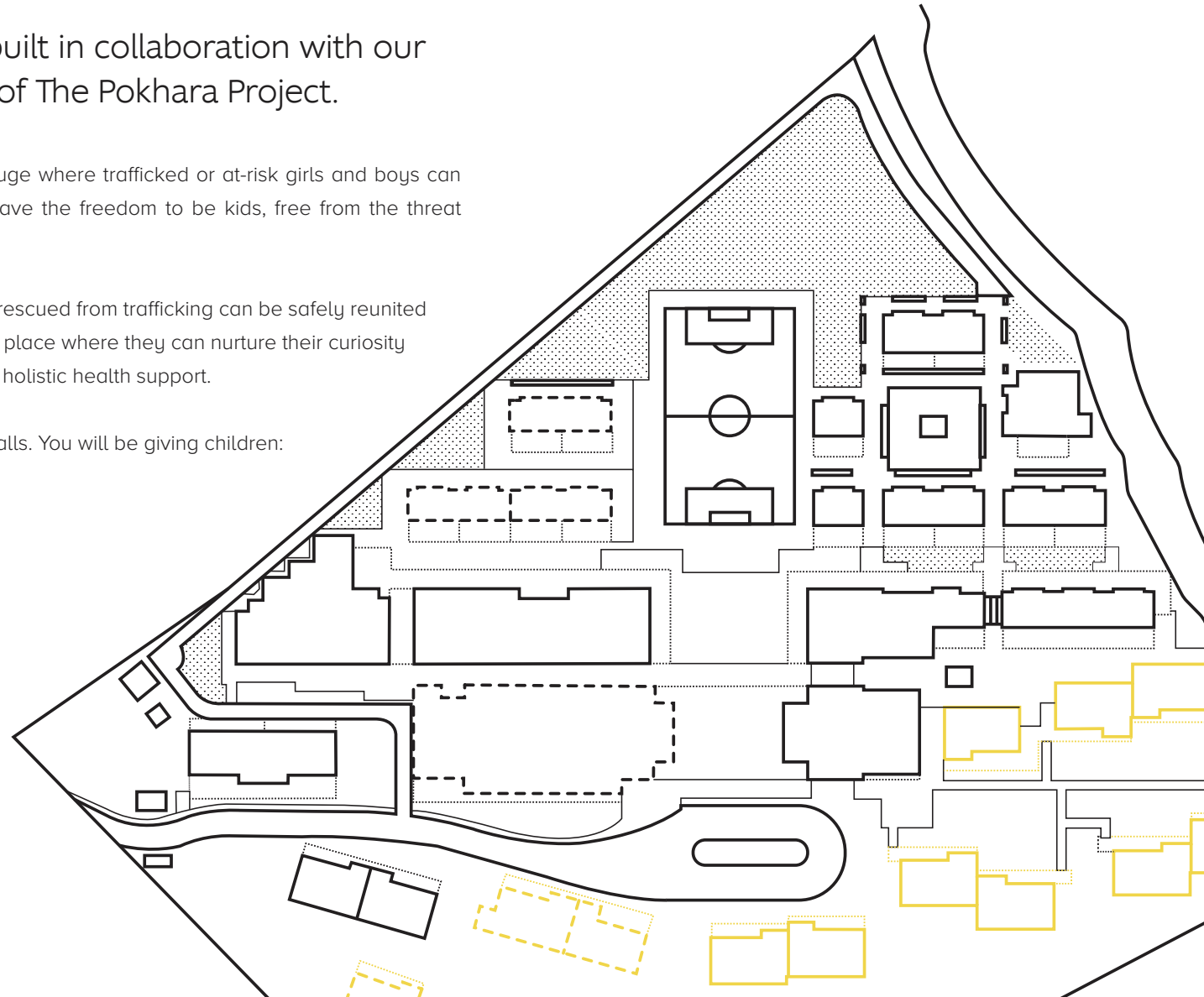
Overseen by qualified carers, the new homes will be a refuge where trafficked or at-risk girls and boys can find safety and belonging, form lifelong friendships—and have the freedom to be kids, free from the threat of trafficking

It is our Field Partner's hope and priority that girls and boys rescued from trafficking can be safely reunited with their families. Until this is possible, the homes provide a place where they can nurture their curiosity through formal schooling, and grow healthy and strong with holistic health support.

Your support will provide children with more than just four walls. You will be giving children:

- A place to belong
- Education and empowerment
- Love and safety
- Holistic healthcare
- Counselling and mentoring
- Play and development opportunities
- Nutritious food
- Friendship and connection
- Access to formal schooling

*Dotted lines represent future expansion of the development site to accommodate the predicted growth of 3 Angels Nepal. Solid lines will be constructed as part of The Pokhara Project.*





## Fostering Community and Connection

The homes have been architecturally designed to help foster friendship and a sense of community among the children, with a central village green and plenty of shared community spaces. Many boys and girls come to the homes from traumatic backgrounds and situations. Having a place to belong and connect is invaluable for their healthy development and self-esteem.

There will be two homes within one building. Each will have shared communal areas for socialising and learning, along with private spaces such as separate bedrooms for the children and carers. Each home will accommodate around 10-12 children at any given time.



## Love and Care

Our Field Partner's home-based model of care provides the children with two qualified carers per home. These carers, or "house parents", will offer loving support and guidance and tend to the children's emotional and physical needs.



## Access to Education

Many children who arrive at the vulnerable children's homes have had little to no formal education. All the girls and boys at the homes are automatically enrolled into the 3 Angels Nepal School, where they are taught six days a week by dedicated teachers.

Additionally, they are supported with their homework by loving house parents and older surrogate siblings. The combined effect is a dramatically improved educational outcome for children who otherwise risked a lifetime of illiteracy.







# Sejun's Story

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*[Content trigger warning: child trafficking]*

Sejun\* was just three years old and living in a cold, Nepali prison.

His mother had been convicted of using and selling drugs. His father was nowhere to be found. Life in prison was never what his mother wanted for her precious boy.

Already, at such a tender age, the future had been torn from Sejun's small hands. Without help, the days, weeks and years ahead looked bleak.

Thankfully, that's not the end of Sejun's story. Through a government program, Sejun was brought to a vulnerable children's home run by our Field Partner, 3 Angels Nepal.

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“ I feel very happy here. It is a place where there is love and people share their feelings.”

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At his new home, Sejun began receiving loving care, nutritious food, play opportunities, medical care and more. The home quickly became so much more than four walls—it provided Sejun with security, love, connection and belonging as he grew up.

Today, Sejun is 13 years old and thriving.

“I feel very happy here,” he says.

“It is a place where there is love and people share their feelings. A place where we can get our needs met—like having the 3 Angels Nepal carers teach us good things, prepare food for us and comfort us.

“I enjoy playing with my friends. We have fun together and also fight sometimes, but we love each other. Our carer, Yogesh, also advises us when we are being mischievous!”

Sejun is studying in year 7 at school and is thankful for the opportunity to receive an education. His dream is to become an engineer one day—empowered and equipped with the ability to earn an income and support his family.

*\*Name changed and representational image used to protect Sejun's identity*





# Take Action

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Your generosity today will give children a safe place to call home.

We invite you to consider funding the homes in their entirety or a specific area that appeals to you directly—find out more in the supporting proposals.

The vulnerable children's homes are part of The Pokhara Project, a sustainable building development that will also include a self-funding school, women's safe haven, a community medical centre and vocational training facilities.

So far, the land for the new facilities has been purchased, architectural designs are ready to go, and vital engineering works to stabilise the riverbank have been completed. Now we need to raise the funds required to complete the build.

We have carefully planned the most efficient and cost-effective approach to ensure the construction process—including the vulnerable children's homes—achieves the best outcome for our Field Partner and their beneficiaries

The Pokhara Project will take time and resources to do well—and for good reason! This project will be built to last, providing care and education to vulnerable women and children for many, many generations to come. But the sooner we reach our funding goals, the sooner construction can begin.





# Our Promise to You

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Your generosity will be maximised by our 100% Giving Model, which guarantees that every dollar you give goes directly to the field. Our model is highly unique among Australian charities and is made possible by our generous Give Freedom Foundation members who cover all operating costs, including fundraising and administration.



# FAQs

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## **Why are new vulnerable children's homes needed?**

Our Field Partner has been successfully operating their vulnerable children's homes in Pokhara since 2004. Over the years, the homes have given hundreds of children a place to live, play and learn while they recover from the trauma of trafficking.

In recent years, the cost to run the homes has increased significantly, mainly due to increasing rent. Some landlords refuse to rent their properties to children who have experienced sexual exploitation, choosing to distance themselves from the prevailing stigma attached to trafficking victims. Others are willing to rent their properties, but for a greatly increased cost. The cost to maintain the rented homes poses another ongoing challenge for our Field Partner. The buildings are typically older and require constant repairs, costing our Field Partner dearly each year.

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## **Do the vulnerable children's homes operate like orphanages?**

No, the vulnerable children's homes are not orphanages. 3 Angels Nepal use a home-based model of care that provides children with two qualified carers per home. The carers or "house parents" offer loving support and guidance alongside teachers who are available to help with learning and development.

The homes provide safe accommodation and holistic support—such as healthcare and access to formal schooling—for children who have been rescued from trafficking, or who are at high risk of being trafficked. Our Field Partner's top priority is always for children to return to their families if it is safe for them to do so.

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## **Will the new homes be sustainable?**

Yes! Architects have purposefully planned the buildings and infrastructure to ensure their longevity using earthquake-proof engineering and passive solar principles. High quality, cost-effective building materials will maintain the structural integrity long into the future and the project will be locally managed and maintained. All these factors mean 3 Angels Nepal will be the owner of these new homes now and for generations to come.





# A Life-Changing Venture

Children are one of the seven key international development objectives of The Pokhara Project—a sustainable building development designed to increase the capacity and impact of established anti-human trafficking work in Nepal.

This life-changing venture will also include a women's safe haven, self-funding school, community medical centre and vocational training facilities, all designed to bring new life and hope back into the lives of those who have been trafficked.

Construction of the new facilities will begin once funding targets have been reached—and your generosity will take us a critical step towards achieving this important goal.

The Pokhara Project and its land is not owned by any individual entity and is legally protected to be used indefinitely for its intended purpose. This means, should 3 Angels Nepal cease as a charity or should The Pokhara Project be taken on by a new charity, the facility can only be utilised for education—such as schooling, vocational training, awareness programs—and all the buildings used for their original, intended purpose.



Education



Sustainability



Children



Women



Health



Protection



Water &  
Sanitation













## Questions?

Our partnerships team is available to answer your questions and talk with you about this giving opportunity in more detail. You can contact them on **1300 081 190** or **[partners@givefreedom.org.au](mailto:partners@givefreedom.org.au)**

Thank you! Your generosity will make a significant and lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable and at-risk children. You can give online or contact our partnerships team for more ways to give.

Simply call **1300 081 190** or email **[partners@givefreedom.org.au](mailto:partners@givefreedom.org.au)**



# GIVE FREEDOM

Free. Restore. Educate. Empower.

