

The International Organization for Migration Mission in Nepal: FEBRUARY 2016 INFO-SHEET

Nepal became an International Organization for Migration (IOM) member state in 2006. In 2007, the Government of Nepal (GoN) and the IOM signed a memorandum of understanding to encourage cooperation and the delivery of services to Nepal, which is a country of origin, transit and destination of migration. The IOM's initial focus was on the resettlement of Bhutanese refugees. Since then, the organization's staff has grown to 487 (including 461 national staff, 1 UN volunteers and 25 international staff), and the IOM has diversified its areas of cooperation with the GoN into additional fields which include **Forced Migration, Facilitating Migration, Migration & Development, and Regulating Migration**. These four fields consist of a variety of programs that are outlined in this info sheet.

On 25 April and 12 May 2015, devastating earthquakes measuring 7.8 and 7.3 Richter killed at least 8,790 people and destroyed 498,852 houses across Nepal. Together with local communities, humanitarian organizations and the GoN, the IOM launched relief activities to meet the needs of those affected. The IOM's Nepal Earthquake Response is covered below.



Forced Migration

Refugees and displaced persons are a distinct category of "people on the move" deserving special attention. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is actively assisting refugee populations during and after emergencies, as was the case in Kosovo and Timor. The IOM also facilitates the resettlement each year of thousands of refugees for whom resettlement in a new country is the approved durable solution. The IOM is regularly asked to help find solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), former combatants, victims of ethnic engineering and populations in transition or recovery environments. It also locates and assists widely scattered voters to enable them to take part in elections and referenda. The IOM has large programs and acknowledged expertise in post-war claims and compensation.



This field is divided in to three categories: Third Country Resettlement, Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Risk Reduction, and Transition & Recovery.

Third Country Resettlement



In close collaboration with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Government of Nepal (GoN) and eight Resettlement Governments, the IOM facilitates selection missions, conducts medical examination of refugees selected for resettlement as per the protocol of the destination country, conducts cultural orientation for the destination countries, facilitates exit permits and arranges travel for the refugees until their final port of entry.



Resettlement Support Center, South Asia. The Resettlement Support Center (RSC), South Asia is operated by the IOM with the main office in Damak, Nepal. RSC South Asia conducts resettlement processing for the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in five countries throughout the South Asia region: Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The RSC began in 2007 in Damak, Nepal with the Bhutanese caseload and has since expanded to other countries. Funded by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), RSC South Asia assists refugees with the many steps involved in the resettlement process to the United States including receiving cases from the UNHCR, interviewing and counselling refugees, managing data entry, overseeing security checks, supporting US Citizen and Immigration Officers during adjudication, coordinating with US agencies on US placement, working with the GoN, Exit Permit Officers, and conducting Cultural Orientation classes. All refugees approved to travel to the US undergo five days of Cultural Orientation by the RSC team to help them prepare for life in America. Topics covered include hygiene, transportation to and in America, the importance of getting a job and going to school, as well as how to cope with cultural adjustments. The RSC regularly coordinates with the GoN to conduct exit permit formalities at the IOM Damak Sub-Office for all Bhutanese departing Nepal. The IOM provides housing and transport for the officials during their stay for granting exit permission for Bhutanese refugees being resettled.



Since 2007, the RSC has helped facilitate over 90,000 refugees to the US, of which 87,000 have been Bhutanese from Eastern Nepal. Other populations include Burmese and Pakistanis from Sri Lanka and India, and Afghanis from Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India.



Operations. The Operations unit is responsible for all ground movements of refugees from camps through to the final country of resettlement by air. In Nepal, since 2007 the Operations unit has facilitated the departure of over 101,000 Bhutanese to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, UK and the U.S.A. The Operations team transports Bhutanese refugees daily from multiple camps to the IOM Offices for interviews and medical appointments, and also



arranges weekly charter flights of refugees from Eastern Nepal to Kathmandu. In Kathmandu, the Operations team receives refugees transported through charter flights, and arranges accommodation for them at the IOM Transit Centre for several days prior to international departure. The team also arranges commercial airline bookings for refugees and facilitates airport formalities for all departing refugees. Refugees are provided operational flight escorts as needed, medical escorts for medical cases in coordination with Migration Health Unit. The Operations unit also handles flight movements for cases ex-Sri Lanka, India, and supports the Pakistan mission.



The IOM Transit Centre in Kathmandu has the capacity of accommodating 240 people a night. This 24-hour facility provides clean water, hygienic food, comfortable beds and a children's playground for the refugees. Typically, Bhutanese refugees from eastern Nepal spend 3-6 nights at the Transit Centre in Kathmandu prior to their commercial flight to the country of resettlement. During this time, refugees undergo a final fitness-to-travel examination, and a final Cultural Orientation session as a part of the transit process.



Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO). IOM Nepal also provides five days of Cultural Orientation training for refugees resettling to Australia. The objectives of the AUSCO program are to: provide accurate information on the departure processes; present a realistic picture of life in Australia; describe the settlement process and provide practical information about post-arrival settlement services and how to access them; encourage language training on arrival in Australia; provide participants with the basic skills necessary to achieve self-sufficiency; equip participants with the necessary tools to deal with initial settlement concerns and the different stages of cultural, social and economic adaptation. The curriculum is designed to give participants confidence and independence starting their new life in Australia.



Migration Health Division (MHD). The MHD, under IOM Nepal, has its main office in Damak conducting health assessments of Bhutanese and a small number of urban refugees to the United States under the USRAP, funded by the Government of the United States through the PRM and the Center for Disease Control. As part of the USRAP regional responsibilities, the MHD assists Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, in conducting quality health assessment of United States bound refugees. The Migration Health Assessment Program for Nepal started in 2007, primarily for Bhutanese refugees from Nepal. Currently, the MHD provides medical assistance to the refugees resettling to eight different countries, as well as to immigrants bound to the USA, UK, Canada and Australia through Migration Health Assessment Centers located in two different sites (Kathmandu and Damak).



From 2007 through 2015, over 121,000 initial Health Assessments of refugees have been performed in Nepal; over 105,000 of these have been for US bound refugees. Additionally, from 2010 through the end of Dec 2015, over 43,000 immigrants have undergone initial health assessment.



MHD Nepal also runs a clinic in the refugee Transit Center in the capital of Nepal, Kathmandu, as well as a specialized isolation center for the treatment of highly-infectious and drug-resistant TB cases in Damak. The MHD has a well-equipped TB Lab and two X-Ray facilities in the country, providing almost all needed services in house, and benefitting from well experienced health assessment national and international staff. The MHD has well-established linkages to the government and international partners and also implements a Stop TB Partnership-funded TB Reach Project since 2011 in the Eastern and Central regions of Nepal and recently in the earthquake effected areas. In partnership with Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, the MHD runs a PRM and Citizenship and Immigration Canada funded TB Diagnosis and Treatment Protocol Harmonization Project for non-resettlement Bhutanese refugees as well as to the host communities around the refugees camps in the Eastern Region.

It is worth mentioning that Health Assessment requirements for migration to the receiving countries are defined and regulated through the Technical Instructions for Medical Examinations issued by the health and immigration authorities of each receiving country.

Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Risk Reduction



The IOM assumes the role of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) global cluster lead and in Nepal; the IOM was actively co-leading the CCCM Cluster alongside the Department of Urban Development & Building Construction, as the Government lead agency. The cluster was activated for the second time in Nepal in 2015 soon after the earthquakes.

CCCM: Identification of Open Spaces for Humanitarian Purposes in the Kathmandu Valley. The IOM, in partnership with Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Local Development and Foreign Affairs, the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Municipalities inside the



Kathmandu Valley have assessed, identified and mapped 83 open spaces within the Kathmandu Valley. These spaces are designed to provide the initial disaster response planning framework for the Government and partner agencies to be able to have a starting point from which to provide life-saving assistance to those in immediate need. These sites have been protected through a GoN gazette notification disallowing any further construction and encroachment. The report of the 83 Open Spaces has been endorsed by the Council of Ministers and published in the national gazette in order to prevent further urban encroachment of these sites. Open Spaces website: <https://sites.google.com/site/kathmanduopenspaces/home>. The project that was recently concluded in December 2015 has also successfully assisted the GoN to enhance their emergency preparedness efforts. One of the efforts is to sensitize the community to protect and manage the open spaces through awareness program in partnership with Lalitpur and Kirtipur Municipality.



Transition & Recovery

As part of its global mandate on migration, the IOM works to assist governments and societies address land and property issues and victim reparations in the aftermath of natural disasters or conflict.



Psychosocial Counselling and Support Services to Conflict-Affected Persons. Since it was first initiated in March 2013, the IOM has successfully provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) in implementing psychosocial counselling and support services for conflict-affected persons and their families with support from the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN). This project has recently concluded in December 2015.



Catalytic Support on Land Issues. This joint project with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has recently concluded in December 2015. Through this project, the IOM has taken the lead in addressing issues related to land by providing technical assistance, capacity building and expert support to the Ministry of Land Reform and Management and the MoPR. The project is funded by the global UN Peacebuilding Fund through the UN Peace Fund for Nepal and will contribute to addressing one of the root causes of the ten-year armed conflict. The project piloted its activities in three districts, supporting the local institutions to improve their land management systems and in implementing land use plans, while at the same time encouraging a productive and inclusive dialogue on the issues that remain unsolved. Furthermore, the project supports the Government in preparing a comprehensive and unified land act.



Empowering Women 4 Women (W4W): Access to Land for Sustainable Peace in Nepal. This project is built upon the main findings and gaps identified by the 'Catalytic Support on Land Issues' (2013- 2015) project by including women that were almost absent and/ or not able to make their voices heard in the land reform discussions process. The project aims to support the processes associated or linked with land reform in Nepal by enabling women to play an active role as agents of change. In doing so, the project is contributing to ensuring gender equality in land policy discussions and enabling women to influence the policy decisions.



The project is promoting a W4W approach, where qualified women teachers use contextualized modules to enhance capacities of other women, on land rights and system as well as advocacy and negotiation skills. The W4W approach ensures a constructive environment for learning as well as participatory and long lasting impacts. In this way, the project is unpacking land issues pertinent to women in small steps and introducing components related to women empowerment and rights to women over land and property, thus facilitating catalytic changes that will support the future land reform process, including by facilitating the changes of attitude, perspectives and social mores in the Nepalese society, and giving due consideration to women's specific needs and ideas at the policy level.



Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). "Building the Foundation for Access to Justice and Reparation for Conflict Related Sexual Violence Survivors (CRSV)" is a joint project between the IOM and the United Nations Population Fund funded by the UNPFN completed its activities in December 2015. The overall objective of the project is to scale up conflict and gender sensitive services addressing post conflict needs of victims of sexual violence. Under this project the IOM developed and handed over the CRSV Case Management Protocol in the context of service provision programs in Nepal to support the MoPR to provide guidance on eventual standardization of existing and new data on CRSV in Nepal and to enable the creation of a centralized CRSV database. Furthermore, this Protocol offers practical advice on how to design and carry out ethical and victim-centric case management for survivors of CRSV in Nepal. The Protocol provides internationally recognized standards to guide the basic information documentation at the request of the survivor, and a survivor-centric needs assessment that can facilitate subsequent service provision and/or referral.



Additionally, technical assistance to MoPR is continued to better ensure effective implementation of psychosocial counselling and support services for conflict victims including CRSV and community members as a whole. The targeted project districts are the districts selected by MoPR to roll out psychosocial counselling services i.e. Morang, Jhapa, Makwanpur, Chitwan, Kasaki, Gorkha, Rolpa, Rukum, Kailali and Kanchanpur.



IOM Development Fund (IDF). “Technical Assistance to Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to ensure Effective access of Conflict Affected Persons to Victims Assistance Processes in Nepal” is a project funded by the IDF and completed its activities in October 2015. The overall objective of the project is to ensure effective access of Conflict Affected Person (CAP)s to victim assistance programs in Nepal through established centralized database for CAPs assistance in congruence with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework Outcome 8, as well as to build capacity of key government institutions to provide effective access of existing services to CAPs. The project districts include Morang, Jhapa, Makwanpur, Chitwan, Kasaki, Gorkha, Rolpa, Rukum, Kailali and Kanchanpur. Under this project, the IOM developed a centralized database web portal (www.repect-portal.com) for the past and ongoing CAPs assistance programs provided to the conflict victims by different service providers (I/NGOs, UN agencies and Govt.). Intensive research (both qualitative and quantitative) has been conducted in 5 project districts to identify the quality of reparation processes implemented by MoPR. Based on the findings, the project has developed a Training Module to bridge the gap and area for improved future reparation programs. Training based on the module was provided to the officials of the MoPR, Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare and female representatives of Local Peace Committee of all the 10 project districts in different areas like, Human Right Based Approach, Transitional Justice, Gender and Conflict Sensitivity and Communication skills.



Facilitating Migration



Mobility is an essential feature of today’s world. Integrated world markets, the emergence of transnational networks and the rapid growth of communication technologies all contribute to the increasing movement of both high and low-skilled workers, students, trainees, families and tourists. The demographic and social structure in the industrialized world has created the need for workers and professionals from other countries. Large-scale migration for work represents potentially difficult adjustments, but economies that desire to remain competitive cannot ignore the need for change. Facilitating migration for work can be a win-win proposition. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides policy and technical advice to governments on the regulation of migrant labour and other migratory movements, and carries out programs to assist governments and migrants with selection/recruitment, language and cultural orientation, consular services, training, reception, integration and return. These services, tailored to each program, are provided during all stages of the process: information and application, interview and approval, and post-approval. The IOM has performed over 1.5 million immigration medical evaluations around the world and provides logistic and travel assistance to migrants.



Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration. The IOM is implementing a two year project entitled ‘Return Assistance to Stranded Nepali Migrants’ funded by the Qatar Development Fund to assist for the voluntary return and reintegration assistance to the vulnerable, stranded and exploited Nepali migrant workers in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon and Malaysia. The Project is implemented in close coordination and partnership with the line Ministries i.e. the Ministry of Labour & Employment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the IOM host Missions and the local NGOs who are engaged in working towards benefit of migrants in need.



The project aims to provide voluntary return and reintegration assistance to migrant workers in the following situations:

- Victim of abuse, exploitation, trafficking, or being stranded at the destination;
- No possibility to regularize their status in the country where they reside;
- Unable to have access to assistance in the destination;
- Without access to support of home country’s consular authorities;
- Without enough money to pay their way home; Without documentation needed to move to another country



The project will offer the eligible beneficiaries with pre-departure counselling, counselling & information provision, pre-embarkation assistance, medical checks (if required), one way air ticket, reception assistance and provision of in kind reintegration grant of USD 500 upon return to the country of origin.



Assessing the Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration Nexus in South Asia. IOM Nepal is implementing a joint project entitled “Assessing the Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration Nexus in South Asia” with IOM Bangladesh and IOM Maldives. The main project partners include International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and other relevant organizations at the regional level. At the national level, the IOM is working closely with relevant government ministry counterparts from the governments of Bangladesh, the Maldives and Nepal. South Asia, comprising 8 countries including Bangladesh, the Maldives and Nepal, is affected by a range of natural disasters. These disasters take a huge toll as they displace thousands of people every year. To address the challenges encountered by South Asian countries, i.e. lack of evidence of the nexus and integrated environment-migration strategies alongside limited community resilience, this project is carrying out an assessment study, field research and national consultations in Bangladesh, the Maldives and Nepal, followed by a regional level dissemination meeting. The three countries have several commonalities including high rates of urbanization and international migration (though the Maldives is an exception as it witnesses net in-migration), while also being exposed to diverse climatic events. The experiences of these three countries is expected to serve as lessons for the whole region, as they all face similar challenges due to environmental degradation and climate change.



Migration & Development



The relationship between countries of origin and their overseas communities is key to successful development. The International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) goal in this field is to harness the development potential of migration for individual migrants and societies. We work by promoting international policy dialogue, policy-oriented research and programs that strengthen the administrative and managerial capacity of governments. Program activities include improving remittance management, building human capital through labour migration programs, return and reintegration of qualified nationals, capacity building for governments and empowerment of migrant women.



Joint Migration Development Initiative (JMDI). The JMDI reflects the acceptance of and growing interest in the strong links between Migration and Development (and aims to support M&D actors to effectively harness the potential of migration for development. The program is led by the United Nations Development Programme in partnership with the IOM, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Population Fund, UN Women and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research with the funding from the European Commission and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The IOM is the anchor agency for the JMDI implementation in Nepal working with two partner organizations, Oxfam and Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum (Asian Forum). Oxfam in Nepal is implementing a project named “Safer Remittances and Improved Livelihoods” in Surkhet and Kailali districts with an objective to enhance the livelihoods status of seasonal migrant families and their communities. Asian Forum is implementing “Sustainable Local Development by Promoting Local Tourism through Homestay by Migrants and their Families” in Kaski and Tanahun districts with an objective to open new avenues for income generation for families of migrants, especially belonging to poor communities and disadvantaged groups through the home stay facilities.



This program is focused on up scaling of M&D initiatives at the local level, capacity development of the local authorities, in line with the essential local-to-local dimension of the migration and development nexus.



Research and Policy Dialogue Initiative on Migration and Development in Nepal. Remittances will continue to be important to Nepal and Nepalese households alike in the coming years. Remittances add up to 29% of Nepal’s GDP (World Bank, 2014) but only roughly 2% is set aside for investments. Currently, there are no institutional tools, programs or assessment of desired opportunities and services to counter this trend and encourage migrants to save and invest. Nepal’s excessive reliance on migration to fill the absence of in-country employment opportunities poses a threat as any substantial decline in capital inflow from migrants may destabilize the Nepalese economy at micro and macro levels. The project envisages assisting the Government of Nepal (GoN) and related stakeholders in developing policies and project interventions to more effectively harness the link between migration and development.



In pursuit of the objective mentioned above, the IOM will articulate research on the nature, use and impact of migration related social, human and financial capital flows on Nepal’s socio-economic development. To this end, the project will carry out household and migrants’ surveys in 31 randomly selected districts of Nepal, including structured interviews with key stakeholders/ local authorities and consultations with the GoN, private sector and civil society organizations. The project will foster



ongoing consultative and capacity building process within the context of National Planning Commission also closely engaging the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, the Ministry of Finance and a local research partner to conduct the research and jointly develop the recommendations. The process will make the Government, civil society and private sector partners fully cognizant on the development potential of migration for promoting sustainable local development in Nepal.



Building on the recommendations of the High-Level Consultation of 2014, and in particular resolution no. 2, on enhancing linkage between migration and development, the data and evidence emerged through the research and the consultative process will provide the GoN, civil and private sector entities, with a viable baseline against which to formulate future policies, projects and market interventions for migration mainstreaming.

Regulating Migration



Regulating governments and societies have an interest in knowing who is seeking access to their territories. The objective is to take measures that prevent access by those who are not authorized to enter, while facilitating speedy access for those who are. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) assists governments in the development and implementation of migration policy, legislation and administrative mechanisms. To this end, the IOM provides technical assistance and training for governmental migration managers on border management, visa systems, regulating entry and stay and collecting and using biometric information. Replacing irregular flows with orderly, regular migration serves the interests of all governments, and the IOM can offer a broad range of programs to counter trafficking and smuggling of human beings, from prevention to assisting the victims. The IOM also implements programs to facilitate the voluntary return and reintegration of displaced and stranded persons and other migrants, taking into account the needs and concerns of local communities.



Trafficking Survivors and Vulnerable Children Support Program. With financial support from ChildFund Korea, starting from January to 31 December 2015, the IOM in partnership with some local NGO partners will implement the Trafficking Survivors and Vulnerable Children Support Program in Nepal. This project is developed as a follow up to a fund-raising video filming mission of ChildFund Korea and Korean Broadcasting Services in Nepal conducted from September to October 2014. IOM Nepal and Korea facilitated the mission. The project aims to contribute to improving the status of vulnerable children and women, including victims of trafficking, in Nepal. Similarly, the outcomes of the project is to demonstrate improvement in education and hygiene status of vulnerable children, improvement in economic status of female survivors of trafficking and access to safe migration information. It will support the partner NGOs with their regular programs of addressing issues of street children, children in vulnerable situation and with special needs to prevent them from falling prey to various forms of exploitation including unsafe migration and trafficking. Likewise, the project will enhance the capacity of partner NGOs through technical, financial resources and capacity building trainings. It will address the interconnected issues of poverty, education and lack of awareness on safe migration process through skills development and economic opportunities, education support and anti-trafficking and safe migration campaigns at the national level in partnership with government and non-governmental actors. Furthermore, the project will provide necessary support to the shelters for vulnerable children and survivors of trafficking.



Nepal Earthquake Response 2015



As a result of the devastating earthquakes that affected Nepal in April and May 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) - as one of the world's key humanitarian responders – quickly reacted by deploying a rapid response team of experts and promptly launched the Relief, Recovery and Reconstruction (RRR) Program to efficiently and timely respond to the pressing needs in the aftermath of the earthquakes. The RRR program includes a wide range of activities in the interrelated and mutually supporting fields of Shelter, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Health and Psychosocial Support, Protection and Early Recovery.



Displacement Tracking Matrix. In the aftermath of a disaster, it is of outmost importance for governments and aid organizations to gather reliable information on where people are located and which are their stringent needs. In order to achieve that, the IOM uses a survey tool called the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) to quickly gather, analyze and publish information about the number of displaced persons, their locations as well as their needs, gathering information on food, shelter, water and sanitation, health, education and safety.

To complement the DTM report, a household-level Return Intention Survey was carried out in order



to provide a more thorough analysis about the intention of displaced populations to return back to their place of origin. The survey - incorporated in one of the DTM rounds - included questions related to return intentions, livelihoods, shelter and factors preventing the return. A total of 1,958 households were surveyed in 104 sites; 76% of them expressed their willingness to return. Out of those, only 34% declared their intention and possibility to return to their place of origin, while the remaining surveyed households stated: a) the option of return to the place of origin is not available (32%); b) the place of return is unknown (27%); c) the intention to move to another site (27%).



CCCM. The IOM has provided CCCM trainings to 181 representatives from various governmental agencies and national and international partner organizations to build capacities of different actors and raise standards, ensuring an appropriate response to the needs of displaced populations.

To address the needs of the most vulnerable groups, particularly to respond to the harsh weather conditions, 19,975 displaced individuals benefited from the distribution of non-food items as part of the winterization support, including: blankets, tarps, ropes, stoves, chimneys, solar lights and foam to each of the households identified in the DTM reports as temporarily living in sites above 1500 meters of altitude.



The IOM carried out site planning and site improvements in camps where the population is likely to remain for longer periods. Forty priority sites with more than fifty households were identified in the districts of Gorkha, Dhading, Makwanpur, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur and improvements of essential infrastructure such as drainage systems, access to roads, fencing and provision of water tanks, were carried out in order to ensure dignified living conditions as well as to protect displaced populations living in temporary sites.

Protection. As prolonging the time of recovery might generate hazards of human rights violations such as trafficking in human beings, gender based violence, massive irregular migration and other violations of economic, social and cultural rights, protection has been one of the IOM's priority areas of intervention since the catastrophic earthquakes. In the framework of its protection program, the IOM identified and assisted vulnerable individuals with stringent humanitarian needs by distributing relief items as well as carrying out awareness raising activities among vulnerable displaced populations, government officials and the wider community on the risks of unsafe and irregular migration and its connection with human trafficking. As a result, approximately 2500 individuals have directly benefited from the IOM's awareness raising sessions whereas almost 45,000 beneficiaries have been reached through distributions of informational and educational material.



Shelter. During the first nine months of the response, the IOM jointly with its partner network - composed of 49 national and international organizations active in 19 districts - distributed emergency shelter and non-food items to 192,377 households, representing approximately 987,640 individuals. The shelter and non-food items distributed included plastic tarpaulins, ropes, bamboo poles and corrugated iron sheets to help families to build a temporary shelter as well as blankets, kitchen sets and solar lights to respond to the immediate needs of those families who had lost belongings. Blankets, tarpaulins, solar lights and PE foam were also distributed as part of winterization programming to community households and to displaced populations residing at the temporary sites.



IOM worked very closely with the Shelter Cluster and further with the Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform in order to develop user-friendly materials such as the 10 Key Messages for Build Back Safer as well as to build capacities among earthquake-affected population to re-construct safer houses incorporating disaster risk reduction measures. For this purposes Training of Trainers (ToT) were organized in Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk and Gorkha followed by community awareness training on Build Back Safer and respective mentoring and monitoring visits organized at the community level to provide necessary technical advice and guidance for the ongoing owner-driven reconstruction process



Health. The IOM assisted in patient discharge and referrals in order to facilitate the provision of essential care. Long after acute needs were met, the IOM continued to provide patient transport to ensure follow-up and rehabilitation care was provided, the latter being a key element to prevent life-long disability for the injured. During the first nine months of the earthquake response, the IOM medical escort team assisted over 500 patients with discharge, referral to local health facilities or safe return into the community.



In close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population and the District Health Officer, the IOM established and currently operates the 40-beds Injury Rehabilitation Unit (IRU) in Chautara, District of Sindhupalchowk which provides step down care, including intensive physiotherapy, nursing care, psychosocial support and safe shelter for patients with earthquake-related injuries and disabilities. Unique in its kind in Nepal, the IOM has been working together with the World Health Organization and Injury and Rehabilitation Sub-Cluster members to establish the IRU as a 'demonstration site' for step down care at the district level.

In temporary settlement sites, the IOM medical team jointly with the camp management continues to



assist the most vulnerable including pregnant women, people living with disabilities or chronic illnesses to access health services and psychosocial support.

Many of those affected by the earthquakes and those displaced experienced psychological distress. The IOM's multi-disciplinary psychosocial teams, comprising of counsellors, social workers, animators and artists, provided direct assistance on a regular basis to 14 temporary settlement sites hosting 17,550 IDPs in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Kavrepalanchowk, Rasuwa and Nuwakot. The IOM also provided training to 200 volunteers and camp managers on Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations in Camp Management and Service Provision and Self-Care.



The IOM continues to support the National Tuberculosis Program to restore respective services in affected districts, including tracing of patients whose treatment was disrupted as a result of the earthquakes. Approximately 5,000 at risk individuals residing in temporary sites were screened for Tuberculosis and follow up services were provided. To support community mobilization, the IOM provided trainings and orientation on Tuberculosis to 168 female community health volunteers and local health workers to raise awareness and promote testing among those at risk.



Early Recovery. As a result of the earthquakes, a noteworthy number of public and private infrastructures collapsed and the rubble blocked roads, isolated villages and prevented aid deliveries. Immediately after the first earthquake, the IOM launched a debris removal program, temporarily employing local laborers to clear rubble along the road to Chautara. As a result, Chautara became a humanitarian hub for the hard-hit district of Sindhupalchowk, the seat of the local government and a crucial transport corridor for aid supplies. Further, the IOM and partners engaged in larger and more complex demolitions. By January 2016, the IOM had safely demolished and/or cleared debris from 203 public buildings, other 21 public infrastructures and 35 private properties in Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Dhading and Gorkha districts.



In the framework of its early recovery program, the IOM has engaged over 2,400 local laborers, including 942 women, for a total of 25,843 working days. The latter combined the rubble removal with an income generation programme for earthquake-affected families. In addition, the IOM successfully led the debris management working group within the Early Recovery Cluster and provided technical support to the Shelter Cluster in developing relevant information material for safe demolition and debris recycling.



Housing Recovery and Reconstruction. The IOM actively participated in the establishment and running of a number of clusters in various capacities, including the Shelter Cluster, ensuring harmonization of activities and information sharing among the partners. As the Shelter Cluster's functions were absorbed by the newly created Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform - co-led by the IOM and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme - coordination of relevant activities is continuously ensured. The Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform provides a framework for coordination, strategic planning and technical guidance for agencies involved in longer term housing recovery and reconstruction.

The institutionalization of the Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform and its hand over to the Government of Nepal, namely to the recently established National Reconstruction Authority, is the long term objective; in view of this, the IOM will continue to provide support to the relevant authorities at central and local level in the overall recovery and reconstruction efforts.



IOM is the leading organization working with migrants and governments in providing humane responses to migration challenges worldwide. It works in the 4 main areas of migration management: migration & development, regulating migration, addressing forced migration and facilitating migration. Established in 1951 and headquartered in Geneva, it has 146 Member States and 13 Observer States.

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