



Migration
for the
Benefit
of All

Upper Right: The Colombo Process (CP) Member States officials - responsible for supporting their countries' endeavours to enhance migration governance - at a meeting in Kathmandu. **Bottom Right:** A participant of a Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM) training conducted for preparedness to save lives from disasters. **Upper Left:** A returnee migrant of Dhading district now works as a veterinary technician upon receiving skill development training. **Bottom Left:** An IOM lab technician working at an IOM migration health assessment clinic. ©IOM.

PRESENT IN NEPAL OVER 10 YEARS

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 172 member states, a further 8 states holding observer status and 412 offices in 147 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.

IOM started its operations in Nepal in 2007 facilitating the resettlement of Bhutanese refugees to 8 countries. Since then, IOM has expanded significantly both in terms of programme areas, target populations and has contributed to the government of Nepal's efforts to manage migration more effectively through a wide range of programmes.

Nepal has a long history of dynamic population mobility and recent years have seen an upsurge in the complexity of migration patterns. An increasing number of Nepalis, especially the youths, are seeking better opportunities abroad. As per a study conducted in 2017, over half of all Nepali households have at least one family member currently abroad as a migrant or living in Nepal as a returnee migrant. Migration contributes significantly to national development and resilience to economic and environmental risks and shocks. At the same time, migration experiences often come with risks and vulnerabilities. Many migrants face abuse, forced labour, exploitation, health risks and life-threatening conditions.

Nepal is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. It is exposed to multiple recurrent natural disasters which have destroyed thousands of lives and houses. Furthermore, the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on livelihoods, food security and water availability are likely to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and increase overall levels of migration in the coming decades.

In order to address the growing challenges and maximize the development potential of migration, IOM is working with partners to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the well-being and human rights of migrants.

IOM is a member of United Nations Country Team and works within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) whose strategic areas are derived from the Sustainable Dev Goals (SDGs), Nepal's 14th National Development Plan and international commitments to which Nepal is a Party.

MIGRATION AND GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Today, nearly 260 million people are international migrants. This significant share of the world's population needs to be counted and included in global development efforts.

In 2016, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into force, which recognized migration as a key enabler of development for the first time in history. To complement the SDGs, in December 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). The GCM - a non-binding document - is the first attempt by the international community to address all aspects of international migration, while recognizing national sovereignty and the need for better coordination between migrant source, transit and destination countries.

IOM - committed to working with the government, partners and migrants to ensure that no one is left behind including migrants and their families - has been delegated the task of coordinating the UN Migration Network and serving as its Secretariat. The Migration Network has been established for UN system's support to Governments in implementation of the GCM.

AREAS OF WORK IN NEPAL

Major Achievements of IOM Nepal in 2018



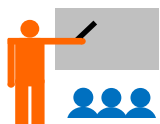
1,030 refugees assisted to resettle in **4** countries



351 refugees and migrants provided pre-departure orientation to facilitate their integration



26,152 migrants and refugees provided health assessment and TB screenings



1,003 officials and partners trained on a range of migration management areas



118 Nepalis in difficult conditions assisted to return home from **23** countries



55 returnees assisted with reintegration support

Refugee Resettlement

For over 65 years, IOM has played a key role in refugee resettlement around the world. In Nepal, since 2007, IOM has supported resettlement of over 113,000 refugees to 8 countries (Australia, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, UK, and USA). The refugees - mostly Bhutanese - are supported with a range of comprehensive resettlement services including case processing, health assessments, medical screening, medical escort support, pre-departure orientation and transportation.

Migration and Health

IOM in Kathmandu and in Damak conducts health assessments to evaluate the health status of refugees and out-bound migrants prior to their departure in order to ensure the health and well-being of migrants as well as to reduce any public health risk during travel or upon arrival at the final destination. In addition, IOM Nepal has been supporting the government in developing a National Migration Health Policy that aims to promote the health of migrants and address the health-related issues and challenges faced during the migration process.

Emergency Response

As the global lead for Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster for natural disasters, IOM has been responding to emergencies and post-crisis situations. IOM has been working together with the Government agencies, Security Forces and non-governmental agencies in enhancing the capacity to better address the needs of people displaced as a result of disasters, in line with international standards and best practices.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

Nepal is at high risk of natural disasters. In an attempt to support the Government's efforts in emergency preparedness and resilience, IOM supported identifying open spaces in Kathmandu valley and the Western Region. Currently IOM has been supporting the eight selected earthquake-hit rural/ municipalities in open space identification and protection together with the construction of multi-purpose community centers to be used as an evacuation centers in an event of a disaster.

IOM will continue supporting the Government implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030 and the organization brings a unique perspective and comparative advantage to this global agenda given the intrinsic links between mobility, risk and resilience.

Land, Property and Reparation

Nepal continues to recover from the decade long armed conflict (1996-2006), which resulted in gross human rights violations. To date, these violations remain largely unaddressed and significant gaps endure in the areas of provision of relief and access to justice for conflict victims especially the survivors of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). Building on past successful coordination and partnership with the government of Nepal, IOM seeks to continue its work in the areas of victims assistance programs improving access to services and justice.

Migration, Environment and Climate Change

The adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on livelihoods, food security and water availability are likely to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and increase overall levels of migration in the coming decades in Nepal. In an attempt to support the Government's efforts to mitigate such vulnerabilities, IOM works to address the need to integrate migration within the broader climate change and environmental framework.

Labour Migration

Many Nepali migrant workers face challenges such as deceptive, non-transparent recruitment practices and excessive fees which could lead to debt bondage, trafficking and forced labour. IOM is working with the government and stakeholders to address these challenges through engaging with private sector partners and building the capacity of Migrant Resource Centres, which act as a one-stop-shop for information and advice on safe channels of migration, and works to promote ethical recruitment practices.

Migrant Assistance and Protection

IOM Nepal provides assistance to stranded migrants and migrants in vulnerable conditions. IOM Nepal recently concluded a project that assisted 300 women returnees and survivors of trafficking to be sustainably reintegrated to the society in Sindhupalchowk and Dhading Districts through skills trainings and job placement.

Migration and Development

In Nepal, remittances that migrants send home play a vital role in national development, contributing to over 30% of the GDP. To facilitate evidence based policy making, IOM carried out a research study to assess the effects of remittances and savings on socio-economic development in Nepal. IOM also supported the government to conduct an assessment on progress towards good migration governance in Nepal. The findings are used in developing migration policies and can serve as a baseline to assess progress in the SDGs and the GCM. Building on past initiatives aimed to maximize the potentials of migration for development, IOM is implementing a project that focuses on mainstreaming migration in the Education and Rural Development sectors in Nepal. IOM together with the Government of Nepal has also begun the process of developing the Migration Profile of Nepal with the purpose to support evidence-based policy making and promote the mainstreaming of migration into the policy planning process.

Regional Consultative Process

Governments are increasingly realizing that migration issues and challenges cannot be addressed by one state alone and there is a need for regional approaches. Nepal is the current chair (2017 – 2019) of the Colombo Process, a regional consultative forum of 12 Asian countries focused on improving labour migration governance. As Secretariat to the Process, IOM Nepal is providing technical and administrative support to the government in facilitating dialogue and cooperation on issues of common interest and concern.