



An IOM Nepal staff in course of conducting a population mobility mapping exercise at a Nepal-India border area in the far-west of the country. The exercise analyzes population mobility dynamics and patterns, and define priority sites where further interventions should be focused to prevent spread of COVID-19 as well as other communicable diseases (August 2020).

Overview

Chartered and regular passenger flights have resumed effective 1 September 2020. However, only Nepalese and representatives of diplomatic missions, the UN and development partners can fly with daily arrivals limited to maximum of 500 individuals and restriction on foreign tourist is still in place. Prohibitory orders have been eased or lifted in a majority of the districts in Nepal including the three districts in Kathmandu valley. As of 15 September 2020, the number of total cases stands at 56,788 with 15,779 active cases and 371 deaths.

According to COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee (CCMC), a total of 63,347 Nepali migrants have been repatriated as of 13 September. The Government has initiated to amend its repatriation guideline in order to cover undocumented migrants under its support programme. Meantime, media reports show that Nepali migrants have started going back to work in both India and abroad.

The challenge of reintegrating returnees into the national labour market and creating work opportunities that matches skills and interests of returnees as well as needs of national economy lies ahead.

To address this situation, IOM Nepal, in coordination and collaboration with partner agencies, has been supporting the Government to ensure that returnees are included in all aspects of COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts.

IOM's approach is aligned with the WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and, in Nepal, it comprises six thematic areas: 1) Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE); 2) Surveillance; 3) Point of Entry (POE); 4) Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM); 5) Protection; 6) Socio-Economic Recovery. Planned and ongoing activities are described in the sections below.

United Nations Socio-Economic Response Framework (UNSERF)

The global UN Socio-Economic Response Framework (UNSERF), as part of the UN's response to COVID-19, is designing the UN approach to socio-economic response and recovery over the next 12-18 months. The UNSERF is divided into five pillars: 1) Health, 2) Protection, 3) Economic Response and Recovery, 4) Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration, and 5) Social Cohesion and Community Resilience.

The UNSERF builds upon comprehensive consultations being conducted by UN agencies, which will shape the design of the Framework and all subsequent efforts.

IOM co-leads the Social Protection Sub-Group together with UNICEF under the Protection Pillar, and is the lead agency for Migrant focused consultations.

IOM is also supporting the Economic Response and Recovery as well as the Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration Pillars.

Key stakeholders for the UNSERF include national, provincial and local governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), most affected and vulnerable groups, the private sector, academia and research institutions, and development partners.



I. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

On 5 September, IOM in coordination with the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC), CSOs and prominent human rights actors marked the **14th National Day Against Human Trafficking**.

A [statement](#) on the occasion from the Head of the Anti-Human Trafficking Department at MoWCSC, Ms. Goma Dhakal, was posted on IOM Nepal social media channels.

More about the National Day Against Human Trafficking on page 6 under Protection.



IOM Nepal

5 september kl. 12:18 · 🌐

Today (20 Bhadra/ 5 Sept) **#Nepal** marks its National Day Against **#HumanTrafficking**. IOM Nepal Chief Ms. Lorena Lando calls on all stakeholders to come together to **#protect Nepali #migrants**, all - current, returnees and potentials from human **#traffickers/ #smugglers, #ModernSlavery, and #LabourExploitation** and help them recover from COVID-hit economy both in Nepal and in the destination countries. **#EndHumanTrafficking**
United Nations Nepal, Government Of Nepal, Ministry Of Labour, Employment & Social Security, IOM Asia-Pacific @MoWCSCNepal



IOM Nepal

5 september kl. 09:17 · 🌐

आज भाद्र २० गते मानव बेचबिखन तथा ओसारपसार विरुद्धको चौथौँ राष्ट्रिय दिवस २०७७ को अवसरमा महिला बालबालिका तथा ज्येष्ठ नागरिक मन्त्रालय, मानव वैचविखन तथा ओसारपसार नियन्त्रण शाखा प्रमुख उपसचिव गोमादेवी ढकाल पौडेल ज्यूको सन्देश ।

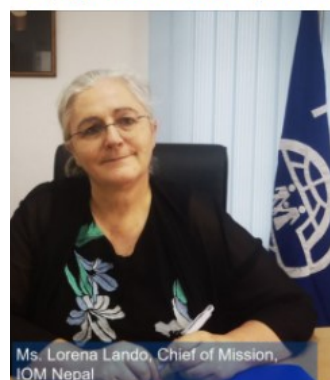
सन्देशको पूर्ण पाठ पढ्न यस लिंकमा जानुहोस् : <https://bit.ly/2R0egcQ>

National Day Against **#HumanTrafficking**

#EndHumanTrafficking

United Nations Nepal, @mwscnepal

Visa översättning



Nepali communities are facing heightened risk of human trafficking and unsafe migration during this pandemic as there have been job losses both abroad and at home.

Reports show that ban on female migrant workers from going to the Gulf countries for domestic help jobs has made them more vulnerable to trafficking.

Open-border with India has been a challenge for the country in taking control over traffickers.

It is imperative that all stakeholders come together to protect migrants and their families and help them recover from COVID-hit economy.

Above: Statement from Lorena Lando, Chief of Mission at IOM Nepal, published on IOM social media.

Left: Statement from Goma Dhakal, Head of the Anti-Human Trafficking Department at the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, published on IOM social media.



2. Surveillance

On 4 September, IOM facilitated a virtual meeting with migration health experts. The meeting addressed migration health related data, programmes and policies that are currently in place in Nepal. The meeting also facilitated discussions on what policies and programmes are needed in place to ensure that Nepali migrants have access to quality health services and facilities.

IOM is implementing the **Population Mobility Mapping (PMM)** project, as part of the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan in Nepal (2020). The PMM approach is based on the mapping and consequent analysis of the dynamics and characteristics of population mobility. Its aim is to identify vulnerable locations and areas to be prioritized for public health interventions during health crisis, in this case specifically, COVID-19.

PMM activities have been successfully completed in Sudurpashchim Province in all three municipalities (Dhangadi, Bhimdatta and Dasharathchanda) on 6 September 2020. 15 facilitated focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted (five in each municipality) and 75 key informants (KIs) participated overall (5 in each FGD). More than 180 sites were assessed, including points of entry (POEs) – formal and informal, health facilities, traditional healers, schools and

colleges, places of worship, places of entertainment, migrant worksites, and transport stations. Data was collected using specific tools including guides, maps, questionnaires, and GPS devices.

The PMM is currently being implemented in Province 5 where a two-day training was conducted in Nepalgunj municipality from 9 to 10 September 2020 for the NRCS field staff that will support IOM in rolling out the project. PMM activities in Nepalgunj have been started and expected to be completed by 16 September. IOM and the NRCS team will then move on to Krishnagar and Siddhartanagar municipalities. PMM activities in Province 1 are expected to be completed in October 2020.



IOM conducted a two-day PMM activity training with NRCS field staff from 9 to 10 September (Nepalgunj, 9 September 2020).



3. Point of Entry

The development of a **POE Assessment Tool** is underway and is comprised of a checklist for data collection. The checklist is twofold, containing a baseline assessment as well as a COVID-19 preparedness assessment. IOM has already approached the Ministry of Health and Population and shared with the COVID-19 Crisis Management Center.

The baseline assessment gathers data on the geographical and physical attributes of the POE, human resources, infrastructure and resources available, volume of migrant flows and the presence of medical personnel. The COVID-

19 preparedness assessment gathers data on screening processes (communication and border coordination) and screening operations (including capacity, equipment, logistics, access to PPEs and standard operative procedures).

IOM has been supporting the Government of Nepal to conduct a feasibility assessment of POEs for the establishment of health desk prototypes in 10 identified designated POEs. The assessment is ongoing in two POEs of Province 5 and Sudurpashchim Province.



4. Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Activation of the **Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** was discussed in an inter-cluster meeting held at the Ministry of Home Affairs on 12 July 2020. Following the completion of the [DTM Baseline Assessment](#), IOM initiated the DTM Site Assessment Round 1 which was conducted from 6 August until 22 August in five selected districts, namely Sankhuwasabha in Province 1, Sindhupalchowk in Bagmati Province, Myagdi in Gandaki Province, Gulmi in Province 5 and Jajarkot in Karnali Province. The [DTM Site Assessment Round 1](#) report was published on 7 September.

Criteria for the Site Assessment were:

1. Based on the Baseline Assessment Findings, 100 households or more in each of the rural and urban municipalities — Melamchi Municipality of Sindhupalchowk District and Raghuganga Rural Municipality of Myagdi with displaced households less than 100 households are not considered for site assessment.
2. Information on vulnerability of site residents are assessed on sites with 5 households or more living on each site, with an exception of 1 site hosting 2 households. Few of the sites have been excluded from the assessment as data on all sections could not be collected given the modality of the remote assessment.

65 sites were identified during the Baseline Assessment of which 29 were found hosting five households or more. The 29 sites were located in nine municipalities, where 1,066 households and 5,467 displaced individuals are residing.

The Site Assessment showed that 79% of the sites had no Site Management Committee (SMC). SMCs are composed of representatives of site residents with the role of monitoring gaps in basic needs, and to coordinate with government authorities and service providers to get needed assistance for residents. The low presence of SMCs indicate

a correlation to services that the Site Assessment report has found lacking, in particular in the below areas.

Protection: only 11% of the sites have referral mechanisms for GBV survivors, 10% offer child and woman friendly spaces, and 7% had provision of psychological aid targeted for children.

Food Security: 41% of the sites reported no access to food, 93% had no provision of supplementary feeding for children and pregnant and lactating women, and 41% had no access to a market.

Information and Communication: 62% of the site residents reported access to information on relief distribution, while 31% reported no access and 7% unknown status. 41% of the site residents relied on elected representatives and municipal authorities as primary sources of information. 48% of the sites had no grievance handling mechanisms, 45% reported unknown and the remaining 7% reported presence of such mechanisms. As for use of grievance mechanisms, 55% of the sites report they have not used them and 45% of the sites report unknown.



Relief distribution following the landslide in Dhaulagiri rural municipality, Myagdi district. © Gopal Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Dhaulagiri rural municipality, Myagdi. (20 July 2020).

The newly constructed multipurpose community center in Nilkantha has been officially handed over to Nilkantha municipality on 10 September 2020. In the event of a disaster, this center will provide emergency temporary shelter for displaced persons in the municipality, giving priority to vulnerable people such as pregnant women, children, people with special needs (both physical and psychosocial) and the elderly, among others. The center is constructed by IOM, the co-lead of CCCM cluster, with the financial support from the 'People of Thailand through the Government of Thailand'.

IOM is also supporting in facilitating the provincial level Shelter Cluster meetings in Province 1. The first provincial level Shelter Cluster meeting was held in the Province on 7 September 2020, in presence of the provincial level ministries namely the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law. The meeting was attended by Shelter Cluster members working in the Province. The partners have agreed to have regular provincial level meetings once a month.

IOM has donated the following materials to the multipurpose community centre in Nilkantha:

- 1 Projector - CASIO-XJ-V2
- 1 Projector screen
- 3 Dispensers for liquid soap
- 2 Hand sanitizer dispensers
- 3 Hand sanitizers (5 litres)
- 1 Bulletin board
- 1 Whiteboard
- 2 Fire extinguishers (6 kg)
- 1 Water filter (21 litres)
- 1 Water dispenser
- 2 Sodium Hypochlorite bleach (5 liters)
- 10 Sanitary pads for women (packs)
- 1 Thermal gun
- 1 Disinfectant Sprayer (16 litres)
- 3 Buckets with mugs (8 litres)
- 2 Liquid soap (5 litres)
- 3 Garbage cans (240 litres)
- 2 Plastic tables for filters
- 80 Plastic chairs
- 6 Dustbins for toilets (20 litres)
- 2 Sanitizer stands
- 3 Cotton towels
- 1 Battery backup (APC UPS-750 VA)



The completed multipurpose community centre in Nilkantha municipality (18 September 2020).



5. Protection

IOM, as the thematic lead for Migrants Protection under the National Cluster, participated the Joint Programming for Gender Based Violence in Emergency (GBViE), Technical Working Group meetings on 31 August and 4 September 2020, led by UNFPA engaging relevant UN Agencies. As the thematic lead on Migrants, IOM raised the issues for the need of interventions concerning the areas for protection for returnee women migrants and their communities. Such needed interventions include direct support on immediate protection services and longer term socio-economic reintegration assistance.

On 8 September, IOM shared the assessment of returnee vulnerable migrants including the DTM report and Returnee Migrants Focused Rapid Assessment on Impacts of COVID-19 and Preparedness and Response Plans of Local Governments Nepal. The assessments were disseminated amongst the National Protection Cluster members to aware on the protection concerns and challenges of migrants and their communities. IOM also shared compiled gender

segregated migrants data for the geographical coverage interventions at the provincial levels that have higher migration trends.

IOM, in coordination with MoWCSC, CSOs and prominent right activists, marked the **National Day Against Human Trafficking** on 5 September. It included a week-long advocacy and awareness raising campaign through social media focusing on human trafficking, safe migration and the impacts of the Government-imposed ban on women migrants to work in the domestic sector in Gulf countries. The ban has impacted women migrant workers particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, causing unemployment in Nepal and destination countries, thus heightening the risk of human trafficking among migrants and their communities.

IOM also co-leads the Social Protection Sub-Group with UNICEF under the Protection Pillar of the UNSERF.



6. Socio-Economic Recovery

Through activities in the socio-economic response thematic area, IOM is contributing to three Pillars of the UNSERF: Pillar 2) Protecting People, Pillar 3) Economic Response and Recovery, and Pillar 4) Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration.

Through the project “Immediate UN Response for Coherent Safeguarding the Livelihoods of People Made Most Vulnerable by COVID-19 in Nepal”, supported by the [UN COVID-19 Multi Partner Trust Fund](#), immediate assistance was provided to 200 most vulnerable returnee migrant workers, of which 167 are returnee women migrant workers.

The project is coordinating recovery support to the returnee migrants and their families in three municipalities: Arjunthara

in Jhapa district, Dharan sub-metropolitan in Sunsari district and Dhankuta in Dhankuta district. The support includes seed fund and non-cash support (including agriculture tools and appropriate technology such as machines, equipment, materials) to targeted vulnerable migrants and their families.

IOM has been providing technical assistance to the National Planning Commission in conducting a rapid survey with migrant workers in identifying their return intention and reintegration plans. Similarly, IOM is closely coordinating with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security in conducting skills mapping of the returnee migrant workers. The objective of this study is to map skills of the returnee migrants, their priorities for reintegration and major migrant receiving locations.



6. Socio-Economic Recovery

IOM has joined UN agencies for the Secretary General's call for proposals for the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund project Gender Responsive Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods Recovery in Nepal (GREEN). The project objective is to contribute to a resilient and inclusive economic recovery from COVID-19 secondary impacts through livelihood improvements to stabilize the local economy and food security. Target beneficiaries of the project include women-headed households, daily wage workers, unemployed and returnee migrant workers, their families and socio-economically marginalized households.

Contacts

International Organization for Migration – Mission in Nepal

768/12, Thirbam Sadak, Baluwatar -5

Kathmandu, Nepal



+977 14426250



iomnepal@iom.int



<http://www.nepal.iom.int>



facebook.com/iomnepal



[twitter/iomnepal](https://twitter.com/iomnepal)



instagram.com/iomnepal.unmigration