



सूचना बोर्ड (Information Board) containing text in Hindi, likely providing details about the facility or services.

सुरक्षित विज्ञान स्थल (Safe Science Station) sign on the wall.

राहत कक्षा (Relief Room) sign on the tent structure.

Dijimik (Label on the bag carried by the woman in the foreground).

Accessibility icons (wheelchair and person in a wheelchair) on the building wall.

Ground Crossing Points – A Safe Place for Migrants

During the pandemic, the Government of Nepal faced the challenge of safely bringing the Nepalese citizens into Nepal while limiting the transmission of the COVID-19. There was a need for upgraded health desks at the Ground Crossing Points (GCPs) to attend and manage the influx of migrants. To fulfill these needs, IOM with the financial support from the European Union European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, the “Effective case management by strengthening isolation centers and ground crossing points management for rapid response and preparedness against COVID-19” project was implemented in six GCPs.

‘It was a hot summer day in 2020 and thousands of migrants were stranded at the GCPs. Everyone had returned from India, mostly after losing their jobs. There were families with children as well waiting in the crowd to enter Nepal. I was terrified and told my husband that we need to enter the country or else we could die here without food and water. The death rate of COVID-19 in the news reported high so everyone in the crowd was agitated. Now, when I visit the Gauriphanta GCP, it provides me relief to see that the health desk has been greatly improved and handwashing stations along with proper toilets has been established. I believe the significant improvement is the provision of Psychological First Aid. For migrants, it is reassuring to get correct information and somebody telling us that everything will be fine.’- Returnee migrant, female.

‘The project covers health, WASH and protection services at the GCPs to provide support to the migrants. NNSWA, a local partner for the project in Sudurpaschim province, has handed over various materials, including antigen testing kits, PPE sets, thermometers, masks, and sanitizers required at both Gaddachauki and Gauriphanta GCP. Other facilities such as gender and disabled friendly toilets, shower rooms, safe waiting spaces, mobile charging stations, breastfeeding corners, drinking water stations and handwashing stations have been established. We have been engaged in screening the migrants and providing referral services as required. Since April 2022, until now, 130 migrants, who were at risk of robbery, theft and other types of mistreatment while crossing the Nepal-India GCP have been helped to safely reach their destination.’ - Pandab Pujara, Program Coordinator, NNSWA

‘The project helped in the crowd management mechanism. We were engaged in managing the crowd and prioritizing the elderly, children, pregnant, lactating mothers and people with disability during their wait for COVID-19 tests. It was a crucial job during the influx of migrants as providing information to crowd to adopt public health and safety measures to protect oneself from the transmission was necessary.’- Bindu Joshi, Field Monitor, Gaddachauki GCP