

Migrant's struggle to reach home

Tek Bohara, a 21-year-old permanent resident of Badikedar Rural Municipality, Sudurpaschim, has been toiling in Punjab, India as a seasonal migrant. Tek Bohara is the breadwinner of a family living in abject poverty. Since the small agricultural plot at home hardly yields two meals a day, he was forced to pick seasonal migration to fend for his family. Thus, he has been working in Punjab for five years now and comes home for the farming season which enables him to provide for his family.

On the 29th of July 2022, as he was returning home from Punjab, he was pickpocketed which left him completely stranded. Having already paid for his bus trip to Banbasa, he managed to reach the Gaddachauki Ground Crossing Point (GCP) but was not able to go home from there due to lack of money. Through Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA), a local partner, he was supported with food, water, cash contribution and a dignity kit. The support was made possible through the "Effective case management by strengthening Isolation Centers and Ground Crossing Points (GCPs) management for Rapid Response and Preparedness against COVID-19" project implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and financially supported by the European Union European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations in implementing partnership with Save the Children (SCI) and in local partnership with Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA – Gaddachauki and Gauriphanta GCPs).

Realizing that now he could at least reach home safely, his eyes filled with happiness. Upon reaching home, he called and shared, "I had given up all hopes of safely reaching home when I was pickpocketed on the way. I had thought that I would die mid-way. Thanks to your support, I have managed to reach home and be with my family. Thank you very much. I will be more cautious the next time I travel," said Bohara.