



E-Newsletter

NNSM: E-Bulletin Third Edition



July 2020

NNSM E-Bulletin: Third Edition: July, 2020

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Brief Info about Third Edition: This bulletin tries to document key activities and programs implemented by National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM). The important highlights of the edition include performed project activities, policy dialogues, meetings, monitoring visit to ensure lobby and advocacy initiatives, development of IEC materials by NNSM and its member organizations during the period of March to July 2020.

Acknowledgement: The third edition of this e-bulletin has been possible with joint efforts under Hamro Samman, which is a five-year project generously supported by American people and British people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (UK aid) and implemented by Winrock International. In this regard, we extend our sincere thanks to USAID and UK aid for their support. Also, we thank the entire team of Winrock International of Hamro Samman project for their technical support from the inception of the project to its implementation phase. We express our sincere gratitude to our member organizations for providing required information and coordinating with us during the implementation of secretariat activities and programs.

In Solidarity,

NNSM Secretariat

Anamnagar, Kathmandu

Introduction to NNSM:

National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) is an umbrella institution of 20 organizations working in migration sector. This network was established in 2008 with a vision to bring together civil society organizations working for the protection of migrant workers' rights and also creating a synergy among the civil society organizations for safe, orderly, dignified and productive labor migration.

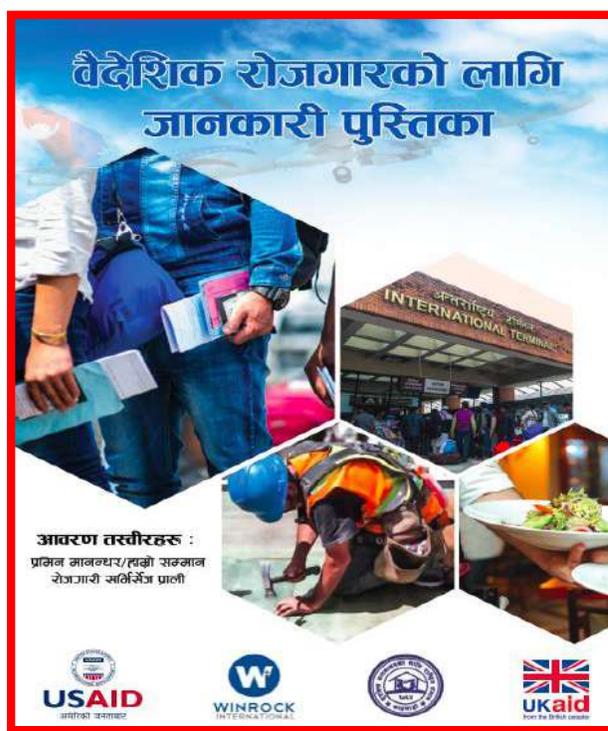
Since inception, the organization has been advocating for the rights of migrant workers through integrated efforts of its diverse member organizations and in partnership with various organizations within and across the Asia Pacific Regions.

Through organizing different focused programs, the organization has been involved in close coordination and cooperation and representing the voice of civil society organizations working in migration sectors majorly at national level and also engaged in regional consultative process such as Colombo Process (CP), Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD), South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration and Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD).

Key Interventions under Hamro Samman Project:

Developed IEC material (Outreach Material): NNSM developed Information, Education, Communication (IEC) material or an outreach material with information about the services available for migrant workers from different organizations related to safe migration for foreign employment and trafficking survivors. Mapping of available services provided by government and non-government line agencies regarding foreign employment and human trafficking was carried out through a consultant.

The objective of this IEC material (booklet) is sharing information with returnee and aspiring foreign labor migrants on referral service offered by various organizations. The outreach material contains information about the services available from government agencies including Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLESS), Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC), Foreign Employment Board(FEB), Department of Foreign Employment (DOFE), Nepal Police, Anti Human Trafficking Bureau (AHTB), the Emigration Office, embassies, and labor officials. The booklet also contains information about services available from NGOs including AMKAS Nepal, Pourakhi Nepal, PNCC, Maiti Nepal, ABC Nepal, Asian Youth Action, Shakti Samuha, People's Forum, and FWLD. Lack of information is one of the key risk factor for trafficking and exploitation



in the foreign employment process. The outreach material is expected to increase access to accurate and complete information for aspiring migrants, returnee migrants, and their families, as well as for frontline service providers and local communities, supporting to strengthen referral mechanism. A total of 1000 booklets will be printed and disseminated through NNSM's member organizations and its networks. This booklet will also be published on NNSM's website.

Monitoring Visit of NNSM board members on Situation of Foreign Labor Migration and Services in Local Governments:

NNSM specifically engaged in monitoring the devolution of employment work permit to the provincial level aiming to advocate to the provincial and local governments for the effective and efficient delivery of services to aspiring migrants, and improved quality and availability of services for returnee migrants, including those who have been trafficked. Issues identified on the monitoring visits will be included in policy advocacy (strategic plan) at the national and sub-national level by NNSM and its members. Major methodologies includes one FGD with the migrant workers, and one FGD with representatives of CSOs and service providers which were organized in each of the project districts where the monitoring was conducted. KIIs were undertaken with the Social Development Officer (Labor Desk at Province level), Municipality or Rural Municipality (Mayor/Deputy Mayor,

The District Administration Office has also collaborated with few local organizations and they have been organizing various programs related to foreign labor migration from ward levels. They have also been helping them in providing information related to labor migration and assisting them in making passports and other related documents. We have observed that it has helped them a lot.

Participant from DAO Kailali

The essence of federalism lies on localization of programs and policies with regard to the existing problems of communities. In our place, we have observed the local government initiating such programs related to foreign labour migration and their families. We have high expectations with our local government to address different problems and challenges in foreign labour migration.

*- Suman from Makwanpur
(Name changed)*

Employment Coordinator, Foreign Employment Desk), District Administration Office, Foreign Employment Information Center, Labor Office among other agencies from six districts.

The main objective of the monitoring was to assess the level of enforcement of national policies to promote safe migration and provide service to migrant workers, to identify the service needs of the migrant workers with considerations to gender equality and social inclusion, and to determine the critical gaps in access and delivery of services to the migrant workers by the government agencies, civil society and private sector service providers.

Major findings of the monitoring visit included, situation of services from the local governments—many of the aspiring migrants that participated as respondents during the FGDs conducted under this monitoring, were not aware about the information center that existed in their own local government. It must also be noted that these information centers weren't fully equipped and obviously were not effective in delivering the necessary services to the aspiring migrants. However, some of the information centers were able to persuade some aspiring migrant workers, particularly those that were minors from pursuing foreign employment or at least wait a few years until they were adults to travel, considering pursuit of foreign employment as a minor would have placed them at greater risk and position of vulnerability as they would have to make fraudulent documents to travel as a documented migrant worker or would have to choose to travel as an undocumented migrant worker. Major recommendation made include:

- formulation of appropriate policies and establishment of structures at province and local levels to address issues related to foreign employment and human trafficking;
- collection, update, and maintenance of quality data on foreign employment within a local government's area of jurisdiction;

- Appropriate utilization of data to develop more effective programs with allocation of adequate resources to provide necessary services to migrant workers and their families while countering human trafficking in the foreign migration process.

In conclusion, the key findings from the monitoring activity can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ There appears to be limited awareness among migrant workers about the foreign employment-related government services available at the local level (i.e. localized services).
- ✓ There is lack of accurate data related to foreign employment at the local government level, lack of appropriate policies and structures at local level.
- ✓ There is limited allocation of resource by local governments for safe migration services.
- ✓ There seems to be limited coordination and collaboration between local governments and CSOs and/or the private sector.
- ✓ There is a need for localization of more comprehensive services to benefit migrant workers and their families.

Some local governments have provided counselling and documentation services to the migrant workers, but these services were not adequate.

There is also no clarity on the role of the employment coordinator in responding to foreign migration-related issues at the local level while there was confusion at the province level labor offices on the issue of providing labor permits, which was seen as a matter for the federal government.

In addition, the monitoring activity was expected to support in strengthening capacity of NNSM and its members to monitor prioritized issues for advocacy and to gather evidences to support and strengthen advocacy activities by NNSM and its member organizations. The quality of services and issues of migrant workers, the status of labor permit service delivery and the process of recruitment taking place at local level were the three key issues focused during monitoring, which had been identified as prioritized issues during a consultation meeting with representatives of NNSM member organizations.



Developing training of

trainers (ToT) manuals for pre-decision: The number of people opting for foreign employment is increasing day by day. Department of Foreign Employment (DOFE) issued 4,099,926 labor permits male 3,888,035 female 211,891 on FY 2008/2009 to 2018/19. There are various time-intensive steps/process which need to be followed by the aspiring migrants like skill training, pre departure training, labor permit, connection with recruitment agency, preparation for workplace. Due to lack of proper information on migration cycle which includes pre decision, departure, workplace, return and rehabilitation, Nepali migrant workers are using irregular channels for foreign employment because of complex process.

To reduce the unsafe migration of migrant workers through irregular channels, NNSM is carrying out capacity building for aspiring migrants through pre decision trainings. Aspiring migrants will be one of the major target groups for this training. NNSM hired a consultant to develop a five-

day long pre-decision Training of Trainers (ToT) manual. After the TOT is completed community level trainings will be run by provincial CSOs.

Majority of the session plan in this manual are related to human trafficking, safe migration, self-realization, migration cycles, services of related agencies, savings, rights of workers and micro teaching.

This ToT manual was developed in discussion with Foreign Employment Board (FEB) in previous CTIP 1 project which was approved from USAID. Following up on this, NNSM organized series of meeting with FEB to encourage ownership of the manual and feedback from the board as well. NNSM discussed with its board members for feedback. After incorporation of the various layers of feedback, NNSM will work with Hamro Samman's support to finalize the manual.

Key Interventions under NNSM

Issued a Press Release

As thousands of Nepali migrant workers remain stranded in several destinations amid the global COVID-19 crisis, NNSM called on the government to come forward and make sure its citizens who are in foreign countries for employment are getting adequate health services and have access to basic necessities. NNSM requested to introduce a relief package targeting the families of migrant workers too, as the remittance sent by them contributes to the country's economy. NNSM also demanded that the Nepal government coordinate with its foreign



missions to make arrangements for the return of stranded workers who want to come home.

The media coverage of the Press Release can be accessed at the following link:

[Migrants' rights groups call on government to repatriate and protect the workers stranded overseas](#)

Issued a joint statement on the occasion of May Day (May 1, 2020)

Joint Trade Union Coordination Center (JTUCC) and National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) issued a joint statement on the occasion of the 131st International Labor Day to call on the government to ensure the safety of workers. The government was requested to ensure all the rights of workers protected by national and international conventions during the time of pandemic and crisis, including workers' rights of receiving their salaries and safety of their lives.

Below is the link for the media coverage of the joint statement:

[On International Labour Day, workers remain under lockdown racked with uncertainty caused by Covid-19 pandemic](#)



Disclaimer

This e-bulletin is made possible by the generous support of the American people and British people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (UK aid). The contents of this report are the responsibility of NNSM and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government or UK aid or the United Kingdom Government.

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