



**IOM**  
UN MIGRATION

# International Organization for Migration

## Nepal Mission Overview - January 2018



Migration  
for the  
Benefit  
of All

*Upper Right: Members of remittance receiving households participating in financial literacy training. Bottom Right: Preparedness Saves Lives ! Outreach campaigns to increase awareness of the open spaces and the importance of disaster preparedness. Upper Left: A refugee resettling to the US receiving pre-departure health assessment. Bottom Left: Refugees tracing their journey from refugee camps to the US during the cultural orientation training. ©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 169 member states, a further 8 states holding observer status and 393 offices in over 100 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 young adults, are seeking better opportunities abroad. Over half of all Nepali households have at least one family member currently abroad as a migrant or living in Nepal as a migrant returnee. 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 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 Development Goals (SDGs) and Nepal's Fourteenth National Development Plan.

### MIGRATION AND GLOBAL INITIATIVES

In 2016, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development came into force. For the first time, migration is recognized as a key enabler of development. No longer is human mobility seen as just background context for development or merely seen as a consequence of lack of development.

Today, an estimated 258 million people are international migrants. This significant share of the world's population needs to be counted and included in global development efforts. IOM is committed to working with the government, partners and migrants to ensure that no one is left behind including migrants.

IOM is also working closely with the government and partners to support the preparatory and negotiation process of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement to cover all dimensions of international migration, to be presented to the UN General Assembly in September 2018.

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION - MISSION IN NEPAL

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# AREAS OF WORK IN NEPAL

## Major Achievements of IOM Nepal in 2017



4,280 refugees assisted to resettle in 4 countries



2,840 refugees and migrants provided pre-departure orientation to facilitate their integration



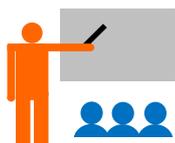
18,828 migrants and refugees provided health assessment and TB screenings



9,513 households affected by floods received shelter and Non Food Items



40 Open Spaces identified in Western Provinces (4&5) for disaster preparedness



403 officials and partners trained on a range of migration management areas



278 Nepalis in difficult conditions assisted to return home from 26 countries



182 returnees assisted with reintegration support



300 survivors of trafficking and women returnees received vocational trainings



6,000 community members sensitized on safe and legal migration practices

### 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 112,000 refugees to 8 countries (Australia, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, UK, and USA). The refugees - mostly Bhutanese - are supported with a range of comprehensive resettlement services including case processing, health assessments, medical screening, 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 a public health risk during travel or upon arrival at the final destination. In addition, IOM Nepal supports the government in developing a National Migration Health Policy aimed at promoting 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. Following the devastating earthquake in 2015, IOM immediately provided emergency shelters, psycho-social counselling, health services, debris clearance, and is continuously contributing to early recovery and reconstruction efforts. IOM has also provided shelter and non-food items to victims of floods in 2008 and 2017.

### Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

Nepal is at high risk of natural disasters. IOM is currently implementing a project which has identified and mapped 123 open spaces in the Kathmandu Valley and the Western Region that could be used for humanitarian purposes during emergencies. IOM is also assisting in building the capacity of Nepal's National Security Forces to ensure effective initial emergency response and apply international standards in camp management in line with National Disaster Response Framework.

### 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 remain 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

IOM Nepal recently concluded a regional research project that assessed the nexus of climate change, environmental degradation and migration in South Asia and raised awareness of the topic among governments in the region. The research presented a set of country-specific recommendations for further implementation, notably on the need to integrate migration within the broader climate change framework in Nepal.

### Labour Migration

Many Nepali migrant workers face challenges such as deceptive, non-transparent recruitment practices and excessive fees which could lead to debt bondage, discrimination, detention and trafficking. IOM is working with the government 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 in migration prone communities.

### Migrant Assistance and Protection

IOM Nepal provides assistance to stranded migrants and migrants in vulnerable conditions. IOM has recently completed a project which provided voluntary return and reintegration assistance to over 350 Nepali migrants who were abused and exploited in the Gulf countries and Malaysia. Currently IOM Nepal is implementing a project to assist 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 up to 30% of the GDP. To facilitate evidence based policy making, IOM recently carried out a research study to assess the effects of remittances and savings on socio-economic development in Nepal. Also, in partnership with the government, IOM is conducting an assessment on the progress towards good migration governance in Nepal. The findings will inform the design and development of future migration policies and can serve as a baseline to assess progress in the SDGs and Global Compact for Migration.

### 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 a regional approach. 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 a 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.