



**E- Bulletin**  
**National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM)**



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## **DISCLAIMER**

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**Brief Info about First Edition:** This bulletin basically tries to document key activities and programs implemented by National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) under Hamro Samman project. However, it also briefly sheds light on other regular activities and programs beyond the project organized over the time in partnership with different potential stakeholders and organizations. The bulletin uncovers the key accomplishments and observations under NNSM initiatives and those of its member organizations over the period of 4 months from September to December, 2018. The important highlights of the edition are introduction to NNSM and its project activities including the programs beyond the project such as lobby and advocacy initiatives, consultation programs and news from NNSM network members, campaigns related to counter human trafficking and safer migration.

**Acknowledgement:** The first edition of this e-bulletin could not have been possible without joint efforts made under Hamro Samman project which is a five-year project generously supported by American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Winrock International. In this regard, we extend our sincere thanks to USAID Team for their support. Also, we thank entire team of Winrock International 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. Finally, we thank media persons, our partners and everyone who directly and indirectly supported us in all possible ways to maneuver our organizational affairs.

In Solidarity,  
NNSM Secretariat  
Anamnagar, Kathmandu

**Introduction to NNSM:** National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) is an umbrella institution of 18 organizations working in migration sector. This network was established in 2006 with a vision to bringing 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 labour migration. Since inception, NNSM has been advocating for the rights of migrant workers through integrated efforts of its diverse member organizations. Also, in partnership with various organizations within and across the Asia Pacific Regions, it has been organizing different programs focusing on the migrant issues to large extent. Indeed, NNSM has played very instrumental role in terms of representing the voice of Nepali civil society organizations working in migration sectors at national and regional consultative process such as Colombo Process (CP), Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD), Global Compact on Migration (GCM), South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Global Compact on Migration and Development (GFMD), Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) etc.

**Recent Partnership:** NNSM has worked with many partners in migration issues over the years. One of the recent partnerships of NNSM is with Winrock International focused on implementing USAID's counter trafficking in persons (CTIP) project, Hamro Samman. This partnership is aimed at improving NNSM's capacity on advocacy and engagement to address TIP which will strengthen its operational, organizational and technical capacity to reduce the incidence of TIP in Nepal. Under this project, NNSM has been working on advocacy and outreach efforts to reduce the risk of trafficking in foreign labor migration process and to ensure better service delivery for migrant workers who have been trafficked. The goal of this project is to reduce the prevalence of Trafficking In Persons (TIP) in 12 strategically selected districts of Nepal. Using the '4Ps' framework- Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership, the Hamro Samman project envisages to bring together various stakeholders and implementing partners to reduce the prevalence of trafficking in persons.

### **Key Interventions under Hamro Samman Project:**

**Workshop on Strategic Plan:** As an effort to review and update existing strategy, NNSM organized a 2 day strategic plan workshop on 24 to 25 Sept, 2018 at Naikap Village Resort in Kathmandu. In the workshop, the focal representatives from NNSM member organizations and Winrock International including the staffs from NNSM secretariat discussed about the several cross cutting issues regarding the concerns, priorities and development strategy of the organization. The workshop went through thorough discussion and devised a new strategic plan replacing the old NNSM's strategic plan (2013-2015) which was thought to be obsolete in the context of new federal Government structure as opposed to the past Centralized Government system. The new strategic plan for upcoming 3 years (2019-2021) has been developed by mainstreaming of gender equality and social inclusion, incorporation of victim-centered and human rights-based approach in programming, identification of priority areas for advocacy and increment of conflict sensitivity and so on. This strategy is





believed to guide overall NNSM activities and programs directed towards achieving greater goal in migration sector.

**Orientation on GESI:** The issues of gender, equality and social inclusion has been emerging as one of the widely discussed development issues in world of work. Common understanding and approach on GESI considerations could be the point of departure to gradually address the issues of social cohesion and inclusion. In line with this, a one-day orientation on GESI considerations was organized on 1 Nov, 2018 in Kathmandu. The orientation was focused on building capacity of NNSM members and its staffs at understanding the GESI dimensions of trafficking in foreign migration process so that they can design and deliver effective programs and service on the prevention, protection and prosecution of trafficking survivors and at-risk populations and at the same time will help them to engage in more effective advocacy. In the programme, the



participants discussed about several cross cutting issues such as GESI (Gender, Equality & Social Inclusion) concept, perceptions and practices, national and international instruments for GESI mainstreaming, human trafficking and smuggling, nexus between foreign labour migration and human trafficking, GESI dimensions of human trafficking and foreign labour migration process and so on. The program has been fruitful in many aspects in terms of creating uniformity of understanding among the participants from NNSM member organizations at GESI considerations.

### **Advocacy Initiatives:**

**Mass Rally:** Policy advocacy has been one of the most prioritized areas of NNSM. Since the beginning, NNSM has been advocating for policy reform and implementation so as to ensure some visible changes in the world of migrant workers. During the reporting time, on 7 December, 2018, the nation observed a huge rally of enthusiastic women shouting slogans for their fundamental rights. The mass rally was organized to put pressure on Nepal government to ratify ILO convention 189 thereby addressing other fundamental rights of women such as ending all forms of gender discriminations, exploitations and violence against women. Among the slogans chanted, right to decent work for domestic workers and lifting ban for aspirant domestic workers were the concerns of top priority.



The rally was a joint effort led by WOREC in coordination with NNSM, IDWF and Pourakhi Nepal. The rally was in an amazing public sight from Baneswor to Maitighar Mandala coupled with placards, posters, banner, and campaign T-shirts that demanded recognition of domestic workers and ratification of ILO C189 etc. In the rally, more than 200 participants from different NNSM member organizations expressed their solidarity for the cause they were demanding for. Some of them are The National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders, Women Forum for Women in Nepal, Nepal Disability Women Association (NDWA), Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj, Trade Unions and many likeminded organizations working for the right of domestic workers.



At the concluding session, the rally was addressed by focal representatives such as Manju Gurung, from Pourakhi Nepal and Gyanu KC from International Domestic Workers Federation who stressed on the need of ratifying the ILO Convention 189 to recognize the work of domestic workers which could be the point of departure to end age-long gender discriminations and abuses the domestic workers have been facing for ages. They reiterated that lack of decent work situation at home can increase the number of women opting for overseas work putting them at the risk of mental, psychological and sexual abuses.



### Interaction Program on Domestic Workers

At the pretext of increasing incidents of violence against women in the forms of rape, murder and sexual abuse, on the occasion of Women's Martyr's Day, on 6 Dec, 2018, NNSM organized an interaction program in Kathmandu to mark 16 days of activism (starting from 25 Nov ending on 10 Dec) against gender violence on recognition of domestic work and ratification of ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers. The program funded by Migrant Forum in Asia, was held under lead initiation of National Network for Safe Migration, and in collaboration with Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), and Pourakhi Nepal. In the program, problems and challenges of domestic workers both within and beyond nation were presented and discussed thoroughly. The





interaction highlighted on the key issues of domestic workers such as recognition and rights of domestic workers as human rights, status of data of both domestic workers within and abroad, legal provision for domestic workers, negative impact of ban to work as domestic workers in GCC countries, importance of ratification of ILO Convention 189 and so on.

During discussion in the program, the participants focused on the need of monitoring of effective implementation of prevailing laws regarding domestic workers. Mr. Bir Bahadur Rai, the Joint



Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens stressed on the need of maintaining proper data in order to address the issues of domestic workers. Mr. Rajan Shrestha, Executive Director of Foreign Employment Promotion Board reiterated that collective efforts have to be made to change negative perception (dominating) towards the work of the domestic workers and start respecting all forms of labour regardless of its nature. Similarly, Honorable Sudip Pathak, the Member of National Human Rights Commission, emphasized on the need of ratifying ILO C189 and its proper implementation.

The program has been more fruitful in terms of sensitizing the concerned stakeholders (mainly from government) on the pertinent issues of domestic workers and also collecting recommendations for policy reform that includes ratification of the ILO Convention 189 and lifting ban on the movement of the aspirant migrant workers. The recommendation that came from the interaction program is expected to be submitted to the Minister for Labour and Employment and Social Security at forthcoming delegation visit. The best part of the program is the solidary and commitment expressed from all the focal participants for supporting the civil society movement at upcoming lobby and advocacy efforts for the ratification of ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers.

### **South Asia Civil Society Consultation on Labour Migration**

Following the footprints of the declaration (27 Nov, 2014) and adoption of plan of action of 18th SAARC Summit (4 May, 2016), the National Network for Safer Organization organized a South Asia Civil Society Consultation on Labour Migration on 13-14 November 2018 in Hotel Sangrila, Kathmandu. The program was the joint collaboration with Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) together with HELVETAS, South Asia Regional Trade Union Council (SARTUC) and Solidarity Center.



During the consultation meeting, the focal representatives of civil society organizations including trade unions, migrants, migrants' organizations, media, community organizations, and research organizations primarily discussed on the perspectives of different

stakeholders on four thematic issues namely, fair and ethical recruitment, consular support for migrants in crisis, access to justice, support services and welfare protection and decent work.

### **Sharing and Interaction on Global/Regional Consultative Process**

The GFMD, GCM, CP, ADD, SAARC and SDG 2030 are the crucial process where Nepal as one of the major source countries for labour migration still needs to substantially contribute in the consultative processes. As an initiation to developing a standard position of Nepal Government through adequate dialogues, consultations and collaborations among the concerned stakeholders, NNSM organized an interaction program on 15 Nov, 2018 in Embassy Restaurant, Kathmandu in collaboration with Solidarity Center. In the program media persons from different news portals and focal representatives from CSOs concentrated on sharing the current status of the consultative process on GFMD/GCM/CP/ADD/SAARC. During the consultation, they reiterated on the need of incorporating recommendations made so far in Nepal's position especially in regard to labor migration. This interaction was very much fruitful in terms of setting cornerstone for future lobby and advocacy efforts thereby gradually institutionalizing standard position of Nepal Government targeting to the global/regional consultative processes.



### **National Consultation on Global Forum for Migration and Development**

At the backdrop of the increasing concerns among potential stakeholders about the fate of Global Compact on Migration, the National Network for Safe Migration organized a consultation meeting on GFMD on 27 Nov, 2018 in Union House, Anamnagar, Kathmandu. The program funded by Solidarity Centre was the continuation of the dialogue and consultation process among the key stakeholders from Government, CSOs, trade unions, media person and migrant experts. The program shared an update of the development initiatives taken so far regarding international lobby efforts for the adoption of the GCM (Global Compact for Migration) document. In fact, the program was designed in a way where the focal representatives shared their inputs and things to be taken into consideration for effective participation in GCM conference. The recommendations shared during the meeting were found to be more fruitful for those participating in GCM conference. Thanks to all those who put their ultimate efforts to generate national and international pressure for the adoption of the GCM in UN Conference held in Morocco in 10-11 December, 2018.





## National Consultation on Challenges in Rescue Mechanism & Possible Solutions

At the pretext of increasing grievances of migrant workers and complications in rapid rescue mechanism both within and destination countries, in collaboration with National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM), Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC) organized a national consultation meeting on 17 Dec, 2018 in Union House, Anamnagar, Kathmandu to discuss challenge associated with rescue mechanism with its possible solution. In the program, the rescue efforts and problems observed in last 5 years were presented by PNCC; and it was followed with other presentations that highlighted the pertinent issues



surrounding the problems faced by Nepali migrant workers in general, complication in their rescue process, factors affecting rapid rescue of the stranded victims, existing legal provision, Govt. initiatives and possible solutions on rescue mechanism. Following the presentations, the representatives from MoLESS, DoFE, FEPB, CSOs, trade unions, migration experts, NNSM members & Media (altogether 35 participants) during open discussion, shared their experience and opinions in line with addressing the issues observed in rescue mechanism. The recommendations expressed by the participants are expected to be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Employment & Social Security at the upcoming delegation visit to be scheduled in subsequent months. In short, the program was fruitful in many aspects in terms of bringing the problematic issues of rescue mechanism into light and collect policy recommendations for improving rescue and compensation mechanism for needful actions from penitential actors especially MoLESS & Govt. stakeholders.

## Commemoration of Deceased Migrant Workers

On the occasion of International Migrant' Day, Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee together in collaboration with National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) organized a candle light program on 18 Dec, 2018 in the memory of the deceased migrant workers. The commemoration of the deceased migrant workers took place in Maitighar Mandala, Kathmandu in which the representatives from different organizations working in migration sector including media, paid sincere tribute to the deceased ones by lighting candle. According to official data available till the date, as many as 7056 Nepalese migrant workers



have lost their lives during foreign employment process. The loss of life is so immense that the hard-earned remittance could hardly compensate the families in peril. Releasing a press note, the chairperson of PNCC, Kul Prasad Karki, seeks serious attention of Nepal Government to take measures that could help reduce incidents of death of Nepali migrant workers in foreign land.

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