



National Network for Safe Migration | E-Bulletin-Fourth Edition

NNSM | MARCH 2021

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Brief Info about Fourth Edition:

This bulletin basically tries to document key activities and programs implemented by National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) under Hamro Samman project from November, 2020-March, 2021. The bulletin depicts the key accomplishments under NNSM initiatives and those of its member organizations over the period of 6 months from November, 2020-March, 2021.

The important highlights of the edition are introduction to NNSM and its project activities including the programs and lobby and advocacy initiatives, consultation programs and news from NNSM network members, campaigns related to counter human trafficking and safer migration.

Acknowledgement

NNSM Secretariat, Ghatteulo, Kathmandu

The fourth edition of this e-bulletin has been developed under the Hamro Samman project, which is assisted by USAID and UK aid, and made possible by the support of American and British people. The project is being implemented by Winrock International and its aim is to reduce human trafficking in Nepal and increase the protection of civil and human rights by improving systems to counter trafficking-in-persons.

In this regard, we extend our sincere thanks to the USAID Team and UK aid Team for their support. Also, we thank the entire Winrock International team for their technical support since the inception of the project to its implementation phase. We express our sincere gratitude to our member organizations for providing the required information and coordinating with us during the implementation of the secretariat activities and programs.

NNSM Secretariat, Ghattekulo Kathmandu

Introduction to NNSM

National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) is an umbrella institution of 25 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 of 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).

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Key Interventions under Hamro Samman Project



Picture 1 Participants are engaged in group work during the session in ToT held in Nepalgunj.

1. Migration Pre Decision Training of Trainers (ToT)

NNSM developed a ToT manual on “Pre-Decision during foreign employment” in coordination with Foreign Employment Board (FEB) under Hamro Samman Project. The training manual was adopted from the Pre-decision Training Manual developed by USAID, The Asia Foundation and World Education. National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) hired a consultant, Mr. Bishnu Khatri Chhetri, to develop Pre-decision ToT Manual for five days on labor migration orientation process. He closely coordinated with NNSM, Winrock and Foreign Employment Board (FEB) during manual development and finalized the document which was approved by Winrock.

NNSM after developing the ToT manual then held two 5 days long “Pre-Decision during foreign employment” ToT. One of the ToTs was held from Dec 5-9, 2020 at Nepalgunj and the other was held from Dec 22-26, 2020 at Kathmandu. The ToT had altogether 24 participants including representation from NNSM member organizations, Employment Center Coordinator, Unit of Social Development from Palikas of Sindhupalchowk, Makawanpur, Rupandehi,

Kapilvastu, Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur. ToT participants were invited in coordination with province level CSOs: Bagmati Province- Shanti Foundation, Lumbini Province- Maiti Nepal, Sudurpaschim Pradesh -NEEDS Nepal. The partner organizations Shanti Foundation, Maiti Nepal and NEEDS Nepal in coordination with Employment Center Coordinator, Unit of Social Development held ‘Pre-Decision during Foreign Employment’ in the various Hamro Samman partner municipalities of various 6 districts (Sindhupalchowk, Makawanpur, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur). A minimum of 1,600 aspiring migrants and at-risk people is expected to participate in the Migration Pre-Decision Training.

NNSM strongly believes that informed migration through pre decision training will promote safe, orderly and productive foreign labor migration. The ToT provided a comprehensive knowledge on informed decision making on foreign labor migration as expressed by one of the participant Mr Chiranjibi Kattel of Chautara Municipality, who is an employment coordinator. He said “Due to lack of knowledge on welfare to foreign labor in case of death of migrant workers abroad I was not able to claim the money provided by the government when my brother died in course of foreign employment. So if we have this knowledge about foreign labor migration before going to abroad for employment it is of great help for the migrant and our family.

2. One-day provincial meeting

NNSM organized three orientation programs on “Improved engagement for foreign employment focusing on the Government mandate and limitations”. The events were held on Jan 21, 2021 at Butwal of Lumbini Province, Feb 15, 2021 at Hetauda of Bagmati Province and Feb 24, 2021 at Dhangadi of Sudurpaschim Province. The objective of provincial meetings is also to help NNSM and Hamro Samman project to find areas of advocacy. NNSM and its members have observed the gaps in foreign employment related policies and governance system to address human trafficking and forced labor concern in Nepal. To address these gaps in policies and migration governance, NNSM has been actively playing a lead role to organize province level meeting as part of member led and worker's centric advocacy in a province structure of Nepal. Issues/cases of human trafficking have been reported as a case of deception, fraud, irregular migration process. There are issues of

undocumented workers, issues of cross-border mobility, reintegration and rehabilitation of returnee migrants and their families, and the roles that provincial governments can play to address these concerns. The discussion content included the processes and policies for service delivery by the Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE) and Foreign Employment Board (FEB) as well as the impact of localization of services related to foreign labor migration and the associated challenges, cross border mobility related issues, and reintegration and rehabilitation of returnee migrants. During various interactions at three provinces NNSM made efforts to raise issues such as access to justice for returnee migrants (women, injured, families of deceased, family of returnee migrants) through representation from National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), reintegration and rehabilitation of returnee migrants (dignity – perspective) through returnee migrants participants, decentralization of

services related to foreign labor migration and rights of the migrant workers, policy frameworks for migration governance (barriers/policies) and cross border mobility through representation at local and province level government offices as well as civil service organizations. Various stakeholders like government bodies from province and municipalities, press, trade union, civil society bodies, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and FEB participated during these events. Through these meetings it became evident that there have been efforts at the decentralization of

foreign labor related services. For examples migrants can file their cases at District Office Administration (DAO). Also DAO has also added responsibilities for providing verdict in such complaints related to fraud in foreign labor employments. However, through the province level meetings identified the need to question the effectiveness of this decentralization. Also the critical evaluation of the meeting discussion clearly points out that the administrative officers and other concerned people need to be orientated for grassroots level awareness on foreign labor employment.

NNSM plans to bring these discussions and bring these findings and recommendations collectively firstly to one-day interaction at Kathmandu followed by a national level conference of returnee migrants.

3. Meeting to develop communication, outreach and advocacy plan

NNSM developed, revised and implemented a written communication plan to guide NNSM's advocacy and outreach initiatives. The objective of the communication, outreach and advocacy plan is to make NNSMs' advocacy and outreach initiatives more targeted and effective. The communication, outreach and advocacy plan will be based on NNSM's advocacy strategy. The meeting was held on Feb 18, 2021. Participants were from 18 Network member organizations. The organizations which were present during the meeting are: NIDS Nepal, NEEDS Nepal, Peoples' Forum, CDS-Park, Youth Action Nepal, Media Advocacy Group, Advocacy Forum Nepal, WOREC Nepal, Pourakhi Nepal, Center for Social Change, LEADS Nepal, PNCC, FWLD, AMKAS Nepal, SSN, ASIAN Forum, FNB Nepal, and ABC Nepal.

During the meeting the participants discussed on the following:

- a. Objectives of the NNSM's advocacy
- b. Target of advocacy
- c. Overall advocacy strategy

Some of the outcome of the meeting is outlined below:

- a. Targets revised from seven to nine
- b. Appreciation of Advocacy Strategy
- c. Clarity in objectives of NNSM's advocacy strategy through paraphrasing
- d. Recommendation and Comments from member organizations before endorsement of the NNSM's strategy

NNSM now plans to incorporate suggestions from the meeting and develop an action plan to streamline the advocacy strategy developed as per NNSM's targets.

4. OPI/PECAN

NNSM and Hamro Samman successfully conducted the Organizational Performance Index (OPI) of NNSM in July 2018, Aug 2019 and March 2021. The OPI was facilitated by Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at Hamro Samman. The purpose of the OPI analysis was to rank the organization by member/staff in four areas: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and sustainability and develop an action plan to improve the situation/capacity gaps.

In the comparative OPI analysis, NNSM overall performance has increased from 15 out of 32 (2018) to 21 out of 32 (2019) and finally in 2021 to 30 out of 32. NNSM still lags behind on resource category.

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Participant Engaged Capacity Assessment of Network (PECAN):

NNSM members participated in the Participant Engaged Capacity Assessment of Network (PECAN) organized by Hamro Samman Project in March 18, 2021. All together 13 member organizations of NNSM participated in PECAN. This was the end line PECAN assessment and previously baseline and midline assessment were held on 2017 and 2019 respectively.

OPI Analysis of NNSM – March 2021						
S N	Areas		Optimum level	Status 2018	Status 2019	Status 2021
1	Effectiveness	Results	4	2	3	4
2		Standards	4	2	3	4
3	Efficiency	Delivery	4	2	3	4
4		Reach	4	2	3	4
5	Relevance	Target population	4	1	2	4
6		Learning	4	2	3	4
7	Sustainability	Resources	4	1	1	2
8		Social capital	4	3	3	4
Total			32	15	21	30



Picture 2 Representatives from network members participated during the PECAN.

5. Organizational website update

NNSM has routinely updated all its activities including interaction programs, trainings and event celebration in the official website www.nnsmnepal.org. The brief information along with the pictures helps our audience to find more about our activities and also helps them to keep us with our advocacy efforts. Also NNSM is active in social media. Now our friends and well-wishers can keep themselves updated about NNSM's activities in real time through our website as well as other social media platforms.

[Facebook page](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

6. Interaction program on Localization of Palermo Protocol



Picture 3 NNSM organized an interaction program on Localization of Palermo protocol on Dec 22, 2020.

To mark a week-long celebration of International Migrants Day, 2020 NNSM organized a semi-virtual interaction program on the issue of Palermo Protocol on Dec 22, 2020. This protocol titled “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children”, supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. This is an important milestone which was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000.

The objective of the program was to discuss on the domestication of Palermo protocol since Nepal ratified this protocol in 2020. All together twenty participants participated physically at the event and on zoom there were 19 participants. The event was also live streamed in Facebook. Pushkar Sapkota, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Goma Devi Dhakal, Under Secretary from Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC) spoke on behalf of the government. They highlighted key achievements in regards to adaptation of Palermo Protocol and updated about the work done by government. Similarly, key concerns regarding the amendment of existing Acts and laws were discussed upon by representatives of civil society bodies for the efficient domestication of the Palermo Protocol.

Punam Thapaliya, TIP coordinator from Hamro Samman, Winrock spoke about the importance of Palermo Protocol in counter TIP movement in Nepal. The event was very comprehensive and insightful.

7. Quarterly technical coordination meetings with member organizations

NNSM has been convening quarterly meetings with its network member organizations to provide and discuss updates on technical issues related to migration, regulation of recruitment agencies, and changes with federalism. The meetings offer an opportunity to reflect on progress and coordinate advocacy and outreach priorities, information and opportunities ensuring that they are in line with NNSM's Strategic Plan and Communications and Advocacy Plan.

NNSM convened **Technical Coordination Meeting** with Member Organizations on Sunday Dec 27, 2020. The agenda for the meeting was NNSM and each member organization to update and discuss activities related to foreign labor organization in the COVID context and upcoming activities. Representatives from 13 member organizations such as Class-Nepal, Asian Forum, Helping Society Nepal, People's Forum, PNCC, MAG, FNB, ABC Nepal, FEONA, Youth Action Nepal, WOREC Nepal, FNB Nepal and Leads Nepal were present at the meeting. The technical coordination successfully highlighted key work done by NNSM and member organizations in context of COVID pandemic. And each member briefly also discussed about the upcoming activities as well. NNSM further updated member organizations on the various activities under the Hamro Samman Project.

NNSM, with support from Hamro Samman, organized a technical coordination meeting with member organizations on February 8, 2021. All together 20 participants from seventeen member organizations and NNSM secretariat were present at the meeting. The

member who participated in the program was: CSC, YOAC, FNB-Nepal, FWLD, CLASS-NEPAL, People's Forum, Leads Nepal, Sahayogi Samaj Nepal, CDS-Park Nepal, ABC-Nepal, AMKAS-NEPAL, Pourakhi-Nepal, Advocacy Forum-Nepal and Asian Forum-Nepal.

During the meeting the member organizations were briefed on the communication strategy and decided to review the NNSM's Communication and Advocacy Plan. During the meeting NNSM and member organizations discussed on current issues such as decentralization services related to foreign labor migration, welfare of migrants and migrant families, amendment of foreign employment act in Foreign Labor Migration (FLM) in order to identify the issue for advocacy. The topic of effective implementation of foreign employment act and new curriculum on foreign employment orientation were identified. NNSM plans to hold a follow up program on the identified topic to discuss the progress of the amendment and also look at implementation of the new orientation curriculum. Moreover, NNSM plans to bring these issues to attention of other likeminded organizations.

8. Quarterly coordination meeting with likeminded organizations at the national level

National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) organized the coordination meeting with various likeminded organizations on Feb 17, 2021 at Pension Vasana, Dillibazar. Altogether 20 people participated

representing various national level organizations. Some of the NGOS and other organizations present were: AATWIN, NIDS, NHRC, Solidarity Centre, SARTUC, People's Forum, NTUC, CMIR, FWLD, WOREC Nepal, PNCC, Deshpradesh.com, SSN, HRFC and ASIAN Forum.

The coordination meeting was moderated by Mr. Nilambar Badal from Asian Forum. The meeting focused on collaboration and coordination of civil society organizations (CSOs) on various issues of Foreign Labor Migration (FLM). The meeting concluded that representation of civil society in foreign labor migration issues is less than desired and civil society is lagging behind to highlight the issues in foreign labor migration. The meeting also pointed out the coordination with concerned government authorities is lacking. The meeting concluded that role of the CSOs should be reinvigorated for greater bargaining power. Furthermore, it was discussed that new avenues for effective coordination with the government bodies must be explored. Furthermore Mr. Mahendra Subedi, from NIDS, added that due to turnover or transfer of government officials a working group must be formed for documentation of coordination and collaboration. But its main role should be to bridge the gap created due to turnover of staffs in concerned government bodies such as FEB, MoLESS, etc. In addition, Mr Kamal Thapa, SARTUC, General Secretary, stressed that the state should focus towards the collective bargaining of the migrant workers in international platform to bring long lasting changes. He also focused on Agenda 21 and urged to prioritize social protection and awareness of migrant families. Another issue identified during the meeting was lack of consolidated awareness and advocacy

campaign. For example, Mr Hari Thapa, vice chairperson at NNSM, mentioned that the reporters on FLM themselves were unaware on the issues of FLM. For instance, most news reported on foreign labor migration addresses fair recruitment process but reporters are not aware of this. Therefore, this kind of lacking of vital information has created big vacuum in the reporting about foreign labor and migrants' issues. Furthermore, the meeting also acknowledged that media sensitization should be done for effective and efficient advocacy. Lastly all participants were requested to prepare the updates from their respective organizations to be presented on the next coordination meeting.

9. Information Desk Personnel at Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA)

National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) with the coordination of Foreign Employment Board (FEB) and in support of Hamro Samman/Winrock International is operating Information and Support Desk at Tribhuvan International Airport effective from 01 January 2021. Two human resources as the capacity of Information Counselors have been working at the Desk. The main purpose of this Information Desk is to collect data of migrant workers going for foreign employment, provide information to them on safe foreign employment, information about contact details of supporting agencies in Nepal and countries of destination as well as information on compensation provided by FEB to the injured/dead migrant workers or their families, free transportation of dead bodies to deceased home address and so on.



Picture 4 Ms Durga Pokharel of NNSM helps female migrant from information help desk at Tribhuvan International Airport.

During the period from 6th January to 31st March 2021, a total of 11380 (9635 males and 1745 females) migrant workers who flew from Tribhuvan International Airport for foreign employment with a labor permit, took the services provided from the Desk. In addition, Information Booklets on safe migration published by NNSM, FEB were distributed to them.

10. Three Day Refresher ToT

NNSM organized a three-day Refresher Training of Trainer (ToT) on ‘strengthening the technical capacity and knowledge of network members on using a human rights-based approach to counter human trafficking in the foreign migration process’ on 19 Feb to 21 Feb 2021 at Diamond Hill Resort, Kushadevi-Panauti. There were all together 22 participants representing their organizations. The participating member

organizations were: Needs Nepal, AMKAS Nepal, PNCC, Advocacy Forum Nepal, CDS Park Mugu, Sakriya Sewa Samaj, FEONA, CLASS Nepal, ABC Nepal, Conquer Nepal, Pourakhi Nepal, Peoples Forum, WOREC Nepal, Asian Forum, MAG, NIDS, FNB Nepal, CSC, Leads Nepal, Youth Action Nepal, FWLD and Modern Nepal. The event was organized for the capacity development of staff and member organization representatives on key issues for CTIP related advocacy in FLM in COVID context and also included advocacy from disparate perspectives such as federalism, GESI considerations, and human rights based approaches.

Program successfully introduced fellow participants about the advocacy forms and strategies through various training methodologies like role play, brainstorming station methods, Q&A, among many other methods. The participants identified many areas of advocacy in foreign labor migration and anti-trafficking areas. The ToT was facilitated by Mr. Bishnu B. Khatri. During the Refresher ToT Ms. Punam Thapaliya, CTIP coordinator for Hamro Samman at Winrock International and Ms. Surya Bishwakarma, GESI Specialist at Winrock International Nepal also took sessions on human trafficking and advocacy and GESI considerations during advocacy respectively. Ms. Prashamsha Simkhada, Project Officer at NNSM also introduced the participants about Safeguarding, Anti-sexual and Unlawful Harassments and Anti-Corruption (Whistleblower) Policy developed by NNSM. Through the ToT the participants learned about advocacy and its types and also reflected on the current status of foreign labor migration in order to identify areas for advocacy.



Picture 5 Participants engage in team work during 3-day Refresher ToT.

Participants also learned about the stakeholders for foreign labor migration and existing policies on the matter. NNSM also shared its advocacy strategy with the participants for them to develop their own organizational advocacy strategy. NNSM has committed to extend support in the development of advocacy strategy of all member organizations.

11. Other Activities

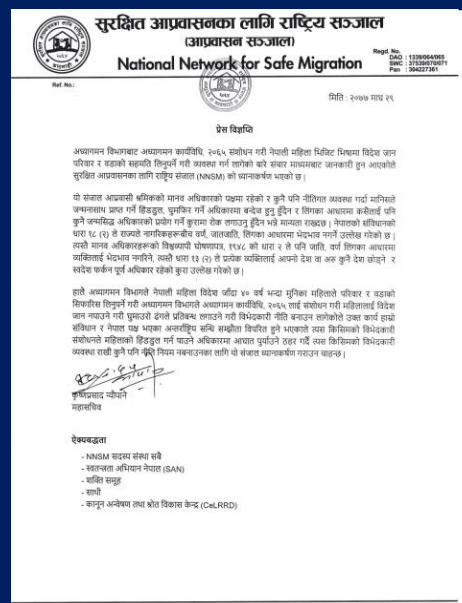
A. National Consultation on GFMD

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is a voluntary, informal, non-binding and state-led process, which helps shape the global debate on migration and development. This year the GFMD Consultation was hosted by UAE in the month of January 2021. So to grab this opportunity to address Nepal's issues in the GFMD Consultation, NNSM organized a virtual National Consultation on GFMD on 5th January 2021. The participants represented from diverse field of interests that includes CSOs working on safer migration, media persons, researcher scholars, migration experts, government representative, and representatives from Trade Union, ILO, IOM, SaMi/HELVETAS, and Amnesty Nepal etc. NNSM compiled important recommendations which were later submitted to GFMD Summit.

B. Issued a Press Statement

NNSM expressed its concern against proposed changes to the immigration rules by the Department of Immigration that make it difficult for women under 40 to travel abroad on visit visas on their own.

Article 18 (2) of the Constitution of Nepal provisions that no discrimination shall be made in the application of general laws on grounds of origin, religion, race, caste, tribe, sex, physical condition, condition of health, marital status, pregnancy, economic condition, language or region, ideology or on similar other grounds. Likewise article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948 too mentions that there shall be no distinction on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. As well as article 13 (2) provisions that everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.



Picture 6 The press statement issued by NNSM to expressed concern on proposed changes which impose restriction on women mobility indirectly.

So NNSM issued a press statement on 11 February 2021 to bring the attention of the Department of Immigration on their move and not to make restriction on women's mobility.

C. Submission of Memorandum to the Department of Immigration

NNSM with all its member organizations submitted a Memorandum to the Department of Immigration, Kalikasthan, Kathmandu on 14 February 2021 in regard to no restriction on women's mobility. Many representatives from member organizations and others participated in the protest event in front of the department of Immigration and consequently submitted Memorandum to the Deputy Director there. He committed that government would address the concern.

D. Follow-Up National Consultation on 'Wage Theft of Migrant Workers During COVID-19'

People Forum and NNSM jointly organized a virtual Follow Up National Consultation on 3rd March 2021 focusing on the topic 'Wage Theft of Migrant Workers During COVID 19'. A total of 82 participants representing various National and international organization as such Migrant Forum in Asia, various civil society organizations, INGOs, journalists, national and regional network of trade unions (SARTUC, JTUCC), returnee migrant associations,

and migration resource centers from various districts of Nepal engaged in the consultation. The consultation aimed to update civil society organizations on the progress of the national level campaign against wage theft of migrant workers as well as to advocate and campaign for larger and broader ways to bring awareness on wage theft of migrant workers within the specific context of COVID-19.

E. Provincial Level Interactions

NNSM organized Provincial level and local level interactions in Nijgadh of Bara District, Janakpur of Dhanusa District and Hariban of Sarlahi District of Province 1 and Province 2 in the month of March 2021. The interaction was joined by participants from various organizations of Province 1 and 2 including representatives from local governments, police,

member of province assembly, journalists, etc. who actively discussed the GCM, SDGs and TIP and shared their experiences in relation to labour-migration as well as suggested for coordination/collaboration among the stakeholders to make migration safe and productive among others.

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Disclaimer: This E-Bulletin is made possible by the generous support of the American people and the British people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom's UKaid. The contents of the E-Bulletin are the responsibility of National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government or the UK Government.