

**Learning of SaMi
Pilot Phase
(1 Feb. 2011 – 15 July 2013)**

Labour migration in Nepal

- 1,500-2,000 persons leave the country (13% female)
- Remittance – 25% of GDP and household income (56% households)
- Attributed as major factor for poverty reduction (from 42% in 1995/96 to 25% in 2009/10)
- Solution to the problem of un/underemployment
- Women comprise about 80% of undocumented migrants
- Majority of women migrants are working in care/domestic sector
- Higher social costs – family conflict, irreparable loss for children on their right to parental care
- About three dead bodies brought back to Nepal every day

Brief information on SaMi pilot phase



Goal :

Safer and more beneficial migration for women and men, who voluntarily choose to go for labour migration.

Outcomes:

- Men and women migrants and their families reduce the social and economic costs of foreign employment and increase its benefits.
- The government of Nepal has created systems and mechanisms to effectively implement the Foreign Employment Policy 2012

Duration: 2 years & 5 months (1 February 2013 – 15 July 2013)

Working area: 3 districts

- Kathmandu (with central level activities such safe shelter, skill training and legal/paralegal support)
- Khotang and Sarlahi (district level activities such information centers and orientation in schools)

Target groups:

- Potential migrant workers
- Returnee migrant workers
- Families left behind
- Various existing community groups including School students for awareness raising

Our guiding principle/philosophy:

- “We neither encourage nor discourage for labour migration”
- If people choose/decide to go for labour migration, then “we facilitate to go informed, go skill and be safe.”

Major Components and partner organizations:

Major components:

- Access to information
- Access to skill training
- Access to justice
- Access to safe shelter & other services for victimized women returnee migrants
- Advocacy for policy formulation/implementation
- Strengthening thematic capacity of government and implementation capacity of NGOs

Partner organizations:

- Nine partner NGOs (5 National, 4 district level)

Major achievements and Learning

Access to information

Khotang and Sarlahi:

- Total 16,238 persons received counseling services (individual and group counseling)
- 6,362 persons received VDC level Community Orientation
- 3,070 students received awareness program (45 schools)
- About 20,000 people benefitted from street drama (201)
- 20,085 people have received information through outreach work in Ktm. (Central passport office, airport gate, TIA booth)
- Wider group of people received information through radio program and IEC materials in districts

Few clips on Access to information



IC in Malangawa



Teacher's training



Awareness program in School

Information desk at TIA, Kathmandu



Photo: Inauguration program of information desk at TIA

Access to Skills training

795 persons received skills training (75% of them are employed in destination countries)



Access to justice

Legal support:

978 persons (17% women) benefited from Free Legal Aid and paralegal service

- 34 migrants supported with advice and paralegal aid in destination countries.
- NRs. 18,339,382 - The total compensation received by different victims

Shelter support

- 514 victimized women returnees are benefitted from this service.
- Provided an opportunity for victimized migrant workers to resettle back into their lives.
- Has saved non victimized women migrant workers from getting victimized in Kathmandu on their way home



Learning/reflection of Pilot phase

Low interest in skills training

- Migrants and their families are **not aware of the benefits of vocational skills training** and its long-term benefit
- Interest for vocational skills trainings was found to be lower - *No patience of spending time for learning among the aspirant migrants, eagerness to pay back the high interest loan ASAP*
- **Agents mislead migrants** from taking up the training – *Agents to earn money from the clients by misleading*

Learning of Pilot phase

Reaching women and disadvantaged groups is a challenge

- Reaching women is difficult as they have **low access to information and resources and they mostly use informal channels** for labor migration.
- Reaching disadvantaged groups is also a challenge – ***Nature of the project is to support who decide to go for labour migration; disadvantaged people have lower access to information***
- NGOs (district level) yet to gain expertise
- Capacity building of Govt. and NGOs needs to be a priority for the project
- Migration as a whole is a complex and multi dimensional issue

Learning of Pilot phase

- Majority of migrants are **agent dependent** for information as well as for the process
- Providing information on safer migration issue is challenging due to the frequent **changed context**
- **Media mobilization, street drama, songs and case stories** have been found to be **effective medium** to disseminate information in remote areas
- **Mobilizing returnee migrants** as volunteer (paid) is **best way** to inform/convince people in communities
- Information centers working closely with **district administration office and Illaka administration office** is a **good approach** to facilitate migrants as well as to receive govt. support.

The current phase: Building upon the learning of pilot phase

- Program expansion from 3 to 19 districts and from 9 to 25 Partner NGOs and nationwide – creating strong evidence for policy advocacy
- Strengthening the function of information centers, media mobilization and other outreach activities
- Integrated approach (information, legal support, vocational skills, psychosocial support, financial literacy, networking, capacity building)
- Strong partnership with MOLE/MoFALD specially in the 9 districts & at central level
- Strengthened psychosocial intervention through provision of Social Workers (Female counselors/social workers) and expert Partner NGO to build capacity of Social Workers on psychosocial counseling.
- Financial literacy to migrants' family

THANK YOU