

Webinar 1: Impact of COVID-19 on Labour Migration

The Migration team of Rural Enterprise and Remittance Project, Samriddhi conducted an online meeting with the staffs of Migration Resource Center and Migration Information Desk of 14 various local levels of Province 1 & 2. The meeting was done in the presence of officials from Center for Migration and International Relations (CMIR) on 16th April, 2020. This virtual conversation was done via Zoom app. The attendees of the meeting were as follows;

1. Mr. Yuvraj Nepal, Director, CMIR
2. Ms. Anjali Shrestha, Case Handling Officer, CMIR
3. Ms. Bibhuti Kiran Ghimire, Research Assistant, CMIR
4. Mr. Jiban Shrestha, Migration Coordinator, RERP
5. Ms. Samvidha Pathak, Economic Development Supervisor, RERP
6. Mr. Ujwal Dahal, Migration Supervisor, RERP
7. Ms. Manju Rai, Information Officer, MRC Dhankuta
8. Ms. Om Kumari Dhungana, Counselor, MRC Dhankuta
9. Mr. Surendra Rai, Information Assistant, MID Chaubise
10. Mr. Khagendra Khadka, Information Officer, MRC Bhojpur
11. Ms. Manisha Shakya, Counselor, MRC Bhojpur
12. Ms. Ambika Rai, Information Assistant, MID Shadananda
13. Ms. Anju Khapung, Information Assistant, MID Myanglung
14. Ms. Nilu Jha, Information Officer, MRC Gaur
15. Ms. Priyanka Mehta, Counselor, MRC Gaur
16. Ms. Sushila Chaudhary, Information Assistant, MID Chandrapur
17. Ms. Uma Chudhary, Information Assistant, MID Kohlabi
18. Ms. Rekha Yadav, Information Assistant, MID Simraungadh
19. Mr. Prabhat Kumar Verma, Information Officer, MRC Kalaiya
20. Ms. Priyanka Gupta, Counselor, MRC Kalaiya

Agendas:

1. To share the personal experience of the pandemic and lockdown period.
2. To discuss on the effects of COVID-19 on migration sector
3. To discuss on work that could be carried out during the lockdown period.

Briefing of the Meeting:

With everyone's personal sharing about the pandemic and the changed lifestyle during the lockdown the staffs shared about their local levels and various actions taken by the local government to counter the pandemic. Mr. Prabhat Kumar Verma and Mr. Ujwal Dahal

were supporting their ward officials in distributing relief materials to the needy ones. Apart from this, MRC/MID staff also discussed about the various cases that were coming in form of a problem related to foreign employment. For example; a few migrants were running out of their valid visa period, reconciled from the job, Migrants family unable to contact. These cases were advised to be discussed with CMIR on individual basis for the better guidance.

Ms. Anjali Shrestha also updated with the recent news bulletins about the migrant labour in Gulf and Malaysia. CMIR has been publishing with the weekly news bulletin to trace the situation of Nepalese migrant labour abroad. Some MRC/MID's staff were contacted by the migrants family for having psychological effect in absence of their family member in the house. Dr. Yuvraj Nepal gave the briefing of overall scenario of status of migrant labour abroad and the action taken by their host country regarding migrant labour. For example, UAE is retrenching a lot of labours from the job where as Qatar is promising to keep the documented workers. Ms. Bibhuti highlighted about the status of undocumented workers and problems they were facing. Further she told to follow up on the reflection of the various decisions taken by Nepalese Government, Gulf and Malaysia. She further suggested to deal with impacts on corona on individual migrant workers, their family and community level.

The Migration team asked the MRC/MID staffs to collect the information about the returnee migrant as published by their local level. Apart from that, few suggestions were given for the mental preparedness about the post lockdown and new arrival of work situation in MRC/MIDs. The MRC/MID staff told about the difficulty to work in the absence laptop and necessary documents that were stranded in their office.

Decisions:

1. Case handling arising out of pandemic to be discussed with CMIR on individual basis.
2. To collect the information related to returnee migrant at their respective local level and further study to be made.
3. To further discuss on the impacts of corona on individual migrant workers and their family members.
4. To continue visual conferencing in every 15 days period and report about the progress.

Rapport By:

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