

Webinar 4: The Reintegration of Returnee Migrant Workers

The Migration team of Rural Enterprise and Remittance Project, Samriddhi conducted a fourth series of webinar with the staffs of Migration Resource Center and Migration Information Desk of 14 various local levels of Province 1 & 2 in the presence of officials from Center for Migration and International Relations (CMIR) on 25th May, 2020. This webinar titled “Reintegration of Returnee Migrant Workers” was conducted via Zoom application.

The attendees of the meeting were as follows;

1. Mr. Jiban Shrestha, Migration Coordinator, RERP
2. Ms. Samvidha Pathak, Economic Development Supervisor, RERP
3. Mr. Ujwal Dahal, Migration Supervisor, RERP
4. Mr. Yubraj Nepal, Director, CMIR
5. Ms. Anjali Shrestha, Case Handling Officer, CMIR
6. Ms. Bibhuti Kiran Ghimire, Research Assistant, CMIR
7. Ms. Manju Rai, Information Officer, MRC Dhankuta
8. Ms. Om Kumari Dhungana, Counselor, MRC Dhankuta
9. Mr. Surendra Limbu, 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. Yamuna Dhamala, Information Assistant, MID Okhlahdunga
14. Mr. Dil Bahadur Kangdangwa, Information Assistant, MID Aathrai
15. Mr. Krishna Yadav, Information Assistant, MID Garuda
16. Ms. Nilu Jha, Information Officer, MRC Gaur
17. Ms. Priyanka Mehta, Counselor, MRC Gaur
18. Ms. Sushila Chaudhary, Information Assistant, MID Chandrapur
19. Mr. Prabhat Kumar Verma, Information Officer, MRC Kalaiya
20. Ms. Priyanka Gupta, Counselor, MRC Kalaiya
21. Ms. Rekha Yadav, Information Assistant, MID Simraungadh

Agendas:

1. Highlight on the objective of the webinar.
2. Presentation on Reintegration (Introduction, current situation of reintegration, possible activities for economical reintegration, Role for Reintegration of Local Government)
3. Open discussion
4. Conclusion

Briefing of the Meeting:

The main objective of the webinar was to acknowledge the importance of reintegration of the returnee migrants in the economy and the vital role to be played by the three levels of government. Mr. Yubraj Nepal directed the guidelines of the webinar which was initially facilitated by Mr. Jiban Shrestha with a presentation on Returnee Integration. Then, Ms. Anjali Shrestha included a presentation on the Reintegration Services by the Foreign Employment Board. Further, the participant's discussed the anticipated progress at their local level with further propositions. Post webinar, a reflective session was held between the RERP and CMIR staff.

Methodology:

- Presentation
- Open Discussion
- Reflection

Discussions:

Mr. Jiban Shrestha gave the presentation on reintegration provisions and programs of the federal, provincial, and local governments. He highlighted the conclusion podcast by a survey held among the returnee migrants in RERP functioning districts conducted by Economic Development Facilitators and MRC/MID staffs. This survey reflected the needs of the returnee's desired enterprise and required support. Ms. Anajali Shrestha presented about the services that the Foreign Employment Board is providing in support to the reintegration of the returnee migrant workers which includes:

- Easy loan
- Compensation (mainly death)
- Financial assistance
- Scholarships to the children of migrant workers

The participants from MRC/MID put an opinion about the reintegration measures taken by their local level in response to COVID-19. Some local levels staff informed that no such employment generating activities were held at their local

level previously and as of the rising pandemic, no further actions were been taken for reintegration. Mr. Khagendra Khadka supposed that there is a need for local levels to identify the sector-wise development indicators for the reintegration. The staff also suggested possible pocket areas available at their local level.

In contrast to above some local levels had started their study on reintegration. Ms. Yamuna Dhamala informed about the support made by provincial and local governments in Okhaldhunga for goat and sheep farming. Ms. Nilu Jha informed about the mobilization of daily wage earners in the Prime Minister Employment Programme and distribution of cattle by Gaur Municipality. Chaubise Rural Municipality and Kalaiya Sub Metropolitan had initiated a few employment programs even before the crisis relating to vegetable farming and skill training. The staff also mentioned the prospect of local people regarding the skill training, acquiring soft loans, and Prime Minister Employment program in the reintegration program while surveying through the phone. Mr. Surendra Limbu recommended mobilizing the supply chain, decent job, and rural finance component of RERP for the reintegration program at the local level.

Post webinar a reflection session held between the staffs of RERP and CMIR decided on further sessions for MRC/MID staffs regarding reintegration as they would be directly involved in mobilizing returnee migrants as a municipality staff. The new session would be including representatives of the government and some exemplary local level. The upcoming budget shall also testify the new plans and programs for the local levels.

Observations:

- MRC/MIDs were acknowledged about the exiting plans and programmes regarding reintegration.
- The MRC/MID staffs were guided on consulting with the returnees to amalgamate their needs in the reintegration program.

Webinar Series 4

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Snapshot of the Webinar

