



► Migrant Rights and Decent Work (MiRiDeW), Phase II

December/2024

Migrant workers queuing up to apply for labour permits to go abroad, for work. © Marcel Crozet/ILO

► At a glance



Partners

- Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
- Relevant Government Stakeholders (such as National Statistics Office, National Planning Commission, National Human Rights Commission, etc.)
- Migrant Networks and Diaspora Organizations
- Trade Unions
- Civil Society Organizations and Research Institutes



Donor

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)



Duration

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2026



Target groups

- Nepali men and women migrant workers in countries of destinations (CoD).
- Civil Society Organizations, workers' organizations and community networks engaged in supporting Nepali migrant workers.



Geographical focus

National level and major countries of destination for Nepali migrant workers. Some policy interventions are also focused at regional and global level

► Background

Labour migration is one of the most important and sought-after livelihoods choice for a large number of Nepalese people, and this has brought both opportunities and challenges in the lives of migrant workers and their families. Despite positive contributions, international labour migration remains risky as Nepali migrant workers are often faced with situations of exploitation, fraud and violation of their rights both in Nepal and CoD. Due to this, the Government of Nepal's support mechanisms for workers abroad need further attention and require actions to protect rights of Nepali migrant workers. The embassies and consulates in most of the CoDs are often understaffed and also lack enough resources to provide effective and efficient services to migrant workers, particularly women workers and those in distress. Keeping these issues in mind, the Government of Nepal is determined to strengthen the labour migration governance and has undertaken a number of crucial steps to support Nepali migrant workers, for instance, strengthening bilateral agreements/MoUs with CoDs, and is also working towards strengthening consular support for migrant workers.

► Objectives

The Migrant Rights and Decent Work (MiRiDeW) project Phase I, implemented by the ILO Nepal with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the National Planning Commission (NPC), employers' and workers' organizations, and civil society organizations, concluded successfully in June 2023.

Drawing upon the lessons learned, and building on the successes from Phase I, the MiRiDeW Project Phase II is currently under implementation. The project's overarching goal is to enhance the economic and social well-being of migrant workers and their families, through improved access to decent employment opportunities and protection of their human and labour rights.

► Achievements

- Supported a high-level government delegation, led by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, in bilateral dialogues with the Governments of Germany, Romania and Spain culminating in a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDoI) with Germany and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Romania. These bilateral labour agreements represent some of the first safer labour migration frameworks of Nepal with European countries.
- Provided technical inputs on the draft labour agreements with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Spain and the draft pilot project agreement on recruitment of domestic workers with the UAE.
- ILO has been a part of the Labour Migration Policy Drafting Committee providing technical inputs in the draft policy through the involvement of its Labour Migration Specialists and other relevant officials together with conducting a gap assessment of Foreign Employment Policy 2012.
- Supported in capacity building of key government agencies (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, National Planning Commission) and trade union representatives on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements and labour migration issues.

- Providing regular support to Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security in developing and publishing periodic Nepal Labour Migration Reports.
- In collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Draft Operational Guideline for the Nepali diplomatic missions in countries of destination have been developed with intention to provide effective services to Nepali migrant workers.

► Outcomes

Outcome 1: The Government of Nepal strengthens its policy framework and institutional mechanisms to ensure protection of the rights of migrant workers, in particular women migrant workers.

Outcome 2: Nepali migrant workers in countries of destination have increased access to information and quality migration services.



Nepali migrant workers departing from Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu. © ILO

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► Contact details:

ILO Country Office for Nepal
Nayabato, Dhobighat, Lalitpur, Nepal
T: +977 1 5970 424
F: +977 1 5450 714
E: Kathmandu@ilo.org
W: www.ilo.org/nepal

Ms Roni Pradhan Dhaubadel
National Project Coordinator
E: dhaubadel@ilo.org

Mr Basanta Kumar Karki
Senior Programme Officer
E: Karki@ilo.org

 ilo.nepal
 ILOAsiaPacific
 ILOTV
 @ILO_Nepal
 iloinfo