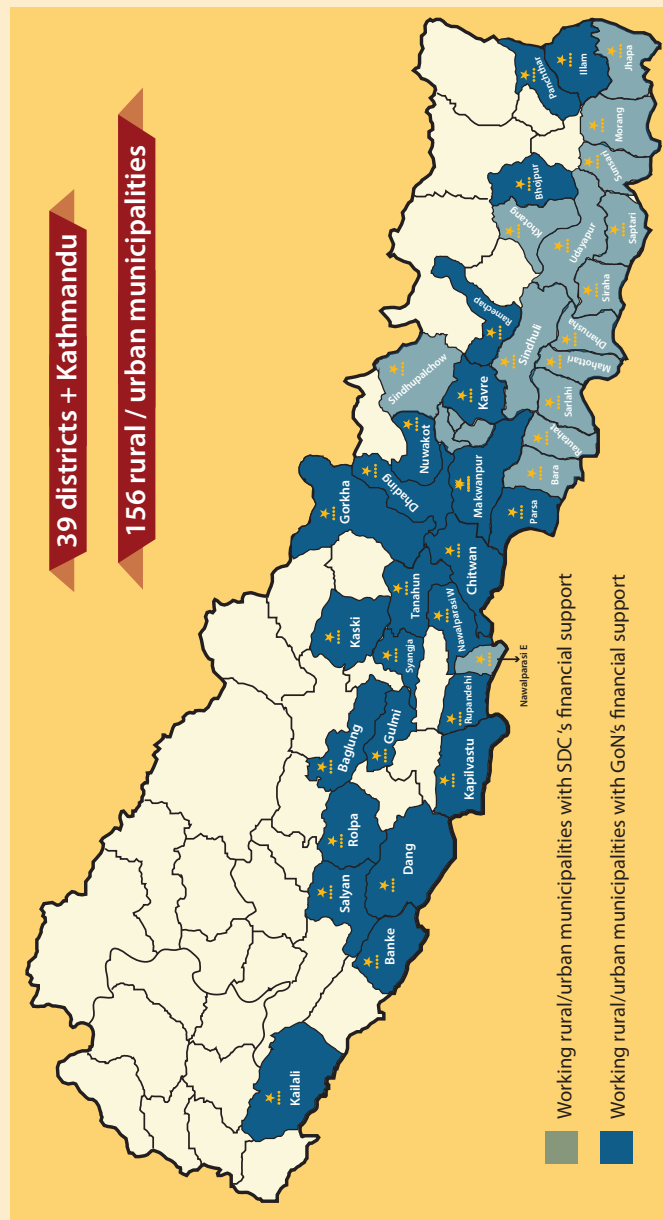




Safer Migration Project Phase III



"Thanks to the skills training, I could find an opportunity as electrician helper in Qatar. I am now earning 2.400 Dirhams (625 US\$)", said Saroj Koirala from Khotang.

"My previous experience in the Gulf is an asset. I was recently able to help a returnee migrant in getting compensation following his deportation from Qatar", confirmed Tapeshwar Raut, active as Returnee Volunteer for the Migrant Resources Center in Dhanusha.

Project Background



Migration is a key dynamic in Nepali society. Four million Nepalis work abroad and send home more than NPR. 699 billion a year. These remittances constitute the equivalent of one-third of Nepal's annual gross domestic product (GDP) and significantly contribute to reducing poverty in Nepal. But despite its possible benefits, migration still poses many risks. Migrants can be subject to very high recruitment fees, exploitation, and/or the confiscation of their identity documents. Women are particularly vulnerable, either when migrating or when left behind and being responsible for the running of the household. They often face prejudices and social stigma.

The Government of Nepal is committed to better regulate foreign employment and protect the rights of Nepali migrant workers. The 2015 Federal Constitution has transferred important responsibilities to local governments, including on foreign employment. SaMi is a bilateral initiative of the Governments of Nepal and Switzerland, supporting foreign employment governance with the objective of better protecting migrants' rights and maximizing the economic and social benefits of migration. It is implemented through a partnership between the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. Meanwhile, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal is providing technical assistance. Since its inception (2011) SaMi has been testing models for increased awareness and information on migration and supporting migrants and families with pre-departure skills trainings, financial literacy training, legal/paralegal support and psycho-social support.

SaMi's Phase III builds on these achievements and works through the government system with a view of institutionalizing the approaches and supporting the process of Nepal federalization. It offers technical support to the Government of Nepal at all levels, federal, provincial and local. Lessons learned through the project are to be shared and help inform policy discussions at regional and international levels.

Project Goals and Outcomes

Migrants & families are better protected and benefit from descent work conditions abroad

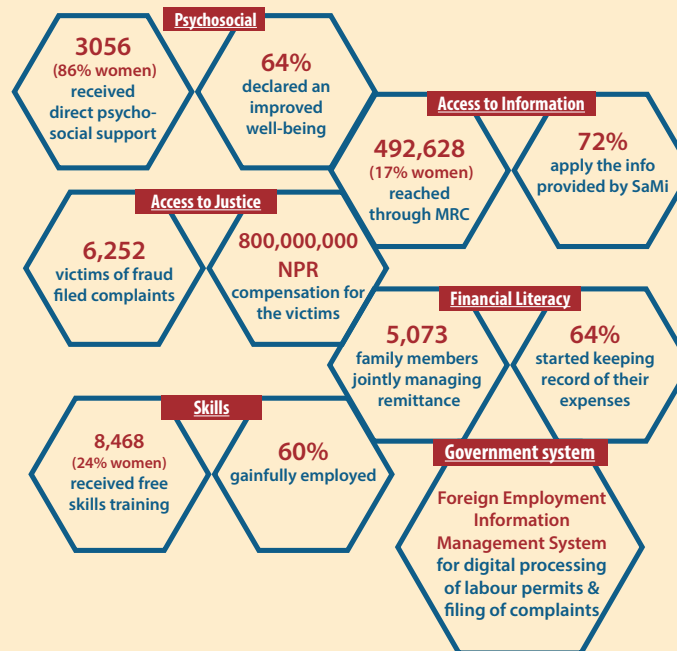
All three levels of government use effective mechanisms for the protection of migrants

SaMi supports institutionalization of government systems

Migrants & families have increased the benefits and mitigated the social implications of migration

SaMi ensures effective delivery of services

Project Achievement (Phase II)



Project Components

Information and Awareness Raising on Safe Migration: SaMi developed an entire model for awareness raising and supporting an "informed" choice on migration. Located at the point of passport applications, Migrant Resource Centres (MRC) inform potential migrants about the implications of foreign employment and can refer them to support services. Key messages are also disseminated at community level through varied outreach mechanisms, including radio programmes, Social Mobilizers, and returnee volunteers.

Pre-departure Skills Training: Experience shows that migrating with some preparatory skills support professional integration, security at work, and higher wages. The project is providing one-month free-of-costs skills trainings in different trades: mainly on garment manufacturing, masonry, shuttering carpentry, plumbing, scaffolding, and electricity work. The curricula developed for these trades also includes modules on life skills and health. They are approved and used by the Foreign Employment Board.

Legal Support and Access to Justice: SaMi supports migrants that are victims of fraud and exploitation to get access to justice. A mechanism for legal aid informs migrants about their rights, helps them in tracking down fraudulent recruitment agencies and claim compensation. Similarly, SaMi provides support to distressed migrant workers in destination countries by coordinating with partners and the Nepali diplomatic missions in the destination countries.

Psychosocial Support: SaMi initiated a psychosocial intervention to help migrants and families left behind deal with the psychological and social stress implied by migration. This component brings direct support to migrants' households, in particular women, through home visits by trained counsellors.

Financial Literacy: Many migrant households remain ill-equipped to make informed decisions on the use of the remittances generated through migration. SaMi developed financial literacy training to help families keep records of revenues and expenses, to save, and to make financial decisions. These trainings are provided at village level through small group sessions. They primarily target remittance receiving households and women family members.



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