

5. Financial literacy

The programme conducts financial literacy classes in selected local governments using various modules. These classes aim to promote the effective use of income (remittances) generated through foreign employment and to support informed financial decision-making. Lessons learned from previous phases, along with technical expertise in facilitating these classes, are being shared with the newly expanded local governments to help them initiate classes using their own resources. Local governments mobilize financial literacy facilitators to deliver community-level sessions under these modules, targeting students, youth and women. To strengthen the capacity of these facilitators, the provincial ministries responsible for the labor and employment sector lead efforts in capacity building and the development of essential resource materials.

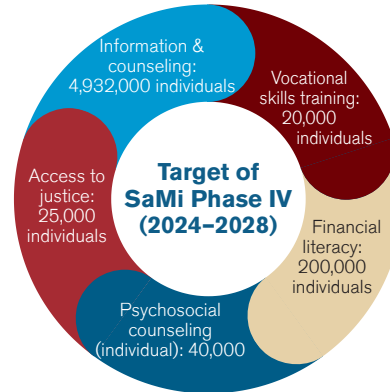


TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Helvetas Nepal provides technical assistance through its Programme Support Unit (PSU) on behalf of the SDC to ensure the effective implementation of the SaMi Programme at the federal, provincial, and local levels. This assistance includes capacity building of officials from relevant government institutions and other stakeholders involved in programme implementation and monitoring to ensure programme quality. It also supports policy development at all levels of government to institutionalize foreign employment-related services, thereby promoting their continuity and sustainability. Another key focus of technical assistance is to foster coordination and collaboration among different levels of government to enhance effective delivery of migration-related services. Furthermore, the programme

supports the development and dissemination of training materials required for programme implementation, such as modules, manuals, curricula, and guidelines, and produces and distributes informational audio-visual and printed materials to strengthen information flow, raise awareness and promote knowledge-sharing.

Key Targets of SaMi Programme (Phase IV)



Achievements of SaMi Programme till Phase III

The fourth phase of the SaMi Programme has been designed based on the experiences and lessons learned from previous phases. The pilot phase, launched in 2011, lasted for two years, followed by Phase II (2013–2018) and Phase III (2018–2024). The image below highlights key achievements up to Phase III.



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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
 स्वीस सरकार विकास सहयोग एसडीसी



Safer Migration (SaMi) Programme Phase IV (2024–2028)

INTRODUCTION

The Safer Migration (SaMi) Programme is a bilateral initiative of the governments of Nepal and Switzerland. It is implemented in partnership between federal, provincial, and local governments. Helvetas Nepal provides technical assistance to the programme on behalf of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Launched in 2011, the SaMi Programme began its fourth phase on November 26, 2024, and will continue until July 15, 2028. Its core services include access to quality information and counseling, access to justice services, support for psychosocial services, support for skills development training and financial literacy. In addition, the programme contributes to policy development and institutional strengthening through capacity building initiatives aimed at institutionalizing these services. The Government of Nepal aims to gradually expand the programme's coverage across the country.



HELVETAS
 NEPAL

SaMi
 Safer Migration Programme

Programme goal: Migrants and their families are better protected by concerned institutions and benefit from decent work conditions abroad.

Programme objective: Enable the relevant Nepali institutions across the three levels of government to improve the situation of migrant workers and their families throughout the migration cycle.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Female and male migrant workers and their families have increased the benefits and mitigated the social implications of migration.
- All three levels of government use effective mechanisms for the protection of migrant workers and their families.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

The programme works in the following five thematic areas:

1. Access to quality information and counseling

SaMi conducts various awareness activities to inform people about potential risks associated with foreign employment and to support informed decision-making. Migrant Resource Centers (MRCs) have been established within District Administration Offices (DAOs) in all 77 districts of the country. In addition, sub-MRCs are operational within passport-issuing Area Administration Offices. These centers provide potential migrant workers with essential information on foreign employment, raise awareness about available services, including access to justice, and help them connect to these services from the moment they visit DAOs to obtain passports.



At the community level, the programme delivers orientations on safer foreign employment through Employment Service Centers (ESCs), returnee migrant workers mobilized as volunteers, and returnee migrant networks. SaMi strengthens the capacity of ESC staff to effectively implement community-based awareness activities. Likewise, the volunteers and migrant networks share information drawn from their own foreign employment experiences and refer individuals or families facing migration-related challenges to the relevant institutions for support.

2. Access to justice services



The programme supports and facilitates access to justice for migrant workers and their families who face legal or paralegal issues, including fraud and exploitation at any stage of the migration cycle. MRCs work in close coordination with the Chief District Officer (CDO) to support the mandate of addressing individual cases of financial fraud and ensuring that affected persons receive compensation. Additionally, they collaborate with key institutions such as the Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE), the Foreign Employment Board (FEB), the Department of Consular Services (DoCS), Nepali diplomatic missions, and other relevant stakeholders. Through this coordination, they help ensure that affected migrant workers and their families receive legal assistance, rescue support, and access to compensation and relief services.

3. Support for psychosocial counseling services

The programme provides psychosocial counseling services to migrant workers and their families to help address and reduce psychosocial problems arising from foreign employment. To deliver these services, local governments implementing the SaMi Programme appoint and mobilize psychosocial counselors. The programme works closely with



federal and provincial health ministries, as well as provincial health directorates, to ensure service quality and strengthen counselors' capacity. Similarly, the programme delivers intensive modular training to psychosocial counselors through province-based health training centers, following a standardized curriculum. These counselors deliver psychosocial counseling services at the community level and through household visits. Additionally, psychologists mobilized at the provincial level provide them with ongoing coaching, mentoring, training and monitoring support.

4. Skills development

The programme encourages individuals planning to migrate for employment, as well as returnee migrant workers intending to re-migrate, to participate in skills development training. Such training enables migrant workers to enhance their efficiency and stability at work, broaden their opportunities and benefits, and reduce workplace-related risks abroad. Information on available skills development opportunities is disseminated through MRCs, community orientations, and the mobilization of returnee volunteers. MRCs also refer potential migrant workers to skills training programmes organized by the National Academy of Vocational Training (NAVT) and FEB. Drawing on its experiences in implementing vocational skills training, the programme further supports NAVT in developing relevant policies, procedures and curricula, as well as in strengthening institutional capacity to deliver foreign employment-targeted skills training.

