Facts for Webpage

LABOR MIGRATION

**Kunwar, Laxman. (2020). Foreign Labor Migration and Governance in Nepal. Journal of Population and Development. 115-129.**

**International Labour Organization (ILO). (2017). Nepal labour market update. Kathmandu:**

***International Labour Office, Country Office for Nepal.* https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/**

**public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-kathmandu/documents/publication/wcms\_543497.pdf**

In 2020:

1,750+ Nepalese migrate out of Nepal for work daily

1950 *Treaty of Peace and Friendship* between India and Nepal formalized an open border for people to move freely between the countries. Owing to the open border, there lacks formal counting of labor migrants between Nepal and India, however in 2020 an estimated 3 million Nepalese people were employed in India.

GDP contribution of remittances doubled between 2005 and 2016, reaching 32.1%

50% of households have at least one family member working abroad

2018-19: Nepal received NPR 784 billion in remittance from up to 189 countries, an increase of NPR 8 billion from around NPR 776 billion in FY 2016-17 (MoF, 2019).

Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MOLESS) – institution responsible for creating and enforcing foreign labor migration regulations, guidelines, and policies.

Foreign employment promotion board (FEPB) – provides education, skills building, orientation, compensation for injury/death, and re-integration of Nepalese labor migrants

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) – promotes foreign labor from Nepal. Assists in the protection of Nepalese migrants abroad

Nepal Restrya Bank (NRB)- manage and regulate remittances from labor migration

1985- Foreign Employment Act, Nepal’s first legal document that addresses labor migration in countries other than India. Aimed to safeguard economic interests of foreign laborers.

2007/2064 - National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM) founded to build better policy and rights protections for migrants alongside the creation of the 2007 Foreign Employment Act that consolidates laws/policies on foreign employment. Features of the Foreign Employment Act = removal of policies deterring women from participating in foreign labor, greater information about rights disseminated to laborers, insurance for migrants…etc.

2008/2065 – Foreign Employment Rules established greater protection and support for female labor migrants including establishing and operating childcare centers in prominent labor destinations.

2012/2069 – Foreign Employment Rules revision includes greater emphasis on the human rights protections for labor migrants, drawing on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various global conventions on the rights of specific migrant labor groups such as women.

2015/2072 - regulate and manage foreign employment, safe, systematic and free from any types of exploitation and encourage capital, skills and technology and utilization of experiences gained from foreign employment in productive sectors of Nepal (article, 51). Free visa free ticket program initiated in full, placing financial burden of visas, plane tickets, health check-ups…etc. Free visa free ticket applies to: Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman

2015 – 7.6 magnitude earthquake. As a result, economic growth declined from 5.9 per cent in 2013/14 to 2.7 per cent in 2014/15 to 0.6 per cent in 2015/16.

“foreign labour migration is an essential part of everyday life for Nepalese people” (119)

ASYLUM SEEKERS IN NEPAL

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2012) Nepal. *UN Global Appeal* 2012-13.**

* 2010: GoN agreed to work with UNHCR to consolidate its refugee camps and develop a community-based development program to support both refugees and host communities

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.). Universal Periodic Review: Nepal.**  **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights’ Compilation Report.**

* 1959: Tibetans began fleeing to Nepal when the Dalai Lama was exiled.
* 1995: GoN issued refugee certificates to Tibetan refugees who were 16+, seen as a discriminatory practice against those who did not get one.
* 1989: Gentlemens Agreement – GoN suspended recognition of Tibetan refugees in Nepal but assisted in the “safe and discreet transit of Tibetan new arrivals through its territory to India” (3)
* No national refugee legal framework, and UNHCR handles status determinations for applicants.
* “Nepal considers refugees and asylum-seekers as irregular migrants under the existing laws and imposes a five USD per day fine on all persons overstaying visas, irrespective of refugee status” (2)

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2007). UNHCR’S Position on the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Nepal. United Nations.**

* 2006: GoN and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), formally ending the Maoist insurgency that began in 1996

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2012) Nepal. *UN Global Report 2011, Nepal*.**

**2007**: UNHCR resettlement program, assisting refugees in Nepal (primarily Bhutanese) seek longer lasting solutions outside of Nepal